



National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2003 Volume LXXXII Number 3



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Cover photo: Glyn Barnett (GM2) by Karen Robertson.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
Bob
Fishwick

With a busy summer behind us, and what a successful one, particularly in the world arena, it is perhaps time to take stock, and look ahead. So, I will look at a number of developments of interest to the Association at large.

NRA Committee Elections - 2003

The 2003 Committee Election process is now complete. In addition to the results notified in the Summer Journal, the following appointments have been announced:

The Members of the General Council have re-elected JF Jackman to be their Chairman and CM Brooks to be their Vice-Chairman.

Therefore, in accordance with the Rules of the Association, JF Jackman is also appointed as the Chairman of the Association and Chairman of the Council (Board of Trustees).

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees) is as shown with the brief profiles (published on pages 15 to 17 of this Journal).

The Members of the Council (Board of Trustees) have re-elected MWT Walton to be their Vice-Chairman.

Mrs KD Robertson will serve on the General Council for one year only (to complete the term of P Bloom who retired mid-term).

Mr PR Coley was successful in a ballot of the South-Western Region. Accordingly, he will serve on the General Council as the South-Western Regional Representative (to fill the previously vacant position).

Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs)

I last wrote on the topic of tax relief for affiliated clubs in the 2003 Spring Journal. Since then, whilst there has been no progress in relation to clubs' ability to pursue charitable status (it remains a difficult if not impossible cause), there have been two exciting developments in relation to the attractiveness, in

certain circumstances, of clubs seeking to become Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs).

First, the situation relating to rate relief - a number of clubs have reported difficulty in gaining any of the 100% rate relief which is available at the discretion of District Councils (with 75% of that recoverable from central government). However, following a recent government decision, from April 2004, rate relief of 80% will become **mandatory for CASCs** in addition to the other tax benefits already available.

Secondly, how do you qualify and how do you go about becoming a CASC? Again there is helpful news. The Central Council for Sport and Recreation is continuing with its central role in supporting sport by sponsoring a number of seminars (funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport) at which those questions are addressed. I attended one of the inaugural seminars recently in London at which we received presentations on charity aspects and then, most importantly, CASCs. During the latter, we received a detailed insight into the benefits of becoming a CASC, qualification criteria and how to apply (including reference to a model constitution). The seminar is already 'on the road' around England; if you are considering the CASC route, I cannot commend attendance highly enough. Attendance is free but you will need to book; further details (including the programme of seminars and copies of the presentations) are available from the CCPR (tel: 020 7854 8500, website: www.ccpr.org.uk). Alternatively, to register, or for detailed questions, you may wish to contact the very helpful Inland Revenue team as follows:

Inland Revenue (Sports Clubs Unit)
Meldrum House
15 Drumsheugh Gardens
Edinburgh EH 7UL
Tel: 0131 7777 4147
Fax: 0131 7777 4045
Website: inlandrevenue.gov.uk/casc

Loans to Clubs

The previous practice whereby clubs could apply to the Association for loans was suspended during the period of most financial strain. Now that we are moving into more tranquil waters, the Council has decided to reinstate the practice. So, whilst clearly the Trustees would have to be convinced that a particular loan was in the interests of the Association (as well as the interests of the club), its intended use was consistent with the correct use of charitable funds and that there were appropriate safeguards, they are prepared again to consider requests.

Appeal

The General Council is very keen to prepare the way to give members and friends of the NRA the opportunity to contribute towards reducing the bank

loan that will, in turn, allow for an earlier reduction in the costs of shooting and membership. Secondly, sponsorship will be sought from members and businesses for major developments, such as the proposed road to the Short Siberia Range with access and car parking to the far end of the Century Range. Donors will be suitably recognised for their generosity. Details about the Short Siberia project appear on page 10, but if still in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can speak to the MD NSC.

Accordingly, we are seeking to appoint a volunteer Appeal Director from among the membership to lead our appeals and sponsorship of major qualifying projects. It should be a rewarding role. Again, please contact me for further details.

Gift Aid

Central to any fund-raising is our access to Gift Aid. Simply, one main advantage of being a charity is that there is an opportunity for the NRA to recover 28% of the sums given (which can be given under Gift Aid relief) in tax. (You will have noticed from the membership renewal forms that we ask members, who are tax payers, to consider registering their subscriptions as Gift Aid). The individual or company may also be able to recover tax and so the cash cost of a project or donation can be much reduced. As an example, at best, a project costing, say, £10,000 can be reduced to £6,000 in cash outlay after all potential tax reliefs have been taken into account.

Legacies

Len Baron

The Association has received a very generous bequest (in excess of £13,000) from the estate of the late Len Baron. It is the intention of the Council that such bequests be allocated to an identifiable capital project (such as the Century / Short Siberia project) where the generosity of deceased members can be clearly seen as benefiting the membership and in such a way as to be an enduring memorial to the benefactor.

Andrew Tucker

We have also recently been advised that all of Andrew Tucker's badges and medals have been donated to the Association. We are most grateful for this kind gesture; once they have been display mounted, they will take a prominent place in the Museum.

Membership Matters

Membership Fees 2004

The Council (Board of Trustees) have decided that there will be a 2% reduction in the surcharge as applied to membership subscription for 2004 but that there will be no increase due to inflation. Members will notice the impact of this **real terms decrease in charges** in the renewal forms that will be sent out shortly.

Membership Development Strategy

At the request of the General Council, the Membership Committee has taken on a study that will consider a strategy for the development of membership. This will be a root and branch analysis of the ways in which the Association should acquit its responsibility as the sport's national governing body by providing an appropriate service to all its members wherever they may live (or shoot) across the whole country. To help in this task, Regional Members of the General Council are already involved in the business of the Membership Committee and three of their number will be formally co-opted as members to ensure that the voice of the regions is properly heard. The main study will be conducted in the New Year but in advance of that, the Membership Committee has started work on a framework which will establish an exhaustive list of the topics that impact on an individual's wish to take up and continue with our sport (such as affordability, accessibility, training, legal considerations and many more). To ensure that the framework is complete, the Membership Committee asks your help; should you have views on topics that you believe must be included, we would like to hear from you (through your Regional Representative - a reminder of current contact details for Regional Representatives is shown on the following page).

Website

As part of, but in advance of the Membership Development Strategy, we are looking significantly to update the NRA website. James Watson (who many will know from the websites that he has previously developed – such as those for the Under 25 and GB teams) has kindly offered his services to act as the focus to identify a way ahead. He has been formally co-opted onto the Membership Committee for that purpose and is already hard at work. Once the Membership Committee and then the Councils have considered his expert recommendations suggesting what the aims of the website should be, what it should contain and what it should look like, a decision will be passed to the NSC for implementation alongside the development of their own (NSC) web (which will concentrate solely on Bisley).

Photocards

With your membership renewal forms, which you should receive soon, you will notice that we are making a big step forward by introducing credit card type photocards for all our members. This will help significantly towards safety and security on the ranges and allow us to consider the potential for electronic interfaces in the future. It will also mean getting back to the heavier credit card type card that members who use their card a lot said that they preferred. This means that we will need a passport-sized photo of every member to include on the membership card. That can either be sent to the Membership Secretary direct or

can be e-mailed to her on members@nra.org.uk. Alternatively, if you are visiting Bisley during the working week you could pop in and we will take your photo (please phone in advance to ensure someone will be able to do this). As you will appreciate, this is a big project and we would ask members (especially Life Members and those paying by Direct Debit) to start sending in their photos straight away, so that we can get a head start. If we already hold a photo that you would like us to use please let the Membership Secretary know.

Landmarc Support Services

As many will be aware, a commercial organisation, Landmarc Support Services, is in the process of taking over the management of the MOD ranges that is crucial to the continuance of fullbore shooting particularly on a regional basis. This has given rise to a number of potential concerns about the future arrangements for the administration, licencing, insuring, charging and booking of MOD ranges. Indeed, many clubs are already reporting difficulties; accordingly, we intend, through HQ ATE to meet with the Defence Estates authorities and Landmarc Support Services. We aim to iron out problems and establish an agreed reasonable arrangement that is standardised throughout the country. We will report back as soon

as we have held our meetings; in the meantime, please continue to discuss any problems with me.

Team Captaincies

Appointments

The following are to be congratulated on their appointment as Team Captain for the following teams:

GB Kolapore Team 2004

Martin Townsend

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2004

Richard Bailie

Nominations

Nominations are required for Captains of the following teams (to me by 10 January 2004 please):

Great Britain Target Rifle Team to Australia 2005

Great Britain Target Rifle Team to South Africa 2006

Great Britain Palma Match to be held in Canada 2007

General Notices

Spring General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Spring General Meeting of the National Rifle Association will be held in the NRA Pavilion, Bisley, National Shooting Centre on Saturday 27 March 2004 at 5.00pm.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The current contact details for your Regional Representatives on the General Council are shown below. If no postal address is given then please write to your Regional Representative via the NRA Offices.

George Barnard East Midlands

E-mail: george.barnard@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01788 570593

Fax: 01788 843268

Mrs Iris Bennett West Midlands

Tel/Fax: 01562 69708

Chris Law London & South East

Fax: 0208 5606646

Please contact by letter via NRA

Peter Coley South Western

E-mail: pcoley@globalnet.co.uk

Tel: 07990 554626

David Young North Western

E-mail: davidyoung7.62@ntlworld.com

Tel: 0161 793 0737

Fax: 0161 950 6672

Guy Bartle Eastern

E-mail: guy@uproar-recordings.co.uk

Tel/Fax: 01263 712332

Gresham's School, Cromer Road, Holt,
Norfolk NR25 6EA

Neil Fyfe Northern

Please contact by letter via NRA

Paul Quilliam Southern

E-mail: pquilliam303@aol.com

Tel: 01252 863469

Colin O'Brien Yorks & Humberside

E-mail: colin.a7cso@virgin.net

Tel: 01477 535137

Richard Bailie Northern Ireland

E-mail: richard.bailie@virgin.net

Tel: 01737 242082

64 Raglan Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0HP

Tim Kidner Scotland

E-mail: tlk762@aol.com

Tel/fax: 01224 321468

11 Westholme Avenue, Aberdeen, AB15 6AA

Paul Gray Wales

E-mail: paulvvvvv@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01792 511401

102 Derwen Fawr Road, Sketty, Swansea,
West Glamorgan SA2 8DP

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by
Martin
Farnan*

General

Marksman's Calendar

The proposed 2004 Calendar of Major Events at Bisley has been produced and has been sent to all Club Secretaries. It is based on historical precedent and many of the dates shown are simply the equivalent dates to those in 2003. As usual I ask Club Secretaries to check this calendar carefully and let me have their own Club Fixtures List as quickly as possible.

May I also request details of any other Club Championships or Meetings whether held at Bisley or elsewhere. Please do not include minor events such as practice sessions. These will be included in the final version of the Marksman's Calendar which will be published in the Spring Journal. Details should be with me by the beginning of January. Since the Marksman's Calendar is of fixed size (A3) I must reserve the right to edit entries where necessary.

Ranges, Targets and Markers

Range Cancellation Charges

Bookings which are cancelled with more than two weeks notice will not attract any cancellation charges. For the avoidance of doubt, I re-confirm that the scale of charges which will be applied for cancellation of targets with less than two weeks notice will remain as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| between 2 weeks and 1 week | 25% |
| between 1 week and 3 days | 50% |
| at 3 days notice or less | 100% |

This should allow Club Secretaries sufficient time to confirm the correct number of targets required for Club Championships without paying cancellation charges. Club Secretaries are requested to book a sensible number of targets for club fixtures since targets cancelled near to the time of the booking are often difficult to re-let.

Mandatory Booking In at the Range Office

Clubs Secretaries and individuals are reminded that they must be in possession of their Club or individual membership card when booking in at the Range Office. Failure to do so may entail a delay in processing your booking.

Range Safety

Despite repeated warnings, breaches of range safety continue to occur. You are reminded that the design of any particular range, and the associated Range Safety Certificate, are dependent on the type of shooting permitted on that range. Range users should take particular notice of the Range Regulations contained in this Journal which have been updated to take account of all recent changes. I emphasise paragraph 12 in particular, which explains the duties and responsibilities of the Range Conducting Officer (RCO).

Winans Range

This range was closed for safety reasons in June this year, and it may not be possible to re-open it as a cartridge firing range. To replace the returning targets and advancing targets, four lanes in Bay A on Melville have been installed, and plans are in hand to install advancing targets in the remainder of Bay A during the winter months.

These targets are available for hire at the same costs as on Winans, but benefit from the fact that targets may be engaged at intermediate distances, the range has an established danger area and also has a permanent Range Warden.

Range Action Safety Plan (RASP)

MoD ranges are beginning to ask that civilian clubs produce a RASP prior to firing on a MoD range. This document is intended to:

- show that the RCO has followed an acknowledged planning process, covering all aspects of safe handling and range safety;
- give an outline of the RCO's personal responsibilities on the range before, during and after firing;
- detail the responsibilities of all safety supervisors and other range staff;
- describe the points/subjects that are to be covered during safety briefings to all range staff and participating firers.

For most clubs, the majority of this document will remain the same from shoot to shoot, the main changes being the names of those who will be RCO, safety supervisor or first aid cover. An example of a possible generic RASP, which would be suitable for civilian clubs, is available from the Director of Shooting. This will, of course, need to be modified to take into account local circumstances for any particular club.

Use of Stickledown during the Winter Months

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

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

Weekday bookings and shooting will continue as during the rest of the year. It will, of course, be necessary to make advance bookings as normal. It is also planned to erect canopies over one firing point on Stickledown and two firing points on Century to encourage winter use.

Range Closure Dates

To allow for proper setting-up of the ranges, all ranges that will be used for the 2004 Phoenix Meeting (27 to 30 May 2004) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 26 May 2004. Please take note.

As detailed later in these notes (see Imperial Meeting) the 2004 Imperial Meeting will be held one week later than this year. The Service Skill at Arms Meetings will therefore start on Friday 25 June 2004. For this reason the annual deleading of the butts, the Inter Counties Meeting and the obligatory services practice period will have to be held before this date. As a consequence there may be some disruption during this period, but we will do our best to minimise this.

So that the Estate staff do not have to work excessive hours cutting grass on other days, it has been decided to continue the arrangements made this year, ie that there will be no shooting on Mondays in late May/early June. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges Bidding Conference

As previously notified to all Club Secretaries, the Annual Bidding Conference for Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges was held on Sunday 5 October 2003. It is important for Club Secretaries to note that virtually all Pistol Range facilities at Bisley were provisionally

allocated during this conference. Confirmed allocations will be notified to Club Secretaries as soon as possible. In view of the tightness of the annual programme, it is unlikely that major changes in dates will be possible afterwards.

Rubbish on Bisley Ranges

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

Bisley Range Charges for 2004

For 2004 the cost of target hire will reduce by at least 2% (due to a reduction of the surcharge not yet finalised). The new charges are available from the Range Office and will apply from 1 January 2004.

Club Secretaries or individuals making bookings for Corporate Days are asked to indicate, when making such a booking, that the targets are being booked for a Corporate Day.

Firearms and Ammunition

Ammunition Prices

The purchase price from Royal Ordnance Radway Green Target Ammunition for 2004 has not yet been announced. It is therefore not possible to give the revised ammunition prices for sale to members for 2004 in this Journal. These will be ascertained as soon as possible and details will be made available to individual members and to affiliated Clubs.

Range Office Target (ROT)

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

Firearm Safety

A number of firers have been observed removing live rounds which were stuck in the breech with the aid of a cleaning rod, in some cases with considerable force. You are reminded that this could be a dangerous practice, and you are advised to use only a slight tap on the rod if one is used. Where possible the aid of a qualified Armourer should be sought.

Imperial Meeting

Prize Lists

Heavy involvement in the Palma World Individual

and Team Championships delayed work in producing the Prize List book. However this has now been printed and will soon be posted to you, along with your medals, bars and prize money.

Website

Those who surf the web will have noticed that not all results were displayed on the website this year. This was due to the fact that the results come from a variety of sources: some are produced by the main computer program, some are from a PC, some are word processed etc. It would have taken an inordinate amount of time to produce them all in HTML format so these particular ones were not put on the website.

It is planned to computerise still more events in 2004, which will make it very much easier to put more results on the website. This process will be completed in 2005 when it is hoped to put all results on the website the day they are finalised.

Dates for 2004

The 135th Imperial Meeting will be held a week later than this year, and will run from 10 July to 24 July. These events will be preceded by the Services and Cadets Meetings which will start on 25 June.

Programme

The programme of events for the 2004 Meeting will be similar to that for 2003.

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2004.

Service Rifle

There will be some changes in individual match conditions next year. Practice 1 of Match 4 (the ARA Association or NRA Queen Mary) will now be fired on a Triple Fig 11, the central Fig 11 scoring 5 and 4 as usual but the two flank targets, which score 2 points, will now be standard Fig 11s rather than plain ochre paper. The match conditions for the Inter-Services FIBUA have been modified in line with the proposed changes to Match 17 which will be published in due course.

Target Rifle and F Class

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

Match Rifle

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

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

There will be some changes to make the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meeting more popular and relevant, and these will be notified in the Spring Journal. It is likely that the entire programme of events will be held on Melville Range.

Historic Arms

It is possible that some changes will be made to the programme of this meeting but the Historic Arms Sub-

Committee has not yet met to confirm any changes. I will again give an update in the Spring Journal.

Trade Stands

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

Imperial Meeting 2005

For advance information, the 2005 Imperial Meeting will be held on the same relative dates as 2004. First Saturday will be 9 July and Queen's Prize Final will be 23 July 2005.

Notes from the Deputy Director of Shooting

NRA Postal Matches

These matches have not been well supported over the years, possibly because the notification has been sent to Club Secretaries and individual members have not had sight of the Postal Matches booklet. For this reason, details will shortly be placed on the NRA website giving information on the many and varied matches which may be entered by individuals and teams in both rifle and gallery rifle matches. There are many trophies and medals to be won for modest entry fees, and further entries would be welcome.

NRA Courses

It is intended that the NRA Courses Programme should offer progression in terms of knowledge and training, throughout the year, for members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs. Dates for all courses in 2004 will be shown in the Marksman's Calendar, to be issued with the next publication of the Journal and will be publicised separately.

Probationary Members Course

This course is primarily a course in safe handling and provides an introduction to target rifle. Each course consists of five half day lessons. The current autumn courses are fully subscribed and the new courses will be held in the New Year. Courses are run in the spring, early summer and autumn. Each course is limited to 12 students.

Target Rifle Skills Course

This weekend course will be held on 27/28 March 2004 and is aimed primarily at those individuals who have recently taken up target rifle shooting, to help them develop their basic skills.

Wind Coaching Course

A wind coaching course will be held on the same weekend, 27/28 March 2004. Further details will be given in the Spring Journal and on the NRA website.

Club Instructor Course

This is the first step towards a coaching qualification. Due to insufficient demand the course due to be held at Bisley in October has been postponed until 14/15 February 2004. It is intended that a club instructor course will be held in the autumn each year. Successful candidates may then progress to GBTSF coaching courses.

Range Conducting Officer Courses

These courses are run regularly throughout the year at Bisley and are run regionally on demand. Successful candidates will be qualified to conduct live firing on MOD or TAVRA Ranges. The RCO qualification is valid for six years but can be renewed on application to the NRA. Dates for 2004 will be: 28 and 29 February, 24 and 25 April, 25 and 26 September and 30 October.

Please remember that a Muzzle Loading RCO qualification requires passing two courses, the NRA RCO Course and also the MLAGB RCO Endorsement Course (previously the MLAGB Approved Instructor Course). This latter course can also be delivered by NRA Instructors who have been endorsed by the MLAGB. A Sporting Rifle RCO qualification also requires passing two courses, the NRA RCO Course and the Club Instructor Course. All courses are one day courses.

Application forms and further information on all NRA courses can be obtained from the NSC Deputy Director of Shooting (tel 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk). Details can also be found on the NRA website www.nra.org.uk.

Costs

The costs per person for RCO and Probationary courses for 2004 will be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| RCO Courses run at Bisley | £50 |
| <i>(£55 if the course is to include Muzzle Loading or Sporting Rifle)</i> | |
| RCO Regional Course | £25 payable to the NRA plus the costs of running the course |
| RCO Renewals | £15 |
| Probationary Courses | £65 per session |

The cost for an individual half day coaching session with a qualified coach is £80.

General Notices

Christmas Shoot (NRA Guest Day)

The NRA will be holding a Christmas Turkey Shoot on Saturday 6 December 2003. Five targets will be available (Dart Board, Good Luck, Eccentric, Turkey and Plum Pudding) each scoring up to 50 points, rifle targets being on Century at 300 yards and gallery rifle targets at 25 yards on Melville.

A single entry fee of £20 for rifle and £15 for gallery rifle entitles each competitor to five shots at each target

and to a Christmas Buffet lunch. Re-entry will be possible on both ranges (£10 and £7.50 respectively) and the best score counts. Further information is included elsewhere in this Journal and, in view of the expected popularity of this event, early application is advised. Since this day will be a Guest Day members may bring a friend (so long as we are advised of their details in advance to comply with Home Office regulations).

Open Days

Two NRA Open Days are planned for 2004, the dates being Saturday 1 May (May Day) and Saturday 4 September. The May Open Day will be based on the May Day theme and there will be entertainment for all the family as well as the traditional Open Day shoots. Further information will be given in the Spring Journal.

Camp Leaders in America

For those readers who might enjoy a chance to instruct young shooters in America during the summer, and to be paid a modest stipend for so doing, I have been asked to bring the following advertisement to your attention:

Camp Leaders in America (CLIA) is a company which provides a summer of fun and fulfilment for students and young people who want to work at summer camps in the USA. Each year we are asked to find a significant number of seasonal staff for American summer camps. No qualifications are necessary but are a bonus. Leadership of activity areas preferred (sports, drama, arts etc). **We always have a huge problem trying to find people with a riflery background.** Training will be given prior to and on arrival in the States. The most suitable age for potential staff is 19+ years, and the seasonal nature often suits students.

We arrange and pay for international flights and travel. Food and accommodation for the summer is provided and the staff are paid 'pocket money' (minimum £500 for a nine week period plus £140 per week for any additional weeks). The camps are situated in areas of great natural beauty from New York State to California, Texas to Alaska. The job philosophy is to have fun whilst keeping kids safe. We arrange all work permits, four months medical insurance, background checks and placement although there is a fee for this (£250). The first thing that you need to do if you are interested is to sign up for interview by using the contact details below:

Camp Leaders In America (CLIA)

59 Seel Street, Liverpool, L1 4AZ

Tel: 0151 708 6868

Fax: 0151 709 6060

E-mail: cliamerica@aol.com

Website: www.cliamerica.com

POINTS FROM THE 2003 IMPERIAL MEETING SUGGESTIONS BOOK

Comments and suggestions in the 2003 Suggestions Book covered estate matters (which are the responsibility of the NSC) and also competition and shooting matters (which are the responsibility of the NRA). NRA matters were considered by the Shooting Committee and a resumé of comments on specific points is given below. Items concerning NSC matters were considered by the NSC Board and these responses are covered in the Managing Director's Notes.

NRA Matters (Competition and Shooting Matters)

(1) Special Duties

The circumstances prompting the unusually high allocation of Special Duties to some competitors during the 2003 Imperial Meeting were unique to that Meeting and should not recur.

(2) Penalties

A suggestion was made that consideration be given to paying those performing Special Duties. Such payment was not considered economically viable and it was not within the ethos of senior shooters giving something back to the sport. Indeed, it would add £10,000 to the cost of the Meeting which would have to be borne by the competitors. It was agreed that so long as Special Duties are allocated as fairly as possible, the present practice of not paying those undertaking them would stand.

(3) Translucency of Targets

In certain sun conditions, it had been observed that the plastic targets, when first used (ie not having been repaired), were uniformly translucent across the face of the target whereas, once the central scoring area had been repaired (increasing the paper thickness) it became more opaque and thus appeared differently from the rest of the target (the square centre stood out). This could result in a significantly different appearance between targets used alongside each other. The Director of Shooting will be looking into ways of alleviating this problem.

(4) Position of Wrists During Firing

The extant rule is that the forward wrist should be at least 100mm from the ground; it had been suggested that the rule should apply to both wrists. As the intent of the rule was to stop resting of the forward wrist it was considered that there was no merit in the suggestion.

(5) Civilian Service Rifle/Methuen

It was suggested that the scheduling of the Civilian Service Rifle Matches should be revised (eg NRA Service Rifle matches on Saturday and Sunday followed by the Methuen ARA on Monday). The

Director of Shooting reported that the suggestion would not be possible due to the TA Skill at Arms Meeting being held over the same weekend. However, the ARA Methuen match will be held on Thursday as from 2004, thus allowing the NRA United Service and International SR Matches to be held on Wednesday.

(6) Additional McQueen Targets

Additional McQueen targets could not be provided during the TR Meeting this year due to larger participation in the Imperial Meeting competitions (circa 200) causing increased pressures on Century Range. However, with fewer competitors next year it may prove possible and will remain under review.

(7) Sighting Targets on each Target Bank

It was suggested it would be beneficial, particularly to those unfamiliar with Bisley when deciding on foresight apertures, to have a target showing during the preparation time. This had been the practice some years ago but the Chairman asked for the views of the TR shooters in particular. Following discussion, the Chairman of Shooting proposed a return to the previous practice which would enable sighting.

(8) Commentaries During Finals

Although appreciated by many, the practice of providing commentaries had been discontinued as they had been difficult to control. During discussion it became clear that a commentary during the Second Stage of HM The Queen's Prize was undesirable but one is planned at the end of the Stage; however, it was agreed to restore a commentary before and during the Queen's Final but strictly under the control of the Chief Range Officer as regards the timing.

(9) Left and Right Handed Shooters at 1200 Yards Firing Point

Some positions on the 1200 yards firing point were too narrow to accommodate left and right-handed shooters on the same target number. The NSC have been asked to investigate and advise.

(10) Reduced Course of Fire - Refunds

Refunds had been authorised where there had been a reduced course of fire.

(11) Champion of Champions

It was agreed that the matter of the Champion of Champions will be referred to the Membership Committee for resolution with the involvement of the Regional Representatives.

(12) Shooters as Unpaid Markers

As advised to members in previous Journals, it was noted that the suggestion to abate costs by allowing shooters to act as (unpaid) markers, alongside those paid to perform the task, had been considered but judged impracticable from a programming point of view.

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



*by
Jeremy
Staples*

The seven months since I arrived at the National Shooting Centre have flown by in a blur of the Imperial Meeting, the World Championships and simply trying to get a grip on Bisley, its history and how it works. Whilst the learning curve is still steep, hopefully the NSC can now start to plan for the future, develop a strategy to exploit the facilities we have here, at Bisley, for all shooting disciplines and complementary non-shooting activities.

Estates

With the help of our retained surveyors, we are reducing the backlog of outstanding rent reviews and lease renewals with much of the work coming back in house. This will reduce the length of time required to agree these matters.

There is now light at the end of the tunnel and we are starting to review the existing Estate facilities and establish exactly what the members want so that we can develop a comprehensive 1, 3, and 5 year plan. The Bisley Facilities Advisory Group (BFAG) under the Chairmanship of Rae Wills has met and will be assisting the NSC to formulate these plans as required.

A number of meetings have taken place with the planning officer from Guildford Borough Council. We are situated in a conservation area and planning restrictions are very tight. There is a possibility that consent may be granted for a number of seasonal chalet buildings similar to Victoria Row, and one bedroom cabins to include shower and toilet facilities. If any member would, in principle, be interested in either of these options please contact Sherril Dixon in the Accommodation Office. An indication of the level of demand may influence the planning situation.

Short Siberia Access Road

Plans for the proposed road linking Century Range with Short Siberia are well advanced. The road would allow the existing access from Queens Road to be locked and access to Short Siberia would primarily be from within the camp. This would increase security.

The car park at 300 yards on Century would be a benefit to all shooters during reverse echelon shooting and for Classic and Historic Arms and disabled shooters.

A planning application has been submitted to Surrey Heath Council and we are hopeful that consent will be granted shortly. The timing of the consent will affect when construction can commence but it is anticipated that the road will be completed within the next six months.

Marketing

We are exploring a variety of both shooting and non-shooting activities, particularly over the winter months, to provide new alternative income streams. A new Corporate Hospitality web brochure is being produced and will be ready by mid-November. We are able to provide a unique Corporate Event for your company. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the web brochure.

Staff

I am pleased to announce that following Doug Glaister's retirement, Phyllis Farnan has been appointed Deputy Director of Shooting. In addition to her previous duties she will be responsible for the Imperial Meeting's Schools programme, ISCRM, medals and prizes.

Brian Thomas has been appointed Assistant Director of Shooting. He is responsible for the running of the Range Office and will be in overall charge of the Phoenix Meeting. Barbara James has taken over from Glenice Glaister as the new Trophies Officer.

Suggestions Book Matters - Ablution Blocks

Following the resignation of Dave and Jenny Hollington, the new cleaning contract was clearly not a success. This contract has now been terminated and a new contract put in place with a local company, the directors of which are keen clay shooters. I am confident that this company will be more successful and provide members with at least clean facilities. In addition, a review of the ablution blocks is underway with a view to undertaking a major phased refurbishment of the key blocks.

Bisley Facilities Advisory Group

Although the Council now exercises all the executive functions of the old Estate Committee, it was seen that the management of NSC needed to be able to obtain the views of the membership and all Bisley shooters on such matters as the planning of works authorised by Council, assessing proposals put to Council by others, and their needs generally.

To carry out this function the Bisley Facilities Advisory Group was set up. The initial meeting was held on 16 September under the Chairmanship of Rae Wills and, to give continuity, the membership was largely drawn from the former Estate Committee. Please contact Rae if you have any ideas on the development of shooting at Bisley.

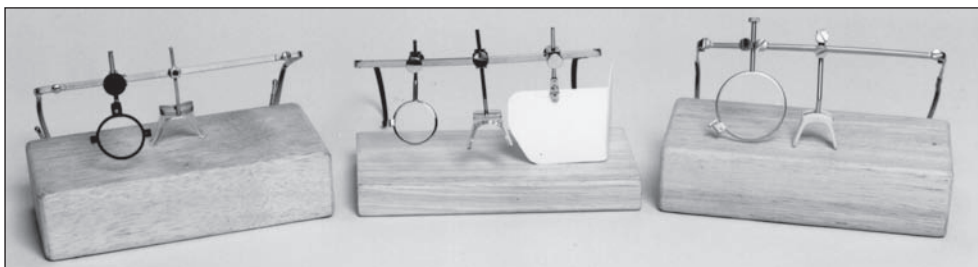
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SHOOTING DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

As I turned over a draft of this report in my head, I compiled the usual dry list of activities such as what happened at the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, until small voices put words into my head that I have often heard around Bisley, such as 'boring, boring' and 'listen to the customer'.

So, we have not got the programme quite right for the Sunday afternoon at the Imperial, and many clamoured for more shooting. However, this might be due to the good weather. If it had been pouring with rain, I suspect that, by then, most would have had their fill.

The basic format is probably correct, and ceasing competitions by lunchtime gives a reasonable chance of results being ready before most head for home. Having shoots for Cadets and others is now established, but there is still room to develop other ideas, for example a Cadet match, pool bulls, team shoots with on-the-spot prizes, or an ROs trophy. Ideas will be canvassed during the Trafalgar Meeting, or you can send them to me at any time.

The NRA Muzzle Loading Pistol Championship was moved, with some success, from its previous place in the Imperial Meeting to the Sunday afternoon, and I hope it will now be a regular part of our meeting.

There is no doubt that interest in the Classics continues to grow, although that does not automatically translate into competitors at Bisley. For most of us the most readily available centre fire shooting is on gallery ranges up to 50 metres, but only a few Classic items are suitable, mostly Rook and Rabbit, with a few lever actions, if you exclude modern calibre look alikes.

If permitted, other centre fire calibres can be used with reduced charges and light bullets, but are often excluded by club rules, mostly due to difficulty in ensuring that the necessary low power is achieved to comply with the Range Certificate.

Few centre fire gallery rifles, of any sort, are set up for precision slow fire, but the Rook and Rabbit offers just such an item. However, they are limited in supply, and as interest increases so does the price. But there are other ideas about. Although there are no actual reproductions, Jim Hallam has come up with the idea of re-sleeving old Martini actions in .22, that are otherwise heading for the great armoury in the sky, into such calibres as .32.

If you choose a contemporary cartridge, it will be accepted for most classic classes, and so my rifle is in .32/20. It has open sights, with a dual flip over bead and blade foresight, complemented by a tang mounted folding peep backsight. A very nice lightweight rifle, good on the gallery and out to 200 yards on the open range.

I have had it for a little while now, and my handload development has got to the stage that the NSRA August Meeting was its first formal outing. I started with a magnificent Egyptian salute, driving the Freelanders straight into the ditch alongside the range car park, leaving one rear wheel waving in the air. Having had my vehicle recovered (thanks, Big Jim!) with what remained of my dignity it was off to the rather warm firing point. Offhand at 50 metres shows up my oldie wobbles rather well, but there is every sign of its being a very accurate rifle, with most of my all too frequent pulled and pushed shots landing just as declared. Sneaking a look at his cards, I would judge that in the hands of Doug Glaister it would have been in the ten ring most of the time.

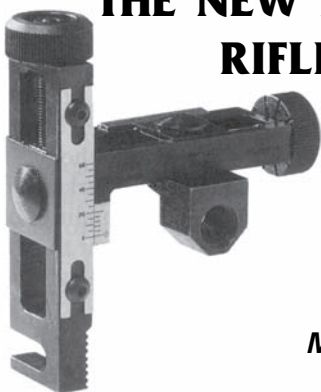
So there you have it: think Precision, think Classic!

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F Class

by Paul Monaghan

The next F Class World Championships will be held in South Africa in 2005 - postponed from the original date in 2004. Mik Maksimovic will be the Captain and he is already planning training days and fund-raising events. These training days will, for the next few months at least, be run alongside the F Class days that take place every month. These days are for both beginners and experts and have a very friendly and helpful atmosphere. They are a great way to find out about F Class. Dates for the rest of the year are Saturday 25 October, Saturday 22 November and Saturday 13 December. If possible contact Mik by email (mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk) so he knows you are planning to come.

There was an increased entry to the Imperial Meeting again this year, and on the second Thursday there was a meeting of F Class shooters in the Umbrella Tent.

They were able to discuss a number of F Class matters and there was a lot of support for the idea of an 'issued ammunition' division of F Class. This idea has been generally well received and is currently under consideration by the Shooting Committee for the 2005 season. If it goes ahead, a likely format would be for all F Class rules to apply, except for the restriction to 7.62 issued ammunition. This means that a target rifle with the aperture sights replaced with a telescope sight would be ideal. It could be shot with a sling, a bipod or a front rest. A rear sand-bag could also be used if wanted. This is getting back to the roots of F Class and it is hoped will appeal to those who feel that F Class has moved too far away from its origins. Not only will it be suitable for the TR shooter finding aperture sights getting to be a problem, but also will provide a relatively simple entry into F Class without all the expense of handloading.

GUEST DAYS

by Phyllis Farnan

For the avoidance of doubt, I feel it necessary to point out the correct procedures which should be used, as follows:

- (i) Only the British Shooting Sports Council or the NRA are permitted with Home Office Approval to hold Open Days. These are treated as exceptional events and are only held at Bisley. All other days organised as shown below are Guest Days. The rules for Open and Guest Day procedures are the same and are contained in the Home Office criteria for Gun Club Approval.
- (ii) Only Home Office Approved clubs may hold a Guest Day - groups of FAC holders who call themselves "The Friday Group" may not hold a Guest Day.
- (iii) Guest Day members must either be members of a recognised outside organisation or people who are known personally to at least one full member of the club. Examples of recognised outside organisations whose members may be guest members of approved rifle and muzzle loading pistol clubs are scouts, schools, Rotary clubs and Women's Institutes.
- (iv) The club secretary must notify each Guest Day to the Police Firearms Licensing Department of the area in which the Guest Day is taking place at least 48 hours in advance.
- (v) On the Guest Day guest members must sign a declaration to confirm that they are not prohibited under section 21 of the Firearms Act

1968 from possessing a firearm (ie having served a term of imprisonment of three months or longer).

- (vi) The NRA recommends that all guests must be given a safety briefing on what to do/not to do on the ranges during the day and warned that they must obey the instructions of all coaches/instructors.
- (vii) During the Guest Day all those guests, while in possession of firearms or ammunition, must be under one to one supervision of a coach who is qualified by either the National Governing Body (ie is a qualified NRA Club Instructor) or by the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation (ie is a qualified GBTSF Club, County or Regional Coach) or who has been a full member of the club (including NRA) for at least two years.
- (viii) The NRA recommends that the guest should only handle the firearm - the coach or instructor should handle the ammunition and load the firearm which the guest fires.

The whole conduct of the Guest Day must ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained throughout the day.

Any Club intending to hold a Guest Day is welcome to contact me for advice and I will be happy to assist.

E-mail: phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk
Tel: 01483 797777 ext 150

FORTHCOMING TOURS

GB Match Rifle Team to Australia 2004

The following have been selected for the GB Match Rifle Team to Australia 2004:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| <i>Captain</i> | Colin Hayes | Scotland |
| <i>Vice Captain</i> | Stuart Collings | England |
| <i>Adjutant</i> | Lou Lou Brister | Wales |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Alex Cargill Thompson | England |
| | Guy Blakeney | Scotland |
| | Hugh Butcher | Scotland |
| | David Friend | England |
| | Jim McAllister | Scotland |
| | Will Meldrum | Scotland |
| | Charles Oliver-Bellasis | Ireland |
| | John Pugsley | England |
| | Dick Rosling | England |
| | Bill Sharman | Scotland |
| | Tom Smith | England |
| | Martin Townsend | Ireland |
| | Nick Tremlett | England |
| <i>Reserves</i> | Peter Campbell | Ireland |
| <i>(alphabetically)</i> | Nigel Cole-Hawkins | England |
| | Hamish Hunter | Scotland |

GB Under 25 Team to South Africa 2004

The following have been selected for the GB Under 25 Team to South Africa 2004:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Captain</i> | Erica McMullan | GBU25, Ireland, Ulster |
| <i>Vice Captain</i> | Kitty Jack | GBU25, Scotland, Kent |
| <i>Adjutant</i> | Paul Sykes | GBU25, London |
| | Matthew Ensor | GBU25, Surrey |
| | Henry Jeens | Wales, Gloucs, |
| | Richard Jeens | GBU25, Wales, Gloucs |
| | Graham Nelson | Northumberland |
| | Jacqui Rankin | GBU25, Scotland, East of Scotland |
| | Richard Stewart | GBU25, Norfolk |
| | Paul Wheeler | GBU25 |
| | Ed Wood | GBU25, Norfolk |
| | Alex Woodward | Wales |
| <i>Reserves</i> | Robert Clarke | Lincolnshire |
| <i>(alphabetically)</i> | Thomas Horrocks | Lancashire |

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2004

The Council of the NRA has honoured me with the Captaincy of this team for 2004. The dates for the tour are, provisionally, 26 May to 2 June 2004 and I seek applications from experienced County Level shooters who have not previously been on this or other NRA or GB representative teams, (and indeed may not have had the opportunity to travel overseas before.)

Due to this Journal's publication date, I seek applications, in writing please, to reach me no later than **Sunday 14 December**, with a view to being able to announce the team in the first two weeks of January.

Richard Bailie

64 Raglan Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0HP

E-mail: richard.bailie@virgin.net

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Contact John Bloomfield

Tel: 01909 500117

E-mail: jpsb.welbeck@u.genie.co.uk



NRA GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council (Board of Trustees)

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr JF Jackman | Chairman |
| Mr MWT Walton | Vice-Chairman |
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | Treasurer |
| Mr CM Brooks | |
| Mr CS O'Brien | <i>(Also Chairman of the Shooting Committee)</i> |
| Dr NG Jeffs | Chairman of the Membership Committee |
| Mr PN Hinchliffe | Chairman of the Disciplinary Body |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | Co-opted |
| Mr JEM Hartwell | Co-opted |
| Gp Capt RJ Fishwick | Secretary |

National Shooting Centre Limited Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | Director and Chairman |
| Miss S Bunch | Director |
| Col (Retd) CA Ewing | Director* |
| Maj MG Farnan | Director |
| Mr JDI Hossack | Director |
| Mr JM Kynoch | Director |
| Mr CS O'Brien | Director |
| Mr JMA Thompson | Director |
| Mr MJ Blythe | Secretary |

Shooting Committee

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Mr CS O'Brien | Chairman |
| Mr GV Barnard | |
| Mr JH Carmichael | |
| Wg Cdr DP Calvert | |
| Prof AR Horrocks | |
| Mr P Quilliam | |
| Mr JEM Bellringer | TR |
| Mr AR Campbell-Smith | Match Rifle |
| Mr N Jones | Gallery Rifle & Pistol |
| Mr JM Kynoch | Sporting Rifle |
| Dr P Monaghan | F Class |
| Mr G Player | Muzzle Loading |
| Mr P Hunter | Practical Rifle |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | 300 Metres |
| Mr RHF Wills | Classic Arms |
| Mr JF Jackman | Ex-officio - Chairman |
| Mr CM Brooks | Ex-officio - Vice Chairman of the General Council |
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | Ex-officio - Treasurer |
| Gp Capt RJ Fishwick | Secretary |

Membership Committee

| | |
|--|---|
| Dr NG Jeffs | Chairman |
| Mr CD Law | Vice-Chairman |
| Prof AR Horrocks | |
| Mr JM Kynoch | |
| Mrs KD Robertson | |
| Mr JA Watson | Co-opted |
| Plus three Regional Representatives as co-opted members (to be selected by the twelve Regional Representatives from amongst themselves). | |
| Mrs HL Webb | Membership Secretary |
| Mr JF Jackman | Ex-officio - Chairman |
| Mr CM Brooks | Ex-officio - Vice Chairman of the General Council |
| Mr M Haszlkiewicz | Ex-officio - Treasurer |
| Gp Capt RJ Fishwick | Secretary |

Bisley Facilities Advisory Group

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Mr RHF Wills | Chairman |
| Mr HRM Bailie | |
| Mrs ID Bennett | |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | |
| Mr ND Anderson | Co-opted |
| Mr JEM Hartwell | Co-opted |

Disciplinary Body

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Mr PN Hinchliffe QC | Chairman |
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | |
| Wg Cdr DP Calvert MBE | |
| Mr DG Evans | |
| Miss M Gooden | |
| Mr JM Holmes | |
| Lt Col RT Hoole | |
| Mr CS O'Brien** | |
| Mr RHF Wills | |
| Mr MWT Walton** | |
| Gp Capt RJ Fishwick | Secretary |

Audit Committee

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | Chairman |
| Mr JF Jackman | |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | |

Remuneration Committee

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Mr MWT Walton | Chairman |
| Mr CS O'Brien | |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | |

* Due to the retirement of Col (Retd) CA Ewing at the end of this year, the Council is seeking candidates for a non-executive director with relevant commercial and business management skills and experience. Nominations from the membership would be most welcome. Please contact the Secretary General for further details.

** Mr O'Brien and Mr Walton are also Trustees of the NRA and will shortly step down as members of the Disciplinary Body to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Applications for new members are being sought from the General Council.

THE COUNCIL

YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



John Jackman - Chairman

John started shooting with an air rifle and graduated to small-bore at his local club where, as well as at school, he also took up fullbore. He has since enjoyed just over 40 years at international level. He also used to enjoy target shooting with a revolver. John is a chartered accountant in practice. He postgraduated in business financial management and, based in the City of London, he has been a director of a number of companies in a variety of businesses, including leisure. John was co-opted to the Council in October 2001 in order to be appointed Chairman.



Michael Walton - Vice-Chairman - Elected

Michael joined the NRA administration in September 2001 and in the last two years has been Vice-Chairman of the Estates Committee, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and following the re-organisation is now Vice-Chairman of the Council. Michael works particularly closely with the Chairman John Jackman, the Secretary General of the NRA and the Chairman and Managing Director of NSC. Key responsibilities include overview on all financial matters and assisting the Chairman on all policy issues. As another full time job Michael leads the European Real Estate team at Citigroup investing in property across Europe and travelling the world meeting clients.



Mark Haszlkiewicz - Treasurer

Mark is a chartered accountant who has had a long career in accounting and finance in the UK, Canada and Hong Kong. He finally retired as Group Finance Director of the Automobile Association. Mark first shot at Bisley in 1959 and has shot in the Imperial Meeting almost every year since then. He has represented Great Britain with target rifle (Canada and USA) and match rifle (Australia), and has also represented Hong Kong in the Commonwealth Games. He was Captain of the Scottish VIII from 1995 to 2000. At various times Mark has been the Treasurer of Cambridge University Rifle Association, Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club and the National Rifle Club of Scotland. He was the Project Manager and author of the "Bisley Ltd" Report



Charles Brooks - Elected

Charles is a solicitor in private practice specialising in commercial and corporate law who also handles institutional and charitable clients. He has commercial expertise gained whilst setting up and managing new offices at home and abroad and his professional experience has enabled him to assist the NRA on its internal and external affairs. Charles has been an Elected Member of Council since 1997 and has served on the Membership and F&GP Committees. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the General Council. Charles has had a long and successful shooting career since his Athelings tour in 1974 and has represented Great Britain on several occasions including roles as Adjutant and Vice-Captain.



Colin O'Brien - Elected and Chairman of the Shooting Committee

Colin is a retired Chief Executive of a group of seven textile companies having served as Managing Director of two of those companies. He was President of the Industry Professional and Technical Society, the British Textile Employers Association and the Textile Finishers Association. He spent several years as a Director of the British Textile Confederation and as Chairman of the British Standards Association Committee for Standardisation of Textile Standards. Colin has been a member of the NRA Council, now the General Council, since 1974, and has served on several Committees: he is currently Chairman of the Shooting Committee.



Dr Nick Jeffs - Chairman of the Membership Committee

Nick is a consultant anaesthetist specialising in intensive care, a profession which has given him much experience in decision making and man-management. Since his election to Council he has been a member of the Estate Committee (serving as Chairman for the past year) and is now Chairman of the Membership Committee. Nick has also served on the Committee of the North London Rifle Club since 1996. Nick started pistol shooting in 1988 then developed an interest in target rifle, competing in his first Imperial Meeting in 1993. He has been a member of several overseas goodwill teams and also competes in F Class shooting at Altcar.



Nick Hinchliffe QC - Chairman of the Disciplinary Body

Nick started shooting at Uppingham School and has represented Cheshire, England and Great Britain. He has been a member of 18 international overseas teams and is fast approaching 50 appearances in major international and national matches. Nick was Captain of the GB Team to Australia in 1997 and was Captain of the England Mackinnon team in 2000 and the GB Kolapore team in 2003. He is a member of the Team Finance Committee and is responsible for running the NRA OTF 100 Club. His work as a barrister (appointed Queen's Counsel in 1999) and part-time judge, resulted in Nick being press-ganged onto the NRA Disciplinary Body. As Chairman of that committee he became a member of the Council. He lives and works in the North West of England and is currently the Captain of Manchester RC.



Charles Oliver-Bellasis - Co-opted

Charles is a chartered surveyor in the Rural Practice Division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and has managed estates for clients, involving preparing budgets for repair and improvements to all types of properties: the letting and management of tenanted properties, sales and purchases, insurance valuations, valuations and estate diversifications together with general planning, development work and forestry. He is a member of the Environment Agency's (Thames Region) Flood Defence Committee and also sits as a member on their Western Area Advisory Group. He is also a lay member of the Agricultural Lands Tribunal. Charles became a member of the NRA in 1993 and his disciplines are Match Rifle and F Class. He is currently Chairman of the National Shooting Centre Ltd.



Julian Hartwell - Co-opted

Julian is a partner with solicitors Godwins and has worked in Winchester for nearly 20 years. He specialises in commercial property matters and has experience in a variety of related fields including company law and charities. He acts for a number of corporate clients and is Clerk at Law to Winchester Cathedral. As a partner in his firm he has direct experience of running his own business with all the management issues which arise. Julian started his shooting career on the .22 range at Aldro and went on to Bradfield College where he was in an Ashburton winning team. He was an Atheling in 1973. He is a life member of the NRA and now shoots target rifle with the North London and the Old Bradfieldians.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL



Simon James - Elected Member

Simon is a Company Director, management consultant, visiting Fellow at Cranfield University, and an Executive Officer of a registered Charity. He works on a daily basis with senior management and Board members of a wide range of organisations, often during periods of significant strategic change. He hopes that his experience of modern management techniques will be of use to the NRA resulting in increased benefits and satisfaction for the members. He has been working on issues of Corporate Governance for that Charity and believes that this experience will be of immediate benefit to the NRA. Simon has been shooting in the field for many years but only came to competition rifle shooting three years ago. In this time he has qualified as an RCO, Target Rifle Instructor, and been appointed as the rifle coach of the Bedfordshire County Rifle and Pistol Association.



Karen Robertson - Elected Member

Karen has been shooting for 20 years and is a member of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club and Comber Rifle Club. She was Secretary of the Irish Rifle Club (Bisley) from 1991 to 1995 and has been Match Secretary since 1995 and Adjutant to the Elcho, National and Mackinnon teams for the last seven years. Karen has worked for the National Rifle Association on several occasions including Imperial Meeting squadding and organisation (1991 - 94), Membership (98) and general dogsbodying (whenever necessary). Having worked in the Membership Department she feels that she has something to offer the Membership Committee but is happy to turn her organisational skills to anything that needs doing. She is currently Editor of the Journal and has managed to produce six issues without too many complaints!



James Watson - Elected Member

James started shooting at Uppingham School where he was a member of the School VIII for four years. He was selected as Captain of the Athelings in 1993 and then went to the University of Bristol to read Civil Engineering (Masters) where he re-founded the rifle club with help from an NRA grant in 1996. At university, James was in the Officer Training Corps and took part in service rifle events. In 1995 James was a member of the England team to Canada and in 1998 he returned taking a very successful team of Under 25s. Since then he has continued to be involved with Under 25 teams and maintains a strong interest in the youth of the sport. James earned his GB cap in 2001 on the tour to Malaysia and Australia and has subsequently been made Adjutant of the GB tour to the USA and Canada in 2004. Outside shooting, James has recently returned to the UK having lived in the USA for four and a half years where he was involved in software sales, analysing businesses to find improvements and improve return on investment, as well as working on the technical side.



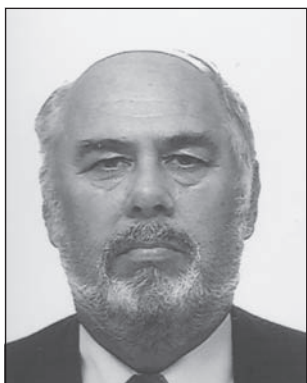
Paul Hunter - Practical Rifle Discipline Representative

Paul has been shooting for more than 15 years and during that time he has participated in many disciplines. As a member of HM Forces he has previously been selected for the Great Britain Service Rifle team and many overseas Pistol and Rifle competitions. In 1999 he won the NRA Grand Aggregate for Gallery Rifle. He currently competes in both Service and Civilian Rifle competitions, including matches hosted by LERA and LPSC. As an active shooter he travels across the UK to many different club ranges as part of the Practical Rifle League, in addition to supporting events held at Bisley.



Neil Jones - Gallery Rifle and Pistol Discipline Representative

Neil is a retired engineer and also has experience as a Sales and Marketing Manager. He is well known on the Gallery Rifle circuit and competes in most of the major national events. His in-depth knowledge of the discipline and his contacts with shooters and event organisers places him in a perfect position to represent those people on the General Council as their Shooting Discipline Representative. Neil started shooting pistol in 1972 and has represented Great Britain in "1500pp" from 1993 to date. Together with John Rolfe they are the current Two Man Team European Champions. He is also one of the two GB representatives at the World Association 1500.



Peter Coley - South Western Regional Representative

Peter is a solicitor living in Cornwall. He shoots target rifle and match rifle regularly at Bisley and competes internationally for Ireland. He has represented the Naval Air Command, the Royal Navy and the Combined Services in a wide variety of disciplines including Service Weapons. Peter was a member of the 1996 NRA Team to the Channel Isles and has toured in Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. In former times, Peter was a keen pistol shot and member of the BPC. As a member of the NRA for many years, Peter is a qualified Coach and RCO and has a long standing, deep interest in all aspects of fullbore target shooting.

NB: Please note that there was an error on page 3 of the previous Journal. The previous Gallery Rifle and Pistol Discipline Representative Chris Farr was shown as having retired mid-term. Chris Farr served one term on Council and then did not stand for re-election.

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A NEW CLUB AT BISLEY - HUNTERS LODGE RIFLE CLUB



The year 2003 saw the formation of a new club at Bisley - Hunters Lodge Rifle Club. Its clubhouse is the former Sergeants Mess of the Army Rifle Association.

Hunters Lodge Rifle Club is a multi-discipline club that actively promotes and encourages all types of target and field sports from a friendly and professional environment which offers excellent facilities for their national and international members.

History of the Clubhouse

The clubhouse was constructed circa 1898 and is of a colonial style with high ceilings and deep verandahs. After a period of neglect, the building was purchased by the Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club. They undertook some major renovations and alterations to the building, including the construction of one of the most secure armouries on the site. Unfortunately due to falling membership and lack of funds the KRPC decided to sell the building in 2002.

New Ownership

Steven and Jo Lakin, as members of the Kensington Rifle Club decided to purchase the clubhouse and negotiations were completed in May of 2003. Steven's background as a qualified construction engineer enabled him to design and construct many of the new features and complete the renovations in time for the Phoenix Meeting in May. Steven was determined to ensure that any changes were in sympathy with the original colonial design and style. The deep verandahs, dark oak floors and furniture imported from India give the feeling of a comfortable haven away from the pressures of normal life. Sitting on the verandah on a fine summer's evening you could imagine yourself in a film about India or Africa at the turn of the century.

First Season at Bisley

The restaurant and BBQ proved to be a big success during the Imperial and Small-bore Meetings. The restaurant specialises in game meats such as venison, partridge, pheasant and wild boar.

Steven's background in farming, shooting and fieldsports has given him the knowledge and experience to identify the best meats and the ability to prepare them in a way that allows the true flavour and quality of the meat to be presented at its best. The specially designed BBQ and smoke house were used to capacity by the last evening of the small-bore meeting when 101 shooters dined at the club, accompanied by live music, lots of cold beer and good wines.

During the winter season the restaurant will be offering carvery and silver service on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (bookings necessary). The restaurant will open during the week for large parties, continuing its speciality of seasonal game meats and fresh (usually organic) vegetables.



The bar has recently expanded its range to include a selection of fine malt whiskies - you can now take a tour of Scotland without leaving the bar stool! Plans for winter 2003 include a larger wine list and premium cigars.

Membership and Affiliations

As a multi-discipline club, Hunters Lodge has affiliated to the NRA and the NSRA and is in the process of affiliating / associating with the CPSA and the MLAGB.

Membership of Hunters Lodge has grown rapidly since its opening with affiliate membership now exceeding 9000. The club offers members access to its armoury and armoury workshop, a regular newsletter, club shooting days on fullbore, small-bore and shotgun and preferential bookings in the restaurant, all social events and sporting trips. There are also club competitions. The last competitive shoot had a full days shark fishing trip in Cornwall as the first prize. The forthcoming Turkey Shoot on 21 December will have a shooting trip to Poland as the top prize, with a second prize of a Turkey and a third prize of a Christmas pudding!

The intention is to make the club an informative and social centre for all shooters whatever their shooting preference.

Shooting Trips

Hunters Lodge Sporting Agency is offering destinations in Germany, Poland and Spain for the field sportsman and woman. This winter's premier destination is the Lowenstein-Wertheim Rosenberg estate in Germany for wild boar. This exclusive and historic estate only opens for shoots on five days of the year and includes a dinner with the owner, Prince Lowenstein Wertheim Rosenberg, in his luxurious palace. The sporting agency is being developed over the next year to expand the destinations and range of shot available.

Contact

Enquiries about any of the facilities of Hunters Lodge can be made by post to:

Hunters Lodge, The Old Sergeants Mess, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NY

Tel: 01483 799998

Fax: 01483 489120

E-mail: hunters.rifles@btopenworld.com

OUNDLE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Founded in 1928 as a miniature rifle club (.22LR), shooting has continued uninterrupted ever since, apart from enforced closure during World War Two. In September 1942, the club wisely refused an offer from the Army to buy its two rifles, and in 1948 the club acquired the use of the ex-Home Guard ranges at Barnwell. Two years later the current design of the club badge was adopted - the shield and diamonds motif being based upon the heraldic arms of St Wilfred who was closely associated with the ancient history of Oundle.

As the years passed, the club progressed with much success in the various NSRA and County level leagues. Key contributors to club affairs and also successful competitors were the late Les Titman, Secretary for an incredible 45 years, together with the late Eric Cotton who was appointed President in 1971.

A separate pistol section was formed in 1964 and within a year ORPC was ranked third in a league of twelve competing clubs. At this time the membership roll was 27 strong, rising to 70 in 1970. By 1972 annual subs had risen to the princely sum of £4.00 per annum.

In 1979 the club was featured in Target Gun. This was prior to the opening of the second indoor range, proudly equipped with Olympic standard turning targets. The new range which was a major project for a small club, was part financed by fund-raising events plus a £15 levy on members. More recent developments include the introduction of indoor pistol calibre rifle shooting following the 1997 pistol ban and the up-rating of the Barnwell range for fullbore shooting throughout the year. This latter improvement was part-funded by Cambridgeshire Police whose Tactical Firearms Unit (TFU) is a regular user of this facility. Lighting has also been installed at Barnwell for evening shooting during the winter months.

With a total membership roll fast approaching the agreed maximum of 175, the club continues to cater for most types of target related shooting needs. There is much success in competition, especially in rimfire and air weapon disciplines with benchrest shooting also becoming popular. It is heartening to note that despite increasingly stringent legislation against private firearms ownership, the club continues to thrive. With the continuing commitment and support of our members, it is with optimism that we look forward to the Centenary of ORPC in 2028.

100 YEARS OF THE NORTH LONDON RIFLE CLUB CLUBHOUSE



Whilst looking through the club history, it came to light that although the NLRC moved to Bisley at the turn of the 20th century, the clubhouse itself was only completed in 1904. Since that time there have been several structural improvements resulting in the building we know today.

To mark this important point in the club's history commemorative memorabilia are being commissioned. This will include some form of lapel pin as well as other more substantial clubhouse souvenirs. There are also plans for an appendix of the club's history to be written to cover the years 1986 to the present day. This will include the many important events and characters associated with the club.

As most of you will probably remember, the NLRC was to host the Bisley Clubs 2003 Easter Meeting which was unfortunately cancelled due to the range fires. In agreement with the other host clubs of the competition, "the North" will re-host the meeting in 2004.

As the meeting will coincide with our Centenary we are planning to open our doors to all participants wishing to attend a party that is taking place on Saturday 10 April. This will be a ticket event comprising a hot and cold buffet, music, fireworks and fun. The cost will be kept to a minimum and we are investigating subsidies/ sponsorship from our supplying brewery.

When requesting an entry form for the Easter Meeting please indicate if you would be interested in attending the party.

To receive an entry form please either go to the web page

<http://www.gbrt.org.uk/easter.doc>

e-mail the Club Captain, Alex Henderson at

alex@akhenderson.co.uk

or write to:

Alex Henderson c/o NLRC, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey, GU24 0NY.



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£19



302: eyeshield combined sideshield £19
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THE IRISH OPEN AND NATIONAL MATCH 2003

by Richard Bailie

(an Ulsterman whose family was originally Scots, living in England and married to a Welsh lady!)

Eagerly awaited since Ireland made the decision to hold the National Match at Ballykinler and combine it with the two day Irish Open, some 150 visitors were left in no doubt from the start that a very considerable amount of effort had gone into preparing the ground. Whilst some arrived at Ballykinler Training Centre on the Thursday - the Welsh being first to find the subsidised bar - most arrived on Friday and were immediately pointed to the reception area where a briefing was given as to where everything was, information booklets distributed, accommodation allocated, squadding tickets issued, and a few freebies handed out including a commemorative brochure and a sample of the "real" Irish Cream Liqueur as well as pens and pencils just for the occasion. English pens were supplied with no ink of course!

The Armoury was open straight away and almost permanently manned by the most helpful and welcoming NCOs - who continued to do everything in their power to see that things went well for the whole period of the events.

Accommodation was good, food was excellent and the use of the Officers Mess an unexpected and welcome bonus - all we needed was some nice dry weather to get started. Friday didn't see it that way however, with a few hardy souls taking a real soaking in the afternoon on the firing point and in the butts (volunteer shooters of course - on an Army camp, never volunteer for anything!)

Friday evening allowed time for some to explore the local scenery, even if it was only as far as a nearby watering hole, or even the England requisitioned hotel in Newcastle, which was fairly acceptable even by English 3+ star standards.

The warm up on Saturday morning was a 2 and 15 in two details. Wind was a fairly gentle zero to one left and some people obviously had no problem getting off to a great start - no less than thirteen 75s but only one with 14 V bulls. David Luckman fended off James Watson and John Pugsley both on 75.13, to finish in that order.

With 159 entries in TR and 18 entries in F Class, one would have expected the biggest ever Irish Open to be less than a one horse race bearing in mind the calibre of shooters present. (Surprisingly there were very few ties indeed, given that most details had pretty similar conditions, wind-wise.) It wasn't to be the case though and at least five names kept coming up with some regularity - no surprises except that they weren't Irish! But people seemed to be enjoying themselves as the atmosphere was really very relaxed and, with scores

of familiar faces around, there were many who had to break off conversations to ensure they didn't miss their details. Marking was good and very well controlled in the butts, and our range officers had a relatively easy time of it, although a bullhorn might have helped communications across 16 targets!

With the weather improving slightly, people began to appreciate the little extras laid on by Major Alwyn McLean's team - the tentage erected for shelter and kit, the portaloos and the supply of tea, coffee, biscuits etc - normally items of self-help out of a car boot at BTC and other provincial ranges.

The 300 yards stage produced 25 possibles with Tony Jones producing the only 50.10 ahead of seven 50.8s with the wind steady at $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ left. At 500 yards John Stevens showed the way with the best 50.9 of 28 possibles on $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ left. At 600 yards on a steadier 2 to 3 left, Chris Fitzpatrick had to fight it out with Nigel Ball on 50.8, winning on the extra tie shots. Messrs Cane, Cleveland and Bedding had already been excluded from the showdown on countback but the same gun score. Things were warming up!

The Saturday Aggregate went to Glyn Barnett with the only full house, with Nigel Ball and Duncan Bedding the best of the ten 149s. The top 147 came in at twentieth position so it was clear some people were actually taking it quite seriously.

Meanwhile over in F Class (who had generally been shooting on the adjacent No 2 Gallery Range) L Pearton won the Saturday Aggregate on 150.24 closely followed by Charles Oliver-Bellasis on 150.21 - the only two possibles. Des Parr had put his name on the Ballykinler Tankard earlier, just to emphasise his reappearance in 2003.

During the day, spectators had been treated to live coverage of the results as they came in, with Finbar O'Sullivan and his colleagues frantically typing in the stats. Two plasma screens in the Troop Shelter meant there wasn't the usual scrummage to see the results on the wall; the normal entry of 40 to 50 in the Open usually have to queue to see the A4 prize lists but this year was a vast (and welcome) improvement.

With shooting over for the day, the next item on the agenda was the Team Dinner in the Hall. With a capacity for 200 this modern dining room was given the treatment by the Mess Manager and his crew and diners were sure the event would be something different when they found themselves serenaded by a string quartet on their way in. The bar was open and soon the first courses were delivered. The twenty



The reason we were all there!

(Photo: Steve Green)



England practise their relaxation techniques.

(Photo: Steve Green)



David Calvert coaches Martin Millar.

(Photo: Steve Green)



Glyn Barnett - winner of the Irish Open 2003 (amongst other things!).

(Photo: Steve Green)



Seamus O'Charlton announces the final results.

(Photo: Steve Green)



A most welcome guest - Kate Hoey MP.

(Photo: Alwyn McLean)



Dame Mary Peters also lent support.

(Photo: Alwyn McLean)



The end of a great year for Ireland.

(Photo: David Hutchinson)



The victorious England team.

(Photo: Jon Underwood)

odd tables then had to help themselves to the main course but the range and quality of the spread was absolutely outstanding with almost every meat, fish and vegetarian dish available. Those chefs really did us proud.

As the dinner came to a late end, relief in the form of no speeches and a ceilidh band appeared - but not before some opportunistic raffling of a weekend for two at the Ritz Hotel in London raised the magnificent sum of £950 for the hosting Nation. Thanks to one and all. Dennis Flaherty was the lucky man - he maintains the lawns, sorry, ranges at BTC, and it seemed a pretty fitting reward.

The ceilidh band got stuck in and the atmosphere at this point became decidedly lively. When they needed a break, Andy Thompson took the stage in an attempt to recreate his performances in the West Indies, only this time he wasn't kicked off because he was better than the band. We knew things were going well when the Senior WO2 in 2 Royal Irish, (and Alwyn's right hand man) put his jacket on to join in with the band, playing the bodhran - and actually he wasn't too bad. Misspent youth? Nah - just likes the craic! It was a great evening and enjoyed by all. Thank you Alwyn.

Sunday, and a day closer to the Big Match. Breakfast downed (and the Officers dining room knows how to do the **full** breakfast) then slightly weary residents headed (waddled) to the ranges. The weather was better than it had been on Saturday, with the sun shining at 8.30am. This was to be a day of four (hopefully) 2 and 15s so stamina was required . . .

There were only 17 possibles in the first part of the Second Stage of the Open, but Parag Patel's 75.15 at 300 yards was simply outstanding even if the conditions were mild. David Luckman and Alex Henderson followed closely behind. At 500 yards it was Parag again on 75.13, with David Luckman on one V fewer and Neil Anderson on 75.11.

Back to 600 yards and this time it was George Cann who quietly slipped in 14 V bulls to count out Andy Luckman on the same score, with Martin Millar and Parag both on 75.13.

This gave Parag the Sunday Aggregate with 225.41, four V bulls better than David Luckman and with Mary Boston on 225.30 in third place. It also gave Parag the Lord Mayor of Belfast Trophy for the two day aggregate, just four V bulls ahead of Glyn Barnett with some Luckmans in third and fourth.

However the Irish Open Championship had yet to be decided, and with just 24 qualifying for the Final (2 and 15 at 600 yards) there was some sucking of teeth before the cut was announced. It was 367.47 - or eight off over the two days.

The Irish Championship went to Glyn putting in a 75.13 to win by one from Parag and two from the 'Luckies'. The scores, as one might expect, were high,



Duncan Bedding with Roger 'Farewell Tour' Hanley.

(Photo: Steve Green)

averaging 74.9, but the first four places went to those scoring possibles in the Final.

And so to the National itself, on a grey and uninviting morning. There was certainly an atmosphere in the air, as people checked their kit as almost never before, and in no time teams were allocated their firing points. Scoreboards had been erected behind each firing point for spectators to see what was happening. The only problems seemed to be a Martin Farnan-shaped space where a Chief Range Officer should be and an absence of register cards. With only a few minutes to spare before Message One, both were seen hurrying to the firing point having just flown in on a nightmare flight and a taxi ride which probably broke every speed limit in the province.

The wind was fairly steady but coaches had to be certain that zeros were correct before making full corrections. England led the way on 686 with Scotland just behind on 685 and Ireland off to a slow start on 677 ahead of Wales on 655.

Back to 500 yards and the pressure was on. However England kept their lead with 692, Ireland changed up a gear to 684, Scotland finished on 676 including a miss, and Wales on 680. Then came the break for lunch.

At this point people began to realise that there were more marquees than the day before - the National Trophy had suddenly appeared on the range looking magnificent and the queue for the lunch (sponsored by a firm of Irish Carriers) was stretching a fair distance, with a range of hot and cold dishes on offer all served professionally by the catering staff from 2 Royal Irish. Guests had started to arrive and amongst the throng were Kate Hoey MP and Dame Mary Peters as well as many local dignitaries.

After a substantial and delicious lunch the teams assembled for the final stage at 600 yards with England hoping they could maintain their lead of 17 over Ireland and Scotland, now both on 39 off, and Ireland and Scotland both praying for rain!

By the end of 600 yards they had done the job they came to do - 29 points ahead of Ireland who had rallied

to a new Irish record score, and 30 ahead of Scotland, with Wales a few points adrift. It was a first class performance from John Saunders' team with two 105s from Glyn Barnett and Simon Cane, no less than eleven 104s and no scores below 102. Now that was impressive and a real team effort, but losing the National again wasn't really an option and those scores simply show the strength in depth of the winning team.

Yes Ireland were disappointed not to repeat their 2002 win but were not unhappy to come second - especially with a new record score. Scotland were genuinely unlucky and without Wales it wouldn't be a full match. Jim Dunn had their only 105, whereas Ireland had three from Judy Farnan, Paul Charlton and David Calvert, and Scotland four from Alice Ogilvie, Alex Hunter, David Hossack and Alex Henderson.

The presentation of prizes was made by Kate Hoey MP, our favourite politician and former Minister for Sport championing, as she does, our sport and our achievements. Various speeches were made, then Paul Charlton, who replied on behalf of the Irish, presented a personal gift to Alwyn McLean for his outstanding efforts in ensuring the comfort and welfare of our visitors and for organising such an excellent meeting.

Many thanks must also go to all the people who worked quietly in the background - the markers, support staff from 2 Royal Irish, all of the Northern Ireland Clubs who worked together on the project, and all the volunteers who made it all possible. I doubt that anyone who attended will forget that weekend in a very long time. Who knows - some of you might come back for next year's Irish Open.

Full results of the Irish Open with team, concurrent and F Class results can be found at:

www.ulsterrifleassociation.org.uk/results



See NRA rule 246.

(Photo: Steve Green)



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THE CLOCK TOWER, THE SIGNAL DRUM AND THE SIGNAL GUNS

by Martin Farnan



The history of the Clock Tower, the Signal Drum and the Signal Guns was recorded in some detail in the Spring Journal 1943, an extract of which reads as follows:

"The Old Clock Tower, another of the sectional structures put up and taken down annually at Wimbledon, came to rest in 1890 on Hog Lees, the highest ground in the Bisley area. Our picture shows the original form, open from the clock face to the works. Which were enclosed in a wooden chamber with plate glass windows at the foot of the tower.

The glass having been broken by bullets, it was decided in 1901 to remove the glass and protect the works with a steel shield; at the same time, the open sides of the structure were closed by a wooden lining. As several bullet holes were found also in the clock faces, one wonders if the damage was caused by very "stray" bullets or by missiles directed by that same mistaken sense of humour which impelled on one or two occasions certain "young bloods" to scale the Tower and tamper with the hands of the clock.

The New Clock Tower replaced the old one, by then become much the worse for wear, in 1934. As will be seen in the picture, its perpendicular sides, affording no easy hand- or foothold, present a difficult problem to the amateur steeplejack bent on "killing time".

Our first picture shows the signal pole and drums, and the "First Signal Gun" being fired at 8.50am in the leisurely days of 1899, when, ten minutes later, the "Second Signal

Gun" would be fired, the "Red Shooting Drum" hoisted, and the day's shooting begun at 9am. The drum was lowered to "half-mast" ten minutes before the end of the shooting period, and completely for "Cease Fire", which was accompanied by more gun firing.

In those comparatively short days there were only two shooting periods, with a long luncheon interval, and "Cease Fire" was at 7.15pm. Summer time had made a longer shooting day possible, and since 1920 there have been three periods, starting at 8.30am, and with two short intervals, ending at 8.15pm. The "Black Drum", also seen in the picture, is hoisted when the Bisley Committee is sitting, or will sit, at the Central Office.

Since 1921 a Strombos horn, cheap to run and labour saving, has been substituted for the signal guns, to the regret of many "old timers" and those who liked the bangs and puffs of smoke."

The first weekend in September was the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the Historic Breechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA), and to celebrate the occasion they held an Anniversary shoot at Bisley. To highlight the occasion they brought up a 25 pounder Field Gun, complete to CES, and fired it (blanks, I am glad to say!) at the beginning and end of shooting periods on both Saturday and Sunday, at the same times as the original "Signal Guns" were fired as reported in the Journal article.

Though the "Signal Drums" have long since been done away with it was thought appropriate to reintroduce them for the occasion, and so the flag pole by Cottesloe Heath became the Signal Drum hoist for the weekend. The "first picture" referred to in the article, is reproduced above as a photograph circa 1901, showing the original Clock Tower, and the photograph below shows the same features (gun, signal drum and Clock Tower) in the same configuration in 2003. It was a most enjoyable weekend for all concerned, and recreated a century-old tradition. There were even those who echoed the regret of the "old timers" that the signal guns and drums had been dispensed with!



The Field Gun.

(Photo: Karen Robertson)



The Field Gun in action.

(Photo: Martin Farnan)



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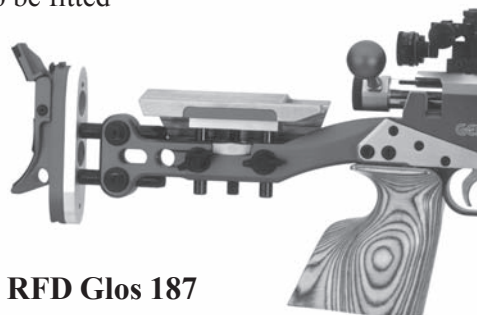


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NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CLAY SHOOTING CENTRE

from Sarah Bunch

Ladies International Grand Prix - Olympic Skeet 19 & 20 September 2003

Background

The Ladies International Grand Prix started on the initiative of the European Champion Ylva Jansson from Sweden. The first competition took place in Uppsala, Sweden in September 1988 with participants from England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Sweden. Since then the competition has been arranged every year with a growing number of shooters and nations. The purpose is to unite experienced Olympic Skeet shooters with newcomers to the sport in a high quality competition with a friendly atmosphere.

The Competition

Thirty-three ladies from Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Great Britain took part in the competition. There were 150 targets shot over two days followed by a flash final in each category. There are two categories, A and B: A category shooters have represented their countries in European or World Championships or World Cups and B category shooters are beginners up to the above category A. Shooters that have not represented their countries for the last ten years start again in the B category. Each team was selected by the shooters and was composed of one A category shooter and two B category shooters from different nations.

A special Ladies Grand Prix cake was cut by Elaine Paige and shared with competitors, sponsors and supporters.



Prizes were presented by Elaine Paige, Adrian Mills and Åke Leufstedt (Termo Swed - Main Sponsor)

Every competitor received several prizes including top prizes of Olympus cameras, Laksen coats, binoculars, hand made jewellery, gun cases, original leather printed handbags, electronic ear protection and many other items.

The song Hand in Hand has been adopted as the anthem of the closing ceremony of the Ladies Grand Prix. At the end of the Prize Giving the ladies joined hands and sang while the flag of the Ladies Grand Prix was lowered, folded and passed to the country that would be hosting the competition next year (Sweden 2004). It is a moving ceremony when most ladies are thankful for waterproof mascara!

The ladies, sponsors and CPSA made speeches of thanks to Alison Nicol who had organised the event. Alison in turn thanked all the sponsors and British ladies who had all helped make the event a great success.

The competition will be held in Sweden in 2004. Anyone interested can start practising now!

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CENTRAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 2003

by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hoole, Royal Signals, Chairman Joint Services Shooting Committee

Not unsurprisingly, events in the Middle East have affected the Services shooting programmes this year. Op TELIC, the Iraq conflict, in particular caused some to doubt whether the Services would be in a position to hold their Skill-at-Arms Meetings at all in June, this in turn could well have impacted upon the Imperial Meeting itself. Some will well remember that in 1991 the last Iraq War did indeed cause CENTSAM to be cancelled. However, since those days the military support to CENTSAM and the Imperial Meeting has ceased to be a Regular Army task and has been mainly supported by a Territorial Army Infantry Battalion. This year that task fell to the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers, who provided a small but dedicated team of individuals to provide the necessary MILFORCE support, whilst at the same time being able to mobilise significant numbers of its TA soldiers to deploy on Op TELIC 2.

Planning for CENTSAM 2003 started almost immediately after the end of last year's meeting as it had been agreed to change the programming of events to achieve a Tri-Service finale to the Queen's Medal, which had last happened in 1993, the Centenary Year of the Army Rifle Association. Whilst some compromises were necessary this aim was achieved with the Royal Navy, Regular Army and Royal Air Force running their own SAMs between 20 and 26 June. The three Regular Services then came together on Friday 27 June to compete alongside each other on Century Range in the final match to decide the winners of the three Queen's Medals for Shooting Excellence for 2003. Her Majesty The Queen's Medal¹ is the only shooting award that can be worn by Service personnel on their uniforms.

Attendance at the Single Service SAMs, including the Territorial Army's TASAM, was generally well down on capacity, except for the Regular Army where the reintroduction of Unit Team matches generated some 23 teams of five plus 107 individuals. With the addition of 57 overseas firers from America, Australia, Falkland Islands, Irish Republic and Oman, this left only nine unfilled places; a remarkable achievement under the prevailing circumstances.

The Regular Army Championship was fiercely contested between the Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Gurkha Rifles in the main, indeed the Unit Team Championship, decided upon by match points per team beaten in five matches, saw the top three teams divided by only five points out of a possible maximum of 308. The A Team from 2 RGR (281 points) just finished ahead of the B Team (278) with 4 R IRISH (276) in third. The Inter Command/Division Team Match for the Western Command Cup was taken by Northern Ireland for the third year running.

The individual events were also dominated by Gurkha and R IRISH firers with Corporal Prembahadur Baral MBE (2 RGR), in his last year of service, finally winning the Queen's Medal after three previous occasions as runner-up. He was chased home by Corporal Billy Smith (2 R IRISH) and Lance Corporal Ian Gault (4 R IRISH). Cpl Prem also won the International Class. The Service Pistol Championship, fired at the beginning of June, was won by Private Cameron Carson (4 R IRISH) with Warrant Officer Class 2 Nigel Hodgson (QLR) second and Lance Corporal Willy Kennedy (3 R IRISH) third. The Champion Gunner in the LMG/LSW Match was Major Danny Roberts (RLC) with Rifleman Thambahadur Gurung 2 (RGR) second and Private M Whitehouse (1 D and D) third. The Champion-at-Arms, based upon the aggregate score in the first stages of the Rifle and Pistol Championships, along with the LMG/LSW match, was won by Private "RJ" Cousins (3 R IRISH), just fending off last year's winner Major Peter Heyburn (R IRISH) with Private Paul McClure (4 R IRISH) in third.

In the International Team events, honours were spread across the nations with the British Army Combat Shooting Team winning the concurrent Service Rifle Team match for the Connaught Cup, ahead of the Sultan of Oman Armed Forces and the Australians. The Omanis won the Fire Team, Combat Snap and Falling Plates matches, whilst the Australians won the Parachute Regiment Cup with its testing two-mile approach march.

In the Royal Navy Service Rifle Championship Air Engineering Mechanic Jim Stead beat off stiff opposition from Warrant Officer Dave O'Connor and Colour Sergeant Neil Gibbet to claim top honours. The Royal Marines overall shot well to take the lion's share of the inter-unit competitions. The Royal Naval Pistol Champion was Lieutenant Colonel, now Colonel, Paul Denning, a former Royal Navy Queen's Medallist returning to competition shooting after many years absence, who just beat the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Rifle Association Chairman and overall 2003 Champion-at-Arms, Commander Ian Danbury, by a small margin.

The Royal Air Force Service Rifle Championship was again won by Chief Technician John Pictor for a record eleventh time and the fifth time in succession, hotly pursued by Flight Lieutenant Dave Vick and Squadron Leader Andy Glazebrook. The RAF Service Pistol Championship was a very closely contested affair with Sergeant Tony Crowe just overcoming a very strong challenge from Squadron Leader Lawson Smith.

The three Queen's Medallist were presented with their medals by Lieutenant General John Reith, Chief of Joint Operations, Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood before being chaired off Century behind the Band of the Parachute Regiment.

TASAM had a reduced entry, but with the addition of overseas teams from the US National Guard, the Falkland Islands Defence Force and the South African National Defence Reserve Forces. Despite the difficulties experienced by TA units in forming teams to participate, a very high standard of competition was possible with the 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment holding off the challenge of the 51st Highland Regiment and 151 Logistic Support Regiment RLC to take the Unit Championship. In the Queen's Medal competition Corporal Adam Chapman (London Regiment), just beat off the efforts of Captain Peter Cottrell (3 PWRR) and Sergeant Wayne Young (51 Highland), to take top honours. The TA Combat Shooting Team achieved a notable victory against the National Guard to win the Fortuna Trophy. The TA also had firers selected as members of both the Great Britain International Service Weapon Teams mentioned later.

During the NRA part of the meeting the various Inter-Services events were hotly contested with honours being spread across the Services. The TA beat off strong opposition to take the FIBUA rifle team title, whilst the Royal Air Force took the Whitehead for Service Pistol and the Regular Army won the United Services for Service Rifle. Once the results of the Short and Long Range Target Rifle events were added to those for Service Weapons the overall Burdwan Cup was won by the Royal Air Force.

This year there were two International Service Weapon matches, the traditional ten man Service Rifle Team Match, which was won by Oman from Great Britain and Australia, and a new event for an eight man Service Pistol team, which was a straight two-way contest between Great Britain and the United States. The author was selected as Team Captain for the GB team, devised the match conditions and fired in the GB team, which achieved a memorable win over the Americans, for whom this was their last competitive event before flying back to Arkansas.

The Methuen Cup, a six man Rifle Team Match between Army Infantry Divisional and Other Arms and Services Corps teams, as well as RN and RAF Command teams, was a very closely contested affair with the lead changing after nearly every one of the five practices. Top honours in the International Class went to Oman with a score of 1418 ex 1500 with the Australian Army a few points behind. Both these teams scored more than the top three UK teams, with only six points the difference between these three UK teams. In third place was the RAF Regiment with 1338, just five points behind the Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Royal Irish Regiment, who were victors by the slimmest one point margin, thus retaining the trophy. Top Other Arms and Services honours went to the Royal Corps of Signals in fourth place overall.

Next year's programme will be a little changed from this year, with the inclusion of some extra matches and a change to the order of events at the end of the NRA Service Weapon week. The United Services and International Service Rifle Team matches will now be fired on Wednesday, the day after the Queen Mary, with the Methuen moving to the following day.

Footnote

- ¹ The history of this medal is contained in David Owen's book *The King's & Queen's Medal for Shooting 1869 – 1998*, ISBN 0 9535609 0 2, published by Sharpshooter Books, 1 Broadlands, Farnborough GU14 7ER.



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Chief of Joint Operations General Reith presents the Parachute Regiment Cup to the Australian team.



Regimental Colonel Simon Fordham, late Royal Irish, presents the UDR Trophy to the Omani team.



The three Queen's Medal winners.



(All photos: Heather Webb)



Corporal Prembahadur Baral MBE (2 RGR) finally achieves victory.



He should know where it goes by now! John Pricor receives his eleventh Queen's Medal.



Royal Navy Queen's Medal winner Air Engineering Mechanic Jim Stead.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE 2003

by Peter Campbell

After several years of growth in competitors, 2003 was going to be a year of stability in numbers, but with the Any Optic competitors showing the result of several years of hard practice. The format was the same as that of previous years, with two days of NRA run individual competitions followed by the Methuen Cup, this year including five civilian teams. The events started with a gentle snap shoot at 200 yards prone, the Bisley Bullet; the less competitive might see this as an opportunity to check their zeros, but Any Optic competitors would not have this opportunity for, in this class, any points dropped now would almost certainly later displace the competitor from any chance of a place on the leader board.

The second event was the Sitting, 10 rounds rapid to count on a Fig 11 at 200 yards. Ian Dewey opened the scores with a 57, while Paul Quilliam and Bob Wightman scored 68 and 66 respectively. In the Any Optic class, Mark Bradley started with a slim two point lead from Paul Hunter and Steve Sheldon with scores of 96 and a pair of 94s.

The final shoot of the morning was the Standing, 10 rounds snaps at 100 yards against the deceptively difficult Fig 14. Again the handiness of the straight pull AR15s saw the advantage used to the maximum. Bill Ellis opened his scorebook with a 34 in the SMLE class while Lee Enfield Rifle Association Secretary Paul Quilliam continued his march onward with a 36 and Mike Burns scored a fine 41 in the Any Iron Sights class. In the Any Optic class third placed Paul Hunter split the Highpower Rifle Association domination of the top shooters; Steve Rees scored 43, from Andy Anderson with 40, while Paul Hunter, Matt Greenall and Nigel Greenaway finished with 39s apiece.

Following lunch, competitors mustered on the 300 yards firing point for a slightly more restful diet of rapids and snaps. The scores were again combined into one aggregate with Bill Ellis and Paul Quilliam continuing their domination of their respective classes, Bill scoring 85 while Paul managed 103. In the Any Iron class Bob Wightman, who had recovered from a blip in the morning, shot a 123 to reassert his dominance in the class. Shooters in the Any Optic class were going to be somewhat more difficult to split - Steve Sheldon, Mark Dougan, Martin Camp, Mark Bradley, Paul Hunter and Mike Peeling, all with possible scores, needed three tie shoots to split them.

With the Monday shooting finished there were no surprises in the Monday Aggregate - Ellis, Quilliam and Wightman topped their own classes with scores of 166, 227 and 219 respectively. Mark Bradley topped the Any Optic class with a score of 16 points fewer than maximum whilst Paul Hunter and Steve Sheldon followed with scores of 283 and 281.

Tuesday was an altogether different matter with the arrival of the dreaded Queen Mary! Thankfully someone in the distant past had some mercy and allowed a lunch break after the rundown; those from the Practical Rifle side of the discipline took the effort more in their stride than the Enfield shooters. Steve Sheldon was again to the fore with a brilliant 195 ex 200 while Martin Camp and Paul Hunter followed slightly behind with 188 and 187. In the other classes there were no surprises when Ellis and Quilliam topped their classes; R Harwood topped the board in the Any Iron class with a fine 156. With that the NRA civilian service rifle shoots were over for another year. A short wait until the final results but there were no surprises in the Enfield and Any Optic classes, the usual suspects of Ellis, Quilliam and Wightman collected due congratulations for their scores of 285, 326 and 348 respectively. In the Any Optic class Steve Sheldon won by six clear points from Paul Hunter scoring 476 and 470 respectively, Martin Camp took third place with 464. With that, attention moved to the Joint Services Shooting Committees Blue Riband event, the Methuen Cup.

There was a record entry from the civilian teams and a record score to be celebrated later, but first to the teams. LERA again fielded its grizzled team of Methuen veterans while the Highpower Rifle Association fielded two teams; other teams also came from the London Practical Shooting Association and the curiously named Selouza Scouts. Further investigation was required, and it transpired that they are named after a brand of Southern African aphrodisiac! It appears that many years ago a group of Rhodesian Army Selous Scouts found themselves in the wrong side of a minefield. Not surprisingly they called for engineer assistance and when the young Selous Scouts observed the somewhat more mature engineers exiting their vehicles, one was heard to comment "Those guys must be the Selouza Scouts!" When one viewed the Bisley version, one had to admit that they were at the upper end of the age band of service rifle competitors shooting the Service Rifle Meeting.

After the first shoot there were no surprises as to who was going to win, the surprise would be in the score achieved! With a score of 1383 Highpower Rifle Association has come a long way since its formation three years ago. When civilians started shooting alongside the military shooters some people commented that comparison of scores would be unfair, but it was the HRA's "A" team who produced the overall top score on the day and collected their trophy for the third year in succession. Well done boys!

MATCH RIFLE MEETING 2003

by Richard Kenchington

According to the weather forecast, we were in for a spell of settled weather, and so it proved.

Any lingering worries were dispelled on Pre Friday, when the Any Rifle competitions were held, following the format of the last three years. The weather was dry and pleasant throughout the day, with the temperature in the low twenties, and the wind started the day coming from 12 o'clock and crossing zero. This did not worry Dave Calvert, who started at 1000 yards with 75.11, a score equalled by RM Hodgins of the HAC. The wind had the upper hand at 1100 yards, Nick Tremlett taking pole position with 73.9, and there were only ten scores over 70.

Back to 1200 yards for the Any Rifle proper, and some blue sky was visible, but the wind had shifted distinctly to the left. Whilst it was mostly worth about six minutes, there were some big drops in strength and changes in angle, which bemused some competitors. Even so, there were two scores of 95, George Barnard taking the trophy by one V from David Friend. Julian Peck followed a point behind, and there were six scores of 93.

The Any Rifle Aggregate was also a close contest, George Barnard using his lead at 1200 to take the gold medal on 238.21, with Dave Calvert and Stuart Collings a point behind.

Saturday dawned, the first day in earnest of the 134th Imperial Meeting and starting appropriately with the esoteric skills of Match Rifle. The day began with both sun and cloud in evidence, the temperature remaining comfortable at about 22 degrees. In the Whitehead at 1000 yards, the wind was moderate to fresh and, as on Friday, coming from straight in front. Allowances of up to three minutes either way were required, with some very quick changes. Dave Calvert repeated his performance of Friday with another 75.11, and close on his heels were three scores of 74.

Back to 1100, and conditions stayed much the same, but the wind tended more towards the left. Allowances reached four minutes, and there were 74s from five competitors, but no possibles. Stuart Collings showed the greatest consistency with a pair of 74s, and thus won the trophy on 148.14, two points ahead of Gary Alexander, Loulou Brister and Nick Tremlett.

After lunch, the Halford was shot in very similar conditions, but with the extra distance there was only one score of 74 at 1100 yards and six of 73. Nick Tremlett repeated his 74.8 with another 74 at 1200 yards, to win by two points from Guy Shapland. However, Allan Campbell-Smith produced an amazing 74.12 at 1200, and took the bronze medal, having dropped four points at 1100. In the Saturday

Aggregate, Tremlett's consistent scoring of 74s brought in the trophy with 294.28 points, two ahead of Collings. The traditional rivalry between these two looked like going the distance.

Come Sunday, but no maelstrom. For the Cottesloe, conditions were dry and bright, although overcast and cool, with a gentle wind from the right. It was readable enough though, and possibles were recorded by Nick Tremlett and Mike Baillie-Hamilton. Both had 15 V bulls, and in the tie shoot, Tremlett prevailed by a single V over the first five shots. There were seven scores of 99, led by Alex Henderson, Hugh Butcher and Nick Hinchliffe, all on 99.13.

The Wimbledon was shot in similar conditions, although during the shoot, the wind crossed zero and began blowing gently from the left. Neil Fyfe made the fewest mistakes and found himself top of the pile with 99.12, ahead of Mike Baillie-Hamilton and Nick Hinchliffe, both on 99.11. This was probably a year when the RG Aggregate could sensibly have included the Halford 1200 and Armourers, but they were left out as is customary and the aggregate finished with the Wimbledon. Nigel Ball came through on top with 398.28, including a 96.10 in the Wimbledon.

Conditions for the Armourers continued much as for the Wimbledon, with a moderate to fresh wind from the left quarter and the temperature rising to about 28 degrees. There were 31 scores of 90 or over, the Alexander Forsyth medal going to Stuart Collings with a fine 97.9. This was followed closely by John Pugsley on 95.11, another competitor with a high V count being Charles Oliver-Bellasis who made 93.10. Stuart's remarkably steady shooting (nothing worse than three points off at any distance) took him to the head of the pack in the Weekend Aggregate on 584.64, four points ahead of Nick Tremlett and a further two points in front of John Pugsley. Stuart also took the Martin Parr Aggregate for Sunday, his 292.37 being two points ahead of Rob Lygoe, with John Pugsley one behind on 289.

With the weekend's shooting over, serious attention began to be given to the leaders in the Hopton. Collings was now leading comfortably, which was unfortunate for Tremlett, as up to the Wimbledon, he had been leading Collings by five points, but he then had a relatively disastrous 88 in the Armourers (even greater woes befell Guy Shapland, whose Armourers score torpedoed him from about 6th to 27th place over the weekend). Next lay Pugsley, with Rob Lygoe, David Calvert and Loulou Brister snapping at his heels. Tremlett consoled himself with the gold medal for the Weekend Selection Aggregate, which he would still have won even if Collings had entered it.



Stuart Collings, Colin Hayes, David Calvert and Nick Tremlett relax between ranges.
(Photo: David Pollard)



Paul Monaghan and Peter Campbell.
(Photo: David Pollard)



Dick Rosling shoots in the Elcho whilst Nick Tremlett coaches (or looks out for the ice-cream van!)
(Photo: John Knight)



Collings coaches " . . . and if you don't get this shot in the V bull I'm going to bash you with my Weatherwriter!"
(Photo: John Knight)



Jim McAllister finds that addition can be a real headache as Bruce Mackie recreates a famous comedy sketch!
(Photo: John Knight)



Neil Fyfe of Scotland - record scorer in the Elcho Match with 224.26.
(Photo: Rosemary Meldrum)



The Scottish board with Canon Copland (93) who first shot in the Elcho in 1932.
(Photo: Rosemary Meldrum)



The victorious Scottish team outside Elcho Lodge with their trophy.
(Photo: Rosemary Meldrum)

Come Monday, but the monsoon still didn't arrive. The settled weather continued dry and sunny, with a blue sky and mere wisps of cloud. In the Edge 1100 yards, the wind was moderate from the front left quarter, requiring mostly three to four minutes allowance. In these conditions, scoring was high, with 100.8 from David Friend, 99.7 from Richard Kenchington and scores of 98 from Bruce Mackie, Mark Haszlakiewicz, Dick Rosling and the inevitable Stuart Collings. Back to 1200 yards, and the wind freshened whilst the temperature got hotter. These conditions produced some interesting gusts and lulls, many of which were readable, but no one could match another 98 from Collings to give him the trophy on 196.22, three points ahead of David Friend, with Nick Tremlett a further point behind.

Concurrent with the Edge, the Five Nations Match was contested by teams of three. Even though Collings had left both himself and Tremlett out of the English squad, their trio of Tom Smith, Alex Cargill Thompson and Rob Lygoe found themselves 12 points ahead of the Scots at close of play. It was pleasing to see Normandy coming third, only four points further behind.

Whilst many of the Hopton leaders took the afternoon off to play golf, the mad dogs continued to do battle after lunch in the FW Jones. In even hotter and gustier conditions than for the Edge, scores were low, the winning team from the NRC of Scotland not quite managing to average 140 over the two distances of 1100 and 1200 yards. In a small entry of only six teams, the Old Etonians came second with West Atholl third.

The situation after Monday, once the computer had been wrung out, revealed that in the scramble for the Hopton, Collings had consolidated his lead over Tremlett to eight points, with Pugsley lying a further four points behind. Next came Calvert, Friend and Brister, followed by Mackie, whose score in the Edge had moved him up five places. Lygoe had scored below par in the Edge and this dropped him out of the immediate running.

And so to the Albert, so often the graveyard of many a Hopton. It almost goes without saying that the day of the Albert, when there are no sighters, usually presents competitors with a completely different weather pattern from any of the previous three days. This year did not follow expectations, as the weather was much the same as the day before, although perhaps less bright, and the wind had backed from the north west to the south west. It remained moderate in strength however, and very steady at 1000 yards, allowing many high scores. Possibles at this distance were recorded by John Pugsley, Will Meldrum, Guy Shapland, Bruce Mackie, Martin Brown, Denise Pitwell and Dick Whitby, and there were many 74s. At 1100, as the day warmed up, conditions hardly varied and again, scores were very high. George

Barnard and Mike Baillie-Hamilton both made 75, Barnard taking the lead in the Albert with only one off from Neil Fyfe, Nick Tremlett, Bruce Mackie and Guy Shapland on two off. However, Collings, Pugsley and Lygoe had only dropped one more, so the leaders in the Hopton remained in the same order with just 1200 yards to go - namely Collings, Tremlett (seven behind), Pugsley (five further behind), Calvert, Brister and Mackie.

Over the years, the wind in the Albert 1200 has often caused major upsets for those near the top of the Hopton, with whoever yields least often emerging the winner. This year however, the wind remained relatively benign, although the day brightened up and the temperature increased to 30 degrees. Allowances varied from three to seven minutes left, enough to make even the Tigers drop several points but not to cause major disasters. Neil Fyfe made an excellent 73.8, closely followed by Martin Brown and Keith Pilcher on 72.6, and several scores of 71 including George Barnard. Thus in the Albert, Fyfe snatched victory from Barnard by 221.25 to 220.31. The main contenders for the Hopton maintained their form and Collings's 69 was enough to give him victory by five points from Tremlett, who made 71. As Tremlett said afterwards, Collings was too far ahead after 1100 and, unless he had serious problems, there was nothing Tremlett could do. Collings's aggregate of 996.112 was a new record, beating the previous record of 987.117 (which he set in 1995 after a tie shoot) by nine points, despite the fact that in 1995, the Whitehead and Halford were shot from 100 yards further forward. Ironically, Tremlett's score of 991.109 would also have been a record had it not been beaten by his old rival.

Surprisingly, despite the relatively easy conditions, the top seven placings in the Hopton were separated by wide margins. Third was John Pugsley on 982.103 and fourth Dave Calvert on 980.86, followed by George Barnard, Loulou Brister and Rob Lygoe, all on 970. It is interesting to look at these results with respect to the range of bullets used. Eight of the top ten competitors in the Hopton used Sierra MatchKings, the majority now using the 200 rather than the 190 grain version. The highest placed rival to Sierra was the Woods 205 used by Dave Calvert, but there seemed to be little advantage in using this bullet, which has a VLD front end, for in the 1200 Yards Aggregate, Calvert was still beaten by Collings and Tremlett with their Sierra 200s. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that Sierra will consider making a VLD alternative to their 190 and 200 grain MatchKings in the near future. It should be noted that Sierra continues with its generous sponsorship of the Hopton, contributing 10,000 MatchKings to the prize list.

Thus, the Hopton went to Stuart Collings for the tenth time in a period of only 14 years. This surpasses John de Havilland's record of nine wins, although it must

be said that the latter came second eight times as well (in the years when Collings has not won, he has finished third once and fifth three times). Even so, this new record must surely make Collings and de Havilland the two most successful Match Rifle competitors of all time; certainly since the Second World War. Collings's ability to keep ahead even under enormous pressure has been a real thorn in the flesh for Nick Tremlett, who has ended up second in so many competitions that he must have lost count. However, Tremlett's achievement should not be discounted lightly. In each of the four years when Collings has not won the Hopton, Tremlett has beaten him, and an overview of the results of the Hopton since 1990 shows that these two competitors have dominated everyone else by their sheer consistency of performance.

The Elcho

After the excitement of the climax to the Hopton, the day of the Elcho dawned calm, dry, overcast and rather humid. On paper, Ireland had enough adherents in the top echelons of the Hopton to give them a serious chance of winning the match, particularly as they were still riding the wave following their success in the National Match last year. On the other hand, five of the top eight competitors in the Hopton were English, but then Scotland had plenty of potential team members in the top 25.

The first distance, 1000 yards, began at 9.30am, and the gentle wind gave little trouble, Scotland recording three possibles. Ireland and Wales also made one possible each, but England had to be content with four 74s. When firing finished at around 11am, Scotland had built a lead of six points over England, who led Ireland by one point and Wales by a further six.

The teams moved straight back to 1100 yards, and firing commenced at 11.45am. Conditions were similar to those at 1000 yards, the gentle wind crossing zero and requiring an allowance of up to two minutes either way. Scotland continued piling in the bullseyes, Neil Fyfe making another possible. In the English camp, David Friend had an inexplicable miss towards the end of his shoot, and this exactly accounted for the difference between the Scottish and English team scores. A similar miss by Dave Calvert had the same effect on the Irish, although his compatriot Alwyn McLean came off the firing point with a second 75. Thus after 1100 yards, Scotland were 11 ahead of England, who led Ireland by a single point, with Wales nine points further behind.

Lunch was taken, the temperature increased to over 30 degrees and battle at 1200 yards was rejoined at 3.30pm. The wind refused to do any more than it had already done, and remained around zero or a minute or two either way. Avoiding mistakes became critical and, indeed, England made two 74s (Bridger and

Pugsley), and even more remarkably, 75 from David Friend, whose only adjustment to his rifle after the miss at 1100 yards was to clean out the bedding. Scotland countered with three 74s, from Sharman, Kidner and Fyfe, the latter thus making a record personal score of 224.26, for which he was applauded off the firing point. Unfortunately, Guy Blakeney had an unexplained miss for a 67, but this did not greatly matter. Scotland had done enough, and finished with the massive score of 1738.196, eight points ahead of England. Both Ireland and Wales also finished with scores over 1700.

In the final analysis, the greater adrenalin and team spirit in the Scottish team, half of whom made over 220, won the day over the English, who really lost their grip on the match at 1000 yards and were unable fully to regain the advantage. Faced with such accurate shooting from both Scotland and England, neither Ireland nor Wales should be disappointed with their scores. Alwyn McLean, of Ireland, made the second highest score of the match (222.31). Only one of the Irish, and two of the Welsh, failed to reach 210, and every single competitor in the match scored 205 or better. This is remarkable shooting indeed, and with the increasing interest in Match Rifle and the higher overall level of expertise, neither Scotland nor England can feel secure in future.

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SCHOOLS MEETING (TARGET RIFLE) 2003

by Mik Maksimovic

Another year of Cadet target rifle shooting and coaching culminated in by far the most exciting and warm Schools Meeting for many years. The Schools had their Cadet Target Rifles reissued to them earlier in the year, and frantic preparations had been going on all over the country for several months. Many Cadets are extremely nervous of coming to the Schools Meeting as, for many of them, this is their first taste of shooting in a major competition. Many youngsters learn vital skills during these four days of competition, not least of all being competitive at their chosen sport. The Schools Meeting can be a nerve-racking and stressful experience and many a tear has been shed along Century Range during this time . . . sometimes even by the Cadets!

Our future lies in the ISCRM Meeting and the Schools Meeting where hundreds of young cadets compete from all over the country and it was with great pleasure that we were again given the opportunity to shoot with the Target Rifle (albeit with the military issue Parker Hale). There were some teething problems with the rifles, mainly the sights, but these were overcome in the main by the great help the men from ABRO gave to the Schools and Independent Units, and in general the rifle did not perform too badly. Overall the scores were slightly down on the last time it was used in 2000 when we were allowed our own sights.

Glorious weather ensued for the Schools Meeting, as well as for most of the Imperial Meeting, and the cries of "Have you been drinking enough water?" and "Where is your suntan cream?" were regularly used by the Masters in Charge. It is a credit to all involved that there were very few instances of dehydration and sunstroke on the range that week. Also, to the pleasure of the Cadets, the wind machine did not seem to be working as well as it normally does!

The Snapshooting, which was fired over the first three days using the Cadet GP Rifle, had a somewhat smaller turnout than in earlier years, nevertheless it was still extremely exciting and close run. Sedburgh won the Marling with 355, followed by the Oratory on 340 and Campbell College on 335. This set the stage for Wednesday afternoon with Sedburgh again winning the Schools Snapshooting with a score of 277, again closely followed by the Oratory with 266 and Sutton Valance in third place with 234, well done Grandad. The Oratory got their own back on Sedburgh by beating them in the Devon and Dorset Falling Plates, even achieving a third place position as well, with Sutton Valance in fourth place as the beaten semi finalists. The Marlborough Cup was won with a 48 ex 50 by Cdt WO2 K Taylor of Campbell College. Interestingly there were no tie shoots in the Snap this year.

Whilst all the excitement was being shot with the GP rifle in the Snap and Marling, the majority of Schools were frantically trying to polish-up their firers in readiness for the Ashburton on Thursday morning. This was being done by competing in the Wellington at 300 yards and Iveagh at 500 yards for the first three days. Much activity ensued on the ranges as team coaches sorted out positions, sights, slings etc; it seemed never-ending as everyone was trying their best to get picked for the school eight to shoot the Ashburton. Eventually the coaches had to decide that they had done enough polishing of their charges and let them get on with it. This all culminated with the Cadet Rifle Aggregate being won by M Ferguson of the Canadian Army Cadet Corps with an outstanding score of 70.6 ex 70.14 - this was fired using the Canadian Cadet Issue Target Rifle (an RPA Quadlock!). The Wellington was decided on a three way tie, eventually being decided with Cpl JP Thompson from Bradfield College in first place, followed by Cdt G Goatly from Marlborough second and Cdt AB Burton from Elizabeth College in third. The Iveagh was won by Cdt I McCallum from Dollar Academy with 35.5, Sgt GLH Hemus from Malvern College was second with 35.4 and in third place was Cdt R Lane of Oakham also with 35.4.

The Devon went to Bradfield College who only just beat Stamford by five V bulls. The Victoria College Target Rifle trophy was also shot during the first three days on Century Range; this was shot at 600 yards and had a very good turnout of 30 entries. Marlborough College, who have looked strong all season, managed to beat the South African Under 19 Team and the Canadian Cadets to win the Victoria College Trophy; well done to Jon Cload and his boys.

Ashburton Day loomed upon us, with early starts all round to get sorted and psyched-up for the day. Plenty of water and sun tan cream was required and even cigarettes for certain Shooting Masters were checked off the list. What a glorious day it was, even the wind machine wasn't turned up too high.

The morning started with the Reserve being won by Cpl J Lee from Epsom; this showed us from the start of the day that Epsom were out for their ninth Ashburton win in 14 years and the gloves were off for an interesting morning's shooting. This was followed by the Cadet Pairs and Fours. The Pairs was won by Oundle School which, considering they were using borrowed rifles after having had some equipment problems earlier that morning, was an exceptional win. They were closely followed by Epsom by one point and the Oratory by three points; this had the makings of some very close shooting for the day. In the Fours, Epsom prevailed and beat Sedburgh by nine points pushing Oundle into third place by 13 points.

The Ashburton, the main shoot of the week where the Cadets themselves show what they have learnt by coaching and running their own teams of eight over 2 and 7 at 300 and 500 yards, was becoming extremely exciting. At the halfway stage, Stamford held a slim margin over Dollar Academy, Epsom and Marlborough College and there were only four points separating the top four Schools. This was Cadet target shooting at its best. As the Schools dressed back to the 500 yards firing point, the wind decided to make things a little more interesting for the coaches.

It was all to be decided at 500 yards and as teams got through their firers, the results began looking even closer and it could have been any one of several schools right up to the last firer. Stamford finished fifth overall at 500 yards only one point and two V bulls behind Bradfield College who won the 500 yards stage. But the Ashburton belonged to Stamford School again with a narrow margin of a single point over Epsom - this was a wonderful achievement for Stamford as they have now won the Ashburton both times it has been fired with the new Cadet target rifle.

The final results were:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Stamford | 507.31 |
| Epsom | 506.32 |
| Marlborough | 504.29 |
| Dollar | 497.34 |
| Bradfield | 496.32 |

The Spencer Mellish was won by Cdt SUO A White from Harrow with a wonderful 49.3 in fairly difficult conditions. The Kinder Trophy went to Stamford and the Green Howards, Country Life and Lucas trophies went to Bradfield College. Overall Sedburgh won the Schools Aggregate with their consistent high scores in all the major competitions.

Now it was time to swap rifles and move onto the Main Meeting. There was a noticeably higher number of Cadets shooting the whole Meeting this year and I firmly believe that the reintroduction of a target rifle within the Cadet organisation will show a steady increase in cadets entering the Imperial Meeting every year. Let us all hope so, as they are our lifeblood for the future.

TARGET RIFLE 2003

by Iain Robertson

Thursday 10 July

Many overseas squads took the opportunity of an early team match; the Opening Shot all but filled Stickledown Range. Teams from South Africa, USA and Australia took the first three places. Was there a protest that national teams were not permitted to enter? Certainly the published result was rapidly amended, South Africa B, USA Adjutants and Sandgroupers reappearing as Rand Rifle Club, California and Western Australia. Notably absent from the field was regular past winner BCRC. Uppingham made a fine showing in the Schools Veterans match, winning both the A and 2nd teams events as well as Simon Belither winning the Individual Tankard, but were pipped to the Schools Veterans Aggregate by Greshams.

Friday 11 July

Although the wind was near calm for the morning, things did not go smoothly in the United Hospitals. A suspicious bunch calling themselves International Medics Inc came up with the top score, but had a minor problem with eligibility (like, they weren't) and were relegated to 'alongside' status, Guy's and St Thomas's taking the trophy. OGRE won the Astor County Championship for the second year running - an omen of things to come?

A fickle wind developed in time for the start of the individual competitions and persisted well into the evening. In difficult conditions there were only four

scores of 100 in the Century - Ryan Schlam of the Australian Under 25 team won outright with the only 100.11, while Ant Ringer had the best of eight scores of 50 in the Admiral Hutton. Paul Kent won the Friday Aggregate with 149.10. Just how difficult it had been can be gathered from a comparison with the scores in 2002, when all three events went to tie-shoot or countback and there were over 220 HPS crosses on the day.

Saturday 12 July

Another hot and sunny day, with the wind mostly light but definitely variable. Scores were again depressed compared with the past two years; all three competitions and the day's aggregate were won outright. Dave Simkin of the ATSC won the Donegall with 50.10, the best of 96 HPSs whilst Eddie Stigant of the South African Veterans team took the Lovell with 50.7. Mahendra Persaud of Guyana took the Tucker Aggregate for the five events outside the Grand Aggregate, with 246.21, three V bulls clear of Paul Kent. Opening the Grand Aggregate, the Daily Telegraph went to Johann du Toit of South Africa with 75.14.

Sunday 13 July

The weather continued hot, but with the wind doing little. In the Alexandra, Dries Moller of South Africa and Ty Cooper from the USA Under 25 team both made 50.10, leaving the rest of the bull to Alwyn McLean, 87th with the only 50.0 of the Meeting. In



Andy Gent leads an aerial salute to George and Jan Arnold and Andrew Tucker.
(Photo: Tim Webster)



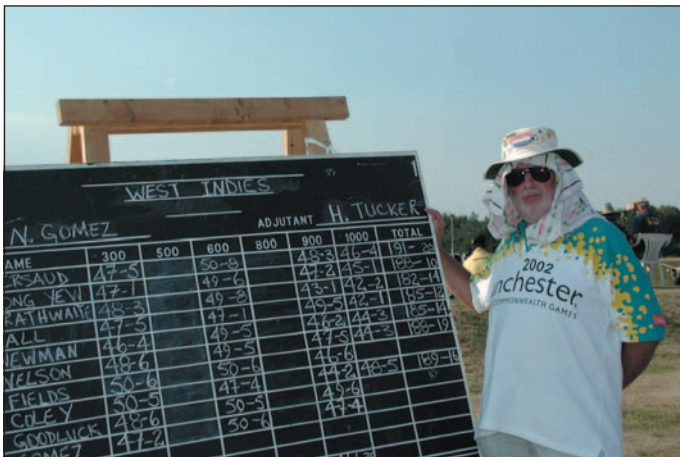
It was a stunning tribute.
(Photo: Tim Webster)



The Regimented Rifles of Kenya.
(Photo: Damien Doyle)



The Kenyan team keeps cool.
(Photo: John Knight)



"No Hamish, drinking rum with Norris Gomez does not confer Trinidadian citizenship upon you!"
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



"Er I think we're missing something here!"
(Photo: John Knight)



The Australia Match - Great Britain at 600 yards.
(Photo: John Knight)



The victorious Great Britain Australia Match team.
(Photo: John Knight)

the subsequent tie-shoot, experience showed through, Dries taking the trophy 24.3 to 24.0. The other two events of the day resulted in outright wins for Sussex shooters: John Payne won the Daily Mail with 75.13 whilst Jon Cload won the Duke of Cambridge with 50.9. Peter Bromley of Old Sedberghians took the Clementi Smith Aggregate with 175.26 - six V bulls from the only other 175 by Glyn Barnett. That score was vital to OGRE A (Barnett, Wood, Holden and Rowley) in the Steward. With 684.63, they won by less than a whole point from Old Epsomians A (Patel, Raincock, Cleveland and Kent P).

Over at the Grand Aggregate Leader Board, five shooters congregated at the top with one off. Zulkeflee Hamsan of Malaysia occupied the top slot closely followed by David Luckman, Canada's Bruce Bullock, Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel.

Monday 14 July

Another hot day with light winds, giving high scores and tie shoots throughout the day. The Times saw the first serious run on the stocks of bronze bars, with 174 competitors holding the bull all the way, and 14 tyros completing the prize list with 49s. Dorothy Hume of Scotland had missed Sunday's events through illness. Undaunted by the difficulty of being 150 off in the Grand, she commented "Well I'd better go and win the Times then". Full marks for positive attitude - and full marks on the range. Unfortunately

even 50.10 was only good for a place in a three-way tie with Nick Mace and Nancy Tompkins-Gallagher, the Guernseyman winning with 25.3 to the ladies' 24s.

In the Wimbledon, Toby Raincock of Old Epsomians missed the V with his last to count, but proved he doesn't really suffer from last-shot nerves by scoring 25.5 in the subsequent tie-shoot against LP Metcalf of the Australian Under 25 team. Over the hill, the Conan Doyle was closely fought. Six scorers of 50.8 went on to tie-shoot - David Dodds of South Africa needed 25.4 to win by a single V bull from both Norman Crawford of the USA and Geoff Woodman of Canada.

Five aggregates are concluded with Monday's events. On the day, Andy Luckman of Sedgemoor TSC had the only 150. Andy was followed by Paul Wheeler of Old Guildfordians on 149.20, dropping a point in the Conan Doyle. The Stock Exchange Aggregate differs from the Monday Aggregate only by including the Daily Mail in place of the Conan Doyle. Mr Wheeler had been placed 25th in the Daily Mail with 75.10 which gave him the best of six 175s to take the Yeomanry Challenge Bowl. The Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate differs from the Stock Exchange Aggregate only by including the Telegraph in place of the Wimbledon. Mr Wheeler had been placed third in the Telegraph with 75.13 which gave him the best of four 200s to take the trophy (now have you got all that?). Jon Underwood of Old Guildfordians took the Brigadier (the aggregate of the 900 yards events) with 149.22 - the first occasion it has been won with less than an HPS. The Young Rifleman's Aggregate (for tyros under 25, taking the better score of each of three pairs of events) went to Cadet Oliver Russell of RGS Guildford with 172.22. Wandsworth either have a particularly impressive squad to choose from, or were indulging in some gamesmanship - how else do you explain a D team with Andy Luckman and Martin Millar in it? Wandsworth D (Luckman, Millar, Bruce Logan and Mike Coutts) took the Belgian (team of four concurrent with the Stock Exchange Aggregate) with 688.85, two points clear of Old Epsomian A (Patel, Raincock, Ramsey and Kent P).

Meanwhile, over at the Leader Board, yesterday's five top shooters had all dropped at least three points somewhere that day and USA Palma team member Emil Praslick's 149 had leapfrogged him into first place on 397.50 - quite impressive for his first visit to Bisley. Zulkeflee, Bullock and Patel were hot on his heels on 396.

Tuesday 15 July

The whole tenor of the Meeting changes on Tuesday, as the main team events commence, interspersed with the most important and influential individual events.

In the St George's First Stage, James Hodge of Old Epsomians (now seduced to the RAFTRC with promises of cheap trips abroad!) dropped his last for 75.14 resulting in a tie shoot for the St George's Bronze



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Cross with Roy Jobson of Cornwall. However, the little tightwad obviously hadn't entered the Gurkha Appeal, as Mr Jobson won the large Kukri outright, while Dr Patel in third place picked up another to add to his collection of surgical instruments. Also in the tightwad section (or perhaps just not aware of the eligibility criteria) was one Lt J Cload, whose 75.12 would have counted out Iain Robertson for the Foster.

Emil Praslick's 75.13 meant he maintained his position at the top of the Leader Board, but the same score from Parag Patel meant he climbed up a place into third.

The Australia Match

by John Bloomfield

Tuesday morning, the hottest day of the Meeting so far and whilst the rest of the shooting world was still attempting to make the qualifying score for St Georges I, the 300 yards range of the Australia Match got underway down on range 19. With mirage and flags seemingly locked on ½ right, the coaches had little to do other than centre groups and swelter in the heat. Conditions must have felt like home from home for the Australians who promptly took full advantage to make 497.68 and take a two point lead over Great Britain on 495.72 with South Africa a further point behind on 494.68.

Back to 600 yards and a welcome break whilst one of the USA team took part in the tie shoot for the Times. Out on ranges 17 and 18, away from the shelter of the trees, the coaches suddenly found they had some work to do, corrections of 0 to 2 right being required. Range scores of 495 from GB (64V) and USA (59V) against 493s from Australia (60V) and South Africa (70V) eliminated the Australian's two point lead. At lunch, GB with 990.136 had a slender lead of eight V bulls over Australia, with South Africa on 987.138 and USA 986.126.

Over to Stickledown where flags changing from one side of the poles to the other at regular intervals meant conditions needed very careful watching. Periods of 3 to 5½ minutes right wind would be followed by an abrupt change after which 2 to 4 left would be required until the flags swung back again. GB's score of 494.58 (including 50.10 from Parag Patel) for a total of 1484.194 extended their lead to three points. South Africa, 494.61 and 1481.199, moved into second place one point ahead of Australia who, with four 48s in their range total of 490.62 seemed to lose the plot slightly. Back to 1000 yards and the wind god seemed to make up his (or her?) mind that left was now the preferred direction; however life was no easier for the coaches with a bracket of 1 to 6 minutes instead. GB shot very steadily scoring four 50s, four 49s, a 48 and a 47 to finish with 491.53, a total of 1975.247 and a winning margin of seven points. David Luckman put in his fourth possible of the match for 200.23 only to see Eric Pintard (USA) set a new individual record score with 200.29. Australia and South Africa were

meanwhile having a real battle for second place, eventually settled in favour of Australia whose 488.49 and total of 1968.239 gave them a two point margin over South Africa's 485.55 and 1966.254 with the USA in fourth place on 1960.242. The Junior Australia Match was won by the Australian Under 25 team.

Tuesday Afternoon's Team Matches

Despite the Australia Match cutting down their selection pool for the County Short Senior, Surrey still won with 783.95. The Inter-Services Short Range Match was won by the UK Cadets six points ahead of the RAF with Cadet Alex Walker scoring 100.18 - not only the highest score in the match but also the highest score on the whole range that afternoon illustrating that it doesn't matter how many Queen's Prizes, Grand Aggregates or GB caps you have, you can always be beaten by a 16 year old cadet! The County Long Range went again to Norfolk with 294.27 closely followed by the "RAFTRC plus one" team otherwise known as Oxfordshire.

Wednesday 16 July

In the first stage of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, the standard was higher than ever. A record sixty-six scores of 105 led a field where the cut fell at 103.11 (which would have gone through in 168th place in 2002, 242nd in 2001 and 211th in 2000).

In the numerous concurrent events 105 was essential for an individual victory. Winners included Nigel Ball (Admiral Campbell, Loder and Volunteer Force), Jane Messer (Amazons), Michelle Gallagher (Faunthorpe) and Carol Painting (in her first attempt at the Queen's Veterans).

The Families went to the Luckman brothers with 209.34, just beating the Gallagher sisters by V bulls. The Richards' 210 in 1994 still stands as a record score, although the Luckmans have been by far the most successful pair in modern times. Of the various permitted family combinations, the top place has gone to a preponderance of brothers, followed by father and son and husband and wife in similar proportions. Father and daughter have come close, the Hossacks having at least two silver medals, with O'Learys making the odd showing and Calverts on the starting blocks. Yet to show in significant quantities are brother and sister (though there are a couple of potential successes out there), and mother and son – are we still totally stereotyped or is it just that no self-respecting young man would be seen dead doing something his mother was good at? Meanwhile, we are fast approaching the stage where not only all the Families' medallists but also the entire Surrey team might one day come from 'Kent'.

A fine showing by the long-established, but relatively small, Lloyds TSB RC took the Rifle Clubs with 415.48. Excellent team selection, and a brave decision by the captain (who shall be nameless but she works for the NRA and came off with a 97). But why did Old



South Africa Under 19 Team Manager John Clipstone and one of his team.
(Photo: John Knight)



John demonstrates the Bloomfield Diet to Julie Cane.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"I'm sure someone will wake me when it's my turn to shoot!"
(Photo: John Knight)



"I'm sure someone will wake me when they want some ammo!"
(Photo: John Knight)



Simon Belither shows the world that you don't need the latest trendy jacket to get into the Queen's Final.
(Photo: John Knight)



"No it's definitely six and five twenty-eighths left!" Bill Richards in action.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"I think the house is g mantlepiece!"



"Anyone know how the batteries fit into this thing?"
(Photo: John Knight)



NRA Shooting Correspondent Tony de Launay working hard!
(Photo: Geoff Bayliss)



Veteran World Target Rifle Champion Eddie Stigant of South Africa.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



going to need a bigger
(Photo: Eric McGibbon)



USA Veterans Team member Peter Church from Michigan.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Group Captain Bob Fishwick deals with an insubordinate Flight Lieutenant Iain Robertson?
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



Anna and Jim Paton of Canada with the St George's Challenge Vase.
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



Arthur Clarke presents the Grand Aggregate Challenge Shield to Parag Patel who wisely decides to leave it where it is!
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



A happy Effer - Dave Pickering, winner of the F Class Queen's Prize, pictured with his daughter.
(Photo: Karen Robertson)

Epsomians not enter? Their B team, winners of the Bank of England (same eligibility as the Rifle Clubs but on the Grand Aggregate) would have taken the trophy by three V bulls. A question for the Secretary?

My notes from on high tell me there were “only” nine possibles in the Corporation. All right, there were 11 in 2002, 34 in 2001 and in 2000, but “only” one in 1999, five in 98, three in 97, none in 96, four in 95 and none in 94. Peter Chance of Club 25 took the trophy with 50.8, two V bulls clear of the pack.

The 500 Yards Aggregate, including the Telegraph, Daily Mail and Queen’s I showed four scores of 185; David Luckman was the master of the distance with 185.29. In the Short Range Aggregate (Donegall, Times, George’s I and Queen’s I 300) Jane Messer and Gray Robertson of Australia both scored 210.30 - Jane took the tie-shoot after a sudden death finish. David Hossack won the Palma Aggregate, of the long range events from middle Saturday onwards, with 196.15, a clear point in hand and two clear of any member of the GB Palma Team. Simon are you reading this? Meantime Jon Underwood was glad that there was an aggregate of the long range events in the Grand Aggregate. The Lovell, shot on Middle Saturday, had been a bad moment, but minus that score of 42.3, Jon took the Elkington with 149.16 ex 150.30.

In the Donaldson Memorial Final, at 1000 yards, there were only two 75s. Frank Pinyon of Australia with 75.12 took the trophy, but Jon Underwood on 75.7 continued to demonstrate his mastery of Stickledown (impressive for a .22” shooter!).

As is usual after a day involving the Corporation, it was all change on the Grand Aggregate Leader Board. Parag had dropped three points in the Corporation whereas Emil had only dropped two. However Emil had also dropped another two in Queen’s I and Zulkeflee had been “Corped” so Parag found himself in the top slot on 623.82 only eight V bulls ahead of Emil. Both Luckmans followed closely on 621s.

Thursday 17 July

Martin Parker of the North London RC won the Prince of Wales outright with 75.12, while in second place and leading the group of 75.11s was T class Cadet Edward Welford. The Grand Aggregate concluded with the Prince of Wales, terminating numerous concurrent events. The Olle Beckett Memorial trophy for top under 23 went to Richard Stewart with 691.82 in 13th place. The Alton, for top lady, went to Jane Messer - 686.79 in 47th place. The Admiral Hutton Tyro Trophy went to Cadet Edward Welford, 263rd with 675, gaining 90 places on his nearest rivals in T class with his magnificent shoot in the Prince of Wales. The Conwey Fenton Memorial, for top UK Cadet, went to Jonathan Kent of Epsom College with 682.75 in 98th place.

Concurrent with the Grand Aggregate is the Bank of England for teams of four. As commented earlier, Old

Epsomians B team were first, closely pursued by their A team. Should the selectors do better, or is there just an excess of talent? In the Fulton Pairs, the winning team was Norfolk ‘n’ Change, which illogically was a change, but nonetheless more apt than last year’s Norfolk ‘n’ Chance. It turned out that the flatfielders entry had been misread – or misunderstood? No misunderstanding the winning margin though.

Recent years have seen a rash of events consisting of the Grand Aggregate plus a bit, with a variety of prestigious titles. The trend started in 1990 with the Bisley Centenary Aggregate, consisting of the Grand Aggregate augmented by the second and third stages of HM the Queen’s Prize. This honest and decent competition was retitled in 1998 to become the British Open (TR) Championship. For the 2000 Millennium Meeting, perhaps justifiably, an even more prestigious event was sought. We saw the appearance of the Toye, Kenning and Spencer Millennium World Target Rifle Individual Championship consisting of the Grand Aggregate plus the two events on mid Saturday not in the Grand (so the World Championship was a shorter course of fire than the British Championship). Unable to carry off its grandiloquent title more than once, the TKSMWTRIC emerged from hibernation in 2001 as the Toye, Kenning and Spencer Aggregate, and has continued as such ever since. However this year, in the Meeting leading up to the World Long Range Individual Championships, we had the appearance (on the same course of fire as the TKS Aggregate) of the World Individual Championship, including the Under 21, Under 25 and Veterans’ Championships. There was some curious decision-making as to which competition to enter. In the top ten, Bruce Bullock of Canada and David Armstrong entered the World Championship but not the TKS Aggregate, while David Calvert and Danny Coleman entered the TKS Aggregate but not the World Championship! Congratulations to:

Under 21 World Target Rifle Champion

Peter Stock 778.84

Under 25 World Target Rifle Champion

Richard Stewart 790.96

Veteran World Target Rifle Champion

Eddie Stigant (South Africa) 779.82

Thursday afternoon was missing one major event – the 2002 National winners had exercised their right to hold the National at a range of their choosing, and a wonderful time was had by all who went to Ballykinler - see report on page 24. The events normally shot alongside went ahead as usual – the Universities National went to English Universities, the Overseas to Australia, and the AG Bell to UK Cadets, Cadet Alex Walker making a stylish 105.12 to help them on their way.

On a blustery evening the Inter-Services Long Range went to the RAF with 1113.88 ex 1200, just four points

ahead of the Regular Army. That narrow margin, coupled with a sterling performance by the TA in the FIBUA match, was enough to see the overall Inter-Service trophy, the Burdwan, fly out of the soldiers' reach.

Friday 18 July

Despite conditions being far more challenging than in 2002, six of the 12 teams competing in the Kolapore broke their team record scores (Australia, Jersey, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa and West Indies). Great Britain were clear winners with 1195.180 - 12 points ahead of second placed Jersey. Although the record of 1197 stands, to win at this level by 1½ points a man (with apologies to Jane) was a mighty performance indeed.

Not only did South Africa manage a record score in the Kolapore, they had enough strength to field four Provincial teams in the Junior Kolapore. In winning with 593.70, Natal showed a higher average than any of the full Kolapore teams except GB. Also bidding for the status of small African nation was a strange place called Edingurgh (sic) University, with a score of 590 in the Musketeers. Meanwhile the ex-colonials were making a showing, but not showing much respect for their elders. In the Under 25 Team Match, USA Young Eagles captained by Sherri Gallagher scored 890.125 ex 900 to win – an average over a point a man better than the USA Palma team in the Kolapore.

A little-noticed change in the rules has the Vizianagram now contested not between the "Houses of Parliament" but between "The Lords" and "The Commons". This ingenious constitutional settlement retains for the hereditary peerage at Bisley an opportunity to see off the Lower House. In this the 100th match, the Commons prevailed, giving them 62 victories to the Lords' 38.

In the St Georges, the Silver Cross went 'dunnundah' with Frank Pinyon with a pair of 75s. The second stage of HM the Queen's Prize returned to a reasonable spread of scores. Nigel Ball took the Silver Medal with 27 V bulls, the second highest score ever in the event and a more significant performance than the scores in 2002's flat calm. Also making 150 were David Calvert, Mike Walton and Nick Tremlett, while nine on 146.17 tie-shot for the last five places – more challenging, and less crushing on those with one minor error than last year's overgrown .22" shoot.

Saturday 19 July

At least one Queen's Prize winner considers dancing the night away to be just the preparation for Saturday's events. It remains a feature of our sport that those who come just for the fun of it mix with and compete against the very best – because they are one and the same.

The day was windy. In the St George's there were five scores of 75 but none of them paired with a 75 in the second stage, so 74.10 at 900 yards gave the Gold

Cross to Jim Paton of Canada. By the time of the Mackinnon, the wind was gusting 7–9 minutes left. Wales actually led the match for a few minutes at 900 yards, and going into 1000, it was England on 585.61 from Wales and Canada on 583.62, Ireland on 581.54, Scotland on 580.67 and South Africa on 580.62. In a nail-biting recovery, South Africa took the match from England by just three V bulls coping along the way with a major gun disaster when Deon Burger opened with three ricochets scoring a magpie and a miss to count.

Saturday Afternoon - The Queen's Prize

Her Majesty the Queen's Prize was won by Glyn Barnett for the second year in succession, with a score of 297.34 (*why couldn't you have got that last year mate?*), from Parag Patel of Old Epsomians with 294.42 and Alice Ogilvie of NLRC with 294.36.

In the concurrent events, the Freddy Payne Memorial Trophy for the highest overseas competitor went to David Dodds of South Africa, 21st with 292.29. Whilst not actually the highest-scoring lady in the Queens, Helen Griffiths of Australia was the highest-scoring lady who had bothered to buy a ticket, so 291.33 and 27th place earned her the Ambala Goblet and a bottle of champagne. The George Twine Memorial trophy for the highest placed British cadet went to Cadet Peter Law of the Athelings, 93rd with 283.23.

If you have read this far, you are probably puzzled that a very great many competitions have not been mentioned. Here's why:

Parag Patel won the Saturday Aggregate, the Weekend Aggregate, the Donaldson Aggregate, the Stickledown Range Aggregate, the LVA Communications Aggregate, the British Open Target Rifle Championship and the Toye Kenning and Spencer Aggregate. Under the same course of fire he took the title of Target Rifle World Champion. Oh and he won the Grand Aggregate with a score of 697.089 out of 705.141.

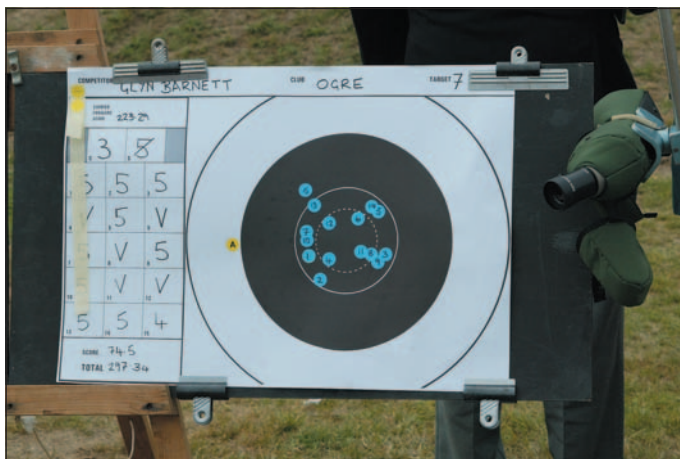
Glyn Barnett won the Sunday Aggregate, the Goble Memorial, the Bronze Badge for the first stage of HM the Queen's Prize, the OTF Short Range, the Wednesday Aggregate, the New Zealand Aggregate, the Lord Tedder Aggregate, the All Comers Aggregate and the Century Range Aggregate.

And, possibly the most expensive cross-shot in history. Glyn achieved all that carrying a score of 42.3 including a bull cross-shot in the Conan Doyle. Had that shot been on the correct target he would also have taken the Stickledown Range Aggregate, the Grand Aggregate, the Toye Kenning and Spencer Aggregate, the British Open Target Rifle Championship and the World Individual Championship, to add to his unique achievement of winning HM the Queen's Prize two years running. This is a man who joins the likes of Bloomfield, Marion, Ringer and Tucker as one of the truly great competitors of our time.



Realisation dawns!

(Photo: John Knight)



Glyn's 1000 yards plot.

(Photo: John Knight)



Arthur Clarke presents the Gold Badge.

(Photo: Damien Doyle)



The procession begins . . .

(Photo: John Knight)



The tour of the clubhouses: Neville Cooper greets Glyn at the North London. *(Photo: Jacky Keith)*

(Photo: Jacky Keith)



Warm welcomes and cold beer in the RAF Clubhouse.

(Photo: Mike Gregory)



"Steady lads!" Glyn on his way into Canada House.

(Photo: Stephen Page)



"Six minutes right, target seven, go on!" Fred James coaches Glyn in the traditional firing of the cannon. *(Photo: Stephen Page)*

(Photo: Stephen Page)

THE QUEEN'S PRIZE

by Glyn Barnett *GM2, GC, SC, CSC*

It was about half way through the 1000 yards detail that I had an inkling of what might have been occurring when I could hear my daughter Ella crying. I felt sorry for my wife Katie, who was having to try and console her at the time, but it's difficult to explain to a two year old that, although she hadn't seen Daddy for seven days and was only allowed 30 minutes between 900 and 1000 yards and that despite him being in full view only 15 yards away, she still couldn't be with him. I'm sure that most of the other spectators sympathised with Katie, torn between watching me shoot and moving away to keep those not sympathising happy . . . I'm glad she chose to stay.

Someone told me that following 900 yards I was up with Nick Tremlett and a few others, but I'm not one to pay attention to leader boards; they make me nervous. Despite some confusion at the beginning of the shoot with my American partner over the scoring, somehow my shots kept hitting the bull. I started thinking (a fatal error), that Trem would have to be doing as well as me, but he was further up the hill. Towards the end of the shoot it was apparent that we were going to be one of the last targets to finish and I had heard no cheering as is customary for the winner. This was the point when the end of the barrel started to move somewhat, or was it the markers moving the target . . . I'm never sure? I think it was my twelfth to count that I saw Ant Ringer scoot off the firing point and not return, unlike him not to pack up . . .

Despite slowly putting two and two together, still scoring bulls and the target continuing to move, I remember a feeling of overwhelming calm. I'd only ever felt this twice before, once in Ireland in the Championship Final shooting with Parag, and once at this stage a year previously, it was a comforting feeling and I hoped I knew what it meant.

I had escaped relatively unscathed on my journey to the Final; the 600 yards Queen's II on target 108 had helped (gift horses and mouths spring to mind) - mind you if it had been 2002 I wouldn't have qualified! I spent the next hour convincing Ringer that, of course he would be in the Final, but no, don't take your stuff too far away! Naturally he qualified and we queued together and drew 2-0 together; unfortunately we were not to shoot together, perhaps a blessing after last year's 900 yards, but it's nice to chat with Ant between ranges and it meant my family could chat with his. We discussed the idea that Norfolk were on a hat-trick for the Queens, I said GM4 would suit him, he said he'd prefer if it were I.

We **both** decided however that we would wear a black armband for the Final. We had developed a special

relationship with Andrew Tucker as our Manager for the 1994 Commonwealth Games and he was a great friend to us both; after such a moving display on Stickledown a few evenings previously it seemed the least we could do to honour his life.

I fired my last to count as the aiming mark passed through the foresight and was not surprised to see where it landed (11o'clock . . . in the inner . . . **high** in the inner). My first thought was, "will I **ever** get a 75 at 1000?" and then "hang on Trem **has** to have got a 75 to win, so I must have done pretty well". But not well enough, there was silence behind the point . . . "oh well" (ish). I turned round and saw a sea of faces, strewth! There was a thumbs up from someone, it was a blur (apologies to whoever it was), "what me?" and then the Cheer, a flurry of Range Officers gathering kit, hands to shake and Martin Farnan pulling at my sling to "prepare me". Blimey! It took me ages to add up my partner's score and could barely sign either card.

Ant was at the front of the queue and with tears and without shame, we hugged. So we're blokes, but hey, it's the 21st century, and more importantly we're mates. Only then could Ella finally get to me, "well done Daddy!" she cried, with tears rolling down her cheeks, as she walked past me and nearly fell off the front of the point. It seemed an age until I could reach Katie and the rest of my family.

The walk up to the scoreboard was long and seemed steep. Faces, cameras, hands from friends and strangers. A lovely experience that went on and on; it seemed easier to enjoy it this year. Last year I think I was too worried about doing the right thing, combined with still having my plugs in. Andrew met me at the top last year with blood shot eyes, a hidden grin and a strong hand, "well done my boy", but this year he was sadly missed. Parag was there though, almost the same!

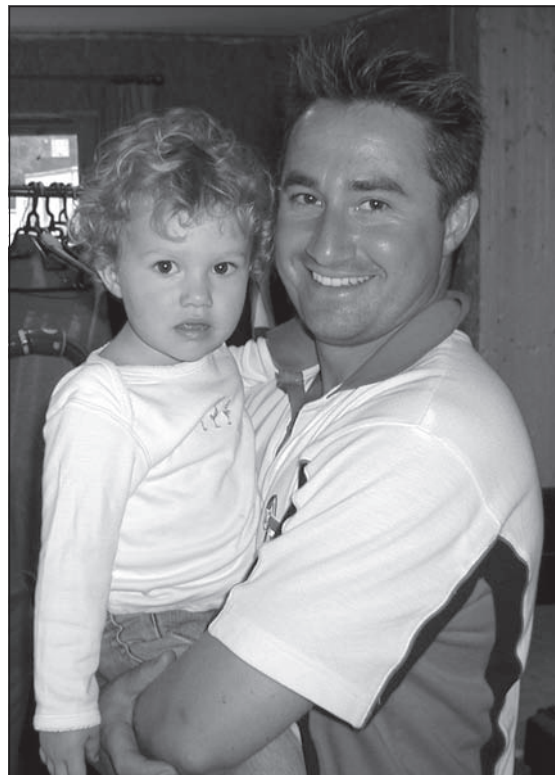
The rostrum seemed higher, but I was able to look for people this year, rather than just see faces. I found Katie, Ella (still crying), my Dad and my in-laws. None of them could be here last year. So for them to witness the final, not their first mind you, and to be an integral part was lovely . . . for me. It was lovely to receive the Gold Badge from Arthur, "well done lad", a phrase I remember hearing first in 1991 when I was 20. It's nice to still be called "lad" at 32!

The chair ride to the offices was scary; I think it is tradition that the bearers make it so. However, the thing that struck me, apart from the occasional sweet chestnut, was how many people you know, how many names, and despite them greeting the person who has

beaten them, they're all smiling, waving, cheering . . . for you. It's incredible the joy people get from this sport and from seeing and sharing other people's successes; I wonder if other sports persons have the same experience?

Ella **really** didn't like this bit; "my Daddy off the chair!" was her repeated demand. Unfortunately I didn't think there was room in tradition for the winner to walk beside the chair, and she wasn't going to get up with me. She settled inside the NRA offices after some champagne and was happy to go off with mummy for a bath.

The surreal moment comes when you leave the offices and deposit the chair where you intend to rendezvous before prize giving. The walk to your room; alone, still in your kit, suddenly deafened by the silence apart from the occasional "well done" from the caravan windows. Time to think; to think about where the rest of your kit has ended up, where's your family got to, I hope Ella's OK, the fact that you've still got another twelve hours to get through and seven days of shooting to follow! But wow, two years in a row and a hat-trick for Norfolk! How did it all happen? Who knows, but what of point 7? Hmmm that's near point 2, perhaps someone was watching over you. I like to think so.



"Well done Daddy!"

(Photo: Judy Farnan)

F CLASS 2003

by Peter Campbell

Assembling on the common for another Imperial Meeting, F Classers were going to have to wrestle with the new scoring system of V bulls counting as six points. Some were very much in favour of the new system whilst others were vehemently opposed - suffice to say the arguments will go on long after this journal is read! The other headache was that of the next F Class World Championships, originally planned for March/April 2004. However there had been some interesting variations of the agreed format that had caused more than a raised eyebrow and with the likelihood of most teams not travelling, the Championships were postponed and are now set to run March/April 2005 to the successful format of the first Championships shot in Canada last year.

With the non-Grand events starting on 11 July, Hans Mitera opened the score for Germany with an excellent 58 (or 50.8) in the Admiral Hutton to win from John Knight, Howell Morley (*CD*) and Peter Jackson all on 57. On Century range the Century competition witnessed David Kent, Old Epsomian and F Class new blood, demonstrate that the Kent magic applied to F Class as well as TR with a clean 120 (100.20) to win from Peter Jackson on 119. Mik Maksimovic, resting his tired feet in his golf buggy after several weeks of running about after Stamford cadets, shot a relaxed 114 to take third place.

Saturday's long range shoot saw NSC Chairman Charles Oliver-Bellasis shoot a 59 to win on tie break

from Peter Jackson, whilst Altcar's John Campbell and Chris Cuthbert with 58s managed third and fourth. Over on short range the F Class leviathans of John Knight and Wolfgang Scholze posted their first top places, Knight sharing the honours with Scholze, whilst John Bridger and France's Philippe Personne concluded the winning foursome in the Donegall. Personne was due for more celebration in the Daily Telegraph, sharing equal first with Peter Jackson and Howell Morley, again all with perfect scores of 60.

Sunday saw a Scottish 1,2 or rather a 1,1 with Peter Jackson and Hugh Forgie sharing top spot in the Duke of Cambridge with perfect 60s whilst six other shooters shared joint third place with 58s apiece. The perfect score was elusive in the Alexandra although six shooters managed 59s with Welshman Ted Hobbs heading the list. The final shoot of the day saw Jackson again on top with a perfect 60, while Forgie, Bridger and "Fidel" de Castro all finished one point behind.

A youthful Howell Morley led the F Class pack home with a fine perfect score in the Conan Doyle, whilst John Knight, Jo Wright, "Fidel" de Castro, Dave Pickering, Roger Wood and Ted Hobbs followed with various permutations of 59, Wood being especially pleased as it marked his ability to shoot straight as well as making some of the straightest shooting ammunition on the common. The Times at 300 yards saw seven shooters share top honours all shooting perfect scores; in no particular order they were, Tony

Williamson, Dave Pickering, Philippe Personne, Wolfgang Scholze, Hugh Forgie, de Castro and finally Charles Oliver-Bellasis. In the Wimbledon buggy man Maksimovic along with Scholze, Jackson and de Castro all shot maximum scores.

Second Tuesday would be a lazy one for F Class with only the St Georges qualifier to be suffered in the heat. Needless to say qualification standards would be tough and only maximum scores would see shooters into the Final; Forgie, Scholze, Pickering, Mitera, Laurie Ingram, John Campbell and Bridger, were the only 90s and therefore the only St Georges qualifiers.

Having rested, battle was commenced with the Queen's Qualifiers and Corporation. Surprisingly a solitary 126 by Mitera had him as top Queen's finalist for F Class, while Pickering, Knight, de Castro, Ingram and Des Parr followed one point behind, then Forgie and Kent counted out Bridger a further point adrift. The Corporation was devoid of perfect scores but Bridger dropped his V in the right place to count out Jackson and Personne.

Second Thursday was another lazy day with only the Prince of Wales in the morning. Again there was a Scottish 1,1 with Parr and Forgie sharing the honours with the usual match winning maximum score; Pickering kept in the picture one point adrift.

Friday was a busy day for some "Effers" with no less than seven distances being shot by some shooters. The F Class International started the day with 2 and 15 shots at 900 and 1000 yards on the Palma target. Given the choice of X=11 or X=X the team captains decided en-masse to hedge bets and play safe with standard scoring. Contrary to most matches where the title is decided at the longer distances, this International was to be decided by a series of disasters that left the door well and truly open for the eventual winners. Germany were the first to experience problems when U Knade had a series of misses in his early shots. This was followed by the Dour Lowland Scot who, having missed the Grand due to work commitments, proved

why team captains like to see people shooting prior to team selection. Three inners in his first five to count let the English slip ahead for a lead they were never in danger of relinquishing. Further down the line Pete Campbell found himself in the somewhat unique position of feeling sorry for Mik Maksimovic, Campbell having received a clear target in the middle of shoot that was otherwise never in danger of losing the bullring, Maksimovic having had the same fate during the F Class World Championships in Canada last year. The standings after 900 yards were England 599.36, Scotland 596.37, Wales 593.34, CPC 593.33, Ireland 587.32 and Germany 568.37. Shooting at 1000 yards was more settled and none of the leading shooters had disasters. England shot steadily to increase their lead by one X from Scotland, the CPC were two points adrift on 595.30 and Ireland were making up ground but the deficit was too much for their score of 594.31. Wales and Germany finished the field with scores of 591.22 and 589.26 to leave the English safe in another F Class win. The top scorers were John Knight with 300.24 and Howell Morley with 300.23 showing that you don't have to be in the spring of youth to lead in F Class.

Final results were:

| | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| 1 | England | 1996.73 |
| 2 | Scotland | 1193.73 |
| 3 | CPC | 1188.68 |
| 4 | Wales | 1184.56 |
| 5 | Ireland | 1181.53 |
| 6 | Germany | 1157.63 |

With the speed of F Class shooters there were no worries of arriving late for the St George's Final where Bridger held off Mitera with a 179 versus a 178 to take the St George's honours; Mitera is now appearing to be a serious threat to fellow countryman and World Champion Scholze. John Knight led home a pack of 177s to safeguard third place. In the Queen's Final, Knight picked up a place to finish second to noted F Class (H)ornithologist Dave Pickering, the final result decided by a 25.5 to 25.4 tie shoot.

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GREAT BRITAIN VETERANS TEAM

WORLD VETERANS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

by Eric Stuart-Bamford

The passing of that wonderful person and our team Captain Andrew St G Tucker on 9 July 2003 did not deter the team from its objective of offering a stern challenge to the rest of the world. Andrew was very much in our minds when on Sunday 20 July 2003 the competing teams of Great Britain, the USA, Canada, South Africa, Germany and the Channel Islands met at 300 yards to commence the match.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Andrew before the match started.

The day was one of those summer specials with bright sunlight and a playful moderate to fresh wind. From the start it was clear this was going to be a close run thing requiring the coaches to be on top of the situation throughout the whole match. As so often happens with matches of this duration the result comes down to the last distance and this one was no exception with GB Vets starting the 1000 yards one point behind the USA. Thanks to the team's positive shooting and the excellent wind reading by the coaches, GB Vets left the field 16 points clear of the nearest contenders, the USA, with South Africa third. A great win and a wonderful day for the Great Britain Veterans Team. Andrew would have been very proud, the Wrinklies did it.

My thanks to all those who participated from all the teams, for such a well fought match shot in a spirit of friendship and sporting professionalism.



David Cole models the Veterans sweatshirt.

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

1 Great Britain

Captain: E Stuart-Bamford
Adjutant: AJD Saunders
Coaches: DH Allen, R Winney
Reserves: RBC Baker, PR Edwards

| | 300x | 500x | 600x | 900x | 1000x | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| AR Horrocks | 50.5 | 48.5 | 49.8 | 49.6 | 48.2 | 244.26 |
| PW Medhurst | 49.4 | 48.4 | 47.6 | 48.4 | 48.6 | 240.24 |
| J Payne | 49.7 | 49.4 | 48.5 | 47.4 | 47.4 | 240.24 |
| MR Cosway | 50.6 | 49.6 | 47.6 | 47.1 | 47.4 | 240.23 |
| GV Barnard | 50.7 | 48.1 | 50.5 | 45.3 | 47.5 | 240.21 |
| DP Cole | 49.5 | 49.9 | 50.9 | 46.3 | 45.2 | 239.28 |
| D Davies | 50.6 | 48.6 | 46.6 | 47.5 | 47.4 | 238.27 |
| JE Scobie | 50.6 | 48.3 | 46.5 | 47.2 | 46.1 | 237.17 |
| DL Wiles | 48.4 | 50.8 | 49.6 | 44.5 | 45.4 | 236.27 |
| CCC Cheshire | 47.6 | 48.4 | 48.4 | 49.4 | 43.2 | 235.20 |
| | 492.56 | 485.50 | 480.60 | 469.37 | 463.34 | 2389.237 |
| 2 USA | 491.59 | 489.60 | 481.49 | 467.36 | 445.24 | 2373.228 |
| 3 South Africa | 486.50 | 477.51 | 472.51 | 469.30 | 450.29 | 2354.211 |
| 4 Canada | 487.48 | 477.39 | 472.39 | 458.31 | 444.20 | 2338.177 |
| 5 Channel Islands | 473.49 | 460.36 | 454.29 | 442.20 | 415.18 | 2244.152 |
| 6 Germany | 463.37 | 471.31 | 444.32 | 429.20 | 427.23 | 2234.143 |



Eric Stuart-Bamford - Captain of the winning Great Britain Veterans Team.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



The Great Britain Veterans Team.

(Photo: Karen Robertson)



The Great Britain Under 25 Team in action.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



The Australian Under 25 Team like their home comforts.

(Photo: John Knight)



The Great Britain Under 25 Team.

(Photo: John Knight)



The England Under 19 Team

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



John Jackman presents the medals and congratulates Jo Hossack and her team on their win.
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



Bisley's first Japanese team? Ozawa and Yoshi turned up to shoot the Individual Championships.
(Photo: John Knight)

World Under 25 Team Championship

1 Great Britain

Captain: Miss JF Hossack

Coaches: M Ensor, R Stewart

| | 300x | 500x | 600x | 900x | 1000x | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| RCT Jeens | 50.7 | 46.3 | 49.6 | 50.5 | 49.3 | 244.24 |
| Miss J Rankin | 47.6 | 50.5 | 50.7 | 48.3 | 48.4 | 243.25 |
| Miss E McMullan | 49.5 | 49.7 | 47.5 | 47.2 | 48.2 | 240.21 |
| PJR Holden | 48.6 | 47.4 | 49.4 | 46.4 | 47.6 | 237.24 |
| AA Brown | 49.6 | 49.4 | 47.5 | 46.4 | 45.2 | 236.21 |
| PD Sykes | 49.8 | 49.4 | 48.5 | 45.6 | 44.2 | 235.25 |
| Miss JF Hossack | 50.8 | 48.5 | 50.5 | 44.2 | 42.2 | 234.22 |
| Miss KAN Jack | 50.6 | 47.3 | 45.5 | 43.4 | 48.5 | 233.23 |
| | 392.52 | 385.35 | 385.42 | 369.30 | 371.26 | 1902.185 |
| 2 USA | 391.47 | 387.38 | 376.35 | 379.37 | 346.16 | 1879.173 |
| 3 Australian "Dingoes" | 381.37 | 386.39 | 380.32 | 367.23 | 358.24 | 1872.155 |

World Under 21 Team Championship

1 England

Captain: O Vallis

Coaches: SJ Howard, GP Nelson

| | 300x | 500x | 600x | 900x | 1000x | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| JN Thompson | 50.8 | 50.7 | 49.5 | 48.2 | 50.4 | 247.26 |
| Cdt JCT Kent | 48.5 | 50.7 | 49.4 | 49.5 | 49.3 | 245.24 |
| CMS Dawes | 50.7 | 49.4 | 48.5 | 50.3 | 48.4 | 245.23 |
| Cdt R Nelson | 50.4 | 50.8 | 49.6 | 50.5 | 44.4 | 243.27 |
| Cdt F/Sgt SJ Pascoe | 47.5 | 50.8 | 48.6 | 46.4 | 48.3 | 239.26 |
| RA Lee | 50.4 | 48.6 | 46.4 | 47.4 | 46.1 | 237.19 |
| | 295.28 | 297.40 | 289.30 | 290.23 | 285.19 | 1456.140 |
| 2 USA | 297.38 | 292.33 | 292.23 | 285.25 | 275.15 | 1441.134 |
| 3 RCAC NRT Canada | 284.24 | 295.31 | 288.23 | 287.23 | 269.15 | 1423.116 |
| 4 Wales | 296.30 | 290.31 | 286.20 | 284.20 | 264.12 | 1420.113 |
| 5 Channel Islands | 287.31 | 288.28 | 287.24 | 284.28 | 269.21 | 1415.132 |
| 6 Scotland | 288.29 | 289.29 | 288.31 | 282.19 | 267.08 | 1414.116 |
| 7 South Africa | 274.25 | 285.27 | 278.26 | 267.17 | 248.15 | 1352.110 |

Ode to Four Two on his 'Promotion' to Stickledown

He's a dapper looking fellow
In a big floppy hat
And the tone in his voice
Can make you feel a right prat
With meticulous timing
He will count down each break
With a most caustic comment
At each tiny mistake
With his razor edged tongue
That allows ne'er an inch
I find working with Tony
Is OK - at a pinch.



Now I don't do responses
And I don't answer back
Simply give out my callsign
To show I'm on track
And from the way it all happened
Inclines me to say
In just a week we have trained him
The Stickledown way.

By Four Seven

Left: One Zero and Four Two enjoy a quiet moment. (Photo: Ruth Duncan)

Andrew Tucker Jackets

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Glyn Barnett, Bisley 2002

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SHERRI GALLAGHER

WORLD INDIVIDUAL LONG RANGE RIFLE CHAMPION

by Tony de Launay



What was that? She was 46th overnight and she won? Yup, it happened and it could not have happened to a nicer young lady. When you come from a renowned shooting family and have the rest of the tribe willing you on, you might be forgiven for thinking that the pressures will mount. Sure, and yet not quite so simplistic; in the Tompkins-Gallagher unit where they shoot for and support each other off and on the ranges.

Hence it was joy unconfined in the family and friends supporters' club as Sherri Gallagher became the youngest winner in the relatively short history of the World Individual Long Range Rifle Championships. That she won was a tribute to the belief of youth in her own skills and also to a determined 'nothing to lose' approach, despite the vagaries of the Stickledown Range.

Sherri, 19, was on her fourth visit to Bisley, this time as a member of the United States Young Eagles, and as captain of their under 21 team. She admits that she is having some difficulty deciding what she might wish to do after she passes through college at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. "No, I am not sure what profession I want to follow" she said with total honesty, adding the understatement of the meeting "but I do know that I wish to shoot".

Shoot she did, with devastating effect. Lying 46th overnight might not seem to be the best of platforms to mount a challenge to the title but on the final day she went clean at 800 and 900 yards, adding 146/150 at 1000. It was enough to pip Nigel Ball and John Pugsley, both battle scarred veterans of competition at the highest levels.



"I had first detail throughout the final day's matches" she said, "and something just clicked". Mother Nancy, who finished in 36th place, was quick to congratulate her. "We have had a wonderful time here throughout the championships, and this is the crowning moment. The whole family is proud of her".

With all her illustrious seniors from around the world applauding her achievement Sherri received the Championship Challenge Cup from Lt Gen Laurie O'Donnell of Australia. After three concentrated days of competition it was a fitting piece of silverware for the family collection. It is unlikely be the last.

(All photos: Tony de Launay)

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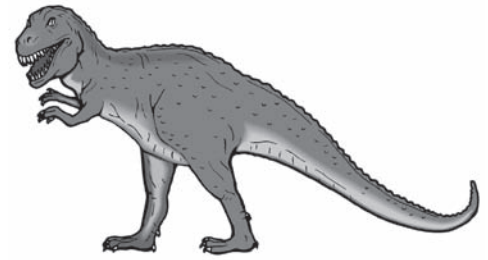
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T REX WRITES AGAIN

The Gunroom
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My dear Simon

Well old chap, you can have your normal life back now and stop worrying about which stage of your training and selection programme has confused you most. So, you did it – in some style – establishing a new record score in the process despite a first day of ante-diluvial precipitation. It was an excellent team effort that had you all looking a trifle glazed on the yellow bricky road at the finish.

Your emotions? Justifiable satisfaction at a job well planned and executed, sparing you the alternative disappointment tinged with anger had it not turned out as it did. Any particular highlight? Seeing Xs on the GB targets at 900 and 1000 yards on the foul Friday when the others recorded sevens and eights. Not a bad set of memories, really.

My forecasting was almost correct, and the USA deserved their silver medals for sheer bloody-mindedness and panache. Did you notice them? You did out of the corner of your eye. But what you were watching was how they were coping with their conditions at the top of the range and whether there were lessons to learn on the spot for your team. As Tom Lehrer sang so pragmatically “Plagiarise – let no one else’s work evade your eyes” in the nicest possible way, of course.

Whatever it was that the USA had for Saturday’s lunch seemed to fling them into fast forwards. They were first finished by a massive margin and probably benefited from their refusal to haver as the wind played tricks – or did not play tricks – as the case might have been. So they picked up a little mirage at the target end – grist to their mill. It was a pleasure to see real joy as they realised just how well they had shot and used the conditions.

Mind you, that caused a frisson of nervousness among your doting GB fans as the Saturday 1000 yards scores were coming in. Julie at the scoreboard was twitching on the end of her communications wire – sort of a poppet on a string. Jolly good job you racked up the first day’s lead; those chaps from the other side of the pond rodeo’d out of their stalls, snorting madly, to show everyone the way home in the better weather.

Of course you had a smidgin of drama, what with poor old Jeremy’s misfortune, being bent double with his wayward disc. Great commiserations to him; and equal congratulations to deputy Cleveland who had to cut the mustard at short notice.

Perhaps it goes to prove the value of having a squad training programme to cope with such eventualities.

If they did not know it, your team were selected on their response to that long, long period of training. The acid test of teamwork versus selection self-interest played its part in the proceedings in this most selfish of sports, as did the support crew of sports scientists and your physio. Qualified gofers they were, quietly gelling the unit and talking-out the doubts.

The Boks were understandably disappointed, but the Canadians rallied to beat a lack-lustre Australian showing. Incidentally, I got a hell of an ear-bashing from a Canadian follower (not a member of their team as I understood the voluble chappy), about the target squadding.

He let fly with a mathematical theory that correlated scores with positions on the Stickledown range. It seemed to be aimed at the way the targets had been bracketed at each range within the draw, proving that while the draw was entirely fairly carried out, teams might be at an advantage or a disadvantage depending in which bracket they were placed. It exhausted my cerebral capacity - which is slightly on the small side for my bulk (I believe the vernacular is to say “It done me head in mate”). In any event he had the grace to say that GB had not benefited in the slightest from their draw and that your team simply blew everyone away on the first day.

Understandably you and others wanted to keep your powder dry, but those gazebos were not exactly see-through for any spectators daft enough to go out in the torrents. I suppose the solution is a weatherproof skin like mine, but the tents and the distance that viewers were kept back from the action was not spectator friendly.

Not that it was your fault, I know, but Icfraasaurus as the apparent superstrata rule makers might wish to think about that for the future. It also makes intimate pictures for mags such as this doubly difficult – not that your last minute draftee seems to have cared!



So who is going to do the job in 2007 on the Ottawa ranges? Have another go, Simon? You could go on to become really famous as the bearded wizard that captured three championships in a row. Fancy it? A little too soon after this one and with other things to do before then – perhaps so.

What about that turn-up for the record books in the individual world championship? Didn't Sherri do well. There were some thunderstruck faces round and about but, as they say, points win prizes. I gather that the other chap has scribbled a short bit about her elsewhere.

I feel a spot of hibernation coming on as the unseasonal drought draws to a close. Time to grease my bore, detach my aperture and put my butt away for the winter, as the saying goes. Toodle pip my friend, and congrats on a job well done.

Yours in ballistical foment,

T Rex



A damp but happy team!

(Photo: Peter Hicks)

WORLD LONG RANGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE PALMA TROPHY

25 AND 26 JULY 2003

by Simon Belither and Peter Smith



Simon Belither - Great Britain Palma Captain

(Photo: Tony de Launay)

Since the Palma Match was last shot in Great Britain in 1985, the conditions have changed a little. The team size may be varied within certain limits, and for this year's competition comprised sixteen firers, four target coaches, a main coach, Captain and Adjutant, plus two reserves and an armourer – twenty six in total. The course of fire is still two convertible sighters and fifteen to count at 800, 900 and 1000 yards per day, but is now repeated over a second day. It is shot on the Palma target which has a ten ring 20 inches in diameter and an X ring of only 10 inches. The total possible scores are 150 per firer per range, with team totals of 2400 per range and 7200 per day, giving a maximum match total of 14400.

Ten teams competed: Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Channel Islands, Continental Palma Council, Germany, Kenya, Republic of South Africa, USA and West Indies. Sadly, New Zealand had to withdraw.

Day 1

The day dawned wet with a brisk breeze and these were the conditions that greeted the team captains when they assembled at 800 yards to draw for targets. Those that had competed at Bisley in 1985 had a distinct feeling of déjà vu, when the day started in similar fashion and gradually deteriorated during the morning...

Due to the potential advantage given by range position on Stickledown at certain distances in certain conditions, it had been decided beforehand to use a weighted system of target allocation rather than the usual random draw. The intention was, as far as possible, that each team would have an even mix of target allocations, adopting the same principles as for individual's allocations during the Imperial Meeting.

All the serious contenders started relatively well, capitalising on the fairly benign conditions and 2.5 minute wide bullseye. After 12 firers, Australia had dropped 3 points, Great Britain followed with 5 points, then Canada with 10, South Africa with 13 and the USA with 14 points. After a strong finish, at the end of the first range Great Britain led with 5 off, followed by the USA on 15, Australia and South Africa on 16 and Canada on 17 off.

At 900 yards, still shooting in the rain and with the wind starting to play a greater part, Great Britain carried on where they had left off at 800. After the first four firers GB had dropped 3 points, Canada 7, South Africa 9, USA 14 and Australia 15 - Great Britain was steadily increasing its lead. And so it continued. After eight firers GB had dropped 8 points, Australia 26, South Africa 30, Canada 33 and the USA 37. At this point GB had an overall lead of 25 points over their nearest rivals, Australia, and it was becoming apparent that the target draw was likely to play a big part in the standings at the end of this first day.

Then the rain stopped, the sun came out and the wind started really to blow, with some nasty changes in strength and angle. Nick Hinchcliffe, the Great Britain main coach, used his considerable expertise to guide his coaches through these trickier conditions. His tactics ensured that GB made the most of the steadier spells, but were also not caught out by the fast changes.

By the end of the range, GB had dropped 25 points at this distance (30 overall), South Africa were 56 points off (72 overall), USA 70 off (85 overall), Australia 93 off (109 overall), and Canada 94 off (111 overall). At lunch Great Britain had a healthy lead of 42 points over South Africa, their nearest rivals, but the team was not complacent. They knew only too well how quickly points could slip away on these tight Palma targets.

After lunch, at 1000 yards the sun continued to shine and the wind to blow and Great Britain marched on, steadily increasing its lead. Conditions were not easy anywhere on the range, but unusually the middle of the range was probably the best place to be, and that is where Great Britain were. The wind spread was about 10 minutes, but while GB used between 12 and 20 in the middle of the range, Australia were using between 16 and 26 minutes at the top of the hill. Those at the bottom end were using rather less wind due to the protection from the trees, but this was of little benefit as the changes in angle and strength were more difficult to see. By the end GB had dropped 136 points at this range, which sounds an awful lot – until you see that South Africa dropped 178, USA 191, Canada



"It's not like this in Bloemfontein!" the South African team don't look too impressed with our weather. (Photo: Karen Robertson)



Julie Cane kept the GB scoreboard; Iain Robertson kept the marquee from blowing away. (Photo: Judy Farnant)



Great Britain's secret weapon - Grand Wizard Bill Richards summons the Wind Gods of Stickledown. (Photo: Tony de Launay)



Are Viking helmets allowed under Palma rules? The Australian team reckons so. (Photo: John Knight)



The United States team setting a new daily record on Day 2. (Photo: John Knight)



The Great Britain team hard at work. (Photo: David Pollard)



Simon Belither proudly leads his team to collect their winners medals. (Photo: John Knight)



West Indies Captain Norris Gomez entertains the crowd. (Photo: John Knight)

230 and Australia 246. Only Great Britain broke through the 7000 points barrier.

At the end of Day 1 the scores were:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Great Britain | 7034.301 |
| South Africa | 6950.249 |
| USA | 6924.269 |
| Canada | 6859.226 |
| Australia | 6845.229 |
| Channel Islands | 6784.195 |
| Germany | 6755.175 |
| Kenya | 6555.129 |
| Continental Palma Council | 6529.118 |
| West Indies | 6506.150 |

Day 2

The day started clear and dry, staying that way until the middle of the afternoon when the rain returned as the teams were finishing at 1000 yards.

Great Britain started the day with a lead of 84 over South Africa and 110 over USA. Not much had changed after they had shot 800 yards. Even though conditions were better than the previous day, Great Britain dropped 8 points, more than they would have expected, but South Africa dropped 11 points and USA dropped 18 so the GB lead slightly increased.

At 900 yards, with conditions still fairly settled, things remained tight between the top five teams. Great Britain were finally squadded on Range 4 although not all the way to the right hand end. GB dropped 21 points at this range, South Africa dropped 23, USA and Canada dropped 24, and Australia dropped 40. So, with 1000 yards to come, Great Britain had a lead of 89 over South Africa and 123 over USA.

At 1000 yards South Africa and USA were at the top end of the hill, theoretically the worst draw, based on the previous day's experiences. The wind had shifted round and was now almost straight down the range, fish-tailing through zero but predominantly coming from the left. GB were at the right hand end of the centre and experiencing a spread of 6 minutes left to 1.5 right. They had won every range so far, and were very keen – maybe too keen – to win the last range as well. However, at the very top of the hill the bracket was considerably smaller, as the wind was bouncing back off the trees thus tending to cancel out some of the more vicious changes.

This gave the USA conditions with which they were much more at home, and to their immense credit they really capitalised on them, whereas Great Britain were making a meal of it lower down. By the halfway point GB had dropped 33 (a vast improvement on the first day's 1000 yards scoring) but the USA had only dropped 14. The Americans continued to shoot very fast, while GB kept stopping and starting, waiting for

the wind. The USA continued to shoot fast and finished well ahead of everybody else, in points as well as time, dropping only 26 points. Great Britain dropped 84 points and, by the end, were grateful for their big lead from the previous day.

For those who have not experienced the Palma target, direct comparison between these scores and those that would have been achieved on an NRA target is difficult, but to put it into perspective the USA's scoring at 1000 yards would probably equate to an average of about 74.5 and GB's to about 73.5. Both quite remarkable given the conditions.

The Americans had a superb day and finished with a new daily record of 7132.311, beating the old one by an incredible 50 points. On the day, Great Britain were third behind USA and Canada who also had a better day beating GB by 20 points at 1000 yards, and by 13 points on the day.

Congratulations go to Great Britain who won with a new record score of 14121.646 from the USA, with South Africa third. Andy Luckman for Great Britain also broke the record for the highest individual score over the two days, raising it to 893.50.

The final scores were:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Great Britain | 14121.646 |
| USA | 14056.584 |
| South Africa | 14013.563 |
| Canada | 13959.550 |
| Australia | 13911.531 |
| Channel Islands | 13819.457 |
| Germany | 13681.387 |
| Kenya | 13368.298 |
| West Indies | 13331.328 |
| Continental Palma Council | 13222.267 |

It would be interesting to know what the result would have been under the same weather conditions, but on a level range like Connaught in Ottawa where the next Palma Match will take place in 2007.



NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2003

(AKA "LE TOUR GASTRONOMIQUE")

by Karen Richards

Team Members

Nigel Penn (Captain), Charles Brooks (Vice Captain), Jane Messer (Adjutant), Peter Chapman, John Deane, Rupert Elvins, Simon Harding, Richard Hebblethwaite, Kitty Jack, Marcus O'Leary, Karen Richards, Andy Sykes, Paul Sykes, Jonathan Tapster.

Tuesday 20 May

Take one group of disparate shooters, eleven men and three women, add a friendly practice match on a windy May day with the LMRA, corresponding team sweatshirts, a few pints, a hearty team dinner and by the end of the first day together . . . voila - a team!

Wednesday

First the 'luggage-cram' into assorted cars and onwards to the coast.

We began our trip on the Condor Sea Cat, which sliced its way impressively from Poole to the pretty harbour of St Peter Port in Guernsey. The Sea Cat, it should be noted, is a fine looking vessel but seems generally unsuited to those who are not natural sailors. The boat sits atop the waves and, like a space rocket, sends out a great white plume behind (the drama of which partially compensated us all for the jiggling in our stomachs!).

We found our hotel, the Cobo Bay, on the north side of the island. It is situated on the coast road overlooking a long, flat bay punctuated by pink granite breaking the smoothness of the sand. Here we were greeted by David Jory (who kindly secreted our rifles to a place of safety) and Mike Martel who welcomed us warmly to the island.

Gastronomy 1

We dined, on this first evening of our tour of gastronomy (I know, I know . . . we were really a shooting team), at the hotel. The meal was beautifully presented and it was a delight to see that the assembled company all seemed to have a healthy and unsuspicious approach to good food. (Little did we know that this three-course meal would be the precursor to some marathon six course meals to come.) After the meal those who still had energy left went in search of Guernsey nightlife at the Folies d'Amour, and those who remained slipped away for an early night.

Thursday

Thursday was a rest day and the team split into two parties. One group went to investigate St Peter Port, the details of which are unknown to the writer, whilst the remainder spent the morning in the sobering, but fascinating, German Occupation Museum. The

museum holds an exhaustive Second World War collection of Nazi and domestic memorabilia and offers insights into everyday life for the islanders under the German war time regime. I doubt that the members of the "Tour Gastronomique" would have relished surviving on acorn coffee and marrow pudding as the islanders had to!

After a short boat trip to the island of Herm those who had decided to walk did just that. Herm has no cars and is a beautiful and fragrant place. We chose to walk around the coast of this 1½ by ½ mile wide island and discovered a haven filled with birds (92 varieties at the last count), wild flowers in abundance and beautiful beaches not to mention a Neolithic graveyard. Everyone looked very relaxed (I saw Charles skilfully skimming stones along the shore, Jane cooing over wild flowers and John Deane happily taking pictures for us all to enjoy after the tour).

The day did not end there. Back on Guernsey we had a leisurely cream tea at Idle Rocks followed by a short drive to Jerbourg Point overlooking a chain of rocks called the Peastacks. (One of these rocks is said to look like the figure of a man and is called 'The good little man named Andrew'. One moment of consternation was caused by our own 'Good man named Marcus' who suddenly shot past us all at speed, ran along the top ridge of rocks and disappeared from view over the end. A runner and serious mountaineer as well as a rifleman, the urge proved too much for him to resist! He returned to cheers and wild applause).

Gastronomy 2

Da Nellos. This was an excellent choice of restaurant, made by our social secretaries, Rupert and Richard. The menu boasted a fabulous selection of seafood dishes and is highly recommended to future teams.

Friday (oh why do we do it?)

Down to business and oh boy did we get wet!

Fort Le Marchent Rifle Range - Guernsey must surely have the prettiest rifle range in the world. The firing points are raised and flattened banks of earth rising above swathes of golden gorse (which smell like honey) looking out towards Napoleonic battlements and the sea and, oh yes, targets. (We also spotted a seal playing, wholly unaware of us, close to the shore.) This was a day of individual competitions in rain that found its way into everything. The use of the clubhouse was most welcome. Here we could dry out our rifles and squeeze out our clothes between soggy details and enjoy the cheerful banter and hot coffee offered by our kind hosts.



Left: The 2003 NRA Team to the Channel Islands.



A Martello tower.



The three coaches try and work out just what the wind is doing.



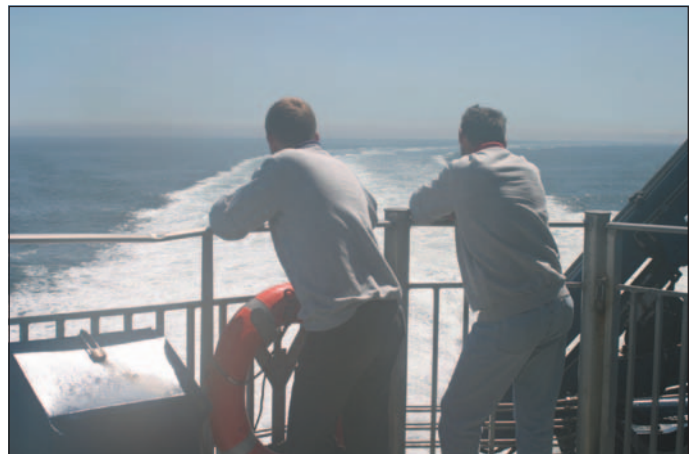
Peter Chapman shooting in Guernsey.



Nigel deep in thought behind the firing point.



Cliff Mallet and Nigel Penn.



Paul Sykes and Jon Tapster.

The Parker Tankard is shot over 300 and 600 yards and was won by Jane Messer with 100.9. Marcus O'Leary was second with 99.15 and Peter Jory (Guernsey) was third with 99.10

I should like to mention the evening reception held for us by the States of Guernsey in the imposing Castle Cornet. The castle is now a museum and it houses an astonishing collection of the shooting silver and memorabilia of two Guernseymen Don Bisset and Charles Trotter. Don Bisset not only appeared in the Kings Prize 16 times, but he shot in the Kolapore 43 times, which is a Channel Islands record. Charles Trotter won the Queens Prize in 1975 (only the second Guernseyman ever to do so) and appeared in the Final eight times.

Gastronomy 3

L'Atlantique - food with a flourish. With great ceremony the dishes arrived capped with silver domes which were lifted simultaneously by smiling waiters. Again the food was superb. Only four courses on this occasion!

Saturday

The day of the team matches. The sun had punched its way through the clouds by the time we reached the range and the weather was beautiful. Taking turns to man the German battlements and act as look-out over the footpaths and the glittering sea for walkers and boats (shooting stops whenever a boat sails into



The latest penalty for missing Special Duties? Charles Brooks conducts a feasibility study in Herm Prison.

the danger area – this they seem to do frequently and at a far too leisurely pace!), the shooting commenced.

In the morning we had two more individual competitions. The Guernsey Can is shot over 500 and 600 yards. Guernsey's Peter Jory was first with 99.14, Peter Chapman second with 99.12 and Charles Brooks third with 99.12

Jane Messer won the Grand Aggregate (Parker Tankard and Guernsey Can scores combined) with 199.20 followed by Marcus O'Leary on 198.26 and Peter Jory on 198.24.

After lunch we shot the Guernsey match coached by Jane Messer and Charles Brooks. After 300 yards the scores were close with Guernsey on 382.36 and the NRA team on 385.31. The NRA score was extended to a lead of 15 points by the end of 500 yards (after only dropping three points at this distance), and at the end of the match the NRA team was a full 30 points ahead. The final scores were NRA 1176.122 and Guernsey 1146.101. Simon Harding made the overall top score of 149.20 followed by Kitty Jack on 148.19 and Jon Tapster on 148.15. Top Guernsey shooter was Mike Martel with 146.15. The NRA team with a score of 281.20 won the Reserve Pairs, coached by Andy Sykes. Guernsey scored 269.11.

Gastronomy 4

Close to the range the ship-themed Beaucette Marina is where the combined team dinner and prize giving was held on this last evening on the island. The Guernsey team, as always, made excellent hosts and the evening was most enjoyable.

Sunday

On the boat once more, we travelled from Guernsey and arrived in Jersey making our way to the Uplands Hotel and onwards to Crabbé in time for the afternoon individual competitions at 200 and 500 yards.

The day was clear and bright, winds light, and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. (I was delighted to observe that the Jersey Rifle Association has a strong tradition of encouraging young shooters and it was good to see so many in the competitions.) Andrew Le Cheminant won the afternoon (Crabbé III) with 100.13 followed by Colin Mallett 100.12, and Marcus O'Leary 100.10.

Gastronomy 5

I could hardly fail to mention the exceptional reception held for us by the Jersey RA in the evening. They have a magnificent secret treasure by the name of Christine who produced for us tray after tray of the most exotic and fabulous canapés imaginable. I saw the greed-gland going into overdrive amongst some of our number!

I should also like to write of a touching moment at the reception when Colin Mallett made a beautiful speech to Jane Messer, and then presented her with a piece of

the rubber "pavement" that he had rescued from the Manchester Commonwealth Games. This had been part of a "roll of honour" that coated a route near where the Games were being held and it, of course, had her name, and those of the other medallists on it. I thought I detected a slight quiver in Jane's voice as she responded.

Monday

Back to serious business. The morning was spent shooting the final individual competitions at 300 and 600 yards (Crabbé IV). Colin Mallett made the top score of 100.16 followed by Jane with 100.14 and third place was shared between Andy Sykes and Jon Tapster with 100.12. The results of the overall aggregate (the Miss Edna Parker Cup) were first Colin Mallett (200.28), second Jane Messer (199.24) and third Andy Sykes (199.23).

The Parker Ross Trophy

Another very bright, and very hot afternoon with tricky winds to challenge us all. The coaches were again Charles Brooks and Jane Messer with the Reserve Pairs being coached this time by Rupert Elvins. At 300 yards the competition was very close. Jersey RA took the lead by just three V bulls. Paul Sykes, for the NRA, was top score with 50.7.

After 500 yards the NRA team had gained a lead of one point (50.7 being scored by Richard Hebblethwaite, Paul Sykes and Jon Tapster) and with Jersey snapping at our heels we went on to shoot at 600 yards.

At the final distance, the NRA team managed to creep ahead, dropping only four points, and winning the match by seven points. Final scores: NRA 1179.137, Jersey RA 1172.131. Andrew Le Cheminant made the highest score of the match with 150.19 followed closely by our own Kitty Jack with 149.20. Next best scores of 149.16 were shared by John Deane and Colin Mallett.

By only two V bulls, the Reserve Pairs was won by Jersey with a score of 291.32 (NRA 291.30).

Gastronomy 6

The day ended with a combined team dinner at the sixties style Portelet hotel. A mere six courses this time!

A small note here, with apologies to our captain, Nigel Penn - Richard Hebblethwaite, with his wonderfully wicked sense of humour, invented a new verb - Pennâge. "To Pennâge" means "not to know which island you are on". Richard was observed, at the team dinner, holding a score-sheet aloft with "Jersey" written on the back. This to prevent a Pennâgement occurring, as had been know to happen on earlier occasions!

Tuesday

With some sadness we said goodbye to several team members and those who remained had one final afternoon on the island. Some enjoyed a cliff walk,

some went into St Helier and the largest group found lunch in Grouville Bay followed by a leisurely stroll along the beach.

Gastronomy 7

Our final meal together was in St Helier at an Italian restaurant called Mary Rose. Hurrah - only two courses for the first time in a week!

Wednesday

After a wonderful few days we left Jersey for home encountering our one and only problem of the tour. Because we travelled with rifles we were advised to drive on to the boat with hazard lights flashing (I noticed that other drivers thought this compulsory and, following our example, switched theirs on also!) Once on the boat the drivers were required to hand their car keys to the Purser for safekeeping until the end of the journey when they were returned to us!

We should like to send thanks to our hosts on Guernsey and Jersey for making this team so welcome. Particular thanks must go to Cherry Le Poidevin, Peter and David Jory, Alan Le Page, Colin and Cliff Mallett, Peter and Mary Norman, Andrew and Sue Le Cheminant and Christine Poingdestre all of whom organised, arranged and fed the team magnificently. We are also very grateful to the NRA for supporting us with an OTF grant.



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CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Bisley General Meeting.

Before I formally open the meeting I believe that we would all like to thank the Surrey Rifle Association and its secretary, Geoff Hooton, for arranging for the excellent musical display by the Surrey Pipe Band earlier this evening which has added colour to this week.

The notice of the Meeting was taken as read.

Firstly, to the formal business.

The President

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Council, to propose that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales be re-elected President.

May I have your approval? *Received with acclamation.*

The honorary office of Deputy President has been vacant for nearly two years and the Council would like to redress this. It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Council to propose the election of Lord Swansea. Lord Swansea was for many years a popular elected member of the Council and its Vice Chairman, Chairman of the forerunner of the Shooting Committee and a staunch supporter in Parliament. He is President of the British Shooting Sports Council of which he was a founder member.

May I have your approval? *Received with acclamation.*

Thank you, John is unfortunately much less mobile than he was and cannot be here this evening. However, we are looking forward to seeing him in support of the Palma Matches on 25 and 26 July.

I welcome all our Vice Presidents who are attending Bisley this year and particularly those from overseas: Mr Brian Hawkins from Kenya, Mr Jim Cantlay from Zimbabwe, M Robert Chombart and M Philippe Ginestet from France, Mr Norris Gomez from Trinidad, Mr Cliff Mallett from Jersey, Mr Alan le Page from Guernsey, General Laurie O'Donnell from Australia, Mrs MacDonald Stewart and Mr Sandy Peden from Canada and Mr Middleton Tompkins from the USA. Welcome to you all.

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Council to propose the re-election of the existing Vice Presidents as listed in the Programme and to put forward four new names. We propose:

Bob Aitken, currently Chairman of the Scottish Rifle Association who has done so much for Scottish shooting for many years, including a leading role in the shooting events of the Commonwealth Games when they were held in Edinburgh.

Sandy Ewing, who is retiring from the board of the National Shooting Centre Limited in September and

has done so much for the Association over 14 years in the offices of Chief Executive, Consultant, Managing Director and Chairman of the board to name a few. After nine years, he has been recently re-appointed by the Home Secretary to the Firearms Consultancy Committee where I know he will continue to reflect our interests.

Colin McEachran, currently Chairman of the Scottish Target Shooting Federation who for over 30 years has been a leader in Scottish shooting affairs and a robust campaigner for shooting in Scotland.

Stan Frost whom we welcome from Canada. A great friend of shooting between our countries, he is currently Executive Vice President of the DCRA and recently he has been appointed the first President of the International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations, known as ICFRA. ICFRA is now responsible for promoting the Palma Match.

May I have your approval to these appointments? *Received with acclamation.*

Thank you, I will now present badges to the new Vice Presidents.

The last of the formal business is the election of Auditors. We have been well served by Baker Tilly over this last year, both as Auditors and also in regularising a number of matters with the Charity Commission.

May I have a proposer please? Mr Carmichael. Thank you. And a seconder? Mr Fyfe. Thank you.

Is that Agreed? *The Resolution was passed.* Thank you.

The Association's Affairs

My news on the finances is fairly short. We are on target for a satisfactory surplus. We have a healthy cash balance even after repaying, early, this year's tranche of the 10 year loan.

This augurs well for the surcharge imposed two years ago which we expect to be able to reduce in the Autumn and we remain committed to reducing charges for membership and shooting in real terms, at least, if not more as time goes on, but we shall be cautious.

Under Sarah Bunch our Olympic Clay Target range is now producing profits for us and, at the same time, attracting new income to our rifle and pistol ranges. We are encouraging corporate and other group visiting activity where there is increasing co-operation between our own range office, our clay office and Bisley Shooting Ground for mutual benefit, both in income and public relations.

With three seasons' experience of a new regime of tight expense control and encouragement of new income and activity we propose to prepare for a medium term

plan at the end of next season. An earlier priority, however, there will be further attention to our membership development which we hope that, with Bob Fishwick, we can move further forward during the next year. Our registered membership is at present down by about 100 this year and we must reverse this, albeit slight, trend. However it is after accepting 182 new members to the Association so far this year. In addition we are receiving some support for the Associate Member/Friends scheme which is encouraging.

Against this our Probationary Courses have achieved a new record of 72 participants booked this year which has stretched resources. The RCO courses remain fully subscribed. We are addressing ways in which we can meet demand as well as resource the proposed short Introductory Course which has been deferred this year.

Details of our courses are given on our website and advice can be obtained from Phyllis Farnan as required. Please do not hesitate to ask.

This meeting is a good opportunity to remind you that we have made some organisational and management changes starting this year. Our new Secretary General, Bob Fishwick, is not only Secretary to Council and Committees, but his primary management function is that of Membership. If anything, his focus will be away from Bisley and those many of you here for whom Bisley is not your primary venue please pass on the message that he is your man and here to help and encourage and is available to visit clubs, in our regions, to support you.

One area where I know members and particularly the clubs sometimes need support is with their access to, and dealings with, MoD ranges. However, please do not hesitate to share your problems with Bob Fishwick who will always do what he can.

Pistol and Gallery Rifle

Firstly, we regret that we have had to close the popular Winans pistol and gallery rifle range while we enhance its safety and security features.

However, this has prompted us to experiment by installing four electronic advancing targets on Melville A Range which has already proved to be a popular new facility. A further coin-in-slot (actually token) operation is planned for greater convenience for shooters.

Regarding pistols I am sure that you will join me in congratulating a senior member of the NSRA, who is also a member of the Association, successfully appealing the registration and use of the ISSF approved single shot rimfire Free Pistol. Whilst this is in no way a major break-through compared with what was lost in 1997, nevertheless, it means that target pistol shooters, such as Mick Gault, can practice and compete on the mainland. The NSRA is in the process

of ordering a number of these pistols for sale and they hope to have a speedy return to competition in GB.

Briefly, and before I move on, and although my remark is not specific to Winans, but all ranges, we have a good record, but we must continually consider developments and I make clear that personal safe conduct and security on ranges is vital and breaches are and will be taken most seriously.

The Bisley Meeting

Last year I emphasised how much we should appreciate the support of the Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces at Bisley. Continuing in this same vein, I can report that there was a full turn-out for the three Queen's Medal events which were held together for the first time for ten years, naval, military and air. Marksmanship is very important to our current senior officers and Bisley is regarded as the centre for the units to aspire to and to relate back their experience to others in their units upon their return.

The Methuen Trophy Inter-Services teams shoot was won by the Royal Irish Regiment by a single point from the Royal Gurkha Rifles and six NRA Practical Rifle teams shot alongside with impressive results. The winners were the Highpower club.

The Territorial Army Queens Medal shoot suffered a little from absentees abroad. The Services cadets, however, were here in force with over 500 in number, enormously enthusiastic and put up spectacular results with their newly issued target rifles. We thank Arthur Clarke and his V Club members for, once again, organising a long range shoot for some 150 of the cadets. Of course, this has not been possible for the last couple of years and, in view of the lack of practice, they acquitted themselves well. A unit from Northern Ireland won the shield.

The new target rifle, even though issued a little late, has encouraged schools to return to the Ashburton. We had 41 entries against 33 last year. There are a further six schools which shot some events and alongside in the Ashburton. The prizes were presented by General John Kiszely who is Commander Regional Forces, Land Command and Inspector General of the Territorial Army. The Ashburton was won by Stamford School coached by Mik Maksimovic who has recently been appointed to captain our next GB F Class team. Epsom were just one point behind and Marlborough third. The South African Under 19s and Royal Canadian Army Cadets shot alongside for the Garry Trophy, which the Canadians won. The Oratory School once again won the popular Falling Plates competition.

Cadets, of course, are the seed-corn of our future and I am pleased that they have back the target rifle and can shoot at all distances. Many have already moved on to join our target rifle events in the last week.

The Historic Arms weekend was again organised by Rae Wills and David Mumford, and staffed by volunteers to whom we are all grateful. Entries were slightly down this year with 220 competitors for some 700 match entries in 82 different matches, but I was pleased to see that they included a return of the muzzle loading revolver timed shoot.

The Match Rifle meeting had 157 entries which was just down by three on last year. One hundred and four fired the full Hopton course which was won by Stuart Collings for a record-breaking tenth time. The Hopton was followed by the Elcho won by Scotland, with Neil Fyfe setting a new individual record of 224.26 at the longest ranges of 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards; a most remarkable feat. *Applause.*

In the Pistol and Gallery Rifle events the entry was 41, the same as last year, but with a good number in the unlimited events, particularly from the cadets. We advertised the events more widely this year, as promised, but we have received some complaints about the cost, which we shall re-examine.

In the target rifle, the Grand entries are 1249 compared with 1124 last year, but particularly due to an increase of about 200 in overseas entries at 450 not least because this is Palma Match year for us. Overall entries are up at about just over with UK entries about the same at just over 1050.

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

We thank all those organisations which sponsor our events. A list has been posted on the noticeboard.

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

Firstly, we welcome, most importantly, the support of Milforce provided this year by the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers and Lt Col Alan Wise who again acted as Cadet Liaison Officer. After many years of leadership of cadets, Alan says he is retiring this year. If he does, we shall miss him. It shall be appreciated that the support for handling of ammunition is vital because the Bisley Meeting falls under our Charity Objectives in the interests of Defence and the ammunition is provided by the MoD.

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

There are the Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century and Stephen Brooks on Stickledown, together with the Chief Butt Officers, John Gardener and Peter Alliss (who has just completed and retired from a remarkable 35 years as butt officer for the services cadets), and the range officers, butt markers, stats staff and particularly all the volunteers who have worked so hard to support this year's meeting.

This year we have to thank Jeremy Staples, Managing Director of the Bisley National Shooting Centre who has had a rapid learning curve since he joined in April. We thank him, his staff and particularly his range staff and accommodation staff led by Sherril Dixon for their considerable efforts to ensure that Bisley looks so smart and has operated smoothly for our welcome to a large influx of shooters from home and abroad. As I mentioned earlier, this is the first year of change in our management and running Bisley as a separate operation. We have welcomed Jeremy and users of Bisley, National Shooting Centre will hopefully soon realise that we are moving ahead with a service orientated centre, receptive to users' needs and determined to expand activity for the ultimate benefit of all shooters.

Most importantly, of course, we thank Martin Farnan and his staff for organising the shooting. You will recall that Martin was appointed Director of Shooting last Autumn and, of course, he will also be the Palma Match Director next week. From the start of the Service events in June we are having an exceptionally busy annual meeting this year and I am sure that we all appreciate what Martin and his team have been doing for us and thank him. *Applause.*

We will be sorry to lose Doug Glaister shortly. He is retiring to Yorkshire and we wish him and Glenice well. Glenice, you will recall, has been our keeper of the silver, which will now be taken over by Barbara James. However, it is planned that Doug shall be available to give us technical support in future, particularly in the regions, as required, operating from his home. Doug's Bisley duties will be taken over by Brian Thomas.

Teams

We were delighted to host the Australia Match yesterday. In fact it was a record entry with 13 countries participating. The result was close to a record with Great Britain scoring 1975 with just two points from the record of 1977 and Australia just behind with 1968, South Africa with 1966 and the others following close. Eric Pintard, of the USA, established a new personal record with a remarkable score of 200.29. *Applause.*

I take this opportunity to wish Nick Hinchliffe success in the Kolapore and Matt Ensor with his Under 25s Team competing on Friday together at the same time as the 100th occasion of the Vizianagram match between the Lords and Commons.

Long Range Championships

Next week we start a truly long range target shooting festival with matches for the Veterans and Under 25s on Sunday followed by individual long range matches for which we have no less than 445 competitors.

It is with the greatest sadness that we have lost Andrew Tucker, Captain of our Veterans Team. As most of you know, he died peacefully on the night of 9 July. His funeral was marked today and there will be a memorial service in the Umbrella Tent, at 7.00pm on Friday before spreading his ashes at the Clock Tower Memorial Gardens. He was one of our greatest shooters, twice winner of the Lord Robert's Cup for Small-bore, twice Queen's Prize Winner, Grand Aggregate winner and Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist. We shall all miss him and, of course, I sent a message of condolence to Cathy, his widow, on behalf of the Association. I know that he will be with his team in spirit and we wish Eric Stuart Bamford, his Vice Captain who has been appointed Captain for the match, all success.

We also wish good luck to Jo Hossack, our year 2000 Queen's Prize Winner, Captain of the Under 25s in their match.

We wish success to Simon Belither with his Palma Team. Judging by the Australia Match, the competition will be formidable.

Do please come, if you can, to witness the Palma Match shot on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 July. With ten international teams it will be a great event.

HM The Queen's Prize, qualifying score

I can now inform you that there were no fewer than a record 66 scores of 105 in the first stage and the winner of the Bronze Badge is Dr Glyn Barnett with a score of 105 with 20 V bulls, an almost perfect result and record. *Applause.*

The lowest score qualifying for the second stage is 103 with 11 V bulls finishing with 34.3 at 600 yards.

Now I shall be pleased to take questions and comments from the floor.

Before I do, I should like to emphasise that your General Council's Committees do review the entries in the Suggestion Book and fully take them into account. If you do have suggestions to make, please do not hesitate to put them into the Suggestion Book in the Main Front Office.

One issue which I have observed a number of you have made has been to query the number of Special Duties which some of you have been called upon to undertake. There have been special factors this year, but in any case, the intention is to allocate fairly and the matter will be reviewed before next Bisley.

I also understand that there have been some concerns over the application and penalties of the five minute rule ie the time by which you have to be ready for a

detail. This will also be reviewed as will the extent of availability of the Zero Range during the main events.

If you have any questions this evening, please use the microphone so that everyone can hear and state your name and principal club registered with the Association.

Following the more formal parts of the meeting, members were offered the opportunity to raise matters from the floor. A synopsis of topics covered is below.

Shooting for Older Members

The competitions available for the more senior shooters, who had optical difficulties, were limited; unless they chose to shoot F Class there seemed to be a gap in the competitions available. The inclusion of something like a Target Rifle optical sight competition was suggested. Also, a number of aids to mobility around the ranges (steps at the 900 yard point, better arrangements to cross Beecher's Brook) were requested.

Get Well Card

It was suggested that a card be sent on behalf of the Association, to one of the temporary range staff who had the misfortune of breaking his leg on the range, whilst on duty and was likely to be wheelchair bound for some weeks.

Telephone System

The NRA telephone answering service/practice needed a radical review.

Support to Clubs

Moves to support Clubs more were welcomed, however, the provision of first-aiders on ranges and the whole matter of range licencing/charges continued to concern clubs.

Special Duties

It was suggested that the arrangements for special duties (particularly whether payment was appropriate) be re-addressed.

Fund Raising – Golf Day

The fund raising golf day on 29 September was advertised.

Votes of Thanks

The markers were thanked for all of their efforts during the meeting. Finally, a member expressed thanks to the Chairman for all he was doing for the Association and for his openness whilst chairing the meeting.

A full transcript of proceedings may be obtained by application to Elaine Buttle at the NRA Offices.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES TO THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

by Bob Fishwick

The ceremony of Presentation of International Shooting Trophies to the Lord Mayor of London dates from the last century; it has certainly happened since 1891 and perhaps even earlier than that. The trophies used to be paraded through the streets of London in an open carriage and then left in the Mansion House; however, nowadays, there is no parade but the trophies are still presented albeit returned to Bisley afterwards. On Friday 24 October, the annual Presentation of International Shooting Trophies took place at the Mansion House in London.

Having staged the World Long Range Team Championships and the Palma Match at Bisley, 2003 was a most successful year. The winning teams that attended the Presentation this year were the Great Britain Palma Team (Captain Simon Belither), the Great Britain Veterans and Under 25 Teams (Captained by Eric Stuart-Bamford and Jo Hossack respectively), the Great Britain Kolapore Team (Captain Nick Hinchliffe), the Great Britain International Service Pistol Team (Captain Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hoole), the Great Britain Australia Match Team (Captain Dick Rosling) and the England National and Under 21 Teams (Captained by John Saunders and Owen Vallis respectively). Also present were the Athelings Team (with their Commandant, Richard Benest), the GB Under 19 Team to South Africa (with their Manager Simon Fraser), the UK Cadet Rifle Team to the Channel Islands (with their Commandant Tony Philpott) and the AG Bell Team.

The presentation was a happy event. John Jackman, as Chairman of the NRA, said a few words explaining the historical significance of the occasion during which he took justifiable pride in the year's achievements. Sir Clive Martin OBE TD DL, the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens (representing the Lord Mayor of London who was away on duty in China) accompanied by his Sheriff, Mr Geoffrey Bond, then met all members of each team in turn; the Captains introduced their teams and gave a brief history of each match and trophy.

On taking his leave, the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens commented that he was impressed by the teams' achievements and was particularly pleased that so many had been able to attend. He concluded by formally receiving the trophies before returning them to the safe keeping of the Association.



The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Sir Clive Martin talks to Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hoole.



Anton Aspin and Sheriff Geoffrey Bond.



The Great Britain Under 25 Team.



The Great Britain International Service Pistol Team.



The Athelings and Cadets Teams.

(All photos: Phyllis Farnan)

NRA TEAM VERSUS CONTINENTAL EUROPE 2002

THE CAPTAIN'S PERSPECTIVE

by Chris White



The NRA team looking forward to their match, or, perhaps their dinner on Saturday evening.

Back Row (left to right): John Cross, Iain MacDonald, Mick Buckley, Mark Shaw, Ken Willingale, Graham Clarke, Nigel Stanwix, Steve Robinson, Dave Dyson, Dave Gladwin, Robin Baker, Keith Pugh.

Front Row: Dave Allen, John Holt, Chris White, David Taylor, Dave Davies.

What, at one stage appeared to be a never ending saga began in January 2002 when I received a letter from Colin Cheshire advising me that, in the absence of any other candidates (victims?), I had been appointed Captain. My initial stance was to appoint a sound Adjutant and three coaches and throw the team open to applications. This was slightly delayed since there was some confusion within the NRA over the actual date of the match. Finally this was determined as 13 October 2002.

As Adjutant I appointed John Holt who has helped me in similar vein at club level and who, whilst not having being involved in anything quite like this, I knew would be totally dependable. As events unfolded this proved to be a wise decision. In terms of coaches, I asked three guys who I know well and who I knew would do a good job and all, fortunately, said "yes"; Dave Allen (England), Dave Davies (Wales) and David Taylor (Lancashire).

Given current financial strictures, the team would bear the cost of the match with no outside help. This would mean ammunition at County Open rate, markers at full price and targets at actual cost. Some of these costs were, at this stage rather nebulous. I felt quite strongly that the whole team should bear the cost equally, coaches and officials as well as shooters and this was agreed. Consequently potential candidates were aware that the cost of the match and practice was likely to be in the region of £65 per head. At the end of the day most members got a refund in the region of £12.

Traditionally NRA teams are seen as development platforms for younger shooters and I envisaged that this

would be the case. I was determined that the team was not going to be stuffed with shooters who I knew well and that it was going to be as cosmopolitan as possible. As it happened I received no application from anyone under the age of 30, no ladies applied, no Welsh or Irish qualified shooters applied and only one Scottish qualified shooter applied. The arithmetical average age of the whole squad was, I guess, around 55.

As this process was going on I discovered, to my surprise, that the NRA had not made any target provision for the match. By the time John and I had sorted that and associated problems we were getting close to the 2002 Imperial Meeting. At this point I was advised that, due to the proximity of the European Championships, the Continental Palma Council could not muster a team and they requested that the match be postponed until the second weekend of May 2003.

This was a kind of Hobson's choice, so we dealt with it and the short listed candidates were advised of the revised programme on 26 June. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, my one Scot, Kenny MacDonald, had to pull out, much to my regret; as did Dave Archer, who agreed to be a "non-travelling reserve".

The final selection was made and the candidates advised immediately after the Imperial Meeting on 8 August, at which point I required their tangible commitment in the form of a cheque. I felt that I had struck a balance between younger (relatively!) County class shooters who had the potential to progress to International teams, experienced International shooters and some very

experienced shooters who had not been recognised with NRA/GB colours and who deserved the opportunity to make their mark.

The final selection was:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Captain | Chris White | Durham |
| Adjutant | John Holt* | Nottinghamshire |
| Coaches | David Allen | Yorkshire |
| | David Davies | Sussex |
| | David Taylor | Lancashire |
| Shooters | Robin Baker | Kent |
| | Mick Buckley | Lancashire |
| | Graeme Clarke | Durham |
| | John Cross* | Hampshire |
| | David Dyson | Yorkshire |
| | David Gladwin | Lincolnshire |
| | Iain MacDonald* | Lancashire |
| | Keith Pugh | Northumberland |
| | Steve Robinson* | Yorkshire |
| | Mark Shaw* | Nottinghamshire |
| Reserve | Nigel Stanwix* | Durham |
| | Ken Willingale | Middlesex |
| | David Archer | Durham |

* No previous, National, International or NRA representation.

If that appears to have a strong Northern bias (not that there is anything wrong in that anyway) it is a reflection of the applications and not my personal prejudice.

Toward the end of 2002 I was aware of a potential circumstance which could prevent my presence. The contingency plan was that David Taylor would Captain the team, Graeme Clarke would coach and Dave Archer would shoot. Fortunately this was not necessary.

The original CPC Captain, Phillippe Ginestet, handed over the reigns to Hans de Bruijn of Holland and apart from having continued difficulties over target bookings things appeared tickety boo. John worked extremely hard trying to achieve a balance between what the CPC wanted in terms of practice targets and what the NRA had available. In terms of the match, the CPC requested that they field a full Palma squad against our twelve. We agreed to this on the proviso that one target and its coach shot alongside but did not contribute to the scores. This gave the NRA a major problem since it reduced the safety angle at 800 and 900 yards to the absolute minimum.

It is my personal belief that by the time everyone gets on the firing point they should all know what they are doing and what is required of them; this is pretty fundamental stuff but is often left to chance, on the assumption that everyone knows anyway. Throughout, I tried to communicate with my squad and a paragraph from my newsletter of 7 March bears transcription:

"On the topic of plotting it is essential that everyone sings from the same hymn sheet! I know at least one member of this team plots wind back to front. That's fine when it is used as an individual aid but it might confuse the coach. Lest anyone is in any doubt, if the wind is coming from the left ie left wind

required on the gun, increasing wind will move the plot on the diagram to the right. If you can't do this please be honest about it." Having not identified the guilty party he immediately confessed by sending me a letter, printed backwards, promising to mend his ways. This was a ray of sunshine given all the grief that had gone before and that which was still to come.

The final path to the match proved less than smooth. The English National Match Captain decided to have a practice shoot the weekend of the match threatening to deprive me of two shooters and a coach and in effect torpedoing the enterprise. Fortunately this fell through and England won the National without the need to practice on Stickledown for a match at Ballykinler. Just as I was breathing easy, further potential problems arose which John resolved and then we were advised that Holland were to leave the CPC thus rendering the Captain, Adjutant and a goodly proportion of the team ineligible to represent the CPC.

The Captaincy passed back to Phillippe, the 2003 CPC Palma Match Captain and the match was on with the CPC fielding a twelve shooter team.

As many of the NRA squad as could make it entered the Army Meeting on the first weekend in May and we managed a team in the Clarke Shield and the "Palma" Match. This was fortunate due to one member's unmitigated disaster which could be rectified before the next weekend.

With the heavy commitment on Stickledown on the weekend of the match, Palma faces were a problem, given that all the lanes we were to use would be used by someone else during the weekend. The consequence was that we would have to pay overtime for two NRA staff to reface the targets on Sunday morning. With regret I took the executive decision to shoot the match on NRA targets (to the relief of at least one of my coaches). Surely nothing else could go wrong I allowed myself to think.

Robert Chombart had telephoned me and suggested that as many of our squad as were present should join the CPC members in the bar of the L&M on the Friday evening and have a get together. This we did and enjoyed a very sociable evening. If the results of the drinking match were to be reflected in the results of the shooting match, then it was going to be a very close call!

Saturday morning got off to a bad start since the reserved ammunition was not in the armoury. Following the persistence of our Adj and a number of phone calls this was eventually resolved. Unfortunately our planned practice at 900 yards in the afternoon would be restricted to one detail, as other shooters on Stickledown were moving back and we would have to do likewise to preserve safety angles.

The team brief took place over coffee and scones in the L&M on Saturday morning and the plotting issue was well vented, with one member admitting that this was not his strong point. Shooters were left in no doubt over the need for them to deliver a well aimed shot on the coach's call. How close to the call was up to the coach

depending on wind conditions. In addition the fact that there are no individual scores in a team match, only a collective effort, was well and truly emphasised. Finally the whole squad were left in no doubt over my unqualified confidence in them all. None had anything to prove, as they had all proved it already.

The afternoon's practice achieved its objective, zeros were established, shooter/coach rapport developed, our back to front plotter learnt to do it the correct way (a skill he maintained until County Long!) and our doubtful plotter was man enough to admit to being flummoxed and was replaced by a willing volunteer doing a double stint.

There was enough ammunition available for everyone to have a few rounds at 1000 yards for elevation confirmation and for the Captain to have his zero checked, since we were now reserve-less and in an emergency I would have to shoot.

A collective buffet dinner had been organised for the Saturday evening in the L&M and John had confirmed the numbers the week before. About half an hour before we were due to sit down Phillippe, extremely embarrassed, told us that one of his party (an ex-pat Brit) had arrived with six unannounced guests. We delayed the meal half an hour whilst the LMRA, who were brilliant, rearranged the tables and prepared extra food. By the time we were to dine, further embarrassment ensued when Phillippe discovered that not only had the offending party absconded but he had now decided he was not going to shoot, leaving CPC one man short!

I knew there were a bunch of reprobates from the County of Lancaster RA in the bar and that one of them was fellow Altcar member Willie Flentje. I know Willie is still a German citizen since he has been refused entry to the English XX (Willie, quite reasonably, wonders why since it did not pose a problem with Prince Albert.) After a quick chat with Phillippe and Robert this appeared to provide a solution and the respective parties were introduced. Another convivial evening ensued with the LMRA doing a fine job.

From my point of view match day was a bit like waiting for one's A level results. My job was as good as over and it was now down to the crew.

We set off at 800 yards in readable conditions with the pilot shot being a matter of formality rather than necessity. In Chief Coach mode I found it unnecessary to intervene. Two of the shooters had been ostensibly nervous, both qualifying as veterans and both making their debut in an NRA team. Both shot solid possibles and their confidence soared. The team score was 889.125 with scores ranging from 72 to 75. On the basis of what I had seen to my left I felt we were a nose ahead. It was probably a bit more but it did not look that way. Whatever the situation was in reality, I felt it appropriate to congratulate the team on their effort but to keep their noses on the grindstone.

As one would expect 900 yards got a bit more difficult with mirage and flags, on occasions, giving contradictory evidence. One intervention was required which

nevertheless resulted in three solid waterline upwind inners, maybe if I had kept my mouth shut they would have been magpies. Whatever, the coaches reappraised and came back onto the bull. Team score was 865.91 with scores ranging from 70 to 73. Mark Shaw had a rifle failure in the middle of his shoot and had to leave the point. Steve Robinson managed a partial rectification to permit Mark to finish his shoot with commendable coolness. Again I thought the CPC were close enough to damage us if we had a disaster. John knew better but took the prudent view that he should keep any potential euphoria to himself. We have all seen too many matches lost at the last range, when they were thought to be won, to allow any feeling of complacency to creep in.

Lunch time gave Mark the chance to sort his rifle, with a contingency to use Steve's if disaster struck; and the weather a chance to deteriorate with the afternoon getting progressively cold, dull and blustery.

Before we kicked-off the appropriate pep talk was delivered. Wind conditions were, on occasions, very testing and, despite the quality of the coaching, points were inevitably lost. I watched in admiration as Dave Davies coolly coached one of his men, who was presented with a classic six o'clock magpie for his second to count, to a 73. The finger of suspicion was definitely pointing Alsager wise. My only intervention was to call for a halt during a period of instability, followed by a pilot shot. Scores ranged from 66 to 73 with the total team score at 1000 yards being 840.62. The score was a reflection of the rather tiresome wind conditions and I had no reason whatsoever to criticise either my coaches or my shooters; this was sterling effort. Total team score was 2594.278, an average of 72.8 per man per range.

There was one sting in the tail. One of the CPC shooters had left at lunch time and Phillippe requested that we discard our lowest score at 1000 yards, this resulted in a recalculated score of 2528.275 to CPC's 2306.143. Ironically the CPC's highest scorer was Willie!

The event was rounded off with the exchange of mementos and the cautious consuming of Robert's renowned Calvados.

When it was all over I think the grief encountered along the way was well worth it. My shooters and coaches exceeded my expectations. For those who were new to this game I hope the match will give them a sound grounding in representative team shooting and I hope the match proved valuable experience in the CPC's continued efforts to develop their Palma Match skills. From a personal point of view it allowed me to put my money where my mouth is over my somewhat firm views on how high level team matches should be conducted, not least of which is appointing a dependable Adjutant who will allow the Captain to sail the ship without distraction. These views are well expressed by the absence of individual scores in the report!

We had a whale of a time, good company, good comradeship, some good food and drink, made new friends and had some good shooting. That's what it is all about.



NRA GUEST DAY CHRISTMAS SHOOT

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER



This will be a fun shoot with the chance to win your Christmas turkey.

Open to NRA members and their guests.

Morning only (timings 9.30 - 12.30) followed by lunch, glass of mulled wine and mince pies at the NCSC Clay Pavilion.

If you would like to bring a guest along you must advise the Deputy Director of Shooting by **no later than Monday 1 December** so that the guest day arrangements can be made.

Target Rifle Shoot - 300x

Five variety targets, five shots at each target. HPS 250. Best aggregate score wins.

Count-out: Turkey, Christmas pudding, dartboard, eccentric target.

Re-entry permitted for an additional fee.

Targets

- Good luck target. Scoring 1, 2, 3, 4. Hits on a line, add the value of the intersecting boxes. HPS 50
- Dartboard Scoring sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 double ring and centre (10). HPS 50
- Eccentric target. Scoring 10, 8, 6, 4, 2. HPS 50
- Turkey Target. Head target scores 10, body target scores 8, 6, 4, 2. HPS 50
- Christmas pudding. The size of a 300x target but with five "lucky sixpences" scoring 10 each. HPS 50

Entry fee: Aggregate score card and lunch - £20. Each re-entry - £10.

Ammunition and rifles will be supplied (though you may use your own TR)



Prizes

1st - Turkey

2nd - Gammon

3rd - Christmas pudding

Five consolation prizes - box of mince pies



Gallery Rifle Shoot on Melville

Five variety targets, five shots at each target. HPS 250. Best aggregate score wins.

Count-out: Turkey, Christmas pudding, dartboard, eccentric target.

Re-entry permitted for an additional fee.

Targets

- Good luck target. Scoring 1, 2, 3, 4. Hits on a line, add the value of the intersecting boxes. HPS 50
- Dartboard Scoring sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 double ring and centre (10). HPS 50
- Eccentric target. Scoring 10, 8, 6, 4, 2. HPS 50
- Turkey Target. Head target scores 10, body target scores 8, 6, 4, 2. HPS 50
- Christmas pudding. The size of a PL7 but with five "lucky sixpences" scoring 10 points each. HPS 50

Entry fee: Aggregate score card and lunch - £15. Each re-entry - £7.50

Prizes

1st - Turkey

2nd - Gammon

3rd - Christmas pudding

Five consolation prizes - box of mince pies



THE 2003 BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY TR COMPETITION

by Tony di Domenico

Once again, on 9 and 10 of May, the target rifle shooting clubs from within BAE SYSTEMS gathered together for the annual target rifle shooting competition at Bisley. Despite the diversity of the company's commercial activities this is in fact the only corporate event that uses a company made product, which is just as well when you consider what we make! Four competitions were being contested over the two day event; two team trophies and two individual. The first of these is the Weybridge Memorial Trophy for teams of four firing 2 and 10 at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. The second team trophy is the Warton Challenge Shield, shot under similar conditions at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

Running concurrently with the team events are the individual competitions, introduced for the first time last year. All competitors are divided into different classes, essentially class X for NRA class X and A standard competitors and class T for the rest of us. The competitors are drawn from all over the country including BAE SYSTEMS Warton, way up in Lancashire and some from AMS Frimley in Surrey, just around the corner from Bisley ranges. Also present were teams from Stevenage, Stanmore, New Malden, ROF Summerfield, Glascoed, Radway Green, Nottingham and joining us for the last time Astrium UK, now no longer part of the company. One or two sites couldn't raise a team of four, but that didn't stop them from taking part in the activities and making up the numbers with the other teams.

As in recent years ROF Radway Green donated the excellent quality 7.62 mm 155 grain target ammunition, as they are part of BAE SYSTEMS. As well as donating the ammunition and a team of shooters, Radway Green also sent along a senior Company Director, Mrs Sarah Myers, to present the prizes and meet and greet the competitors.

This year's competition began with the long range event on Stickledown for the Weybridge Memorial Trophy. The weather was as good as can really be expected in this country, a little wind, but no serious risk of rain. However, the wind was going to be difficult, especially over these distances. At 800 yards the shooting was excellent and there were no less than four possibles with Jeremy Langley from Stanmore and Mark Roberts from Summerfield both scoring 50.8, beating David Robinson from Radway Green (50.6) and Alistair Bullen from Stanmore (50.5). In the team scores AMS Frimley took an early lead with a team score of 193 out of 200, four points ahead of Stanmore and eleven ahead of Radway Green in third place.

During the 900 yards shoot the competitors found the conditions somewhat harder and this was reflected in the scores returned. There were no 50s and just one 49, which was achieved by Charles Dickenson from AMS Frimley, who again produced the best team score, with 181 out of 200, just four points ahead of Stanmore and 13 ahead of Glascoed and Summerfield. Clearly, two of the teams were pulling ahead of the others but that was hardly surprising given the number of X class shots amongst them. At 1000 yards the weather conditions again took their toll and the best individual score was just 46.5, scored by Liz Verduyn from Stanmore, and she was only a reserve! Unfortunately for AMS Frimley their score of 156 out of 200 was joint second with Warton and meant they had dropped too many points at this distance and had blown their lead. Stanmore had forged ahead with a team score of 172 to win the trophy by eight points, with Warton taking the bronze medals for the second year in a row.

In the individual competitions in X class Jeremy Langley had scored a very respectable 140 out of 150, five points ahead of his team mate Nick Verduyn and Charles Dickenson. In the T class competition Liz Verduyn scored a very impressive 142, six points ahead of her team mate Alistair Bullen who was six points ahead of Adrian Dyer from AMS Frimley and Tom Rothwell from Warton, last year's T class winner. The scores were not made public yet, so each competitor had no idea just how well or badly their rivals had performed and in any event it was only the halfway stage.

The next day saw the short range event on Century for the Warton Challenge Shield. The weather was typically English, cloud, wind and yes, rain, although not sufficient to cause us any serious problems. At 300 yards the scores returned reflected the tricky conditions with only John Deane from Stevenage and Mick Place from AMS Frimley achieving scores of 50. In the team scores AMS Frimley took a small, but important lead with a score of 190 out of 200, four points ahead of Warton and five ahead of Stanmore. Still, it was early days.

At 500 yards the weather conditions must have improved because the scores returned improved considerably. Adam Leech from AMS Frimley, John Deane and Jeremy Langley all achieved 50, with only one V between them and there were a host of scores in the high forties. This time Stanmore turned in the highest team score of 191, closing the gap with AMS Frimley, with Warton holding firm in third place. As the scores at the top were quite close it would once



The AMS Frimley team receiving the Warton Challenge Shield.

again go to the wire on the 600 yards firing point. And just to compound things the weather had closed in a little and we saw some rain for the first time this week, although not enough to dampen our enthusiasm. The Stanmore team managed to edge ahead with a team score of 186, beating Frimley and Warton by just five points. The top individual scores were well down on 500 yards (probably the result of the reduced visibility due to the rain) with Charles Dickenson providing a lone 49.

When I said it would go to the wire I wasn't joking. In the final reckoning Frimley had stayed ahead by just one V bull with a score of 562.47 to beat Stanmore into second place and retain the trophy for the second year. Warton came a valiant third once again, some 16 points behind.

In the individual competitions the scores were just as tight. In X class John Deane, Mick Place and Jeremy Langley tied with 146 out of 150, with Dave Simkin from Summerfield just a point behind. Combining these with the long range scores gave Jeremy Langley the Summerfield Challenge Trophy with a combined score of 286.25, beating his rival Mick Place by six points. In T class it was just as tight. Tom Rothwell was the top shot also with 146, beating Mark Watkins and David Robinson by three points. However, despite their best efforts to address the differences from the long range event Liz Verduyn maintained her lead with a combined score of 284.29 to win the Glascoed Challenge trophy by an impressive eight points. In fact, she was only two points behind the X class winner and with more Vs (but maybe that was because the X class winner coached her!).

Meanwhile our guest of honour, Mrs Sarah Myers arrived to present the medals and trophies; the company takes the event very seriously and always sends along a Director. During their brief visit it is customary to show them around the range complex and coach them through a shoot. However, as Mrs Myers was about six months pregnant she declined the offer. Mrs Myers was most impressed with the spirit and enthusiasm present at Bisley and the scores



The BAE Stanmore team receiving the Weybridge Memorial Trophy.

achieved in this corporate event, and promised to commission a new trophy to be presented at next year's event.

Special thanks are due to: Mrs Myers from ROF Radway Green for taking time to visit Bisley and present the medals and trophies, Ian Clay at ROF Radway Green for the supply of 155 grain ammunition, Maj Gen John Russell Jones at Farnborough head office for his support and Keith and Hazel Pardy at the Army Target Shooting Club for their catering and support, without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to the 25th event in 2004.

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE?



Please contact the Secretary via

<http://www.cfbsa.org.uk>

OBITUARIES

Andrew St George Tucker (GM2 GC)

Andrew St George Tucker was born in Edinburgh on 17 July 1937 where his English father was working at the time for the Ford Motor Company. As his middle name suggested, Andrew never felt inclined to shoot for Scotland. Educated at Felsted School in Essex he took advantage of a strong Combined Cadet Force based shooting squad. "I was never an athlete: I looked at the list of sport options and picked shooting, probably because it could be done lying down". As a member of the school team he won his first trophy, the Iveagh, at Bisley in 1954.



National Service in the RAF, started with six weeks' square bashing at West Kirby. On one of his first evenings he knocked on the door of the small-bore range to be greeted by the fearsome Station Warrant Officer whom the trainees ranked second only to God. Tucker answered the ferocious enquiry "Are you any good?" with the information that he normally expected to score 299 ex 300 in three series of competition cards. The Warrant Officer's profound and bristling disbelief was reflected in the command "Prove it lad". So he did!

He was posted to Kirkham Training Centre Blackpool, later an open prison, for formal training as an armourer/fitter (small arms). The youngest of the 24 trainees by some margin, Tucker was hopeless at making things but, in the communal spirit of their unavoidable career path, help was at hand from the other 23 trainees. "We each had to make a stapling machine as a test piece. Mine was best, simply because it contained carefully crafted parts made by the rest of the squad".

When the other 23 were later posted all over the world, Tucker was sent to West Malling in Kent, the centre for RAF small arms maintenance and where the RAF shooting team had all its kit. Under the control of Sqn Ldr CC Willett OBE, himself a Bisley Queen's Prize winner, he was able to shoot all day every day. "At weekends we went on patrol round the base with 12 bore shotguns. We were never hungry for there was game in plenty, particularly the hares". It appealed to his sense of humour that never once did he fly in an aeroplane in all his time in the RAF: "They must have thought I was too valuable to them on ground to be risked in one of those things". He became an honorary life member of RAF West Malling Rifle Club and a life member of the RAF Small Arms Association.

In 1958 he joined Cogswell & Harrison of Piccadilly where his first year was spent learning about of all types of sporting rifle, shotgun and pistol. He served a total of twelve heads of state over the years, one regular being King Hussein of Jordan. Indian shooters, too, were regular purchasers of rifles and pistols. He recalled that a particular favourite was the "Vembly (*Webley*) Scott revolver, please".

In 1964 he married Cathy, the younger sister of one of his co-workers at Cogswell & Harrison. Together they spotted a niche market for tailored shooting jackets, rifle slings and shooting gloves, as well as high grade shotguns and sporting rifles. They moved to Cobham, in Surrey, where he set up as Andrew Tucker Gunsmiths. As he put it "We were half an hour from Bisley, Heathrow and the West End of London and we could serve the world". Over the years many a shooting enthusiast, whether on the way to the grouse moors or to the Bisley Ranges, made his shop the first port of call on landing in the country.

That year (1964) he won the National Small-bore Rifle Association Grand Aggregate for the first time, a feat he repeated in the 1970s. He appeared regularly at World Cup events partnering, among others, the late double Olympic gold medallist Malcolm Cooper in the prone rifle. He was also noticed on the open ranges by the redoubtable Admiral Hutton who told him that, good as he was, he would never select him for a fullbore national team because he had brought slow shooting habits with him from small-bore. Tucker took note and became one of the fastest shooters of all his contemporaries.

In 1974 he gained his first England fullbore rifle cap. His subsequent conversion to concentrate solely on fullbore came about at the time of the 1976 Olympics. By common consent he was one of the top six in contention for the GB prone rifle places and should have been selected. The selectors felt otherwise. Tucker was convinced that the final trials had been conducted so as to allow them to select someone else. As a result he decided to devote his skills to the open ranges: smallbore's loss was undoubtedly fullbore's gain. As if to prove the point in that same year he won the St George's at Bisley.

There was no turning back and in 1979 he won the Queen's Prize at Bisley for the first time. With his whole family gathered behind the firing point to watch the final shoot at 1000 yards he was squadded on target 2 towards the bottom of Stickledown. With the wind blowing strongly from the left his first sighting shot failed to connect with the target and his next was a magpie. He later freely admitted that he had forgotten to allow for the fact that the first bank of ten targets were partly shielded from the full force of the wind by trees on the left: thereafter he made twelve bullseyes in his 15 shots for a score of 72 which, when added to his scores carried forward, was at the top of the scoreboard. "Have you done it?" asked his father. "I think it might be good enough" came the guarded response. He later said that the walk from target 2 to the ceremonial award of the winner's badge at the top of the hill was interminable, but that the traditional ride from the range in the chair carried by fellow shooters was the most exhilarating journey of his life.

Seven years later he won the Prize for a second time and in 1986 he added the Grand Aggregate to his achievements.

In 1990 he was selected to represent England in the fullbore rifle events at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland. There, with Simon Belither, he took the gold in the Pairs event, on a rifle range converted for the Games from sheep pasture. It was an experience not without difficulties for all the competitors, because in the final shoot at 1000 yards they were faced by a ferocious wind blowing from left to right. With Belither acting as his wind-coach Tucker led off for the England pair, who were at that stage four points ahead of the field. As he approached his final few shots the wind suddenly started to drop dramatically, still interspersed with sudden gusts, leaving him on his 15th and final shot with neither man having much idea of what wind strength to call to make the proper sight adjustments.

He waited and, as the wind seemed to steady, they agreed that Belither should start his shoot using his two sighting shots to establish the wind strength and direction for them both. Tucker then used their joint experience to produce a bullseye for his final shot and coached Belither through the rest of his shoot. As they both wearily left the firing point, worried that their score might relegate them to the also-rans, they asked their manager Phil Harrison where they had finished. "I think you have won by 15 points" came the reply". Tucker

then went on to win a three-way tie-shoot to add the silver medal in the individual competition to his pairs' gold. It was typical of him that on return to the Games village, his mood was not that of celebration but of compassionate concern for his team partner who had finished fourth in the individual event.

Among his treasured memories he held the performance of his England touring team in Canada in 1995. He had selected a small core of experienced shooters to go with a preponderance of new caps. His trust and belief in the will to win of the young was rewarded when they beat the Canadians on their home ground at Ottawa in the Canada and Commonwealth matches, both close run affairs. He treasured his election to the Presidency of the English Twenty Club in 1997 as a signal privilege and honour.

A tall man with a commanding presence topped by a fine handlebar moustache, he did not allow himself to be put off by his marked stammer, always turning it with humour into a positive emphasis for the point he happened to be making. He had an amazing ability to find alternative words, an art honed to a fine point to conquer this difficulty. He was one of the most witty of conversationalists, always ready with an apposite saying. Buttonholed on the firing point one day by a regular customer seeking a tailor made leather shooting jacket (to replace one that had become a little snug by age related spread), he remarked "Sir appears to have allowed his chest to slip over the last few years". Whipping out the ever-present tape-measure he added "Never mind; we relish a challenge".

A man of utmost integrity he deplored chicanery or duplicity: "It is so unnecessary, you know", he would say. He took people on trust. Never overtly confrontational he would listen carefully and if he felt that a judicious intervention with some obstructive person was warranted he would say "I might just have a little word with him". He bristled with positive approach and energy and regarded regret as an entirely wasted emotion.

For many years until the early 1990s he served as a member of the National Rifle Association Council and on various sub-committees. The rewarding moments were, for him, interrupted by too much cross-reference and built in inertia. "It was", he said with some sadness "because we were so many enthusiastic amateurs, for too long without decisive professional leadership suited to the changing nature of all amateur sports".

As one of the most travelled of sportsmen, Tucker was always quick to acknowledge Cathy's support and encouragement. "I have been very fortunate", he said recently. "Whatever we have wanted - within reason - we have been able to have and Cathy has always supported my shooting travels and activities. She has helped me to fight this cancer now for almost five years, so overall I have not done too badly."

Andrew died on 9 July 2003. He is survived by his wife, Cathy.

Tony de Launay

Tony Spencer

Tony was a retired mining engineer at a copper mine in Zambia. He first came to Bisley in 1969 with the Zambia Rifle Team. He made his mark immediately, winning the Alexandra after a tie shoot and coming second in the Clementi Smith, again after a tie shoot.



Tony came to Bisley every year as a member of the Zambia rifle team until they ceased to exist in (I think) the early eighties, when the Zambian government banned the private ownership of any firearm with a greater calibre than .22. Fortunately this occurred when Tony was at Bisley, and so he left his rifle with Fulton's. He came over every year after that, bar just one, as an individual competitor, picking up his rifle from the Fulton gunshop.

Zambia had always entered a team into the RAF International Match in the run-up to the Imperial Meeting, and Tony continued this tradition, even when he was the only Zambian present. He always managed to find enough spare bodies – Australians, South Africans, the odd Brit – to form a team. Ever modest, Tony would have made way so that other teams could take part, but by then he was a fixture and the RAF insisted that he and his team take part. Tony presented the RAFTRC with a trophy made from an outflow of copper, and this is presented annually to the top team in the RAF International Match.

Every year Tony brought a different design of copper plate, made at the roadside in Zambia by "his boys", and these were presented to clubs and individuals. The RAF clubhouse and the Surrey RA clubhouse are both proud to have a full collection. He also brought some beautiful malachite jewellery that he presented to many delighted ladies.

Tony was always accompanied by his devoted wife Donna, to whom he was married for 51 years, and in the early days by their two daughters Pauline and Theresa. I still remember the time when he got the two girls to clean a certain friend's caravan in the next row – the girls were bored, and the caravan was certainly dirty! Latterly, he was very proud of the progress made by Pauline's son Damien after considerable early problems.

Tony was a gentle man in the truest sense. A quiet, self-effacing man, I never heard him raise his voice, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody, and I certainly never heard anybody say a bad word about him. He was happy sitting outside his caravan, or in the RAF clubhouse which became his second home at Bisley, or the Surrey, with friends from around the world, putting the world to rights. His biggest regret was probably what had happened to his adopted home country,

Zambia, a country of vast potential that he felt had been sadly wasted.

Tony was born on 14 November 1931. Like many before him, he has left us much too early, after a sudden heart attack on 16 September. He will be missed by his many friends at Bisley, all of whom extend their sincere condolences to Donna, Pauline, Theresa and their families back home in South Africa.

Peter Smith

Lex Lyons

Josiah Alexander Lyons died on 17 June 2003 after a sudden stroke. He was 81. Lex was born in Ireland on 23 December 1921. He took a first and a second degree in Chemistry at Belfast University, and for a time he was a research chemist there. He moved to Manchester, where he met Joan whom he married in 1947; they were together until the end of his life.



Lex and Joan had three sons: Roger, Geoffrey and Nick. When Lex took up a position as a research chemist with Esso, the family moved to Hertfordshire. In 1956 they moved to Abingdon; Lex moved ahead of the family and lived for a while in a well-appointed horsebox.

Lex was a humorous man. As befitted a research man, he had an enquiring and a meticulous mind and he also had an unusually good memory for events, facts, figures and people. He read widely and enjoyed historical novels. He was keen on Roman history and inland waterways, interests that he and Joan shared.

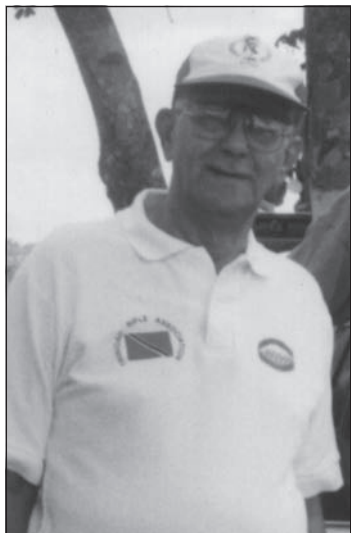
Of course, Lex's major enthusiasm was always shooting and he attended Bisley regularly. This year, he shot the Spring Meeting of the English VIII Club and had entered the Hopton and had made all his Match Rifle ammunition. No doubt, when MR was finished, he would have shot in the McQueen. Over a long life, Lex won many, particularly team, trophies. He shot for Hertfordshire and later for Berkshire and was Secretary of the Berkshire Rifle Club, Secretary and then President of the Berkshire County Rifle Association. He was a stalwart member of the Irish Rifle Club and had shot in the Mackinnon 25 times and the National 29 times. Between 1964 and 1992, Lex represented Ireland in the Elcho 26 times, shooting the team's top score on at least three of those occasions.

Although afflicted by deafness, that curse of all old shooters, Lex was a clubbable man and a good listener. Many times in the North London, over a pint or three, Lex would entertain with a fund of anecdotes - often the events were long past and the people long gone but all was remembered clearly and related with humour and without malice. His many friends will miss him.

Chris Boylan

Cecil Seymour Smith

Cecil Seymour Smith, known as Cecilio to many, died peacefully on 7 January 2003 at the age of 80. His formative years were shaped at Queen's Royal College, an experience of which he was fiercely proud. His allegiance to QRC often led him to needling his close St Mary's friends about his alma mater's supremacy in all spheres.



After QRC, Cecil joined Her Majesty's Service. He spent the lion's share of his working life as a Customs and Excise Officer. He loved his work and prided himself on his knowledge of the laws and regulations concerning Customs and Excise. He was uncompromising when it came to procedure and to this day many of the then young Officers remember him for his incorruptible nature.

Perhaps because of his nature, he loved the sport of rifle shooting, one of the most disciplined of sports. His passion was fuelled as a young cadet at QRC and he spent many a weekend on the range at La Sieva in search of the elusive "possible", the highest score.

Cecil joined the Trinidad Rifle Association in the late 1950s and was an active member until his passing. Not shooting for a number of years due to deterioration of his sight, he remained on the management committee to the end.

He served as Vice President of the TRA and the love and knowledge of the sport eventually led to his becoming Trinidad's first International Shooting Judge and a Vice President of the Commonwealth Shooting Federation, the organisation for setting the rules for shooting in the Commonwealth Games.

In 1984 he was the Manager/Coach for Bert Manhin, Billy Ng a Fook and John Fong Yew to the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada where Bert won the bronze medal. In 1982 he was Adjutant and in 1985 he was Captain of the West Indies Rifle Team to the Long Range World Championships in Ottawa and Bisley respectively. Cecil has been on numerous tours as a member of the Trinidad Rifle Team to Jamaica, Barbados or Guyana for the West Indies Championships as either manager or advisor.

He will be greatly missed by all, especially in the shooting fraternity, both locally and internationally.

Norris Gomez

I am sure that there are many members of the Great Britain Rifle Teams that have visited the West Indies, over the last twenty or so years, who will remember Cecil Smith of Trinidad.

I first met Cecil, and his wife Sheila, back in 1973 when I toured with Norman McCaw. Trinidad was the first island we visited on the tour and it was people like Cecil who made us so welcome, not only on La Seiva Range but in their homes. Various parties and dinners were held for all team members and assistance of all kinds was available, even if we had problems with our newly converted rifles.

Again in 1986, when I had the honour of the Captaincy of the Great Britain Team, the hospitality and friendship was overwhelming.

I am sure the thanks and gratitude of all those who have toured the West Indies, and met the members on their many visits to Bisley for the Imperial Meeting, will join with me to offer Sheila and Cecil's family every sympathy and at the same time thanks for his warmth and friendship.

Graham A Jackman

Captain Great Britain Rifle Team to the West Indies 1986

Barbara Catherine Truby



Barbara was born in Lambeth, South London, and moved to Eastleigh, Hampshire, as a child. On leaving school she joined the Hampshire County Council and the Winchester County Court as a secretary and shorthand typist. Next she enlisted in the Royal Air Force, retiring to get married in 1955. In the civilian world she had

various employments to fit in with the birth of her son and his early life; she finally took up a post with the National Health Service as a medical secretary, which lasted 33 happy years.

In her younger days Barbara was a keen and successful pistol shooter. For some years she was secretary of the Wandsworth Fullbore Rifle Club and minute secretary of the Surrey Rifle Association. Barbara really enjoyed meeting the shooters of the clubs and county, particularly the younger shooters. She followed their progress to county and international honours with interest.

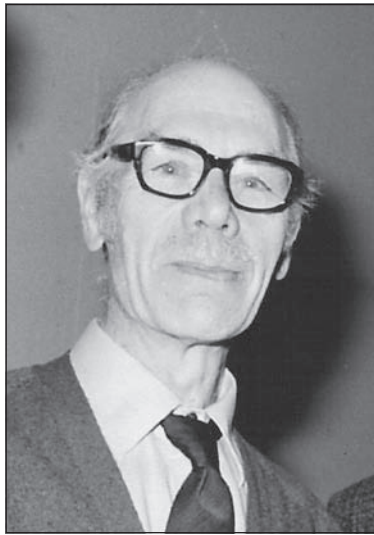
In her spare time Barbara enjoyed antiques fairs and travelling to her home in Spain. Most of all she liked spending her time on the Bisley ranges as an NRA Range Conducting Officer. Barbara frequently ran the range for Surrey clubs' matches, the Surrey Open Meeting and the English Twenty Club Meeting. She did this for many years before being forced to give up after contracting Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). She endured this incurable muscle wasting disease with dignity and a remarkable sense of humour.

Barbara will be missed on the ranges at Bisley, but her memory will live on. Requite in pace.

Don Truby

Gordon Biddle

Gordon Biddle was born at King's Heath Birmingham, one of a large family. The family later moved to Withall where he won a scholarship to Redditch Grammar School. On leaving school Gordon attended evening classes at Birmingham Technical College, having to cycle 16 miles each way, and after much hard work was awarded, in 1939, an Associateship of the College which was later converted into a BSc degree. He studied electrical engineering, specialised in instrumentation and became a Chartered Engineer. On the outbreak of the Second World War, Gordon was transferred by the Manpower Agency to work on the secret Tube Investment project. Since he was not allowed to join the Armed Forces, Gordon did the next best thing and joined the local Home Guard unit with the Warwickshire Regiment serving as support to the Heavy Anti-Aircraft RA Battery. He rose rapidly through the ranks and eventually was promoted to Company Sergeant-Major. It was at this point he became very interested in marksmanship. He was determined that his company would become experts and set out to train them and himself in the principles of accurate shooting.



After the war Gordon eventually moved to AERE Harwell to take over the newly formed Instrument Section. He came across the late Freddie Foxon, a Kings 100 Badge holder and a GB international small-bore shooter, and together they formed the AERE Harwell Rifle Club. Gordon was the club's first Honorary Secretary, a post he held for the next 30 years.

He was a superb small-bore marksman. With his very strong forearms he could hold the rifle steady until he was satisfied the shot would be perfect. Shooting in the Berkshire and National Leagues he scored many possibles and was soon in the Berkshire County Team. He won countless cups and awards but he was always there to encourage others and to give praise and help where needed.

He was also no mean fullbore marksman and whether shooting at Churn, Otmoor or Bisley soon became a valuable member of the Harwell Team. He won several Astor medals and represented Berkshire in the NRA Astor Final several times. When North Berkshire became part of Oxfordshire, Gordon threw all his energy into the Oxfordshire Rifle Association, becoming firstly Secretary and later Chairman of the fullbore committee. He was also a member of the ORA Executive and Chief Range Officer. On his retirement from full time work he became the President of the AERE Harwell Rifle and Pistol Club, a post he held until his death.

Gordon received many awards in his shooting career, he was particularly proud of his 25 year service medal from the NSRA and the rare Gold Award of the ORA. As age and illness finally caught up with him he continued to fight both with his usual dogged determination, never once giving in. He was still shooting right up to last year and always hoping for a good score each time. He entered every club and county event and he loved the Scottish NSRA Meetings. He was finally honoured by the ORA when in his last year he was made Vice President of the Association.

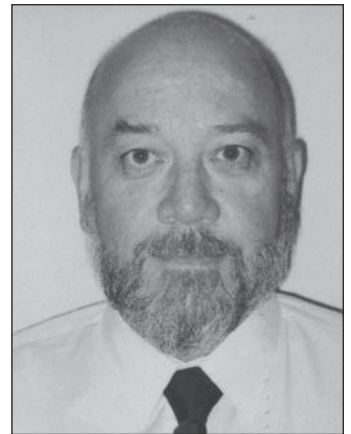
Gordon was a devout Christian and was a pillar of the local Abingdon Methodist Church. He was a model of integrity and a great sportsman. He and Rene were married for almost 64 years. With two daughters, sons in law, grandchildren and great grandchildren Gordon was surrounded by a loving family. As his friend and colleague for over 45 years I was proud to have known him and all members of the ORA will miss his wise counsel.

John Winter

John Douglas James

Sadly I would like to report the death of John Douglas James or Doug to all his friends.

Doug had a lifelong interest in target shooting, both fullbore and small-bore. He was a founder member of the St Austell Rifle and Pistol Club and was active in the building of their range.



His fullbore shooting was carried out as a member of the Cornwall Rifle Club. He was a member of the National Rifle Association and regularly attended the Bisley Imperial Meetings. He shot for his county of Cornwall on many occasions and qualified for the St Georges Final.

His small-bore shooting was carried out as a member of the St Austell Rifle and Pistol Club. He represented the club in both rifle and pistol competitions and actively competed in matches locally and away until his early 80s. He was very involved in running and supporting the club and held the post of Chairman for many years, latterly serving as the Club President up to the time of his death. Beginners and club members found him easy to approach for help and advice, which was always given with enthusiasm. Many described him as a natural gentleman and he will be sadly missed by all his friends and members of his various clubs.

Colin W Williams

Charles Trotter (GM)

Sadly Charles died at the age of 80 on Monday 8 September 2003. A full obituary will appear in the Spring edition of the Journal.

Jan Visser

Jan Visser, Chairman of the South African Bisley Union, passed away peacefully on 21 September 2003 at the age of 72 on a family farm in the North West Province of South Africa, after battling against cancer for several months.



Jan Visser, a successful maize farmer in the Sannieshof district of the North West (formerly Western Transvaal) Province of South Africa, will always be remembered as a man who actively participated at all levels in his community. He was highly respected in all walks of life, although in the previous political dispensation of South Africa, it was no secret that he opposed the former National Party government. One of the main reasons for his success in agriculture was the excellent personal relations he maintained with people from all walks of life and across racial lines.

Jan served in the South African Bisley Union Council for some 23 years and was elected as Chairman in 1998. He was also the Chairman of North West Province for many years and in recent years served in the Free State

Provincial Council. He will always be remembered for his sense of humour. He would far rather turn the other cheek or try to find a solution to a problem than enter into confrontation. Under his Chairmanship South Africa successfully presented the 1999 World Long Range Individual and Team Championships in Bloemfontein.

Jan Visser had a long and colourful fullbore rifle (called Bisley in South Africa) shooting career. He captained the South African Honoris Team, obtained Springbok colours and in later years was often a member of the South African Veterans Team. He enjoyed touring overseas, including to New Zealand and Bisley, England. There are many who believe that Jan would have achieved even greater heights as a shooter or coach had he not devoted himself to management and administration of the sport to the extent that he did.

A lesser known fact is that the formation of fullbore rifle's new world body, ICFRA, was originally Jan's idea. Upon receipt of a document on international rules from Colin Cheshire in advance of an International Rules Committee meeting at the 1999 Palma matches, Jan declared in the SABU Executive Committee that nothing will ever come of any initiatives to try to standardise significant international fullbore rules unless the sport's fragmented international bodies were unified. SABU then proposed accordingly, the countries present at Palma 99 unanimously endorsed the idea, and ICFRA was eventually officially 'born' on 1 January 2002.

Jan leaves his second wife, Ina, four children, Johannes, Hester, Charlotte and Lex, who this year captained the 2003 South African Palma Team, and eight grandchildren.

NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME IMPERIAL MEETING 2003

For once, and because this turned out to be a record year, I give some statistics in what I discover to be my tenth year of running the scheme. In these statistics, I detect a shifting pattern.

A total of 46 people sought help and were allocated Aunts or Uncles. Of those 46, surprisingly only 33 were still at school. I sent out 27 copies of the extensive Guide to the Imperial Meeting – many in response to requests from overseas.

So far as requests for help are concerned, there are an increasing number of non-first-timers, which suggests to me that there may be an increasing need at Club and County level for greater coaching expertise and input – a point of which I was all too well aware when, during my years as Chief National Coach, I tried to do something about it. The return of the L81A2 rifle also contributed to these requests.

So far as requests for the Guide to the Meeting are concerned, the demand now falls clearly into two well-defined categories: cadets and seniors, as it were. I shall, in consequence, next year be producing two different versions of the Guide so as better to target the two distinct markets. Please remember that the electronic version comes to you free.

Finally my warm thanks go to all who helped and to Phyllis Farnan and her assistants in the NRA for their administrative support.

Tim Elliott

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LETTERS

From Carol Painting

Level Playing Field

I agree wholeheartedly with Gary Clarke's letter in the summer Journal. It is iniquitous that we must pay for markers yet someone given a Range Officer duty gets no refund.

The allocation of range duties to so few people is also disgracefully unfair. I agree that Gary should let his RCO qualification drop. I have never taken the course in the hope that I would not get duties and bingo, the last couple of years have seen me with none (although my confirmation list states that I am eligible for special duties). Whilst I like having no duties it is not fair on those who are qualified to give them all the work. According to the letter we received with our cards, this year some people had four! That is quite unnecessary. The duties should be spread evenly across the competitors so that no-one has more than one duty.

Why do we need competitor range officers anyway? The Individual World Championships did not use any.

My second comment concerns the Queen's and St George's competitions. When will the NRA take up Andrew Tucker's suggestion of many years ago, and make these competitions fair to all? The point is that over a day the conditions can change quite dramatically. It is usually easier at 08:30 than noon, so even for the St George's it is not a level playing field. Andrew's suggestion, which seems eminently sensible to me, was to take the same number from each detail (or pattern of details for the Queen's) into the second stage. With computerised squadding as well as results this surely cannot be beyond us? If we adopt this procedure everyone will know that they are shooting against those in their detail. If one detail gets washed out, the scores may be lower but the same proportion will go through to the second stage. The winners of the stages will probably come from the easier details but that affects few people. The majority of competitors just want to get through to the next stage.

From Dick Winney

Inter-Counties Meeting 2003

Last weekend's Inter-Counties Meeting was, again, one of the highlights of the counties shooting year. I personally had a most enjoyable weekend and, as usual, the organisation was excellent. I would, however, like to make one suggestion which I feel will make this excellent meeting even better.

When I examined the detailed results of the long range match I noticed an interesting pattern amongst the top six teams, by way of a correlation with target positions and overall results. At 1000 yards the top teams were sited as follows:

| Place | Team | Targets at 1000 | Scores at 1000 | Total |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Sussex | 47 & 48 | 571 | 1161 |
| 2 | Surrey | 43 & 44 | 569 | 1159 |
| 3 | Kent | 3 & 4 | 563 | 1154 |
| 4 | London | 1 & 2 | 553 | 1143 |
| 5 | Berkshire | 11 & 12 | 554 | 1135 |
| 6 | Norfolk | 5 & 6 | 546 | 1134 |

The implication is that, in the light winds prevailing that day, there was an advantage to be at the left, or right hand side of the range. This is not an isolated incidence and it is generally recognised that there is a benefit from being one side or other of Stickledown, depending on the prevailing wind and its strength. To me it was unusual that both sides seemed to benefit, but as my last shooter at each range needed a spread of 1 left to 4 right (we didn't shoot when this spread was exceeded), it wasn't too surprising.

Since the long range event at the Inter-Counties has to be squadded only after the results of the short range are known, I believe we have a way of making this fairer and greatly enhancing the competitive edge.

I suggest that the squadding at long range should be **seeded** by using the results of the short range match and putting the highest placed teams side-by-side in the middle of the range at 1000 yards. Successive teams would then be placed further and further away from the centre, until the bottom two teams of the 25 would receive targets 1 & 2 and 49 & 50. Because the teams on the far right of the range would be at a disadvantage in a strong left wind I suggest that the lower ranking teams on Range 0 and Range 4 should be placed at the opposite sides for 900 yards. The teams in the centre three ranges could then either be squadded at random for 900, or they could be placed with a pre-determined arrangement to make it as fair as possible.

I see two major advantages of this scheme

- The major contenders for the medals will be shooting under very similar conditions
- The concentration of the major teams together in the centre of the range at 1000 yards will make for a very competitive spirit and provide a splendid opportunity for spectators.

Please consider my proposal for next year's Inter-Counties meeting.

From Wilsons Solicitors

The Late Charles Cunningham

We would like to inform members that thanks to the notice placed in the Spring 2003 NRA Journal, Charles' two missing rifles were located in the possession of a registered firearms dealer who had been doing some work on them.

From Roger Wood

Stealing

I would like to say to the person, or persons, who last year stole a trigger I had for sale at the RAF Table Sale during the Meeting and this year stole my shooting mat, ear defenders and three Leupold allen keys, I hope you are proud of yourself for stealing from a 68 year old pensioner.

I was not aware that you, as a common thief, could hold a Firearms Certificate!

From Richard Kenchington

Proposal to Amend the NRA Rule defining the Match Rifle

Pete Campbell's letter in the summer 2003 Journal deserves a reply.

I do not see my proposal as "opening the floodgates" to cartridge development, because the main thrust of the proposal is a weight limit of 1oz (437.5gr / 28.35g) on the loaded round. This is a significant restriction which keeps the lid on muzzle energy.

The 6.5 x 55 Ackley Improved would fall within the above weight limit, but the main reason why the performance of this round, during the Autumn Meeting of 2002, was noticeably better than the standard .308 Winchester is that a very low drag bullet with a long boat-tail was used - namely the Sierra 142gr MatchKing. My own test firing of this bullet indicates that it has a supersonic drag coefficient of only about 75% of the older 140gr bullet, which has essentially the same shape as the present 190 grains .308" bullet (a long boat-tail but a normal short tangent ogive nose). The much longer nose and lower drag of the 142 grains 6.5mm bullet means that, even when fired at only 2750 fps, it arrives at 1200 yards at about 1400 fps. Fired from the Ackley Improved cartridge at perhaps 3150 fps its remaining velocity at 1200 yards would be around 1700 fps - rather like shooting a standard MR using the present Sierra 190 at 700 yards. It is not surprising therefore that Pete's rifle produced quarter minute elevations as well as low wind deflections at 1200 yards with the Sierra 142.

However, there is nothing in the present rules to prevent the use of VLD bullets in .308" calibre. The Berger 190 and 210 grains bullets do have VLD noses, but they have a short boat tail which causes an increase in drag when velocity drops towards the transonic region (see the letter from MFD Brown in the NRA Journal, Spring 1996). Should one of the volume manufacturers produce a 190-200gr .308" calibre VLD bullet with a long boat-tail, the same sort of improvement over the status quo would be obtained. My calculations suggest that such a bullet fired at the usual 2750 fps would arrive at 1200 yards at over 1400fps and wind deflections would be down 35% on the present Sierra 190. Thus the .308" Winchester cartridge would still be fully competitive.

Pete states, no doubt correctly, that F-class is the fastest evolving discipline, so presumably those who compete in it see no disincentive in having no limit at all upon the type of cartridge used, other than the overall range template restrictions. In the UK, the maximum muzzle velocity allowed is 3275 fps and the heaviest bullet which could be fired at this velocity without exceeding the muzzle energy restriction would be 217gr. This is much more powerful than the 6.5 x 55 Ackley Improved, 6.5 x 284 or the 7mm-06 (.280 Rem), all of which would probably fall within my suggested weight limit. As I have said, given a suitable bullet there is no reason why the .308" Winchester cannot be competitive against these cartridges. Thus in a climate where lower drag bullets are available in .308" calibre, it would be quite reasonable to allow other calibres, intermediate between .223" (which is already allowed) and .308" on to the MR scene. Another reason for doing this is that there is, apparently, growing interest in MR in the Republic of Ireland, where individuals are not allowed to hold firearms over .270" calibre. The scope for experimentation would be widened but, with a cartridge weight limit in place, there would be a reasonable overall control on muzzle energy. My suggestion of a weight limit of 1oz is, of course, open to debate.

Long range VLD bullets in .308" calibre are likely to become readily available in the near future - indeed, the Woods 205 is already in use, though there are reports of somewhat inconsistent quality at present. General use of such bullets will bring reductions in wind deflections and group sizes. Similar improvements were obtained when we moved from .303" Streamline to heavy Raufoss in the 1960s, and again when handloads were allowed in 1980. Pete is quite right that when this happens, the scoring rings will have to come in a bit, but I won't start on that one apart from referring to my letter in the NRA Journal, Winter 1992!

I am glad to read that Pete's record scoring barrel had fired over 5500 rounds. Perhaps the use of Vihtavuori powders and moly coated bullets has had more of an effect on improving barrel longevity than has been generally realised. I very much hope so, as I felt the need to change my last barrel after only 2500 rounds. A proven reduction in the cost of barrel wear would be very welcome.

To summarise then, it is the availability of long, boat-tail, VLD 6.5mm bullets such as the Sierra 142 which make that calibre appear to have an advantage at present, compared with the .308" Winchester. The playing field would be levelled if the volume manufacturers came up with a .308" calibre VLD bullet with a long boat tail - which I hope they do soon. Perhaps I should write to Sierra to see whether they have it in mind.

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Great Britain Target Rifle Team, West Indies Tour, May 2002

Captain – Martin Townsend

A full account of this tour was given in the Winter 2002 Journal (pp24-31). The team of 18 shot successfully in individual and team matches in Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica and in Barbados, where they also won the international match against the full West Indies team.

| Expenditure | £ | Income | £ |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Airfares | 24,531 | Sports Council Grant | 8,769 |
| Coach Hire UK | 355 | OTF Grant | 9,750 |
| Road Transport (all Islands) | 3,346 | Team Member Contributions | 30,263 |
| Insurance | 356 | Donations | 1,200 |
| Accommodation & Subsistence | 23,885 | Interest | 1,882 |
| Shooting Costs | 11,809 | Brochure Profit | 5,455 |
| Training | 649 | General Fund Raising | 18,525 |
| Team Hospitality | 684 | | |
| Presentations, Clothing, Admin etc | 10,229 | | |
| Total Expenditure | £75,844 | Total Income | £75,844 |

Great Britain Under 25 Target Rifle Team, Canada Tour, August 2002

Captain – Philip Hakim

A full account of this tour was given in the Spring 2003 Journal (pp22-23). The team of 12 competed successfully, as individuals and in team matches, in the DCRA Meeting at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa.

| Expenditure | £ | Income | £ |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Airfares | 8,023 | OTF Grant | 5,000 |
| Road Transport | 593 | Sponsorship | 250 |
| Insurance | 326 | Team Member Contributions | 15,040 |
| Shooting Costs | 7,393 | | |
| Accommodation & Subsistence | 2,458 | | |
| Team Kit & Admin | 953 | | |
| Brochure | 263 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 281 | | |
| Total Expenditure | £20,290 | Total Income | £20,290 |

NRA Target Rifle Team, Channel Islands, May 2003

Captain – Nigel Penn

A full account of this tour is given in this edition of the Journal (pp28-31). The team of 14 shot against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges.

| Expenditure | £ | Income | £ |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Travel & Accommodation | 5,582 | NRA OTF Grant | 2,500 |
| Guernsey RC Shooting costs | 516 | Team Member Contributions | 7,628 |
| Jersey RC Shooting costs | 831 | | |
| Travel Insurance | 150 | | |
| Ties, Badges & Buttons | 485 | | |
| Kit | 866 | | |
| Trophies & Gifts | 96 | | |
| Team Dinners, Guernsey & Jersey | 497 | | |
| LMRA Match & Dinner | 590 | | |
| Team Photos & Framing | 340 | | |
| Reception at Bisley for CI | 175 | | |
| Total Expenditure | £10,128 | Total Income | £10,128 |

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MEMBERS' PAGE

A Secret Weapon

Now the facts can be told (or, with apologies to Fleming, grossly embellished).

The two men in pinstripes were worried. "This is a - a *delicate* matter, Mr Tucker. Our client - former client I should say, was a gentleman of some significance in certain - *unusual* - fields. We must resolve the situation with the utmost discretion."

Tucker considered the strange tale. A safety deposit box, opened by the executors of the gentleman's will. A 25-shot semi-automatic pistol, so described on the manufacturer's packing in which it still lay, and small enough to fit in a ladies' purse or a gentleman's double cuff. To fit 25 rounds in that small space would require some exceptionally specialised ammunition. A *very* personal defence weapon - or the tool of an assassin? These urbane men wanted this most unusual object to disappear very quietly. But the device lay so far outside their experience that they had felt the necessity to call upon a specialist gunsmith, and their network of contacts had indicated a man of unimpeachable integrity and exceptional reliability.

The double keys were turned and the steel drawer withdrawn; another key to open the cover on the drawer itself. Andrew Tucker waved the bankers out of any potential line of fire, reached in and lifted the small, oil-stained cardboard box into clear view. One glance was enough. He took a sharp breath to steady his nerves. "Gentlemen, it is quite harmless in itself in its present condition. But I agree, were this to leak, even amongst your own staff, the consequences for

the reputation of your institution could be really quite embarrassing." Tucker paused. "I can safely say this was never licensed by the Home Office or the Ministry. It would be best, I think, if I simply made it disappear." The bankers relaxed as the cardboard box vanished into an inside pocket of Tucker's tweed jacket. "There is the small matter of your fee, Mr Tucker?" "My dear chap, I wouldn't dream of charging. It has been a most interesting morning. Perhaps someday if I need a favour returned ..."

And that is how the NRA Museum came to be in possession of a 25-shot, magazine load, spring powered semi-automatic **peashooter.**



Number Plate Raffle

Mr Simon Gurrey of Lightwater, Surrey, a recent convert to shooting sports, is the lucky winner of the raffled number plate S222 GUN. Simon is pictured left receiving the number plate and official documentation from the NRA Secretary General Bob Fishwick. The raffle was drawn having raised a clear profit of £770.00 for the NRA.

STOP PRESS - PHOENIX MEETING 2004

The 2004 Phoenix Meeting will take place from **28 to 31 May**. This year the Meeting will last for four days; as well as the usual competitions held over the Friday to Sunday, there will also be an International Match against the BDMP and a number of additional events on Monday 31 May.

Full details of the competitions and entry forms will be available from NRA Offices in February 2004.

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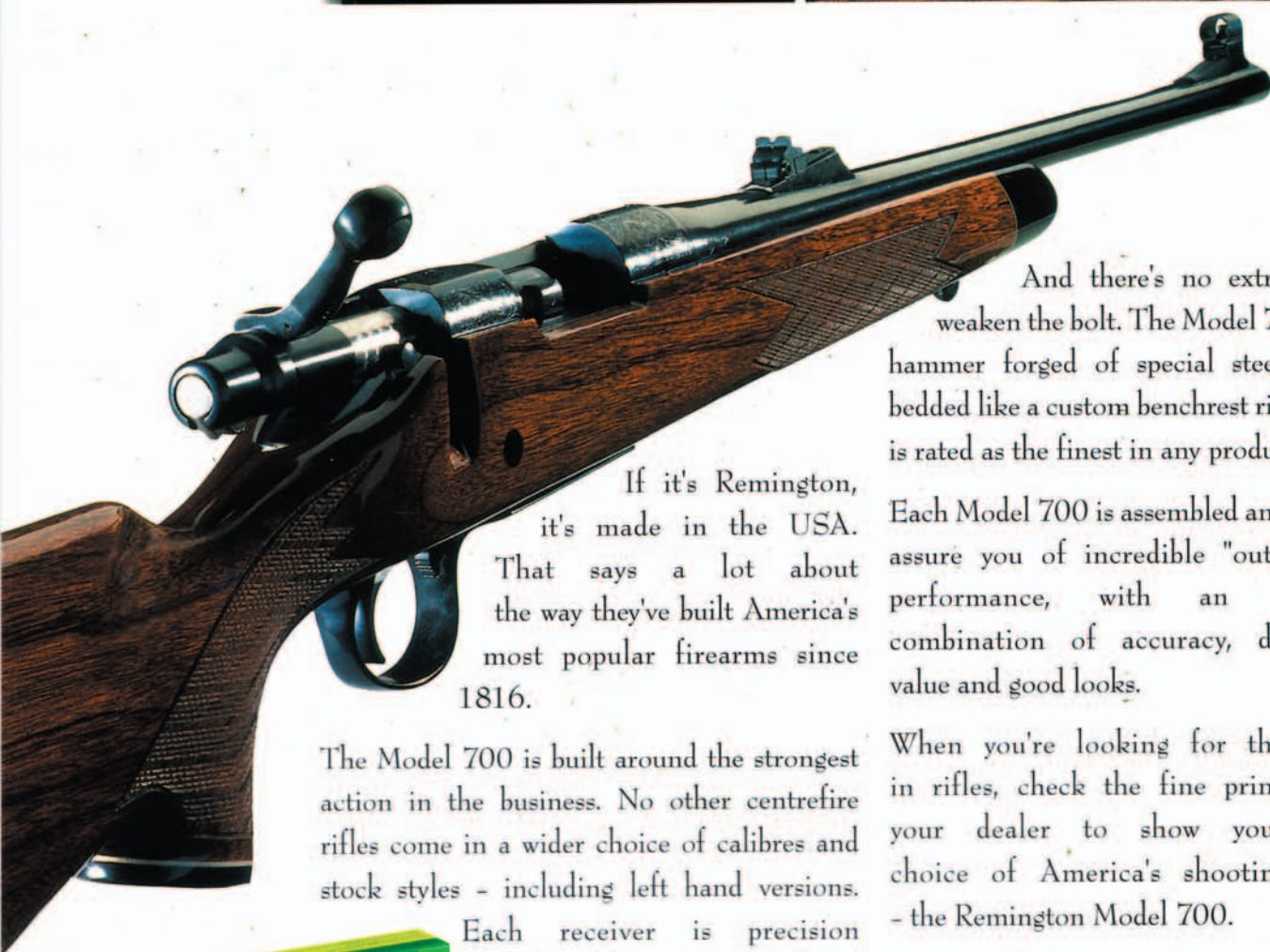
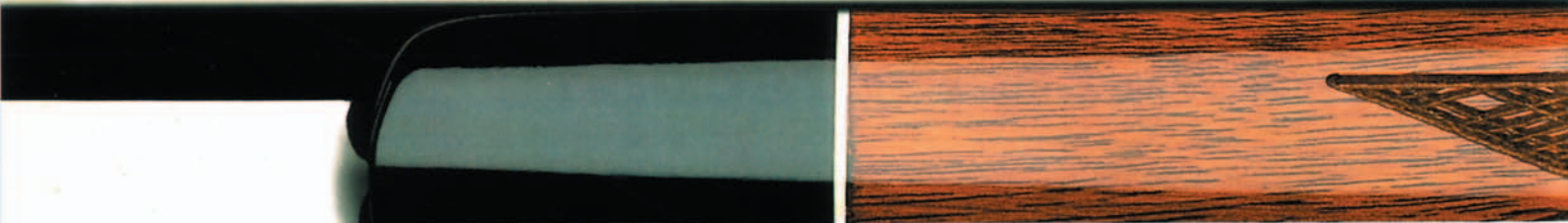
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