



# National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2004    Volume LXXXIII    Number 1





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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

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*Cover photo:*

The new trophy which the Great Britain Team to Kenya and Namibia will present to the Namibia Rifle Association for international competition. It stands nearly 12 inches high, is made of solid silver and consists of an egg shaped bowl supported on a tripod of finely modelled rifles which are bound by a wreath of laurel leaves. It is particularly interesting to note that the trophy has a historical connection with the African continent. Originally made in Chester, and bearing hallmarks for 1924, it was presented in that year to the Maritzburg Rifle Association by its President, George S Armitage for annual competition.

*Photo by John Knight*

### **Expected publication dates**

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

## NOTES FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY



*by  
Simon  
Dixon*

I am 'holding the fort' whilst a new Secretary General is sought. Interviewing for the post is taking place as I write these notes. I have been coming into the NRA offices two or three times a week so if there have been delays in answering your letters and e-mails I offer my apologies.

### **Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs)**

Following the comments in the Winter Journal, where it was pointed out that rather than being left to the discretion of individual Councils, any sports clubs recognized as a CASC can now apply for a mandatory 80% relief on their rates, Councils can, if they wish, still give a further discretionary relief on the remaining 20%. This concession puts CASCs in line with charities in terms of rates. Further, it was announced in the Budget Report 2003 that it is intended to raise the levels for tax exemption on trading income to £30,000 and for property income to £20,000. CASCs that do not exceed these thresholds will not have to complete a corporation tax return on an annual basis.

Clubs which have taxable income and do not already get 80% rate relief might benefit from being a CASC but if they already get 80% rate relief or more, there may be no point unless the taxable income factor is important. A club getting a discretionary rate rebate of 100% might find itself losing 20% by registering.

I have a very helpful guide that explores the advantages and disadvantages to clubs of doing nothing, becoming a CASC or applying for charitable status. If you would like a copy, please write to me enclosing a SAE.

### **Data Protection**

The NRA has received a number of enquiries regarding the Data Protection Act 1998. Certainly, there is much confusion as to whether clubs need to register and how they should comply with the Act. There are, however, specific exemptions under the Act. For example, voluntary sports clubs, which are non-profit distributing, qualify for an exemption under the

Act "for the purposes of establishing or maintaining membership or support for a body or association not established or conducted for profit". Neither the NRA nor the NSRA are registered but it does not mean that we do not need to comply, in fact quite the reverse is true. The Data Protection Act 1998 is complicated, I have some very helpful guidance notes from the Information Commissioner which I would be happy to send to you, on request, with a SAE.

As regards the Data Protection Act and compliance with the Firearms Act, it is the responsibility of the Officers of Clubs to ensure that they do not infringe the DPA. In the case of FAC enquiries from the Police, condition 3 of Schedule 2 of the Act states "that the processing of personal data may only be carried out where . . . the provision is required under legal obligation". If you require clarification please write to me requesting a copy of the note from the Information Commissioner. The NRA will keep under review its decision not to register.

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this document do not constitute any legal advice but are the views that we have gleaned from various information sources.

### **Review of Firearms Legislation**

I understand that there is going to be a consultation document with a view to a new Firearms Act. Members can be assured that the NRA will monitor developments very closely with other Associations and with our contacts in Parliament.

### **Team Captaincies**

#### **Appointments**

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

- 2005 Great Britain Target Rifle Team to Australia**  
Reg Roberts
- 2006 Great Britain Target Rifle Team to South Africa**  
Chris Hockley
- 2007 Great Britain Palma Team to Canada**  
John Bloomfield

#### **Forthcoming Tours**

We send our best wishes for a successful tour to:

- David Hossack - Great Britain Target Rifle Team to Kenya and Namibia - May/June 04
- Erica McMullen - Great Britain Under 25 Team to South Africa - March/April 04

#### **Nominations**

Nominations are required for a Captain for the following team. Please submit nominations to the Secretary General by 20 March 2004.

- GB Under 25 Team to Australia June 2005

## **General Notices**

### **Spring General Meeting**

This is a reminder that the Spring General Meeting will be held on Saturday 27 March at 5pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### **Bisley General Meeting**

The 2004 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 9pm on Wednesday 21 July 2004.

### **Disciplinary findings**

Mr CC Mallet Jnr has been admonished for using the Zero Range at Bisley other than for shooting from the prone position. Members and visitors to Bisley should note that the rules for use of the Zero Range have been newly defined, on grounds of safety, for prone

shooting only and aiming only at the approved target. This will be strictly enforced in future.

Mr RWH Stafford has been fined £200 for leaving his rifle unattended on the firing point during the British Commonwealth Rifle Club meeting in June 2003.

### **Acknowledgement**

On behalf of the Council I thank Simon Dixon for assisting us as Acting Secretary to the Council. He is doing this on an honorary basis until the post of Secretary General can be filled following the departure of Bob Fishwick at the end of last year.

John Jackman  
*Chairman*

## **Secretary-General**

(Part-time c. £30,000)

### **National Rifle Association - Bisley**

We are the national governing body for the entirely amateur sport of fullbore target rifle shooting in the UK. We are a charitable body and committed to the growth and development of what is one of the country's most internationally successful competitive sports.

Having hosted the shooting events for the Commonwealth Games in 2002, and with the prospect of hosting those events for the Olympics in 2012, we are keen to increase our membership and maintain a well-regulated and forward-looking environment in which the sport can flourish.

To this end we now need to appoint a Secretary-General in what is a part-time role. The principal function of the role is enthusiastically to encourage growth in the Association's membership in all shooting disciplines, particularly in those regions of the UK which do not have easy access to Bisley. The Secretary-General also acts as Secretary to the NRA Council and its Committees ensuring co-ordination between them, as well as handling the Association's public relations.

Candidates for this role will have proven administrative and inter-personal skills. Some experience of target shooting would be desirable but of more importance is enthusiasm and an empathy with the sport to promote and develop it UK wide. As such there will be a requirement to travel in the United Kingdom representing the Association.

Applications to: Michael Walton, Vice-Chairman of the Council, National Rifle Association, Bisley - National Shooting Centre, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB.

[www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)

[www.nsc-clays.co.uk](http://www.nsc-clays.co.uk)

*Please note that the above advert appeared in the local press at the end of January and several of the applicants are currently being interviewed.*



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



*by Nick Jeffs  
Chairman of the  
Membership Committee*

In this brief article, I intend to deal with some of the changes that have occurred this year in relation to NRA membership.

### **Membership Cards**

This year, you will have been issued with photocards. These will provide positive proof of identity and membership category. They also have "smart-card" potential which would make booking in and recording details much faster in the future. The cost of the cards has been largely recouped by sponsorship. I should like to thank those who sent in their photographs so promptly. The Editor informs me that a photo-retouching service is available at (considerable) extra cost. I should also like to thank the membership staff for their work in implementing the new system.

### **Affiliation**

Club secretaries have been asked to provide details of both NRA and non-NRA members this year. This serves two purposes. The first is to make sure that clubs do not pay unnecessary capitation fees for existing NRA members. The second, and more important, is to gather a database of all target shooters so that the NRA may determine how best to cater for

their needs. It is my ambition, as Chairman of the Membership Committee, that all fullbore shooters should be represented by the NRA. In the past, the NRA has been seen as Bisley target rifle orientated. The Membership Committee would like to encourage **all** target shooting. This includes the more accessible disciplines such as Gallery Rifle and Sporting Rifle. We shall be working closely with the Shooting Committee, the Regional Representatives and the Bisley management to implement this.

May I also remind club secretaries to forward a copy of their insurance certificate for 2004/2005 to the Membership Secretary Heather Webb as soon as possible.

### **200 Metres Associate Membership**

There has been a great deal of confusion about Associate Membership. The existing rules state that members of affiliated clubs may only shoot in club events, otherwise they do not have third party insurance. This category of membership is for FAC holders who wish to shoot at Bisley under their own name at ranges up to 200 metres. It is, essentially, a temporary measure to ensure that all shooters at Bisley are insured. Associate Membership entitles the shooter to hire a target, hire firearms and to receive the NRA Journal. It does not entitle a shooter to vote in NRA elections or to enter the Imperial Meeting. This category is only open to shooters who are not already members of the NRA. Associate Membership is aimed at people who wish to enjoy the facilities at Bisley, but do not wish to shoot formal target rifle.

The Charter of the NRA is to promote Marksmanship. I wish to formulate a membership strategy that will enable all fullbore shooters to enjoy their sport at a reasonable cost. I should be grateful if you would send your suggestions to your regional representative or the Membership Secretary.

## NRA OPEN DAY

Home Office permission has been granted to the NRA for an Open Day to be held on Saturday 1 May 2004 at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley. This will be open to members of the public to turn up on the day and experience the sport of target shooting.

A variety of shooting disciplines will be available for guests to try under the one-to-one supervision of NRA coaches. These will include air rifle, gallery rifle, fullbore target rifle, F Class, and black powder pistol. There will also be archery, side shows, stalls and the NRA Museum will be open to visitors.

After registration at the NRA Offices, guests will be able to purchase a book of tickets which can be exchanged for shoots on the ranges.

Please note that children must be at least 12 years of age to fire gallery rifle and 14 years of age to fire fullbore rifle at Bisley.

For further details contact the NRA Offices on 01483 797777 or see the NRA website

**[www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)**

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by  
Martin  
Farnan*

## Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting will be held over the long weekend Fri 28 - Mon 31 May this year. The event is now being organised by the NSC on behalf of the NRA, and the planning committee is being chaired by Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting. Over fifty events will be held, ranging from 10m Air Pistol to 1000 yards F Class Rifle. The event is again being supported by Target Sports, for whose generous sponsorship we are extremely grateful; it will feature in their forthcoming issues along with the entry form. The Match Conditions, Rules and Entry Forms are now available from the NRA, and copies may be obtained by ringing the NRA Range Office or the Shooting Division Secretary (extensions 152 or 149 respectively). The entry form and courses of fire are also available to download from the NRA website.

## Open Days

Two NRA Open Days will be held this year, one on Sat 1 May and the other on Sat 4 September. These days will be administered by the NSC but all the firing points will be staffed by NRA qualified coaches. Members of the public as well as members of the NRA and affiliated clubs may, under a Home Office dispensation, shoot without the normal requirement to have a Firearms Certificate etc. A registration fee in the region of £5 per person will be payable. Booklets of tickets in differing denominations may then be purchased, which may be used to pay the fees to fire a number of different firearms ranging from Air Pistol to fullbore Target Rifle. Please see the NRA website [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) for further details.

## Spring into Action Weekend

This event will be held over the weekend 27/28 March 2004. It will be similar to the Action Weekend held in March 2003, and will be open to all comers. Matches will include 1500, 25m Precision, 50m Precision (all GRCF, GRSB and Long Barrelled Revolver), 1000 yards .303/7.62 rifle and McQueen. Further details are

available from Fred James, the NRA Armourer, on 01483 797777 ext 134 and entry forms are now available in the Range Office.

## Imperial Meeting

### Entry Forms

The Individual TR and MR entry form is enclosed with this Journal. Also enclosed is a request form which may be used to obtain entry forms for team matches (including PS Veterans), Pistol and Gallery Rifle, Any Rifle (MR), Civilian Service Rifle and the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting.

### Entries

Late entry fees for individual TR and MR events will again be payable after 31 May (10% extra) with 25% extra payable after 30 June and 50% extra if entry is made within 48 hours of (but before 12.00 noon the day before) the start of the competition. No entries will be accepted after 12.00 noon the day before the competition.

Competitors will receive an initial acknowledgement of their entry. Once the entry has been processed and entered in the computer they will then receive a detailed entry summary as before.

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

**Please carefully read the notes on all entry forms before making your entry.**

### Individual Entry Fees

The individual entry fees for competitions, aggregates and sweepstakes will increase by 1% over those payable last year. However last year's 8% surcharge has been reduced to 6%. Rather than ask competitors to perform multiple calculations the **total** entry fee, **including** the surcharge, per competition will be shown on the entry form. The entry fee payable will therefore be less than that of last year.

### Marker Fees

The marker fee per competition will remain at £4.50 this year. The total marker fee payable must then be calculated (= number of individual squadded TR matches entered x £4.50). This total marker fee will not be subject to the 6% surcharge. The calculation of marker fees will continue to allow a 50% reduction of the marker costs to be given to all competitors under 25 years of age who are in full time education (who also benefit from a 50% reduction in their entry fees).

### Competitor RCOs

The paid NRA RCOs will be responsible for ensuring that each range is fully equipped with all the required equipment, before the start of all competitions, for the safe running of the range and for closing it down on the conclusion of shooting. Competitor RCOs will be

appointed as hitherto, and will continue, under the supervision of the NRA Wing Officer, to be responsible for the interpretation of the rules. Though special circumstances last year (the Australia and Junior Australia Matches) meant that some competitors had four duties, this year a few competitors may have three duties but the majority will have two. Their assistance in the running of the ranges during the Imperial Meeting will be much appreciated.

### **Eagle Eye foresights**

You are reminded that the rules concerning Eagle Eye, or other magnifying foresights, are as follows:

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

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

### **Service Rifle**

Entry Forms for both Service and Civilian competitors may be obtained from the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149. They must be returned by 25 June.

### **Target Rifle**

The Grand Aggregate will no longer be sponsored by Shearwater Insurance Services and the previous vouchers have been discontinued. The previous levels of prize money, awarded prior to this sponsorship, will be restored. Instead the Wednesday Aggregate will now be sponsored by Shearwater. The prize list will be spread over all four classes.

As requested in the Suggestion Book it has been agreed to provide a "sighting-in" target in the middle of each butt prior to the start of each detail. Competitors are reminded that no round should be placed in the rifle before the order to load has been given by their RCO, and any shot fired at this sighting-in target will entail immediate disqualification from the competition concerned, and may result in further disciplinary proceedings and penalties.

### **Schools**

The Schools Meeting will be held on very much the same lines as last year, though the design of the entry form has been completely amended to make it easier to complete. A proposed new format and programme for the Schools Meeting (as from 2005) will be put to Masters i/c Shooting for consideration, and details will be sent out prior to the Imperial Meeting for comment.

### **Match Rifle**

The Any Rifle 1200 yards competition will be returned to First Thursday this year, and will be shot alongside the Humphry as a stand alone competition. The

present competitions shot on Pre-Friday will continue and will now be extended to include a 1200 yards shoot. All three Any Rifle Extras shoots will now be 2ss and 15 to count. The aggregate of these three shoots, on Pre-Friday, will now make up the Any Rifle Extras Aggregate.

Para 467 was suspended for 2003, and tie shoots for first place for equal gun scores were abolished. V bulls were taken into account in all MR competitions, with competitors ranked in the prize list in strict accordance with their scores including V bulls. This proved popular with MR competitors and will therefore be continued.

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

### **McQueen Sniper competition**

This competition will again be shot on Butt 10 at a distance of 300 yards. The 300 yards bull, scoring 5, will be a 6" circle with the remainder of the target scoring four. When used at 200 yards (during the Historic Arms Meeting) or at other times of the year the existing scoring rings (a 4" bull and an 8" inner) will continue to be used.

Consideration is being given to extending the McQueen competition to include an Open Sniper Rifle class (McQueen E) replacing the present Any Rifle class (which would then become McQueen F). The McQueen F (Any Rifle) would then be open to literally any rifle.

There would then be three classes of sniper rifle, McQueen A (Sniper rifle "as issued"), McQueen C (Classic sniper rifle) and McQueen E (Open sniper rifle). This opens the possibility of introducing an individual Sniper Rifle Aggregate for a Sniper ACE trophy. If this proposal is agreed further details will be given in the Summer Journal.

The Army are reintroducing a sniper pairs match this year, to be held during their meeting. The RAF may also shoot alongside this match. The Sniper Pairs trophy, awarded last year (for the first time) to a team of two firing the McQueen Sniper competition, will now revert to being awarded to the champion **military** sniper pair. The McQueen Pairs match may be retained, with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded depending on entries received.

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

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



## **Ammunition**

### **Prices**

Radway Green has not yet notified the selling price of 155 grains ammunition to us, but it is unlikely to be possible for the NSC to hold the current price for a sixth consecutive year. The **proposed** pricing structure for 2004 is therefore as follows:

for orders from 1 to 4999	44p per round;
for orders from 5000 to 12999	43p per round;
for orders from 13000 to 19999	42p per round;
for orders of 20000 and up	41p per round.

However should the 2004 price from RG be similar to that of 2003, a revised price list will be published in the Summer Journal.

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

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

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

It has again been agreed that, as an exception to the prices shown above, all 7.62mm RG 155 grains ammunition (of whatever quantity) bought for use at County Open Meetings only (not for resale outside the County Meeting) will be priced at 41p per round, ie with the maximum discount possible. Any ammunition remaining unused after the Meeting may be returned for a full refund, and should not be retained for resale. County Secretaries should contact the Armourer for further details.

## **Ranges**

### **Bisley Range Regulations**

The 2004 Range Regulations have been published. The timings for shooting will remain as for last year. Copies of the Range Regulations are available from the Range Office on request.

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

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

### **Charges for use of "multi-distance" targets**

It has been noted that the pattern of club and individual bookings of targets on Century and

Stickledown now includes much more use of "multi-distance" target shooting. Many, if not most, bookings now involve two or more distances, in many cases requiring the Range Office to allocate the club concerned different targets at different distances (moving sideways rather than falling back). This causes considerable additional costs since, for example:

- a. the additional targets have to be repaired after shooting (eg a ten target booking at 300, 500 and 600 yards may require **30** targets to be repaired and refaced);
- b. all additional distances require an extra target face;
- c. the targets at each of the distances booked by the club making the booking may only be used for one-third of the period booked, thereby making them unavailable for booking to other clubs or individuals for the whole period.

It has been decided that the additional costs incurred, and the loss of income due to partial use of targets, must be recovered. Rather than simply increase the cost of all targets it has been agreed only to apply an increase to those using targets at more than one distance. It has therefore been agreed that an additional charge of £2 per target per extra distance (beyond the first) will be applied on all bookings as from 1 April 2004.

Hence, for example, a single target booked at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards all day at a weekend in Summer Season will be charged £63.20 + 3 x £2 = £69.20.

Clubs may consider booking and using targets in different ways to increase the efficiency of range bookings and also to reduce their costs. It may be possible, for example, for a Club running a championship to book three targets at 300 yards, three targets at 500 yards and three targets at 600 yards, rather than asking for nine targets at 300, then 500, then 600 yards (potentially using 27 targets). Rather than squadding all competitors to shoot in distances order, one-third of the competitors could shoot 300/500/600 yards, one-third could shoot 500/600/300 yards, and one-third could shoot 600/300/500 yards.

### **Range Radios**

Some range radios have not been returned to the Range Office on the conclusion of shooting. It is possible that these have been inadvertently taken off camp in a shooting box, a jacket pocket or the boot of a car (one even did a return trip to Germany last year!). Those who have acted as RCOs and have handled the radios recently are requested to search for and return any radio found. Radio SS1 is particularly required. Your assistance would be much appreciated.

## **Butt Markers**

Shooting organisers are again advised to make their own arrangements for butt markers if they can since the National Shooting Centre is unable to guarantee the availability of markers, at any time, for a variety of reasons. The strict observation of the employment law for children by the National Shooting Centre and the general downward turn in casual workers seeking employment at Bisley Ranges are making the task of find a full complement of markers an increasingly difficult task. Sunday poses the greatest problem since anyone under the age of sixteen may only work for two hours, and no later than eleven o'clock in the morning.

These problems have been highlighted in past years, but few shooting organisations appear to have made their own arrangements. The shortage of markers has, on occasions, been overcome by using recruits from the training camp at Pirbright. However, this has now become rather difficult due to operational duties.

When there is a shortfall of markers the Range Office staff have to prioritise where those markers present will mark. This is usually done in the following order:

(1) Stickledown Range, (2) large competitions, (3) the longer distances down to shorter ones on Century and finally (4) Short Siberia.

Complaints about the standard of marking should be made, in the first instance, to the Butt Supervisor over the radio. The Butt Supervisor will then stand in the vicinity of the marker in question and will keep an eye on him/her. If the problem is not rectified the firer should speak to Control (the Range Office) on the Control channel, highlighting the problem. Disciplinary action will be taken where necessary.

It does help to build up a rapport with your marker. Tell the marker the name of your club and find out theirs. Tell them the course of fire and stand them down where possible, even if for only a couple of minutes. If they have done a good job tell them so, and particularly good service might be rewarded with a small tip.

Please remember that whereas your shooting organisation may only need to find one or two markers, the Range Office have to find more than one hundred every week in high season! It would therefore be extremely helpful if you could assist by arranging even a few of your own markers.

## **Civilian Use of MoD Ranges**

### **Landmarc**

A new firm, Landmarc Support Services, last year won the contract to administer MoD ranges on behalf of Headquarters Army Training Estates (ATE). Landmarc have been administering these services from 1 April 2003. Until this happened, however, the NRA was not aware of these arrangements. A meeting was therefore urgently sought with the Commander

ATE and the Operations Manager of Landmarc to determine how these new arrangements would affect civilian clubs.

Both HQ ATE and Landmarc accepted that problems are presently caused to Club Secretaries by large regional variations in charges. They agreed to re-examine these with an assurance that they would aim for consistency wherever possible. If, however, local circumstances caused variations in charges then these would be explained to the Clubs concerned. The Commander ATE also agreed to re-examine the previous discussions, of which he had been unaware, between the NRA and his predecessor on the question of licence fees and their period of validity.

We now understand that a scale of charges, applicable nationally, has been agreed and as soon as we have further details Club Secretaries will be informed and the information displayed on the NRA website.

### **Range Action Safety Plans (RASPS)**

Two points which civilian clubs may well already have come across are the requirements to provide Range Action and Safety Plans (RASPs) on arrival at a range administered by Landmarc and the provision of First Aid arrangements. A RASP is effectively a check list to ensure that all required actions, to ensure a safe range day, have been taken.

Some ranges are now requiring Clubs to hand in their RASP on arrival at the range. To assist Club Secretaries, a suggested generic RASP has been forwarded to all affiliated Clubs which should be amended, as required, to reflect local circumstances. This RASP includes some details which will remain common from one shooting day to another, and some details which will change each shooting day (such as the names of staff). It is hoped that this will be of use to Clubs in planning their range days. If range complexes provide their own generic RASP, then this may be used instead.

### **First Aid Cover on MoD Ranges**

One particular requirement, which is highlighted, is the provision of First Aid cover by Clubs on any MoD range. The degree of cover provided is a matter for the Club to decide, and should take into account such matters as the range to be used, the practices and firearms to be used, the number and experience of those Club members who will be firing and the proximity of the nearest medical facilities or Hospital. The Club's nominated First Aider(s) should therefore have sufficient qualification(s) to provide immediate First Aid pending the arrival, if necessary, of professional medical care, or admission of an injured member to hospital. A number of civilian courses are available, run by the St John's Ambulance service, and details should be sought by Clubs from their local branch if they need to have one or more Club members trained to fulfil this role.



## **Marksman's Calendar**

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

## **Brocock (or similar) Air Pistols**

Under the recent Anti-Social Behaviour Act a number of new measures have been introduced which control air guns and their use. One measure in particular could cause problems for some members, and is therefore brought to your attention. From 20 January 2004, under the provisions of the Act, it will be an offence to manufacture, sell, purchase, transfer or acquire any air gun which uses a self-contained gas cartridge system.

Anyone who already owns one and who wishes to retain it must obtain a firearms certificate (£50 for a new application or £26 for variation of an existing certificate) from the police. Such application must be made before 30 April 2004. As an alternative, existing owners may hand their gun in to the police for disposal, without compensation, before 30 April 2004.

From 30 April 2004 it will be an offence, punishable by a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years imprisonment, to possess a self-contained gas cartridge gun. Please note that this does not apply to air guns that use a CO2 bulb system since CO2 bulbs do not contain a projectile and are therefore not self-contained.

## **Notes from the Deputy Director of Shooting**

### **Postal Matches**

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

### **Courses**

The first Probationary Courses (Course 1) for 2004 for those wishing to join the NRA as new individual members started on 31 January. The next Probationary Course (Course 2) will start on 20 March 2004. The training periods in each course will be at approximately fortnightly intervals.

A two day Skills Enhancement Course for Target Rifle will be held at Bisley over the weekend 27/28 March

2004. The course fee will be in the region of £65, and the course will include both theory and practical range work.

A wind coaching course will be run over the same weekend, 27/28 March 2004. The instructor will be Bill Richards, wind coach to the victorious Palma Team last July.

The next two (one day) RCO courses at Bisley will be on 24 and 25 April 2004.

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

## **Range Conducting Officers**

### **RCO Renewals**

All qualified NRA RCOs are reminded that the NRA RCO qualification is valid for six years only. After this time the qualification must be renewed, allowing the opportunity to update qualified RCOs on changes which have occurred during the previous six years. Club Secretaries should note the period of validity of an NRA RCO qualification, and should encourage those qualified RCOs in their Club, whose qualifications are nearing the six year point, to apply for re-qualification. To apply to renew an RCO qualification contact Maureen Peach on ext 149. Full details on how to renew RCO qualifications are on the NRA website at [www.nra.org.uk/news](http://www.nra.org.uk/news). Please note that all RCOs who qualified in 1998 must renew their qualification this year.

### **RCO Manuals**

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

As an aid to safe running of ranges, this manual may be purchased by all those involved in running civilian ranges, or assisting in running military ranges. The price is £5.00 plus postage; please apply to Phyllis Farnan on ext 150. Those who are attending NRA RCO Courses, or who are renewing their qualifications, will continue to be issued with their manual free of charge.

Copies of the revised Code of Practice for muzzle loading firearms are also available priced at £5.50 plus postage.

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

Details of the NRA Range Office Target are shown on the NRA website [www.nra.org.uk/news](http://www.nra.org.uk/news). Last minute availability of targets due to cancellations will also be published on the website wherever possible.

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by  
*Jeremy  
Staples*

The start of the 2004 shooting season is fast approaching and the staff at the NSC are busily putting in place the arrangements for another busy season. Some refurbishments and improvements of our facilities are underway and we hope to provide a better service for all shooters that visit Bisley.

### **Short Siberia Access Road**

Despite ongoing discussions with Surrey Heath Council, planning consent has not yet been granted for the Century Range/Short Siberia access roads. We have employed Planning Consultants who are making significant headway with the local Council and with luck consent will be granted in time to allow the work to go ahead prior to the time restrictions placed on us by English Nature.

### **Short Siberia Range**

It is clear that by reducing the target frame size we can increase the number of targets available at 200 yards on Short Siberia. We have now ordered a number of new frames to provide an additional three targets available at this distance. Work will also be carried out on the 200 yards firing point and we are looking into the feasibility of covering at least part of this firing point.

### **Ablution Block**

A major refurbishment of Glen's Glory is currently underway with two new boilers together with new shower fittings being installed. New boilers are also being fitted into Site 5 ablutions and both blocks will be fully redecorated throughout.

In addition ablution blocks on Sites 2, 5, 6 and 7 are being redecorated throughout and a number of minor improvements carried out. These together with an improved cleaning service will hopefully reduce the number of problems encountered last year.

### **Estate**

Discussions are ongoing with Guildford Borough Council in respect of the possibilities for further

development at Bisley and in particular the possibility of increasing the number of seasonal chalet buildings on the site. We have received a very positive response from members following the article in the last Journal and I hope that some progress can be made in this regard within the next 12 months.

We are also discussing with the local authority the possibility of extending the caravan and hut season and we expect a response from them very shortly.

### **Changes of Staff**

We are very pleased to welcome John Gardner into the Range Office. Unfortunately Howard Dixon has decided to further his career with Holts Auctioneers and will be based in Norfolk. We are currently recruiting a replacement who should be in place during March.

Pauline Coyne has joined as a Housekeeper and Eddie Harman is now working full time in our Target Sheds. Derek O'Sullivan has now been promoted to Team Leader of the Target Shed.

### **Marketing**

We have already had a number of very successful corporate events at Bisley this year and we are in discussions with a number of major companies looking to provide shooting days at Bisley for their clients and business acquaintances. Please contact me if you would like any further information on any corporate events we could host for your company.

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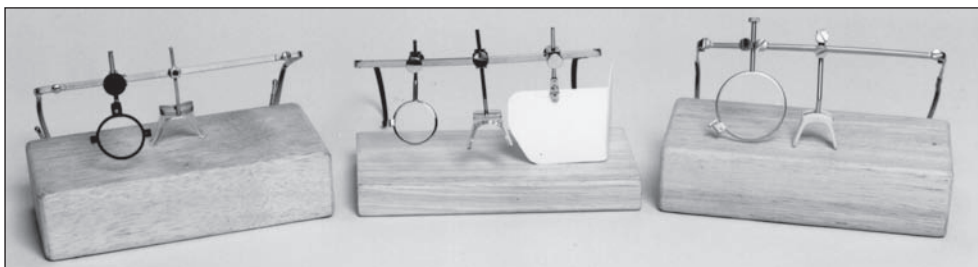
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566: iris and 6 colour filters	£89	568: iris, 48 colours, twin polarisers	£159	581: as above but radially adjustable	£35
575: 1.5x diopter, 5 cols & polarisers	£155	507: 6 snap-on col. rings for alignment	£13	586: 1.3x magnifying lens	£23
577: adaptor, allows use without diopter	£10	508: as above with 6 coloured filters	£33	524: iris to restrict white round bullseye	£40

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## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2004

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2004:

<b>Captain</b>	Richard Bailie	Ulster, Ireland
<b>Adjutant</b>	Peter Coley	Cornwall, Ireland
<b>Coaches</b>	Jim Dunn	Berkshire, Wales
	Keith Trowbridge	Lincolnshire
<b>Shooters</b>	Steve East	Oxfordshire
	Sarah Jane Binder	Yorkshire
	Guy Palmer	Cheshire, England
	Jonathan Taylor	Berkshire
	Emma Nuttall	Derbyshire
	Gareth Morris	Cambs, Wales
	Warren Hedley	Regular Army
	Garnett Faulkner	Tyrone, Ireland
	Jonathan Miller	Kent
	Chris Slator	Ulster, Ireland

### Great Britain Rifle Team to Australia 2005

I am delighted that the Council of the NRA has honoured me with the Captaincy of this tour which will incorporate the all-important Australia Match to be held in Brisbane on 29 - 30 June.

Time is short and Council funding for the tour will be limited. I intend to take a team of 16 for a period not to exceed three weeks (provisionally 13 June - 3 July) at an estimated cost, without contributions from fundraising, of £2,750.

Please send your shooting CV, with a current passport sized photograph, to the address below. As I am actively seeking applications from Commonwealth Games aspirants, I will initially select a fund raising group before the Imperial Meeting this year and make the final team selection **after** teams for the CSF Championships have been finalised (late July/early August).

Applications must be received no later than 30 April 2004. Please bear in mind your leave entitlement. There will be very little time between arriving back from the tour and attending the Imperial Meeting.

Training weekends will be organised for September 2004 and May 2005.

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

### Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa 2006

I am delighted to have been honoured with the Captaincy of the Great Britain Team to South Africa in 2006. Chris Fitzpatrick has accepted the post of Vice Captain.

The tour is likely to be at least 3½ weeks duration in late March early April, with a provincial shoot both before and possibly after the main SABU Championship at Bloemfontein in early April 2006. My aim is to take a strong team which is likely to include a small number of those who have specific recent experience of shooting in South Africa. However, I should also like to include shooters who have not been to shoot or toured in Africa, so that they come to experience the magic and huge diversity that the continent offers. I also hope to lead a successful yet sociable team whose personalities and determination to support each other will provide a winning and above all enjoyable, combination on tour. Please let me know of your interest by writing to me at my home address by the beginning of June 2004.

Chris Hockley  
18 Berens Rd  
Shrivenham  
Swindon SN6 8EG

### Great Britain Rifle Team – Palma 2007

The Council of the National Rifle Association has honoured me with the appointment as Captain of the Great Britain Rifle Team which will contest the 2007 Palma Match in Canada.

I intend to form a new 'Palma Squad' next year, from which the Team will ultimately be chosen. A notice inviting applications to join the training squad will be posted in the next (Summer 2004) issue of the NRA Journal.

John Bloomfield

**SUPPORT GB TEAMS**

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## **Funding GB and NRA Teams Travelling Overseas**

*by Robert Stafford*

Since Chris Hockley wrote his article for the Summer Journal in 2002 (pp32-33) there have been significant changes both in terms of the grants received from the Sports Council via GBTSF and the scope and Terms of Reference of the Team Finance Committee (TFC) and the Overseas Teams Fund (OTF).

For some time we have been warned that government policy is to support only medal winning Olympic sports. This has resulted in a gradual decline in the grant received from over £30,000 in 1998 to the zero sum we expect for the year 2004-5. At the same time, more disciplines have been sending GB teams to compete internationally overseas apart from target rifle.

The TFC has now agreed revised terms of reference with Council which specifically include the raising of funds for all disciplines, as well as their disbursement. New members have been recruited to the TFC so that all disciplines currently sending official teams are represented. In the short term we cannot hope to replace the £30,000 annually but, with the active involvement and support of members from all disciplines, we can make a start. We need ideas and we need helpers to make them work. The Golf Day, covered below, is only the first of these initiatives.

### **The Mathew Clark Golf Challenge**

*by Chris Hockley*

New and successful ideas of how to raise funds for overseas teams are few and far between. In 2002 though, Roger Hanley persuaded Mathew Clark, the drinks supplier and distributor to many of the Clubs at Bisley, to sponsor a fund raising Golf Day in aid of the 2003 GB Team to New Zealand. A most successful first day was run in September 2002 and repeated on Monday 29 September 2003 at Pine Ridge Golf Club. Pine Ridge is just beyond the road which runs behind the tree line at the rear of the Stickledown danger area. Teams of four were invited to participate by members of the GB NZ team and by Mathew Clark, who also provided a fantastic range of prizes and of course drinks during the event. There were prizes for the top teams (Stableford points being used and based on full handicap) and of course individual best Stableford scores. GB NZ team members hosted the golf teams and provided marshals for such additional competitions as the longest drive, nearest the pin and the hole-in-one, for which a car worth £8000 was the prize. Whilst the team had to pay the insurance for this prize, it was in fact nearly won by Mathew Clark's organiser, Mark Lockyer, whose shot ended just nine inches from the hole! The winning team was from County Homeseach, the property consultants and specialists, who were sponsored by Jonathan Haward, County Homeseach's MD and a GB NZ team member.

Mathew Clark have agreed to sponsor this event for a further three years and Roger Hanley, who negotiated the agreement with them, had requested that the event should then be for the benefit of the OTF general fund. All GB and NRA teams eligible for grants from the OTF will now benefit from this new and successful fund-raising event. In addition, those teams who produce golf team entries will also share in a percentage of the profit from the entries they generate. If readers have any contacts who would be interested in entering the event on **27 Sept 2004** please send details to the Chairman TFC, Chris Hockley, c/o the NRA.

### **Great Britain Target Rifle Team, New Zealand, January 2003 - Summary Accounts**

#### **Captain – Bob Aitken**

A full account of this tour was given in the Summer 2003 Journal (pp35-38). The team of 21 (including the Tour Manager) competed in the main New Zealand championships at the Trentham Range near Wellington, North Island. Before this they visited the South Island and shot against clubs near Christchurch at Tai Tapu and Malvern. After leaving Trentham there were further matches and competitions in the North Island at Te Puke (Rotorua) and Mt Kauri (North Auckland).

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Travel & Accommodation	50,687	NRA OTF Grant	10,000
Car Hire & Petrol	5,360	Sports Council Grant	5,000
Direct Shooting Costs	6,727	Payments by Team Members	34,838
Protocol	1,313	Payments by Non-Team Members	4,812
GB & Tour Uniform Items	6,463	Sponsorship and donations	27,182
Team Administration & Insurance	1,676		
Subsistence & Refunds	8,706		
Team Donation to NRA OTF *	900		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£81,832</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£81,832</b>

Note \* - Following the success of the team's fundraising the sum of £900 has been donated to the NRA (OTF) for allocation to future GB teams.

## REGIONAL MATTERS

### Scotland

#### The Scottish Open Meeting

The "Scottish" will return to Barry Buddon for this year over the weekend of Friday 11 through to Sunday 13 June. The Council of the Association have taken a serious look at both the costs, timings and programme for the Championships following the problems at the last three Championship weekends since the Foot and Mouth cancellation in 2001.

No longer can we assume that shooters will just turn up as was the case in better times when the Army allowed what amounted to almost free range time. The ever increasing costs of hiring and manning military ranges outside Bisley have to be met and have seriously affected attendances.

To this end we have dispensed with most of the prize monies previously paid out and will instead offer a full shooting programme with the intention of encouraging more shooters, including F Class and club shooters to the event, to have real shooting fun amongst colleagues.

I am aware that in the past even many Scottish shooters have not attended in the belief, sometimes wrongly, that too high a proportion of their entry fees went to the few shooters lucky enough to win our trophies. For those who have never had the responsibility of running such an event the facts are that before even raising or paying for a target lane the range charges at Barry can run into over £500 per day depending on the number of range staff required. At the 2002 event the Association lost some £3,000 due to the small entry that year.

To break even we need an entry in excess of 80 over the three days; with over 150 Scottish shooters in individual membership this is surely achievable with some marketing effort. In addition we will welcome wholeheartedly shooters from the other Home Countries especially those who wish to shoot in the

Lawrence Match. We must at the same time accept that the old brigade from principally England are sadly no longer with us. If we are to continue, we must entice a new generation to come and shoot on what is still regarded as one of the UK's best shooting ranges.

In essence therefore if the Scottish Championships, as we have known them for many years, are to continue at Barry we need a very concentrated effort to take part this year, especially from Scottish members. We have already invited the Irish to take part in strength this year with an offer to reciprocate in alternative years. The English Twenty Club is expected to send a team as well.

Some of my more extreme views are already well known, but I honestly feel strongly that the event has, in recent times, been let down by Scottish shooters for many and varied reasons. Fellow Scottish shooters it is time to stand and be counted, attend the Scottish this year and return the event to the grand social event of the past. Come and have some fun and remember that taking part also has its pleasures; in every event, whilst there is only one trophy winner, everyone who comes wins.

We have even considered reduced entry fees on a range fee only basis to encourage more club shooters, subject to demand. My own club will consider subsidised entries from within their membership fee at their AGM. There is even the possibility of accommodation within the Barry Camp complex subject to availability and demand.

The Association has tried to encourage you to come - the rest is up to you the shooters. Everyone will be made most welcome - our Scottish shooting future depends on participation and attendance. It is hoped that a social function will be provided by the Forfar district local authority. Lastly please remember that the distance from Bisley is the same whichever way you travel.

Thank you and I hope to see many additional faces new and old this year at the Scottish Championships.

*Bob Aitken*  
*Chairman of SRA*

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#### **124<sup>th</sup> Annual Aberdeen Wapinschaw 2004 Sunday 2 May at Black Dog A Range**

The Aberdeen Wapinschaw represents one of the country's oldest competitions, tracing a lineage from 1496. Wapinschaw in their present form have been held at Aberdeen for more than 123 years. In recent years, the Aberdeen Full Bore Gun Club and Wapinschaw Association have co-operated in running the event.



The King's Cup, a magnificent and ornate 18" high solid silver trophy presented in 1904 by King Edward VII, along with one of the original prizes from the 1862 event, the County Ladies Brooch, is still competed for in the civilian arm of the Wapinschaw. Engraved with the words "Presented to the Aberdeenshire Artillery and Rifle Association by the Ladies of the County MDCCCLXII", the Ladies Brooch is in the form of a traditional plaid brooch, although four times larger than usual, with a magnificent centrepiece of natural Cairngorm crystal. The King's Cup, in recent years, has been presented for the Open Rifle Aggregate and the County Ladies Brooch for the Military Veteran Rifle Aggregate.

This year the civilian competition will consist of deliberate, snap and rapid fire for open class rifle, sporting rifle, vintage, veteran and classic military rifles. Muzzle loading rifles will be shot in a deliberate competition. The course of fire will take place at 200 yards prone. In addition, it is hoped to run a 300 yards event in an F Class type format, subject to confirmation. Prizes will be awarded in each class and there will be Grand Aggregate prizes for open class, sporting, vintage, classic and veteran rifles.

Don't worry if you think your shooting's not up to it (whose is!) as it's all about taking part and enjoying the spirit of competition with fellow club members and shooters from all over the UK. Come and take part in a shooting tradition!

Contact Lara or Charles Bestwick tel: 01466 711319 or e-mail [info@afbgc.co.uk](mailto:info@afbgc.co.uk)

Details are available on the club website:  
[www.afbgc.co.uk](http://www.afbgc.co.uk)

## Northern Region

### KGV Heat to be held at new venue

Although not strictly NRA business, it is pleasing to hear that for the first time ever the Northern Heat of the English Twenty Club King George V inter-county competition is to be held at Battle Hill Range, near Barnard Castle, Co Durham, on 8 May this year.

In living memory, the match has only been shot at ranges in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and (once only - 1963) in Northumberland. Being a Durham man, this year's organiser, Graeme Clarke, applied some moral pressure to the Army at Catterick Training Area, and found them extremely helpful and supportive. This is a rare good news story!

Battle Hill is a delightful range, with 12 targets back to 600 yards, at an elevation of around 1000 feet, in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All the county team members will have a great day - assuming that the snow has melted!

## City of Newcastle Rifle Club

Traditionally we have restricted our shooting to TR, but are now also providing for and encouraging F Class. We are keen to increase attendances at our shoots at Ponteland Range near Newcastle upon Tyne. This is an excellent facility with shooting up to 600 yards.

Our provisional dates are:

25 April	21 August
22 & 23 May	11 September
5 June	10 October
10 July	

Anyone interested should contact the Hon Sec Michael Black by e-mail: [michaeljmblack@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaeljmblack@yahoo.co.uk)

## Northumberland CRA Championship Meeting

The Northumberland County Rifle Association's annual Championship Meeting is open to all-comers. It will be run by the City of Newcastle Rifle Club at Ponteland Range, Northumberland, on 22 and 23 May. Those who have previously attended will be sent entry forms in the usual manner. F Class will be catered for. Those interested in attending should contact Keith Pugh at [keithopugh@hotmail.com](mailto:keithopugh@hotmail.com) or telephone 01670 772234.

The Club will hold its own Open Meeting on Sunday October 10. Contact details as above.

## Range Office Targets

### Targets available by the hour at weekends

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# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## Practical Rifle

*by Paul Hunter*

Hello to one and all; this is my first go at trying to put pen to paper for the magazine since joining the NRA Council as the PR representative. There are not many results in this article, so if you were looking to see your name in lights, sorry! Since the last article appeared in the Journal, we have completed the Nationals in September and had the final shoot of the 2003 PR league. Congratulations go to Nigel Greenaway and Mark Bradley for their respective wins.

It has been an interesting few months for me in my new post as liaison to the NRA. First, we in PR had a rather involved, but none the less, healthy debate about the future of PR, including kit, rifles and of course bipods, something that even the shooting press picked up on. It was great to see some different views, as we can all become a bit set in our ways. Anyhow, with much debate and many and varied points of view, a new class of competition was born: Classic PR. This is a chance for all of you that own No 4s, SMLEs, L42s, No 4Ts etc to get out and shoot them over a demanding, yet rewarding course of fire. After all it was what they were designed for; just ask any members of LERA. It should be noted that iron sights give even the most expensive optics a run for their money on these types of shoots. Positional shooting, a varied selection of targetry and sometimes unique ranges provide a challenge to firer and their equipment. Moreover, I **know** you dedicated TR members have these rifles in your armouries! Come along and shoot, and do not believe the horror stories. After all we embrace your discipline by incorporating prone long range shooting in difficult winds. Maybe we could stage a combined shoot? Take some stages from your matches, combine them with some of ours and make a day's shoot: PR against TR, for charity? We would of course use iron sights, and most of you can obtain a magazine fed rifle. Likewise, I hope that the LERA members will be tempted to have a go, as it would complement their existing monthly shoots. A ménage a trois, interesting . . .

Moving on, my next challenge came as a result of the MoD's communication about FFA (Field Firing Areas). Oh what joy! I am glad that Martin Farnan was able to head-off the initial Army signal and regain some common sense. However, it still caused some consternation and a few frantic days were spent trying to find out all the information. But where has it left us? Well effectively where we were before it came out! The NRA qualification is still valid at exactly the same MoD ranges as before, including all the positional shooting and run down stages. Well, why the fuss? Well, the Army were basically reminding

us of the limits of this qualification and making heavy weather of it.

As a result of the new national rules for booking military ranges, I am compiling a RASP (Range Action Safety Plan) that is PR specific (NB we cannot use Armed Services documentation since we shoot as civilians). After my typing marathon is complete, I hope to have the draft copy ready for approval at the first league match of the year. It will also be available on disc, or by e-mail, shortly afterwards. Match organisers would now only need to change a few basic details to the template RASP to customise it for their individual clubs or match requirements.

One of the more important events, later in the year, is the Imperial Meeting. I hope that most of us will be able to shoot as civilians alongside the military again this year. However, as a result of the Services moving some of their shoots around, the Wednesday has the potential to be a civilian non-shooting day. Would there be any interest in trying to get something arranged for that day? Possibilities include a Civilian FIBUA match on Nelson (subject to range space and agreement) or a practice shoot/competition at another MoD range. Please let me know so we can try to get it organised early. If there was a FIBUA shoot (100m to 25m) would any .22 rim-fire or gallery rifle shooters be interested?

With this year's shooting to look forward to, I would like to be able to welcome new shooters. The PR league travels around the Country, so at some point it will pass by your neck of the woods; there is really no excuse not to come and give it a go. If you are unsure or new to the discipline, we will assign a mentor to provide help and advice where needed. It is possible to gain a great deal from these matches: windage, hold overs/unders and tactical thinking are all part of the day's shooting. Don't be fooled into thinking that it is just a rapid-fire event. It is true that you may need around 150 rounds (military surplus will do) to complete the day's shooting, but this is split into long and short range. You will shoot standing, sitting, prone and at a variety of tempos. You might even be required to jog a little, but nothing bad I can assure you! On most shoots there is an immediate feedback to the shooter to indicate when you are doing the right thing. For example the target drops, or disappears and is replaced by a smaller one.

These are already some of the dates for the coming year starting at Fingringhoe 7 Feb, Bangor 28-29 Feb, East Holme 27 March, and Llansilin 3 April. For further dates around the country check out our website [www.practicalrifle.co.uk](http://www.practicalrifle.co.uk). This also provides the latest



and greatest news or follow the link from the NRA website. Remember, with a valid FAC you can enter and shoot these events without taking part in the league. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Black Rifles at Bisley? – High-Power Rifle**

I thought I would write a few words about High-Power Rifle shooting, as it is continuing to gain new members every year in the UK. There are regular events held at Bisley, and I have no doubt a few people who read this magazine have seen or rather heard the shoots taking place, especially the rapid stages, and wondered what the heck they (the shooters) are up to? I hope you bear with me as I explain just what makes this discipline tick and just how good a skills trainer and interesting shoot it can be.

High-power shooting is an import from the good old USA. However, don't let that put you off: it is a demanding and difficult course. Importantly, it has nothing to do with rapidly turning live rounds into empty cases for no apparent benefit. In America, it is one of the major rifle competitions, supported by the NRA and the Civilian Marksmanship Program. So how do we do things in the UK? Well, the course is designed for semi-auto military rifles, but to us here that makes no difference. Much as we would love to shoot it as it should be shot, the course can be completed with a bolt-action rifle. The military rifle reference can be somewhat misleading. The rifles used in High-Power are predominately AR15s, as in the US. Unfortunately, of course, in the UK that means straight pull manually operated versions. Both the UK and US rifles have virtually nothing in common with their service issue cousins, as you would see if you, as our transatlantic cousins would say, 'popped the hood'. Each rifle is tuned to suit the firer, although as in TR, certain basic criteria have to be met, such as trigger let off weights and overall dimensions. The most pertinent rule is that externally they must be, in appearance, identical to the issue service rifle. However, internally they are composed of free floating special (fast) twist barrels, match triggers and match grade sights. There are sub-classes which include some exotic creations in all sorts of calibres and styles but that is for another day.

So do you have to use a straight pull AR15 to take part? No, not at all! The original match was designed around the M1 Garand, which had an eight round magazine. You can shoot the current match with a rifle which has a magazine that can hold five rounds and then be easily reloaded with five rounds. As you can imagine, this puts this competition within reach of any magazine fed bolt-action rifle using iron sights; Enfields being the most obvious choice, with a higher capacity ten round magazine. However, it is true to say that there are a lot of AR15 shooters out there, especially shooters with the 'Flat Top' upper variants, so they can chop between iron and optic sights, since

their owners often use them for PR as well, although, many dedicated High-Power and PR shooters use a different rifle for each.

The true beauty of this match is the diversity of the practices. There are slow and rapid-fire stages combined with positional shooting, comprising standing, sitting and prone. When starting, there are stages at which you will naturally excel and stages that you will wish you had never fired. However, the friendly nature of your fellow shooters, who are willing to coach you, makes the day always an interesting and positive experience.

There are variations to the match to suit the range being used, but the full match runs at distances of 200, 300 and 600 yards and takes 88 rounds. There are reduced targets available to allow the match to be held at 200 yards, or less in some cases. There are even scaled .22 targets available if you want to try it with one of the AR15 sub-calibre conversions, or any suitable .22 rifle. Great for practising at an indoor range before the fullbore shoot. Last year we even had an internet UK v USA shoot, with the British team shooting at Bisley on the same day as the American team shooting in Arizona. The USA won, but not by much. Our American cousins even had a rather unique trophy made for the event.

So what is the format for the match? Well, generally the day starts with a meeting at Jenny's for the mandatory low calorie, sports nutritional approved breakfast! It is over this informal get together that the details are organised. It is very much like the Service Rifle matches in the Imperial Meeting, where the non-shooting detail goes to the butts and pulls targets, before swapping mid-morning and mid-afternoon. As High-Power shooters are all nice people, the butts duty passes very quickly; there is always new info to assimilate, information is freely given by the better shooters and I can say there is almost a family atmosphere. There are several husband/wife, father/son, father/daughter combinations of members who participate on a regular basis too.

So let us walk through a match. The first practice is held at 200 yards and is a standing slow fire match; 22 rounds in 22 minutes, single feeding the rounds. Targets are marked after every shot and slings are not allowed. A tricky practice, with two sighting shots and 20 to count, but very satisfying when you get it right, or so I am told . . .

The second practice is also held at 200 yards. This time it is a sitting rapid; you have two slow-time sighting shots followed by a 60 seconds exposure. From the standing alert position, on appearance of the target you have to adopt the sitting position and fire ten rounds, which includes a reload. Remember I said this match was developed for the Garand and its eight round magazine, so shooters were required to demonstrate their weapon handling skills, as well as

the marksmanship ones. This tradition continues today, in the form of firing a magazine of two followed by a magazine of eight being the norm. Just to prove that you could do it better the next time, you immediately get the chance, with a second string of ten rounds, as this practice is shot twice.

A change of distance takes the firers back to 300 yards to the prone rapids. This time two sighting shots followed by a 70 seconds exposure and ten rounds, again including a reload. Just as before, you have to move from the standing alert position and you get a second string to try and make good any mistakes.

The final stage is at 600 yards comprising 22 rounds in 22 minutes again, as in the 200 yards stage, 20 to count. However, they at least let you shoot from the

prone position; a taxing shoot, but again very satisfying when you get it right.

The targetry used is very similar to that used in TR shoots. It varies with the distance shot and has a V bull (X ring) dimension of one MOA; the 10 ring is two MOA. As you can see it is challenging and different; you need to be able to read the wind accurately and be able to shoot from multiple positions whilst utilising good weapon handling skills.

So why not come along and see for yourself. We are happy to host people interested in the discipline.

For dates and further details look at:

**[www.highpower rifle.co.uk](http://www.highpower rifle.co.uk)**

Come and take part - you will be glad you did!

## **Classic Arms**

*by Rae Wills*

If you have wondered why this column is more of a ramble through the woods and never seems to match the list of glorious international matches and tours of other disciplines, perhaps this is due to the way historic shooting became organised some thirty years ago, with the MLAGB and the HBSA taking the lead, later followed by LERA and others, who by default became the organisations that selected international teams and arranged tours.

Also the largest part of our discipline revolves around experimentation and recreational shooting rather than cut-throat competition, though there is still plenty of that available. There is growing interest worldwide in historic shooting, including .303 in South Africa and Australia.

Visiting such places unfortunately consumes large amounts of cash and any supporting grants, that are available from sources such as the NRA and sponsorship, have to be spread ever thinner, thanks to the welcome rise of other competitive disciplines such as F Class and 300 metres. However, the system seems to work, and there are plenty of opportunities to extend such activities, although mutual co-operation is required and there is a danger of too many team fund raising events leading to donor fatigue.

If the old advice holds good that you never enjoy your own party, then surely the one I really enjoy is the Trafalgar Meeting which, thanks to Jim Quinlan and a host of others, is where I get the chance to wander around the trade show and actually do a bit of shooting, but noblesse oblige demands a stint as Range Officer.

I have never understood why so many seem to make it their life's work to dodge this duty as I have always found it an opportunity to meet many interesting people, sneak a look at some of the rare historic rifles that turn up and pick up hints and tips. Looking back over the years I think have got more pleasure out of this than anything else.

Thus it was that I learnt of a load that might extend my cast bullet shooting with the Moisin Nagant out to 500 and 600 yards. I tried this at the HBSA Christmas bash; I sort of found an elevation, but the wind was blowing half a gale and the strike was reported a full target downwind! So I abandoned that attempt in the face of the cold and the promise of a massive lunch.

The next try was a less windy but wetter January day. However, success still eluded me as; although again a rough elevation was found, bringing it accurately onto the target proved impossible as the sand in the butts was very wet and the low velocity strikes, although heard, were almost impossible to spot. Such are the joys of historic shooting!

The dark days of early January are not an inducement to stir oneself, but planning the coming year has to be done, and I am always looking for ideas, be they a rule change, a new match at one of our meetings or a new event. You are also welcome to send me any ideas for changes to the ranges or how Bisley is run, but it would be far better take them direct to Jeremy Staples.

Lastly, there has not been a meeting of our sub-committee for some time, mostly as there have not been any pressing matters to discuss, but one will take place in 2004, hopefully in early spring, but that will depend on the delegates' availability to attend.

## **Metric Matters**

*by Graham Hawarth and Ian Shirra-Gibb*

### **The 300m Year**

#### **Clermont**

As has now become our custom, the season opened with a visit to the Clermont/Creil club in northern France and, for the end of March, the weather was very agreeable. With ten of us travelling and shooting, it was quite a crowded event, with two English matches being shot. Clermont just won both of the team events, while Graham Hawarth led the individual aggregate with 1195, followed by Michel Goberville of Clermont with 1190; Graham also shot a range record 598 in the first match. The second English match was also the first squad trial of the year, producing scores of 597 for Graham Hawarth and 594 for Simon Aldhouse and Andy Pearse.

#### **Trials**

It was back to Bisley for the next squad trials, held on 6 April. The leading competitors over this weekend were Simon Aldhouse 596, Austin Reeve 593, and Graham Hawarth 593.

#### **First Europa Cup – St Jean de Marsaq**

A squad of four men and one woman was sent to the first Europa Cup of the season. Two men made it through to the finals, Simon Aldhouse and Andy Pearse. Andy won his elimination relay with a personal best score of 597! The team finished in fourth place. Mary Pugsley was our representative in the Women's Prone event winning the bronze medal with 587.

#### **NRA Championships**

The NRA Championships shot on the 4 and 5 May covered both Free Rifle and Target Rifle disciplines as usual. A large field in the free rifle was led by Simon Aldhouse on 593, followed by Tony Lincoln on 589 and Graham Hawarth on 588. Mary Pugsley won the Target Rifle event with 585. The leading competitor in the 3 x 40 Free Rifle was Martin Scrivens.

#### **BFRC**

Sunday 18 May saw the rescheduled BFRC competition and the final trials for the European Championship squad; Graham Hawarth (593) followed by Tony Lincoln (589) and Tim Hammond (588) were the leading scores. After assessing the aggregates in all of the preceding trials and with the final place closely contested, a squad of Graham Hawarth, Simon Aldhouse and Andy Pearse were selected for the European Championships.

#### **Thun**

The second Europa Cup match was held at Thun in Switzerland on 17/18 June. This event was probably the strongest gathering of shooters since the World Championships held the preceding year. Three of the four British competitors made it through to the final,

with our highest placing being Simon Aldhouse finishing with 596 in tenth place. In his second ever Europa Cup match, Tony Lincoln finished with a very respectable 593, putting him in 30th place.

#### **BFRC**

The summer BFRC competition was held on 15 June. It was a relatively low scoring event this time - gold was won by Andy Campbell (587) with silver and bronze going to Mary Pugsley (585) and Tim Hammond (585). This event clashed with The Europa Cup in Thun.

#### **Munich**

The next Europa Cup match was held in Munich in the second week of July. The mens team of Graham Hawarth, Simon Aldhouse and Andy Pearse all qualified for the final and finished ninth (596), equal 22nd (591) and equal 22nd (591) respectively. The team finished fourth failing to win a medal by two points.

#### **Plzen**

The European Shooting Championships were held at Plzen in the Czech Republic, from 16 July to 6 August. All three of our entrants in the men's Prone event shot in the final, with the team coming eighth. Graham Hawarth and Simon Aldhouse both shot 593 for 20th place, Andy Pearse scored 592 and came 27th. Mary Pugsley represented us in the Women's Prone, finishing 18th with 582.

#### **Aarhus**

Graham Hawarth and Austin Reeve travelled to the final Europa Cup match in Aarhus in Denmark. Both of them made their way through the eliminator and into the final where they were placed ninth (595) and fifteenth (590) respectively. Also of note here was Charlotte Jakobsen of Denmark scoring a perfect 600 in the Ladies final.

#### **BFRC**

The beginning of September saw the final BFRC competition of the year. Gold went to Graham Hawarth (596), silver to Tony Lincoln (594) and bronze to Andy Campbell (594). The leading lady was Janet Howden in fourth place with 592.

#### **Europa Cup Final – Liestal**

Of the two shooters who qualified, only Graham Hawarth could attend the Europa Cup final this year, which covers the top twenty shooters in each discipline for the cup circuit that season. As in recent years it was shot at the Liestal ranges in Switzerland. Graham finished 15th in the finals with a disappointing 586.

#### **Clermont**

To round off the shooting season, a team from Clermont came over to Bisley at the end of September for the return leg of the match that had started the



season. Team honours went to Clermont on the Saturday, and the NRA/BFRC on the Sunday. The visiting team managed to win the team aggregate for the weekend. This event also saw the first competition for the Richard Danik Memorial Trophy; Graham Hawarth became its first holder with an aggregate score of 1181, with Marion Goberville in second with 1178 and L Dufy in third on the same score.

Complete result listings for these events and shooting dates for 2004 can be found on the 300m website at [www.gb300m.com](http://www.gb300m.com)

As always, it would not be possible to compete successfully without the assistance of others, and in this case Ian Shirra-Gibb, Brian Cornish and Jim Carter deserve a special mention.

### **300m shooting at Bisley is set for exciting times in 2004**

Those of you who regularly visit Century range may have seen some changes to the 300m shed over the last few months. First came green, roller shutter doors in front of part of the firing point. Then, in November, a small addition to the back of the range was built.

Now all can be revealed.

The 300m range is being equipped with eight lanes of state of the art, electronic targets to be ready for the start of the season at the end of March.

This all came about through a very sad event; the death in 2002, of one of our 300m shooters, Richard (Dick) Danik.

Dick's family very kindly donated all of his shooting equipment to help us upgrade the 300m range. This snowballed into the Richard Danik Memorial Fund which sold his equipment through the Great Britain 300m website – <http://www.gb300m.com>. Through the website, and with other donations, over £11,000 was raised to go towards the upgrade.

A competition was also instigated in Dick's name for a double English match at 300m. As reported above, the first competition was shot in September 2003 when our twin club came on their annual visit from Clermont/Creil in France.

But, back to the range upgrade and the reasons behind it.

For the past 12 years or so the NRA has been promoting a Great Britain 300m team to participate in the Europa Cup circuit. This normally involves three or four matches around Europe, spread throughout the summer and culminating in the Europa Cup Final for the top 20 ranked shooters in each 300m discipline (prone, 3 x 40 and 3 x 20). Until three years ago the ladies shot with the men but now have their own competitions.

Every two years there are European Championships and World Championships. These are all ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) events and run under very strict rules concerning clothing and equipment.

All these competitions have been shot on superb 300m ranges equipped with electronic targets, sometimes 40 + lanes. If you look at the website you can see some of the ranges.

The GB shooters were always at a disadvantage by training at Bisley, due to having to shoot with pit marking which disrupts the rhythm of a 60 shot match and has different timings. As we all know, some markers are good and others not so good, which can bias a competition. Having said that, we have had some medals at Europa Cup events and have consistently qualified people for the Europa Cup Final, European and World Championships.

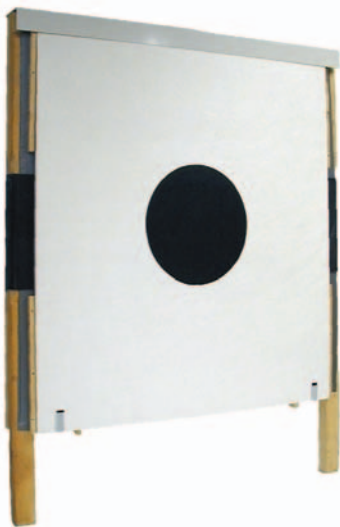
If any of you shoot small-bore and have visited the new Lord Roberts Range at Bisley, you will have seen electronic targets at 50m and 10m. There are a number of electronic target manufacturers in Europe; the NSRA ranges are equipped with Suis Ascor (Swiss made). These systems are very popular throughout Europe but are also very expensive.

For 300m we chose a system from Norway called Kongsberg Mikroelektronikks. Three of us went to Norway to evaluate the system and believe that it is just as good as Suis Ascor and in some respects better. In fact, just like Victor Kiam of Remington (shavers) fame, two of us liked the system so much that we formed an Agency for the UK market.

So how do the electronic targets work? At the firing point there is a digital screen for each shooter. This shows a target, shot values (score) and shot co-ordinates. The screen has a zoom control so that you can see the whole target or zoom in to the centre. When you fire, the shot is shown instantly on the screen along with a group centre marker.

This is all controlled by a software program, which in our range will be run on a laptop computer. This will be contained in the new addition to the back of the range, which is the control centre. There is also a spectator program, which can display multiple targets on one screen or even send scores to a projector for a large display. We shall use a computer monitor within the range.

In the butts we have more electronic wizardry. The target is a sealed acoustic chamber with a black rubber aiming mark. When a bullet passes through the self sealing rubber walls of the chamber, the supersonic sound is measured by four microphones in each corner of the target. This is converted into an electronic signal, which is sent back to the server in the control centre. The server then sends the information to the screen and the spectator program. The system can measure



Left: Electronic wizardry - one of our new 300 metres targets.

Above: The new roller doors on the Bisley 300 metres shed.

Right: One of our new monitors.



The GB team at the French Europa Cup at St Jean de Marsacq.

calibres up to .50" provided they are supersonic at the target.

The accuracy of the measurements is 0-1mm; because a sealed chamber is used there are also twin sensors to compensate for temperature variations within the chamber. The centre of the target is always self-calibrated so what you shoot is what you see. The scores can then be printed for a permanent copy. In our system we can also use a smart card, which can be programmed for each shooter to record scores.

We are forming a new club which, unsurprisingly, is to be called the GB 300M Club. This will formalise



Monitors in action.

the group of 300m shooters which is growing steadily. During the season we hope to be running a league for teams of four shooting a half course of fire (30 shots prone). For more information on the Club or leagues please contact Graham Hawarth (01395 442777) or Austin Reeve (0208 878 1716).

You are all welcome to come and see the targets being used on training days and competitions.

Take a look at our website for details and dates:

[www.gb300m.com](http://www.gb300m.com)

This has to be the future of shooting in the UK.



Danish Championships.



## What Does It Cost?

*by Ian Shirra-Gibb*

One question I am often asked is "how much does 300 metres shooting cost?" To answer the question we need to look at the discipline and its equipment.

The one-off price of a competitive rifle like TR but built within the ISSF rules can often exceed £2000. Ammunition (which is never issued) must be supplied by the shooter (any calibre up to 8mm), factory prices are often expensive so many shooters handload but we can average handload and factory costs to just over 45p a round.

So there is not much difference from TR but we shoot a lot more ammo per course of fire, typically 70 rounds prone or 150 in three position competitions so the cost can be between £32 and £68 per shoot! There will also be range and entry fees.

Clothing comes under ISSF rules so if you also shoot small-bore most of the kit is the same. If you shoot TR you could have a go with whatever kit you have.

National squads are formed from the top average shooters, and teams are picked from these. Unlike TR, where a tour for one major event may be arranged two years ahead, we have a circuit of events each year around Europe with major competitions like World, European and Nordic Championships held every two years or so. The duration of each stay can be from three to seven days.

GB team and individual selection is simple, you qualify for the squad (at present a prone score of 585 ex 600 or 1100 ex 1200 for three positional events). The shooters with the best averages from trials and selected shoots make up the team. In ISSF this is three shooters.

There are three events for men - prone 60 shots, 3 x 40 three position and 3 x 20 three position, and two events for women - prone 60 and 3 x 20 three position. There are, on average, about five Europa Cup events per year.

As 300 metres is an ISSF event we could, in the past, apply for a small grant through the GBTSF from the Sports Council's monies granted to shooting sports. Unfortunately it looks as if it will end this year as they will only be supporting Olympic events in the future (we have not been an Olympic event since 1972). Therefore fund raising is, and will become, even more essential for the discipline's future.

As an example, below we show the costs of a typical year for the 300m teams, our grant being spent mainly on travel and entry fees.

### GB Team 300m Expenses 2003

	French GP	Swiss GP	Munich GP	Europeans	Danish GP	Europa Cup Final, Liestal	
<b>Flights</b>	(G) 889.00	(G) 842.13	(G) 651.20	(G) 875.50	(T) 336.00	(G) 312.60	
<b>Entry Fee</b>	(G) 319.16	(G) 271.26	(G) 216.48	(G) 441.02	(G) 100.00	(G) 64.28	
<b>Sundries</b>	(G) 300.00	(G) 4.40	(G) 4.77	NA	NA	(G) 175.00	
<b>Hotel</b>	(T) 300.00	(T) 535.70	(T) 375.00	(G) 308.01	(T) 225.00		
<b>Car hire</b>	NA	NA	NA	(T) 539.50	(T) 178.00		
<b>Bank charges</b>	NA	NA	NA	(G) 20.00	NA		
<b>Road tax</b>	NA	NA	NA	(T) 2.38	NA		
<b>Car park</b>	NA	NA	NA	(T) 23.80	NA		
<b>Ammo</b>	(T) 400.00	(T) 400.00	(T) 240.00	(T) 280.00	(T) 135.00	(T) 40.00	
<b>Airport parking</b>	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored	Sponsored		
							<b>Grand Totals</b>
<b>Grant Totals (G)</b>	1508.16	1117.79	872.45	1316.52	100.00	376.88	<b>£5291.80</b>
<b>Team Totals (T)</b>	700.00	935.70	1092.00	821.88	538.00	40.00	<b>£4127.58</b>
<b>Event Totals</b>	2208.16	2053.49	1964.45	2138.40	638.00	416.88	<b>£9419.00</b>



## Gallery Rifle and Pistol

by Neil Jones

Gallery rifle events continue to grow in popularity, last year's Phoenix Meeting in May being bigger and better than ever. Phoenix 2004 promises even more with around 70 events, including Air Pistol, Lightweight Sport Rifle, Gallery Rifle, Long Barrelled Revolver and Pistol, Muzzle Loading, Long Range plus a couple of Shotgun events, one of which includes coaching, gun and cartridges. There is something here for everyone.

But why wait until May? Come along on 27 and 28 March for the Spring into Action Weekend at Bisley. Events include 1500, Precision 25m and 50m, Plates competitions for Gallery Rifle, Lightweight Sport Rifle and Long Barrelled Revolver, F Class, 1000 yards .303 and 7.62 and McQueen.

The Gallery Rifle Rule book is close to completion. Many thanks to Chris Farr, John Robinson and Charles Murton for their input in this venture. The final draft has been put together by the GR sub committee plus co-opted members enrolled to assist in this daunting task.

### GR sub-committee members

Long Range - Tony Minehane  
1500/Bianchi - Ted George  
Precision Events - David Thomas  
Action Shooting - Steve Smoothy  
Muzzle Loading - David Sandland

### Co-opted members

Andy Wiggins  
Andy Lowe  
Peter Watts  
Richard Munday  
Ken Williams (*stepped in at last minute to substitute for Dave Harris who foolishly fell off an Alp the week before and broke his wing, poor thing*)

The above committee has been selected for their extensive knowledge of the sport and experience in running competitions as range officers. We intend to review the rules at the end of each year and produce the updated version in time for the start of the new shooting season. Comments should be made, preferably in writing, to one of the sub-committee for consideration.

Throughout the year there are many GR competitions on ranges away from Bisley; for more information about GR activities visit [www.shootfastdontmiss.freewire.co.uk](http://www.shootfastdontmiss.freewire.co.uk).

## Hendon League Final Results - Summer 2003

from Kevin Hosey

Division	Name	Club	Points	Competition	Five - RapidFire	Gallery O/Sights	
<b>Competition One - LSR O/Sights</b>				One	B Walker	Surbiton RC	33
One	K Kingsbury	Croydon RPC	39	<b>Competition Six - Standard Handgun Aggregate</b>			
Two	R Spooner	Surbiton RC	37	One	K Kingsbury	Croydon PRC	27
Three	B Walker	Surbiton RC	33	<b>Competition Seven - Black Powder Pistol</b>			
Four	R Pateman	Boro Wandsworth	43	One	L Pearson	Repton RC	40
<b>Competition Two - LSR A/Sights</b>				Two	S Ford	Four By Two RPC	42
One	D Creton	Caterham & D RC	34	Three	I Fraser	Four By Two RPC	43
Two	Mrs A Wrigley	Harrow RC	37	<b>Competition Eight - Long Range Air Pistol</b>			
Three	P Creasey	Lingfield & D RC	35	One	K Kingsbury	Croydon RPC	35
Four	J Gelver	Weybridge RPC	39	<b>Competition Nine - Precision Gallery A/Sights</b>			
Five	A Gray	Deddington & D	40	One	L Pearson	Repton RC	48
Six	I Garner	Gainsborough RPC	34	<b>Competition Twelve - LSR Prone A/Sights</b>			
Seven	R Gould	1st Ealing RPC	32	One	Mrs A Wrigley	Harrow RC	36
Eight	A Wilkins	Deddington & D	39	Two	DL Greaves	Dudley RC	28
Nine	S Condry	Gainsborough RPC	34	Three	M Barton	Surbiton RC	34
Ten	A Devos	Hendon RC	33	<b>Competition Fourteen - L B Revolver 38 - 45</b>			
Eleven	A Hankins	Deddington & D	32	One	PJ Bennett	East Barnet SC	27
Twelve	S Allen	Market Rasen	30	<b>Competition Fifteen - 10 Metre Air Pistol</b>			
Thirteen	Mrs R Skinner	Caterham & D RC	28	One	A Devos	Hendon RC	34
<b>Competition Three - LSR Standard Pistol</b>				Two	K Newman	Hendon RC	29
One	P Creasey	Lingfield & D RC	33	Entry forms can be obtained from			
Two	S Hodgson	Camberley RPC	43	The Hendon League Organiser			
Three	P Morris	Lingfield & D RC	40	63 Eastern Avenue			
<b>Competition Four - Precision Gallery O/Sights</b>				Pinner HA5 1NW			
One	K Kingsbury	Croydon RPC	41	Tel 020 8866 6654			
Two	W Noble	Kodak RC	40	E-mail <a href="mailto:hendonrifleclub@hotmail.com">hendonrifleclub@hotmail.com</a>			
Three	S Ellis	Hendon RC	37	Hendon League website			
Four	T Turner	East Barnet SC	31	<a href="http://www.hendonrifleclub.mypage.org">http://www.hendonrifleclub.mypage.org</a>			
Five	S Ford	Four by Two RPC	42				
Six	Mrs P While	Four by Two RPC	42				
Seven	I Fraser	Four by Two RPC	33				

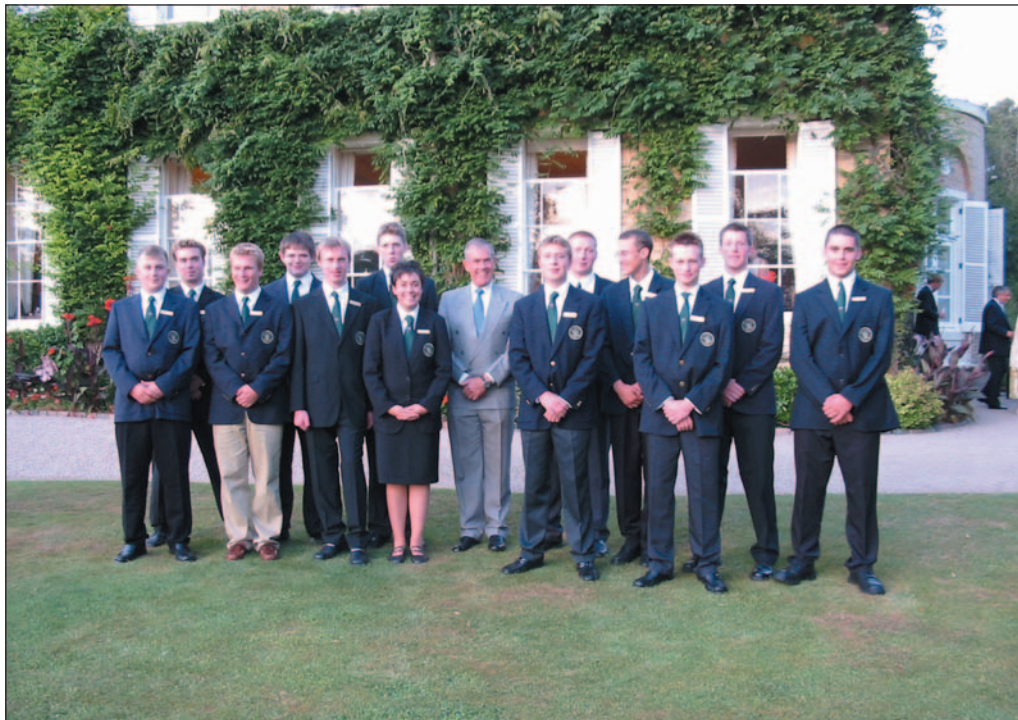




The Coke Challenge!



Shooting in the team match for the Cheshire Cup.



The team with His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire.



Shooting for the Maine Trophy.



The Adjutant road tests the team equipment. Feeding time but not sure for who?





# UK CADET RIFLE TEAM - TOUR OF JERSEY 2003

*by Andrew Penfold and the team*

## *Commandant*

Lt A Philpott                      Sussex ACF

## *Adjutant*

WOII M Jackson                  Stamford School CCF

## *Coach*

Capt AR Penfold                  Tonbridge School CCF

## *Catering Officer*

CI AF Penfold

## *The Team*

Fredrick Beadle	Epsom College CCF
Jonathan Borland	Dollar Academy CCF
Charlotte Clarke	Stamford School CCF
Alex Hoyle	Sedbergh School CCF
Andrew Jackson	1297 (Stonehaven) Sqn ATC
Tom Llanwarne	Tonbridge School CCF
Thomas Newsome	Humberside & S Yorks ACF
James Redman	Sevenoaks School CCF
Oliver Russell	RGS Guildford CCF
Huw Scott	Clifton College CCF
Adam Sedgwick	Sedbergh School CCF
David Worthington	607 (Wearmouth) Sqn ATC
Sam Willis	Stamford School CCF

On Friday 15 August the team met at Bisley. After their initial briefing and distribution of polo tops and other goodies, Marc Jackson (Adjutant) introduced us to his culinary skills! Then it was time to get our kit sorted as we were departing on Saturday afternoon. To catch our early sailing on Sunday morning, we stayed in a Youth Hostel at Litton Cheney, just outside Weymouth. A pleasant evening was had by all before getting our heads down ready for an early start.

Sunday - no sooner had the ferry departed than Dave Worthington and Andrew Jackson went for the Pepsi Challenge – an unlimited supply. We lost count after nine yards of Pepsi each but they certainly looked green around the gills! It came as no particular surprise that Oli Russell was appointed Captain, his quiet yet “fatherly” approach made him a wise choice.

Mr P had warned that he would likely be delayed by Customs at St Helier, however, in the event he gave a quick declaration, produced the paperwork and was waved through in a total time of about 30 seconds! Captain Chris Maurant met us at Victoria College having already set up the Scout Hut ready for our stay. We visited Crabbe Range, home of the Jersey Rifle Association, where we were to compete. Then it was off to the western side of the island to explore the beach, one of the many war museums and, of course, to partake of an ice cream. Soon it was time to head off towards Jersey Bowl for our first “match”. The team was introduced to the Jersey U19 team and we had a wonderful evening ten pin bowling and making new friends.

The team took time to visit the Gerald Durrell Wildlife Preservation Park, Living Legend and crazy golf. This year we even managed to include the Underground Hospital - a chilling reminder of the German occupation during World War Two. One of the major highlights of the trip was an invitation by our President, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey (Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire) to a reception in our honour at Government House. The invited guests included the Jersey U19 team, their parents, coaches and the Headmaster of Victoria College. Sir John and Lady Cheshire were warm with their hospitality and Oli took the opportunity to present our President with a team polo top and new official tie.

The welcoming reception by the JRA was as warm as ever. By now the team were champing at the bit to get started. Wednesday morning was an early start, but time spent in preparation paid off and the team made a confident start with six 35s and several 34s. Jonathan Borland was top scorer in the Bisset Challenge Vase (Queen's I) scoring 103.9. James Redman was only four V bulls behind, and though Freddie Beadle was our top scorer in the Le Riche (300 and 600 yards), Borland was still our top man on the day.

The team were determined to topple Jonathan, the man to beat, until he came fourth in the Rive (200 yards) with a 50.5. Also rans were Mr P, Huw Scott and Alex Hoyle on 49s. Huw Scott managed a 49 for ninth place in the Seymour, whilst Jonathan joined us lesser mortals on 48. Had he peaked too early? It appeared not as he managed a 49 just behind Tom Newsome in the Maurant (500 yards). Back at 600 yards, in the GH Pool James Redman achieved a 50.6, whilst Jonathan rounded off the day with a 50.4. Jonathan's impressive 197.15 earned him sixth place on the Crill Memorial Aggregate (Thursday), opening a six point lead over James and eleven points on Mr P, Huw and Freddie.

Friday - Jonathan was sixth in the Jesse Boot (200 yards) with a 74.8 which simply extended his lead. Mr P and Tom Newsome were our top scorers in the Gallichan Challenge Cup (500 yards) with 74s, although Jonathan and Tom both managed an aggregate of 148 for the day; Jonathan had extended his lead to 12 over James.

There was a record entry of 23 for the WT Marett (Under 19s). It was a dramatic match. Jonathan was odds on favourite as he was leading the Junior Grand Aggregate by 12 points and he was also in fourth place in the JRA Grand Aggregate. The competition was suddenly blown wide open when Jonathan dropped his eighth to count and scored 49.8. Rob Jelley (Jersey



U19) got up with a 50.5 only to find Oli Russell had managed 50.6. However, Oli had to settle for second place when young James Marshall (Jersey U19) got up with a magnificent 50.8, his first ever possible.

The evening was spent in St Helier for our team dinner, where we entertained Cliff Mallett (President JRA) and Chris Mourant (Victoria College) and their wives as a big thank you for their efforts on our behalf.

On Saturday it was down to business for the final day of the Grand Aggregate. Disaster struck for Jonathan when he struggled to score 69 in the Shipstone (300 yards). Although it only reduced his lead to eight over James, he dropped ten places in the Grand Aggregate. Oli was our top scorer that morning with 74.10. The final shoot was the Macartney at 600 yards. Tom Newsome managed a 74.10, whilst Adam Sedgwick overcame his many rifle problems to score 74.07. Our man of the moment was undoubtedly Jonathan Borland who not only won the Rene Emanuel, U19 champion, but was also second overall in the Wagstaffe (200 yards aggregate) where he dropped one point scoring 159.18. He was also sixth in the Stark (500 yards aggregate).

Throughout the week Mary Norman (one of the coaches to Victoria College and chief chef) had been swapping her shooting jacket and pinny with regular monotony, but she also re-wrote the JRA history books by becoming the first woman to win the Grand Aggregate. When Sir John presented the prizes, it became evident that Mary had had a truly remarkable meeting, winning no less than eleven trophies.

Sunday was the crucial day - our defence of the Cheshire Cup. Although we had achieved eight places in the top ten of the Marett, we respected the power and capabilities of the Jersey U19 VIII. The team had been announced on Saturday night. Oli had elected to coach along with Huw, the plotters would be

Charlotte Clarke and David Worthington whilst Tom Llanwarne was to fulfil the important role of Adjutant.

The team arrived bright and early, eager to get on with the job in hand. All the preparations were going smoothly until Alex Hoyle's trigger failed to hold the weight and numerous attempts to adjust it were unsuccessful. At the last minute Mr P's rifle was used and Alex became our top scorer at 300 yards with 49.3! Unlike previous years, the UK Cadets managed a very commanding 16 point lead at 300 yards scoring 380.33. It was evident that the coaches and plotters were doing their job exceptionally well. At 500 yards the UK cadets excelled themselves with a score of 388 ex 400 - tying with the Jersey VIII but with a difference of 11 V bulls. Although the Jersey U19 made a comeback, they still trailed the UK Cadets by 30 points, just too great a challenge even for them. The UK Cadets retained the Cheshire Cup by a substantial margin, making some good friends in the process.

After an uneventful journey home, it was time for our fond farewells - some at Poole Harbour, then the rest at Bisley.

The success of these tours would not be possible without a great deal of hard work by many people. We extend our thanks to all who worked for our benefit and in particular: Tony Philpott, Marc Jackson, Anne Penfold, Chris Mourant, Mary Norman, Cliff Mallett and the JRA, all the staff at CCRS, Sir John and Lady Cheshire and all the staff at Government House. There are many others, too numerous to mention, to whom we are grateful. One more individual must be thanked: Andrew Penfold, whose brainchild the tour is and who has been the Hon Organiser from the start. Andrew, thank you for your outstanding contribution - please ensure that your handover notes are totally comprehensive. We wish you a wonderful wedding to Sharon, many years of happy marriage and success in your life together at Tonbridge.

### The International Match for the Cheshire Cup

<b>UK Cadets</b>	<b>300x</b>	<b>500x</b>	<b>600x</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fredrick Beadle (Epsom)	47.03	49.07	50.04	146.14
Thomas Newsome (Humberside and S Yorks ACF)	48.06	50.07	47.03	145.16
Alex Hoyle (Sedbergh)	49.03	49.04	47.01	145.08
Adam Sedgwick (Sedbergh)	46.04	49.03	46.05	144.12
Sam Willis (Stamford)	48.03	49.05	46.05	143.13
Jonathan Borland (Dollar Academy)	47.07	47.01	48.04	142.12
James Redman (Sevenoaks)	47.03	46.03	47.04	140.10
Andrew Jackson (1297 Stonehaven Sqn ATC)	48.04	49.05	42.02	139.11
				<b>1144.96</b>
<b>Jersey U19</b>				<b>1113.89</b>
<i>Also firing the same conditions:</i>				
<b>JRA</b>				<b>1168.135</b>

# PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2004

## Nominations

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

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

The Spring General Meeting 2004 is to be held on 27 March.

Proposers are required to be qualified to vote for their candidates. Therefore, those proposing a regional candidate must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region; those proposing a shooting discipline candidate should have previously declared the appropriate primary discipline to the NRA. Status of such proposers will be determined as at 15 March 2004 for new members and 31 March 2004 for existing members.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary General's office.

## Curriculum Vitae

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

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

## Regional and Shooting Discipline Voting

Registered members of the Association desiring to vote for a regional candidate must reside in the appropriate Sports Council Region at 24 April 2004. Registered Members of the Association desiring to vote for a shooting discipline candidate must have declared to the Association as their primary discipline that discipline by 24 April 2004.

## Required Programme for Election

### 13 March

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

### 27 March

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

### 31 March

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

### 24 April

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

### 22 May

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

### 12 July

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

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

## Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council meeting on 27 March.

## Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2004

### Four Regional Members

Eastern – GD Bartle \*  
Northern – NCM Fyfe \*  
Yorks/Humberside – CS O'Brien  
North Western – DG Young

### Five Ordinary Members

JH Carmichael  
G Clark  
KD Robertson  
JMA Thompson \*  
MWT Walton

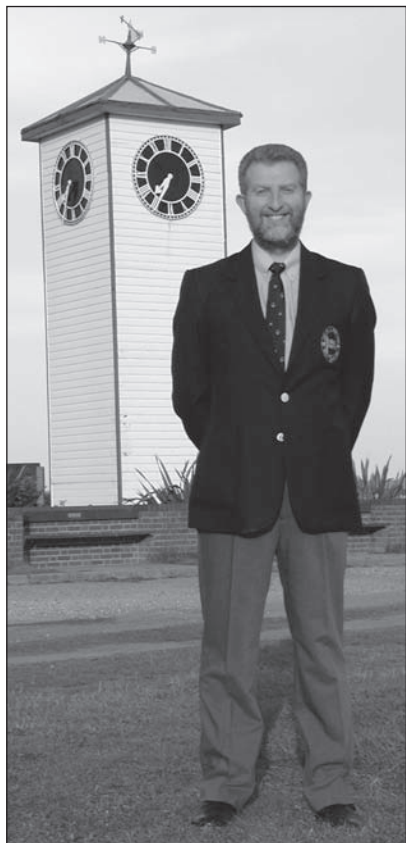
### Three Shooting Discipline Members

Target Rifle – JEM Bellringer \*  
Muzzle Loading – G Player \*  
F Class – Dr P Monaghan

*\* not standing for re-election*

## TALKING WITH SIMON BELITHER

*by Tony de Launay*



This is not your usual interview in the series. For a start we both had a much more concentrated focus than to indulge in post Palma prattle about a glittering career with Uppingham Veterans, and Simon was itching to get to Tesco to help Liz with the Saturday provisions shopping. I of course tell a monster porky in the latter part of that sentence.

Stunning victory that last July's Long Range World Championship was, what are the lessons and benefits for county and club shooters across the kingdom from that Palma win, was my challenge. That, according to the bearded wizard is not a question lending itself to a simple answer. "The more I came to examine what we were doing, the more it made me think that I am right in believing that we have such strength in depth in our sport that we could have put two Palma teams out there and come first and second". Confident words, but where are remedies for the flaws in our squad training systems?

Simon favours a national development pool of top class shooters, perhaps as many as 120 or more, drawn not from only tried and tested tigers, but also the talented county shots. "We have some very good shots at county level who lack that final edge which will make them world class. It is entirely within their grasp if they get the right help". His belief that this is so arises from the experience of taking the experienced shots and examining what they need to eliminate their weaknesses. "That is what the Palma selection process explored in minute detail, in group and individual session", he argues.

He believes that if you were to take that 120 (or more) and find among them half a dozen or so people with the authority and commitment to organise a section of the pool, the way opens for advanced training. Take one modern aid. "We should have our own permanent Scatt system at Bisley, with additional sets that can go travelling or be based in the regions at convenient centres. I saw from the Palma practices and from my own experience how it can help analyse why and what it is that produces that rogue shot" he said. "If every member of the pool subscribed a modest amount annually, and if we were able to sketch out the areas where subsidy in the form of ammunition at cost, free targets and the economies of scale applied, we could keep the overall costs manageable". He accepts that it has to be managed within a developed coaching plan, through NRA or GBTSF.

It would not be in any way a free meal ticket for those participating, but he listed the benefits. Sports science personnel, Scatt operators, shooting coaches could be available. Overseas team captains would have the benefit of knowing that potential team members would have been involved in the national pool training programme, reducing the increasingly irksome need to deplete county teams for team training at inconvenient moments. Better use could be made of those periods in the year when that conflict did not arise – such as the September/October quiet time.

"We simply do not offer the mechanism through which the ambitious shot can see a route to becoming an elite sports man or woman. What we have at the moment remains hit or miss, with so much depending on the old practice of writing in for your place and then campaigning on your own behalf".

Looking back four years he started with a squad of almost 100 potential Palma shots before whittling it down to 36 in October 2002. Did the sport science crew help? "We held a weekend session that October. On Saturday we stayed in the classroom, using the science team and the Scatt machine. On the Sunday we shot a half Palma course of fire: only four of the squad scored under 448 ex 450 on that day, albeit in relatively benign conditions". He is confident that many of those discarded in the process would have benefited from that weekend.

Does it help if the individuals are physically fit? "Yes, but not to Rugby World Cup standards", was the answer. He found that the advice from the sports scientists pointed to a general state of good health having its own benefits – eyes, mental acuity, freedom from aches and pains, breathing and general physical comfort all



improve if you are healthy. The brain releases the good shot without consciously having to talk to other parts of the body. With the intensity of the tensions of pressure and concentration, it was not surprising that the physio was the most in demand, including relieving Simon from a real pain in the neck during the Palma Match!

Simon's biggest disappointment, in the process of selecting his squad, was having to discard so many people with potential. "There are so many more than the 30 or so I retained who are capable of world class performance but who lack that final critical consistency". That is where his grand plan starts to bite.

He is worried about the commitments that captains and potential team members have to take on. He accepts entirely that to ensure the professional approach necessary to reach world champion status much has to be sacrificed in terms of personal and employment time. "We were very lucky, even with the Palma being on home soil, not to have insurmountable problems because we are all amateurs with jobs and many have families. It would be different if we were professionals earning our living from the sport – but we are not. When I see the lack of numbers of suitable people being put forward for captaincy of GB overseas teams I start to realise that the demands of time, and the questions of finance, are getting greater and greater - and all in a shorter lead time to each tour". If and when in due course ICFRA decides upon the interlinking of the long range Palma with a short range world championship, those demands will be magnified.

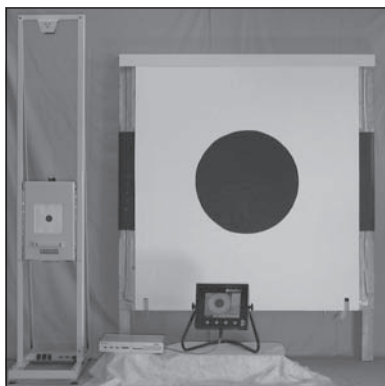
Does he have any one contentious issue for debate? "The scoring rings are too big to test the critical skills for potential world class shots. Anyone of decent skills can score regular 50s on the current Bisley targets, but to shoot tighter you need to be tested and that is where the Palma targets excel". That may not be a popular sentiment with the general club shooter, but then it may not previously have been considered in those terms.

The final word is Simon's. "I am indebted to so many people. Anton Aspin was a tower of strength and a still small voice of calm; Tom Rylands was a superb adjutant, thriving on the pressures and relieving me of so many tasks; the whole team came together as a world beating unit. The support we had from shooters was magnificent, including those who were dropped in the selection process but hung around to work for us in many other ways, and those who came to watch in those miserable conditions deserved a medal". It says a lot for the spirit of the extended squad, and the respect that they had for Bricky, that they did so.



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*Norman Clark*

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## ANDREW PENFOLD - CHIEF NATIONAL COACH (TR)

As I write we have various coaching courses fast approaching.

### **NRA / 2 Infantry Brigade Cadet Target Rifle Coaching Course at Godalming**

The course is well oversubscribed; we have 30 cadets taking part on the Skills Enhancement, 18 on the Advanced Skills and 12 on the Instructors courses.

We have devised the Advanced Skills programme for those who have previously completed the Skills Enhancement course; we have 18 guinea pigs on which to try it!

The course has been devised to be as practical as possible, though again this must be balanced with cost effectiveness to ensure value for money. It is also intended to equip inexperienced shooters with the ability and etiquette required to take part in any competition, especially the Imperial Meeting.

Students will be taught not only to complete their scorebooks accurately but, more importantly, actually derive some form of benefit from it. They will be shown how to zero a rifle, then be in a position to coach themselves, with confidence, at all distances - particularly long range.

I look forward to reporting back afterwards and will incorporate some of the students' views on what they have learned.

### **Advanced Skills Course - 27/28 March 2004**

We will be running our first adult Advanced Skills course at Bisley using the new syllabus, which will give us a different perspective.

### **Wind Coaching Course - 27/28 March 2004**

Bill Richards will be running another of his Wind Coaching courses which has been devised to give marksmen the confidence to read the wind accurately, to use it to their advantage and to understand topography and the effects it has on the wind. There will also be the opportunity for students to walk the ranges with Bill in the evening.

### **General**

Other courses I am considering include working with Sports Coach UK, formerly the National Coaching Foundation.

There is no doubt that all disciplines of shooting are doing a great deal right - especially considering the number of medals we win at major events like the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, etc. However, this is the very top of the tree; what about the grass roots level? What about the young people who are our future and one day will be at the top of the tree?

We are not a sport whereby youngsters can go and shoot in the middle of the local park at any time of the day, therefore, the club coaches hold the future of our sport in their hands - their ability at being able to put the shooter in the prone position is as important, as is the ability to set goals, motivate and retain the performers.



We are in a litigious age. Arming our coaches with the ability to understand their legal responsibilities (for example Child Protection) is another area of equal importance. Coaches need to appreciate how young people develop both physically and emotionally, which invariably causes their performance to peak and trough.

I know there is a great deal of scepticism about coaches learning things which are not directly about shooting, however, if we are to move forward and be accepted as more professional, we must embrace these ideas.

My previous article in the Journal prompted quite a few of you to ask why don't we have any technical articles on subjects like:

- Why should you choose one rifle over another?
- What are the advantages of a 30" barrel?
- Why a stainless barrel?
- Why should you have a 1:13 twist in the barrel?
- What are the differences between the different types of barrels?
- What about gloves, slings, mats, etc?

There is the challenge, let us hear your views.

From the manufacturers or suppliers - tell us why we should buy your product; what advantage will it give us?

From the more seasoned marksman - why do you use the equipment you do? Does it give you a physical advantage, or is it the "Gazza syndrome" (as one of my predecessors used to put it) - it merely looks good (which may give you a psychological advantage but that, of course, is another story!)

Good shooting.

Andrew Penfold

NRA Chief National Coach (TR)

E-mail: [arp@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:arp@tonbridge-school.org)

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# 100 YEARS AGO

by Ted Molyneux

Early in the year the Association suffered the sad loss of the President, HRH the Duke of Cambridge, who had held that position since the founding of the Association in 1860. The vacancy was quickly filled when HRH the Prince of Wales was approached and graciously consented to fill the post. At the Presentation of Prizes in the Umbrella Tent, His Royal Highness occupied the chair and Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, made the presentations.

Three overseas teams had competed - Canada, Natal and New Zealand - with New Zealand winning the Kolapore Cup by three points from the Mother Country, and Natal the Mappin Challenge Cup, shooting as the Border Mounted Rifles, by seven points from the 13th Middlesex in second place.

Individually, the Grand Aggregate was won by L/Cpl AC Samways, 1st VB Dorset Regiment, by a single point from L/Cpl T Lewis, 2nd VB The Welsh Regiment. The King's Prize was won by Pte SJ Perry of Canada, two points clear of Pte J Pownall, 2nd VB King's Liverpool Regiment (1534 competitors). It was worthy of note that the Silver Medal was won by a clergyman, Chaplain CJ Ferguson Davie of the Punjab Light Horse. He had previously shot for Cambridge University and later became Bishop of Singapore. Winchester won the Ashburton, for the fifth time, by a point from Clifton.

The .303" Lee-Enfield rifle Mk I was the weapon of the day and one, supplied by LR Tippins of Mistley, Manningtree, in the hands of Captain Pixley, made the then world's record of 105 ex 105 at Bisley on 21 September. (*This rifle is on display in the NRA Museum.*)

This year also saw the introduction of the Astor County Championship Challenge Cup (SR), which was open only to one team of six civilian or civilian and volunteer members from each rifle club, winners of the Astor County Challenge Cups of that year. The conditions were two sighting shots and seven shots to count each at 200 and 500 yards. The winners were

Queen's Brigade Rifle Club, representing the county of Edinburgh, by a point from South London Rifle Club. Forty-three counties were involved.

Camp alterations and improvements included the diversion of some 300 yards of the existing road at Wisdom Corner at a cost of £59.1s.6d in order to extend the 600 yards firing point on Century range; the erection of the handsome pair of wrought iron gates at the main entrance which had been presented by Major John Barlow the previous year, and the planting of the avenue trees. The North London Rifle Club's building was also erected.

The popularity of rifle shooting continued to grow and at that time 555 clubs had registered with the Association giving a total membership of 34,654 nationwide. With the increasingly effective developments of machine-guns, thoughts were turning towards automatic repeating rifles, to supersede the current manually operated ones, for military purposes. In consequence, a prize of £100 was subscribed by members of NRA Council to encourage and attract such rifles in competition. This was included in the Programme of the Imperial Meeting as the Automatic Rifles competition with tests over four days. Sixteen special requirements and five tests were tabled as conditions and there was an entrance fee of £1. Basically the rifle had to be operated by the force of recoil or by gas pressure from the barrel, the calibre to be between .255" and .303" and weigh not more than 9lbs 12oz. In the event, five rifles were entered, three by Mr Halle and two by Mr Snell. Mr Halle's rifles were of English design, two of which were recoil operated and the third by gas (this was withdrawn on the first day). The remaining two were in .276" and .303" calibres and weighed 9lbs 8oz and 9lbs 9oz respectively. Mr Snell's rifles were Danish Rexer rifles, also recoil operated, of slightly different patterns, in .256" calibre and weighing 9lbs 11oz and 9lbs 7oz respectively. In the rigorous trials, various failings resulted in the judges decision that all were



The new President visits Bisley.



The new North London Rifle Club clubhouse.

"unsuitable in certain respects for military service", but one Rexer rifle was awarded £26.5s.0d as "having passed the tests with fewest failures".

On the small-bore scene, the NRA held a Prize Meeting at Olympia that April specifically for service rifles fitted with tubes or adapters. The Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs accepted an invitation to join the meeting, holding a number of competitions of their own. It was a highly successful event to which the Morris Tube Company, the Stevens Arms and Tools Company, the Jaeger Company and Mr Trask contributed generously in cash and kind. Notable amongst the visitors were the Secretary of State for War, General Sir Roland Lane, Earl Grey, Major-General Mackinnon, Colonel Codrington, Colonel Vesey Dawson and many others.

In June the Countess Grey presented the prizes at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall and Miss Astor, acting for her father, presented gold, silver and bronze medals specially associated with the Astor prize.



The Natal team with the Mappin Challenge Cup.



The 1904 King's Prize winner Pte SJ Perry of Canada.

There had been 13 NRA competitions in the meeting, at 20 and 50 yards distances, in which such names as AJ Comber, AG Fulton, A Ransom, WH Trask and G Whelan (all to become famous riflemen) were prominent in the prize lists.

In the history of the NRA, and of rifle shooting, 1904 had proved to be both eventful and successful, reflecting the achievements and national pride of the Edwardian era.

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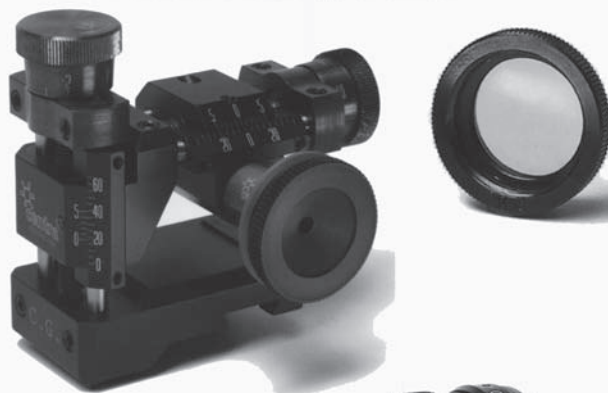
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# ENGLISH TWENTY CLUB

*National Shooting Centre, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey, GU24 0NY*

Thank you, NRA, for the opportunity to use a little space in the Journal to update fullbore shooters in England on some of the activities of the English Twenty Club. The last year proved to be a very sad one for the Club with the death of Andrew Tucker, our President, in July. He will be sorely missed as an individual of immense humour and a President of great sagacity. As reported in the last issue of this Journal, the fly past over the Clock Tower was a marvellous send-off and the Club is indebted to those who had the idea and executed the honour.

## **Election of President**

We put the process of electing a new President into motion in October 2003. Two nominations were forthcoming and the postal ballot took place in November, the closing date being 9 January 2004. The result was relatively close in a low turn-out. Some 20.5% of those eligible to vote did so. This is a disappointingly low figure and suggests that communications with the membership at large can be improved - a matter to be looked at with our District Superintendents. However, it is not that different from the proportion of members voting in NRA or trade unions elections, so perhaps we should not be too surprised.

The result was a majority in favour of Professor AR Horrocks over Dr Robin Pizer.

Dick Horrocks is therefore declared elected as President for the three year term of office commencing at this year's AGM in July, and will act as President elect up to the AGM.

## **English Twenty Club Spring Meeting**

After the excitement of Ireland's National Match win in 2002, which resulted in the loss of so many competitors to the delights of Ballykinler last year, the Club's Spring Meeting reverts to something nearer to normal this year.

Enclosed with this Journal is an entry form for the traditional Spring Bank Holiday weekend Open Prize Meeting, from Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May. Shooting starts with the Association (Queen's I) on Saturday afternoon, follows with the Second Stage (Queen's II) and the Cortis (15 at 600 yards) on Sunday, and concludes on Monday morning with the Long (15 at 900 yards) and the Final (15 at 1000 yards).

This year the Club and bar will be open on the Friday evening for early arrivals. Breakfast, lunch and an evening meal will be available on Saturday - see meeting entry form. Drop in at the clubhouse to sample the hospitality for yourself. We hope to see many non-English competitors for what is the first major Bisley event of the season.

## **Membership**

To shoot for England in any senior or under 19 or 21 team, or to shoot as a member of your English county

team in the King George V Cup heats or final, you must be a paid up member of the English Twenty Club. If you are not, you will not be eligible for selection and, as happened last year, your county may find that it has fielded an ineligible shooter resulting in the disaster of disqualification. If you are not a member you are also ineligible for our closed championship, in any of the classes, nor will you qualify for any club teams fielded by the English Twenty Club.

So if you qualify for England, become a member. The membership fee is £10 per annum, or you can become a life member.

Contact the Hon Secretary Julie Cane at the address above, or email [secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk) or [membership@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:membership@englishtwenty.org.uk) for details. Existing annual members are reminded that subscriptions are due now and are asked to ensure that these are paid to their District Superintendent now.

## **England Teams Overseas and at Home**

Dick Horrocks will be leading the England team to this year's South African Championships in April. The rest of his team is: David Taylor (Vice Capt), Dave Dyson (Adj), Dominic Harvey (Coach), Dick Winney (Coach), Robin Baker, Nigel Ball, George Cann, Toby Coleridge, Tracy Fitzsimons, Dani Foulston, Doug Gass, Chris Haley, Peter Holden, Susie Kent, Nigel Penn, Hamish Pollock, John Stevens, Alistair Speirs and Steve Thomas. The reserves are Jon Kent and Lucy Mace. We wish Dick and his crew every success individually and in the international Protea Match. They will face a South African team that will be itching for revenge after losing their world title to Great Britain in last year's Palma Match.

They will find a five strong party, made up of the bulk of the England Under 21 World Championships winning team, alongside them during the Championships, so it should be a good English contingent on the firing point: the best of luck to them in their informal international match against the Boks.

While on the subject of overseas teams, the process for appointing a captain for the England team to Canada in 2006 is well under way. Hopefully an announcement confirming an appointment and the tour will be made at the Spring Meeting. Members of the English Twenty who are interested in being considered for that team should keep an eye on the Club notice boards in July.

At home Peter Merry will captain the England National team and Keith Pugh the England Mackinnon team at the July Bisley Meeting. Clearly they are the two for English men and women to impress during the year.

Finally, best wishes to all shooters for the 2004 year. We hope that it is enjoyable for you, whatever your national affiliation.



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*Glyn Barnett, Bisley 2002*

***Congratulations to Glyn on his 2003 Queen's Prize!***



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## T REX – JOTTINGS FROM THE CAVE

Thanks, Karen, for the early alarm call. We large and slow folk need our beauty sleep, you know, and to be awoken from a well-earned hibernation simply to put pen to paper to fill the odd crook or nanny is a bit of an imposition. I have joined the ranks of the grumpy old men – or perhaps I was there already. Where was I?

### Hawk eye or radar?

I was in the middle of a blossoming nightmare in which my foresight slowly revolves around the end of the barrel and a legal gentleman in full fig is screaming abuse about convoluted and conflicting rules on the use of magnifying lenses while a one eyed scruffy hawk-like creature is demanding recompense for the alleged theft of his eye-ball. All this was happening as I was just about to fire the winning shot in the Palma but suddenly noticed the target number was on the front of an ancient bus.

It was not the cheese, Grommit, but a state of perplexity brought about by reading the rule book before going into a winter's sleep. Perhaps someone can explain to me the logic in permitting the use of an Eagle Eye together with the use of shooting specs, while banning the use of an Eagle Eye in conjunction with a vision correcting lens in the backsight (rule 235). Once I met a man who tried enlightenment, but was left none the wiser. He seemed to say that to allow a backsight lens in conjunction with the Eagle Eye was tempting people to use specs as well to create a three lens telescope, and that policing such latitude was impossible.

The logic of all this severely strained my tiny brain. If a rule cannot be policed why have a discriminatory rule permitting an advantage to a section of competitors only?

So I ask again what, pray, is the difference between a spectacle, eyeglass or contact lens when in front of your eye, and an identical corrective lens when fixed in the backsight, and why is it fair to penalise those who do not wear shooting glasses? Or have I got it totally wrong? Answers on a postcard please to . . .

### Fullbore to the Olympics?

One of those other day-dreams that occupy the mind on dull Wednesdays in January is that which sees the Olympic Games come to the UK. One of the first medals up for decision is the fullbore rifle event. Well, I did say it was a dream, did I not. But why not? It was not a dream in 1908 or 1948. All it takes is a little concerted perseverance with the powers that be (theory is a fine state of a wandering mind).

Last year, in passing, I advanced this thought to IcfraSaurus. What a new and thrusting world governing body should be doing, I opined, was setting this as an objective, beyond its own World Cup, that would bind in all the disparate parochial views to focus on something important. "There is no likelihood of fullbore ever becoming an Olympic sport again", was the response with a reminder that 300m shooting had gone with the Olympic wind. This reply fell quite naturally into my manual of negative management responses, courtesy of 25 years of hearing reasons why something should not be done – it is too difficult to think about, squire.

This view was, apparently, based on earlier cranial exercise in some committee or other. Roll on the giant meteorite. Oh dear, what we humble workers look for is hope and enthusiasm not status quo in spades.

### T Ram for T Rex

Seeing as how it is the season for dreams, a glance at Ted Molyneux's excellent little book "Bisley Camp on old postcards" prompted another idle daydream. This one fell into the category of Transport Policy, having all the perspicacity of some Darling department, but with an added workable solution thrown in.

Wouldn't it be nice (Beach Boys) to be able to ban all the cars from Century and have an alternative public transport system out of the top drawer of municipal thinking. Manchester, Leeds and Croydon have done it, and Blackpool has had one for years. I remember riding one up the Kingsway tunnel from the Embankment when I was freshish from the dinosauric egg.

So why not Bisley? Bring back the Tramway, I say. All you have to do is persuade Sport England that one of the safari parks, such as Chessington World of Adventure, should hand over their little railway and make obese children and their parents walk through the rhino and baboon enclosure in the interests of their health (which seems to be Sport England's objective these days – health not rhinos).

Then we could install said redundant iron horse where the old tramway used to run and go yet further in a loop via Stickledown and the clay ranges back through to Short Siberia. No need to put in the road then –

massive savings all round and the first prize for competitions would not need to be in cash, but a voucher to be the driver for a day. Second prize would be a day as conductor (or train manager as seems to be the current terminology). Then us boys would never need to grow up. It should appeal to the fat controller.

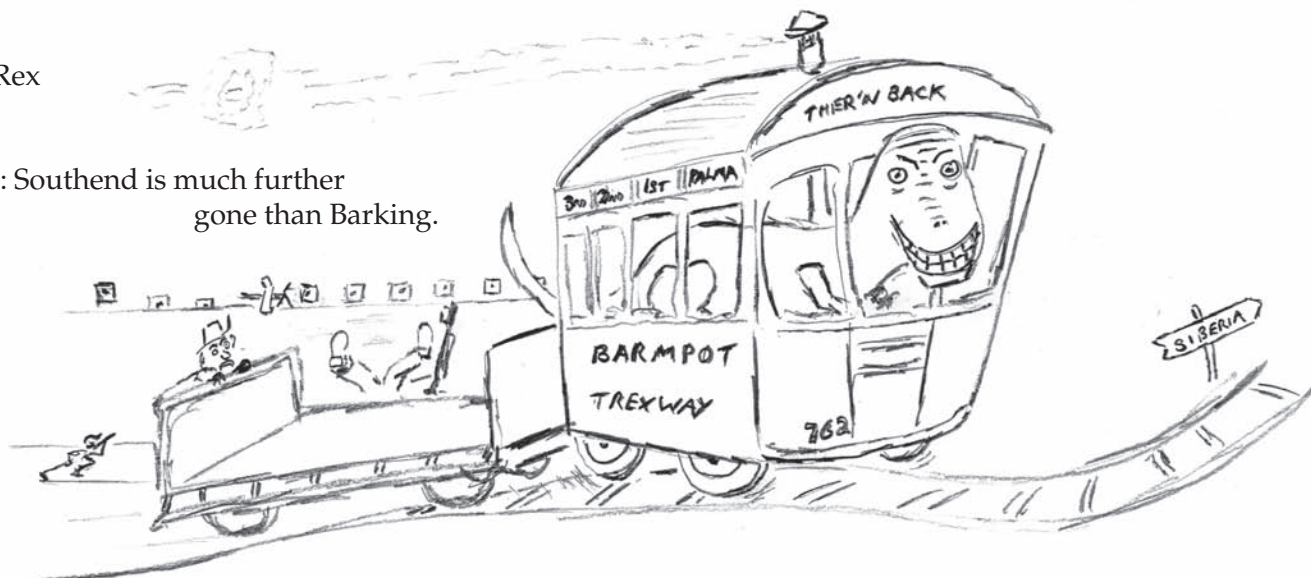
### Farewell

That's it for now, Karen. I feel the need for a nap coming on until the summer and warmer times, or until the men in white coats come hunting me.

Yours, in a Southend state of mind,

T Rex

PS: Southend is much further gone than Barking.



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# WORLD HISTORICAL RIFLE LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## BISLEY 31 AUGUST – 6 SEPTEMBER 2003

*by Jim Quinlan, Match Director*

The Camp put on its finest clothes in the form of superb weather for these Championships. Competitors from Germany, the USA, France, Italy and the Netherlands joined British shooters to contest the team and individual World Long Range Championships for Historical Rifles. All the rifles used had to be black powder cartridge or muzzleloaders designed before 1900; as a result most of the rifles on display were .45/90 or .45/100 calibre. The manufacturers varied from Sharps 1874s and 1878 models to the Sharps Borchardt 1879 LR Express and then to Remington Rolling Blocks and Browning Mod 1885s, which were the most common patterns.

The USA team had arrived three days before the meeting, as they had to load all their ammunition at Bisley. All their components had to be shipped over and powder was obtained in the UK.

All the competitors and officials enjoyed an excellent welcome barbecue at the HAC Clubhouse after registration and equipment control on Monday.

Tuesday, the first practice day, was bathed in sunshine and high temperatures; some of the USA team members astonished onlookers by putting on sweatshirts before shooting. The proffered explanation that they usually shot in much higher temperatures so they needed to keep warm was met with envious grimaces by the usually damp and cold Europeans. Most competitors found the range quickly but soon grew to respect the eccentric Stickledown breeze which, although light throughout the championship, twitched about, fishtailed on many occasions and operated in total opposition to the near constant mirage.



Dave Hicks at 900 yards (scoping with the bag behind him.) With from the foreground Steve Baldwin (USA), Bernd Janke (GER) and Alan Berlin (GB).

The first match day on Wednesday saw Larry Brown of the GB team shoot a winning 48.6 at 800 yards and Steve Baldwin (USA) having trouble with case head failures. At 900 yards Larry could not maintain his form and it was Leon Kranen from the Netherlands who counted out Dave Hicks (USA) on 44.2. The 1000 yards stage started to sort out those competitors whose rifle and ammunition had shot regularly at this distance and the USA shooters came to the front edging out the British contingent - Ray Hanson with 44.2 just in front of Joe Boyle and Dave Hicks on 43.1 and 43.0 respectively.

The first day aggregate revealed Dave Hicks (USA) as the winner on 133.4 with Harald Rudiger (Ger) second on 129.7 followed by Manuel Cue (Ger) on 128.5, Larry Brown (GB) was fifth on 126.6.

The second match day started just as the first with glorious sunshine. Larry Brown again stole the 800 yards shoot with a 49.3. At 900 yards many competitors missed some key wind changes and were fooled by the contradictions in the mirage. Scores dropped and the few who held it together made a challenge. Robinson Nitsche (Ger) produced a 46.2 just ahead of the 2002 World Champion Frank Monikowski (USA) with a 45.1 and the consistent Harald Rudiger on 45.0. Chas Higginbottom (GB), shooting his Rigby muzzleloader, shot a creditable 41.1 in difficult conditions. At 1000 yards, the increasingly eccentric wind made the match result unpredictable. Harold Itchkawitch of the USA produced the performance of the day to be the only shooter to break 40 with a 43.0 well ahead of the field.

In the end the day's aggregate went to Robinson Nitsche with a 130.6, Frank Monikowski followed with 126.4 and quietly Harald Rudiger maintained his position with a 125.3.

The Individual World Championship resulted in a win for Dave Hicks from Vermont, USA with 255.8, in second place was Robinson Nitsche (Ger) with 254.13, followed in third place by Harald Rudiger (Ger) on 254.10. Last year's World Champion Frank Monikowski (USA) finished one point behind on 253.8. Malcolm Myles was the best placed British shooter with a consistent 234.9.

### **The Team Match**

Mark Hodgins, the GB team captain and normally its leading shot, took the decision to face up to his obvious ammunition problems and dropped himself from the team to concentrate on coaching. The top eight shooters from each country, accompanied by an

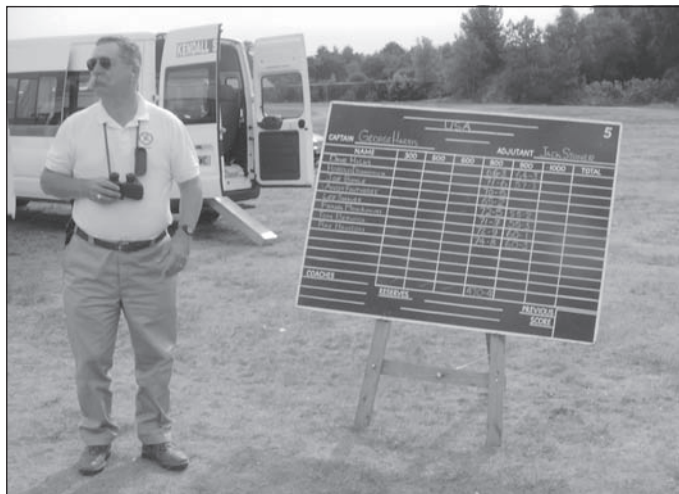


Dave Hicks (USA) the Individual World Champion with second place Robinson Nitszche (Ger) on his right and third place Harald Rudiger (Ger) on his left.

honours only "European" eight, arrived on the 800 yards line on Friday morning to be welcomed by the CRO John Higgs with his customary "Gentlemen you may address the point". What followed over the next one and a half days was a masterclass in team shooting by the German contingent.

The USA team, with Ray Hanson shooting an excellent 74.8, stormed into an early lead on 430.40 against Germany with 418.24. The USA team could afford to drop World Champion Dave Hicks' 66.3 out of their top six to count. Larry Brown produced a 70.7 to lead GB to 393.23.

At 900 yards the German team came back at the USA led by Robinson Nitszche with a 64.3 to close the gap to two points. Larry Brown was again the best of the GB team with a 62.2. It was clear that the match was in the balance. The German team has made Bisley their home range and they needed some inspiration to finish the job and beat the Americans for the first time. Some of the match organisers visited the BDMP clubhouse, the Spott, on the Friday night and later, in

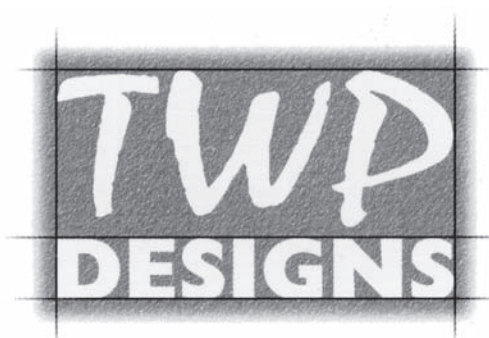


George Harris, the USA Team Captain, contemplating the possibility of defeat as the German team closed to within two points during the 900 yards stage.

the early hours, a strange wailing noise is alleged to have been coming from its vicinity. Its results became all too clear - the last day of the championships commenced in a windy downpour and normal Bisley weather was restored once again. The Americans sheltered whilst the German team prospered. Led by their Captain Ulrich Kwade with a superb 68.4, the German team gave a supreme display of reading the conditions to pull back 48 points on the USA. The GB team and the Americans struggled with the wind; even as good a shot as Frank Monikowski, the 2001 World Champion, had a string of misses leaving him with a 36.0.

At the end of the day the German team emerged victorious on 1162.48 with the USA on 1116.65. The GB team finished in third place on 1027.39 and the European team followed on 885.18.

A highly successful meeting ended with a superb prize giving at the Honorable Artillery Company; everyone is now looking forward to the next match in Capetown, South Africa, in April 2006.



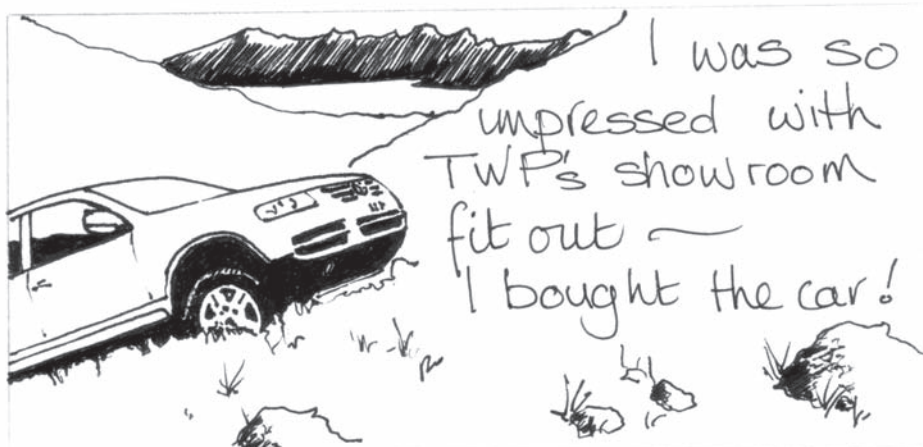
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# THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM (THE ATHELINGS) TOUR TO CANADA AUGUST 2003

## Commandant:

Richard Benest                      Victoria College

## Adjutant:

Capt Norman Vardy                  Lincolnshire ACF

## Armourer:

Peter Medhurst

## Cadets:

Cpl Andrew Burton	Elizabeth College
Cpl Jen Charlton	324 (South Shields) Sqn ATC
Cdt John Corry	Uppingham School
Cpl Matthew Firman	Gresham's School
WO1 Michael Hargreaves	Sedbergh School
WO2 Richard Holtum	Clifton College
Sgt Jon Kent	Epsom College
WO1 Peter Law	Dollar Academy
Sgt Cerise Macintosh	Dollar Academy
FS Nikki Malkin	36 (Hetton-Le-Hole) Sqn ATC
Bdr Laura Moore	2(NI) Bn ACF
PO Robert Nelson	Stamford School
Sgt James Norris	Wellington College
Cpl Andrew Nowacki	Victoria College
Sgt John Park	Epsom College
Sgt Jon Seegolun	1344 (Cardiff) Sqn ATC
Cdt Sandy Walker	Framlingham College
CSgt James Wyatt	Bradfield College

*Editor's note: the original draft of this report contained thirty references to meals, twenty-seven to showers, eight to beds and eight to early rising. All have been deleted in the interests of brevity. Be assured the team was well-fed, clean, well-rested and punctual.*

## Day 1 - Thursday 30 July

The team had gathered at Bisley the night before for final briefing and kitting. That morning, the team assembled in the North London Rifle Club. All the kit went in a truck, we went in a coach, and at Heathrow, we found that our tickets were not available because they were still in Abingdon. The travel agent was duly contacted and arrangements were made to deliver them pronto; the Air Canada staff were very understanding and checked the party in anyway. The tickets did actually arrive just in time for us to board.

After squeezing our rather overloaded hand luggage into the lockers we departed for Ottawa. As with all plane journeys nothing really terribly exciting happened. We landed at 23.00 UK, 18.00 Canadian, time (or 6 o'clock for those who joined the Scouts) and were met by our Liaison Officer Captain Norm Duffy. We boarded the yellow school bus to Connaught Ranges and the short journey was taken up by a lecture on the rights and responsibilities of Cadets, which were summarised on small cards given to all on conclusion. Just as well - nobody heard what the officer said as all the windows were open because of the heat. On arrival at Connaught, we were greeted by the Camp CO, Major Lloyd

Sainsbury. Being used to Bisley we felt rather spoilt in the permanent tented camp on hardstanding.

## Days 2 - 10

Departing Ottawa, we toured the sights of eastern Canada: in Quebec, the walled city, the street artists, the views and the ambience, then the Citadel where the regimental goat paraded at the Changing of the Guard and the guide explained the battles for strategic control between Britain and France; Fort St Jean, a massive Canadian Forces Base on the outskirts of Montreal; CFB Trenton and the Royal Canadian Air Force Museum; Oakville and the Wonderland theme park; the CN Tower in Toronto, followed by a ball game (Toronto Blue Jays v Texas Rangers) (boring) watched from the Hard Rock Café in the stand (great!); Niagara and the Falls (wet and wild). In between we did a bit of shopping, a bit of swimming, a bit of partying and a very great deal of sitting in a bus with a propensity to break down – did anyone mention that Canada is a very big country?

## Day 11 - Sunday 10 August

The final day in the ghetto of our bus: as usual, music echoed from the back and snoring further to the front. We arrived back at a very humid Connaught Range.

We re-occupied our tents and then paraded to our silver Athelings HQ, home for our days on the range. It consisted of two very spacious semi-rigid tents on hardstandings, very similar to the living quarters but bigger. Here we became acquainted with the Canadian issue "C-12" rifles that we were to use in the Cadet Meeting. They were, in fact, RPA Quadlocks. Our Armourer Peter Medhurst had everything ready, in his usual efficient manner, for an extended session fitting everyone to their rifles.

## Day 12 - Monday 11 August

This was the day to put the issued rifles to the test. While half the team shot, the others went to the butts, where to everybody's pleasure there was nobody in charge. Marking wasn't regarded as a chore as the mantlet provided perfect shade and coolness from the heat of the day. With some of the team finding the heat very tiring, we all carried water bottles and drank copious amounts to stave off the effects of dehydration. We shot at 300 and 600 yards twice to establish reliable zeros, foregoing a long range shoot in the afternoon, as we were not going to use the cadet rifle at the longer distances. By the end of the afternoon most were feeling pretty comfortable with their rifles.

## Day 13 - Tuesday 12 August

The beginning of the Cadet Meeting. Jenny Charlton and Screech Nelson along with Ian Rissanen, a Canadian Cadet, all shot 50.6 at 300 yards. Burton, Firman and Park also scored 50s. John Park shot a 50.6 at 500 yards and James Norris shot a 50.4 at 600 yards. Thus, the





"Come along chaps, sort this luggage out."



"I knew I shouldn't have come up this tower."



"I think I'll challenge that one."



Sonny and Cher (not sure which is which!)



Victorious Faraday team plus a friendly Canadian.



Chicken Run - the new accommodation.



Ee-Ore, Uncle Noz & Rah taking on fuel in preparation for Karaoke.



Sometimes it was just too hot!



Tuesday Aggregate was won by Park, closely followed by Burton, Firman, Norris and Charlton. Athelings filled the first five places - a good start.

### **Day 14 - Wednesday 13 August**

The shooting day started at 300 yards; sadly we seemed to have gone off form overnight, apart from Andy Burton who got a swift 50.6. Sadly Andy had to miss the resulting tie-shoot; having been bitten by something nasty, bits of him were swelling up painfully. The good shooting continued at 500 yards with Richard Holtum achieving his first ever possible with a rifle he had been issued with only three days previously. He let slip that he had yet to get a possible with his civilian rifle, which he has had for four years. The 600 yards shoot was the first competition in which one of the Athelings didn't get a possible; Sandy Walker was close with 49.5. The Aggregate for the day was won by Ian Rissanen, with Park, Firman and Wyatt following closely in second, third and fourth places.

The shooting day finished with a tie shoot for the competition at 300 yards from the day before involving Jen, Rob and Ian from the NRT. Jen Charlton won with 24.1, having been convinced on the point that she was going to lose. Rob Nelson came third. The rifles were then cleaned with loving care in anticipation of the second stage of the Rex Goddard the following day. When the Grand Aggregate results were published, the Athelings held ten out of the top fourteen places with Park winning, Firman second, Norris fourth, Walker sixth, Wyatt seventh, Charlton ninth and Nowacki tenth.

Once preparations for the big day to follow were complete, we spent the evening relaxing by the tents. Once again sleep came easily.

### **Day 15 - Thursday 14 August**

The final day of the Cadet Meeting started early with the second stage of the Rex Goddard match. Having a nine point lead the Canadians were the clear favourites, though the British warriors were keen to overcome this monstrous hurdle. Despite hearts of lions and wills of iron, our rifles proved to be of chocolate and not fire proof (ie we lost).

In the evening, we had been due to go to the wave pool with our Canadian friends, but the lights had been turned out in most of Canada and the United States. We hadn't noticed, as we hadn't had any electricity for a while, or water for that matter! We took it all in our stride, the Portapotties held no fear for us, but we were told life outside camp was chaotic and we were confined to camp. Sad, as we were rather looking forward to another ride in the yellow bus.

### **Day 16 - Friday 15 August**

After the trials and tribulations of the Rex Goddard, the team decided to celebrate their consistent shooting (losing by nine points both at Bisley and Connaught) by waking up 30 minutes later than normal. Apparently the power cut was affecting 50 million people across Canada and America so there was no water, light, air conditioning or any of the other amenities that had

become infrequently present at Connaught. We didn't let these trifles bother us, we marched out to long range in confident mood and zeroed our own rifles at the metric distances, discovering very little difference from the imperial distances at Bisley. One of the team missed with the first six shots but Bungle Firman showed us all how to do it; he calmly shot a 75.7. The day drew to a close with the setting of the sun, as there was no powered light to interfere with nature. It was a very peaceful evening.

### **Day 17 - Saturday 16 August**

The DCRA pre-Grand competitions were fired comprising the Gooderham at 500 yards and 900 metres, and the Army and Navy also at 900 metres. Between shoots we did a quick change and went to the parade ground to attend the Canadian Cadet Passing-Out Parade for as long as we could, then did another quick change back into our shooting kit to fire in our next detail. The Commandant sacrificed his pre-Grand shoots to attend the Parade in his No 1s, and looked very smart too. Sandy Walker was placed tenth in the Army and Navy, winning a bronze medal. Jen Charlton was placed seventh in the Gooderham, also winning a bronze medal. In the evening the DCRA held a Meet and Greet party for all competitors and officials in the marquee. Early in the evening the senior and junior pairings were circulated and we were given the opportunity to meet our partners. Most of us managed to find our other halves in the crowd and it was a very effective way of getting the young and old to mix.

### **Day 18 - Sunday 17 August**

We had our two silver huts organised now and everything had its place. The Commandant, Adjutant and Armourer each had their own table on which to put their respective bits and pieces; one soon learnt not to put anything on the Armourer's table if self-preservation was a priority. In the last of the pre-grand competitions, the Tilton at 300 and 600 yards, Jen Charlton was our highest scorer but this time equalled by Screech Nelson. They both won bronze medals and were placed seventh and eighth. The afternoon's session saw the first Grand competition, the Macdougall at 500 yards and 300 metres; Jon Kent came to the fore with a maximum score to be placed fourth.

### **Day 19 - Monday 18 August**

The day's competitions were the Norman Beckett at 300 metres and 800 metres, along with the Col John Brick at 500 and 600 yards. Sandy Walker dropped one in the Beckett with Nikki Malkin only a couple of V bulls behind. In the Brick, Sandy Walker tied for first place dropping only five V bulls, Robert Nelson was third only one V bull adrift. The Athelings were beginning to put in some excellent performances. It had been another very hot day, most were remembering to drink lots but finding shade was not quite so easy.

That evening we all trooped off to the clay pigeon club, on the edge of the camp, to make fools of ourselves playing Karaoke. The Commandant and Adjutant

managed that best with a rendition of Sony and Cher's "I've Got You Babe". There were some memorable moments - Andrew Nowacki made a better Mick Jagger than the real one - the applause must have been heard around the entire camp. The evening was a huge success.

### **Day 20 - Tuesday 19 August**

Good shooting again; in the Letson, a Queen's I shoot, Sandy Walker was placed fifth with a 105.12, with Laura Moore, Andrew Nowacki and Screech Nelson all with 104s not far behind. The other shoot was the Alexander of Tunis, the equivalent of the Corporation at Bisley. Jon Kent was placed third with the highest 49.

In the evening we joined the Canadian Cadets and watched another film at the cine centre just outside camp.

### **Day 21 - Wednesday 20 August**

Another hot day, and an important one if one wanted to make the Governor General's Final. A good score in the Queen's II shoot, the Presidents, was required to add to the Letson score. The Commandant made 150 with 13 V bulls, followed by Jen Charlton and Peter Medhurst on 148; Moore, Park, Norris and Burton were on 147 and 146s. James Norris had the distinction of shooting a real HPS, 50.10 at 500 yards, one of only two shot in the whole Meeting. (At the Prizegiving at the end of the Meeting the proceedings were started with presentations to competitors who scored a 50.0 or 50.10. There were none of the former and Jim Paton was presented with a special prize for the latter. We all felt for James when his 50.10 wasn't acknowledged.) The subsequent qualifying list for the Governor General's revealed that the Athelings party had seven in the Final, five Cadets, the Commandant and the Armourer. In order they were Benest, Moore, Charlton, Park, Medhurst, Nelson and Walker. Spirits were running high.

The final shoot of the day was the 800 metres range of the Gibson with the other two ranges to be shot the next morning. At the end of shooting the Commandant, Adjutant, Armourer and Captain were seen in a huddle sorting out the team for the Faraday Match the following day, the important one as far as we were concerned. We all had an early night in preparation for the big day.

### **Day 22 - Thursday 21 August**

The morning started with Robert Nelson showing us all how to do it. His scores at 300 and 600 yards together with his 800 metres score from yesterday won him the Gibson Challenge Trophy! Well done Robert.

The Faraday was fired in the afternoon and resulted in a victory for us by a margin of three points and 21 V bulls. The team worked very efficiently and conducted themselves competently with much enthusiasm. James Norris was our top scorer with 104.14 and Sandy Walker also scored 104. The Nigel Suffield-Jones's Trophy for the coach on the highest scoring target went to Pete Law by a narrow margin.

In the evening we joined our opponents for a lively evening brought about partly by seating the two

countries' cadets alternatively around the tables. The usual speeches were endured and thankfully didn't last long. Everybody enjoyed the evening and both teams were obviously still enjoying each other's company.

### **Day 23 - Friday 22 August**

We shot the Gatineau and Patrons at 900 metres in the morning. In difficult conditions in the Gatineau, Richard Holtum scored a magnificent 72.6 which was good enough for second place. In the Patron's James Norris led the way for us with a score of 67.3 which rather showed how difficult the conditions had become.

In the afternoon the Commandant had entered the Athelings as the Under 25 team in the Long Range match. The conditions were very difficult but the team really seemed to work well together even when some pretty low scores were appearing in the difficult periods. Jon Kent was our top man this time. We only just lost this match, but we were not downhearted and we were definitely looking forward to the Under 25s Short Range match.

### **Day 24 - Saturday 23 August**

The last day of shooting started with the Under 25's Short Range match. The unchanged team quietly got on with the job and won this time. Conditions became increasingly more difficult as the morning progressed. Only Sandy Walker and Jen Charlton stayed out of the magpie and our scores ranged from 145.11 to 138.8. Andy Burton was our top man this time. When it became really difficult our mistakes weren't as bad as the Canadians. After a close, good natured match the Athelings were feeling pretty pleased with themselves. After the announcement of the results and the reciprocal cheering, those in that afternoon's Governor General's Final were wondering how they were going to fare as the wind was getting stronger all the time.

Our team were invited to attend the Canadian announcement of their Cadet 2004 team to Bisley. Predictably there were mixed emotions on display, ranging from delight to despair. One couldn't help feeling sorry for those who were not selected.

The Governor General's finalists photograph was taken on the steps of the DCRA building at 13.10, facing the range. Saying cheese for the photographer was not easy as the competitors could clearly see the flags streaming above the horizontal and fishtailing from side to side. I'm sure some of the expressions were more of horror than anything else at the prospect of the impending battle with the elements.

The Final started at 15.20 or thereabouts, and our representatives were right to be concerned about the conditions. Alain Marion, certainly one of the most experienced shooters of Connaught conditions, won the coveted prize with a score of 282.27, carrying through a 150. That in itself is an indication of the conditions. The wind, no, gale or storm is a more accurate description, angled from 10 through to 1 o'clock. The stories were a delight to listen to at the end. One of our shooters, in successive shots, had 21 minutes left then 2 right on, and





Goddard combatants.



Cadet Grand Aggregate winner John Park (very much at ease) chaired by Athelings.



Major Sainsbury presents John Park with his gong.



Robert Nelson receives the Gibson.



Serge Bissonnette looking pleased with himself amongst the Athelings ladies.



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Happy Athelings!



scored a bull and an inner! Many of the finalists recorded misses; staying on the target was an achievement in itself. When the dust settled, no that's not the correct expression either, as it continued to blow everywhere, the results showed that Robert Nelson was our highest representative in 30th position, followed by Peter Medhurst in 36th, Richard Benest in 41st, Sandy Walker in 43rd, Jen Charlton in 44th, John Park in 47th and Laura Moore in 48th.

We then rushed off to get cleaned up for the Prizegiving in the marquee dressed in our No 1s. A comfortable chair was to be a prized possession for the proceedings; Bisley Prizegivings are a mere sprint by comparison. Undoubtedly the most rousing applause was at the beginning for the markers. They were all delightful schoolgirls, which explains why the marking was superb. The Athelings beat a path to the podium on a regular basis to collect several awards.

At the conclusion of the marathon, we had to de-camp on the yellow bus to an establishment outside camp. It was our turn to be hosts and thank the people who had made our trip so enjoyable and such a wonderful experience. We were expecting to have a separate room but unfortunately we found ourselves in a huge room with a band bashing out 'musak', so that one couldn't hear what the person next to you was saying let alone the person opposite. As we were all pretty tired this was not so unfortunate. Some heads were seen to be lolling and the journey back to camp was awfully quiet.

### **Day 25 - Sunday 24 August**

We rose a little later than usual then reported to the car park in civvies to board the coach to go to the Algonquin National Park. We had been told to bring only essentials. The journey took all morning and most slept all the way. On arrival at the Centre we were shown how to pack everything we needed for the next few days. Tents took most of the available space so we went in the clothes we stood up in with a toothbrush. One or two of the group had spent most of the preparation period saying how they didn't like water or canoeing, however once in the canoes they were smiling as much as the rest. Paddling techniques varied and progress on the water was somewhat erratic. We made for prearranged camping areas but these had to be abandoned as the sites were already taken. The three groups went their own ways to find vacant sites. Establishing camps was an interesting experience, some brushed-up previously learnt skills and some found they could do things they had never contemplated before. Sitting around a camp fire talking about nothing in particular was very relaxing. The tents were very cosy and sleep overtook us quickly.

### **Day 26 - Monday 25 August**

In the morning camp fires were stoked and equipment packed. We paddled to an old logging dam at which we learnt portaging skills. It was only a short walk with all the kit so it was not too strenuous. We paddled all day and had to visit several sites before finding a vacant one, and the other groups had the same experience. Once

established, many visited each other's sites to compare our handiwork. Canoeing skills were improving rapidly, some even managed to fall out. That night several paddled out onto the lake and just star gazed; Mars, being close, appeared huge and its reflection on the mirror-like surface was a wonderful sight. We were beginning to feel quite at ease with nature, even the sounds of the animals scratching around in the night were now not alarming.

### **Day 27 - Tuesday 26 August**

Camp drills and procedures were now well oiled and even the morning visits to the wooden thunderbox were taken in our stride. We paddled to the end of the lake and had to do another portage, but this time it was quite arduous, being the best part of a mile. However, everyone rose to the task and made it without help or having to go back for kit left behind. One or two needed a rest on the way but they made it in the end. Paddling on this lake saw a little rain falling, but not for long. Again we had difficulty finding a vacant site but this was a blessing in disguise for one of the groups. They had to paddle further to a more remote site, which turned out to be quite idyllic.

### **Day 28 - Wednesday 27 August**

We broke camp before daybreak to be out on the lake at sunrise, a wonderful experience. We paddled to a flat grassy area, bathed in sunshine. We thus started the last leg of paddling back to our starting point. Approaching civilisation, seeing motor vehicles on the bank, hearing mechanical noise for the first time in three days, brought home the reality of our normal existence. Some were tempted to paddle backwards and put in ear-plugs to block out the sights and noise of modern living. Given the choice some would have extended this sojourn in the Park. Within an hour or so we had returned the kit, thanked our guides, and were on the coach heading for Connaught. There we gathered all our belongings, said our thanks to our hosts and set off for Ottawa airport. The Air Canada staff were once again very considerate and helpful in dealing with our overweight baggage.

### **Day 29 - Thursday 28 August**

The flight back to Heathrow was uneventful as was the coach journey back to Bisley. Before dispersal the Athelings had a final task. Inside Derby Lodge, Nigel Suffield-Jones explained that this tour was Peter Medhurst's last trip for the Athelings. We all knew that, but it was only right that Peter's huge efforts for the benefit of numerous Athelings tours be acknowledged. A rather superior fishing reel was presented to genuinely appreciative applause. Farewells were bade and the team dispersed.

### **Postscript**

The Athelings tour was a fantastic experience. We heartily recommend that any cadets keen on target shooting, should hone their skills and try to gain selection. They won't regret it.

# CORNWALL INTER COUNTIES CHALLENGE 2003

*by Adrian Pettman*

The 52 firers who competed in this year's annual meeting at Millpool, Bodmin Moor, were confronted with a wall of mist on the opening day of Saturday 23 August. However, once the sun had burnt through, shooting eventually started at 11.30.

The opening event at 300 yards, which was not part of the main aggregate, gave everyone not used to this range a chance to zero. David Young and Keith Ellett were already attuned as they both started with an excellent 50.9. David emerged the winner after a count back on V bulls.

Fifteen shots at a 300 metres metric target is always a challenge but Bruce Young had no problems returning a score of 149.3 to win the second event outright. Falling back to 500 yards Pete Coley found form in the third competition winning with an unopposed 75.10. The final event of the day, at 600 yards, saw Rob Shaw and David Young dominating the proceedings each with 50.6, Rob winning the count back on this occasion. In spite of the delayed start the day's shooting closed pretty well on time thanks to Tony Mitchell's organisation.

Sunday dawned fine and warm with the morning being taken up with a fifteen round shoot at 600 and 500 yards. The wind, although fairly light, was subject to sudden variation but this did not deter Mick Buckley from winning this event with a magnificent total of 150.20, two points clear of George Cann on 148.18.

After lunch there followed something of a light relief which involved a ten round rapid fire in two minutes at 500 yards. Smooth bolt actions and good case ejection are vital in order to get all the shots off in the time. The top three firers all scored 45.3, however, after a tie shoot, John Garnet came out the winner followed by Warren Hedley and Stuart Carter.

The final competition, the Duke of Cornwall's Prize, consisted of one sighter and fifteen to count at 600 yards; this was open to the top 20 in the Grand Aggregate. Richard Bailie won in very convincing style with a superb score of 75.7.

There were, in addition to the main range events, a number of team competitions and individual aggregates. The E Thomas Construction Trophy, which was the total of events 1 and 4, went to David Young with a fine score of 100.15, whilst first place in the Cornwall Shield went to the four man team from Lancashire with a score of 1061.61 out of a possible 1100, just keeping the Altcar team in second place on 1050.59.

The main team event, the Cornwall Inter Counties Challenge, was won for the second year running by the six man team from Cornwall with a score of 869.88 closely followed by Lancashire on 864.99. The Helena Rubenstein Bowl, the ladies trophy, was taken this year by Jessica Sainter and the Dave Lumby Memorial went to David Young. The Dickson Pairs Trophy was netted

comfortably by David and Bruce Young. The Hallows F Class Trophy was won in style by Dave Pickering who hit the bull on every shot scoring 425.59; it was good to see more competing in this class. The Jobson Rose Bowl, which is in fact the Grand Aggregate for the two days with an HPS of 425, was won by Mick Buckley with a superb total of 417.38, narrowly beating George Cann on 416.36 into second place, with Bruce Young third on 415.31. Stuart, youngest of the formidable Young family, aged 14 years, won the Junior prize with a highly creditable 414.34; his sister Tara Young, who is 19, also competed making this meeting a real family affair.

The Royal Ordnance Trophy (RG Ammunition only) was won by George Cann with a total of 318.23 out of 325, four points clear of his nearest rivals. The Harvey Shield, which was open to Cornwall Rifle Club members only, was taken by Keith Ellett on 409.31 closely followed by Adrian Pettman with 409.28.

We were blessed with fine weather and an extremely efficient band of cadet markers in the Butts, under the supervision of Rob Moyle, to whom we are most grateful as we were to all who undertook the various Range Officer duties. To all our sponsors we offer our sincere thanks for their generosity and support, these being Albie Fox, who has given us ten years of support, the NRA, L&MRA, City Rifle Club, TWP Designs, HPS, Shearwater Insurance, Norman Clark and Keith Chard, all of whom contributed to the success of the meeting.

The Cornwall Rifle Club will host this meeting at about the same time next year, when it is hoped to see an increased entry. It is a marvellous location high on Bodmin Moor with views to both the north and south coast, with the Eden Project and excellent sandy beaches not far away. As the maximum number of entries has to be limited to 57, a figure nearly achieved this year, it is advisable to give an early indication of entry to secure a place. Entry forms and details of the 2004 Meeting are available from the organiser Tony Mitchell, who may be contacted on 01288 356459.

We look forward to seeing you this year.



The happy prize winners.





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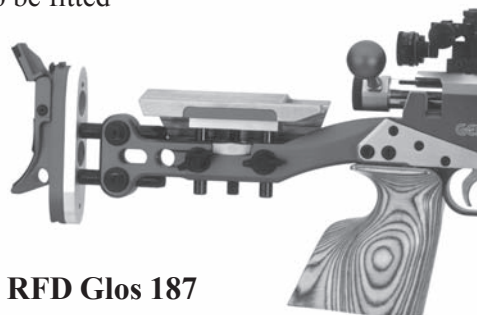


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# DISABLED RIFLE SHOOTING AT BISLEY

*by RJ Taylor*

In 1994 I had the misfortune to contract a severely debilitating illness. Within a relatively short space of time I was transformed from a very active and competitive rifle shooter to a wheelchair user. Not one to be put off by my misfortune I decided to revert to pistol shooting. Sadly however this form of fun was also taken from me by a mean and vindictive group of politically correct people (sometimes called politicians but quite often referred to in more derogatory terms!).

I decided to try rifle shooting once more. With the aid of two very kind friends I managed to shoot from bench rests provided at 1000 yards by the NRA. At this stage I was still just able to access this area. My next effort was to make my own portable bench using a workmate bench with a plank on top. This arrangement was put before the NRA Council in 1995 and the late Lt Col HJ Orpen-Smellie pointed out to the members present that this situation was already covered by Rule 248 (Conduct of Shooting). "Bingo" I thought "I'm off again!". I entered the Welsh Open Match Rifle Autumn shoot at Bisley and, with the help of my friend, set up and shot the first detail at 1000 yards. This was not as successful as I had hoped and in fairness to my friend I retired, as my shooting was compromising his.

For some time I could only participate as a spectator in a sport that I care passionately about. However the introduction of F Class gave me renewed hope. By virtue of Rule 248 I was back in business again. Should I or anyone else in my position wish to compete and can get someone to help them get into position on the firing point ie up to the peg and in line with the prone shooters, there is nothing to stop you. The 50 mils rule on rifle elevation is impossible to transgress so clearly there is no safety aspect involved and you don't take up any more room than the prone shooter (F Class or TR competitor).

Since my original attempts to shoot at Bisley, more and more benches have been put in by the NRA along with improved disabled access. However, as is

common with many adaptations made by the able bodied, the disabled were not catered for and some simple mistakes have been made. It is these that I should like to bring to everyone's attention. I would, at this juncture, state that the following comments are mine alone and in no way are they a criticism of the NRA, of any of the clubs or, indeed, of people involved at Bisley.

I now have a power chair which makes life a little easier for me. However, access to all but No 1 target on Short Siberia has become impossible for me. When the benches were erected no thought was given to disabled access. At 1000 yards the plinth on which these have been erected is the right thickness from a structural point of view but try driving a wheel chair up this! Should a ramp be put on one side there isn't enough space at the back to get past the benches. This design is common to all of the benches.

Now it is not all bad news. The NRA are aware of some of the problems and, to their credit, they have made inroads into some of them. You can't access the main office but there is access to the Range Office where ammunition can be purchased. Access to the Pavilion is always good during gun fairs etc.

Toilets are not too plentiful around the camp for disabled people, but the Elcho Hilton (so named by some wag) are very good but for one very thoughtless omission. To illustrate, having driven my electric wheelchair into the toilet, the door swung closed behind me and I was plunged into total darkness. I hadn't realized that the light was off before I entered and I had no idea where the switch was (there was no illuminated switch to help). Luckily for me my nine year old granddaughter was standing outside to helpfully inform those waiting outside that the toilet was occupied. I managed to call out to her to push the door open to allow me enough light to find the switch. Simple things like illuminated switches could make life so much easier! Alternatively the NRA could, as a matter of some urgency, put a 6" diameter reinforced, frosted port hole window in these doors.







The NRA's first effort at disabled access to the Zero Range did leave a little to be desired. To access the steep slope you needed muscles like a butcher's dog and when you descended it you knew just how Eddie the Eagle felt when he took up ski jumping. However, to their credit, they got it right when they upgraded the old Pistol Gallery. This facility is excellent - along with the Zero Range it is a covered self contained shooting complex. Not being a clay shooter (although I have been a rough shooter) I cannot comment on the clay complex. This being a new build layout it should, hopefully, have disabled facilities as should its new clubhouse.

The Camp's clubhouses, having been built in a different century, are facing or not facing up (depending on which way you are coming from) to the problem very well. I did a quick tour of the Camp and from approximately 18 clubs that I looked at, not one had any provision for disabled access. Whether they will be affected by new EEC laws I know not.

There is one last comment I wish to make and that refers to Fultons. Being the only permanent general firearms shop on the Camp, I do feel they should be asked to change the door step and provide access for wheelchairs.

I hope that this constructive article will be considered by the parties involved and, over time (but not too long), improvements for the less fortunate will become the norm rather than the exception.

## NRA CHRISTMAS SHOOT 6 DECEMBER 2003

*by Phyllis Farnan*

On a cold and drizzly Saturday morning 80 souls braved the elements to take part in the NRA Christmas Shoot on Century and Melville ranges which was run as a NRA Guest Day. A total of 46 guests took part and tried their luck at a variety of seasonal targets that had been specially prepared by the target shed and range staff.

The Turkey and Good Luck targets proved to be challenging for most, but the Dart Board and Plum Pudding were less of a problem. The Eccentric target was relatively easy for the gallery rifle shooters, but more demanding for the target riflemen. The aggregate of the scores on all five targets was used to determine the winners in both the target rifle and gallery rifle classes.

Iain Robertson made the top score of 168 ex 250 in target rifle. Iain, one of the stalwart team of NRA coaches who provided one-to-one supervision for the guests, kindly declined to accept the first prize taking a consolation box of mince pies instead. In the gallery rifle competition Mark Andrews had the top score of 201 ex 250. The principal prizes were awarded as follows:

	<b>Target Rifle</b>	<b>Gallery Rifle</b>
Turkey	Mr J Avens (Guest)	Mr Mark Andrews
Gammon	Mr C Hilton Johnson (Guest)	Mr Chris Webb
Plum Pudding	Mrs Heather Webb	Mr WB Smith

Consolation boxes of mince pies were awarded for the next best scores. A light lunch with mulled wine and mince pies was served in the NCSC Pavilion. As a first venture the Guest Day went well though it would have been nice to see more NRA members supporting the shoot. A similar event is planned for this year on 11 December 2004 so please make a note of this date in your diaries.

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# NRA OVERSEAS TEAMS FUND

	Year ended 30/9/03	Year ended 30/9/02
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO GB AND OTHER TEAMS</b>		
GBRT New Zealand 03	15,000.00	
NRA team to Channel Isles 03 (02)	2,500.00	3,000
300m 03 (02)	5536.68	5,876
GBRT Canada 02		18,105
GBRT West Indies 02		15,719
UK Bench Rest 2001		2,500
U25 Canada 02		5,000
U19 South Africa 02		800
Total Contributions to Teams	23,036.68	51,000
less Sports Council Grants received Note (a)	10,000.00	23,000
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTF</b>	<u>£13,036.68</u>	<u>£28,000</u>
<b>INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		
Donations		
Australian Team 2001	0.00	10,000
2003 Imperial competitions TR	6,189.00	5,575
2003 Imperial competitions MR	358.00	429
Newspapers -Young	1,224.84	1,149
Other donations	546.50	661
	<u>8,318.34</u>	<u>17,814</u>
Supporters Clubs		
Freddy Payne 100 Club	6,000.00	6,000
OTF swindle (net)	1,910.00	2,630
Bullet Ball (100% for U25)	1,039.14	1,540
	<u>8,949.14</u>	<u>10,170</u>
Interest		
Interest on Gilts	3,271.66	3,443
Tax reclaim	195.24	307
COIF interest	1,651.78	1,205
Bank & other interest	60.46	535
	<u>5,179.14</u>	<u>5,490</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>22,446.62</u>	<u>33,474</u>
Less Expenditure		
Contributions by OTF to GB & other teams	13,036.68	28,000
<b>SURPLUS FOR YEAR</b>	<u>9,409.94</u>	<u>5,474</u>
Unrealised (loss) profit on investments in year	-1,597.00	6
Reserves at 1/10/02	122,363.82	116,884
<b>RESERVES AT 30/9/2003</b>	<u>£130,176.76</u>	<u>£122,364</u>
Represented by:-		
Investments at market valuation (Gilts)	52,773.00	54,370
COIF Deposit account	67,993.00	45,000
Business Premium account	448.52	2,453
Owing by (to) NRA general funds	-1,765.38	13,618
Debtors	11,587.62	14,447
Creditors	-860.00	-7,524
Net Assets at 30/9/2003	<u>£130,176.76</u>	<u>£122,364</u>

Note (a) Sports Council grant of £10000 was received during October and December.

Reserves at 30/9/2003	TR	116,768.82	116,769
	MR	2,034.00	2,034
	U25	3,561.00	3,561
	General	7,812.94	0
		<u>£130,176.76</u>	<u>£122,364</u>

## OBITUARIES



### **Colour Sergeant Peter Bloom BEM**

Peter Bloom was born in 1951. From a very early age he had one aim in life – to become a Royal Marine. In 1967, at the age of 16, he became a junior marine. His first posting was to Singapore with 42 Commando, followed by a move to 40 Commando.

The next fifteen years saw Pete serving in many parts of the world, earning a Mention in Despatches in 1975 and again in 1978, followed by the award of the British Empire Medal in recognition of meritorious service in 1979. Pete's sheer professionalism, dedication to his job and total reliability made his name a byword within the Royal Marines.

In the early eighties Pete became a platoon weapons instructor, attending the Royal Marine sniper course and achieving the rare pass as a marksman. In 1982 he became the first Royal Marine to become a member of the Great Britain Service Rifle team. He spent the last three years of his service career as the Corps master coach, passing on his skills, some of which had been honed whilst on an exchange with those masters of marksmanship skills the United States Marine Corps. Pete became an avid reader and collector of marksmanship manuals, some dating from the 1860's. He subsequently rewrote the manual on marksmanship training and when his training techniques were used, first time pass rates for Annual Personal Weapons Tests leapt from 50% to 98% with all passes in the higher marksmanship class. Pete tried to get these new techniques adopted officially but officialdom contrived to prevent this, no doubt helped by a general attitude that marksmanship was not that important.

In the late eighties Pete started to become known in civilian circles as he encouraged his Marine pupils to enter civilian-run events such as classic, practical and service pistol and rifle competitions. They used service weapons from the armoury and from the Corps museum weapons collection. An enlightened Corps Commandant General was delighted with the success these young Marines achieved in both team and individual events. Unfortunately, others in officialdom again contrived to curtail this initiative. In 1989 Pete, through the auspices of the Royal Marines Rifle Association, donated a Scout Regiment spotting scope as the prize for a new 600 yards sniping SLRC competition for either classic or veteran sniping rifles. The Marines were keen to win this event but I was lucky enough to win the trophy. Hence I became known to Pete and that was the start of a long friendship.

Pete retired from the Royal Marines in 1991 but his interest in shooting and its history didn't stop. He became very well known on the civilian shooting ranges and a winner of many competitions. He had for a long time organised the shooting matches between the Surrey Rifle Association and the Royal Marines Rifle Association. If Pete was ever asked about which shooting discipline he followed, he would answer "I'm a shooter". He shot anything and everything and was particularly adept with a pistol. I once stood next to him at a timed pistol competition. Open mouthed, I watched him down six 12" metal plates, set at different heights and distances, in about 2.5 seconds!

His forte was being able to shoot accurately and quickly. Rapid-fire competitions such as the rifle 'mad minute' and pistol or revolver rapids and advancing men competitions were his domain and you would have to be having a really good day to beat him. In writing this I started checking all my old results sheets between 1989 and 1999. Suffice to say that I filled four sides of A4 with all his first and second places. In practical rifle he was one of those guys you'd want on your team.

Pete came up with the name of the Serengeti Snipers and the threesome of Pete, Ian Leedham and myself often swept the board, especially so when joined by Chris Vale for the National Practical Rifle Championships where we came second, first and first in the years 1992 to 1994. Unfortunately the rules were then changed to prevent the formation of "dream teams" and the Serengeti Snipers passed into history.

By now Pete was earning a living through his Iron Shirt company and trading in militaria, the latter becoming his main source of income with the ability to trade on the internet. His lifestyle became one I envied with his shooting, an approved pistol range in his garage basement, regular militaria buying trips to French and Belgian arms fairs and organising battlefield tours. However, as befitted a true gentleman who often put others before himself, Pete was putting much back in to the sport and society. He managed to find time to run a Scout Troop, write articles for the shooting press, helped form and run the Sportsman's Association, became a founder member of LERA and editor of Despatches, formed the 50 Calibre Rifle Club and took on the burden of being the Match Director for the NRA Historic Arms Meeting. He succeeded in getting civilians allowed back in to Service Rifle Shooting in 1999 and entering teams in to the Methuen in 2000. Lastly and certainly not least, he served in several different capacities on the NRA Council from 1994 to 2003, initially as the Practical Rifle representative and then as an ordinary member - elected with a flood of votes. He had to fight several stressful battles with officialdom in an attempt to preserve the rights of classic and practical rifle shooters.

By 1999 Pete was beginning to suffer with his knees and balance. This was eventually diagnosed as Cerebellar Atrophy and within a few short years confined him to a



wheelchair. The picture shows Pete, a big smile on his face even though he knew this would be the last competition he ever entered – it was October 2001 and the McQueen sniper competition. The person who took the photograph was an American friend of mine, visiting England for the first time. Typical of Pete he took time to explain the history of the competition and the WW1 SMLE sniper rifle he was using. It was the highlight of the American's visit and another person upon whom Pete had left a deep impression. Later, when the shooting community and his Marine friends learnt of his illness they rallied round to raise funds to provide downstairs bathroom and bedroom facilities for his cottage. The extension was completed in November 2003. I saw Pete for the last time in July when I managed to spend a few days with him, driving him in his modified Renault and taking him for walks in his wheelchair. We talked much about shooting and past escapades and his irrepressible humour had not diminished.

I could write pages about Pete, his humour, his care for others and his bravery but I'd like to end by including a paragraph from the letter I wrote to his wife Julie and son James after Julie phoned me with the sad news of his passing. I know it brought some comfort to her and I hope it will do the same for his many friends reading this obituary.

"It is sad that he was not able to have benefited more from the new extension to the cottage and outsiders might feel that all the fund raising activities somehow fell short of the ultimate aim. However, his friends don't feel that. For them, mainly being of the male persuasion and perhaps not best equipped to express too much emotion or feelings, the fund raising activities were a physical way for us to show our true feelings; deep respect, admiration, friendship, happy memories, an opportunity to return a good deed and long lasting thanks for Pete's efforts on the behalf of the shooting community. I'm grateful that we had the opportunity to express our love for Pete and for him to have seen it expressed in such a tangible way".

*Nigel Greenaway*

## **Ben Musgrave**

Ben Musgrave, the last surviving founder member of a famous South African gun-making family, died aged 64 on 18 August 2003 after suffering a heart attack. In 1950, Ben's father (Ben Musgrave Senior) and elder brother Trevor started a small business in Bloemfontein restocking rifles and shotguns and accurizing .303 target rifles. Ben Jnr joined them - at the age of 14 - in 1953. That same year the fledgling gun works installed barrel-making machinery. With the ability to make barrels the Musgraves soon branched out into building custom rifles.

Highly respected and greatly liked, Ben Musgrave was a serious competitive shooter. Like his father and elder brother he held Springbok colours for Bisley shooting. He took part in his first Bisley shoot in 1956 at the age of

17 and, in 1958 and 1959, he went on to represent the Free State. He became a Springbok in 1958, becoming at the same time the youngest .303 shooter ever to represent South Africa against Rhodesia.

In 1971 he was proclaimed Shooting Hero with a score of 294 ex 300, the best score ever recorded in Bisley matches in any Commonwealth country. This was a triumph for the new RSA Musgrave 7.62mm NATO calibre single-shot bolt-action target rifle. In fact, so tight-shooting did the RSA prove to be that in some countries it was banned from competition, being considered "too accurate". In the same year he won both the Free State Bisley Championships and the President's Cup, again using a 7.62mm Musgrave rifle. In 1974 he was a member of the Springbok Team which took part in the Palma Matches in England.

Ben was also a member of John Killian's Lions Goodwill Team to Australia in 1995 where his comradeship and expertise along with his very high standard of shooting and coaching was much appreciated and respected by the Captain and all members of the team.

Ben's interest in the shooting sports covered a wide canvas. In 1962 he achieved half-colours for clays, gaining his full colours in 1969, in which year he shot in the SA Games. Also, in 1971 he received the Shell Prize for International Design, presented for the excellent Musgrave 308 sporting rifle.

Apart from being a barrel making genius, Ben was also a wood craftsman of note and made superior rifle stocks. He was also regarded by the knowledgeable as an expert gunsmith who took great pains to attend to small details that others might tend to overlook. And he was no mean draughtsman, he himself making the drawings for the new Musgrave rifle actions as well as conceiving the 6mm Musgrave cartridge, which was based on the old .303, and breathed new life into many a Lee Enfield with a worn out barrel.

Ben leaves his wife Val, whom he married in 1967, and two sons, Edward, who was born in 1970 and Castell, born in 1973. Our condolences to them all.

*From ManMagnum magazine and John Killian*

## **Roy Miller**

Roy was born on 14 May 1925 and died very suddenly on 10 November 2003 in Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

In 1942 he joined the City Rifle Club followed by the NRA and the Surrey Rifle Association. He was a founder member of the Camberley Rifle Club.

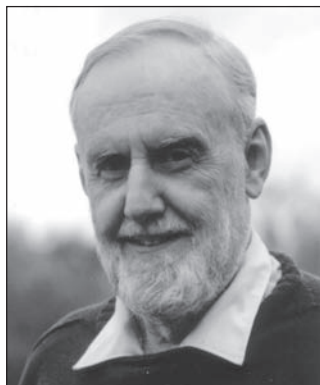
His achievements included being coached by Miss Marjorie Foster (*GM*) when he took part in the Astor County Cup in 1951 at Westcott near Dorking.

As well as many medals he won the Swanston Individual Challenge Cup (500 yards prone, 300 yards kneeling and 100 yards standing) at Bisley and was awarded life membership of the NRA.

We send our condolences to his wife Mary and family.

**Charles Maitland  
Yorke Trotter (GM)**

Charles was born in Edinburgh and counted in his ancestry the Cambells of Kinloch and the Logins. After his birth his mother took Charles with her and rejoined her husband, who was a surveyor in the Colonial Service in Uganda.



At the age of six Charles returned to Britain to a boarding school in Hastings, which he did not enjoy. Some years later his family moved to Guernsey where he joined Elizabeth College, which was the start of a life long association with both the school and the island. He was in the school VIII between 1938 - 40 and in the last year was appointed Captain.

When the Germans threatened the Channel Islands in June 1940, Charles with the rest of the OTC collected together their kit, which was then taken to the St Peter Port Arsenal to be destroyed. The school was then evacuated on a hot Thursday evening, Charles carrying with him part of his father's valuable stamp collection, addresses of friends in England and twelve pounds - all the money that was in the house at that time. The handle of this heavy suitcase broke on the way to the harbour, and he had to struggle the rest of the way and on to the Dutch ship *Batavia IV*. Their destination was first Weymouth and then on to Oldham, and finally Great Hucklow in Derbyshire.

When he left school he joined the Royal Engineers. He recounted, in his matter of fact manner, the occasion he joined his unit in Europe. Two days after D Day he was travelling by motorbike, when he became lost and naturally asked the way from a passing man, whom later he realized to have been a German soldier. Charles was not a person to make a drama out of a situation.

After the war Charles, then a Captain, commanded a group of German POWs in the Canal Zone in Egypt charged with constructing and maintaining the water supply and filtration plants. He returned to London in 1949 and took a course in photography, and then established a photographic business in Nairobi, Kenya from 1951 to 1962. His varied work included social occasions such as weddings, natural history and news items. He made a film about the Mau Mau, which involved Ed Morrow the American political commentator, and a nature film about baboons, which won a blue ribbon award for photography.

He represented Kenya at small-bore in the Olympic Games in 1956 and 1960, and the World Championships in 1962.

In the early 1960s he returned to London and then moved to Fleet in Hampshire, where he joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough and later Aberporth in Wales as a photographer. One of his many assignments included photographing the de Havilland Comet. In

1962 Charles married Jo who survives him. The year 1965 saw an event that affected both of them for the rest of their lives, when they were involved in a head on car crash on August Bank Holiday leaving both disabled. He was invalided out of the Civil Service in 1966 and returned to Guernsey where he took over a long established gun shop.

In 1975 Charles tied for first place in the Queen's Final with five other competitors. He relished the tie shoot and finished in first place with 24 ex 25. He thus became the second islander to win HM the Queen's Prize. His return to the island that July saw crowds of people lining the harbour to honour his win. That year he was voted the Islands Sportsman of the Year and was asked by the Guernsey Postal Services to be featured on one of its series of stamps depicting disability in sport.

He reached the Queen's Final a further seven times, the St Georges top twenty-five twice and won five bronze crosses in the Grand Aggregate. Charles fired twenty times for Guernsey in the Kolapore, and represented Scotland, the Channel Islands and Guernsey in the Mackinnon. He was Hampshire Fullbore Champion in 1994.

Charles represented Great Britain in the Small-bore World Championships in 1974 and 1982, and Guernsey in the Commonwealth Games in 1974, 1978, and 1982 when he also shot the Fullbore event. He brought back the Fullbore Bronze medal from those Games to Guernsey. He first represented Scotland in the NSRA home country matches in 1958 and again in 1963. He went on to shoot a further thirteen times between 1970 and 1987 and captained his country in 2000. He shot in the Wakefield in 1972 and 1973 and in the Dewar nine times between 1972 and 1983. He was Scottish Champion (Earl Haigh) in 1972.

Charles also competed in the NSRA and Hampshire Small-bore Championships. He was County Champion five times between 1972 and 1986, indoor Veteran Champion from 1984 to 1988 and outdoor champion on three occasions. He fired regularly for the Civil Service and was successful in both their small-bore and fullbore Championships. He was Guernsey Champion twelve times from 1971 to 1986.

He also represented Great Britain in Europe at 300 metres shooting. He competed a number of times in the Masters and Nordic Championships. Charles and Jo returned to Farnborough in 1983 and some three years ago he gave up active participation in the sport he loved, retaining a great interest in all shooting matters and with pride, the Presidency of the Old Elizabethan Rifle Club.

Charles was essentially a quiet man with a wealth of experience. He was always eager to hear how other members of the team had performed, but would say little of his achievements. His many friends will miss him greatly. Our condolences are sent to Jo.

Charles' ashes will be scattered at Bisley at the beginning of the 2004 Imperial Meeting.

*Mike Martel*



**Air Vice Marshal  
Douglas Bower  
CBE AFC RAF**

Air Vice Marshal Douglas Bower was born on 6 January 1920, joined the Royal Air Force on 27 April 1941, retired on 6 January 1975 and died on 3 Oct 2003 aged 83. He was appointed MBE in 1952, OBE in 1958, and CBE in 1971. He was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1955 in recognition of his work on the polar flights of "Aries IV".

When, shortly after the Second World War, the RAF decided that navigators would henceforth enjoy the same career prospects as pilots, Bower was one of those who led the navigator community up the promotion ladder, being the first to command a V-Bomber squadron, the first to command a flying station, the first to reach Air rank, and the first to become an Assistant Chief of Air Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

Among his contemporaries, however, he will be chiefly remembered for a series of notable flights in the long-range Canberra aircraft "Aries IV" operating from the Royal Air Force Flying College, Manby, later re-named more appropriately the Air Warfare College. These included a record-breaking flight from Cape Town to London, the first polar flight by a jet aircraft, the first intercontinental transpolar flight by a jet aircraft, and a record-breaking flight from Ottawa to London which culminated dramatically in a radar-directed landing in thick fog.

Bower joined the RAF in 1941 and was commissioned in November 1942. Shot down over Germany in October 1943 after only a short time in Bomber Command, his first post-war appointment was to the Experimental Flying Department, RAF Farnborough. He subsequently served in staff appointments at the Empire Air Navigation School, the Directorate of Navigation, Air Ministry, and the RAF Flying College, before promotion to Wing Commander and a posting in support of the first series of nuclear weapons tests on Christmas Island. Returning to the UK for a successful tour as CO of 617 Squadron (the Dambusters), then re-forming with Vulcan aircraft, he next served as Wing Commander Operations at the headquarters of the Vulcan force before promotion to Group Captain to command the Bomber Command Bombing School, responsible for the radar-bombing training of the whole V-Force.

There followed a short tour in a personnel division in the Ministry of Defence (Air), promotion to Air

Commodore, and selection to attend the Imperial Defence College course for potential front-runners, at the end of which came a bizarre appointment as an aircraft Project Director at the Ministry of Technology, responsible for the programme to develop and procure anglicised versions of the McDonnell-Douglas Phantom aircraft for both the Royal Navy and the RAF. His next post was another first for a navigator, that of Senior Air Staff Officer at HQ No 1 Group, which comprised the Vulcan force, the Victor air-to-air refuelling force, the strategic reconnaissance squadrons and the first squadron of Buccaneer aircraft inherited from the Royal Navy, to be augmented later by the electronic countermeasures training and electronic calibration squadrons of No 90 (Signals) Group.

Promoted to Air Vice Marshal in 1973, Bower's last appointment was as Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operational Requirements), responsible for formulating the RAF's future aircraft and weapons systems requirements. This was a busy and, at the same time, frustrating period, with the Tornado entering the final stages of development, the Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft undergoing an upgrade to counter likely advances in Soviet submarine technology, and what some regarded as an entirely unnecessary competition between the fully-developed Boeing AWACS aircraft and a heavily modified version of the Nimrod carrying a radar system still in the early stages of development. Throughout the period an inordinate staff effort went to defend the development of a fighter version of Tornado, which was under frequent attack by the MOD Central Staff as offering an insufficient advance in performance over its predecessor. One of Bower's final moves before retiring in 1975 was to provide a toe-hold for the case for Precision Guided Munitions (PGM) by giving a fair wind to a Strike Command proposal that their use in conjunction with low-altitude toss-bombing tactics be the subject of a feasibility study. These weapons first saw operational service in the Falklands war of 1982, and are the mainstay of precision air attacks today.

In retirement he kept in touch with navigation matters for a while as a founder member of the Royal Institute of Navigation, served at local level as chairman of the Air Cadets and ex-service charitable organisations, and developed an interest in collecting antique maps. His principal interest, however, lay in target rifle shooting, at which he had frequently represented the RAF. He never regarded himself as close to being a top-grade shot despite achieving fifth place in the Queen's Prize at Bisley but was always a useful team member. At county level he regularly represented Yorkshire into his 60's, he represented England in the National Match in 1970 and was Adjutant of the England team in the 1985 National Match and the 1986 Mackinnon. A Life Vice-President of the RAF Small-Arms Association, he ended his shooting days as a much loved and respected President of the Yorkshire Rifle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Veronica, and by two sons, David and Julian.



## Dave Morris

Dave Morris died on 27 Dec 2003 at the age of 78 after a long battle with cancer fought with great fortitude.

He had two major loves in his life, the first was Myrtle to whom he was married for 54 years and the second was shooting.



Dave was a Derbyshire lad and started his shooting as a schoolboy in the ATC and then with his father who was an instructor in the Home Guard. After leaving school he trained as a surveyor and worked for the Ordnance Survey. He was called up during the war and joined the Royal Air Force where his service took him to India and the Far East, there his surveying skills were utilised in map making. After the war he joined the LMS Railway, later to be British Rail, working in the Property Division and shot with the Euston Club in London.

Dave was a very good but not outstanding marksman, however he was a truly committed worker and organiser. He joined the Ruislip Rifle Club in 1954 and was the driving force behind the club getting a range of its own. He designed the range and oversaw the construction. Unfortunately in 1967 he had to do the job again when the original building was destroyed by fire. He was a stop-gap Secretary for 17 years and then Chairman and Vice President, a position he held until recently. Without doubt Ruislip Rifle Club owes a great deal of success to the many years of work put in by Dave Morris. In 1982 Dave and Myrtle moved to Aylesbury and Dave joined the Chinnor Club. He remained an active member, and Chairman, of that Club until his final illness.

Dave also shot fullbore. He joined the London and Middlesex Club in the 1950's, became Captain of Middlesex in 1974 and was on the Council of the LMRA for 18 years, before being made Vice President. Also Dave was a founder member of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club where he was a very active shooter turning out for practically every weekend. Again Dave was a "doer", he was the Tour Manager of the RAFTRC team to Jersey for numerous years.

One other love of Dave's was his dogs, and Brock was an excellent companion for many years. Brock made himself very comfortable during hot weather at Bisley, in a dip under their caravan. Until recent years, in inclement weather Dave was often seen around the Bisley Ranges in a rather tatty Monsoon Cape. This was a legacy of his wartime service and had been repaired and waterproofed many times over; Dave was not a person to throw things away. Myrtle would often ask why he kept items that were out of date or no longer needed, he would use his stock answer "Without people like me there would be no antiques for future generations". He kept his wartime uniform and when

he bought a new rifle he would not dispose of his old weapon but just add it to his collection. This was obviously a family tradition because on his FAC he had a SMLE and a Luger collected by his father from the Somme in World War One.

Dave was a quiet, true gentleman who provided great service to the Clubs of which he was a member. His counsel and friendship will be sorely missed.

*Chris Fitzpatrick*

## Roy Taberner

Roy Taberner died suddenly on 29 July 2003, after a very short illness; he was two weeks away from his 74th birthday.

Roy's life-long interest in pistol, target rifle and match rifle shooting covered half a century. Living in Lancashire, much of his shooting was conducted at Altcar and other ranges in the Midlands and the North-West.



Roy joined the NRA at Bisley in the early 1960s, by the year 2003 he had been coming to the home of shooting for forty consecutive years.

I first met him in 1984, having expanded my own shooting field to include match rifle shooting. In those days, Sierra Bullets were hard to acquire and very expensive through the normal outlets. Speaking to Jim McAllister, who I had first met at Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club in London, I mentioned my problem to him and was told to see Roy Taberner as he supplied most of the match rifle fraternity with Sierra pills at very reasonable cost.

Having made contact with Roy, we remained good friends from then on. Both of us being engineers and conducting our own gun-smithing, we had a lot in common; he went one further by becoming a ballistics expert. He also designed and developed a rear sight for his back-gun and manufactured a small batch of them.

Having worked first as a Research and Environmental Engineer and then as an Aircraft Combat Vulnerability Engineer for British Aerospace, Roy's expertise in weapons and ballistics held him in good stead for his chosen hobby, he had produced many computer programs on ballistics long before they became available to the general public. Roy joined what was then the British Aircraft Company in 1968. The company already had a shooting club, established a few years earlier by like-minded people, Roy quickly joined the club and offered his services. He was soon on the executive committee and between 1968 and his retirement in 1988, he served much of the time as Chairman. Under his guidance and support the club grew in size and scope,

and enjoyed considerable success in competitions at Bisley and Altcar. Altcar became, as it remains today, the clubs fullbore home. Roy initiated an inter-site target rifle competition, between various sites of what is now BAE SYSTEMS, to be held annually at Bisley. Initially four BAE sites competed: Warton, Stevenage A (Guided weapons), Stevenage B (Space systems) and Weybridge. Although Weybridge has closed, other sites have joined in over the years, at least twelve sites ranging from Lancashire and Yorkshire to Surrey and Wales have competed and today the event is semi-corporate, with Company Directors and sponsorship. Roy remained an active member of the club after his retirement and was able to see the competition grow and flourish over the years.

Roy's match rifle career covered a long and very successful period, having joined the English Eight Club in 1965, he won the club's Bronze Jewel in the 1986 Championship. In the NRA's Imperial Meetings he came 10th in the Hopton in 1973 and again in 1986. He won the Any Rifle in 1977 and again in 1980. He won the Edge in 1981 and was chosen to shoot for England in the Elcho in 1971, 1973, 1977 and 1986.

Roy leaves his wife Rose, his son Christopher, daughter-in-law Annette and two grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all his many friends, members of the English Eight Club, and many in the wider target shooting fraternity.

John Knight summed up Roy Taberner when told of his death, he said he was a "quiet, kind gentleman" and we can only echo his words.

*Roy J Taylor with a contribution from Antony Di Domenico*

#### **Postscript**

*Thanks to the generosity of his Bisley friends, members of the English VIII Club and NRA staff, a plaque dedicated to Roy's memory will be placed at the Clock Tower with the following wording:*

*Roy Taberner 1929 - 2003*

*He was a kind and gentle man who loved this place  
May his spirit always be free*

#### **JD (Jack) Gorrie**

Professor Jack Gorrie died on 30 August 2003, three months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was just short of his 56th birthday.

Jack first became known to British shooters in Canada in the mid 1970's, when he pioneered the use of computers for 'stats' and, later, squadding of target rifle matches. Although not a shooter himself, Jack rapidly became interested in our sport and its history and traditions.

At first, there was understandable concern as to whether the new fangled computer systems could cope and a manual "back-up" for the scoring was set up. The



manual operation was soon set aside and computer stats began to slowly spread around the target shooting world. After a two year break, Jack returned in 1980 to look after the DCRA's stats, and did so for the rest of his life. 2003 was thus his 25<sup>th</sup> year of working with the DCRA, a record of service which was recognised by his being elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association last August.

Jack was a large person in every sense of the word. He loved life and the good things of life – music, theatre, travel, good company, fine food, fine wines and, notably, fine malt whiskies. His loud, infectious giggle once nearly led to a sizeable group of British and Canadian shooters being evicted in the small hours from the famous Red Pines motel, in Alliston.

We offer our warm sympathy to his wife Mary Lou, son Jim, and daughter Kathleen. A memorial service and reception to celebrate Jack's life were held at the University on 8 September, with a very large attendance of family, friends and colleagues. Typically, the toast to his memory was made with a glass of single malt.

*Jim Thompson and Ian Brown*

#### **Barbara Truby**

Having read Don Truby's modest obituary for Barbara in the Winter Edition, I cannot let the occasion pass without mentioning the enormous support she gave to the Surrey Rifle Association over many years.

Long before she ever started acting as Range Officer for us, she was a member of the General Purposes Committee going back to the days of Denis Cantlay's Chairmanship in the 1970s.

During my time in the Chair she was a constant support and in our most difficult periods, she would put her hand to anything, be it organising social activities, raffles, cooking, serving food or doing the washing up. I also remember her active support of the Surrey Hut Restoration Fund when it seemed that our old building was going to fall down.

In fact, for Barbara, nothing was too much trouble and we sadly miss her both as a friend and supporter.

*Peter Dodd*

#### **Tony Spencer**

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to thank the many, many Bisley friends from around the world that sent words of sympathy and shared their memories of Tony with us. These letters, cards and thoughts have been a great comfort to me at this terrible time.

I will be in the UK next June/July to bring Tony's ashes to be scattered at Bisley where some of his happiest times with his friends over the years were spent.

I hope to see you all at Bisley next year when we can chat about those pleasant times!

May God bless you all.

*Veronica (Donna) Spencer*

## LETTERS

*From Peter Dodd*

### **Club Shooting**

As, I suppose, a veteran club shooter at Bisley I am wondering where club shooting is going and whether anyone has given thought to its future.

During the last 20 years, led by the introduction of some professionalism into our international teams, the practice of forming team squads has grown to such an extent that it is denuding some clubs of their best shooters.

An extreme example was this year's Palma Team when a squad of, I believe, 40 was kept going with regular practices right into the late spring.

That the result was successful, no one can deny, but the effect on clubs has been significant. Shooters have just so much cash and time to spend on their hobby and if they are using it on their team practices, this leaves less for them to spend on club shoots.

It was therefore with some dismay that a recent club shoot ran into difficulties as it clashed with an England team practice weekend as I had expected that, now that the Palma was behind us, we should be in calmer waters.

Shooting at Bisley and the welfare of the National Shooting Centre must depend on the clubs' support but, if they are struggling to field teams, the number of club shooters will drop bringing down the income at Bisley and a source of team shooters for the future.

I am all for good, well trained international teams for a sport at which we, as a nation, excel but I do feel that the time, cost and effort in training these teams could be moderated somewhat. This would give clubs the opportunity of fielding more teams thus drawing in more shooters to the general benefit of the sport as a whole.

*From Barry Thompson*

### **Non-Convertible Sighters**

We have for some years now offered the option to convert sighters.

The original reason for this is perhaps long lost in the wash however I believe that it is now time to reconsider this position.

As far as I am personally concerned there are two issues at stake.

In the first place my cost for shooting is not the cost of the bullets alone but is the associated costs of target and marker hire, transportation, equipment etc, which makes the cost of two bullets insignificant.

The second issue is the well known fact that scoring shots are pressure shots and by giving the option to convert sighters we are offering a good deal more than

that, we are reducing the number of competitive fired rounds for that person, giving the person who converts their sighters an additional advantage.

I would like to see convertible sighters abandoned; I would like to see equality in competition with all competitors being required to fire ten pressure shots, not with some eight and others ten, or in percentage terms 25% more stress. This is not an equal competition on equal terms.

What do others think? If anyone has a view on this they are welcome to contact me, preferably by e-mail on [barry.tompson@btopenworld.com](mailto:barry.tompson@btopenworld.com).

*From Graeme Berman*

### **Stealing Part 2**

The letter from Roger Wood about articles being stolen at Bisley brought to mind some episodes of theft which may amuse.

As an Australian, a nation whose founding fathers were convicts, I am fairly relaxed when items of mine are stolen. I have forgiven the burglars of my caravan and the thief who stole my electric razor from the showers but I still rankle over an event which occurred in 1976.

The Australian Team, that year, were accompanied by many wives who were housed in the dormitory near the RAF Clubhouse. As reported in the Sun of 21 July 1976 they became a target for a Peeping Tom who sets his sights on their undies. All but one of the 12 women had had their bras or undies rifled from the washing lines. They even saw the intruder who was pale faced and wore black gloves. Moire Berman, a relation of mine, was quoted as saying that if they could catch him they would keep him for a while to see what makes him tick.

All this was reported under the large black headlines of

"UNDIES RIFLED AT BISLEY!"

Other headlines in other papers included

"Gurkhas alerted for brief encounter" and

"Bisley wives' trap for pantie pincher"

The Times made no mention of the drama but contented itself by reporting on the Empire Match, which we had won. When the Secretary, Arthur Riall's phone rang very early next morning from Australia, he assumed that the enquiry would be about the results of the match. He was naturally a little put out when the reporter didn't ask about the match but wanted to be brought up to date about the pantie pinching bandit. His response is unrecorded.

All the press clippings remain in my scrap book, thus illustrating that shooting does have its lighter sides.



*From Graham King, Chepstow RC and Kent RC*

### **F Class**

I have been shooting and supporting F Class both here and in Australia for about four years - and having shot just about everything over the last 40 years I've found my niche.

Before F Class there was no discipline for the "gun nut" (a shooter who enjoyed reloading, ballistics, different calibres, wildcats, etc). To us F stands for freedom. Freedom from petty rules to shoot what ammo we like in what rifle we like, whereas target shooting NRA style is more akin to small-bore: one buys or is issued with 7.62 RG and that's it.

I am therefore horrified by the attempt of some Old School target shooters to hijack F Class by proposing a 7.62 RG Class. There is no such class in the World Championships!

The argument that 'scoped TR rifles are not competitive holds no water. There are TR shooters using Mausers that are not competitive with RPAs and I don't hear them asking for a separate class.

There are many of us who choose to shoot a calibre that does not have the ballistic efficiency of the 6.5mm. We get our fun out of squeezing the most out of our chosen equipment. This is what F Class is all about, not pot hunting.

I choose to shoot a 7.62 with handloads using a 155 gr bullet, so I'm at a disadvantage when coming up against a 6.5 mm, but have no advantage, apart from cost, against someone who uses 155 gr RG, whereas an RG user has an advantage over a shooter with a .223. Yet it is proposed that RG users are singled out as a special case for a separate competition!

F Class to many shooters is a dream come true. It is both a hobby and sport with few regulations. It has a large international following and is growing fast. **It is not an OAP version of target rifle.** I say to TR shooters, if you wish to join us, shooting under international rules, you're more than welcome. If it's 'scoped target rifle you're after, stay away!

*From Paul Monaghan - F Class Representative*

Firstly let me say that I completely agree with Mr King that F Class is a fascinating sport combining reloading, ballistics and the excuse to try different calibres and cartridge combinations in the eternal pursuit of ultimate accuracy.

However, I must take issue with a number of points raised in his letter concerning the introduction of an issued ammunition class of F Class. Mr King rightly states that F Class is growing in popularity, but there are still a lot of potential F Class shooters out there who have yet to see the light! Their hesitation in trying competitive F Class shooting may have many root causes but two main points that have been aired in the recent past are cost and handloading. As far as expense is concerned, there is a perception that it is

necessary to go to considerable expense, on both rifles and accessories, in order to start shooting F Class. Whilst it is possible to spend considerable sums, it is also possible to be competitive with relatively humble equipment. Much is in the skill of the shooter. From the handloading point of view, again there is a perception that a wealth of experience in careful tuning of handloads will be needed to start F Class shooting.

Issued ammunition F Class is a means to overcome these misconceptions and encourage the waverers to give it a try. Once they have tried shooting F Class with issued ammunition they may well become hooked and get into the real fun of handloading and ballistic experimentation.

So yes, this is a bit of a 'come and try it' aimed at the TR shooter but, just as importantly, there are a lot of telescope sighted, bipodded (is there such a word?) 7.62mm rifles out there that are only fed factory ammunition. They would be welcome in F Class competition also. Where the concept of pot hunting comes in is not clear to me. It is hoped that the new class will bring in new shooters, but they will be in their own class - their presence will not affect existing F Class shooters one iota - except that they will help to swell the growing numbers of F Class shooters.

Perhaps it is worth pointing out here, that there is a precedent for an issued ammunition class. Match Rifle - another handloading and ballistically demanding discipline - which is equally as appealing as F Class in its own way, has an RG class and has done so for many years!

Like Mr King, I shoot F Class and thoroughly enjoy it. I am rather horrified that Mr King feels able to speak on behalf of the F Class shooters of GB and tell people who may become converts to the F Class way to "stay away". F Class shooting is friendly and welcomes anyone who wishes to join this shooting sport.

## **THE BISLEY CLUBS EASTER MEETING**

**10 - 12 April 2004**

*also celebrating 100 years of the NLRC Clubhouse*

**Saturday 10 - 300x and 900x**

**Sunday 11 - Queens I and II**

**Monday 12 - 900x and 1000x**

**Closing date for entries 3 April 2004**

**For programme, entry form & conditions visit  
[www.gbrc.org.uk/easter.doc](http://www.gbrc.org.uk/easter.doc)**

**Alex Henderson c/o North London Rifle Club,  
Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NY  
[alex@akhenderson.co.uk](mailto:alex@akhenderson.co.uk)**

*The following exchange of letters between Robert Turvey and NRA Chairman John Jackman is published to "provoke meaningful discussion and comment" as suggested by Robert Turvey. Similar ideas, suggestions and constructive criticism would be greatly valued whether submitted to the Editor or directly to the NRA.*

*From Robert Turvey*

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> VB Warwicks Rifle and Pistol Club, immediate past Chairman of the Hereford and Worcester Rifle Association, NRA Life Member, long time shooter and consumer. I have left this letter open as you will see from the distribution in order to provoke meaningful discussion and comment.

There is a general conception that the NRA exists only to promote and run the annual Imperial Meeting. If we are to survive and even increase in strength and influence we need to attract more active members and actively promote the sport of shooting as opposed to Bisley itself. The current set up is not very conducive. The Commonwealth Games and World Long Range Championships were a very well kept secret. The Queen's Prize must be the premier non-event of any sporting calendar. We have the band not knowing where or when to play in competition with an intermittent PA system which, at the moment does not matter since there are no spectators other than some shooters who did not make the Final; most others having long since headed home. We also have what must be the largest collection of trophies of any sporting organisation anywhere in the world but we generally keep it to ourselves.

At the moment, membership of the NRA offers very little as, when a member arrives at Bisley, where can he go? What we need is for the NRA to be more proactive and to act more like a Club. There should be proper NRA Club facilities where members can meet and socialise (the old AJ Parker unit in the Fultons building or the Sergeants' Mess would probably have fitted the bill) and regular shooting should be on tap; the Range Office Targets are a step in the right direction but about 100 years overdue.

There is a whole section of short range 'plinkers' who should be encouraged into the NRA fold. These people have 'scoped rifles with bi-pods and regularly shoot at 200 yards or occasionally at 'long' range of 300 yards. These people should be encouraged to join the NRA and, in this connection, I would propose that the present F Class, which has currently been hijacked by would be Bench Resters and Pot Hunters, revert to its original conception ie a target rifle with any sights with the fore end rested. The current F Class should be re-named 'any rifle' or 'unlimited'.

In my view, the NRA should organise regular Queen's I shoots say, initially every four weeks, covering maybe a half day or an Empire course of fire covering a whole day. These shoots could be organised as a

club shoot to be entered on the day or before and ammunition supplied on the range as required. The individual could then either enter an NRA competition or do his own thing within the same timings. Clubs could also do their own thing within the same timings. In this way it would be possible for a member to travel to Bisley on say, a Friday evening, stop over and have a reasonable shoot the following day and be away in the evening.

The Palma squad, which has been a brilliant success for the purpose for which it was set up, is now in danger of destroying the very sport for which it was formed. It absorbs a disproportionate amount of funds and resources and has become elitist to the detriment of other members. I propose therefore that it should be disbanded forthwith and re-formed only in the Palma years.

Further commercial development should be discouraged so that any profits, and therefore benefits, would stay within the boundaries of the camp for the benefit of members. It is difficult to see how, say, a commercial hotel will directly benefit members other than the payment of ground rent. Using St George's Lodge as an example and, given the high cost of membership, food and drink in the LMRA, it is difficult to see where the benefits for the individual member lies. I would propose that any future redevelopment within Bisley should concentrate on the provision of small living units which can be purchased or rented and be occupied all year round in order to make Bisley a more general all year round facility.

I have limited my comments to TR but they could easily also apply to other disciplines.

In conclusion, I would like you to note that this letter is in no way intended to imply criticism of the present or past management or staff of the NRA who I have found to be always courteous, friendly and helpful.

*From John Jackman*

Thank you for your letter which has raised a number of issues of general interest to members.

We are determined to do more for our members, particularly away from Bisley and to seek to increase our membership. At the moment, we have just over 4,000 full, registered, members, but an unknown, but significant number of affiliated members through our clubs. We are trying to establish just how many people are associated with us without double counting the numbers which are supplied to us. We should like to know their names and addresses. We should like to reduce the membership fees by spreading the burden more widely. We should like to attract more.

I do understand the frustration expressed in your second paragraph. On a positive note, the PA system is being renewed and we are also hoping to have a

running commentary at important events such as HM The Queen's second and final stages. We are assembling a programme to work on the press and media, but we have to accept that we are not the only international sport crying out for more attention. What is important to us is not seen as such by others. However, you may have noticed that we have had some very friendly press articles in the Times and in the Telegraph recently, following a press open day. We have even had positive comment in the Daily Mirror, following the conclusion of the Charity Commission review of our affairs. I wish we could organise matters so that more competitors would wish to stay on until the Final Saturday.

The Imperial Meeting is still very important (vital) to us as one, but the main one, of some five flagship events which the NRA promotes. It is demanding on our resources with four to five weeks of events for the Services, Volunteers, Cadets and civilian competitions. The cadets, in particular, are our life blood and with the return of the Cadet Target Rifle, we had over 1,000 cadets with us this year. However, Bisley is now managed for us by National Shooting Centre Limited and part of their mandate is to increase shooting activity and promote less formal events to our Flagship events as well as bring in other activities (not to conflict with shooting) to raise income for Bisley. The Bisley estate is very expensive to run. The Range Office Target will be expanded, provided there is demand. Other events will be introduced in due course and I will pass on your suggestion about 'Queen's Ones'. Over this Winter, special offers are being proposed, if they can be worked out, involving range hire and accommodation. We are also looking to fix weather firing point covers on Century and Stickledown to encourage Winter use. Stickledown is expensive to keep open in Winter, but we are trying to stimulate demand to do so. We are also looking to see if we can begin to introduce electronic targets, although it will take some time to make a real impact. The new electronic targets for gallery rifle on Melville have proved popular.

The subject of F Class is under review. Others have made your point about the low cost approach, but the demand is not in sufficient number to make much progress, at present. However, we are very open to the approach.

Membership of the NRA provides the financial support without which we could not have a governing body to look after our interests and to promote fullbore target shooting. I have noted your request for a 'membership' facility. This could be expensive to operate. We cannot use our subscription income at present levels because that is fully earmarked and, if anything, as I have said, we want to reduce the fees. We have had two new clubhouses open this year - the new Artists and the Hunters' Lodge. I will, however, pass on your thoughts to the Managing Director of

Bisley, Jeremy Staples, because these things should be demand led and we shall try to meet demand.

I note your reaction to the Palma squad. I shall try to put matters in some perspective. Firstly, it is most important for us, as a governing body, to seek to achieve success in international competition at the top end of our pyramid of personal abilities. This is needed not least for maintaining our position, politically, with the Sports Councils, the Ministry of Sport and the Home Office. It is healthy for our sport and something for the 'up and coming' to aspire to. The Palma is probably the premier international team event and the formation of the squad has given a large number of shooters the opportunity to share in some of the training routines which are followed. However, having said that, I observed to the former Chief Executive several years ago that attention was becoming out of proportion and a gap was appearing between those who were able to participate on the squad and those who could not. I can assure you that we are now trying to achieve a sense of balance.

Your comments on a hotel at Bisley may be out of date to an extent. The central area which was designated as an Accommodation Block restricted to providing for visitors to Bisley for shooting was sold freehold in 2001 to the NSRA. I still do not know when they propose to build. Otherwise, we are seeking to expand and extend our accommodation to fit demand and to provide a choice of the 'basics' up to something much more comfortable. We do have to pay attention to occupation "all year round" as this would attract Council Tax, however, casual accommodation can be provided at all times. Perhaps, I am being semantic?

*From Robert Turvey*

Thank you for your reply and I offer the following additional observations to my previous letter.

On the subject of a NRA Club. Would it not be possible to come to some sort of arrangement with an existing Club such as the English XX, Commonwealth or the current occupants of the old Sergeants Mess? I feel that it is imperative that there should be such a Club if we are to attract new members.

With regard to publicity, I suggest that each county appoint a press officer who would work under the direction of such a person at Bisley and who would supply the local media with competition results and informative articles and also counteract adverse publicity. It will not be easy but we can change public perception.

I note that the Range Office Targets will be expanded "provided there is the demand". We need to create the demand perhaps by regular organised shoots as I have already suggested. This could be extended by offering 'special offer' accommodation. We should examine the records and find out when the minimum



occupancy occurs and then offer very special rates for those living say, more than 50 miles radius from Bisley.

The Club I represent has a mixed bag of members and we do not always know the rules or course of fire for say, gallery rifle or Police Pistol with carbine. It would be a great help to a Club such as ours to be able to attend Bisley and enter an informal shoot already organised and to bring that experience back to our own range. Why not arrange a special offer of a shoot and accommodation to non-members for a short time?

With reference to the Palma Squad, I recognise the importance of this event but stand by my reference to divisive elitism. I am aware of more than one shooter who, under normal circumstances would have been on the 'A' list for selection to the recent World Long Range Championships but who declined on the grounds that "they (the Palma Squad) get all the training" and it was not worth the extra time and expense. Would it not be possible to throw the squad open to any shooter of sufficient competence, perhaps backed by their local English XX District Superintendent but who should pay their way in terms of target hire and ammunition plus an additional fee for the special training? This way the squad will be self financing and everybody would get an equal opportunity. A 'final' squad could then be selected from a much larger number for the final year under sponsorship. I consider it to be vital that everyone who wishes should have an equal opportunity for team selection.

With regard to the long term I am of the opinion that the NRA should be looking to obtaining regional ranges on a wholly controlled basis or in co-operation with the military. In the meantime we should be looking to change the pecking order for the use of military ranges so that we get a fairer deal.

I think that a regular report in Target Sports should include Range Office Targets and any other informal shoots which may be arranged so that non-members can see what they are missing and hopefully be attracted to join. Also any 'special offers' could be advertised there.

Thank you for taking the trouble to listen to me.

*From Simon Belither*

I entirely agree with the comments about the level of publicity for the premier events in the shooting calendar, it is crucial that we generate more interest from outside the sport as well as increasing participation from within. More should certainly have been made of our winning the World Long Range championship. In rugby, the RFU is currently reaping huge benefits from England's victory because of renewed interest in the sport.

However I would like to take this opportunity to put the record straight regarding some misconceptions about the Palma. Much of what I could write here is

printed elsewhere in this Journal in my conversation with Tony de Launay, so in the interests of space I suggest reading that article in conjunction with these comments to get a fuller picture of my views.

I am intrigued by the view that the Palma squad is in danger of destroying the sport through consumption of funds and resources. For the record, the Great Britain Palma Team received NO funding whatsoever either directly from the NRA's own funds or from its allocation from GBTSF. I am not quite sure what is meant by resources, the only thing I can think of is targets and markers, which we did get at a reduced rate but which still covered the NRA's costs.

As for the Palma squad being elitist, I agree it certainly was in the eight months prior to the match once I had settled on my final group. To become World Champions you have to be the best of the best and that by definition makes it elite!

Prior to that however I would contend that it was far more open. Initial participation in the squad was open to all wanting to try out for selection. The majority of these responded to my letter in the Journal (Summer 2001 p33), but I also encouraged some to join based on my own research or in response to recommendations from various county representatives. Over a 14 month period and several training sessions the squad was whittled down to about 35. During this period all shooters and coaches were tried out in different combinations and I coached or plotted for everyone in the squad, so that I could form an objective view of their abilities. Past achievement or experience was no guarantee of an easy passage. I would have liked to have kept a bigger squad for another six months so that more would have benefitted from the training program but there was just not enough time for that luxury. Therefore more would have benefitted if I had been appointed captain earlier and thus been able to form the squad sooner.

Would we have won if the squad had only a year together? Maybe, maybe not - our ammunition particularly would not have been as good as it was, the team would have been different too as I would not have found some of the hidden talent.

## **SUPPORT GB TEAMS**

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## MEMBERS' PAGE

### Membership cards

There are not many magazine editors who can say they have seen their entire readership but very soon I may be able to make that claim! As the poor unfortunate person who has the job of scanning and collating all the photos sent in for the new photo membership cards (approximately five thousand of them), this is a plea to all those who have yet to send in their pictures.

Ideally we would like a passport size photo from a photo booth clearly labelled with your name and membership number. However digital pictures (preferably JPEGs) are more than welcome provided that they are of a reasonable quality. Please do not send Word documents with inserted pictures as the quality is reduced and you may end up fuzzy! A suitable picture would be a head and shoulders shot with a plain background. If you're a digital expert then please crop the picture to a width of about 5cm at a resolution of 300 dots per inch; if you haven't a clue then just e-mail the picture straight from the camera to Heather Webb at [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk) with your name and membership number.

Please do not send print-outs of digital photos as they do not reproduce very well - it would be far better to send them by e-mail; if you do not have e-mail then please send on a floppy disc.

If you wish to change your photo on your card then replacements can be obtained for a fee of £5.00.

### NRA Match Records

NRA members with an interest in history, statistics or team selection may be interested in the following volumes of work by Colin Cheshire. A tremendous amount of work has gone into each of these records and they are (very nearly) complete records of the matches and teams listed below.

National Match Records

Mackinnon Records

Kolapore Records

GB Teams Overseas

Big Five Records (*details of those who have shot in all of the Big Five matches - the National, Mackinnon, Kolapore, Australia and Palma Matches*)

Now that Colin has left the NRA, he has handed over the responsibility for these records to myself and I am now in the process of updating and distributing new editions and updates to all who require them.

Unfortunately they can no longer be provided free of charge but will be available at actual cost. Complete sets of the records on CD in PDF format will also be available in due course. I will be writing to all those who currently receive copies with further details and an order form for future years but if anyone else would like to receive any or all of the above records then please contact Karen Robertson (*details on page 1*) and I will send you further information.

### Free Tickets to the West Country Game Fair 20 and 21 March 2004

The organisers of the West Country Game Fair have kindly donated four free family tickets to this year's event to readers of this Journal. There is not a lot of time between publication and the event but if you would like to be put into a draw for tickets then please write, phone, fax or e-mail the Editor (*details on page 1*) by **Monday 15 March**.

The Westcountry Game Fair, billed as the Ultimate Countryside Experience and the first of the great regional game fairs in the calendar, is set to visit the Royal Bath and West Showground on 20 and 21 March. The Fair, which is in its eighth year, regularly attracts thousands of visitors who are passionate about the countryside way of life. It is the first opportunity that they have in the year to come together to celebrate the rural way of living.

All aspects of country life are represented at the Fair. The BASC are on hand to offer coaching and advice, and there are opportunities to put this to the test with a clay shoot and laser clays.

Dogs are an important element of living and working in the country, and they are well represented at the 2004 Fair. Lurcher racing and terrier racing take place on both days, with a lurcher show and terrier show on the Sunday. Gundogs come into their own at this Fair, with the ever-popular gun dog parade, the BASC Gundog Forum and gundog eye testing, which is BVA approved and can be booked in advance by calling 01884 841644. Sheepdog displays will show another side to the working dog.

Flycasting demonstrations and coaching will be available for keen fishermen, a special deer area has been set aside for this most striking member of the countryside's fauna, archery and falconry take us back to some of the very earliest methods of hunting, and stick and hurdle making will also be demonstrated. And, as ever, the popular racing ferrets will be on hand to thrill the crowds.

New to this year are a Sheep Show and Sheep Shearing Show, and a Game Cookery Theatre, where experts will demonstrate how to prepare delicious meals from traditional game meats, as well as more exotic fare such as rattlesnake and ostrich!

The Westcountry Game Fair, Saturday and Sunday 20 and 21 March 2004, will take place at the Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, 9.00am to 5.00pm both days. Advance ticket sales: Adults £7.00, under 16's/OAP's £5.00, children under five free, Family ticket £22.00 (2 adults + 2 children). Group ticket discount: 10 adults - 1 free ticket. Advance credit card sales: 01884 841925 or by logging on at [www.contour.uk.net](http://www.contour.uk.net).



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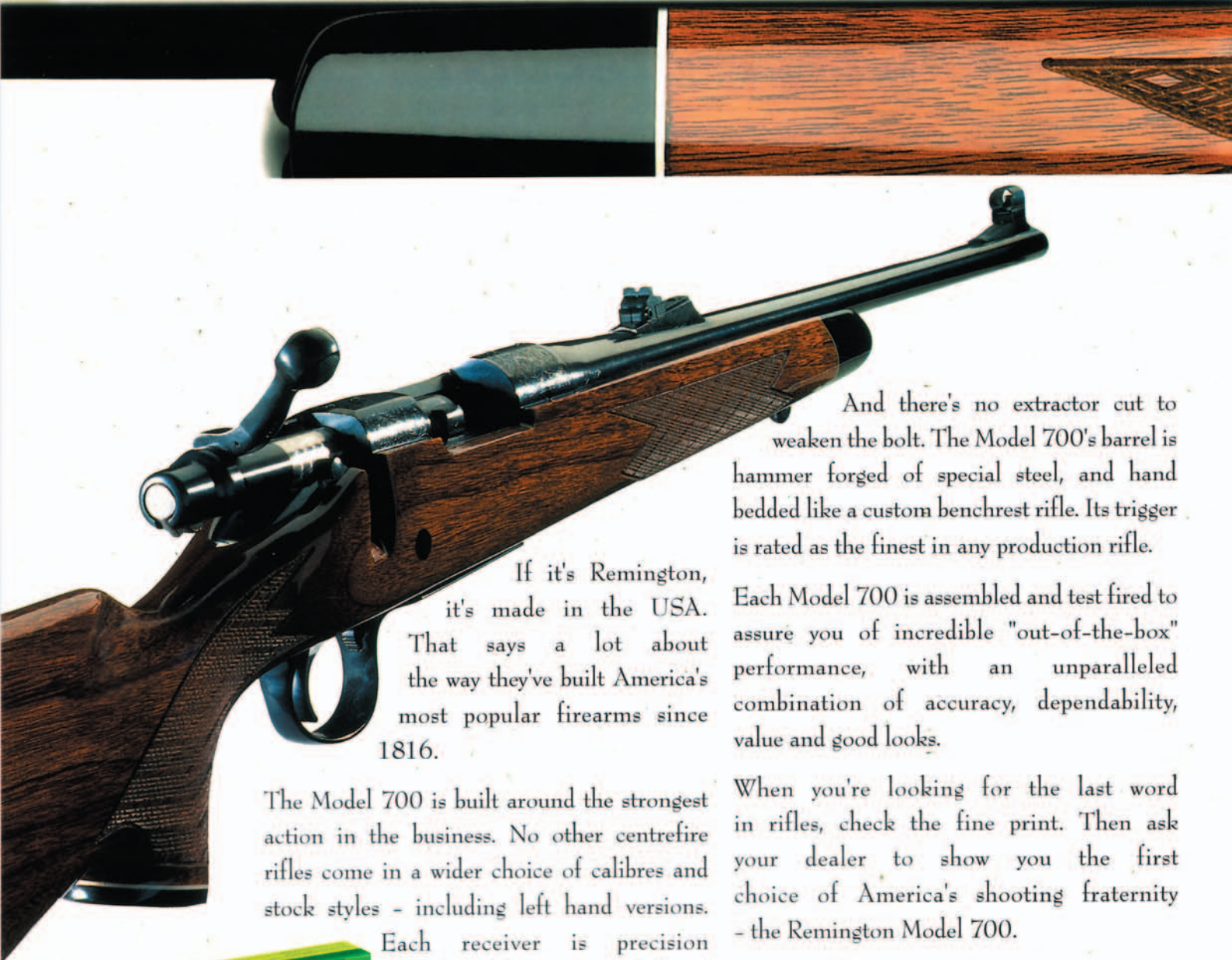
Entry forms are available from the NRA Offices or can be downloaded from the NRA website

[www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)



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