



# National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2005

Volume LXXXIV

Number 1





# THE LONG-RANGE RIFLE

The result of modern engineering is the most advanced development to date of the long-range rifle. A resin-filled laminated, target configuration stock combines the beauty and sheen of wood with a heavy 26-inch Terhune Anticorro stainless steel barrel and the proven M77 Mark II action with new target-grey anti-reflective satin finish to give you a true out-of-the-box precision rifle. Factory machined for (and packaged with) Ruger scope rings, and available in several popular long range calibres, the Ruger Target Rifle is designed for the shooter who combines a love of fine rifles with an eye for the epitome of engineering function. KM77VT Mk II available calibres;

.223, .22 PPC, .22-250, .220 Swift, 6mm PPC,  
.243 Win., .25-06 and .308.



# RUGER®

Arms Makers for Responsible Sportsmen



SOLE FACTORY APPOINTED DISTRIBUTORS FOR THE U.K.

Please send £2 for full colour catalogue

**VIKING ARMS LIMITED**

SUMMERBRIDGE, HARROGATE HG3 4BW,

NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND

Telephone: Harrogate (01423) 780810

Fax: (01423) 781500.





# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

**SPRING 2005**

**VOLUME LXXXIV NUMBER 1**

*Published three times a year by the*

**National Rifle Association**

Bisley, National Shooting Centre

Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

Telephone: 01483 797777  
0845 1307620 (local rate)

Fax: 01483 797285

Range Office: 01483 797777 ext 152

Clay Range Office: 01483 797666

E-mail: [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.nra.org.uk>

**Chairman:** John Jackman FCA

**Secretary General:** Glynn Alger

**Membership Secretary:** Heather Webb

**Managing Director NSC:** Jeremy Staples MRICS

**Director of Shooting:** Martin Farnan MBE TD

**Financial Manager:** Michael Blythe FCA LLB

**Commercial Director:** Sarah Bunch

**Editor:** Karen Robertson

**Editorial Advisory Panel:**

Glynn Alger, Colin Judge, Tony de Launay,

Ted Molyneux, Carol Painting, Robert Stafford

**Advertising:**

Print-Rite, 31 Parklands, Freeland,

Nr Witney, Oxon OX29 8HX

Tel/Fax: 01993 881662

Material for inclusion in the Journal should be sent to:

Karen Robertson

National Rifle Association

Bisley, National Shooting Centre

Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

Telephone: 01483 797777 ext 146

E-mail: [karen@nra.org.uk](mailto:karen@nra.org.uk)

Production and distribution of the NRA Journal by  
Print-Rite, Oxford.

Material for inclusion must reach the Editor before:

15 January for Spring issue

15 April for Summer issue

15 September for Winter issue

*The Editor reserves the right to determine the contents of the NRA Journal and to edit or shorten material for publication. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Publishers. Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the contents of the magazine are accurate, the Publishers assume no responsibility for errors. The publication of advertisements or editorial relating to firearms or associated requisites is not a guarantee that such items are endorsed by the NRA. Whilst every care is taken with advertising the Publishers cannot accept any responsibility for any resulting unsatisfactory transactions. Artwork originated by the NRA Journal for its customers will remain under the copyright of the NRA Journal and may only be reproduced with specific permission. Every possible care will be taken of manuscripts and photographs but the Publishers cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage however caused. The NRA Journal reserves copyright on all material contained in the Journal.*

## CONTENTS

2	Notes from the Secretary General
4	Notes from the Director of Shooting
10	Notes from the Managing Director of NSC
12	Forthcoming Tours
13	The Overseas Team Fund
14	Shooting Discipline Matters
19	Regional Matters
21	NRA Open Day
22	Great Britain Match Rifle Team to Australia
27	Transport of Ammunition and Components by Air
28	Free Tickets to Game Fairs
29	Update on the NSC and NRA Websites
31	Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada and USA
39	The Athelings Tour to Canada
44	The Ages Match
46	Evaluation of Automatic Targets
50	John Kynoch - Talking with Tony de Launay
52	T Rex Dribbles On
54	NRA Overseas Team Fund Accounts
55	Team Summary Accounts
56	Obituaries
59	Letters
61	Procedure for General Council Elections
62	Trade Members
63	Formation of new NRA Shooting Club
64	Members' Page

## ADVERTISERS INDEX

60	Bisley Pavilion
29	Border Barrels
43	Centra
43	City Rifle Club
26	Norman Clark
53	Diverse Trading Company
bc	Edgar Brothers
26	ETSys Electronic Target Systems
14	A Ford
15	Gehmann UK
60	Gun and Sport Shop
53	Haring
30	HPS Target Rifles Ltd
17	Proofmark
38	Shearwater Insurance Services
11	Surrey Guns
45	TWP Designs
ifc	Viking Arms

Cover photo: Great Britain Team Captain Colin Hayes in action at  
Lower Light Range in Australia.

### 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 SECRETARY GENERAL



*by  
Glynn  
Alger*

### **Membership**

In an effort to attract a new and wider membership of the Association, you will become aware of several new initiatives this year. We have already offered membership to those new to the NRA at half price for the first year. Advertisements have been placed in magazines, such as Target Sports, for the first time and are showing results. We are actively promoting our very competitive insurance as part of the membership package.

As the year progresses, you will see further promotions, such as the ability to enter any NRA competitions at Bisley for half price as a newcomer. We are also looking to develop weekend club packages, covering shooting club access and accommodation costs, to enable shooters to experience Bisley in a comfortable way. The first weekend of the Imperial Meeting will be promoted to new shooters by offering them support through the 'Aunts and Uncles' scheme and providing them with an introduction to Bisley competitions and the social scene.

Open Days will be taking place at Bisley on Saturday 30 April and Saturday 3 September 2005. Please invite your friends so they can experience the thrill of shooting any discipline at a reasonable price. If they do not become shooters at least they will learn how safe our sport is and how normal we all are. If anyone would like to assist to promote shooting, by helping with coaching or meet-and-greet, please contact Sarah Bunch by e-mail at [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk) or by telephoning 01483 797777 ext 122.

The Association is also looking to work with the North West region to promote an Open Day at Altcar in August or September this year.

### **Youth Shooting**

The Millennium Shooting Fund has been renamed the Youth Shooting Fund. The Association is currently formulating terms of reference for the fund to support

individuals and clubs to continue in shooting. At present we are trying to attract a high profile patron to help promote youth shooting and the fund. Current initiatives include encouraging shooters who have won prizes and have no use for them to donate them to the fund; there will soon be collection boxes in the Range Office and at Front Counter for your loose change (and larger donations!). We also ask that anyone who is no longer shooting or has spare equipment to think about donating such items to the fund, so we can redistribute them to those that need your help. Please contact Karen Robertson on 01483 797777 ext 146 if you are able to donate anything.

Over this year we hope to be able to develop a scheme with the schools and CCRS whereby young people are routinely qualified as having passed their probation thus making it easier for them to progress into whatever form of shooting they choose.

We are also working with universities to help them promote shooting. It is our intention to hold Guest Days at Bisley at reduced rates to introduce students to the sport. Any universities wishing to take part should contact Sarah Bunch on ext 122 for further information.

### **The Police and Youth Shooting**

Recently the Association has had the opportunity to speak to the police in a positive way about the potential for becoming part of their Community Safety Strategy initiatives. Basically, we have begun to talk about crime avoidance projects where young people are taught routinely to shoot, in part to entertain them but more seriously so they learn about shooting as a sport, what to do and what not to do.

This could evolve into a national initiative which obviously cannot be delivered only at places like Bisley; locally it will have to revolve around clubs. Not only might it give clubs the opportunity to find new members but it could also provide new funding streams from Community Safety Strategy budgets as well as improving the image of the sport.

### **Use of MoD Ranges**

Clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to get bookings or to fund use of MoD ranges. There is a feeling abroad that this is some sort of clandestine effort to force civilian shooting off the ranges by Landmarc and the Army.

The NRA has made a number of representations to both parties in relation to how they are carrying out their business both nationally and regionally. To date the way business is done is not very well joined up, with no single point of contact to resolve problems or get answers.

The Association has problems with the rationale for:

- Lane charges
- Range Warden costs and the necessity to have them present in most instances

- Licensing charges
- Insurance costs

The NRA has asked for a meeting in the near future to discuss and hopefully improve matters.

### **Range Safety Certification**

Although we have recently heard that the Technical Advisory Service at Warminster has had an increase in staff, this is to deal with a backlog in their current work and to offer an advice service to civilian clubs regarding range construction on request.

Safety Certification is no longer a responsibility that the Army wishes to carry out. The HSE, Police and Army have recommended to the MoD that the NRA and NSRA should take on this responsibility.

We will be contacting the MoD to get this issue progressed as a matter of urgency.

### **National Range Strategy**

We are currently developing a long-term strategy with the hope that the NRA can work with clubs and other organisations to develop a network of ranges nationally to safeguard the future of shooting. Eventually, this will necessitate a full evaluation of the current range stock to identify any shortfalls.

At present the strategy is evolving on the basis of the crisis identified by members necessitating some action from the Association.

The NRA is currently considering options in Wiltshire, Northamptonshire, the Midlands and Scotland.

Pilning Range in Gloucestershire was recently offered for sale. The Association decided to examine the feasibility of tendering, only to find that the Bristol Muzzle Loaders were already an interested party. Rather than find ourselves competing against a club and causing them problems, we decided to offer them assistance with their bid. We hope they are successful and wish them all the best for the future.

The Muzzle Loaders have had an interesting experience during the course of negotiations, which in the future could benefit others. If any club is contemplating enquiring about buying a range from MoD sources, contact Bristol Muzzle Loaders to learn how many hoops you will have to jump through. We are hoping that, in the future, the club will write an article for the Journal to inform others of the sequence of events.

### **Community Amateur Sports Clubs**

We were recently contacted by a club that was reapplying for its Community Amateur Sports Club allowances and discovered that this function has recently been handed to the Inland Revenue. One of the new conditions demanded by the Inland Revenue is that on the possible dissolution of the club all monies must go to a charity or a national governing body. As the members of the club had invested personally in it,

they were concerned about this clause. The NRA sought legal opinion which is as follows:

*The solution is to separate out the personal assets of the investors from the assets of the Club.*

*The big item will be the range. That should be held in the names of the investors (or trustees for them) and let to the club. Then if the Club should be wound up the range would simply revert to the investors. Provided the club assets are kept to a minimum there should be no difficulty in meeting the requirements for registration as a CASC along the lines suggested by the Inland Revenue.*

*The investors should have a written understanding between themselves as to the shares in which the range is owned, what would happen if one of them died or needed the money and in what circumstances the range would be sold.*

*As between the investors and the Club there should be a lease, giving rights to use the range in exchange for certain responsibilities. These would normally include paying rent and keeping the premises in good order.*

*Both documents should be drawn up by a lawyer to avoid misunderstanding. A lawyer would also be able to help with the necessary changes to the Club rules.*

## **General Notices**

### **Spring General Meeting**

This is a reminder that the Spring General Meeting will be held on Saturday 26 March at 5pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### **Bisley General Meeting**

The 2005 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 9pm on Wednesday 20 July 2005.

## **Team Captaincies**

### **Recent Tours**

Congratulations to John Webster and his team on their successful tour to Canada and the USA and to Colin Hayes and his Match Rifle team on retaining the Woomera Trophy during their successful tour of Australia. Tour reports can be found later in this Journal.

### **Forthcoming Tours**

We send our best wishes for a successful tour to Mik Maksimovic and his Great Britain F Class Team to the F Class World Championships being held in Bloemfontein, South Africa in April 2005.

### **Change of Captaincy Palma Team 2007**

It was decided at the Council meeting held on 17 February 2005 to remove John Bloomfield from the captaincy of the Palma Team 2007.

John, unlike all other GB and NRA overseas captains, had refused on a number of occasions to sign the "Guidance for GB & NRA Team Captains Financial Advice & Rules" document, as required by the



Trustees. This led to a loss of confidence in John as captain of the Palma Team.

To find a replacement for John the Council discussed re-advertising the post. This was not thought feasible as it would have been unlikely that a team captain could be selected and appointed before May/June, which was felt to be an unacceptable time delay.

During the original selection process there had been two candidates, John Bloomfield and Martin Townsend. Martin had been narrowly beaten by John in the General Council vote.

Martin Townsend has been approached, agreed to take on the difficult task of Palma captaincy and appointed by the Council as of 24 February 2005

He has a limited period of time to advertise, put together a squad, select the team, raise funds and make the travel arrangements.

.....

**NOTES FROM THE  
DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING**



*by  
Martin  
Farnan*

**Personal**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who were kind enough to send good wishes when Phyllis and I were in hospital and off work recuperating during the last three months. It was extremely kind of you all, and meant a great deal to us. I am glad to say that we are now both fighting fit, back at work and look forward to seeing you in the not too far distant future.

**Open Days**

Two NRA Open Days will be held this year, one on Saturday 30 April and the other on Saturday 3 September 2005. These days will be administered by the NSC, but all the firing points will be staffed by NRA appointed 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

The Council hopes Martin will receive due support, as he is asked to manage a difficult situation, on behalf of the Association.

**Team Selection for Palma 2007**

Those wishing to apply (or reapply) for consideration for inclusion in the Palma Team 2007 should write, e-mail or telephone Martin Townsend at:

PO Box 10  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG4 9PE  
  
Tel: 01462 420678  
E-mail: martin@martintownsend.com

Closing date for applications is 1 May 2005 but in view of the timescales concerned earlier applications would be appreciated. Please include a short CV and full contact details including an e-mail address.

.....

purchased, and used to pay the fees for firing a number of different firearms ranging from Air Pistol to Fullbore Target Rifle. Please see the new NRA and NSC websites at [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) and [www.nsc-bisley.co.uk](http://www.nsc-bisley.co.uk) for further details.

We are seeking experienced Target Rifle shooters to help coach and supervise the general public at the above event. (NB The range will be controlled by a qualified Range Conducting Officer). If you are interested, and can give your time freely to promote our sport, please contact Sarah Bunch on [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk) or 01483 799609 with brief details about your shooting history and availability. Please let all your friends know about this event.

**Phoenix Meeting**

The Phoenix Meeting will be held over the long weekend Friday 27 to Monday 30 May this year. The event is again being organised by the NSC on behalf of the NRA, and the planning committee is chaired by Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting. Over 80 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. This event 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). Copies of the entry form are being sent to all those who are on the Gallery Rifle database. The entry form and courses of fire are also available to download from the NRA and NSC websites.

**Spring into Action Weekend**

This weekend will be held over the weekend 26 and 27 March 2005. It will be similar to the Action Weekend held in March 2004, and will be open to all comers. Matches will include 1500, 25m Precision, 50m Precision

(all GRCE, GRSB and Long Barrelled Revolver), 1000 yards .303"/7.62mm rifle and McQueen. Further details are available from Brian Thomas on 01483 797777 ext 148 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. You will note that it has been completely redesigned, and now comes in the form of an A4 booklet. Pages 1 and 2 contain important notes on completing the entry form correctly: it is essential that these notes are read before the entry form is completed. The majority of competitors will only need to complete page 3 (personal details, block entries and financial reconciliation). Only those competitors wishing to enter individual competitions or aggregates will need to complete page 4. Pages 1 and 2 should be kept for reference and only the entry form on pages 3 and 4 should be returned.

Also enclosed is a request form which you can use to obtain entry forms for Team Matches (including Schools Veterans), Pistol and Gallery Rifle, Any Rifle (MR), Civilian Service Rifle and the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting.

### **Entries**

Once entries have been processed and entered in the computer, a detailed entry summary sheet will be forwarded to each competitor, as previously. This should be thoroughly checked for any errors.

Late entry fees for individual TR and MR events will 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 noon the day before) the start of the competition. No entries will be accepted after noon the day before the competition.

Late entry fees for team events remain unchanged, ie 25% extra on all entries received after noon two days before the day of the match concerned (except for the FW Jones and the Parting Shot 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 good news is that this year's overall entry fees for competitions, aggregates and sweepstakes will remain exactly as for last year. The individual entry fees have increased by 2% over those payable last year but, at the same time, last year's 6% surcharge has been reduced to approximately 4%. Rather than ask competitors to perform multiple calculations, the total entry fee, including the surcharge, per competition will be shown on the entry form.

### **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 5% 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 Range Officers (ROs) will be appointed as hitherto, and will continue, under the supervision of the NRA Competitor Wing Officers, to be mainly responsible for the interpretation of the rules. The majority of those selected to act as a Competitor RO will have two duties. Their assistance in the running of the ranges during the Imperial Meeting will be much appreciated.

## **Eagle Eye Foresights**

The rule concerning Eagle Eye, or other magnifying foresights, has been amended this year, and now reads as follows:

Rule 235. A magnifying lens is permitted in the foresight but NOT in combination with a **magnifying** lens or system of **magnifying** lenses in or attached to the rear sight (see Rules 150 & 234).

A non-magnifying lens, for the correction of astigmatism only, may be used in conjunction with a magnifying lens in the foresight. Permission to use such a lens, supported by a current optometrist's prescription, must be obtained in advance from the Director of Shooting.

## **Service Rifle**

Entry forms for both Service and Civilian competitors may be obtained from the Deputy Director of Shooting on ext 150 or e-mail [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk). They should be returned by 24 June 2005.

## **Target Rifle**

A number of changes have been made to this year's TR meeting, the main ones being:

- a the Corporation will revert to Second Monday, with the Conan Doyle now being shot on Second Wednesday alongside the first stage of HM The Queen's Prize. This should lead to a slightly less fraught day on Second Wednesday.
- b the Champion of Champions Final will move from Second Thursday evening during the Imperial Meeting to the Inter-Counties weekend, and will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 18 June. Full details will be sent out to Regional Co-ordinators.
- c the Opening Shot teams match will now be open to any team of four firers and a coach, with a maximum of two Class X firers. The coach may be of any class. All five members of the team must be either full members of the NRA or have taken out Meeting Membership for the current Meeting.

- d the Chairman's Prize (two parallel Championships, one open to Class O and the other to Class T competitors only) has been endowed by John Jackman. It will be open to the top 75 Class O and the top 75 Class T competitors in the Grand Aggregate up to Second Wednesday (ie not including the Prince of Wales). The list of the 150 qualifiers will be published on the evening of Second Wednesday.

This new match will be shot at both long and short range on Second Thursday, Second Friday and Final Saturday with slightly different courses of fire for each class. Separate prize lists will be produced for Class O and Class T competitors, and the top 25 competitors in each class will be awarded special badges. Full details will be contained in the 2005 "Bisley Bible" and in an enclosure with all entry forms.

- e Rule 150 – Butt Plate curvature: the present limit of 20mm has been confirmed as applying to the curvature at its deepest point.
- f It has been agreed that competitors who have lost their Class T status (ie have appeared in a TR prize list above 'Last O In') but who have not competed in the Imperial Meeting for ten years or more may apply to the Shooting Committee to revert to Class T. Each case will be examined on a case by case basis, but this dispensation will not apply to anyone who has ever attained Class X or Class A status.

### **F Class**

It is planned to squad F Class competitors on a specific target (possibly the extreme LH target in each butt of 12 targets) on each butt at both short and long range. This will have two distinct advantages in that (a) F Class competitors can shoot with other F Class competitors, and (b) it opens the possibility of using a smaller F Class target on these specific targets only. Further details are dependent on the report from the GB F Class team to South Africa in April, and will be published in the Summer Journal.

### **Schools**

The new Schools Meeting programme, with matches at 300, 500 and 600 yards, will be sent out to all schools in the near future along with the Schools' section of the "Bisley Bible" and the revised Schools entry form. Schools should note that the Ashburton match will also be shot over three distances, with 300 and 600 yards being fired before lunch and 500 yards after lunch.

### **Schools Veterans**

The Schools Veterans team match will be shot at 500 yards commencing at 17:15. The fact that the Ashburton 500 yards is being fired after lunch, from 13:15 to 14:50 should allow 'Old Boys' time to visit their old school team in the final stages of this match, and still allow time for practice for the Schools Veterans match from 16:00 to 16:45.

### **Match Rifle**

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.

The Any Rifle 1200 yards competition will again be shot on First Thursday this year, shot alongside the Humphry as a standalone competition. The present Any Rifle Extras competitions shot on Pre-Friday will continue, as will the Any Rifle Extras Aggregate.

It will again be possible to enter the MR Meeting in F Class, shooting alongside the Hopton competitions for medals only. The appropriate box on the new entry form should be completed accordingly.

### **McQueen Competition**

There will be three main changes this year:

- a the McQueen B (Target or Match Rifle) will only be open to target rifles and match rifles that conform to Rules 150 and 156 respectively.
- b the McQueen Pairs match will be reinstated, for pairs of firers who must both nominate their McQueen shoot to count before firing.
- c the ten Practice Shots previously allowed will no longer be allowed since this effectively would give those competitors using these extra shots a total of 12 sighters before their ten shots to count. Potentially this will now allow nearly twice as many competitors to shoot this match.

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

These entry forms are now available from the Range Office on ext 152 or the Deputy Director of Shooting on ext 150 or e-mail [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk).

### **Imperial Meeting Taster Weekend**

It is planned to devise an Imperial Meeting Taster Weekend particularly for new NRA members who have only recently finished their Probationary Course, Cadets and University students, members of affiliated clubs, those who usually only compete in the Schools Veterans and anyone else who might be apprehensive of competing in a full Imperial Meeting for the first time.

It is intended that a package deal will be put together to include two or three day's shooting (consisting of the matches on First Friday, Middle Saturday and Middle Sunday), accommodation, Meeting Membership, a social event on the Friday or Saturday night and a mentor (Aunt or Uncle) to help the new competitor. There will be prizes reserved for those competing in this Taster Weekend.

Since this weekend is particularly for those who would not normally be entering the Imperial Meeting it will not be open to anyone who has entered in the last ten years. Full details will be included in the Summer Journal but if you, or someone you know, might be interested in this scheme please e-mail [squadding@nra.org.uk](mailto:squadding@nra.org.uk) and an application form and further details will be sent out when they are available.



## Prize Lists

Complete Prize Lists will be produced in the normal way after the Imperial Meeting, but will be produced in two formats (the printed book or in PDF format on a CD) this year. One or other of these will be available free of charge to all those who have entered the Grand Aggregate or the Hopton, and also to Schools which have entered the Ashburton.

Those entering these matches should show in which format they would like their Prize Lists, ie book or CD, on the entry form. If they would like both formats this will cost an additional £5.00. Individual books or CDs will be available at a cost of £8.50 to Club Secretaries and those not eligible for a free copy.

## Sponsorship

There are still many competitions that are not sponsored, and you are invited to consider whether any firms, companies or individuals you know might like to sponsor a competition in the Imperial Meeting.

## Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

There is a continuing annual requirement to augment our Imperial Meeting RCOs. The Imperial Meeting cannot be run without competent RCOs, and I invite those of you who would like to be considered for this important position to contact me as soon as possible.

## Ammunition

### RG Target Ammunition

Radway Green are confident that they have overcome the problems which beset the ammunition supplied for last year's Imperial Meeting. Their new batch of ammunition has been tested both from a mechanical rest at short range and also 'off the shoulder' at both short and long range. Both sets of results showed that all shots were within 1.00 minutes of angle vertically (ie well within the V bull) and all but one shot were within 1.25 minutes of angle horizontally (no adjustments having been made for wind). A score of 50.7 at 1000 yards with the RG ammunition was followed by another 50.7 shot with handloaded ammunition using Sierra bullets.

The ammunition therefore appears to be good for a production batch of ammunition, and showed no 'fliers'. This ammunition is now available and may be purchased from the Armoury.

## Prices

The pricing structure for Radway Green 155 grains ammunition for 2005 will remain as for 2004 and is 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.

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.

It is, however, required that the normal credit terms will be met, ie payment within 30 days from the date of invoice. If the invoiced (discounted) price is not paid

within normal terms then a supplementary invoice will be raised equal to the amount of discount. Please contact Fred James in the Armoury on ext 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 grain 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 2005 Range Regulations have now 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 or may be obtained from the NRA and NSC websites.

### 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.

### 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. Those who have acted as RCOs and have handled the radios recently are requested to search for and return any radio found. 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 finding a full complement of markers increasingly difficult. 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 increasingly 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: Stickledown, large competitions, the longer distances down to shorter ones on Century then 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 or 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 the marker's name. Tell the marker the course of fire and stand the marker down where possible, even if for only a couple of minutes. If the marker has done a good job say so. 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 has to find more than one hundred every week in high season! It would therefore be extremely helpful, to everyone concerned, if you could assist by arranging even a few of your own markers.

## **Shooting Matters**

### **Attendance Records**

In the Range Office we have a new system replacing the old attendance record cards. This is an easy to use self-service system on a computer. You will have your own PIN that enables you to log your firearms activity. The system has been developed in conjunction with the Surrey Firearms Licensing Officer following the Home Office guidelines. Although this is a simple operation the Range Office staff are on hand to assist you if you need guidance. An important point to remember is that when your personal record is opened the date is automatically entered on to the attendance record **so no backdated records can be entered**. You must log your attendance on the day you use your firearms.

### **The 400 Yards League**

Traditional short range distances for TR are 300, 500 and 600 yards. However, there is a fully constructed and maintained firing point at 400 yards at Bisley, and most military ranges have firing points available at 400 yards. In addition, 400 yards targets are available from the NSC. To encourage shooting at this distance a new postal 400 Yards League will be run from 1 March 2005.

This competition will be conducted and the results compiled by the National Shooting Centre on behalf of the National Rifle Association. The match will be conducted under rules similar to those of the British 50 Roll; full details are shown on the new NRA and NSC websites. Entries may be made and cards returned up to 31 October.

### **The 2005 Ages Match**

Many members of those teams which competed in the 2004 Ages Match at the end of October said that they had enjoyed it so much they wished that one could be

held every year. They particularly commented very favourably on the amazing fireworks display and the buffet dinners and disco which followed, and said that it was an excellent end of season weekend when they could enjoy a 'fun' shoot.

It has therefore been decided to hold a 2005 Ages Match over the weekend 29 and 30 October, and to follow the same broad programme as last year. The team size may remain at 12, though teams of eight are being considered since this might allow two teams from the same age group. Further details will be given in the Summer Journal, but please note this weekend in your diary now.

### **The 2005 European Short Range Championship**

The European Long Range Championships have been held biennially at Bisley on the last three occasions, and have usually been attended by six or seven teams from the Home Countries and Europe. Teams also said how much they had enjoyed this year's Championships.

Based on the success of this weekend it is planned to alternate these biennial Long Range Championships with a new European Short Range Championships weekend at the same time of year. This year the dates are 15 and 16 October. The present plan is for the Short Range Championship to follow a similar format to the Long Range, but using American Short Range and Mid Range targets at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

As with the Ages Match further details will be given in the Summer Journal, but I would again ask you to note this weekend in their diaries.

### **New NRA Chief National Coach**

Following the resignation of Andrew Penfold a new Chief National Coach (TR) has been appointed. He is Dave Burton, a well known TR Coach and RCO Assessor on NRA RCO and Probationary Courses, and also GBTSF Courses. Future coaching plans will be outlined by Dave in the Summer Journal.

### **Club Insurance Scheme**

All individual NRA members and club secretaries should take note of the fact that Graham Brown Insurance Brokers Ltd have been bought by Aston Scott Ltd. As from 1 March all individual and club insurance matters will be dealt with by Aston Scott. Since most of the Graham Brown staff will be moving to the new firm it is probable that the same person will deal with your query as would have in Graham Brown. The new address is:

Aston Scott Ltd  
Malling House, West Malling, Kent ME19 6QL  
Tel: 01732 220220 Fax: 01732 874666  
Website: [www.astonscott.com](http://www.astonscott.com)

### **Marksman's Calendar**

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 Karen Robertson by e-mail at [karen@nra.org.uk](mailto:karen@nra.org.uk) as soon as possible. Any amendments will be published in the Summer Journal. The full Marksman's Calendar is available on the NRA website.



## Notes from the Deputy Director of Shooting

### Postal Matches

Club secretaries are reminded 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! If you would like more details or wish to enter the postal competitions, please contact the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149 or e-mail [maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:maureen.peach@nra.org.uk).

### 2005 Courses

The first Probationary Members Course for those wishing to join the NRA as (new) individual members started on 5 February. Course 2 will start on 12 March. Applications for the Probationary Courses should be made in the first instance to the Membership Department on ext 138 or e-mail [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk).

A Skills Enhancement Course for Target Rifle will be held at Bisley over the weekend 19 and 20 March. The course will include both theory and practical range work and is designed particularly for the novice shooter. The course fee is £75.

A Wind Coaching Course will be run over the same weekend of 19 and 20 March. The instructor will be Bill Richards. The course fee is £50.

A Club Instructor Course is planned for 23 and 24 April. Candidates should be experienced shooters or have completed a TR Skills Course. The course is for individuals who wish to assist with training at club level.

Council has now approved the re-introduction of National Governing Body Coaching Courses. We will be in discussion with GBTSF concerning the transfer of qualifications. It proposed that the first NRA Club Coach Course will be held in October 2005 and further details will be given in the Summer Journal.

### RCO Courses

One day RCO courses at Bisley in 2005 will be held on 26 and 27 February, 21 and 22 May, 24 and 25 September, 26 and 27 November. In addition, this year we will be running optional one day instructional sessions to assist those who wish to become NRA RCOs but who feel that their knowledge and experience may be limited. The dates for these courses are 20 February, 15 May, 18 September and 20 November. The course fee for the RCO course is £50 and the fee for the optional instructional day is £15. NRA RCO courses can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NSC.

The NSC is keen to increase the number of RCO Assessors who are qualified to run RCO courses both at Bisley and in the regions and is planning to hold an Assessors Course at Bisley on 1 and 2 October.

The NSC is also considering setting up an RCO Assessors Course and Assessor Update session to be held

regionally (north or north east) in Autumn 2005, if there is sufficient demand. Expressions of interest from RCO Assessors and potential Assessors in this proposal would be welcomed.

Any RCO with at least five years experience of running ranges who would like to become an RCO Assessor is asked to contact the Deputy Director of Shooting for further information.

All course enquiries and applications should be made to the Deputy Director of Shooting on ext 150 or e-mail [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk).

### RCO Renewals

All NRA RCOs are reminded that the NRA RCO qualification is valid for six years only. After this time the qualification must be renewed, which gives the opportunity to update RCOs on changes that may have occurred since they qualified. Club secretaries should note the period of validity of the RCO qualification and should encourage any NRA RCOs in their clubs whose qualifications are nearing the six year point to apply for re-qualification. To renew an RCO qualification the following documentation must be sent to the NSC Shooting Division:

- the old RCO photo ID card (or copy of your original course certificate)
- three passport photographs
- confirmation from the club secretary or chairman that the RCO has been active in running ranges for the club during the previous 12 months
- the renewal fee of £15

For further information regarding renewals, please contact the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149 or e-mail [maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:maureen.peach@nra.org.uk). Please allow approximately three weeks for renewals to be processed.

### RCO Manuals

Club secretaries are reminded that the NRA RCO Manual 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 the 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 plus postage. The RCO Manual has recently been reprinted and Edition Two, dated January 2005, is now available. If you would like to order a copy please contact the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149 or e-mail [maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:maureen.peach@nra.org.uk).

Any RCO who is in possession of the earlier edition of the RCO manual may download the amendments from the NRA website to bring their manual up to date.

Those who are attending NRA RCO Courses, or who are renewing their qualifications, will continue to be issued with their manuals free of charge.

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by  
*Jeremy  
Staples*

### **Caravan Season**

Written confirmation has finally been received from Guildford Borough Council giving consent to the extension of the caravan and hut season from the beginning of March until the end of November each year.

Very limited ablution blocks will be opened by 1 March, to prevent possible damage from frost, but the remainder will open during the course of the month.

The Fire Service are also happy with the existing siren system so that last year's in and out signs are no longer relevant.

### **Firing Points**

The first phase of covered firing points have been installed on Century at both 300 and 600 yards.

### **Range Office Refurbishment**

Work is currently underway to upgrade the Range Office which will be reopened during February. This will provide a more customer friendly environment and will include electronic computerised records for members.

### **Telephone System**

The telephone system has been upgraded in the main office building and hopefully this will provide members with a more efficient service.

### **Electronic Targets**

Trials of two electronic target systems took place during December. Kongsberg and Haring provided demonstration targets and a number of members trialled both systems. Trials took place at 600, 1000 and 1200 yards. As a general view the trials were a success.

Iain Robertson is kindly carrying out a detailed analysis of both systems and will be reporting to the NSC very shortly. A preliminary article on the trials can be found on pages 46 to 49 of this Journal.

Further trials will take place at 1000 yards in mid-March.

### **NRA Open Day**

The next Open Day will take place on Saturday 30 April and, if the success of last year's events are repeated, we expect visitor numbers to reach over 1000.

Help is required from as many members as possible to assist with the coaching on the day to try and minimise the queues.

This is also a great opportunity for members to bring their friends and relatives to Bisley to try out the various shooting disciplines. If you are able to help, please contact Sarah Bunch by e-mail [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk) or by telephone 01483 797777 ext 122.

### **Staff**

I am pleased to welcome Sally Philcox as a part-time receptionist in the General Office. Graham Davies has been employed in the Target Shed and Brian Clarke is working part-time as the Armoury Assistant.

### **HOG Rally**

Following the success of last year's rally the Harley Davidson Rally organisers have booked for a further rally over the weekend of 5 - 7 August this year.

We are anticipating similar numbers to last year and, if this proves to be a success, it is likely that a major regional rally will be held at Bisley in due course.

### **FOR LEASE INNS OF COURT LODGE SHOOTING CLUB PREMISES OFFERED FOR LEASE**



**BUILT 1896  
ELECTRICITY, WATER & DRAINAGE**

**PLEASE CONTACT MAJOR SIMON FROST  
01483 421625  
LT COL SIMON MALIK  
07802 274 700**



# LOOK AT IT THIS WAY . . .



390: clip-on iris for normal glasses	£52	<b>Other Gehmann rearsight irises</b>		<b>Gehmann foresight irises – M.18 or M.22</b>	
391: light or dark clip-on eyeshield	£19	550: iris and twin polarisers	£79	520: appears as normal metal element	£59
392: three push-fit colour filters to suit	£32	530: iris and 1.5x magnifier only	£105	522: appears as perspex element	£75
500: iris and snap-in filters & polarisers	£89	551: iris, 1.5x and twin polarisers	£125	525: iris and fine crosshairs	£70
510: iris only	£40	570: iris, 1.5x and 6 colour filters	£139	591: spirit level, fits under clamp ring	£39
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

## ALL GEHMANN REARSIGHT IRISES HAVE A 30 YEAR GUARANTEE

To find out more about Gehmann's sights and accessories - send for their latest colour catalogue



## SHOOTERS SPECTACLE FRAMES FOR RIFLE OR PISTOL - LENS ONLY £19 EXTRA

320: Varga, adjustable, with eyeshield	£69	347: filters - choice of 4 colours	£17	339: eyeshield for the non-aiming eye	£16
332: Knobloch, adjustable	£99	337: 3-colour filters, rotational	£49	333: eyeshield with hinged sideshield	£19
300: Gehmann, multi-adjustable	£93	345: frosted colours to match	£27	338: sideshields (pair)	£16
340: iris for depth of field, clip-on	£42	344: centering device, clip-on	£17	347: polariser, clip-on, for holder	£17

**Surrey Guns**  
own alloy  
'scope stand  
with ring clamp £79

**Rhino 22 x 60mm angled  
eyepiece spotting 'scope  
(illustrated) £139**

**NEW!!**

**RHINO 20-60 x 60mm**  
Compact, rubber coated,  
detachable camera mount  
10m to infinity **£139**



30x, 40x or 50x  
additional eyepieces  
£39 each

Waterproof,  
fleece-lined 'scope  
covers with two zips £23



Robust but lightweight bi-pod legs,  
12" rod provides height & windage adjustment.

Can be supplied less ring clamp for  
'scopes with a threaded boss **£69**

12" extension rods **£19**  
ring clamp only for attaching to tripods **£24**

## SURREY GUNS

**7 MANOR ROAD, WALLINGTON,  
SURREY, SM6 0BZ,  
ENGLAND**

**Tel: 020 8647 7742 Fax: 020 8669 9199**

**e-mail: 106026.3374@compuserve.com**

**website: <http://www.surreyguns.com>**

**OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 9.30 - 5.30**

## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### GB Rifle Team to South Africa 2006

The following have been selected for the GB Rifle Team to South Africa 2006.

#### *Captain*

Chris Hockley GB, Wales and South Wales

#### *Vice-Captain*

Chris Fitzpatrick GB, Ireland and Oxfordshire

#### *Adjutant*

To be appointed in due course from within the team

#### *Chief Coach*

Nick Tremlett GB, England and Berkshire

#### *Coaches*

Stuart Collings GB, England and Bucks

David Calvert GB, Ireland and Ulster

#### *Shooters*

Nigel Ball GB, England and Norfolk

Matt Button GB, England and Lincolnshire

Paul Charlton GB, Ireland and Wiltshire

Jon Cload GB, England and Sussex

John Deane\* England and Gloucestershire

Jonathan Haward GB, England and Devon

Peter Holden GB, England and Norfolk

Richard Jeens\* Wales and Gloucestershire

Jeremy Langley GB, England and Devon

Lindsey Peden GB, Scotland and West of Scotland

Alex Pilgrim GB, England and Sussex

Richard Shouler\* Nottinghamshire

Alastair Speirs GB, England and  
Northumberland

James Watson GB, England and Northants,  
Leicester & Rutland

Alex Woodward\* Wales and London

#### *Reserves (alphabetically)*

Gary Childs GB, England and Devon

Rupert Dix England and Somerset

Peter Griggs GB, England and Kent

Jonathan Holmes GB, England and  
Northumberland

\* Denotes New Cap

### WIN MONEY!

*and support the OTF*

Last year £1,200 was won on the OTF Swindle. This competition, open to all (multiple entries allowed) is run on the scores from the Queen's first stage. Teams are randomly picked (with the different classes equally balanced across the teams) by computer. There are also special prizes for top individual score.

Entry is only £10 with all profits going towards the Overseas Team Fund. Please enter early on your Imperial Meeting entry form.

### NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2005

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2005.

#### *Captain*

Dominic Harvey England and Surrey

#### *Vice Captain*

Peter Bromley England and Kent

#### *Adjutant*

Alex Pilgrim England and Sussex

#### *Coaches*

Anton Aspin England and Cheshire

Simon Cleveland England and Surrey

#### *Shooters*

Charles Dickenson England and Berkshire

George Gilpin Ireland and Devon

Jo Hossack Scotland and East of Scotland

Kitty Jack Scotland and Kent

Kelvin Ramsey England and Surrey

Mark Shaw Nottinghamshire

Keith Sheead England and Bedfordshire

Chris Watson Wales and Northants,  
Leicester & Rutland

Alex Woodward Wales and London

#### *Reserves*

Adam Brown London

Bob Oxford Wales

Aniela Scattergood Essex

Mark Westmoquette Sussex

Paul Wheeler Surrey

### GB Under 25 Rifle Team to Australia 2005

The following have been selected for the GB Under 25 Rifle Team to Australia 2005.

#### *Captain*

Paul Wheeler GB U25, Surrey

#### *Vice-Captain*

Dave Rose Surrey

#### *Adjutant*

Susie Kent GB U25, Surrey

#### *Shooters*

Jen Charlton Northumberland

Ed Jeens Wales, Gloucestershire

Jon Kent Surrey

Emma Nuttall Derbyshire

Simon Shouler GB U25, Nottinghamshire

Ed Welford GB U25, Hampshire

Rachel Wenham Wales, London

Mark Westmoquette Sussex

Bruce Young Lancashire



# **“YOU’LL NEED TO RAISE AT LEAST £40,000”**

*by Robert Stafford, Secretary to TFC*

An opening statement by the Secretary General on meeting a newly elected GB team Captain might well be “Congratulations, I wish you every success. By the way I’m afraid you are on your own financially and will need to raise at least £40,000.”

He doesn’t say that of course but it is the reality now that there are no grants from the Sports Council. The cost of a GB cap is now entirely dependent on the skill of the Captain and his or her team in raising money from sponsors and events such as corporate days at Bisley. The Team Finance Committee (TFC), through the Overseas Teams Fund, gives as much support as it can but this is at the most 10 to 15% of the total budget. Typically it subsidises the team members by up to £450 per head.

Cost per head for recent GB TR teams has varied from £1,200 to £1,900 and this is after raising between £25,000 and £50,000 from sponsorship and fundraising events.

## **What is to be done?**

The TFC has taken steps to develop a few more sources of regular funding such as the Golf Day and the recent Bisley Camp Cookbook, the creation of Deborah and John Deane. The latter has produced about £1,300 profit for the OTF to date. The Golf Day produced £2,500 last year and can produce a lot more if more golfing members support it. Details of the 2005 Golf Day are given below. In this way we have managed to double the annual amount raised for the OTF to just over £20,000.

Longer term we need to increase the OTF capital funds by a considerable amount to be able to make a difference to teams. One unexplored way to date is donations and legacies. You may not realise that these can be made to the OTF, however they must be made through the NRA, the charity, if Gift Aid is to be claimed. All that is needed is for the donation to be accompanied with an expressed wish that the funds be used in a specified way. Thus you can donate to the OTF or in fact to a specific team by this route. The only proviso for the latter is that there should not be any beneficial connection between the donor and the members of a team.

Meantime the TFC will continue to look at and support any new ideas that can raise more funds on an annual basis. The accounts for the OTF for the year ended 30 September 2004 and the summary accounts of three recent teams are included elsewhere in this issue.

## **MATTHEW CLARK OTF GOLF DAY - WIN A MERCEDES SMART CAR**



After the success of the 2004 OTF Golf Day at Pine Ridge, which produced £2500, we are moving the 2005 event to Merrist Wood Golf Club, at Worplesdon, closer to Bisley. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Matthew Clark, the drinks supplier to many of the Bisley clubs, we have a great list of prizes for teams and individuals, plus longest drive, nearest the pin and at least three hole-in-one prizes including a Mercedes once again.

The date is now Monday 20 June, just after the Inter-Counties weekend, so why not make up a team and have great, long weekend of shooting and golf? Or better still get your Company to send a team. For those far afield, dinner and an overnight stay at one of the Bisley clubs would get them off to a good start.

We can accommodate quite a few more teams so please support this OTF initiative and make 2005 a bumper year. Contact any current GB team member or TFC Committee member, for an entry form or write to:

Chairman TFC, c/o NRA, National Shooting Centre, Bisley, Brookwood, Woking GU24 0PB.

Mark Oliver from Bath, the happy winner of a set of Calloway Clubs for getting a hole-in-one on the 141 yards par 3, third hole. If he’d made it on the sixth he would have won the Mercedes Smart Car. Mark was a member of the Bath Hackers team brought along by Tony Jones.

# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

Not long ago I was completely stumped by a very simple question; what was my speciality in historic arms? I instantly realised that unlike those with a defined period or class in mind, I could not give some convenient pat answer such as Lee Enfields 1900-1918 or early breech loaders.

In fact, being someone with a passionate interest in all things shooting and military, I had to think a lot about what is my main interest. The answer, which is not what I had expected, was transitional periods such as early breech loaders and bolt action developments, for this is when inventive minds devised all sorts of things from the simple and brilliant, to the completely weird; these all fascinate me.

Thus, amongst a pretty catholic collection that runs from a .577 Parker Hale Enfield to a Class F .223 Remington, I have a Snider and a Schmidt Rubin, but the centre of my interest is the development of the self loading rifle. Sadly, the only relic I am now allowed is a useless lump of iron that was once a Tokarev M40, never to be followed by the planned Johnston, the Garand, or my heart's desire, priced well outside my meagre 1960's student finances at £260, a 1936 trials Pedersen.

If you then multiply my complicated interests by the number of classic shooters and collectors, you have some idea of the wide and complex matters that we cover, which then poses the question, what can we (the NRA and I) do for you?

Mostly, it will be the same as for all shooters, developing a truly national and nationwide organisation, fighting for future range access, and dealing with legislation and international affairs. Competitions and events, specialised and general, feature in the programme, but my greatest immediate push is in the provision of information, and better communication.

This inevitably means the Internet, and I hope you will all have had a look at the new NRA website. This is in its early stages, but offers many possible future developments. As an example, it would be very useful if you could check whether your exact calibre ammunition is in stock, or even reserve your requirement and pay for it online, before booking your range by e-mail.

It will also keep news up to date, and thus relieve some of the pressure on staff. For example when the NRA armoury ran out of .303" ammunition, I was not alone in castigating the usual "them", but I only found out at a General Council Meeting that the cause was that a shipment had got stuck in Customs or wherever, a delay beyond NRA control. Knowing that might have saved a lot of moaning.

For those not on the Internet, telephone contact is always available, but the Internet is becoming the accepted medium for information and communication.

So I do commend the Internet to you, as in addition it offers a wealth of information on Classic Arms. Shortly before writing this, a Frenchman posted details on gunboards.com of a Parker Hale Enfield requesting information on its origins. Thinking it familiar, I contacted him and found out I had been standing behind him when he had bought it a few weeks before at the Paris Arms and Militaria Fair; it is now a very small world!

There is now a great opportunity to add our own pages to the NRA website, and in due course programmes and entry forms will appear on-line and will be downloadable in printable format. It will be possible to advise of proposed changes in time for you to comment and give your ideas.

Also I hope some of you experts out there will allow links to be added so that requests for advice can be directed straight to them; for this security will be paramount, so e-mails will pass through the NRA, and no e-mail addresses will appear to the public.

If anyone would like to help in the production of pages for our section of the website, please let me know or contact the NRA direct.

Evenings are already drawing out, and I know the first competitions will soon be with us. Look forward to the HBSA Fixed Bayonet and 1910 Meeting, the Imperial Historic Arms, the NSRA Historic, and to crown the year the Trafalgar Anniversary Meeting. See you all there!

### ••• WANTED •••

**7.62MM FIRED CARTRIDGE CASES**

**MINIMUM £1.50 PER KILO  
FOR CLEAN, UNDAMAGED BRASS.**

COLLECTION FROM BISLEY CAMP,  
OR ELSEWHERE BY ARRANGEMENT.

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

ALSO REQUIRED - .303 BRASS, G.P.M.G. LINKS,  
CHARGER AND STRIPPER CLIPS, ETC.  
(.303 CLIPS 10p EACH)



**300: frames**  
- fully adjustable £93



**390: clip-on flip-up iris**  
for ordinary glasses £52



**391: flip-up light or**  
dark eyeshield £19



**302: eyeshield combined sideshield** £20  
**340: iris to improve depth-of-field for pistol** £42  
**337: three-colour rotational filter set** £49  
**345: matching frosted set for other eye** £27  
**342: clip-on individual colour filters** £19

**392:**  
3-colour push-fit filter set £32



**373:**  
velcro-fastened headband  
with iris and eyeshield  
combined sideshield £63



**and more . . .  
send for the  
latest catalogue!**



**450:**  
shooter's carry bag £59

huge capacity, external pockets  
solid base, wide-spaced wheels,  
extending concealed handle and  
shoulder straps, takes all!

**418: black & white leather & canvas jacket £199**

- pierce-through threaded buttons for precise tailoring
- over-the-shoulder straps remove tucks on shoulder pad
- soft material at under-arm and sleeve joints for comfort
- sling loop with hook for cut-out on our range of slings gives exact sling relocation shoot after shoot
- competitor number clips
- suitable for ALL disciplines

**Contact  
your local  
target  
specialist**



**GEHMANN UK**

**7 - 9 MANOR ROAD, WALLINGTON,  
SURREY, SM6 0BZ,  
ENGLAND**

**Tel: 0208 395 8007 Fax: 020 8669 9199  
e-mail: 106026.3374@compuserve.com**

## Gallery Rifle and Pistol

by Neil Jones

### Gallery Rifle Action Weekend 'Your Action is Frozen' Held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, 27 - 28 November 2004

Over one hundred competitors made it to the Final Action weekend of the year and they came from as far afield as Ireland. On arrival the ever-helpful Jane Shields manned the reception (doing her normal great job) whilst persuading you to part with your money for worthy causes, such as home made alcoholic sweets or the GRAW raffle.

Whether you were pre-squadded or you were entering on the day, competitions available were Multi-Target, 25 and 50m Precision, Advancing Targets, 1500 Match, Timed and Precision One, America Match and the ever-popular Speed Steel shoot with seven stages. All of these could be entered with carbines (centre-fire and small-bore) and Long Barrelled Revolvers. As always the Range Officers running the competitions were volunteers with the highest standards but still able to make the competitors feel welcomed. (For those of you with Internet access you can look at a selection of photos at [www.galleryrifle.co.uk](http://www.galleryrifle.co.uk)).

On Century Range, to cater for the fullbore rifle shooters, we had a 300 yards competition for older military firearms and a fully booked up McQueen shoot. Range Officers David Shepard and Jim Carter, who braved the elements, looked after these shoots.

Although the temperature was not as low as the title of the shoot indicated, the mountains of stew, curry and chilli-con-carne laid on at lunch time were well received. Whilst on the subject of food, a Gallery Rifle Dinner was held on the Saturday night in the London and Middlesex clubhouse. After gathering at the bar we all moved to the dining room which had a roaring log fire and had been laid out ready for the banquet



Keith Cox overall winner, receiving trophy from Assistant Director of Shooting Brian Thomas.

that followed. The food was delectable and the staff here did a superb job of looking after the dinner guests. Over thirty people attended the occasion and all people called for it to be an annual event.

On Sunday the prize lists were compiled in plenty of time for the prize giving thanks to Charles Murton and his well-oiled stats team. Special thanks must be given to Chris and Sue Farr for all their help in organising this in the preceding weeks. The prize giving was well attended and I thank all of the people who stayed on for it.

### Results

#### GRSB 25m Precision

1	Mark Daish	298	19X
2	Ted George	297	21X

#### GRCF 25m Precision

1	John Woodward	295	14X
2	Neil Jones	294	17X

#### LBR 25m Precision

1	Stephen Lamb	141	3X
---	--------------	-----	----

#### 300m C1

1	Stephen East	99
2	David Shepperd	89
3	Kevin Gray	81

#### 300m C2

1	David Shepperd	112
---	----------------	-----

#### 300m C4

1	Rob Hufton	154
2	Peter Lomas	152
3	Dave Holt	149



Steel Plates event on Stickledown.

**LBR 50m Precision**

1	Stephen Lamb	105
---	--------------	-----

**GRCF 50m Precision**

1	John Woodward	269	3X
2	Neil Jones	267	6X

**GRSB 50m Precision**

1	Neil Jones	285	7X
---	------------	-----	----

**GRSB Advancing Target**

1	Paul Stockill	282
2	Alan Warner	282
3	Andy Lowe	282

**GRCF Advancing Target**

1	Alan Warner	178
2	John Woodward	176
3	John Lynch	174

**LBR Advancing Target**

1	John Robinson	177
---	---------------	-----

**GRCF America Match**

1	Keith Cox	294	12X
2	Peter Watts	293	12X
3	John Woodward	289	10X

**GRSB America Match**

1	Daniel Aplin	292	12X
2	Mark Daish	286	9X

**McQueen 1**

1	Laurie Hinds	40.1
---	--------------	------

**McQueen 2**

1	Mike Philips	50.10	50.09
2	SC Lewis	50.05	50.10
3	A Lyons	50.10	49.06

**GRCF Multi-Target**

X	1	Alan Whittle	119
	2	Keith Cox	118
A	1	Rob Hufton	119
	2	Jim Smith	117
B	1	Jon Haynes	104
	2	Trevor Williams	103

**GRSB Multi-Target**

X	1	Mick East	102
A	1	Chris Webb	112
B	1	Daniel Aplin	107

**LBR Multi-Target**

1	John Robinson	116
---	---------------	-----

**GRCF Speed Steel Challenge**

1	Layne Chisholm	120.88
2	Ian Hantman	126.88

**GRSB Speed Steel Challenge**

1	John Chambers	78.85
2	Rich Vowles	85.09
3	Ian Hantman	86.22

**LBR Speed Steel Challenge**

1	John Robinson	105.03
2	Nick Towndrow	112.06

**GRCF Timed & Precision 1**

X	1	Andy Lowe	300	24X
	2	Alan Whittle	300	22X
A	1	Dave Holt	300	18X
	2	Mick East	299	15X
	3	Neil Jones	299	12X
B	1	Charles Murton	298	16X
	2	Barry Morgan	298	15X

**GRSB Timed & Precision 1**

X	1	Charles Murton	297	6X
A	1	Chris Webb	296	13X
B	1	Ian Burden	285	2X

**LBR Timed & Precision 1**

1	Graham Trimmer	296	12X
---	----------------	-----	-----

**GRCF 1500**

X	1	Keith Cox	1493	124X
A	1	Simon Arnold	1489	98X
	2	Dave Holt	1487	93X
B	1	Andy Lowe	1485	93X
	2	Peter Lomas	1476	69X
C	1	Barry Morgan	1463	66X
	2	David Pollock	1450	68X
D	1	David Shea	1448	45X
	2	D Hart	1414	60X
M	1	Neil Jones	1491	105X

**GRSB 1500**

X	1	Keith Cox	1477	105X
A	1	Jim Smith	1464	73X
	2	Dave Holt	1463	76X
	3	Michael Chinery	1460	62X
B	1	Rob Hufton	1455	66X
	2	Andy Lowe	1454	62X
C	1	John McCue	1408	45X
D	1	Ian Burden	1341	23X
	2	Ollie Dagger	1339	38X

**LBR 1500**

1	John Robinson	1482	90X
2	Neil Jones	1452	62X
3	Peter Watts	1449	65X

Medals are awarded as follows:

1 to 5 entries: Gold Medal only

6 to 10 entries: Gold and Silver Medals

11 plus entries: Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals

# WANTED

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

We also will pay 5p each for .303 chargers, we pay the carriage.

Other rifle calibres also wanted including 7.92mm, links, chargers etc.

Contact us at *Proofmark Ltd* for prices on

01803 812058 or fax us on 01803 814103

Registered Firearms Dealers since 1962

Devon & Cornwall No 140

E-mail: proofmark@talk21.com



## Spring into Action 2005

The first Gallery Rifle Action Weekend shoot at Bisley in this year's diary is the Spring into Action Weekend over the weekend of 19 and 20 March 2005. For those who have never shot at Bisley this is a great opportunity to get started in a very friendly competition environment with something for just about everyone who shoots Gallery Rifle, small-bore or fullbore. There are action and precision events plus 300 yards for high power rifles and the McQueen sniper competition.

Further details can be found on the NSC and NRA websites or by picking up an entry form from the Bisley Range Office or on request by telephone or mail.

Future dates include the National Bianchi and 1500 Championships on 27 and 28 August and the 'Your Action is Frozen Weekend' on 29 and 30 October.

## International Pistol Teams for 1500 ppc

Some years ago the British 1500 and Action Pistol Association under the flag of the NRA formed an international team for the 1500 and Bianchi matches, until the pistol ban brought it to a close. The team was very successful in its day bringing back medals from all its outings.

The World 1500 Association has now, with some reservations, agreed to allow long barrelled revolvers to be used, making it possible for this country again to compete in international competition. However there are a number of restrictions imposed that, at first glance, may stop people from considering having a go.

They are:

- Pistols must be iron sights with a standard sight radius for a 6 inch revolver; no scopes or dots.
- If fitted with a wrist brace it cannot touch the arm when shooting or be used as a support.
- The rules for the competition will be those of the NRA of America.

None of the above are that difficult to overcome. A set of three position sights are available from Germany giving the ability to use 'neck aim' which has scores of 1499 registered, and altering the angle of the brace slightly will keep the gun legal in the UK, without it touching the arm when shooting.

Anyone who has a pistol that meets NRA of America rules, which is held outside mainland Britain would also be eligible to apply. For UK FAC holders wishing to acquire pistols abroad, the purchase, storage and transportation to competitions can be organised.

If there is sufficient interest, we plan to re-form a national squad, to have a number of training days and to try for funding from Sport England for overseas matches.

For more information or to register your interest please contact

T George  
c/o 49<sup>th</sup> Rifle and Pistol Club  
Adderley Rd  
Saltley  
Birmingham  
B8 1LE

or e-mail [Ted.George@tesco.net](mailto:Ted.George@tesco.net) with the subject line 1500 team.

## Gallery Rifle and Pistol Sub-Committee

Details omitted from the last Journal are as follows:

Chairman	Neil Jones
Long Range	Tony Minehane
1500 and Bianchi	Ted George
Precision Events	David Thomas
Action Shooting	Steve Smoothy
Muzzle Loading	Dave Sandland
Co-opted members (as and when required)	Andy Wiggins
	Andy Lowe
	Peter Watts
	Dave Harris
	Richard Munday

---

## 300 Metres

*by Ian Shirra-Gibb*

Our competitive season ended in October 2004 with the annual match at Bisley against Clermont; this match was shot on electronic targets for the first time. The match resulted in a win on both days for the NRA A team but we are assured of a much stronger French team when we visit them this April.

The National 300m Prone squad for 2005 has seven men and one lady; teams will be picked from this group using current trial and recorded scores. For a full listing of the training and competition days visit our website on [www.gb300m.com](http://www.gb300m.com).

The Europa Cup events will see, where possible, NRA teams of three in Pilzen (CZ), Thun (CH), Aarhus (DEN) with the full European Championships in Belgrade (Serbia) and Finals for the Europa circuit in South West France.

The range building improvements are well in hand and have been worked on both inside and out throughout the winter; shooters should see a marked improvement to their comfort and surroundings.

The TR team of four (Sunday pm league) still needs a few more faces, so if you fancy a 30 shot event once a month starting in June please contact the Director of Shooting who will send you more details, or visit the NRA website at [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk).

# REGIONAL MATTERS

## THE CORNWALL OPEN MEETING 2004

*by Adrian Pettman*

In spite of a run of good summer weather the Cornwall Open Meeting seems fated to start on a foggy day. This year was no exception, but by mid-morning the range was clear and the proceedings started. The first match, the Nat West Bank Trophy at 300 yards, resulted in a clear win for Stuart Young with 50.9 just ahead of Dad David on 50.7. The St Justin Trophy followed; this match was shot on 300 metres targets with Mike Cosway producing an unbeatable 150.11 and David Young coming second on 149.4.

In the afternoon at 500 yards Tony Mitchell hit form with 75.10 to win the ECC/Imerys Group Trophy just pipping George Cann on 75.6. However at 600 yards George came into his own to win the MWT Trophy scoring 50.7 with David Young runner up with 50.6.

On Sunday morning, the conditions were kinder which enabled a two range match, the Anchorage Marine Trophy at 500 and 600 yards, to start on time. David Young continued his form coming home with a 150.15 just ahead of his son Bruce on 149.20 and Adrian Pettman with 149.17.

The afternoon started with a bit of light relief involving a ten round rapid fire shoot being completed in just two minutes at 500 yards. Speed was no problem for George Gilpin who coasted home with 50.6 just ahead of Stuart Young with 49.6 and Pete Coley on 49.2. The final shooting event, the Duke of Cornwall Trophy, consisted of the top 20 scores to date competing at 600 yards firing fifteen rounds with only one sighter. In spite of a somewhat variable wind Tony Mitchell succeeded in making a 74.6 to win with Bruce Young coming second with 73.5 followed by Richard Bailie on 72.7 just counting out George Gilpin.

The main shooting programme being completed it only remained for the various aggregates to be calculated. The E Thomas Aggregate (300 and 600 yards) was taken cleanly by David Young with 100.13 one point ahead of Pete Coley on 99.10 along with George Cann who had the same score. The three range Royal Ordnance Trophy, with a maximum possible score of 325 for those using RG ammunition, was comfortably scooped by Tony Mitchell with a score of 318.30 with Adrian Pettman second on 315.24.

As for the individual Grand Aggregate, the Jobson Bowl, David Young was unstoppable ending with a tremendous total of 423.33 dropping only two points over the two days shooting, five points clear of George Gilpin on 418.36 and George Cann on 418.27. The top O class honours went to A Kinross on 411.34. Using the same total, the top spot for the Harvey Shield (for Cornwall Rifle Club members only) was occupied by

Adrian Pettman with 417.35, just squeezing out Tony Mitchell by one point on 416.42. The Helena Rubenstein Bowl (the ladies trophy) went to Mrs M Young with a creditable score of 404.30, while the youngest Young family member, namely Stuart, cleaned up the junior prize with an excellent total of 406.30. In the F Class events Roy Ritchie triumphed with 418.39 three points clear of J Mowbray in second place. For the first time a cup for home loads was featured, kindly donated by Mike Hallows. Unsurprisingly this was won by David Young.

As regards the team events, George Cann and Mike Cosway pulled together to win the Dickson Pairs with a fine total of 639 ex 650. Finally the main team competition, the Inter Counties Challenge for teams of eight, was won by Cornwall for the second year running with a total of 874.97 with the County of Lancaster runners up on 870.94

So ended another successful meeting at Bodmin. This year we were both very fortunate and privileged as Lady Mary Holborow JP Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall had kindly accepted our invitation to present the prizes on the final day. The smooth organisation of the entire meeting was largely due to Tony Mitchell who took it upon himself to deal with all the entries as well as the management of the range events; in addition Mitchell and daughter provided excellent refreshments in the form of freshly made rolls and various soft drinks. Tony was also responsible for approaching our sponsors who all gave very generously to the prizes. Our main sponsors this year were Albie Fox, HPS who donated a free rifle bedding service, RPA who offered a Trakker rearsight, Keith Chard of Exeter Gunshop, Tim Webster and TWP Designs, Roy Jobson, Keith Ellett, the NRA, the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, the City Rifle Club and Norman Clark Gunsmiths.



Lady Mary Holborow JP, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, presents the prizes.  
*(Photo: Adrian Pettman)*

Once again we were fortunate to have a very efficient band of cadet markers who performed faultlessly under the command of Rob Moyle to whom we offer our most sincere thanks. We must also thank all those members who undertook the numerous Range Officer duties as well as Colin Williams who provided a very efficient computerised results service.

*For further details and application forms for this years meeting please contact Keith Ellett telephone 01822 614567 or e-mail Keith.Ellett@111.freerve.co.uk.*

This summer meeting continues to prove a very popular venue for many shooters as Bodmin is one of the few remaining larger ranges outside Bisley. Cornwall Rifle Club will be hosting this event again in 2005 when we hope perhaps to attract a few more competitors to the scenic delights of Cornwall and Bodmin Moor.

## **SWADLINCOTE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB**

*by Chris Ward*

*Chairman, Swadlincote Rifle & Pistol Club*

### **Introduction**

At the recent NRA Regional Meeting held at the National Motorcycle Museum, the NRA asked for advice and ideas from clubs and NRA members to help them to improve shooting sports throughout the UK. I have taken steps in this region to improve public and sporting perception of our disciplines. The following may help other clubs to build on their own reputations.

### **UK Sport**

UK Sport has bodies in every county in the UK. They promote all types of sport where those sports are prepared to take a lead in the introduction of activities in their region. In our county, the body is Derbyshire Sport, which is made up of nine area groups or forums. South Derbyshire Sport (SDS) is a highly active forum in our area; through regular meetings and a variety of communication methods we help sporting clubs to develop.

### **South Derbyshire Sport**

The forum consists of 173 CASC types of sports clubs. It provides a number of support activities:

- Advice on fundraising, a route through to sources
- Co-ordination of projects in the same sport eg new pitches
- A regular newsletter announcing sporting success
- An award ceremony each year for successful sportsmen and coaches
- Special events programme during children's school holidays
- Fundraising events to help clubs raise their own money

SDS meets every three months at locations around the area, in many cases in the club houses of our members. The forum includes a number of stakeholders who are interested in sport for their members. For example, disabled groups in our area would help us to get funding for say a new range, if we ensure that the plans include their social groups. Children and youth

groups are keen to use sport in their activities. One example of possible funding is through the local Crime and Disorder group. They want airguns to be used on ranges and motorcycle users to be on approved land, rather than people just going off into the countryside and causing a nuisance. The South Derbyshire District Council is 100% behind Swadlincote Rifle and Pistol Club due to our involvement in the forum. We work hard to bring all sports together in an unselfish way. Target sports stand side by side with our peers in other sports at promotion events in the area.

### **Website**

SDS has a central website, from which you can find details of the sport that you wish to take part in. Our address, contact details and even competition results can be seen. We have our own website. You can find this through:

[www.derbyshiresport.com/index.php?node=7229](http://www.derbyshiresport.com/index.php?node=7229)

Each year the district holds an inter-town sports competition. SRPC get involved with this event by hosting the shooting section.

### **Scouts and Cadet Forces**

In the South Derbyshire District, SRPC offers the scouts and cadet forces free use of our facilities for their own shooting needs. When we apply for lottery money this and the fact that our sport includes everyone, regardless of age, sex, race or disability, makes a huge difference to us being accepted as an equal sport.

### **Advice**

I have volunteered for the office of Deputy Chair of SDS as well as being Chairman of SRPC. Time spent helping other sports is paid back many times by the PR for shooting. Financially, funding sources are identified more easily. The county team consider shooting with other disciplines when allocating funds. **Do not be selfish! Invest time to benefit others.** It may be a while before you need these people but our sport needs the support of the community in the tough times ahead.





# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN DAY SATURDAY 30 APRIL



Home Office Approval has been granted for an  
Open Day to be held at the National Shooting Centre,  
Bisley on Saturday 30 April.

*Come and have a go at:*

- Archery •
- Air Rifle •
- Shotgun •
- Laser Clays •
- Target Rifle •
- Gallery Rifle •
- Historical Firearms •
- Black Powder Pistol •

Children's  
Entertainment

Visit the  
NRA Museum

Refreshments  
available

Doors open  
8.30am

All shooting will be under one-to-one tuition of NRA coaches.  
(Please note that age restrictions apply for children under 14 for some  
shooting activities and all children must be accompanied by an adult.)

**A great day out for all age groups  
at the world-famous Bisley Ranges**

For further information please contact the NRA Offices

Tel 01483 797777 ext 125

E-mail [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)





# GREAT BRITAIN MATCH RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2004

## FOR THE THIRD WOOMERA MATCH

*by David Friend*

<b>Captain</b>	Colin Hayes	Scotland
<b>Vice Captain</b>	Stuart Collings	England
<b>Adjutant</b>	LouLou Brister	Wales
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alex Cargill Thompson	England
	Guy Blakeney	Scotland
	Hugh Butcher	Scotland
	David Friend	England
	Hamish Hunter	Scotland
	Will Meldrum,	Scotland
	Jim McAllister	Scotland
	Charles Oliver-Bellasis	Ireland
	John Pugsley	England
	Dick Rosling	England
	Bill Sharman	Scotland
	Tom Smith	England
	Martin Townsend	Ireland
	Nick Tremlett	England
<b>Reserves</b>	Pete Campbell	Ireland
	Paul Monaghan	England

The Woomera Trophy was initiated by Australia as the first international Match Rifle competition and was shot for the first time in 1997 at Campbell Town, Tasmania. The name Woomera is the native Australian name for a stick which is used to throw a spear long distances and is also the name of the rocket testing ranges where the first Australian 1200 yards rifle range was established.

In 1997 the Australians were using iron sights and Eagle Eyes together with rather experimental ammunition as regards powders, loads and bullets, so it was not surprising that GB won comfortably, though not by a mile: GB 1693.124, Australia 1667.103. Match top score was John Pugsley with 219.16.

The next match at Bisley in 2001 was a very different affair as Australia had updated with telescopic sights and match quality ammunition. After 1100 yards, in difficult conditions, Australia were leading by V bulls and the home team only pulled ahead at 1200 yards to win by 21 points and 7 V bulls: GB 1637.22, Australia 1616.115. Match top score was David Friend with 213.23.

The Captain of the 2004 team, Colin Hayes, was well aware that we faced a strong challenge from the Australians on their home ground and picked the strongest possible team from those available. Colin selected the team in July 2003 and at once embarked on a training programme so as to leave nothing to chance. This fourteen month period was a continual battle for our Adjutant, LouLou, to sort out all the logistics and get endless paperwork completed in time. Team members helped at various corporate fund-raising days that included shooting, golf, and car-racing at Dunsfold Park.

With all this behind us, and the ammo safely delivered to Melbourne in advance, courtesy of Jim McAllister and Cranleigh Freight Services, we met at Bisley on 22 September. We were seen off by John Knight, John Bridger, Pete Campbell and various wives. At Gatwick the first hitch occurred: our travel agents had neglected to inform the airline that we were carrying rifles! An anxious wait, and after strenuous negotiations by LouLou and Alex, and we boarded hoping that our rifles would travel with us. An order had been issued by SWOTBO (she who ought to be obeyed) that we would travel in our red team polo-shirts, supplied courtesy of Rutland, so that we could be spotted in a crowd. It was surprising how many other travellers were wearing red shirts. Emirates conveyed us in some style via Dubai and Singapore to Melbourne. Will stayed at home as his wife was expecting their first baby that week (bankers are supposed to be able to count!). Paul came as travelling reserve and Guy was due in later.

We had a few days in Melbourne to get used to both the change in body clocks and the taste of the beer. Lew Horwood of the Victoria Rifle Association came to our hotel to welcome us to Australia and explain local shooting procedures. He also warned us about zero tolerance speed traps on Victorian State roads. Half the team went down the Great Ocean Road to the Twelve Apostles; the golfers went golfing; some conducted extensive research into local wines; others went fly-fishing, and Tom was so taken with the sport that he bought a rod and reel and for the rest of the trip had to be persuaded to leave the goldfish alone whenever we saw a pond. Jim spent a day trying to recover the A\$1200 that Customs had charged on our ammo . . . and succeeded. Hugh thoughtfully phoned the Captain at 3.30am to tell him that the Meldrums had had their baby. The team drank to the health of Will, his wife EB and baby Ella.

Our next stop was at Halls Gap in the Grampian Mountains, about two hours drive from Melbourne, via a visit to the Seppelts Winery. The golfers went golfing again and the rest toured the area by car and on foot. Tom had a long walk to the McKenzie River to try out his new rod. By the time he got there it was getting dark; he managed to thread the line through the rod-rings but was quite unable to tie on a fly in the gloom. A long trudge home in the dark; there's more to fly-fishing than meets the eye.

Thursday saw a short drive to our next motel at Stawell and the range where we were met by Chris Law, Lew Horwood, and Greg Phelan who had transported our rifles and ammo from Melbourne. Chris was on a private shooting trip and staying with Lew; he was to prove a huge help to us at both Stawell and Lower Light.

The Captain's agreement with Will was that his place would be kept open if Will could join us by the time we started shooting. As this had not happened Paul was formally upgraded to full team member and given his blazer badge.

Stawell is a lovely six target range set in the club's own 400 acres of bush. Stawell Rifle Club received a grant from their State and used it to extend the range to 1200 yards: felling trees behind the stop-butt, using earth-moving equipment from the local goldmine to move the stop-butt back 300 yards, building a new mantlet and installing six new cantilever target frames which can be raised literally with one finger. Club members led by Lew did most of the work; an amazing effort and completed in seven months. This weekend was the official opening shoot and our Captain had the honour of cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

We put our rifles together and had a successful practice at 1000 and 1200 yards. Friday was a day of individual competitions in a strong wind, made more difficult as the trees shielded the wind flags; taller flagpoles to raise them above the trees are being made but were not yet ready. Nevertheless the shooting was good; high scores were Nick 220.19, Stuart 218.17, Guy 215.14, Tom 215.11 and Hugh 214.17. Shooting in Australia is string shooting, firing singly within a time-limit and with a scorer keeping the scorecard and a check-scorer keeping the blackboard. An Australian firing point is a noisy place: "Number one business away on target Echo 2", "Bulleye first business on Echo 2", and so, on all along the firing point.

Stawell is a considerable shooting centre and as well as the 1200 yards range has excellent facilities for clays, pistol, and .22". We were all given a chance to shoot a variety of pistols and clays. On Friday evening the club gave us a splendid spit-roast supper and we also celebrated the birthday of Charles O-B. The Lady Mayor of the North Grampians Region, Karen Douglas, came to visit and spent a full two hours mixing with us and enthusing about the local shooting facilities.

Saturday started fine but cold, one heavy shower and then hot sunshine. It was a day of mixed GB and Aussie teams of four at 1000 and 1200 yards. Jim and Colin each had 75.13 at 1000 yards (the Australian V bull is 12 inches in diameter). Bill's team won on a countback; high scores were Stuart 149.20 (continuing an extraordinary run of 74s at 1200 yards), Lew 149.19, Jim 148.18, David 148.15, Phil Bain 147.19, and Paul 147.12.

On Sunday we had a six hour drive to Adelaide through rich, green countryside. A number of our drivers forgot Lew's warning and were considerably the poorer for attracting the attention of police patrols. They have the equipment to take a radar reading whilst coming towards you; a Christmas tree of flashing lights, a handbrake turn, and they're up behind you. Monday was a Public Holiday and our various parties explored the vineyards and very pleasant hilly surrounds of Adelaide, a nice city with good restaurants.

Tuesday and a forty minute drive north to Lower Light Range, a new range that was only finished this year. It was a nice gesture by Australia to choose such a fair and sporting range for the match. The home side had not had years of experience of the range and, being on open ground, what you saw of the wind was what you got. Completely flat and exposed for many miles, the nearest tree is at least a mile away. There were good new club houses, a mess hall, toilet and shower block, and four accommodation units. The Cyclists and Torrens Valley RC generously lent us their clubhouse for our exclusive use, which was way beyond the facilities we were expecting. And FLIES!!! They don't bite but they descend in clouds onto exposed skin; one crawling over your eyelid as you take up the pressure takes a bit of getting used to! Some of us tried using nets but it was difficult to arrange them without them getting in the way of bolt and scope. Various sprays were of little help, so one just had to get used to it.

The range is near the sea so there was usually an offshore breeze in the morning and, as the land warmed up, the breeze swung through 180 degrees to being onshore. All readable in theory but not easy in practice. More of a problem was the heavy mirage: Martin and Nick have coached all over the world and each agreed that the sight picture was the worst they have seen. You could not see the lines through the scope and the marking discs had to be changed from the Scottish system to much larger black and white discs. Those that had variable-power scopes found that they got a better picture if they changed down to about x10 or x12.

We had a practice shoot, then everyone had a coached shoot at either 1000 or 1200 yards (this range is actually in metres; 900m = 984 yards, 1000m = 1094 yards, 1100m = 1203 yards, but we'll stay with the familiar). The firing points were a sort of loose tarmac but hard underneath and sloping. Our back-gunners very much appreciated that a section of the point had been levelled for them.

Wednesday was the first day of individual competitions with a 30°C temperature and a wind fishtailing rapidly from behind. There was the usual lottery in string shooting as to whether one gets 10 to 15 minutes of stable wind or unstable. Some details had no more than two minutes change and others had eight. However, it was noticeable that the usual top scorers shot well whatever their detail. The first day finished with Stuart top on 222.18, Nick 220.12, Lew Horwood 217.19, Hugh 216.18 and Paul 216.16.

On Thursday it was blowing a right-hand gale all day and we started at 1200 yards. The targets are only 6 feet wide; what on earth does one start with? It turned out to be 24 to 28 minutes at 1200 (I only had 21 available on my sight), 18 at 1100, and 14 at 1000. At those strengths it required only a small percentage change to take one off the target. The back-gunners in particular struggled all day with the buffeting to hold their point of aim. Shooting only 10 to count at 1000, Hugh was king of the day with 72, 72, 49 to take him four points clear of the next man Stuart after the first two days.





The Captain opens the new range - or the winery?



Lower Light - in the middle of nowhere!



Alex and Dick get sorted.



1200 yards at Stawell: they don't come any prettier than this.



The Captain goes native - and it works!



The team do the business. (All photos: Colin Hayes and Jim McAllister)



Charles and Hamish find the natives rather overbearing . . .



Stuart, Nick and Paul carry off the Championship.



Great Britain Captain Colin Hayes receives the Woomera Trophy.



Friday was bright and sunny, less wind but tricky, mainly from either side of twelve o'clock. Hamish put in a good one to take the 10 shot shoot at 1000 with 50.6. At 1200 yards Hugh decided to change his scope from his fixed x24 to a new variable power to see if a lower power would give a better sight picture in the mirage. Set up with a collimator, the first shot at 1200 was an inner at 9 o'clock. Two right: miss. Butts said the miss was left. Wind on some more: miss. And more: miss again. Put the collimator on and found that the windage knob was loose. With 50 ex 75 he finished the day sixth on aggregate, 25 below Stuart. Conditions were so tricky that Bill got a cheer when he was the first to break 70 at 1200. Stuart, shooting last detail, topped this with yet another brilliant 74.

Friday evening was a full dress dinner with GB hosting the Australians at the Adelaide Hilton. The dinner was in a room open to the public so speeches were kept short with a welcome from Colin and a reply by Australian captain James Freebairn.

Saturday was hotter with lots of flies and dust. The final shoot in the Championship was 2 + 20 at 1200 yards. Hugh, back with his original scope, excelled himself with a 94 but it only pulled him up one place in the aggregate. The GB shooters did brilliantly, the top ten in the Championship being:

1	Stuart Collings	693.37
2	Nick Tremlett	684.39
3	Paul Monaghan	673.52
4	Bill Sharman	672.35
5	Hugh Butcher	671.53
6	Phil Bain (Aus)	670.29
7	Greg Warriar (Aus)	668.41
8	Lew Horwood (Aus)	667.37
9	Adrian Abbott (Aus)	662.43
10	Tom Smith	662.32

The rest of Saturday was occupied with the Freebairn teams of four, picked according to positions in the Championship, Brits and Aussies mixed together, 15 shots at 1200. The winners were Nick's team of Colin, Allan Maddern (South Australia) and Greg Phelan (Victoria). Nick made 73 and Greg, coached by Colin, surpassed himself with a 70. 'Bloody beautiful' said Greg, and it was.

Sunday started hot and got hotter. It was the day for the Inter-State teams of four, fifteen to count at the three distances. The Phil Cole Trophy was contested between the State teams and any visiting regional teams, and the McEachran Trophy between the State teams and Scotland. GB entered a Scots team, England Redbacks and England Taipans, and a Celts team consisting of Martin, Charles, LouLou and Hamish. Tasmania (Gil Walker, David Martin, Eric Thompson and Nigel Paul) walked away with all three trophies once again, from England Taipans and the Celts. Australians also had the

three best individual scores, whilst we had a number of mediocre performances. We would have to do better tomorrow if we were to retain the Woomera.

On Sunday night we were entertained by Australia: a very splendid do at the local trotting club, a lavish array of food and the drinks flowed freely. James Freebairn and Greg Phelan were masters of ceremony of the prizegiving which took place between the courses. A great evening, and GB extended many thanks to all.

Monday, day of the Woomera Match. Colin had announced the team the previous evening, the selection as always a difficult task. Everyone had shot well at times, but the forecast was for high temperatures and a 'hot northerly' and the final choice was determined both by form and by those who were expected to shoot best in the conditions.

It was indeed hot, 33°C in the shade, except there was no shade. The wind, however, was not the fierce and gusty one expected, but at 1000 yards the steadiest we had seen so far. We managed to get most shots away in a bracket of six to eight minutes right, finished the distance in about 40 minutes, ahead of the Aussies, and dropped only six points to their eight; a cracking start by both teams. At 1100 yards the wind dropped to a mean of four to eight, still right. Our lead stretched to 13, but five of those were from an Australian cross shot. So, as usual, it was all down to 1200 yards. The mirage was getting steadily worse as the heat built up, the aiming mark swimming around and shapeless. Charles kept the team supplied with as much liquid from the cool-boxes as we could take. As each pair finished we found we had picked up another point or two, coaches and shooters all performing out of their skins, but we all know what disasters can happen at 1200. It would not be in the bag until the last few shots. Last pair down and we were 20 ahead. The Australians finished ahead of us and Martin, coaching Stuart, heard a burst of clapping from Australia as they presented team badges and thought it was all over for us. Stuart was having difficulty with the mirage and was fighting to hold it together. John, on Nick's target, already with a pair of 75s to his name, seemed to be guided by radar through the mirage. He put the first six in before his first inner of the day, finishing with a 72 for 222.17, one more than Hugh and two more than Paul. Nick's target averaged 220. Stuart kept disaster at bay and we finished 22 and 2 Vs ahead. Australia's score of 1721 would have been a new record for the match by miles, but the GB score of 1743 was the best ever by a Match Rifle team of eight.

The whole of the week's shooting took place in the most friendly spirit, and although both teams did their utmost to win all felt it was sad that there had to be a winner and a loser. The real winner was International Match Rifle Shooting. We look forward to seeing our Australian friends again in the return match at Bisley in 2006. Finally any club considering a tour of Australia should know that there are now at least half a dozen 1200 yards ranges to choose from, and there will be great shooting and companionship to be enjoyed.

## Results of the Woomera Match 2004

### Great Britain

**Captain** Colin Hayes  
**Adjutant** LouLou Brister

Target 1	900	1000	1100	Total
<b>Coach</b> Nick Tremlett				
Paul Monaghan	75.11	74.7	71.3	220.21
Hugh Butcher	73.08	75.7	73.4	221.19
Jim McAllister	75.09	71.3	71.3	217.15
John Pugsley	75.08	75.6	72.3	222.17

#### Target 2

**Coach** Martin Townsend

Bill Sharman	73.07	73.6	70.3	216.16
Guy Blakeney	75.10	73.6	71.5	219.21
Tom Smith	75.12	71.4	68.0	214.16
Stuart Collings	73.05	74.7	67.4	214.16
	595.70	586.46	563.25	1744.141

### Australia

**Captain** James Freebairn  
**Adjutant** John Oddy

Target 1	900	1000	1100	Total
<b>Coaches</b> Bill Freebairn, Graham Mincham				
Phil Bain	73.8	74.5	69.4	216.17
Jim Clifford	75.7	74.6	69.5	218.18
Adrian Abbott	75.9	73.5	68.5	216.19
Gill Walker	75.8	71.5	68.4	214.17

#### Target 2

**Coaches** Greg Warria, Kerod Lindley

John Kielly	73.7	72.5	71.7	216.19
David Freebairn	75.5	71.5	69.3	215.13
Bill MacFarlane	73.5	72.7	71.6	216.18
Lew Horwood	73.6	68.7	69.5	210.18
	593.55	575.45	554.39	1722.139

*Norman Clark*

**GUNSMITHS**

### FULL GUNSMITHING FACILITIES

- Custom rifles for any discipline
- Re-barrelling
- Restocking
- Pillar bedding
- Calibre conversions
- Custom bolt handles
- Trigger modifications and regulations
- Minor repairs to full restorations

*Visit our shop for a full range of reloading equipment and components, cleaning equipment and accessories.*

#### Shop Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 9.00am till 5.00pm

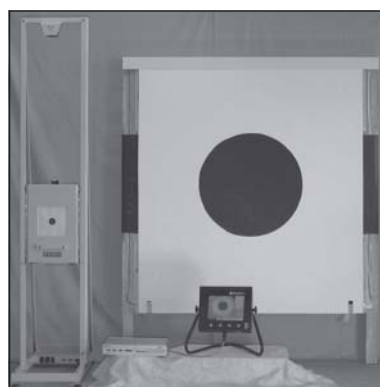
**Tel: 01788 579651 Fax: 01788 577104**  
**Units 4, 5 & 8, Hunters Lane, Rugby,**  
**Warwickshire CV21 1EA**

E-mail: [info@normanclarkgunsmith.com](mailto:info@normanclarkgunsmith.com)  
Website: [www.normanclarkgunsmith.com](http://www.normanclarkgunsmith.com)



**ETSys**  
**Electronic**  
**Target Systems**

UK Distributors for  
KME Electronic Target Systems and Trainers  
Systems from 10m to 1200 yards  
Wireless laser trainer



For further information contact us at:  
6, South Farm Court, South Farm Rd  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7AY  
Tel: 01395 442777 Fax: 01395 446233  
E-mail: [info@etsys.co.uk](mailto:info@etsys.co.uk)  
Website: [www.etsys.co.uk](http://www.etsys.co.uk)



# TRANSPORT OF AMMUNITION AND COMPONENTS BY AIR

by Iain Robertson

A recent article in another shooting magazine suggested that it was permitted to carry 10kg of ammunition in your hold baggage for transport by air. **All members should be aware that this is incorrect.** British Airways policy, as of 15 February 2005, is summarised on their website, which says:

*Any ammunition to be carried must be for sporting purposes only, and the maximum gross weight must not exceed 5kgs per passenger. All ammunition must be securely boxed and preferably stored inside a suitcase. Any suitcases/carry cases/boxes containing ammunition must not bear an 'explosives' label.*

That is a statement, in ordinary language, of one of the limitations published in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) 46<sup>th</sup> (2005) edition. Ignoring these Regulations is a very bad idea. Quite apart from the possible safety issues, if you try taking 10kg and are detected, at the very least you will be down 200 rounds just before boarding your flight. You are highly likely to miss your flight altogether as the security authorities take your luggage (and that of everyone else on your team) apart and check everything else you are carrying. Your travel insurance will probably be invalid as regards the delay, so even if they let you on a later flight you will be down the price of the replacement ticket. And in contravening the Dangerous Goods Regulations you are almost certainly contravening the Air Navigation Act, which defines numerous offences of strict liability (ie where the act itself constitutes an offence regardless of the underlying intent). As a result a criminal record is a possible outcome.

So, to keep you out of trouble, here is chapter and verse from the IATA DGR.

Carriage of explosives (and any other Dangerous Goods) in passengers' or crews' baggage is, in general, prohibited (Regulation 2.3.0.1). As a concession (Regulation 2.3.2.2), airlines may permit passengers to carry ammunition *in their hold baggage*. Not all airlines grant this concession, so you need to check. In particular, Iran Air will carry ammo only as cargo, though if you travel Iran Air with a firearm you may need your head examined, and US Express will not carry it at all. The limits on the concession are:

It applies to "cartridges for weapons", the definition of which includes the phrase "each cartridge includes all the components necessary to function the weapon once" (IATA DGR Appendix A page 620). Bulk powder is not included, neither are primed cases, primers, detonators and percussion caps.

It applies to "ammunition used for sporting purposes" – as distinct from "munitions of war" which are prohibited for carriage on civil airliners.

The ammunition must be "securely boxed".

"Allowances for more than one passenger must not be combined into one or more packages".

Maximum weight 5kg gross (ie including packaging).

For TR shooters, 200 rounds of RG 155gr in boxes of 20 just falls within this concession. Alternatively, 200 rounds of Carmichael 155gr ammo packed in cardboard boxes of 50, but without the plastic trays, will be allowed. Match rifle shooters will get about 180 rounds of 190gr within the concession. Plastic trays for 50 rounds weigh about the same as four rounds, polythene ammo boxes rather more. If taking your own handloads, seal the box, and put a label (preferably printed) on it, describing exactly what the contents are. There is a requirement not to put explosives labels on the outer package (ie your suitcase), so the consignment remains more or less anonymous, though it will be subject to special handling from check-in to loading in the baggage container.

Almost anything else that falls within the definition of Dangerous Goods may only be carried by air as cargo. The Regulations covering packing and documentation can be complex, and in addition you are almost certain to need an Export Licence from the Department of Trade and Industry. Although the DTI staff are in my experience very helpful, the procedure generates an enormous amount of paperwork and takes some time to set up. Some of the more significant limitations in the IATA DGR are:

Carriage of "Black Powder" UN 0027 or 0028 is forbidden (IATA DGR Section 4 page 122).

Carriage of "Powder, smokeless" UN 0160 or 0161 is forbidden (IATA DGR Section 4 page 208). "Powder, smokeless" is defined as "Substances based on Nitrocellulose used as propellant" (IATA DGR Appendix A page 629).

Assembled ammunition ("Cartridges for weapons, inert projectile") is forbidden on passenger aircraft if it falls in Division 1.4C, UN 0339. If it falls in Division 1.4S, UN 0012, ammunition may be carried as cargo on passenger aircraft with the maximum weight of each package limited to 25kg. On cargo aircraft,

packages up to 75kg in Div 1.4C and 100kg in Div 1.4S may be carried. (IATA DGR Section 4 page 130).

The same restrictions and weight limits, but a different Packaging Instruction, apply to primed cases ("Cases, cartridge, empty, with primer" UN 0379 or 0055) (IATA DGR Section 4 pages 130 & 131).

Some types of primers are forbidden for carriage ("Primers, cap type, UN 0037"). Loose primers ("Detonators for Ammunition, UN 0036", or "Primers, cap type, UN 0044") in Division 1.4S may be carried on passenger or cargo aircraft, while "Primers, cap type, UN 0377" in Division 1.4B, may only be carried on cargo aircraft. The same weight limits as for ammunition, but yet another Packaging Instruction, apply. (IATA DGR Section 4 pages 144 & 208).

Remember that all of the above applies to carriage of goods *as cargo*, regardless of whether the flight is a cargo or combined passenger and cargo flight.

Not limited by the IATA DGR are empty cases (unprimed), inert bullets, and your guns. However, there are other Regulations that apply to guns, in particular the one that says that no part of a firearm may be carried as hand baggage, so think carefully about where you pack the bolt and sights. Also, it would be sensible to tell the airline if you are carrying empty cases, as they may show up on X-ray of your baggage and any powder residue may send the sniffer dog into extreme wagging mode, which again may cause you to be delayed while explanations are sought.

Finally, do remember your overall baggage weight limits, and the Health and Safety rule that says that no single baggage piece may weigh more than 32kg.

Transport of ammunition by air can be a complex business. Always tell the airline your intention, and ask a professional for advice if you are unsure.

<http://www.ba.com>

<http://www.iata.org>

## FREE TICKETS TO GAME FAIRS!

The organisers of the Westcountry Game Fair and the new Kent Game Fair have again very kindly donated some free tickets to this year's events to readers of the Journal. Although there is not a lot of time between publication and the first Game Fair, if you would like to be put into a draw for these tickets please write, phone, fax or e-mail Karen Robertson at:

National Rifle Association, Bisley, National Shooting Centre, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

Tel: 01483 797777 ext 146

Fax: 01483 797285

E-mail: [karen@nra.org.uk](mailto:karen@nra.org.uk)

by Wednesday 16 March for the Westcountry Game Fair and Tuesday 29 March for the Kent Game Fair.

## WESTCOUNTRY GAME FAIR

Now in its tenth year, the Westcountry Game Fair will once again take place at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 March 2005. The show will have something for everyone including clay shooting, gun coaching and advice, gundog scurries, wildfowling demonstrations, fly casting demonstrations, Amanda Saville's Chariots of Fire, ferrets, deer area, falconry and much more. There will be a wide variety of countryside shopping available all indoors and plenty of recipe ideas in the Game Cookery Theatre. This is certainly a show not to be missed!

On the gate ticket prices: Adult £9, OAP £8, Child (5 to 16) £6, Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £25. Advanced ticket discounts are available by calling 08700 115007 or [www.contour.uk.net](http://www.contour.uk.net).

## KENT GAME FAIR

The show, in its first year will take place at Kent County Showground, Maidstone on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April 2005. There will be plenty of countryside shopping opportunities indoors, together with entertainment from the Essex Dog Display Team, Daniel Cordell – wood carver extraordinaire, wildfowling, fly casting, deer area, archery, falconry and much more! In addition, BASC will provide gundog scurries and gun coaching.

On the gate ticket prices: Adult £7, OAP £6, Child (5 to 16) £5, Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £20. Advanced ticket discounts are available by calling 08700 115007 or [www.contour.uk.net](http://www.contour.uk.net).





# UPDATE ON THE NSC AND NRA WEBSITES

by James Watson



The work on the websites continues. Since the last Journal, the NRA website has gone live with a similar look and feel to the NSC site. Both websites share common features such as the calendar and news items but the NRA emphasis is on providing information to existing members and encouraging new members whilst the NSC has a focus on the commercial side and raising money that will help pay for facilities and improve the experience of Bisley.

We have just completed a user registration section (*see below*) that currently allows members and non-members to sign up for newsletters, mailshots and other information. Members can also amend their membership details online. Soon this facility will be expanded so that members will have the ability to book accommodation and targets online (once registered your details are stored in a secure database so you won't have to enter them all in again). We also aim to have many of the competition entry forms available for online completion and payment.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to register in the users section to be kept up to date with the latest news from the NRA and NSC.

We have had much feedback from members and non-members alike (some Americans have been mistaken into thinking it is their NRA website – see the Members Page for some amusing submissions). We welcome all feedback, particularly on any problems users have with the site and issues are addressed as quickly as possible.


The NSC website is now attracting a large number of hits. Since going live at the end of October, the number of hits has rocketed with the figure for January reaching over 17,000 page requests a month.

The popularity of the site is consistent throughout the week with only a small drop at the weekend (lots of people surfing from work?). After 08:00, the traffic is also fairly constant throughout the day only dropping off after 23:00.

Please feel free to contact us either using the online form on the websites or by e-mail at [nrawebenquiries@nra.org.uk](mailto:nrawebenquiries@nra.org.uk) and let us know what you think, or give us some suggestions for what you would like to see on your sites.

[www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)  
[www.nsc-bisley.co.uk](http://www.nsc-bisley.co.uk)

## ARCHER BARRELS



Button rifled barrels by Border Barrels Ltd.

- \* Stress relieved after rifling
- \* hand lapped
- \* £399.50 fitted and proofed, inc. VAT

Call us at:

Border Barrels Ltd., Newcastleton, TD9 0SN, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)13873 76253 Fax: +44 (0)13873 76214  
email: [archer@border-barrels.com](mailto:archer@border-barrels.com)  
<http://www.border-barrels.com>





**HPS – Bringing Quality and Innovation to the Shooter.**



**TR 701**



**TR 702**

HPS is Britain's premiere target rifle supplies company, bringing the combined experience of two international target rifle shooters in both fullbore and small-bore shooting. With a total of 50 years experience in developing and manufacturing products for both disciplines, they are proud to be the developers, manufacturers and suppliers of **System Gemini** equipment and **Target Master** ammunition. HPS can offer the fullbore and small-bore shooter a variety of products and technical support as they pursue their sport:

**System Gemini Fullbore Stocks TR701 and TR702**

**Fullbore Tactical Series Rifle**

**System Gemini Small-bore Stock – FR703 – ISSF 50/300 metre**

**Traditional Wooden Stocks, Rifle Barrels and Actions**

**System Gemini Butt Plates, AKTIV Handstop (with 22 mm Movement)**

**Bipods and Other Accessories**

**Target Master Ammunition**

**Point Master Shooting Mats**

**System Gemini Small-bore Test Rig and System Gemini Fullbore Test Rig**

**Gloves, Caps, Slings, Gun Bags, Rifle Boxes, Weatherwriters, Capes**

**RPA and Centra Parts and Accessories**

**Complete Rifles Built to Customer Specifications**

**Plus a Full Rifle Servicing, Repairs and Refurbishment Service**



**FR 703**



With their experience both in the workshop and on the range, HPS should be your first stop for all your shooting needs.

If you want to see the wide range of colours of our products visit our website [www.hps-tr.com](http://www.hps-tr.com)

HPS TR Ltd. PO Box 308, Gloucester South, Gloucestershire, GL2 2YF, England

Tel: +44 (0)1452 729 888

Fax: +44 (0)1452 729 894

E-mail: [info@hps-tr.com](mailto:info@hps-tr.com)



## **New 155 grain PALMA Ammunition as low as 42p / round**

**Important points to consider when buying ammunition:**

**HPS is an HSE Licensed Manufacturer.**

All HPS Ammunition is CIP approved.

Packaged & Labelled according to UN regulations

for UK and International Transport, and

**HPS are also Liability Insured.**

For the 2005 season HPS TR Ltd is offering their top quality Target Master Sierra 155 grain Palma Ammunition at the following prices:



Type	Quantity	Price
New (MEN) brass cased, Boxer primed	50 - 2,000 rounds	44p each +5p case deposit
	2,050 - 10,000	43p each +5p case deposit
	over 10,000	42p each +5p case deposit
	over 20,000	POA
Disposable brass cased, Boxer primed	50 - 2,000 rounds	47p each
	2,050 - 10,000	46p each
	over 10,000	45p each
	over 20,000	POA

**All products are manufactured with quality throughout.**

**NOTE: Special offer for groups of Individuals, Clubs, Counties or Teams:**

ALL orders, even if delivered in stages over the season, will qualify for maximum discount. Get together with others to gain the benefit! Call HPS Target Rifles at 01452 729888 for details.

# GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA AND THE USA 2004

*by John Webster*

## **Departure**

This tour promised to be one of the most intensive tours by a GB rifle team in recent years. Excluding the major team matches, each team member was expecting firing the equivalent of more than four Bisley Grand Aggregates in little more than 16 days of competition. Also, the schedule allowed for very little R&R, as the three and a half week tour was stacked with competitions. The team included four new caps, and, including David Calvert, our travelling reserve, five Irish internationals. David was originally selected but had to withdraw, as he could not get the required amount of time off for the whole tour. Given that the DCRA has now changed the rules of the Commonwealth Match to involve 21 team members instead of 18, I was pleased to welcome him for the Canadian leg of the tour.

Getting from Bisley to Ottawa involved the usual hassles: cramming all the necessary equipment and clothes into two cases, each weighing less than 32kg, a torturously slow check-in at Heathrow made even longer by the necessity to renegotiate the excess baggage allowance we had been originally promised, and the fastidiousness of customs officials at either end in checking every rifle. That said, the team was in good spirits when we arrived at the Best Western Barons Hotel after a long day of travel, as the bar takings will no doubt confirm.

## **The DCRA Meeting**

The 122nd Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships followed a familiar programme. A daily aggregate prize was introduced for Monday's competitions (the Dick Hampton Aggregate) and Tuesday's competitions (the Jack Gorrie Aggregate), honouring two individuals who gave such distinguished contributions to the DCRA and Canadian fullbore shooting in their different ways. Conditions throughout the Meeting were variable to say the least. The weather was distinctly changeable during the first part, oscillating from bright sunshine to murky fog and torrential downpours but at least the wind was relatively steady. However, as the week progressed, the winds tended to get stronger and more fickle, so much so that the Governor General's Final was far from easy. The only other environmental hazard we faced was the most ferocious plague of mosquitoes. Upon arrival at the range, we set up camp in our clubhouse/classroom, which was well-stocked with not only the usual provisions but copious amounts of bug-repellent and a hand-held bug zapper, which kept many of the team amused in the down-time between shoots.

## **The DCRA Individual Matches**

Any doubts I may have had about the team's ability to go straight into competition shooting without a couple of days' acclimatisation were quickly dispelled when 13 of the team scored either a 74 or a 75 in the first shoot, the Ottawa Regiment. This was noteworthy in that it was shot in murky rain, and most of the team began their shoot well after midnight UK time! David Richards ran

out a worthy winner after a tie shoot with Canadian Brian Kaufman, repeating his victory in the same competition 12 years ago when he last visited Connaught. Saturday started overcast but cheered up as the day progressed. Jon Underwood made the best of the conditions and won the Gooderham with a full score. Nigel Ball was our high man in the Army and Navy Veterans at 900 metres coming third despite hitting the V bull almost twice as often as the eventual winner, Canadian Serge Bissonnette, who had been such a great help to us, particularly in getting our ammo through Canadian customs. The warm-up matches concluded with the Tilton on Sunday morning, won by new cap Toby Raincock, whose 100.16 was the best of 28 full scores in relatively benign conditions. The Champlain Aggregate of all the warm-up matches, had six of the team in the top ten, highest of which was Jon Underwood (second), notably flanked by two members of the visiting team from the USA, winner Dave Brantner and the veteran Peter Church.

The Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate started on Sunday afternoon and at 830 points is somewhat larger than its Bisley equivalent. This first competition was the Macdougall, won by David Calvert. After a short delay due to fog, Monday's two competitions were shot in relatively benign conditions and scoring was high: 100.17 was required to win both competitions. Nigel Ball won the Norman Beckett and Canadian Bryan Kaufman won the John Brick, one V bull ahead of John Webster. David Luckman won the first of what was to become a hatful of trophies, winning the Dick Hampton aggregate with 200.28. This put him atop the Grand Aggregate leader board on Monday evening, one V bull ahead of Jon Underwood.

Tuesday brought more success. David Luckman won the Letson, repeating his success of 2002, and John Webster won the Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres after a tie-shoot in the most severe winds of the week with the whole team cheering on. David Luckman won the daily aggregate (the Jack Gorrie) for the second day running, to remain firmly atop the Grand Aggregate leader board, thereby taking the Klondike Aggregate that represents the halfway point in the Grand.

David Luckman continued his fine form by winning the Presidents in variable conditions on Wednesday after a tie-shoot with Jim Paton. Combined with his win in the Letson, this gave him an unassailable lead in the Governor General's Qualifier, and (you have guessed it!) he remained atop the leader board for the third straight day. The Pimms came out for our uniquely British reception later that evening!

Thursday saw the conclusion of the Gibson in some of the most changeable conditions seen all week: torrential rain in the early morning, heavy enough to cause a cease-fire followed by gorgeous sunshine by 11:00. Jane Messer ran out the eventual winner. This brought to a close





Tour diarist Alistair Speirs hard at work.



"No honestly lads, lager in the bedding compound works a treat!" David Richards 'fixes' some young whippersnapper's rifle.



"The Management."



Unlucky David.



The Commonwealth Match team.



The weather stayed dry most of the time.



Alwyn "Monkey" McLean and the Shoe Tree.

The Alexander of Tunis tie shoot . . .



. . . apprehension . . .



. . . concentration . . .



. . . jubilation!



Captain We





"Right nobody leaves this Portakabin till I find out who put superglue in my pockets!"



Captain Webbie and Alwyn celebrate their wedding anniversaries - other halves not present.



The Canada Match team.



Not enough wind on? Jon Cload is disappointed with his bug zapper score.



Hip hip hooray!

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FINAL FINALE DU GOUVERNEUR GENERAL			
1	CAVEY, DAVID	11	FATON, JAMES
2	FERRE, JAMES	12	SHANAHAN, ADAM
3	LANGLEY, JEREMY	13	SHANAHAN, CLAY
4	BELL, NIGEL	14	PIRELL, PABLO
5	LUCKMAN, ANDY	15	CHURCH, PETER
6	UNDERWOOD, JON	16	MICAL, JACQUES
7	WESSER, JAMES	17	WATSON, JAMES
8	VANPELW, PAT	18	RENDLE, IAN
9	PITCAIRN, ROBERT	19	WONG, DAVID, YOKA
10	WOODMAN, GARY	20	SPERS, ALISTAIR



Obster leads the victory parade.



Trophies galore!

(Photos: Jon Underwood, Jeremy Langley, Alistair Speirs, Andy Luckman)



several aggregates: the Allcomers, the Short Range and the Maple Leaf. All three were won by David Luckman, and with his third place in the Gibson, he was now two points clear of Jim Paton in the Grand with one shoot (the Gatineau) to go.

To ensure some fairness, and to elevate the drama, the top 75 competitors in the Grand are squadded together on Friday morning. The conditions were fine, but the left-hand wind was running a tricky 5 to 10 minutes. Alas, David was unlucky to be caught a couple of times and ended up with a 71, while Jim Paton scored a fine 74 to win the Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate for the first time after several second place finishes. It was very tough on David who had led all week, but his Silver Cross was a fine achievement. All in all, seven of the team finished in the top ten. Gunter Bohme of Germany was the outright winner of the Gatineau with a fine 75.9. We also shot the Patron's at the same distance later that morning when conditions were becoming really quite difficult (7 left to 16 left). It is a measure of how difficult the shoot was that none of the team broke 70. Bert Rollins of the USA won the competition. These two competitions also completed two more aggregates, the Gzowski and the Polar Bear - Jon Underwood won both. Jane Messer won the Tess Spencer for the highest lady in the Grand.

### **The MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate**

1	Jim Paton	Canada	824.102
2	David Luckman	Great Britain	823.112
3	Jon Underwood	Great Britain	823.103
4	John Webster	Great Britain	822.093
5	David Calvert	Great Britain	818.108
6	Bill Molnar	Canada	818.083
7	Andy Luckman	Great Britain	818.079
8	Nigel Ball	Great Britain	817.079
9	Jane Messer	Great Britain	817.077
10	Scott Murray	Canada	816.085

### **His Excellency the Governor General's Prize**

We had originally thought that 17 members of the team had made it into the top 50 to shoot the Final, with Jon Cload and Toby Raincock last two in, tied at 49th. However, a challenge was upheld, and much to the amusement of the rest of us these two had to tie shoot for the last place, Toby being successful.

It was a nice afternoon, warm and sunny but with a blustery left wind blowing (about 5 to 12 minutes at 800 metres and an evil 3 to 15 minutes at 900 metres). David Luckman, Jeremy Langley, and Nigel Ball were each carrying 150 forward from the Presidents, with Jon Underwood, David Calvert, and James Watson all on one off. At 800 metres, James Lewis's 74.4 was the best score on the range, one ahead of Canadian Geoff Woodman, and two ahead of Jeremy Langley and Canadian Fred Ellis. No one else scored over 71. This put Jeremy second at the interval, with three off ahead of James Lewis and Jim Paton with four off and behind the early leader, Canadian Geoff Woodman at two off.

Before we got going at 900 metres, there was a brief match between eight WWII veterans to commemorate 60 years

since the D-Day landings. When we did recommence, it proved to be an extremely difficult shoot. David Calvert, James Lewis, and Jeremy Langley all managed to keep track of the wind better than most, to the extent that they were, respectively eight, nine, and nine points off (with James edging Jeremy on V bulls). It seemed as though David had top score on the range, but there was one problem. Because one target had become inoperative, one pair of finalists only began shooting as a target became available, and one of these shooting was Grand Aggregate winner Jim Paton, who was clearly in contention. However, he was not able to outwit the wind this time, and David Calvert was declared the worthy winner. James Lewis was delighted to win the Silver Medal (although no doubt rueing his three inner finish at 900 metres and my decision to ask David to join the team for the Canadian part of the tour!). The Final also wrapped up the Canadian Open TR Championship and the Aggregate for the 21st Century. Jon Underwood, capping a very steady week's shooting won both.

### **The 2004 Governor General's Prize (ex 300)**

1	David Calvert	Great Britain	292.26
2	James Lewis	Great Britain	291.27
3	Jeremy Langley	Great Britain	291.22
4	Nigel Ball	Great Britain	290.18
5	David Luckman	Great Britain	289.25
6	Jon Underwood	Great Britain	287.34
7	Jane Messer	Great Britain	287.25
8	Bob Pitcairn	Canada	287.21
9	Pat Vamplew	Canada	287.21
10	Jim Paton	Canada	286.27

### **The Team Matches**

The match campaign at Connaught started with the Outlander match on Thursday afternoon between the visiting teams, the USA, Germany, and us. We had already triumphed in the Coaches Match at 900 metres two days earlier, which we had used primarily as a test to see who should take the third target coaching seat for the Commonwealth Match. Nick Hinchliffe (coaching Parag Patel to a 50.2 and Toby Raincock to a 49.6) had triumphed edging out Jane Messer (coaching Jon Cload to a 50.6 and Alistair Speirs to a 48.5). We decided to give Jane another coaching seat prior to the Commonwealth Match, and give an outing to all those not obviously earmarked already for the two matches that lay ahead, to enable them to find their form and push for selection.

Because of lost time in the morning, it was decided that the course of fire would be 15 to count at 600 yards and 10 to count at 900 metres. After 600 yards we had established a small lead over the USA team. However, as ever, matches of this type are often decided at the longer range, and the American team fought back well with three 50s and two 49s amongst their early shooters. Their last shooter, however, made a 46, leaving our last man down, Alistair Speirs, needing a 47 to win. He duly obliged with a 48 and we ran out the winners by one point and a few V bulls from the USA with Germany third. Top scorers were Jon Cload and Mary Boston.



Having ironed out a few wrinkles in this closely run match, we approached the Commonwealth Match with confidence and in a business-like manner. In a marvellous coincidence I was thrilled to see that the Captain of the host Canadian team was Des Vamplew, thus renewing a rivalry that started 30 years ago when we were captains of our respective cadet teams in the AG Bell and Michael Faraday matches.

At 800 metres in a reasonably steady 6 to 8 minute left wind, we put in a good performance, dropping only four points. We led Canada by five points and the USA by 12 points. We continued in the same vein at 900 metres, and pulled further ahead of Canada, running out the winners by 13 points. The USA were third and Germany fourth. Jon Cload was top score with a fine 100.9.

The Saturday morning of the Canada match was fine with a light wind but genuinely quite cold. For perhaps this reason, the team posted a very disappointing score at 300 yards, perhaps the worst 300 yards score from a GB team in recent years. All but one of the seven points dropped was to elevation, and we trailed the Canadians by five points with the USA coming third after some rifle problems. The only thing a trailing team can do in such circumstances is to shoot well enough to put the leading team under pressure. The team responded well dropping only two points at both 500 and 600 yards, but the Canadians, captained by Jim Paton, who was enjoying a charmed week, were up to the task. With the bulk of their team coming to the end of their two-year Commonwealth Games trials, they were in no mood to capitulate and ran out worthy winners by four points.

After prize giving on Saturday evening, a good team dinner and the customary packing-up procedures on Sunday (including the nailing of shoes to the tree), we said goodbye to David Calvert and made our way to Toronto. After another team dinner and an early departure on Monday morning, we caught a couple of days R&R on a Dude Ranch in Southern Colorado.

### **The Spirit of America Matches in Raton, New Mexico**

These matches, hosted by the Bald Eagles Rifle Club at the ranges at the Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico, comprised eight days of individual and team competition culminating in the first firing of the America Match on USA soil. There were four days of individual competitions comprising four ranges per day, 2 and 10 at 300, 500, and 600 yards in pairs, and then 2 and 15 at either 900 or 1000 yards in strings. These shoots were interspersed with three days of coached teams of four following a similar pattern. All of these competitions involved competitor marking. The event as a whole, despite the logistical complications, was extremely well run.

As we prepared for these competitions, we were presented with several challenges. We had known for some time that the shipping of the remainder of our ammo to Raton had run into several snags, but we had learned finally while at the Dude Ranch that there was

no way it was going to make it. When the USA shooting fraternity learned of our problems, we were overwhelmed with support. Sierra donated 3500 bullets and Varget the required amount of powder. The Whittington Center is very well equipped with loading equipment. Through the good offices of Chad Stamm and Jack Polen, both members of the Whittington Center staff, and a number of Bald Eagles Rifle Club members, our improvised loading team of Jon Cload, Alwyn McLean, Martin Millar and Ross McQuillan (with some rotational support from other members of the team) were up and running almost immediately, producing enough rounds to enable us to participate fully in all the shoots.

The next challenge was the range itself. Shooting starts early in the USA; first shot down the range is at 07:30 when the wind is deceptively still. While the weather was sunny until late in the day when some clouds and rain could blow in (by which time we were finished shooting), by mid-morning the wind usually got up enough to be interesting. By the long range shoots in the afternoon, it had typically grown to an evil fishtail from behind the firing point. Because we were shooting at an altitude of around 6500 feet above sea level, the wind strength was less than we were used to, but the speed of the changes coupled with six foot, 10 ring targets meant that points could leak away very quickly. It was, therefore, an advantage to be able to shoot quickly, something the Americans do very well. They benefit from the fact that USA rules allow a shooter's trigger only to be "safe", meaning there is no minimum weight. None of our shooters were allowed to relax their trigger weights, as I did not want any shots going off early, because a miss is twice as damaging on the 10 bull target.

### **Individual Matches and Grand Aggregate**

The first of the four individual matches that make up the Grand was the OK Weber Match. After the three short range shoots, we broke for lunch with three of the team still clean - Jon Cload, David Luckman, and Martin Millar. The afternoon string shoot proved more difficult, but Jon was up to the task scoring 149.9, to take first place on 449.30, with Noma Mayo (USA) second, and David third, both on 448.

The next day we shot the second individual match, the Precision Shooting Match. The top score of the day came from Dan Simpson (USA) with a 449.31, while six of the team scored 447, the best of which was from John Webster.

At the halfway stage in the aggregate, the top two places belonged to GB team members. Jon Cload kept up his good form of the previous day to post 895.58, followed closely by David Luckman on 895.44. Both Parag Patel and Jon Underwood were in the hunt just two points behind.

The third leg of the Grand was the Sinclair International Match. Conditions were very much as before, steady at short range in the morning and the familiar fickle fishtail at long range. The winner of the day was Emil Praslick of the US Army team with 450.26, one point ahead of





## RELOADING



## THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA MATCHES



## THE AMERICA MATCH

Further pictures and details of the tour, including full team scores, can be found on the team website at [www.gbrt2004.co.uk](http://www.gbrt2004.co.uk)





Jon Underwood who had the best of the 449s. Also on 449 were Mary Boston and Andy Luckman. With one competition to go, Emil Praslick was now leading with six off, followed by Jon Underwood on eight off and four competitors at nine off, Noma Mayo (USA), Mitch Maxberry (NZ), Sandie Pagel (USA), and David Luckman.

The fourth and final day of the Grand was the Sierra Bullets Match. The morning short range shoots saw six of the team go clean, including David Luckman, who by this feat managed to go the whole tour without dropping a single point at short range in individual competitions. This meant he was now level with Jon Underwood going into the final shoot of the Grand. They were both now in the lead as Emil Praslick suffered a miss at 300, his gun going off before he was properly on aim, thereby proving that light triggers do require careful handling. In the afternoon, the winds were very tricky, so windy in fact that at one stage some of the targets were ripped apart by a sudden squall. Andy Luckman's 150.8 was, therefore, clearly an outstanding shoot which rocketed him up the leader board. Jeremy Langley took advantage of a relative lull after the squall to put in a 149.9 to leave him with top score of 449.31 on the day. David Luckman also put in a very good 148.8, while poor Jon Underwood got clobbered for a 139.0 and fell out of the reckoning. The top five in the Grand then fired a Final of 10 to count at 1000 yards. Representing GB was David Luckman on his own, as brother Andy was sixth and Jon Cload seventh, therefore just missing out. Going into the Final, he had a two point lead over Noma Mayo and a three point lead over Mitch Maxberry, Nancy Tompkins-Gallagher (USA), and Timothy Manges (USA). David's 99.4 in the Final easily secured the gold medal as the winner, a great result for him and some consolation for being pipped at the post in Canada.

### Grand Aggregate (ex 1800)

1	David Luckman	Great Britain	1789.094
2	Noma Mayo	United States	1787.107
3	Mitch Maxberry	New Zealand	1786.108
4	Nancy Tompkins-Gallagher	United States	1786.107
5	Timothy Manges	United States	1786.102
6	Andy Luckman	Great Britain	1786.082
7	Jon Cload	Great Britain	1785.104
8	Michelle Gallagher	United States	1785.099
9	Sandie Pagel	United States	1783.096
10	Jim O'Connell	United States	1783.092

### The America Match

We used the series of coached four man team matches to develop the best target team combinations for the America Match. Two things became obvious to us: the wind could be a brute, especially at long range, and the Americans were shooting and coaching consistently well. Their secret appeared to be to pick the conditions in which they wanted to shoot, wait for those conditions, and shoot very quickly when they existed. This so-called technique of "chasing the spotter" was made possible by the outstanding competitor marking and their ability

to fire on command was made easier by lighter triggers. The four man team of Kent Reeve, Bob Gustin, Michelle Gallagher, and Nancy Tompkins-Gallagher coached by Mid Tompkins won three of the four matches with some magnificent scoring. In the 1000 yards match on Wednesday, they not only beat all other TR teams, they beat all the F Class teams as well!

The day of the match was another gorgeous day. After the three national anthems had been played and the last daily cannon blast, we got off to a great start dropping only one point out of 1200 to lead the USA team by two points (Germany was already some way behind).

At 600 yards, the wind, as usual, started to pick up with a range of about zero to two minutes right. Again, we put in a very good shoot dropping only two points to pull two points further ahead of the USA team, to claim a four point lead at the halfway stage.

Of course, the longer range in these matches are usually the most decisive, and at 900 yards, with a fishtail brewing from one left to six right, the USA team's strong coaching form and quick shooting paid dividends. They put in a telling score of only six off, 12 more than us, and in quick time (when they had finished, we still had three firers to go). Thus, we went into the lunch break eight points behind.

Things at 1000 yards certainly did not get any easier. The wind increased in strength and started to change very quickly, with a spread of 7 left to 5 right. Both the USA team and ourselves found the going tough (the USA gratefully converted 10, 8 sighters when they had the opportunity) and both teams used the allocated time to the full. At the end of the day, the USA team's experience of the range had allowed them to limit the damage better than us and they pulled ahead by a further 15 points to win the match by 23 points. Top score of the day was a hugely impressive 599.36 by Dan Simpson of the USA, coached by Emil Praslick.

After prizegiving, a team dinner and several strong drinks, we packed up for an early departure to Denver and home the following day.

### Post Script

Winning only one of the three major team matches was disappointing. However, we got the highest score in six of the nine ranges fired in those matches as well as winning 32 of the 40 major individual competitions on offer. This speaks volumes to the determination and effort that every single member of the team put into a very hectic, but enjoyable three weeks. Each and every one of them has my eternal gratitude.

The DCRA and the Bald Eagles Rifle Club both ran first-class meetings, at which the standard of competition was very high, but the camaraderie and good sportsmanship even higher. Roll on the Palma in 2007, but watch out - the Yanks are coming! TR is a growth sport in the USA, and anyone who wants to shoot in some well-run, very challenging competitions should not miss the Spirit of America matches.

# **SHEARWATER INSURANCE SERVICES**



- **PRIVATE MOTOR**
- **COMMERCIAL**
- **BUILDINGS / CONTENTS**
- **MARINE / AIRCRAFT**
- **FLEET POLICIES**
- **LIABILITIES**
- **TRAVEL**
- **HEALTH INSURANCE**
- **PERSONAL ACCIDENT**
- **LIVESTOCK / BLOODSTOCK**
- **HORSEBOXES / TRAILERS**
- **PETS**
- **HIGH PERFORMANCE  
VEHICLES**

**Shearwater can  
arrange insurance  
policies to meet the  
needs of both  
Individuals and  
Corporations.  
We are proud of our  
abilities to secure  
even the most  
obscure form of  
insurance so  
remember . . . . .**

## **IF IT'S VALUABLE TO YOU WE WILL INSURE IT!**

**Tel: 08700 718666**

**or Fax: 08700 750043**

**Official Sponsors of:**

**1998 GB Rifle Team to Canada**

**1998 GB Rifle Team to Zimbabwe & South Africa**

**1999 GB Rifle Team to South Africa for World Championship Palma Trophy**

**2000 GB Rifle Team to Canada**

**1999 - 2003 Bisley Imperial Meeting Grand Aggregate**

**UK County Open Championship Meetings**



# THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM (THE ATHELINGS) TOUR TO CANADA AUGUST 2004

## *Commandant*

Major Andrew Penfold      Tonbridge School CCF

## *Adjutant*

Captain Stephen Ellis      CCRS

## *Armourer*

WO1 John Jones      Sedbergh School CCF

## *Captain*

Alex Hoyle      Sedbergh School CCF

## *Vice Captain*

Julie-Anne McKernan      2 (NI) Bn ACF

Freddie Beadle      Epsom College CCF

Jonathan Borland      Dollar Academy CCF

Jonathan Cormie      Angus & Dundee ACF

Nick Healy      2 (NI) Bn ACF

Katie Hullah      Gresham's School CCF

Tom Hunter      Epsom College CCF

Tom Lilley      Marlborough College CCF

Martin Lyons      2390 (Belfast RA) Sqn ATC

Jamie McSparron      Cheltenham College CCF

Tom Newsome      Humb'side & S Yorks ACF

Oliver Smith      Oundle School CCF

Matthew Stewart      2390 (Belfast RA) Sqn ATC

Stephen Taylor      2390 (Belfast RA) Sqn ATC

Christopher Tootell      Wellington College CCF

Colin Whiteford      2452 (Shawlands) Sqn ATC

Andrew Whitwood      111 (Sunderland) Sqn ATC

## **Wednesday 28 July**

The team met at Bisley only to find the Adjutant and Armourer trying to pack Katie's wardrobe whilst keeping within our weight allowance - somehow they managed it. The team was given its final briefing before turning in for the night: there was a great air of excitement at the adventure and challenge ahead.

## **Thursday 29 July**

Everyone was up bright and early, and things ran smoothly - even an accident on the M25, which delayed our coach, didn't faze us. Lt Col Nigel Suffield-Jones had everything under control and a really efficient check-in with Air Canada ensued. Tom Lilley had to wait on the terminal forecourt for a taxi containing his ear plugs, which he had inadvertently left at home. He was relieved, though somewhat embarrassed, when they arrived in good time.

Our plane was delayed by an hour but it simply meant an additional coffee in the departures lounge. We had a pleasant, yet uneventful journey, and finally arrived in Ottawa only a few minutes late. We were delayed in the Immigration Hall as there was only one desk open to deal with us "aliens", therefore things were slow. The Adjutant managed to get to the front of the queue and had all the suitcases and rifles packed on

trolleys by the time the team congregated in the baggage hall. One of the Customs and Excise dogs quietly sat next to him - resulting in his having to go through the red channel. When a Customs Officer turned up wearing latex rubber gloves we all expected the worst had happened but it turned out that the firearms were the problem and had been impounded. The Adjutant finally appeared having been mistakenly stopped for smuggling food in his bag. Our Liaison Officer, Captain Rebecca Light and Ells Landale, the Public Relations Officer, met us.

Our yellow bus drove us to Connaught Camp. We had to leave our rifles and the Armourer behind at the airport; they were released after five hours of paperwork. On arrival at Connaught, we found we were sharing the camp with squadrons of mosquitoes, which were out in force - in fact we were plagued with them. We met members of the ACF course who were covered in mosquito bites. The following morning, so were we!

## **Friday 30 July**

Our first morning in Canada was spent getting sorted out, then we were whisked off to Ottawa for lunch and an open top bus tour of the city. During the bus tour it appeared that all the M25 cones had been exported to Ottawa; our tour guide explained there were only two seasons in Canada: Winter and Construction! We had some free time to explore Ottawa before returning to camp to pack for our tour. During the evening there was a cloud burst - at least it drowned the mosquitoes, even if only temporarily.

## **Saturday 31 July**

The rain woke everyone early. It meant we had to endure the "mosquito run" in the shower blocks. Our fully air conditioned coach arrived an hour late ready to whisk us away, however we returned 30 minutes later to collect our Liaison Officer's bags!

After a long journey we arrived in Quebec City. It was pleasant, clean and, most importantly, mosquito free. We were treated to a traditional home-made supper in our hostel before being given a guided tour of the old city. It was enthralling, and it certainly gave the Commandant some strenuous exercise.

## **Sunday 1 August**

At breakfast it was announced, with much approval, that Alex Hoyle had been appointed Captain and Julie-Anne McKernan had been appointed Vice Captain. The Commandant showed off by using his poor French, however, the waitress was so impressed she rewarded him with the most amazingly large cup of coffee.

The team visited the Citadel with its stunning views of Quebec city and the St Lawrence River. We were treated to an interesting tour of the armoury, and the armourer gave an enthralling lesson on cannons. The highlight was witnessing a changing of the guard where one poor Guardsman had to fall out having cut his neck on his bayonet.

Our whistle-stop tour of Quebec city over, we made a detour to Montreal where it had been arranged for us to go jet boating on the St Lawrence River. After getting ourselves kitted out in our spray suits and life jackets and having the important safety brief, we climbed aboard our two rigid inflatable boats. We were thrown around in the whirlpools and covered by 12 foot waves; everyone got thoroughly wet and enjoyed an awesome experience. We arrived at our Kingston hostel rather later than expected owing to our jet boating experience but it was worth it.

### **Monday 2 August**

Although the team was exhausted we couldn't miss breakfast in the Holiday Inn with its pleasant views across Lake Ontario. The Commandant celebrated his birthday and was presented with a little birthday cake!

After breakfast we travelled to Thousand Island where we set sail on Lake Ontario and enjoyed a very relaxing boat trip.

A pleasant lunch at East Side Mario's was followed by a trip to the Kingston Family Fun Park. We were able to enjoy crazy golf, baseball and go karting. Most of the team were game enough to face the baseball machine throwing baseballs at 60 mph, and, although they may not have hit many, they had fun trying. The petrol driven go karting was an exciting experience for all - Tom Hunter couldn't stop talking about it.

The evening was spent in the Chinese restaurant where we could eat all we wanted for C\$10. It went to the wire with Jamie McSparron managing to consume one plate more than Andrew Whitwood. We don't think they made a profit out of us that night!

### **Tuesday 3 August**

Whilst in Kingston we visited Fort Henry where our guide gave us an absolutely enthralling tour. We were able to climb the battlements and experience how the soldiers lived in days gone by and were even able to stay for the midday gun. Some members of the team took up the Fort challenge of trying to make the guard laugh, but they failed in their attempt.

We briefly visited downtown Kingston before boarding the coach for our long journey to Oakville College. We arrived in the evening and were able to settle into our spacious apartments.

### **Wednesday 4 August**

After a continental breakfast we were off, this time to one of the wonders of the world - Niagara Falls. We

joined the queues for our trip on the Maid of the Mist. Once issued with our protective covers the team had to have a fashion parade. We managed to ensure the whole team got on to the same boat; the trip was noisy, wet and totally awesome.

Once we were back on dry land we were able to explore - the cadets made for the arcades and 4D rides, whilst the Officers went for the more cultured approach. A trip to the top of the Skylon Tower proved superb for photographs of the Falls.

After meeting for dinner in one of the restaurants it was time to return to Oakville.

### **Thursday 5 August**

It didn't take long driving into Toronto and we were lucky enough to park near to the CN Tower. We didn't have to wait long before it was our turn to travel to the top. The views from the viewing galleries were stunning, and some of the more adventurous ventured out onto the glass floor. Luckily for us the day was clear so we travelled up to the observation level where the views were even better: we were able to see the spray from Niagara Falls - 90km away!

Lunchtime was spent in the Hard Rock Café with a grandstand view of a baseball game - Toronto Blue Jays versus the Indianapolis Indians. Dave, our coach driver, and one of the waitresses explained the rules; Tom Lilley, however, was more interested in the teenage cheerleaders. All too soon we had to leave the game to visit the Eaton Centre, a large shopping centre, and like a starburst everyone disappeared to enjoy some retail therapy.

### **Friday 6 August**

We arrived earlier than the other cadets at Wonderland Theme Park. Eventually Tom Lilley, Alex Hoyle and the Adjutant overcame their fears and decided to have a go on the bungee swing together. What a picture to behold - Alex clung on to the Adjutant for dear life! Andy Whitwood and Freddie Beadle were next: there was total fear on Freddie's face throughout whereas Andy grinned and saluted during the entire experience but he's mad! At the end of the day everyone was exhausted.

### **Saturday 7 August**

Today was our lazy day, catching up with the admin before returning to Ottawa. After lunch we managed to fit in another shopping mall and the evening was spent watching a film, eating pizza and packing our suitcases.

### **Sunday 8 August**

It was an earlier start today for the long journey back to Connaught. We arrived back to find the mosquitoes had missed us - we were on the menu once more. The afternoon was spent sorting out our shooting kit and building our positions with the issued Canadian cadet rifles - the purpose of our tour had finally begun.





The team at Fort Henry.



Jonathan Borland, Tom Hunter and the Commandant look pleased with their haul.



The Armourer and the Adj conduct more consumer surveys in Tim Hortons.



"Look over there, I'm sure I saw a blade of grass move!"



Tom "X Man" Hunter prepares for action!



"Don't drop me lads", Tom Hunter is chaired off as winner of the Cadet Championships Grand Aggregate.



He was also top Cadet in the DCRA Meeting Grand Agg.



"... and I had better not find any crumbs on my nice clean seats" Dave the driver with the team.



Canoeing in the Algonquin National Park.



## **Monday 9 August**

Monday was spent zeroing in our newly obtained rifles and after the day's practice we were ready for the competitions. The Officers attended the Mess Dinner in Canadian Air Force Mess in Ottawa, whilst the Armourer took the cadets to watch the Graduation Parade rehearsals.

## **Tuesday 10 August**

The Canadian National Cadet Fullbore Championships began with the Pat Vamplew competition at 300 yards. Alex Hoyle scored 50.6 and tied for first place but in the subsequent tie shoot he was runner up. We moved back to 500 yards, the heavens opened, an electrical storm started and two tornado vortexes were spotted on the range; it was deemed unsafe and shooting was abandoned. The following day we learned that a golfer had been struck by lightning on a nearby golf course. We spent the evening at the cinema.

## **Wednesday 11 August**

Everything went our way. Alex Hoyle won the Clem Tremblay (600 yards) with a 50.7 and the Tuesday Aggregate with 100.13; Tom Lilley was second with 99.9. Chris Tootell scored 50.7 to win the Gerry Ouellette (300 yards). Tom Hunter was second, just one V bull behind, although he then took first place in the Alain Marion (500 yards) with 50.7; after a tie shoot, the Gil Boa (600 yards) with 50.6; the Wednesday Aggregate with 150.19 and the Grand Aggregate with 248.26. Jon Borland took second in the Gil Boa and third in the Wednesday Aggregate whilst Alex Hoyle was third in the Grand Aggregate with 245.29.

## **Thursday 12 August**

We shot the second stage of the Rex Goddard; as the winds had been blowing a gale we knew we had a real chance to pull back our UK deficit and secure a win. In the event the wind dropped and the conditions were calm. It was all about technical shooting with some of our strongest shooters in the coaching chairs but we lost the leg by one point and the match by ten.

Brigadier Day, the British Military Attache, arrived for the prize giving; it was a relatively one-sided affair with Tom Hunter being chaired off as winner of the Cadet Grand Aggregate.

## **Friday 13 - Saturday 21 August**

The DCRA Meeting got underway. We spent the Saturday evening at the DCRA Meet and Greet party where we were able to meet the GB team.

All team members had settled into their rifles and became more confident - we had 12 possible scores in one day. Tom Hunter scored 100.15 and achieved a superb third place in the Norman Beckett shoot, especially considering the firepower of the GB team. We spent the evening relaxing at the wave pool.

Owing to the weather the Presidents Prize was delayed, throwing the whole programme into disarray, though it didn't deter Nick Healy and Alex Hoyle from qualifying for the Governor General's Final.

The Michael Faraday started late, and the wind died yet again. At 300 yards we were four points behind and the whole team prayed for a gale as we knew we could cope. At 500 yards we pulled back the four points and even had a slender lead of two V bulls. At 600 yards it was, once again, a technical shoot but we were outclassed and lost by seven points.

Both teams came together for the Faraday dinner in a cordial evening, which, above all else, celebrated new friendships and absolute sportsmanship.

The Grand Aggregate concluded with Tom "X Man" Hunter being crowned Cadet Champion. He also won the Sharpshooter and RG Potter trophies for being the top Under 19 Marksman.

On Friday afternoon we shot the International Under 25 Long Range Match after our coaches had an advice session with the Great Britain team wind coaches. The winds were difficult - at 800 metres we trailed by two points. Although it got even more difficult when we moved back to 900 metres Tom Lilley and Chris Tootell, our wind coaches, communicated well and we turned our deficit into a three point win. The Commandant, Adjutant, Captain and Vice-Captain were invited to the Macdonald Stewart dinner - a delightful affair held in Ottawa.

We continued our run of bad luck in the International Under 25 Short Range Match. Once again there was no wind. Tom "X Man" Hunter lived up to his reputation when he fired ten V bulls at 500 yards, the only problem was that it appeared on our scoreboard as 45.9 as one got away onto a neighbouring target.

The afternoon was spent in support of Alex Hoyle and Nick Healy in the Final of the Governor General's Prize. The winds were not kind. At one point Alex appeared on the leader board; he finished in 23rd place, Nick in 47th. After prize giving we held a barbecue to thank those who had helped us in some way and say our goodbyes to the Canadian National Rifle Team

## **Sunday 22 - Wednesday 25 August**

We arrived in the Algonquin National Park shortly after lunch and met our guides: Brian, Colin and Samantha. After being issued with safety kit, we paddled to our respective campsites.

We arrived and set up our camps before supper. When we returned to our island, the boys got the campfire well stocked and sat around eating marshmallows before going to bed at 22:00. Although it proved to be



a wet windy night, most admitted to having had their best night's sleep!

No one stirred until 08:00. After breakfast a flotilla departed for the outfitters to obtain their fishing licences and to take on more provisions. The afternoon was spent fishing, swimming and chilling - the Adjutant and Armourer spent their time building things for their camp site and going all out for the "Ikea trophy!". Marty Lyons managed to capsize his canoe: no one could quite work out how he stayed dry and Jon Cormie got wet. The Adjutant's island had a visitor - their own resident chipmunk.

Stephen Taylor, Matthew Taylor and Colin Whiteford, residents of the Adjutant's island, plotted and planned their dawn raid on the Commandant's island. They waited in the darkness and quietly paddled across the lake where they boarded the Commandant's motor boat like pirates in the night. It was only when they did a "speed past" that it was realised it had been removed from its moorings.

We had pancakes for breakfast. Most had fun trying to make their own. Only the Adjutant and Armourer wanted to go on an expedition with the guides - the boys just wanted to fish again. Most converged on the Commandant's island as it was proving to be the best fishing spot. Tom Newsome and Oliver Smith had probably the most successful time fishing. After lunch a park warden came to inspect our camping permits.

Supper was good. The Adjutant and Armourer spoke of their travels: bears, beavers, elks and spaceships. Most fished until sunset, the Adjutant's island prepared themselves for war with their sea defences - specialist advice having been obtained from the Marines (aka the Armourer) and the CCF boys decided to cook some more marshmallows instead.

The next day everyone got up early and packed their campsites. The flotilla made its way back to the outfitters. The lake was calm so it only took us 45 minutes. We bade our guides farewell before making our way back to Ottawa by coach. We arrived in time for lunch, then had to pack our bags and get ready for the return flight. The Adjutant and Armourer collected our rifles and containers, we said goodbye to our hosts and departed for the airport

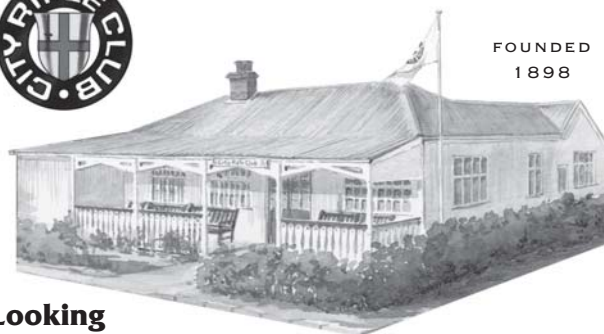
At Ottawa International Airport to check in 21 people, 22 rifles, 21 suitcases and 22 containers it took Air Canada a full . . . 15 minutes! Incredible!

At Heathrow Lt Col Nigel Suffield-Jones and Major Simon Fraser were welcoming faces landside; we said goodbye to those travelling to Scotland and Ireland before the remainder travelled to Bisley. Our adventure of a lifetime had come to an end.



## CITY RIFLE CLUB

FOUNDED  
1898



### Looking for a base at Bisley?

Membership available in this friendly and lively club, including lockers in the new armoury. The club offers the finest quality catering facilities at very reasonable prices at weekends throughout the season and during the main Bisley meetings. We can also cater for club meetings, dinners and special functions. Regular club team shooting matches throughout the season.

**Full membership for 2005 season £50.00**

**Under 21 & serving members of HM Forces £25.00**

**Locker rental for 2005 £40.00**

*(plus refundable key deposit of £20.00)*

For further details please contact:

Mick Barr 01438 811451

John Saunders 01276 502476

Pat Drummy 01329 281769

or call into the Clubhouse.



SHOOTERS  
OPTICS

**centra uk**

Tel/Fax: 01483 - 756969

PO Box 2000

Woking

GU21 4GF

www.centra-uk.co.uk

**The centra package for a  
clear sight picture - £269 inc VAT  
a centra eagle-eye in the foresight,  
the centra LR fullbore rear sight,  
a centra variable rear aperture.**



**Your 'Eyedeal' start to  
the new season**

Available from any good dealer



# THE AGES MATCH 2004

by Carol Painting

The Ages Match for 2004 was fired over the weekend of 30 and 31 October. The short range match at 300, 500 and 600 yards was on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning the teams shot on Palma targets at 900 and 1000 yards. The NRA organised the match, issuing a new batch of RG2004.

The match was organised by Martin and Phyllis Farnan and Karen Robertson. Unfortunately, Martin and Phyllis were both unable to attend through sickness. Thanks are due to all of them for an enjoyable event.

Perhaps the timing of the match discouraged many from volunteering to take part. Some teams found it difficult to raise a full complement of 12 shooters plus dedicated coaches. Those who risked shooting at the end of the season enjoyed a dry weekend. On Sunday morning it turned a tad cold, but remained pleasant. Pre-match betting favoured the Under 25 team, who train regularly as a group. They have a wealth of talent and a considerable amount of experience together. I put my money on the 25 - 35 team before I heard about the England Commonwealth Games trial that was being held over the same weekend. That took out several people who were eligible for the 25 - 35 team. (We'll never know whether they would have deigned to make themselves available).

The Saturday match was under Queen's II conditions. The results were interesting. The only team to score more at 300 than 500 was Jacqui Rankin's Under 25 team, but the 300 V count was grim. They managed



The weather's not supposed to be like this at the end of October!  
(Photo: Iain Robertson)

589.23 at 300 followed by 588.64 at 500. At the end of the Saturday match the Under 25 team were just one point ahead of the 55 - 65 team captained by David Hossack.

Team scores were:

Under 25	1763.205
55 - 65	1762.211
35 - 45	1754.188
25 - 35	1748.206
45 - 55	1746.165
Over 65	1729.170

On Saturday evening there was a firework display followed by dinner at either Canada House or the



David Hossack's 55 to 65 Team.



NLRC. Those with enough energy could also enjoy the disco laid on at Canada House. Sadly there are no pictures to illustrate the good time had by all.

On Sunday morning at 900 yards, the Under 25 team scored four points more than the 55 - 65 team. Jo Hossack's 25 - 35 team scored four points more than Karen Robertson's 35 - 45 team, leaving them still in fourth place but only two points behind. Eric Stuart-Bamford's Over 65 team scored four points more than Iain Robertson's 45 - 55 team, but that was not enough to catch up. At this stage the teams were in the same positions as the previous day.

1000 yards was a very different story. All teams had some wild and inexplicable shots. Some teams suffered more than others. There were a few decent scores, but the mean score dropped drastically for all teams. The 55 - 65 team (aka Junior Fossils) scored 1680.29; the 25 - 35 team scored 1679.34; the Under 25 team scored 1661.34, which changed the order of the first three teams.

The final match result was:

55 - 65	5189.295
Under 25	5175.294
25 - 35	5160.290
45 - 55	5150.251
35 - 45	5146.276
Over 65	5112.239

Top scorers for each team were:

Under 25	Chris Cotillard	441.34
25 - 35	Toby Raincock	439.30
35 - 45	Andrew Tompson	439.35
45 - 55	Iain Robertson	439.20
55 - 65	Ian Dampney	440.22
Over 65	Bob Aitken	435.24

David Hossack said: "We went into the match with some trepidation since we had not shot together as a

team before, and indeed some members of the team were unknown to others. We were aware that this was in stark contrast to the Under 25 team which had been training together for this and other more important matches. Age and experience came through in the end, and we were satisfied that we had acquitted ourselves well and had shown that ageism is not justified in fullbore shooting."

Karen Robertson's view was: "It was a great match but the social events and the fireworks made it just that little bit more special. I particularly liked the format of shooting Saturday pm and Sunday am which meant that:

- Competitors only had to stay one night at Bisley.
- People had time to do other things such as packing up their caravans for the winter.
- No-one got cold or wet for an entire day.
- The format of half a day's shoot, fireworks and party, half a day's shoot meant it was more of an event than a hard slog."

The Over 65 team Captain, Eric Stuart-Bamford had this to say: "The Over 65 team commented on the event very favourably and at the time was looking forward to the match next year, should it be on. A couple of team members said they would have liked to have done 800 yards on the Palma target. Some were not impressed with the ammo."

The result was a triumph for planning and organisation. The Junior Fossils were not the strongest on paper but David had produced a full team with dedicated coaches (even a main coach on Sunday) and a non-shooting adjutant. Both the captain and adjutant worked very hard. They spent hours measuring the team's ammo so that each shooter had similar length batches. Poor ammunition usually shows up at 300 and 1000 yards, as happened in this match. If RG need any proof that their quality control is inadequate, surely this is it.










# Stress Busters

Surveys? Quotes?  
Planning? Snagging?  
Management? Orders?  
Take the hassle out of  
projects and let Tim  
Webster organise the lot.

Motor Trade Showrooms • Conference Rooms • Refurbishments • Offices & Trading Rooms • Receptions • Storage Solutions

Tel: 01379 741174 Web: [www.twp-designs.co.uk](http://www.twp-designs.co.uk)



# EVALUATION OF AUTOMATIC TARGETS FOR USE AT BISLEY

by Iain Robertson

*Iain Robertson is an RAF pilot employed on evaluation of new systems for rescue helicopters. He holds degrees in engineering and law, has represented GB in TR events and is a member of General Council. When NSC set up a demonstration of electronic targets, Iain offered to undertake a more formal evaluation alongside the demonstration. The article below describes some of the results. It is Iain's personal view; decisions on developments will come from NSC following Iain's final report and extensive consultation.*

Fullbore target scoring by human markers is slow, tedious, prone to breakdown due to lack of attention or loss of communications and prone to error due to patches falling off or inattention. Arranging the supply of markers is a significant effort for Bisley staff, and markers' wages are a major cost burden for shooters. There are regulatory difficulties with employment of young people, and Health and Safety concerns with the working environment in the butts. The need to get markers in and out of the butts constrains times of shooting, since the route to the butts is in some places exposed to direct fire. On occasions, careless or even malicious input by markers has led to grossly unfair results. All in all, the use of human markers is a severe constraint on the conduct of fullbore target shooting.

For some years, other shooting disciplines have used targets incorporating electronic sensors to register the position of the passing bullet and transmit that information to the firing point for display to the shooter. At least five companies market such target systems. Other than a very few systems supplied to foreign military services, all such systems are designed for use at ranges of 300 metres or less. There are systems accredited for use at the highest levels of competition. Some are linked to displays for spectators and to automatic stats systems.

NSC considered that automated targets had the potential to improve the conduct of fullbore target rifle shooting, and invited expressions of interest from suppliers. In the period 2 to 12 December 2004, two companies demonstrated automatic targets at Bisley at distances up to 1200 yards. Since my day job is in operational evaluation of military systems, I offered to carry out a more formal evaluation alongside the demonstrations. I am still writing the full report (the day job unfortunately gets in the way), and some of the results are commercial secrets, but here are some informal notes on what was done, what we found, and where we might be going with this.

The Aim of the evaluation was:

*To determine the extent to which automatic targets are suitable for use in target shooting activities run at Bisley in disciplines supported by and under rules authorised by the NRA.*

I identified thirteen objectives, ranging from Health and Safety concerns to possible changes in the Rules of Shooting, which would have to be met to satisfy the Aim.

To meet these objectives, I posed a set of questions in writing to the suppliers, and followed those up in conversation during the demonstrations. I observed the targets in use, collecting views from some 60 members who shot at them. Finally, I measured the exact fall of a series of shots on each target, and compared that with the electronic results.

Some issues were settled relatively easily by observation and discussion. There are no safety issues with shooting at electronic targets, but there are safety issues in operating them. The targets themselves are heavy, and the Target Shed staff will probably need some sort of crane or forklift to handle them. There is a need for electric power both in the butts and along the firing points; I have suggested that systems which run at low voltages would find favour - mains power and the bog that is Century Range don't really mix. Calibration of the targets raises some issues, the main one being what happens when we change distances. This is really only a problem going from 300 to 500 or 600, as that is the only change which involves a change in size of the aiming mark. A solution suggested by Fred James was to build the targets with a 5/600 yards aiming mark, and have a lightweight but precisely cut white face with a hole for the 300 yards aiming mark. A set of locating pins would engage in holes on the face and position it precisely on the frame. Since the middle of the 600 yards aiming mark (showing through the hole) would still form the 300 yards target centre, the lightweight faces, carefully handled, should need only occasional repair or replacement. The actual calibration process is currently done by firing a few shots, measuring their fall on the target, and entering that information into the system. The electronics are programmed to use any one of several possible correction processes to match the electronic centre to the real centre. I do have a desire for a calibration process that does not require us to shoot at the target - it is all very well for one target, but having to recalibrate the whole range could be tedious. The targets score cross-shots and shots out of turn, but the error is currently not detected electronically. Multiple shots have to arrive very close in time to cause a



problem - the systems are perfectly capable of recording all shots in a burst from a machine-gun. There would be a fair amount of construction work required, to provide cable runs, shelter for electronic components, security and suchlike. The infrastructure requirements vary quite a lot for different systems, and would be a major element in the financial comparison.

Members' views divided into two broad groups - "Can we have it now?" and "I like it but what if . . . ?"

#### **Answers:**

No we can't have it now. There are still questions to be answered and some serious technical, organisational and financial issues to be resolved. Also it would be a bold step indeed to convert the whole of Bisley in one go. But we may well have a few electronic targets reasonably soon, which would allow members to enjoy the speed and convenience, while some experts assess the problems of a complete conversion.

#### *What if*

- *Electronic targets are a lot less accurate than manual marking?*

Then we won't have any. But our results so far indicate that all the systems are at least reasonably accurate - and similar systems are used for Olympic competition.

- *Electronic targets are a bit less accurate than manual marking?*

Inevitably they are. The human eye can discriminate between the edge of a gauge and the scoring line to a very high standard indeed, and there is no hope of matching that electronically with current technology. However, there are other sources of error in marking a manual target. For instance, the target centre is usually on a separate bit of paper, and it is difficult to stick that exactly in the centre of the aiming mark.



Haring monitor - a prototype still being developed.

Analysis of just how much error we can accept is a difficult problem (for me anyway - if you have the maths to do it I would love to hear from you). Once we have set a standard, if it cannot be met we will explain the size of the uncertainties so you can choose to use electronics if you want, and stick with manual marking for serious competition.

- *The target breaks down?*

Mechanical reliability is a concern, but systems have been in use for years in the open in some harsh climates such as Norway. At Bisley we saw a few faults, but the demonstrations were not nearly long enough to make a valid estimate of the overall reliability. We did see faults being fixed very simply and quickly. And manual targets do break down; the same solution - shoot at another target - will work.

- *The main computer packs in?*

One system would not have a main computer. Most of the processing is done in the monitors on the firing point, and since we would have a lot of those, we could provide a spare at short notice. The server is a relatively inexpensive item; having spares readily available should not be a problem. The other system would use a central server. Since there would be only one, it could be secured, protected, duplicated or even triplicated and provided with backup power in various forms. Obviously the second system becomes more economically viable as the number of targets goes up. An area for consideration by someone with a better grasp of the finances of IT systems than me - and there are several such experts among the membership.

- *I fire at the wrong target?*

This one is causing some head scratching. None of the systems we have looked at have a sensor at the firing point; so electronic logging of scoring shots that miss altogether is difficult if not impossible. The first



Kongsberg monitor - borrowed from systems in widespread use.

that the system knows of a shot is when it arrives at the target. If it doesn't arrive . . . However, there are technical solutions being considered, and if we stick with manual stats there is little change from the existing approach, except if . . .

- *I want to challenge for a hit / higher value?*

You can't. As a result we are setting very high standards indeed for functional reliability - the probability that if the target is hit, that shot is logged correctly. My view of the standard needed is bounded at the lower end by about once in 1500 shots (which, I estimate, is about ten times the interval between shots leading to challenges which are then upheld) and at the upper end by about once in 30000 shots (which would mean there was a less than 50:50 chance of suffering from an error if you shot the Imperial all the way through to Queen's III every year from age 15 to age 85). To demonstrate this to a statistically valid level will need a very large number of checked shots, so even if we introduce electronic targets, do not expect to see them in serious competitions for a few years. Meantime I would be interested in any considered views on acceptable standards.

- *I hit one of the electronic components?*

You incur the Wrath of the Range Office! Seriously, in two of the systems we saw, it isn't possible - the electronics are all below the mantlet. In the third, the system has a degree of redundancy - you will get an indication that a sensor (or its cable) has been hit, but the remaining ones will continue to provide information. Replacing the sensor can be done in situ, and is neither difficult nor protracted - it would probably get done between morning and afternoon sessions, for instance. As to the cost of the damage, we might require a deposit (the amount of which is

commercially sensitive, but if you can afford to rent a target and buy the ammunition, it's not going to cause you difficulty) before we allowed anyone to use the system. And if enough people signed up in advance, the deposits might actually pay for the first few targets!

- *I want to see what's going down on the other targets?*

I have always considered a quick scan up and down the range as an entirely legitimate technique. Some members I discussed this with thought it akin to cheating and thus weren't worried that it's not possible in the conventional manner on electronic targets. However, we have discussed the possibility of a pair of scroll keys on the monitor which would allow you to flick quickly through what's showing on everyone else's display to gain an impression. At the moment we have no idea of the cost of such a modification to the system.

- *I shoot muzzle-loading guns?*

This is another challenge, for two related reasons. Firstly, the large-calibre blunt-nosed ammunition causes significant damage to the targets. Secondly "open" systems (which record the passage of the bullet from its shockwave and can be used with an ordinary paper aiming mark) will only register supersonic shots. "Closed" systems, which will register a subsonic shot, are built up of several layers of different materials and are both more expensive and much more susceptible to damage. That said, the damage is not necessarily intolerable.

- *I shoot F Class?*

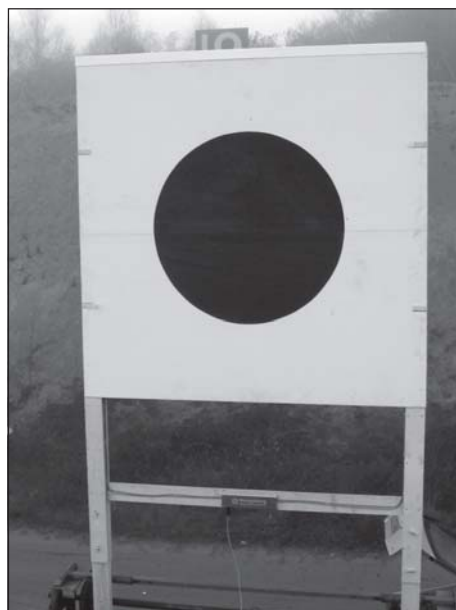
I have noted the requirement for something on the aiming mark to set the crosshairs against. And you



Haring "closed" system. Note the depth below the aiming mark enclosing the sensors.



Haring "open" system with a standard 600 yards target.



Kongsberg "closed" system. Note the quick change face held on by velcro tags.



can have scoring rings any size you like, or dispense with them altogether and just add up the distances each shot is away from the centre - which would get round nearly all the concerns about accuracy of the system, as we wouldn't have to discriminate precisely one side or the other of the scoring lines. And several F Class shooters demonstrated that one system at least works perfectly well on a variety of calibres back to 1200 yards. We are conducting a trial of another system at 1200 yards in March this year.

- *I don't like the idea of string shooting?*

Another point for discussion. There is no technical difficulty in providing two or even three monitors for a single target. We briefly tried having two shooters share a monitor - I don't think that is practical. Unfortunately the monitors represent a significant fraction of the cost of the system. I am tempted by a system which would allow us to fire two to a target but where we would use that capability only occasionally. For instance, all the events in the Imperial which are shot over the course of a half day could be shot as strings with no change to the standard of fairness - not saying that current practice doesn't involve a fair degree of luck, just that string shooting through the day wouldn't change that. For events that are shot shoulder to shoulder on a single detail (George's II and III, Donaldson Memorial Final and Queen's II and III), we could go back to pairs squadding, and minimise the extra expense by borrowing the monitors from Stickledown to augment Century and vice-versa. A lot of rescheduling would be required, and the cut from Queen's I and George's I would be a bit vicious. But the current shape of the Queen's course of fire is dictated by the size constraints of our ranges, so amending the details to suit new arrangements cannot be ruled out in principle.

- *It rains on all this delicate electric stuff?*

One manufacturer pointed out that his equipment was built to military standards. He was less happy when I suggested that in my day job "military standards" means late, to minimum cost, inappropriate specification and no comeback from the end-user because he wasn't asked and doesn't hold the chequebook! Robustness generally and weather-proofing in particular will be a major concern as we take the concepts forward. Unfortunately, from the point of view of trials, the weather for the demonstrations was excellent. I confess to being a fan of sealed components and wireless communications, but I know that both these features bring their own problems. Again, a point for discussion with a real expert or two.

- *How would it affect the staff?*

It's not going to happen overnight. Given the increasing difficulties of finding enough markers I

don't think they would protest - natural wastage would allow drawdown of numbers as technology came on-line. The Target Shed staff would see the nature of their jobs change a bit, but electronic targets get damaged by shots just as manual ones do, and the repair schemes, although required less often, are somewhat more complex. The Range Office staff would see one major headache - finding the markers - reduce, but there would be issues around the control of issue and return of the portable components - mostly the monitors. There would be some additional construction around the ranges, which would create maintenance work for the Estate staff.

- *Are the systems accurate enough to be fair?*

That depends on what we are trying to do. If we are tie-shooting for the Queen's Prize, we need a very high level of confidence in the result, but with the bull 600mm across, the odd couple of millimetres are quite possibly unlikely to be significant. If we want to be sure that a 75.15 at 300 yards really is what it purports to be, the margin for error is much smaller.

- *So just how accurate are these things, and how much do they cost?*

Not telling (but I do have a pretty good idea, and neither answer is a showstopper).

- *And where do we go next?*

In my First Impressions report submitted to Jeremy Staples in January, I suggested that NSC form a working group tasked to bring a small number of automatic targets into service, with the intention of providing the advantages of automatic targets (speed, convenience) to members shooting in circumstances where accuracy and reliability are not critical, while conducting an extended trial of the accuracy and reliability of the available systems. While it is not up to me as to whether or how this suggestion is taken forward, I would very much like to see half a butt of electronic targets in service on both Century and Stickledown as soon as it can be done. Targets could be booked at short notice, charged by the hour or by the number of shots fired. For many training, zeroing, club or corporate event purposes, the systems we saw demonstrated would be entirely satisfactory. Such an installation would also allow us to carry out the extended evaluation needed to determine whether the system could meet the standards of international competition. But we cannot go forward without a positive reaction from those who will use the targets.

If you would like to comment on the use of electronic targets at Bisley, please write to the NRA for my attention or e-mail me at [iain@bang.u-net.com](mailto:iain@bang.u-net.com).

# JOHN KYNOCH

*talking with Tony de Launay*

It may be a pleasant surprise to find an out-and-out success story loitering in a corner of the Common, but that is what the British Sporting Rifle Club would claim, with some justification from their perspective. I can recall, on my first visits to Bisley in the 1962-4 era, wondering what it must be like to fire on the ramshackle structure that was the remains of the Running Deer range. Today it is a thriving facility, its success due in large part to the drive and enthusiasm of its Chairman John Kynoch.

John would be too modest to claim all the glory. "It is", he said (over fish and chips at the Moorhen on a miserable December Friday), "the result of a great deal of effort and self-help by a hardcore of enthusiasts who recognise that we have a great facility that can and must pay its own way". The proof lies in the fact that the range was fully booked at weekends for the whole 2005 season before 2004 had leaked away. More than that, cheques for the bookings had been received in advance.

"That is the way we can operate, and that is how we have been able to plough £140,000 into refurbishing the range completely over the last seven years without the need to beg or borrow from anyone." It is a testament to planning and cash flow.

That, though, is to start at the end of the Kynoch story. The beginning is some 72 years ago on a farm in New Zealand. "I started shooting at the age of 5 or 6. It was a condition of being trusted with the .22" rifle that I had to bring back a sufficient proportion of rabbits' tails to the number of cartridges allowed". Real interest in something slightly stronger came with the discovery of the .222" centrefire "for bagging the hares that sat up out of reasonable rimfire range".

After studying at Nelson College, where shooting was an important sport, he left New Zealand at the age of 19 to go into the family wool milling business in Scotland. Between Aberdeen and Inverness, this was to be his home for the next 30 or so years. "I remained in that woollen world until 1982 when, with the industry in great difficulties, I had the great good fortune to be made redundant. This gave me the opportunity to rebuild my life where ever I chose and choosing to be close to Bisley was only in part a coincidence!"

However, life in shooting terms had taken an unexpected twist. "I was not particularly attracted to conventional target shooting – I could never see the sight picture that others described. In 1965 I saw an article in Guns Review, and the use of a telescopic sighted sporting rifle in competitive shooting seemed for me to be the answer." Membership of the BSRC



followed naturally. "Running Deer had been an NRA event since 1862 and I was privileged to meet Archie Butterworth who had been instrumental in stopping the NRA bulldozing the Running Deer range in 1962. Archie had formed BSRC to continue the discipline and to ensure that the country was worthily represented at major international matches in sporting rifle events."

Kynoch set about honing his moving target techniques and skills. At the time the benchmark "world class" score at 50 metres Running Boar was 140 ex 200, and achieving this level was obligatory to representing GB. In the trials he scored 142 in each of his first two full courses, the first person to reach this level. "I think the selectors were rather nonplussed by this new boy who came down from Scotland with heather still between his toes." In passing he produced an interesting slice of trivia from his memory. "I tried several different routes from home to Bisley. Whichever road I took it was 681 miles."

He was selected for the 1964 World Championships at Wiesbaden. With this and subsequent major international events under his belt, selection loomed for the Olympic Games, in which Moving Target had just become one of the events. "I was picked in advance, a year ahead of the other team member. The



idea of being up against just the two best shots from each country rather than four as at the World Championships had some appeal. I was aiming, realistically, for a place in the top ten."

It was an event of high and conflicting emotions. "We counted bullseyes scoring ten as something of a bonus in the two second fast runs. The ten ring was smaller then than now, though the nine ring was bigger. In my final ten shot string my two sighters were bulls and I remember thinking that they were somewhat wasted shots! I followed them with bulls first and second to count and I thought this cannot be real. Two eights brought a heap of concentration and determination. Three bulls, another eight and two final bulls followed. As I turned round I could see my supporters with horrified looks on their faces waiting for the marker to display the score on an overhead screen. I had the benefit of a CCTV of the target and was able to nonchalantly tell them that they were there". It was a medal shoot: bronze was won.

But the year was 1972 and the venue Munich. It was a time of emotional heights and depths. "As we learned of the horrors that had been perpetrated I stood on the banks of the lake behind the facility. The truths of the deeds began to sink in and I despaired of association between this ultimate sporting event and the terrorist agenda. I was close to tears and just as close to hurling the record of my achievement into the waters."

It was his only Olympics. The event was replaced by 10 metres Running Target with air rifles, but this too is being removed from the list of events. "I suppose that after Munich I simply did not have the energy to devote the necessary time to the training, which includes the mental preparation - thinking through the sport and all the possible scenarios. The Russians call it *the sport of the will*; shooters will understand but sometimes outsiders cannot see what we mean."

But, edging into his 70s, he has still been British Sporting Rifle Champion for the last three years. He first won this aggregate of five Sporting Rifle matches in 1967. In competing 28 times he has won 13 times and been runner-up 10 times.

In 1995 he became Chairman of BSRC and as such is a member of the NRA General Council. He is also a Director of the National Shooting Centre Ltd. He sees the key to the BSRC's success as lying in two simple approaches. "First, all those that want or require an organisation to exist should pay a flat rate subscription to cover all overhead charges, irrespective of their use of the facility. Second, the cost of running and developing the facility should be covered on a user pays basis. Clearly maximum utilisation of one's assets is fundamental to keeping charges down. The covered firing points used in our discipline means that we shoot all the year round."

He is very clear on the first concept. In simple terms the generality of the membership have a duty to fund the representational and administrative activities of their governing body without which their sport could not exist.

He feels that there must still be lessons to be learned for the benefit of the NRA and applauds the approach by the new Secretary General to concentrate on growing the membership. "I re-read a letter from Lord Cottesloe dated 1965 in which he apologises for increasing the NRA annual membership subscription from one guinea to two. In the letter he points out that for every subscribing member there are three or four members of affiliated clubs who enjoy the benefits of the basic activity undertaken by the NRA without contributing to that privilege. I guess that today it is seven or eight and that is just plainly wrong."

And the future? He is pleased with the changes that have been wrought at Bisley over the last ten years. "Electronic targetry has to be the way, along with a proportion of permanent all weather covered and enclosed firing points. Sooner rather than later the markers will give up on hauling targets, even if we continue to match shelf-stackers' wages. The technology is there to produce a complete scoring, print-out and results package without markers and without pen or pencils: it would be a wise investment."

Later this year I shall have to visit the Running Deer, fired by John's enthusiasm, to see whether I can satisfy that idle curiosity of 40 years ago. The telescopic sight may be my salvation; greater chances of rabbit stew may be my reward.

## **Range Office Targets**

### **Targets available by the hour at weekends**

- £6 per hour (including marker) •
- Century and Stickledown •
- All year round! •

*(subject to availability)*

Slots may be booked on the day or by telephone during the preceding week

Call the Range Office to book  
or to check which distances are available

Call 01483 797777 ext 152  
or 0845 130 7620 ext 152

# T REX DRIBBLES ON

As I sit at the mouth of my cave looking at the view through the high quality Diplodocus double glazing, with the Meteorite TV purring away in the background, I ponder on the lengths to which our selected representatives have to go to fund their efforts and honours overseas.

## Disappearing Funding

Time was when the whole funding process was a bit of a mystery and only the well-heeled with nothing to do could afford the luxury of time off for international recognition in a strictly amateur sport.

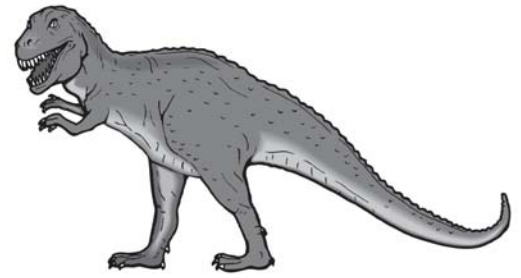
These days it seems that the odds are even more steeply stacked. Gone are the Sports Council grants of the 80s and 90s that at least made a small dent in the travel bill. Today, unless you are lucky enough to be a budding Olympian, funds are in short supply. There is no general access to any financial jockstrap provided by the State (now through the Lottery) in all but the most exceptional of elite circumstances.

Even then the future is not secure. The Sunday Times of 24 January rang the latest warning bell loudly "Only fittest to survive in Olympic team cull". The National Audit Office has been investigating the Athens results. Those sports that under-performed and that are deemed to have been less successful in the use of their funds, may go to the back of the queue. If that is correct, a judgement based on a funds/medals equation may mean that shooting finds itself a damp bedfellow with swimming – and some others.

Sport has a human ingredient: sometimes there are failures when something more was expected, as Ms Radcliffe demonstrated. That shooting had qualified a record six personnel to be there, and in the previous Olympics came away with gold and silver, is an apparently forgotten successful use of available funds.

But the pressures on UK Sport should not be underestimated. They have a duty to the public (for which read Government) to show that they spend the Lottery funds wisely and to show results. Hence they are pushed towards supporting those sports that can fulfil the Government's insatiable thirst for association with medals. Perhaps a change in the range of Olympic recognised sports to embrace more of those at which the British excel, is called for. Roll out the dwile-flonking?

To those who think in logical terms any policy that cuts back on funds because a sport has not been successful is following a downward spiral, pushing that sport towards oblivion. So, finding a way through that convoluted, politically infected, funding maze requires superhuman efforts from a few unsung heroes within UK Sport and GBTSF. Logically more



funds should be used to improve poor levels of performance - the key to regaining success on the international stage. As I scribble our sport awaits the next indication from both UK Sport and Sport England of how these balls are to be kept in the air.

## Cooking up the Funds

I drift away; back to the point. So fullbore rifle is mostly left to its own devices to avoid pecuniary meltdown. Barring the often under-stated contribution of the OTF there is no ready funding for "GB Teams" as fullbore rifle shooters would know them. Their Captains and members must resort to any imaginative measures within their capacity to raise money. And that, by a rambling route, is where I came in. Congratulations to Dr and Mrs Deane for their excellent slim cookery tome *The Bisley Cookbook*. The kitchen of your caravannette really cannot afford to be without a copy.

However, I was just a tad disappointed that – as I surveyed the wreckage of the last of the Christmas cold meat having been through the sandwiches, curry, white sauce, fricassee, jerk and pickle modes – I can find nothing else to do with Pteradactyl. Never mind, the cave needs a Spring change, so what do I need to grub up for the multi-bean stew?

## New Year's Honours

Being in a pondering mode I have been contemplating my honours list. Top of it with the T Rex Jurassic Medal of Honour would be one Michael Gault who has garnered eight gold medals over three Commonwealth Games but who, unlike the undoubted Olympian worthies Redgrave and Pinsent, has yet to have this recognised. One wonders why.

I would make the following additional awards:

### For Recycling

Crusher Belither

### The Oooooohhh Nearly Award of the Year

Oxford's attempt to stop Cambridge's 24th successive win in the Chancellors (by one point)

### Cherubic Countenance of the Year

Henry Jeens

### Most Promising Junior Officer Shooter

Flt Lt DP Calvert (*surely shome mishtake . . .*)



### ***Fair Cop of the Year***

Glynn Alger

### ***Contrast of the Year***

The Queen's Final Qualifying scores 2002 and 2004

### ***Most Embarrassing Bisley Wrong Turn***

US Air Force

### ***The Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen Changing Rooms Design Award***

The all-new Range Office

### ***Slimmer of the Year***

Martin Farnan for losing two stone in 15 days!

*(Martin's unique weight loss plan will be available shortly in book, video and DVD format with a Channel 5 series planned for the future.)*

Of course I must have missed a few: any printable offers?

### ***Splice the Brain Race***

Not a lot escapes the bony apertures that pass for my ears. Two couples are scheduled temporary depart from the firing point towards wedded bliss. Leading the charge towards a game of doctors and nurses are Jeremy (I'm a scientist) Langley and Judy (angel of the wards) Farnan, with an April hitching post in view. Unreliable rumour has it that the Director of Shooting

will be on bread and water for the next two years as a result of offering free tickets to the wedding breakfast for all Grand Aggregate entrants, by way of boosting numbers at the July Meeting.

Hot on their heels are Dot Hume and Jimbo Dallas – he of the aged smoking Aston Martin. Queries have arisen as to the nationality to be adopted by either after the event, he being English and she Scots. The answer leaps from her lips in a trice: "Dallas is a Scottish name" she opines. Come to think of it, I suffered a nasty shock last year on viewing his knees below the fringes of his kilt.

Good luck, best wishes and a hatful of bullseyes to them all.

### ***Untangled Website***

Praise where praise might be due. Watty seems to have worked a minor miracle on the NRA website. After an early stutter when for some inexplicable reason it deemed me unfit to be registered as a pukka user, the new-look website welcomed my advances with open threads. Unlike some sites this one is user friendly: essential ingredients for those of us with bone ivory between the ears. Thanks to all who were involved.

Toodle Pip.



**H'ARING®**  
Schießsport-Anlagenbau GmbH  
Shooting Ranges · Shooting Equipment · Cibleirie

**ESA**  
Electronic targets  
for the following distances:  
10m, 25m, 50m, 100m, 300m, fullbore rifle up to 1200y under NRA rules

**Products supplied:**

- ▶ Air rifle, air pistol, cross bow target changers
- ▶ Small bore changers
- ▶ Center fire and hunting changers
- ▶ Running targets for 10m and 50m
- ▶ Rapid fire 10m air pistol
- ▶ Trap and Skeet ranges
- ▶ Bullet traps

**Success is not luck  
H'ARING leads the way forward!**


**The only manufacturer to use Touch screen computer**

**Inform yourself!**

**Supplier of equipment to international and national championships!**

**Agency for United Kingdom  
Diverse Trading Co Ltd  
☎ 0044 (0) 20 8642 7861  
Fax 0044 (0) 20 8642 9959**

**Full electronic targets of high quality**



*Used by the  
victorious  
GB Palma Squad*

**SCATT Professional USB**  
electronic training and analysis system

*Are you a serious shooter?  
SCATT will enable you to train  
seven days a week!*

*as used by:*  
many of the world's current National Squads  
Full and Small-bore

- Gold Medal winners in both the Olympics and Paralympics
- European Air Rifle Championship winners
- World Cup winners

*For further details contact*  
**DIVERSE TRADING COMPANY LTD**  
**Tel: (020) 8642 7861**  
**24 hour fax: (020) 8642 9959**

# NRA OVERSEAS TEAM FUND

		Year ended 30/9/04		Year ended 30/9/03	
		£	£	£	£
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO GB AND OTHER TEAMS</b>					
GBRT New Zealand 03				15,000	
NRA team to Channel Isles 04 (03)		2,800		2,500	
300m 03 (02)		4,382		5,537	
GBRT Africa 04		9,000			
GBRT Canada & USA 04		9,000			
MR Australia 04		5,500			
U25 South Africa		5,000			
Total Contributions to Teams		35,682		23,037	
less Sports Council Grants received		5,000		10,000	
CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTF		30,682		13,037	
<b>INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>					
Donations					
New Zealand Team 2003	900				
2003 Imperial competitions TR	3,923		4,889		
2002 Imperial competitions MR	470		358		
V Bull	1,120		1,300		
Newspapers - Young	914		1,225		
Other donations	676		547		
		8,003		8,319	
Supporters Clubs					
Freddy Payne 100 Club	6,000		6,000		
OTF swindle (net)	2,400		1,910		
Albert swindle	520				
Wind course	185				
Golf day	2,535				
Cookbook (net)	399				
Bullet Ball (100% for U25)	897		1,039		
		12,936		8,949	
Interest					
Interest on Gilts	3,272		3,272		
Tax reclaim	195		195		
COIF interest	2,646		1,652		
Bank & other interest	44		60		
		6,157		5,179	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		27,096		22,447	
Less Expenditure					
Contributions by OTF to GB & other teams		30,682		13,037	
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>		-3,586		9,410	
Unrealised (loss) profit on investments in year		-1,332		-1,597	
Reserves at 1/10/03		130,177		122,364	
<b>RESERVES AT 30/9/2004</b>		£ 125,259		£ 130,177	
Represented by:-					
Investments at market valuation (Gilts)		51,441		52,773	
COIF Deposit account		67,993		67,993	
Business Premium account		7,598		448	
Owing by (to) NRA general funds		-1,871		-1,765	
Debtors		98		11,588	
Creditors		0		-860	
Net Assets at 30/9/2004		£ 125,259		£ 130,177	
 Reserves at 30/9/2004					
TR	116,769		116,769		
MR	0		2,034		
300m	618		0		
U25	400		3,561		
General	7,472		7,813		
	£ 125,259		£ 130,177		



## SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

### Great Britain Under 25 Target Rifle Team, South Africa Tour March/April 2004

**Captain - Erica McMullan**

A full account of this tour was given in the Summer 2004 Journal (pp 43-46). The team of 12 had a match against Western Province and England in Cape Town and then went on to compete successfully in the South African Bisley Union Championships in Bloemfontein.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Travel	8,307	NRA OTF Grant	5,000
Accommodation	8,784	Sponsorship & Donations	1,275
Car Hire & Petrol	3,956	Payments by Team Members	24,000
Direct Shooting Costs	5,683		
Team Admin & Insurance	1,336		
Protocol	764		
Team Functions	352		
Tour Uniform Items	348		
Subsistence & Refunds	745		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£30,275</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£30,275</b>

### NRA Target Rifle Team to Channel Islands, May 2004

**Captain – Richard Bailie**

A full account of the tour was given in the Winter 2004 Journal (pp57-59). The team of 16 shot against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Travel & Accommodation	5,187	NRA OTF Grant	2,500
Shooting Costs – Guernsey	668	NRA OTF Junior Grants*	300
Shooting Costs – Jersey	854	Sponsorship	2,161
Team Kit	1,090	Team Members Contributions	5,694
Trophies & Gifts	90		
Formal Team Dinners	575		
LMRA Match & Dinner	688		
Official Team Photographs	168		
Bisley Reception for CI	250		
Practice Day/Dinner 30/4/04	435		
Team Building Exercises	298		
Admin/Tour Photos on CD	52		
NRA OTF Junior Grants	300		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£10,655</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£10,655</b>

\* The Junior Grants were made possible by a donation to the OTF by the GB TR New Zealand Team of 2003 for young shooters.

### Great Britain Target Rifle Team, Canada & USA, 2004

**Captain - John Webster**

A full account of this tour is given earlier in this issue on pages 31 to 37. The team of 20 shot successfully in individual competitions and team matches in the DCRA Meeting at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa and in the Spirit of America Matches at Raton, New Mexico, USA.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Air Fares	18,260	OTF Grant	9,000
Car hire, coaches & petrol	8,135	Grants & donations	1,178
Insurance	847	Brochure	10,290
Hotels	14,602	Auction of promises	8,219
Entry fees	9,962	Corporate days	5,040
Ammunition	10,381	Spot the shot	1,042
Reloading	873	Team Member Contributions	38,089
Clothing	3,721	(contribution per head: £1904)	
UK training	1,659		
Team receptions & food	2,523		
Sundries*	1,895		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£72,858</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£72,858</b>

\* web hosting, stationery, gifts, photos etc.

## OBITUARIES

### **Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs GCB CBE DSO MC DL**

Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs died on Sunday 31 October 2004 aged 83. Roland Christopher Gibbs was born at Flax Bourton, near Bristol, on June 22 1921, the younger son of an officer who had served in the North Somerset Yeomanry in the First World War. At Eton he was a good games player and he passed high into Sandhurst in the summer of 1939.

After a six-month course at the RMA, he was commissioned into the Kings Royal Rifle Corps (usually known as the 60th Rifles). He was considered too young to join the British Expeditionary Force and started with the motor training battalion, which he helped to reform. He went to North Africa with the 2nd Battalion as part of the 1st Armoured Division in 1941 and saw his first action early in 1942 south of Benghazi.

In June 1942, he was commanding a carrier platoon that was acting as advance guard to the column as it approached Bir Hacheim. As it neared the ridge for which it was making, the platoon was attacked by armoured cars. Although under heavy shellfire, he displayed the greatest coolness in enabling the forward observation party, for which he was responsible, to take up a position of maximum advantage. When a carrier was hit and had to be abandoned, he refused to withdraw until he had recovered it. He was awarded an immediate MC.

He was wounded twice in North Africa, the first time at the battle of Alam Halfa, but he returned for the second half of the battle of Alamein. Promoted to Major in March 1943, he took over command of C Company and remained in this appointment for the rest of the war. He landed with his battalion in Normandy on D+1 (June 7). During a heavy German counter-attack south-west of Caen, he was wounded for a third time and evacuated, but rejoined his battalion just after the closing of the Falaise gap.

His DSO was won in the Rhineland and he fought with his battalion right through to Hamburg. After the German surrender, his battalion moved to Denmark to arrange the disarming and removal of German forces there.

In August 1945 he was appointed GSO2 at HQ Allied Land Forces South East Asia, based at Poona. He later moved to Singapore for a short period before being posted to the 5th Parachute Brigade in Malaya as Brigade Major. When the Brigade was disbanded, he returned to his battalion in Tripoli and went with them to Palestine, where he volunteered to join the 7th Battalion Parachute Regiment. In 1949 he was posted to Sandhurst as the Parachute Regimental representative. He attended Staff College in 1951 before being appointed Brigade Major of the 5th Infantry Brigade the following year at Iserlohn, Germany. In 1954 he transferred to the 1st Battalion KRRC in BAOR and went with them to Derna, Libya. He took his company to the Trucial Oman States where they had a security role looking after the oil companies along the coast.

He went to the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, in 1957, before going to the Ministry of Defence as GSO2 in an inter-service planning team. In 1960 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and took command of the 3rd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, at Aldershot.

After a year in Washington as GSO1 on the British Army Staff, he returned to England to command 16 Parachute Brigade. Following the attempted Greek army coup in 1963, part of the brigade was posted to Cyprus. They were among the first British troops to don the blue beret as part of a UN peace-keeping force.

After a year at the Imperial Defence College, he returned to Bahrain in 1969, this time to the naval base as Commander British Land Forces in the Persian Gulf. He had the task of running down the British forces there while simultaneously reorganising the Trucial Oman Scouts and organising support for the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman.

He was given accelerated promotion to Lieutenant-General in 1972 after a single post as Major-General, and appointed Commander 1st British Corps in BAOR. Promotion to General followed in 1974 when he became GOC-in-C UK Land Forces. In 1976 he accepted the appointment to Chief of the General Staff, and was promoted to Field Marshal in July 1979, one day before his retirement from active duty. He was Colonel Commandant of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Green Jackets, from 1971 to 1979, and of the Parachute Regiment from 1972 to 1977. In 1985 he





was installed as the 155th Constable of the Tower of London, holding the post until 1990. He was Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire from 1989 to 1996.

In 1984 he was co-opted to the Council of the National Rifle Association and elected as Chairman, a post he occupied to 1990. He presided over a period of considerable change, but also had to face the tragedy of Hungerford and the aftermath effect on target shooting. In 1978 he had been appointed Patron of the British Commonwealth Rifle Club and, although not a target rifle shooter himself, he continued his keen interest in the Club's affairs and almost invariably attended the main annual functions. He last visited in 2003, but, in 2004, he stood down and was able to see his nominee, Sir Roger Wheeler, duly adopted as Patron of the Club.

In 1988 he captained the Great Britain Rifle Team to Australia, which won the Australia Match, but being only just pipped in the Palma. In later years he recalled that team as a great highlight. The team dinner was held in the Tower of London, during which the entire team were placed under arrest; this was not because of any high jinks from the team members but as part of the Ceremony of the Keys.

Sir Roly retired to a rectory in Wiltshire, where for many years he enjoyed his shooting and continued to hunt with the Beaufort until the insertion of a metal knee put an end to this. He was also an accomplished amateur artist.

Roly Gibbs was appointed CBE in 1968, KCB in 1972 and GCB in 1976. He married, in 1955, Davina Merry, the artist. They had two sons and a daughter.

---

## Donald Cameron

The world of shooting has lost a stalwart and a much-loved character with the death of Donald Cameron at the age of 90 at his home in Benderloch near Oban on 21 October 2004. Right up to the end, his shooting mind was both alert and relevant to the modern target shooter and he always enjoyed the habit of phoning the current Scottish Rifle Association officials with both taxing questions and futuristic ideas to enhance the sport.

His shooting record is to be admired, especially after his war experiences, when a lesser man might have given up the sport. After graduating he, like many Scots of his time, went abroad to work in a rubber plantation in Malaya. On the outbreak of war he joined the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force in Singapore and gained the rank of Captain. He was captured by the Japanese, and remained in terrible captivity in atrocious conditions until the war was over, having been forced to work on the infamous Burma Railway. His knowledge of which foods grow naturally and could be used for both food and medicine was invaluable to his fellow prisoners. Some of his "medicines" were used to cure internal problems as well as such ailments as the nasty ulcers the prisoners suffered on their arms and legs. There was a famous occasion while shooting in a club shoot at Dreghorn Ranges near Edinburgh when David Hossack turned up in his smart new Japanese car. David was left in no doubt that this was not appreciated!

He was a fine shot throughout the ranges and a great team player. He was in the shortlist for the 1972 Commonwealth Games. He shot in many National and



Mackinnon Matches including the winning Mackinnon in 1975, and was a past winner of the Scottish Championship, a member of Scotland's first overseas touring team to Canada in 1976 and Captain of Scotland from 1969 to 1972.

In 1974 he was rewarded with his Great Britain colours, later in life than is currently the norm. He still managed to shoot with his traditional unassuming accuracy, and his careful husbandry of the alcohol supplies for the team is still remembered by those who were affected.

His favourite rifle was the SMLE and whilst he accepted the No 4, he had no love for the modern tailor-made firearms. Like the late Andrew Tucker he was a strong advocate of the blade foresight and rarely used a ring. Even in his latter years he used a 1mm blade to give him his precise aim and that was when he was in his early eighties!

Apart from shooting, Donald was well known both locally and throughout the agronomist world in the field of agriculture and plant growing. He was instrumental in bringing to the world the Pentland Dell and other now famous strains of potato. In retirement his scientific knowledge produced a very fine tomato, still in use today, and a white rowan tree which one can see on the 1000 yards firing point on Jubilee Range at Blair Atholl.

Donald was bright and interested to the end, and is survived by his son Kenneth, to whom our condolences are sent.

*Bob Aitken and David Hossack*

**Major Stewart  
Armour**  
*GC2 SC*



Stewart Armour, twice winner of the Grand Aggregate and captain of a record-breaking English team in the National, died in October. He was 87.

Stewart was an exceptional rifle shot, a Royal Marine, a teacher, devoted family man, naturalist, passionate inventor, a craftsman of intricate ability. But a list isn't enough: Stewart was a gentle and splendid man, intemperate only in his enthusiasms, and a warm friend to many across the generations.

His shooting career began at Christ's Hospital School and spanned 70 years. He shot for his counties, his service and his country; won the Grand Aggregate in 1959 and 1972, finished in the top fifty of the Grand a further nine times, made the King's and Queen's Final a dozen times, the top 25 of the George's on half a dozen occasions, toured Canada and shot in the National, Mackinnon, Kolapore, Australia and Palma matches.

Stewart and his wife Barbara became Bisley stalwarts. But he was no respecter of the camp's traditions and was forever searching out fresh solutions to old problems. Why, for instance, should Bisley's wind flags be the height they were when modern bullets had much lower trajectories? This was a favourite topic, but by no means the only one, and the NRA enjoyed many suggestions from Stewart over the years. It was an approach that led Major Armour to be dubbed Major Trouble in some quarters, but that never deflected him.

As with all Bisley figures, the stories multiplied with the years. A couple from his later Imperial Meetings are worth repeating, the first from John Glen's 1985 book *Bisley Stories & Others*. Stewart was tie shooting for the Duke of Gloucester (now the Prince of Wales): "His first three to count went in the bull – the only competitor to do so, but then, unfortunately, his fourth shot, again a bull, landed on the next-door target, particularly so at a moment of relative silence on the firing point, for there was a very stentorian shout, "OH YOU SILLY BUGGER!" from Barbara. Stewart says he heard the greeting but nevertheless carried on and put on still another bull – on his own target – before turning round to face a very angry wife."

The second tale is from Maurice Ayling: it was 1987 and Stewart, Maurice and Eric McGibbon (combined ages 192) were tie shooting for the Corporation under the eye of Range Officer Arthur Derrick.

"It was about 20:30 and almost dark before we could start, but Arthur said: 'If I can see it, so can you!' So we could – just about – and we shot, with rear apertures wide open, each making, if I remember correctly, 21. We then had to go to 'sudden death' and Arthur gave us a round each. Eric and I had inners, but Stewart let his go, which he declared as a rotten shot, but was rewarded with five points and the trophy. It became known as 'The geriatric blind shoot' and was the cause of much ribald comment."

Eyesight and age did finally force Stewart to retire from TR but he remained a remarkable wind coach for his new county of Suffolk, and turned successfully to Match Rifle, experimenting with .223 at ranges others thought quite visionary.

His final, and possibly sweetest victory, came in 1999 when he captained England in the National at the age of 82. Long service alone would have qualified him for the post, but Stewart and Barbara, along with adjutant Peter Merry, threw themselves into their roles, planning and plotting, designing and directing. The results were spectacular – England's twenty set a record score, dropping just 18 points with half the team scoring 105 (on one target all four shooters went clean). It was the first time an all women target of firers and coach had competed in the National – a success which brought great pride for Barbara and a certain twinkle to the eye of Stewart.

Stewart was born in Brazil in 1917. After school he entered the Royal Marines and war service took him to Scapa Flow on the night U47 sunk the Royal Oak, to the battle of the Atlantic where he commanded X-turret on the Belfast, and to Cape Town where he met Barbara and a year later married her.

He left the Marines in 1959, intent on becoming a cabinet maker, but Barbara's financial realism (never a quality he possessed in abundance) saw him opt for teaching woodwork and metalwork in first Hampshire and then Buckinghamshire. Later, when he retired, they moved to Hadleigh in Suffolk where she became a tireless supporter of voluntary causes, and he the best customer of Partridges, the local ironmongers.

His craftsmanship was astounding: he seemed to require complexity; the more challenging the task, the more intricate his solution. He was fascinated by shapes, in particular spirals, and fell in love with exotic woods: Purpleheart, Satin, Pink Ivory, Stinkwood, Rhododendron and Cocus. These he would joint with the tolerances of fine metalwork. If no tool was available for the task, he would make one. He applied his skills to his sport, producing shooting boxes and wind calculators for Fulton's, but typically spent far too much time and ingenuity on them ever to turn a profit.

For a mild-mannered man he could be impossibly infuriating. Barbara was used to his ways and became a skilful sea anchor, ensuring his enthusiasms never saw him washed up on the rocks, but even she was sorely tried by his car turntable. This was a typical Stewart



project: past 80 he found it difficult to reverse his car down the steep and narrow drive of their home. The answer (to Stewart) was simple: bring in a digger, remove the end of the drive along with part of the garden, and build a turntable capable of revolving their Vauxhall Astra with the gentlest shove. It was the only time "divorce" was ever mentioned in their 58 year marriage. Typically though the turntable worked a treat and within weeks Barbara, like their car, had come around, she joyfully displaying photos of the project to all their friends at Bisley.

Barbara died in 2000, and in many ways the light went out for Stewart. He still came to Bisley, and he travelled, delighting in the Eden Project, and revisiting Madeira where his Brazil-bound ship had called 75 years earlier. But rapidly failing health and a widower's despondency meant that death when it came was a release. Stewart and Barbara may have gone now, but the fun they had together, and the many friends they made, mean they will claim a place in Bisley's collective heart for many years to come.

*Andrew Thomson*

### **David Daglish**

The City of Newcastle Rifle Club lost one of its stalwarts on 7 December, with the passing of David Daglish, after a six month battle with cancer. He was 69.

David started shooting at Ponteland with his father, over 50 years ago. At his very first Imperial Meeting, in 1953, he received strict paternal advice prior to the Corporation at 1000 yards: "Put on 6 left, and don't touch it!". After a few bulls, young David felt that he **had** to make a wind correction; and got a magpie! He reverted to 6 left, finished with the only 47, and won the trophy outright!

David later shot in seven Queen's Finals, and represented England in the National, as well as, on five occasions, in the Lawrence Trophy in Scotland. He was runner-up in the Scottish Championship in 1970, and won both Club and County Championships on several occasions.

Having taken early retirement after a long career in the NHS, David was 'volunteered' for numerous Club positions, all of which were undertaken in his invariably cheerful, quiet, and helpful manner. He was a first-rate 'club man', who will be sadly missed by all shooters at Newcastle, as well as at Felton RC, where he competed to county standard in small-bore.

We have all lost a good friend, and our sincere condolences go to David's wife, Katrine, and his sister Cynthia.

*Keith Pugh*

### **Peter Lane-Joynt and Bill Norman**

We are sad to announce the deaths of Peter Lane-Joynt of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club and Bill Norman of Huddersfield Rifle Club. Full obituaries will appear in the next Journal.

## **LETTERS**

*From Jack Brogden*

### **Home Office Firearms Consultation Document**

I read in the latest Journal the Secretary General's thoughts on the problems associated with retaining young people, even after their participation for four years or so. For many years, a gentleman used to waylay people coming off Century, some glum, some elated, after the first stage of Queen's I. The rattle of a collection box, the proceeds of which went to further cadet shooting, was not necessarily what one needed to endure at that time. However, over the years, many thousands of pounds must have swelled the funds. But is it all about money?

A friend of mine, a GB shot, equipped his son with all the right gear and said son rose magnificently to the challenge. He had all the braggadocio of youth, probably born of ignorance, but he delivered. In the County Short, he was the only one of the entire team to score 50 at 600 yards. In the fullness of time, his testosterone levels rose to the point where the lure of fingers trapped in knicker elastic proved to be his undoing. In spite of having a natural aptitude for marksmanship, he hasn't returned to the sport.

Having made the point that financial pressures took young people away from our sport, I was surprised to read, in the Consultative Paper, under 'Licensing the Person', at 2.9 (e) 'Insured'. Wouldn't this increase an already heavy financial burden on the young? Surely the Club insurance covers the activity of its members?

Moving on to 2.25, I always thought that the rigorous checks made by the police, to determine if he/she was a suitable person to possess an FAC, was, in effect, 'licensing the person'? At 2.29, I read, "More seriously, . . ." suggesting that all the foregoing was written tongue-in-cheek! Who on earth was the author? Was it a lickspittle attempt to apologise for the earlier statement, found in 2.26? Why can't we say it as it is without fear of backlash? Why do we say 'Nanny State' when we mean 'Police State'?

I believe that 2.32 is just fanciful pie-in-the-sky thinking. No politician would admit to getting it wrong. When was the last time a politician apologised? It wouldn't 'seem' like a U-turn, (2.37) it would be!

Range closures; increased safety templates; butt stop reconstruction (after more than a hundred years safe use); difficulty in obtaining range bookings; increased range charges; qualified RCOs; a qualified First Aid person in attendance - how many more

targets for club use, and even then, only when the ETR is not in use. I have yet to see both ranges being used at the same time.

The sight of Iraqi civilians shooting AK 47s in the street must fill the politicians with dread and provides them with sufficient motivation to turn the screws on we malcontents even harder!

*Reply from Glynn Alger, Secretary General*

I have worked for the National Rifle Association for just over nine months now and am continually astounded by the level of anger and cynicism linked to a lack of ambition shown by a verbal minority of shooters.

In answer to the key points raised I would say:

Young rifle shooters already go through a course and are tested upon their competence. Rather than make them jump through further hoops we have suggested that the outcome of such effort ought to be the award of their firearms licence permitting them to use and own firearms.

The NRA have several times recently proposed ways of reducing the burden on young shooters by awarding the probationary qualification free to those that have been through the cadet and schools system, then awarding them NRA membership with insurance at nil cost for instance.

Regarding pistols the NRA, along with all the other national bodies, have applied for their return. It seems on the basis of this letter we are wasting our time. In the famous words of Bart Simpson "You're damned if you do and damned if you don't".

The no change or b????cks approach is well tested in shooting and has led to our present position. Unless this approach changes the inevitable outcome is a contraction of the sport.

*From John Killian SM SC*

**To whom it may concern . . .**

Thank you so much for the return of the Great Britain Lions team flag that disappeared from Clock Tower Lodge, Bisley, some years ago. I gratefully appreciate its return; no hard feelings! Do please get in touch when you next see me at Bisley.

## **The Gun and Sport Shop**

**76 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2RR**

**Tel: 01392 271701 Fax: 01392 209013**

Large selection of new, second-hand, old and modern guns and accessories.

For example: Ruger .223 Ranch Rifle Mini 14 c/w scope "as new" £500. Parker Hale 3 Band Enfield in .451 and .577 good order £350 each. 20 Bore Hammer Gun by Bland and Sons recently nitro-proofed £850. 12 Bore Hammer Gun Damascus Barrels, nitro-proofed by Samuel Marson £650. AYA 20B 'Round Body' Sidelock Ejector 30" barrels as new £2000. FWB 300 S .177 Target Air Rifle in good order £150. Beretta 682 Sporting Multi Choke 30" superb wood £850. Pedersoli Flintlock Rifle .54 cal in good condition £300. Ardesa Percussion Rifle .50 cal in good condition £200. 20 Bore Gold Sabel Sidelock Ejector nice wood in nice order £1200. SGC SSR-15V22 .22 incl Tasco Mil-Dot Scope, bag etc "as new" £550.

Small-bore and fullbore target rifles from £100; also selection of air rifles and pistols, some flintlock and percussion, reproduction and antique. Militaria; deactivated SLR FN Nylon furniture 7.62 'old spec' £650 very good condition.

Guns and accessories purchased for cash, part exchange welcome.



Genuine handmade  
Rifleman's Leather  
Shooting accessory case  
£125 plus £7.50 P&P

L/W Waterproof Shooter's Cape £20  
Oregon Compact 12-36 x 50 spotting scope £95

## **The Bisley Pavilion Hotel**

*at*

**Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking**

*home of the*

**National Rifle Association**

### **NOW OPEN**

**HOTEL FACILITIES  
IN THE HEART OF  
THE CAMP**

**En-suite Rooms**

**Television**

**Breakfast**



***For Reservations & Enquiries***

**Tel: (01483) 488488/489270**

**Fax: (01483) 486600**

**e-mail: [Hotel@bisleypavilion.com](mailto:Hotel@bisleypavilion.com)**



# PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2005

## 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 2005 is to be held on 26 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 12 March 2005 for new members and 31 March 2005 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 CV 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.

## Casual Vacancy – Ordinary Member

There is a casual vacancy for General Council for the term expiring in 2007. There are accordingly six vacancies for 'Ordinary' elected members. In accordance with precedent, in the event of there being an election (more than six candidates), the individual among the six successful candidates with the lowest number of votes will be deemed selected for the two-year term. If there are only six candidates, there will not be an election and lots will be drawn to determine who fills the casual vacancy for one year. If there are less than six candidates, there will not be an election and those persons will fill the routine vacancies of the Ordinary Members retiring in 2008.

## 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 23 April 2005. 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 23 April 2005.

## Required Programme for Election

### 12 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.

### 26 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.

### 23 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').

### 21 May

Voting slips will be sent out to all entitled members by this date.

### 18 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 26 March.

## Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2005

### Four Regional Members

Northern Ireland - HRM Bailie  
East Midlands - GV Barnard  
Scotland - TLW Kidner  
Southern - WO2 P Quilliam\*

### Five Ordinary Members

CAJ Oliver-Bellasis  
JPS Bloomfield  
Flt Lt DP Calvert  
Dr NG Jeffs  
JA McAllister\*

### Four Shooting Discipline Members

Match Rifle - AR Campbell-Smith\*  
Gallery Rifle & Pistol - N Jones  
300 Metres - I Shirra-Gibb  
Classic Arms - RHF Wills  
\* *not standing for re-election*

# NRA TRADE MEMBERS

## Robert George & Co Ltd

Involved in the manufacture and wholesale of firearms, also the storage and use of explosives for approximately 28 years, RFD 32 Northern Constabulary. Two contacts as regards firearms and explosives; Mr Robert Murphy and Mr Alan Hill. Require functions and testing of fullbore & small-bore weapons. Also actionising of shotguns.

Tigh-a-phuist, Lonbain, nr Applecross, Rossshire IV54 8XX  
Tel: 01520 744 399 Fax: 01520 744 422  
E-mail: robert.george@ndirect.co.uk

## Shooting Services

International standard target rifles and match rifles. Rebarreling and bedding. Ready proofed barrels kept in stock including Border and Krieger. Actively researching - and shooting - all calibres from 5.56mm upwards. Manufacturers of the famous AGR COBRA precision rearsight. Official stockists for RPA rifles and accessories. Shooting-based corporate entertainment.

144 Clarence Road, Fleet, Hants, GU51 3RS  
Tel: 44 (0) 1252 816188/811144 Fax: 44 (0) 1252 625980  
E-mail: Shootingservices@gifford-grant.com

## Alan D Wey & Co

Gun & Rifle maker. Manufacture, alteration and restoration of sporting guns and rifles. Best quality stocking, chequering and finishing. Sporting and precision rifles by Blaser, Sauer, Mauser and other leading brands. Blaser ammunition and accessories. Loading components, propellants, dies, lamping systems, moderators and knives.

120 Kings Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2RE  
Tel: 01932 881394 Fax: 01932 886218  
E-mail: ad.vey@virgin.net

## Second Chance Armour Ltd

Manufacturers of ballistic helmets and body armour.

5 Townsend Street, London SE17 1HJ  
Tel: 0207 703 1005 Fax: 0207 703 5505  
E-mail: barron@supanet.com

## Edgar Brothers

Largest UK importer; distributor and wholesaler of firearms, shotguns, ammunition, propellants, components, reloading equipment, mounts, scopes, knives torches and shooting accessories, with over 50 years experience of the shooting industry. Trade only supplied at Macclesfield, but please contact us at the following address for catalogues, other enquiries and the address of your nearest stockist.

Catherine Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6SG  
Tel: 01625 613177 Fax: 01625 615276

## Foxtrot Productions Limited

Foxtrot is Home Office authorised to provide full armoury services for film and television productions using Section Five firearms. We are BBC and Granada approved contractors. We provide full Health and Safety risk assessments and firearms training for actors and armourers.

222 Kensal Road, Kensington, London W10 5BN  
Tel: 020 8964 3555 Fax: 020 8960 0616 Mobile: 0780 141 8867

## Beechwood Equipment

UK distributors for the following:

SAN and SIG Sauer rifles and pistols, SAUER and BLASER hunting and target rifles. BENELLI shotguns. TRIJICON battery-free illuminated sights. HAKKO scopes and red-dot sights. EICKHORN knives and tools. Original MAUSER rifles. Examples of above rifles and shotguns may be seen at G Fulton & Son, Bisley Camp. New product - VERSAPOD bipods.

PO Box 162, Weybridge, Surrey, KN13 9PJ  
Tel: 01932 847365 Fax: 01932 853994  
E-mail: sales@beechwoodequipment.com

## Advanced Interactive Solutions Ltd

AIS Ltd is a leading provider of contemporary interactive training solutions to military, law enforcement, security, aviation and civil agencies.

AIS is internationally renowned for its ability to design, construct and deliver facilities and training. AIS combines its experience and depth of understanding of training challenges to transform your requirement into an enduring training solution to meet your training demands.

Gostrey House, Union Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PT  
Tel: 01252 725500 Fax: 01252 725266  
E-mail: marketing@ais-solutions.com

## HPS Target Rifles Ltd

HPS, Britain's premiere target rifle supplies company, are the developers and manufacturers of System Gemini smallbore and fullbore stocks and accessories and Target Master ammunition. From custom built rifles to range equipment and accessories, HPS offers the fullbore and smallbore shooter a variety of products and technical support and should be your first stop for all your shooting needs.

PO Box 308, Gloucester South, Gloucester GL2 2YF  
Tel: 01452 729888 Fax: 01452 729894  
E-mail: info@hps-tr.com Website: www.hps-tr.com

## Geometrotec Ltd

Commercial loading of ammunition for pistols, rifles, shotguns and weapons to 40mm. Shotgun cartridges for police and military use, including riot control. Project engineers for the design and manufacture of small arms ammunition and production facilities. Manufacturers of ceremonial blanks, 3pdr, 25pdr, 105mm.

See our web page at <http://www.geometrotec.com>

Great Western Road, Martock Industrial Estate,  
Martock, Somerset TA12 6HB  
Tel: 01935 823201 Fax: 01935 826208  
E-mail: sales@geometrotec.com

## Praetorian Associates

Threat awareness and protection; VIP protection; worldwide bodyguard and residential security; private aviation and maritime security; special action security; key holding; special assignment services; safety and survival; special action skills.

Suite 501, 2 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3DG  
Tel: 0208 923 9075 Fax: 0208 923 7177  
E-mail: info@praetorianasc.com  
Website: www.praetorianasc.com



## Perdix Firearms

Perdix Firearms is one of the UK's leading special effect firearms companies supplying feature films, television dramas and theatre productions of all sizes, with full Section 5 practical weapons or deactivated, replica or rubber copies.

High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6AT

Tel: 01722 782402

Fax: 01722 782790

E-mail: [perdix@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:perdix@eclipse.co.uk)

Website: [www.perdix.co.uk](http://www.perdix.co.uk)

## Pilgrims Specialist Training Ltd

Pilgrims Specialist Training Ltd provides hostile environment and medical training preparing delegates for dangerous assignments and potentially life-threatening situations.

3000 Hillswood Drive, Hillswood Business Park,  
Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0RS

Tel: 01932 879879

Fax: 01932 336330

E-mail: [jbe@pilgrimsgroup.com](mailto:jbe@pilgrimsgroup.com)

## THE NRA SHOOTING CLUB

*by Heather Webb, Membership Secretary*

The National Rifle Association is the governing body for fullbore target shooting as we all know. However it is also a Home Office Approved club, not necessarily such a well known fact. It was suggested that we organize a shooting club aimed primarily but not exclusively at new shooters, of any discipline, who don't already belong to a club, with a view to encouraging them to take part in competition shooting. To this end a small group of people are putting together a framework of what we wish to achieve.

All members of the NRA will automatically be members of the shooting club but only those that contact us will be put on the club's mailing list. We aim to provide practice sessions on a variety of ranges as well as arrange matches against other clubs.

Eventually we will have team captains for all disciplines who will organize both practice sessions and matches. The club will not be designed to take probationers as we already run those courses nor will there be any formal training, again, because we also run skills courses. However there will be help and advice available from more senior members, as in any other club.

We are looking to recruit help from those with expertise in the various disciplines as well as members from those who have completed their probationary course and anyone else who does not already fill their shooting time with other clubs.

Hopefully I will be able to tell you a lot more in the next Journal but if you are interested in being a part of the NRA Shooting Club then please contact me in the first instance on 01483 797777 ext 155 or by e-mail at [memsec@nra.org.uk](mailto:memsec@nra.org.uk). Progress will be reported in the Membership section of the website.



### If not, why not?

- Have we had your photo?
- Was your name and membership number on the back?
- Do we know what your first name is?

If you have answered a definite YES to these questions then please contact me and I will try to work out what has gone wrong and put it right.

If any of the answers were NO then please action these points so that I can complete your membership.

**THERE ARE STILL MANY MEMBERSHIP CARDS AWAITING EITHER PHOTOS OR NAMES. IS YOURS ONE OF THEM?**

*This message has been brought to you by your friendly and approachable Membership Secretary.*

Heather Webb

01483 797777 ext 155 [memsec@nra.org.uk](mailto:memsec@nra.org.uk)

## MEMBERS' PAGE

### Website Feedback

One of the features of our new websites has been the opportunity to leave feedback for various members of staff. Despite several indications on the websites that we are based in the UK a few of our American friends have left messages for us. Some of the more interesting ones have been reproduced verbatim below.

*I can't find any thing about the NRA.*

• • •

*Just a quick question. When I renewed my membership early under one of your promotions, I was promised a NRA watch as an insentive offer. I have since received my new membership card but no watch. Has it been shipped and lost or am mistaken about the offer that was made?*

• • •

*I need to find legal help for my son-in-law concerning his guns being taken away by the police due to the fact his brother is a known felon. My son in law is a life member of the NRA, and a former olympic shooter, and won a first place in Italy, making him a world champion. Please reply as we need all the help we can get .*

• • •

*Dear sir, I am hoping that you can help in anyway my friend who resides temporarily in xxxxx. Her husband is stationed there in "Special Forces" training. Here is her story as I understand it. Last June she, her husband, and some friends were playing pool when some young men entered the establishment. They made a rude comment , but nothing else happened until my friends exited. Then one guy grabbed her, and two others (the way I understand it) began beating her husband. She was injured, but managed to break away. She rummaged through her purse and pulled out a handgun, asked them to stop kicking her husband in the head but they would not. She fired and one young man died. She was arrested, put under arrest, made to wear an ankle bracelet that she is still*

*saddled with. Has been indicted for second degree murder. Her trial I'm told will be June 2005. The perpetrators who have gang ties and previous records have never been charged. Her husband is still having operations as his injuries were many. She is pregnant and due in March. If you have any information what could help this 25 year old woman please contact me.*

• • •

*Re: The UN's up-coming push for universal anti-gun legislation. Action Item: The NRA needs to take a survey of 200 off-the-street American citizens from downtown Podunk, and another of 200 Iraqi insurgents to determine what number out of each group would be willing to give up their guns to comply with such a UN mandate.*

• • •

*I JUST HEARD ABOUT A GROUP IN CALIFORINA TRYING TO HAVE ALL GUNS BANNED, THE ONLY PEOPLE ALLOWED TO HAVE GUNS WOULD BE THE POLICE! If that is true than the NRA and every shooting club in the U.S. needs to get together and start a web site, that will publish the names of the anti gun people. So that the crimnal element in this country know who's door to knock on. That's right a list of the unarmed!!! Quit playing games with these people!*

• • •

*My dear brothers in arms, Keep the faith! No one would ever have beleaved "the wall" would come down, and here we are now in "The States" with C.C.W. laws in almost all the states. We have Faith in our great friends, the "Britts", The Men who whipped the axis powers, will never be beaten by a handfull of cowardly, quisling, bureaucrats! Yours in self-defense*

• • •

*Other feedback has included a request to replace our President with the actor Tom Selleck. However we are not anticipating a vote at the Bisley General Meeting between His Royal Highness and the moustachioed star of Magnum PI!*

## JEREMY STAPLES SENT TO INVESTIGATE NEPALESE ABLUTION BLOCKS!

*Well not quite true but it makes a good headline!*

NSC Managing Director Jeremy Staples is just about to undertake the Everest Wilderness Trek to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. The trek is led by Doug Scott over six days, trekking for six hours a day up to heights of 13,600 feet.

Premature death from heart disease kills 36% of men and 27% of women in the UK and the numbers are rising. The British Heart Foundation isn't just about medical research; it also strives to educate the public, provides advice to health professionals and specialist equipment to hospitals and emergency services. If you would like to support Jeremy in his quest to raise thousands to help fight heart disease please send pledges or donations to Jeremy Staples, National Shooting Centre, Bisley, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0PB. Cheques should be made payable to British Heart Foundation and Gift Aid relief can be arranged.

We all have family, friends or fellow shooters who have been affected by heart disease so please support Jeremy and this worthy cause.

*The photograph opposite has been cleverly Photoshopped to demonstrate how Jeremy might look halfway up Everest. However Jeremy might like to note that he is probably going to need slightly warmer clothing!*







# NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE, BISLEY

The National Shooting Centre at Bisley stretches over 3000 acres of unspoilt Surrey countryside and is only 40 minutes from London. Bisley has been the home of shooting since 1890.

**Why not book a Corporate Hospitality Day? We can offer:**

**Tailor made shooting days / half days in multi disciplines**

**One to one tuition in all shooting disciplines**

**Non shooting Team Building Events**

**On site catering in one of 25 clubhouses**

**Conferencing, Meeting and Accommodation facilities**

**Ideal site for Rallies and Exhibitions**

## **GREAT DAYS OUT AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS BISLEY RANGES**

For further information please contact Sarah Bunch

Tel 01483 797777 ext 122

E-mail [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk)

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

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

# PHOENIX MEETING 2005

**An Annual Celebration of Shooting Sports**

**27 - 29 May 2005**

**Events will be held  
for the following  
disciplines**

Shotgun  
McQueen  
Air Pistol  
.303" Rifle  
F Class Rifle  
Gallery Rifle  
Sporting Rifle  
Long Range Pistol  
Muzzleloading Pistol  
Light Weight Sport Rifle  
Long Barrelled Revolver & Pistol



**All the usual  
competitions  
including:**

1500  
Bianchi  
Advancing Target  
Timed and Precision  
Speed Steel Challenge

**New for this year:**

CPSA Registered Down the Line  
Hunter Field Target for Air Rifles  
100 & 200 Yards Solid Slug Shoot

**Entry forms available from the NRA Offices or can be downloaded from**

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

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



# FIRING ANYTHING MORE ACCURATE WOULD REQUIRE A LAUNCH CODE

Year after year Remington continues its extraordinary pace of introducing the most advanced, most innovative ammunition products in the industry. As always, you can expect more from Remington. And as always, Remington will deliver.

The new Remington Premier AccuTip is the ultimate mid-size big game cartridge on the market. Featuring a precision-engineered polymer tip bullet designed for match-grade accuracy it offers an unprecedented combination of super-flat trajectory.

Whatever the situation, Remington has the ammunition for you, with the accuracy you need, when you need it.



Heather Close · Lyme Green Business Park  
Macclesfield · SK11 0LR  
tel 01625 613177  
fax 01625 615276  
[www.edgar-brothers.co.uk](http://www.edgar-brothers.co.uk)  
Edgar Brothers are trade only



**Edgar Brothers**