



# National Rifle Association Journal

Summer 2005

Volume LXXXIV

Number 2



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**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  
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

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*Cover photo: Shooting the 200 yards stage of the Sporting Rifle competition during the Phoenix Meeting. Photo by Richard Atkins.*

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# NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by  
*Glynn  
Alger*

## **Representation and the National Rifle Association**

The National Rifle Association has shown itself willing to embrace any number of shooting disciplines over the years. At present nine shooting disciplines are represented and supported. Despite this the Association still suffers from the perception that the NRA is run by and for the benefit of target rifle shooters in the south-east. That may have been the case but no more.

It has been an ambition for some time that the management tiers of the NRA should be more representative of all disciplines and regions of the country. In an effort to achieve this, the Association has structured itself to deliver this aim.

**The Council** is the executive body that makes all the policy decisions on behalf of the charity.

The Shooting and Membership Committees advise and make recommendations to Council.

**The Shooting Committee** has a representative from each discipline so that the views of each are represented.

**The Membership Committee** consists of the Regional Representatives, who express the concerns and views of members nationally.

The Chairmen of both Committees sit on the Council as Trustees of the National Rifle Association.

**The General Council** is made up of both the major Committees plus other elected members whose sole purpose is to represent the membership, monitoring and advising Council on their policy decisions.

Thus the members are intrinsically involved in formulating Association policy through the Committees and ensuring the decisions on policy and the processes followed are correct.

Latterly this has resulted in a fundamental change in direction for the organisation, away from 'Bisley

Shooters Club' to a recognition that the Association needs to deliver nationally in support of all target sports shooters.

Hence we now see the National Rifle Association trying to drive a national agenda to safeguard our sport, looking principally to gain a positive relationship with Government, to create the opportunities for a single national target shooting body, to revise membership conditions to make it more attractive to be a member of the Association and to safeguard our sport through reaching agreement with the MoD in the short term while delivering on a national range strategy in the longer term.

When the National Rifle Association has finalised its strategy on all of these issues we will publish our intentions with time scales in the Journal, national shooting publications and on our website.

I must say that in the future, with the Association taking on a genuine national role, we hope to see all of the shooting disciplines and regions of the country fully and vigorously represented.

## **The Regions**

The Association cannot function purely from Bisley and hope realistically to deliver on behalf of a wider and hopefully increasing membership without more help in the regions.

Eventually we are going to need a support structure that is not purely dependent upon single regional representatives. What this will look like I do not know at this stage or even if region is the correct structure - views please.

What I do know is that to deliver on future strategies, we will need the ability to interface directly with members, politicians, the police, MoD/Landmarc and local authorities 'at the coal-face'. In terms of functions we need to prepare ourselves to deal with range development, promotion of strategies and membership and local delivery of services.

In this way not only can we deliver on services locally but the regions will have the opportunity to make a real impact on thinking at the centre.

If you have an interest in safeguarding shooting for the future please contact your regional representative either via the website or by contacting Membership on 01483 797777 ext 155 who will put you in touch.

## **Ranges**

There is a lot of dissatisfaction from clubs because of the pricing structure the MoD and Landmarc have introduced over the past two years. In addition, a number of clubs are complaining of the way they are treated on various issues.

It has become apparent that part of the problem is that the MoD contract with Landmarc places no obligation to provide services for civilian clubs when using ranges. That translates itself in various ways, where

clubs find their fees inflated by various means, such as additional range wardens being employed, administration fees on top of the licensing fee or a generally obstructive manner.

The quality of service and approach however does vary from range to range being very dependent upon either the regional manager or individual wardens.

The Association has disputed these issues with the MoD and will continue to do so.

At a strategic level we intend to negotiate a position with the MoD whereby the position of the clubs is regularised, hopefully getting some kind of contractual agreement.

### **Customer Service Survey**

To assist our negotiations we intend to carry out a customer service survey with our 750 clubs to assess the level of dissatisfaction and identify the problem areas. We can then fully represent the views of our clubs and members.

### **Safety Certification of Civilian Ranges**

Over two years ago a meeting involving Home Office, MoD, Military, Police, HSE, the NSRA and NRA took place to decide who would be responsible in future for inspection and certification of civilian ranges.

It was agreed at that meeting between all the parties that the authority would move from the Army to the NSRA and NRA.

The only action that needed to occur to ratify the agreement was a letter from each of the MoD and the Home Office.

Recently, following a letter to each of the Government Ministers concerned, we were contacted by the Home Office who verbally confirmed the agreement, with letters to follow.

This authority is crucial to the future of shooting in that it allows the National Bodies to set the safety standards for ranges on the basis of what type of shooting will take place there, rather than the MoD template, which sets requirements far higher than are necessarily needed for civilian target shooting.

The adoption of a civilian template gives the Associations the potential to reopen closed ranges or build new at a much lower cost when compared with military standards, whilst maintaining appropriate safety conditions on a range-by-range basis.

### **Preparing for the Future**

As you are all probably aware by now it is the long-term strategy of the Association to create a national range structure not totally dependent upon the MoD facilities.

The recent meeting of the Council decided it was time to set up a Working Party to look at how the NRA can deliver on the strategy. This group needs to reflect

the skills needed to deliver in terms of finance, property development, quantity surveying, range building and safety requirements.

Through the Working Party, a detailed strategic plan is being developed to enable shooters to take advantage of potential opportunities that may arise in the near future.

The current defence estates review is likely to lead to a rationalisation of military facilities, which would include ranges or training areas. The plan to dispose of military property will be finalised by early next year with facilities being made available for sale from April 2006.

The Association and Clubs must be prepared to take advantage of the right opportunities as they arise. **Fail to Plan – Plan to Fail**

It is essential to be in a position to evaluate feasibility, usage and financial viability quickly plus be in a position to bid on the properties being offered, if they meet the correct criteria.

Clubs, as well as the Association, need to keep abreast of what is coming onto the market so that opportunities are not missed.

It is the intention of the Association to work in partnership with its clubs sharing responsibility for managing projects and finance. Hopefully clubs are willing to work co-operatively to help finance and eventually manage a range?

The future's bright if we work together!

### **The Midlands**

The good news is that after extended negotiations the three ranges that were closed in the Midlands last summer have reopened.

This was achieved by an amendment to the instructions given to GOCs relating to Dispensated Ranges, allowing civilians to shoot on MoD ranges, which was not the case formerly.

The decision has national implications in that it clarifies the position of civilian shooters on all dispensated ranges, recognising that prone target shooting is generally safer than the military skill at arms training.

Onwards and Upwards!

### **Membership Update**

For the first time in a number of years the membership of the Association is beginning to grow. This has been achieved by improving services, advertising and letting the potential membership know what our future intentions are. If every current member introduced one new member, the Association would be in the position to buy two ranges similar to Pilning or, if a shared purchase with the clubs, four new ranges in the next year. This would of course be a year-on-year situation.

## **NRA General Council Elections**

### **Results**

Nominations closed on 23 April 2005. The following were elected or re-elected unopposed:

### **Shooting Discipline Members**

Match Rifle	Alex Cargill-Thompson	Elected
GR & Pistol	Charles Murton	Elected
300 Metres	Ian Shirra-Gibb	Re-elected
Classic Arms	Rae Wills	Re-elected

### **Regional Members**

N Ireland	Richard Bailie	Re-elected
East Midlands	George Barnard	Re-elected
Southern	Steven East	Elected
Scotland	Tim Kidner	Re-elected

### **Ordinary Members**

Eight nominations were received for the six vacancies (five Ordinary vacancies and one Casual vacancy as reported on page 61 in the Spring 2005 NRA Journal). Voting papers have been sent to all those eligible to vote and must be returned by 18:00 on 18 July.

### **Chairmanship of Shooting Committee**

Dr Paul Monaghan has been elected as Chairman of the Shooting Committee.

### **Team Captaincies**

Congratulations to Mik Maksimovic and his expeditionary force for taking the first Great Britain F Class team to South Africa.

We send our best wishes for success to

Reg Roberts	Great Britain Team to Australia
Paul Wheeler	Great Britain Under 25 Team to Australia
Keith Pugh	Kolapore, Bisley
Richard Jeens	Under 25 Team, Bisley

### **Procedure for Selection of Team Captains**

The International Programme is agreed by Council following recommendation from the Team Finance Sub-Committee via Shooting Committee.

This prompts a request for nominations for team captains in the Journal.

Nominations plus CVs of the candidates are then sent to the Secretary General.

Nominations are reviewed by Council.

Nominations are then considered by the appropriate shooting discipline sub-committee for them to recommend or endorse (if only one nomination) for the information of Council.

The Council then considers and endorses the recommendation of the shooting discipline sub-committee if considered appropriate.

### **Election of Team Captains**

Stuart Collings has been selected for the position of Great Britain Captain for the Woomera Match (Match Rifle) being held on Thursday 13 July 2006 at Bisley. Applications for this team should be sent to Stuart as soon as possible.

Martin Townsend has been selected as Captain and given permission to take a team to Canada in 2006 in preparation for the Palma Match in 2007.

### **Nominations for Team Captains**

Nominations are requested for the following team captaincies by 31 July 2005:

2006 GB Kolapore Team – Friday 21 July

2006 GB Under 25 Team Match – Friday 21 July

2007 GB Veterans Team to the World Long Range Championships in Ottawa, Canada August 2007

2007 GB Under 25 Team to the World Long Range Championships in Ottawa, Canada August 2007

### **General Notices**

#### **NRA Bisley General Meeting**

The 2005 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 21:00 on Wednesday 20 July 2005.

#### **Special General Meeting**

There will be a Special General Meeting of the Association to be held in the Umbrella Tent on Wednesday, 20 July 2005 at 21:00, immediately prior to the Bisley General Meeting.

A separate Notice with Agenda and Explanatory Letter is enclosed with this Journal; kindly bring this with you for the purposes of the Meeting.

The principal purpose of the Special General Meeting is to change the rules to facilitate the change of accounting year end to 31 December. This will bring the accounting year into line with the membership year and the shooting season. It will also facilitate end of year accounting and forward planning in the winter months, when there is less going on.

#### **Beating of Retreat**

All members are invited to attend the traditional ceremony of the Beating of Retreat by the Band of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This will be held on the evening of Wednesday 6 July starting at 20:45 on the Exhibition Lawn.

#### **Imperial Meeting Prize Givers**

ISCRM	Lt Gen J McColl CBE DSO
TASAM	Maj Gen AP Farquhar CBE
Ashburton	Lord Ashburton
Imperial	Mick Gault

## Talking to Government

The National Rifle Association is very conscious of its obligations to its members and their sport. In an effort to prompt some debate in government circles about a sensible way forward for shooting, the Association placed the following article in the Parliamentary House Magazine. This article would have been read by most MPs and Peers in the weeks immediately following the election. If we cannot persuade all politicians to support our sport they must at least understand what we do, avoiding speculation and misinformation.

ADVERTORIAL

# The National Rifle Association The Need for Change!



## The Association

Founded in 1860, the National Rifle Association is the original governing body for rifle and pistol target shooting in the United Kingdom. It is based at the world famous National Shooting Centre at Bisley in Surrey. As such, with our sister organisations the National Small-bore Rifle Association and Clay Pigeon Shooting Association we provide governance, promotion, assistance with training and selection of international teams for the Olympics, World, Commonwealth and European championships.

Great Britain has been one of the most successful nations in international target shooting over the last 50 years. In the 2002 Commonwealth Games held in England, there were 40 target shooting events in which Great Britain competitors won 8 gold medals and 17 silver and bronze.

The Association is a charity whose aim is to support the armed services by promoting marksmanship in the United Kingdom, particularly for cadets and the civilian sport of target shooting at home and internationally.

Politically, the National Rifle Association does not support calls for the right to carry firearms for self-defence. We do support the use and ownership of firearms for target shooting purposes.

## Target Shooting

Target shooting is a sport for civilians where shooters fire at inanimate bull's eye style paper targets or clay tiles (clay pigeons).

Due to governance and regulation shooting has proved to be one of the safest sports according to insurers.

Infringement of safety or codes of conduct can result in governing bodies or clubs punishing those concerned by way of reprimands, fines, suspensions or even banning through its Disciplinary Committee. (Obviously, a legal infringement would be reported to the police with whom the Association has a good working relationship)

Target shooting does not discriminate on race, religion, age, sex or disability, allowing all to compete on equal terms. It is truly an inclusive sport. In the 2004 Bisley Meeting (national championships), 14 year old school cadets shot next to 80+ year old veterans. Foreign shooters from 13 countries including Kenya, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, Trinidad, France, Belgium and Germany competed as teams and individuals with contestants from the Home Nations.

Target Shooting is a sport that allows individuals to be involved all their lives. As infirmities develop shooting disciplines have developed using telescopes, supports and other equipment that allow them to continue in their chosen sport.

Young people in particular benefit from being involved in shooting more than any other group, in that they learn about the value of belonging to a club or team, safety, rules, discipline and responsibility to each other and the community, more so than in most other sports.

## After Dunblane

Following the tragedy of Dunblane, those who took part in target shooting, using pistols, saw their sport outlawed in 1997. They felt as though they were collectively blamed for what happened, being convicted and punished for a failure by the authorities.

Pistols were banned in an effort to reduce the potential for armed crime. Unfortunately this thinking was flawed in that there has never been a proven connection between licensed ownership of firearms and criminal use. Having destroyed all the legally owned pistols, we have all witnessed an alarming rise in the criminal use of firearms, completely unconnected to the licensed community.

However, despite there being an absence of link between crime and licensed use there has been a proliferation of legislation, guidance and proposals to make the ownership of firearms for sporting purposes increasingly difficult for the law abiding sportsman and woman, while failing to deal with criminal use.

Rifles or pistols used in target sports are either historic or very technical in design, mostly single shot and highly undesirable as a fashion item in criminal circles. Legitimate sports people are thus very confused about the continuing drive to constrain their sport.

Another consequence of the current pistol ban is that our highly successful international sportsmen and women have been unable to train in mainland Britain. This has had an adverse effect on our success internationally, first felt in the Olympic Games 2000. It also has the potential to adversely affect the bid for London 2012.

## The Way Forward

The National Rifle Association wants to work with Government to help create an environment where sports shooting can flourish.

This could best be achieved by a fundamental change of firearms legislation to make it less complex and more focussed in relation to public safety concerns.

The Association would like to see key changes in legislation where there is a refocusing away from the technicalities of firearms to dealing with:

**Licensing the person** to use a firearm should be treated in much the same way as licensing someone to drive a car. In that the individual undertakes a course of instruction demonstrating their skills and suitability, resulting in the issue of a license to own and shoot firearms.

**Registration of Firearms** would allow the movement of firearms while being constantly monitored, ensuring that guns and ammunition are legally disposed of and obtained while reducing bureaucracy.

**A National Firearms Licensing Agency** needs to be created to manage all safety and licensing requirement to ensure an efficient, co-ordinated and consistent approach nationally, leaving the police to concentrate on their core role of crime reduction.

**Sporting Pistols** that come within the rules of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) should be reinstated. This would allow those competing in Commonwealth, Olympic and World Championships to train in the UK.

The National Rifle Association offers an open invitation to all members of Parliament to visit Bisley, experience what target shooting is all about, how regulated and safe it is. Were you to take up this offer you would find that people who shoot come from all walks of life, are law abiding and normal.

What they want in their lives is some certainty and a future for their sport.

Glynn Alger  
Secretary General  
National Rifle Association  
National Shooting Centre  
Bisley  
Brookwood  
Surrey GU24 0PB  
Tel. 01483 797777  
Email [secgen@nra.org.uk](mailto:secgen@nra.org.uk)  
[www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)

## Lost in Scotland

My flight to Scotland had been delayed due to heavy snow. I was thus expecting to go straight to my hotel to get ready for the imminent regional meeting.

My host insisted that if we made a minor diversion we could visit a newly constructed range just outside Edinburgh. Even though reticent I agreed. Woe is me!

We drove out of the city, experiencing heavy snow fall and deteriorating roads. However, despite having reservations, being a 'southern softie' I had a high degree of respect for the knowledge and skills of my companion, who because he was Scots, I had attributed survival skills second to none.

An hour after leaving the airport we turned down an off-road track. By the way, an English hour is only thirty minutes in Scotland. Despite being in a vehicle built by Landrover and being accompanied by the Scottish equivalent of Sir Ranulph Fiennes, my feelings of trepidation grew. The snow was getting deeper and was drifting due to high winds, while my carriage found it increasingly difficult to maintain grip.

Being the typical stoic Englishman I said nothing. Signs of civilisation disappeared as we drove down the glen. Apart from the odd sheep there was little or no other company. After four miles and a number of farm gates, which required one to fall into two feet of snow to open and shut them, we found ourselves on the crest of a hill looking down at the new range, which was almost invisible to the eye, due to heavy snow being blown horizontally in the wind. At this stage I nervously made the point that if we went further we would need to go down a hill which we almost certainly could not get up again.

My host pandering to the concerns of a southern wimp agreed to go no further. Instead with unbridled enthusiasm he described to me in great detail the construction and benefits of the new range of which we could see nothing.

On completing a speech that Macbeth would have been proud of, my friend decided he ought to get me back to the hotel as time was short.

I counselled caution in that the rough track, on which we sat, sloped steeply upward on one side and downward on the other not giving enough room to turn around. I advised that in my opinion we should reverse to a turning place. Therein lay my mistake in that I failed to give precise directions, thus what followed was my fault.

My expectation was that we would reverse approximately 200 yards to a junction. Wrong! After 50 yards the slope on either side began to level out. Suddenly my colleague spun the wheel reversing us straight into a snow drift. We then pulled forward into another, with the front bumper up against a fence post.

For the next five minutes we rocked backwards and forwards broadside to the track, digging ever deeper into the drift. The first attempt at extraction involved the

rubber car mats which were jammed under the wheels. The engine was gunned, gear engaged, wheels spun at speed, mats shot 30 yards through the air down the slope.

I said, very unwisely as it turned out, that I thought we needed to dig ourselves out, "where's the shovel". The reply came in a very calm Scottish brogue "Ah, well I cleaned the car out last week and . . .".

At this point I have to point out I was dressed to attend a meeting in business suit and brogues, my only concession to inclement weather being a car coat.

As I had taken control of the situation I now felt duty bound to deliver. I had seen a crofter's cottage some 300 yards back down the track. Off I strode with the snow coming up to my knees, wind whistling around my ears, too worried to think about how cold it was.

I staggered to the front porch of the croft. No lights were on. No sign of life. At this low point I had a brain wave, mobile phone. Wrong again! No signal.

Having taken command I was not in a position to admit defeat as the Secretary General. Off I staggered, slipping and sliding in increasingly worse conditions towards a house some half a mile away.

When I got to the house I was by this stage getting desperate, being worried, wet and cold. Alas again there was no one at home. I prowled around the outside of the house in frustration, muttering oaths which got lost in the gale now blowing.

Next to the back door I discovered treasure, a shovel.

Feeling the warmth of achievement I staggered back up the track into the teeth of a fierce headwind eventually reaching my Scottish friend, who had been busy in my absence, digging our chariot even deeper into the drift.

In pure desperation and panic I began to dig, moving an incredible amount of compacted snow from under and around the Landrover over the next half an hour, eventually reaching the track surface upon which the car could regain traction.

To cut a long story short, we got back on track. I slumped into the front passenger seat, having, despite the conditions, worked up a sweat. I was breathing heavily and felt exhausted from the effort and panic. At which stage my compatriot muttered the immortal words "do you suffer from a heart condition". I don't know what I looked like but 'death warmed up' comes to mind.

The odd thing was, what had transpired was not mentioned from that point on or on any occasion we have met since. It was as though it had never happened and was just a bad dream.

Finally, I did get to the meeting. As I sat there I was aware of some odd looks. It had all been such a rush that I had not changed. My shoes and trousers were soaked. It was warm in the meeting room. I was steaming!

Oh to visit Scotland in the summer!



# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



by  
*Martin  
Farnan*

## Imperial Meeting

### Free Grand Aggregate Entries

Secretaries of affiliated County Associations are reminded of the free entry to the Grand Aggregate. This should be awarded not as a prize, but to someone who would not otherwise be able to attend the Imperial Meeting and, ideally, who has not attended previously. A County Association must first clear with the NRA Secretary General any exceptional reasons for allocating the free entry.

### Early Entry Draw

The winners in the Early Entry Draw, for those competitors who returned their entry form (amounting to £50 or more) by 1 May, were as follows:

1st	Cadet AW Davies	Comp No 65 (100% refund of entry fees)
2nd	AW Lothian	Comp No 42 (50% refund of entry fees)
3rd	B Gower	Comp No 438 (25% refund of entry fees)

These refunds apply to entry fees (including the 4% obligatory surcharge) only, and not to meeting membership, marker fees, sweepstakes or any other payments made on the Individual Entry Form.

### Changes

Most of the changes affecting this year's Imperial Meeting were detailed in my notes in the Spring Journal, but there have inevitably been a number of last minute changes which are detailed below.

### Target Rifle

The cash prizes to be awarded for the Daily Telegraph will revert to List A with effect from this year.

The Barlow, the Stickledown and the Howard Wilkinson will now be shot in single details on Second Thursday, Friday and Saturday respectively. The Queen's Consolation may be shot in one or two details depending on the number of entries.

A consequence of the fact that the Stickledown will now be one detail only, is that a member who is nominated to shoot for a lady and who wishes to shoot under his or her own name must obtain two squadding cards from the Front Counter and will have to shoot twice, consecutively, with a register keeper.

The timings of certain competitions have had to be adjusted to accommodate the Chairman's Prize. Full details are contained in the "Bisley Bible" but the main changes are as follows:

- a the Kolapore and all associated competitions will now start at 08:00
- b the St George's Second Stage will start at 12:45
- c the Queen's Second Stage will start at 15:15 and will run until approximately 18:00. Tie shoots, presentation of Queen's 100 badges and collection of Stage III squadding cards will therefore not take place until after that time.

### Astor Trophy Match

Club Secretaries are reminded that, as from this year, the top scoring three teams in the qualifying stage of the Astor County Championship will also be eligible to compete in the Final, which will be held on the morning of First Friday 15 July. In accordance with the present conditions the qualifying rounds have to be completed by 30 June. The Secretaries of clubs which have scored highly but have not won their County heat should note that this may only allow two weeks notice of their right to compete in the Astor Final at Bisley. To date (1 June) the lowest qualifying best loser score is 581. Any enquiries should be directed to the Director of Shooting.

### The Parting Shot

As a consequence of the introduction of the Chairman's Prize it has been necessary to change the match conditions of the Parting Shot. This competition will now be shot at 500 yards only, each of the five firers shooting 2 sighters and 15 shots to count. The team entry fee has been adjusted to take account of the reduced number of shots.

### Match Rifle

Rule 156 was amended this year in connection with the weight of a match rifle barrel. For the avoidance of doubt the wording has been amended to read "Any rifle suitable for firing the 7.62 x 51mm NATO or .308 Winchester cartridge of standard dimensions, the barrel of which, **including any device which is permanently attached**, shall not exceed 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs) in weight".

### F Class

#### Issued Ammunition F Class

Last year this new division of F Class was introduced for the Imperial Meeting and those who entered were most enthusiastic. This is a reminder that it is not too late to think about it for this year. All you need is a

.308" (or 5.56mm) rifle, a telescope sight and a bipod or front rest. You will also benefit from having a rear sandbag for supporting the butt. If it all sounds too easy, remember, the wind is still there and of course, the standard is high. If you want advice about rests and bags etc, but do not know an F Class shooter, contact the NRA staff and they will put you in contact with the F Class representative on General Council who will be happy to help.

### **Gallery Rifle & Pistol**

Most of the Gallery Rifle and Pistol events will remain as last year and will again be held on Melville Range only from First Wednesday to Second Wednesday inclusive. Some new matches and additional classes have been introduced and some of the qualifying scores for medals have been amended in view of the number qualifying for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals during the past few years.

### **Rifle Safety**

#### **Paramount/RPA Rifles**

Owners of Paramount and RPA rifles may be aware of the incidents which occurred in Australia earlier this year involving the initiation of cartridges which were not fully chambered. The investigations conducted appear to indicate that two piece firing pins may be part of the cause in one instance, and wear inside the bolt in another. Paramount and RPA owners may like to contact their dealers to have these components checked.

### **Ranges**

#### **Mounting of Targets in the Butts**

Markers provided through the NSC are trained, assessed and 'passed out' as competent markers before being allowed to mount, dismount or mark targets on their own. Many individuals and clubs, however, provide their own markers (and indeed are encouraged to do so). It is a fact, however, that these markers may be marking for the first time and, while the marking may be relatively simple, the mounting and dismounting of the targets in the frames may not be so well understood.

You will find enclosed within this Journal a sheet, illustrated with diagrams, explaining how to mount, operate and dismount a target on Century or Short Siberia ranges. These instructions are also affixed to the rear walls of the markers' gallery, and they should be studied and complied with by all markers.

Briefly, the targets are retained in the frame by three fixtures:

- a the top retaining block behind which the top of the target is inserted, and which prevents the target moving upwards;
- b the 'turnbuckles' which retain the feet of the target, and which prevent the target moving or falling downwards or outwards from the frame;

- c the 'stop blocks' which prevent the target moving to the left or the right.

If any of these safety features is missing, the target should not be used and the matter should be reported at once to the Range Office. In addition, once the target has been mounted and the turnbuckles turned to lock the feet of the target in place, the whole target should then be tested by attempting to lift it upwards to confirm that it is securely retained by the fixtures mentioned above.

### **Snail Bullet Trap**

The Snail Bullet Trap, installed on the right hand side of the Zero Range, may be used for 'blow off' or fouling shots or running in a new barrel etc. This will therefore allow competitors to 'blow off' before matches during the Imperial Meeting without having to lie down on a firing point. This will make the process quicker, easier and allow full use of the Zero Range for those wishing to check their sight settings. Please read and comply with the printed instructions displayed alongside the Trap. Large or expensive foresights should be removed to prevent damage, and the rifle must be firmly controlled when firing to ensure that the barrel does not recoil upwards.

### **Third Party Public Liability Insurance Cover**

Full individual members of the NRA are automatically covered by the NRA Insurance Policy which covers individual insurance, their equipment and also third party public liability. Members of affiliated clubs, who are not individual members of the NRA, using Bisley Ranges, should confirm that they are covered by their own Club's Insurance Policy and that this also covers them for Third Party Liability. If this is not the case, then the names of those firers who are not covered for Third Party Liability must be given to the Range Office before firing commences. They will then be covered by a special policy taken out by the NRA.

### **Compliance with the Firearms Act**

A number of instances have recently been observed where parents have been letting their children (or firers have been letting their friends) 'have a go' with their firearms where the children or friends were not covered by the Firearms Act. You are reminded that this practice is illegal, and the parent or firer concerned could well have his or her FAC revoked as a consequence. Remember that letting others (unless FAC holders, being Probationary Members of a Club or attending Guest or Open Days) simply 'have a go' is forbidden by law.

### **Insurance of Club Officials and Club Markers**

Club Secretaries should be aware that if they are supplying their own markers or range officials these should be included in the Club Insurance policy taken out by the Club. They are not covered by the NRA Insurance Policy (since they are not acting on behalf of the NRA). In cases where Clubs appoint their own

officials or markers, they are advised to take out Employers' Liability Insurance as part of their insurance package with Aston Brown (previously Graham Brown of Dorking) Insurers.

### **Weekday Markers**

Club Secretaries and individuals making bookings for targets on weekdays are reminded that markers can only be supplied if they are available. Most of our markers are school children and are therefore generally not available on weekdays (school holidays excepted, of course). All those making weekday bookings should therefore be aware that the NRA will probably only be able to provide a limited number of markers on weekdays and that they should be prepared to arrange their own markers, particularly if a large number of targets has been booked.

### **Payment of Markers**

For the avoidance of doubt, I should like to confirm that if shooting has to be curtailed or cancelled for any reason outside the NRA's control (eg wind or other extreme weather or fire in the Danger Area), all markers which have been booked by the NRA on behalf of any club or individual will still be paid for the duty for which they were booked. Not to do so would be effectively breaking a contract with the marker(s) concerned.

For this reason those clubs or individuals who have booked markers will still be required to pay for them. The NSC may reduce or cancel the target hire charge(s) depending on the reason for the curtailment or cancellation of shooting.

### **Breaches of safety**

Please be aware that any breach of safety will probably lead to a suspension of the right to shoot on the Bisley Ranges until the incident has been thoroughly investigated. This is due to the potential safety implications and attendant NRA liability of allowing someone to continue shooting (or acting as an RCO) where there may be doubts about his or her safety or competence on a range. Please be aware that alleged incidents or breaches of safety need not have happened at Bisley, but could happen on any range throughout the UK.

### **Ammunition Sales**

Club secretaries are reminded that all orders for ammunition will only be accepted if made in writing. Arrangements may, of course, be made verbally or by telephone but must be confirmed in writing before the order will be processed.

### **The European Short Range Championships**

As already notified in the Spring Journal we intend to run a European Short Range Championship over the weekend 15/16 October on American 'Short Range' (at 300 yards) and 'Mid Range' (at 500 & 600 yards) targets. The match conditions will be similar to the

Palma course of fire, ie 2 sighters and 15 to count per firer at each distance. No such team competition on these targets has ever been held at Bisley, and I hope that the Home Countries and all other eligible teams will wish to compete. Country Team Captains are asked to contact the Director of Shooting for further information.

### **The 2005 Ages Match**

The 2004 Ages Match was held last October on the same weekend as the NCSC Fireworks Display, and teams attended from all six age groups. All the teams concerned commented on how enjoyable the weekend had been, particularly the fireworks, the buffet dinners and the disco on the Saturday evening. It was said to be "the perfect end-of-season fun weekend".

It has therefore been decided that another Ages Match will be held over the weekend 29/30 October 2005. Teams will be of 12 firers, and the proposed match conditions are a Queen's II on Saturday afternoon followed by a reduced Palma course (900 and 1000 yards only) on the Sunday morning. The age brackets are:

- a under 25 years of age;
- b between 25 and 35 years of age;
- c between 35 and 45 years of age;
- d between 45 and 55 years of age;
- e between 55 and 65 years of age;
- f over 65 years of age.

Those who wish to be considered for the appropriate team, dependent on age, should write to me giving their full name, contact details, date of birth and whether you would be prepared to Captain or be an officer of the appropriate Ages team.

### **Range Office**

#### **Opening hours**

May I remind you that the Range Office is closed on Mondays and no staff are on duty to take bookings.

#### **VAT payable by Associations**

Secretaries of Associations which are affiliated to the NRA are again reminded that all range bookings made by them are subject to VAT, unlike bookings made by Clubs. The reason is that whereas Clubs pay a 'per capita' charge, Associations do not and only pay a fixed sum. The NRA must therefore remit VAT on all bookings made by Associations and must therefore charge it accordingly.

### **Members' Enquiries**

#### **Booking In**

It is obligatory that all Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) sign in at the Range Office before going to the range. Please read the certificate at the top of the sheet if you are the RCO concerned: it defines your duties and responsibilities.

## **Signing In to Record Use of Firearms**

Home Office Approval for Clubs states the following within its Criteria for Approval: "The Club will maintain a register of the attendance of all members together with details, for each visit, of the firearms which they used and the competitions, if any, in which they took part."

The NRA now implements this regulation by use of a computerised database, the terminals being situated in the Range Office. This database contains your details and those of your firearms. Everything is menu driven and the keypads are available at all times when the Range Office is open.

Those NRA members who have declared the NRA as their primary club and who will be competing in the Imperial Meeting should, at least once during the time they are here at Bisley, go to the Range Office and record the fact that they shot here in July this year. There will now be an additional box labelled "Imperial Meeting 2005" which should be used. Those members who have not declared the NRA as their primary club are also encouraged to make use of this facility at some time during the Imperial Meeting.

This will then keep our records up-to-date and will be of help to you in recording the use of your firearms. It is important that you use each of your firearms at least once each year otherwise the police may take a negative view on your continued requirement for any firearm which has not been used.

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

### **Courses**

Training courses at Bisley are normally run from February to May and September to November each year. Regional courses, however, can be run throughout the year.

### **NRA Probationary Membership Courses**

The next Probationary Course (2005/4) will start on Saturday 10 September and the following course (2005/5) will start on Saturday 22 October.

Please note: applications concerning Probationary Membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary tel 01483 797777 ext 138 or e-mail [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk).

### **GR and ML Pistol Skills Course**

A skills course in gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistol will be held on 5 and 6 November. Any member who would like to enhance their knowledge and skills with these firearms is invited to attend.

### **TR Skills Course**

The next Target Rifle Skills Course will be held on the weekend 15 and 16 October. Any member who wishes to enhance their knowledge and skill of TR shooting is invited to attend.

## **NRA Club Coach Course**

An NRA Club Coach Course will take place over three days in October, on Sunday 9 October and the weekend 15 and 16 October. This will be a qualification course and candidates will be assessed throughout the course.

## **RCO Courses**

RCO courses will be held at Bisley on 24 and 25 September and 26 and 27 November (NB these will be one day courses). Optional study days, in preparation for these courses, will be held on Sunday 18 September and Sunday 20 November.

An RCO Endorsement Course for Muzzle Loading firearms will be held at Bisley on Sunday 25 September. Any RCO candidate who wishes to include muzzle loading in his or her qualification should apply for the standard RCO course on Sat 24 September and then do the Muzzle Loading Endorsement course on Sunday 25 September. Current NRA RCOs may apply to attend the Endorsement course only to upgrade their qualifications.

Regional NRA RCO courses are run throughout the year. Clubs wishing to book a regional course should contact the NRA and a local RCO Assessor will be appointed.

Please note that anyone who already holds a military range management qualification up to the equivalent of Stage 3 (which has been validated by the SASC) may apply for a straight transfer to the NRA RCO qualification. This also applies to Cadet Force Officers who hold the CRCQ qualification. Full details are available from the Deputy Director of Shooting.

## **RCO Assessors**

An update course will take place at Bisley on Sunday 2 October and all current RCO Assessors are invited to attend.

## **Course Applications**

For further details and application forms for all RCO, Skills and Club Coach courses please contact the Deputy Director of Shooting 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail: [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk). Please note that it is not cost effective to run courses for very small numbers. Normally a minimum of four candidates is required for an NRA course to be viable.

## **RCO Renewals**

You are again reminded that the NRA RCO qualification is valid for six years from the date of issue of the certificate and is applicable on any range throughout the UK. You may apply to renew your certificate on or before the sixth anniversary of the passing of your course. After this date it may be necessary to attend another course to re-qualify. Full details of the renewal process are available from the Deputy Director of Shooting on ext 150 or the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149.

# NOTES FROM THE CHIEF NATIONAL COACH (TR)

*by Dave Burton*

A considerable amount of time is currently being spent on the production of standard operating procedures, presentations, and lesson plans for all NRA courses. These will, eventually, be available for use throughout the regions as well as at Bisley, thus ensuring a good, consistent presentation. Roll out is expected for the beginning of the next training season.

Letters will be sent out to all Regional Representatives and all Club Secretaries in an attempt to establish just how many currently qualified, willing coaches there are and of what level.

Development or update half day sessions will be held later in the year for each of the NRA coach grades. These will be held in the regions as well as at Bisley.

All coaching courses run as NRA courses must be notified, in advance, to the NRA Shooting Division. On completion of each course, those running the course(s) are to advise the NRA Shooting Division as to the outcome for each individual, and the requirement for certificates and badges.

Courses run by schools and cadet forces will be encouraged by further liaison with the cadet organisations.

Clubs at Bisley will be encouraged to avail themselves of the NRA training courses.

If you are currently a qualified club, county or regional coach and wish to run NRA coaching courses please contact the NRA Chief National Coach (TR) giving your full details so that an accurate database of all coaches can be established. We need to update our coach records to enable us to plan regional coaching programmes.

E-mail Dave Burton: [daveb@qedsal.co.uk](mailto:daveb@qedsal.co.uk) and put Club/County/Regional Coach in the subject line.



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# NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by  
*Jeremy  
Staples*

## **NRA Open Day**

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all members who volunteered to assist on the third NRA Open Day on Saturday 30 April. It was a great success and over 950 guests registered to shoot. Due to the increase in volunteers and firing points available the queues were dramatically reduced and there has been a very positive take up of membership. The feedback from members of the public has also been very positive.

The next Open Day is scheduled for Saturday 3 September 2005. Please contact Sarah Bunch either by phone 01483 799609 or e-mail [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk) if you are able to help.

## **Electronic Targets**

A very comprehensive report has been received from Iain Robertson in respect of the merits of both the Kongsberg and Haring systems. The NSC is forming a small sub-committee to review this report and look at the full cost implications of installing a number of electronic targets at Bisley.

## **Weekly Market**

Members will have noticed that there are regular markets now on Military Fields on both Wednesdays and Sundays and a percentage of the takings from the market operator will be paid directly to the NSC/NRA.

We are actively trying to reduce the inconvenience to our members and after a number of minor teething problems the markets are beginning to grow and develop. Hopefully, over time, the market will produce significant income to the NRA to benefit shooting both at Bisley and throughout the country.

The first market coincided with a major corporate helicopter event based at the back of Century Range. It has been decided that no further helicopter events will take place during shooting weekends due to the noise disturbance.

## **Road Signs**

Ongoing discussions are taking place with Guildford Borough Council and we have verbally been assured that new road signs will be installed in the surrounding areas, and in particular the A322 directing visitors to the National Shooting Centre.

## **Staff**

I am pleased to welcome Rob Batty as a full time permanent member of the Range Office. Carolyn Kellow has joined us as a part time receptionist in the General Office.

## **Clays**

The NCSC has been extremely busy over the Spring and has hosted both the English Open ABT and DTL Selection shoots attracting 160 and 250 competitors respectively. The OT Selection and English Skeet English Open both take place in August and Barry Desborough and his team are hosting major competitive shoots most weekends through the Summer period.

## **Toilet Blocks**

Members may have noticed that a disabled toilet facility has been erected in the car park of Melville over the winter and, in addition, new vents and drains have been installed for the toilet blocks at the rear of Century to prevent flooding during busy periods.

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# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## F Class

by Paul Monaghan

### F Class World Championships 2005

April of this year saw the second F Class World Championships, held on this occasion at Bloemfontein in South Africa. The F Class shooters entered the main South African Bisley Union (target rifle and F Class) Meeting which was followed by the F Class World Championships. This consisted of two days of individual shooting and two days of team matches. As ever, the USA squad put in a powerful performance with the individual F Class World Champion being Mid Tomkins from the USA. It is nice to be able to report that the Scottish Sword was won by Hugh Forgie - the first time it has been won by a Scotsman. On their overall performance in the individual competitions the USA were strong favourites for the teams competition but, in the end, local knowledge came to the fore and South Africa are the 2005 F Class World Champions, with the USA second, Germany third and GB fourth. The standard of shooting in this event was very high and made it clear that to be competitive at this level requires meticulous equipment preparation as well as shooter ability.

### The West of Scotland Open Meeting

F Class continues to grow in popularity north of the border and comprised 25% of the entries in this competition. This was the debut for Team Border Barrels, an F Class team comprised of Geoffrey Kolbe's employees. This is the first time a GB gun-trade member has sponsored an F Class team.

### NRA Open Day

Eight F Class shooters took part in the Open Day in April and were kept hard at work on four targets. Something in the region of 200 shooters tried their hand at F Class shooting and we saw some very promising performances. Hopefully at least some will have found the experience enjoyable enough to want to learn more.



Scenes from the NRA Open Day: Paul Monaghan and Peter Medhurst hard at work.

### F Class teams in RAFTRC competition

This year for the first time, F Class teams took part in the RAFTRC/Scotland/Wales/Ireland/English Twenty Club annual match. Shooting the short ranges only, the teams made some excellent scores and the results were very close. Scotland came third with a 413.61 (highest score: Paul Crosby with 105.17) Wales came second with a 414.60 (highest score: Lyndon Pearton with 104.14) and the winning score of 417.61 was made by the English team (highest score: Paul Monaghan with 105.19). This was the first visit by Paul Crosby to Bisley and it looks as if we will have to watch out for him in the future.

### Imperial Meeting

This year there will be an experiment with more demanding targets for F Class shooters. In calm conditions the TR targets are just that bit too easy and 50.10s are relatively commonplace. In the past there has been a wish to avoid squadding all the F Class shooters on one butt, thus separating out the TR and F Class shooters. As a compromise for this year, as an experiment one target on each butt will be dedicated to F Class shooters. This gives the opportunity for F Class shooters to have their own target dimensions and this year they will be shooting at the same targets as the TR shooters, **but** there will be an additional  $\frac{3}{4}$  minute ring inside the V bull. This will be the V bull for F Class shooters and then the remainder of the TR V bull will become the F Class 5, the TR bull will be the 4 and so on.

There have been a number of informal experiments with more demanding targets, including the West Atholl club in Scotland who tested  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute V bulls for two club shoots and abandoned the idea - they were just a bit too tough! Perhaps  $\frac{3}{4}$  minute V bulls will be the ideal format.



(Photos: John Knight)



## 300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

### AMS

The eight Kongsberg systems have had, to date, more than fourteen thousand rounds shot on them without problems which we believe is due to regular inspection and maintenance. Some small component changes to the server have improved the response time on the shooter's screen. The display software has also been amended to allow the shooter a single button push to start the competition.

### NRA v Clermont/Creil

A team of eight shooters visited our friends in France over the weekend 9 and 10 April using the second team match as the first selection trial. We can report that the NRA A team won both matches by a clear margin, with top overall score going to Simon Aldhouse with 1196 - an average of 598 per match. His two individual scores equalled the range record! The return match is scheduled for early September.

#### Match 1 Individual

1	SK Aldhouse	NRA	598
2	M Goberville	C/C	594
3	G Hawarth	NRA	590

#### Match 2 Individual

1	SK Aldhouse	NRA	598
2	T Lincoln	NRA	595
3	M Goberville	C/C	594

#### Team

1	NRA A	4722
2	NRA B	4642
3	C/C A	4641

### Trials and Training

We have now had three weekends with two team trials at Bisley. On Saturday 30 April during a training session Simon Aldhouse increased the Bisley range record to 598; the old record of 597 although having been equalled by four Britons, has stood since the 1981 Nordic Championships.

### Europa Cup events

It is very pleasing to report the first major success of the year in Pilzen, Czech Republic. Simon Aldhouse won the prone bronze in the first European Cup event; his score of 597 equalled the first two places but he was counted out on his last string. The eliminators were shot two days before in very windy conditions which kept the scores lower than usual to qualify; this meant lower earned points but his current position is still in the top ten on the circuit.

This team now moves on to Switzerland in early June for the next event in Thun. From these results the European Championship team will be selected, which this year is being held in Belgrade where double circuit points can be earned. Aarhus in Denmark will be the

last circuit cup event before the final in France during September.

### NRA British Championships

This was held on 14 and 15 May at Bisley with a reasonable entry in free rifle (16) but only five in TR. We did hope the use of AMS would encourage more TR shooters to take part but other major team matches probably prevented more competing.

#### TR 60 Shots

1	MJ Pugsley	584
2	CA Painting	580
3	J Musso	572

#### Free Rifle 60 Shots

1	SK Aldhouse	592
2	MJ Pugsley	585
3	G Hawarth	584

#### Combined Prone Agg

1	MJ Pugsley	1169
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### Sunday PM TR Team League

This looks now to be under way with at least five teams of four having shown interest. This will give more TR shooters a chance to experience AMS over the next few months.

# CHAMPION

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## Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

In a world which seems to spend most of its time prohibiting what we do, it is nice when something actually makes our life easier and, for those who cross the Channel with their firearms, the European Firearms Pass system now seems to have become a routine matter, to the extent that on a recent trip no checks were made on us at all.

But there can still be hang ups. Security staff and even the police do not always have a good knowledge of the relevant law and procedures. On a recent trip it took over half an hour to convince a pair of Kent's finest that a Vetterli, kept only as a curio, is exempt from FAC procedures under S.58, and no, there is no such thing as a certificate to confirm the rifle is just that.

When passing manned checkpoints, courtesy demands you stop and advise them you are carrying. You may be asked to go through a security check, but often they will just wave you through. However, do declare that you will be carrying firearms and ammunition when you make your ferry booking (they are totally prohibited on the Tunnel). The Captain of the vessel then has the option of treating you as dangerous cargo, particularly if you have ammunition. If so, good news, you will be first on, first off; bad news you are likely to be stowed on the open deck in all the salt spray and sea, and if there is a fire, guess what gets pushed over the side first!

So there you are, no excuse, get your Pass and take your guns with you next time you go; there are many clubs and competition for Historic Arms there, and fares are now cheap, more so if you share a car. A bonus is that you may well be able to use items no longer available here, and your hosts will equally be interested in English items, which may be new to them.

You will find that although they may suffer from restrictions just as arbitrary as ours, Historic Arms are seen not as something apart, but as an integral part of their heritage, and when a Frenchman talks of his "patrimoine", he is expressing a passionate and fierce defence of everything of his way of life, a heritage rooted in the very soil itself.

One last bit of advice on this subject; unless you want to go into the B&B business, never reveal you live near Bisley or a handy stop on the way to Dover: be warned!

On a very different topic, a recent purchase of a reproduction PE telescopic sight on a very authentic Moisin Nagant 1939 rifle, together with the availability of "tuning" aids from the USA, made me consider the

position in relation to our fundamental rule, "In the Spirit of the Original".

The telescope sight is a very authentic copy; indeed I suspect it may have some original parts included, but it is stated as being gas filled. Definitely not done in the period, but should this cause it to be excluded? Also available (and I know there are some already in use here) are replacement triggers for the above and some other rifles, that incorporate an adjustable ball to press on the sear, again not an original item.

My opinion is that, as a starting point, does the item give any unfair advantage over authentic items used in the Class or Match concerned? Taking the telescope first, the only advantage would be that in bad weather the gas fill may resist internal fogging better, but on the other hand my old war issue PU scope never suffered from this. Also, it has all the usual USSR made disadvantages of crude and coarse sight adjustment compared with, say, using a No 32 pattern sight. Conclusion, no advantage and permitted? I think so.

Similarly the adjustable trigger; will it give any advantage over a properly set up item, having been stoned and adjusted? Probably not and it has the advantage of allowing adjustment without risk of spoiling the original, as the old trigger can be kept and the rest of the mechanism left alone and, of course if banned, being out of sight would be difficult to police. Also allowable?

To put into perspective, the Russian scopes were mounted on regular issue rifles, sent with a handbook instructing the sniper how to stone the mechanism to reduce the horrendous original pressure (mine not yet adjusted lets off at over 6lbs) to about 3lb.

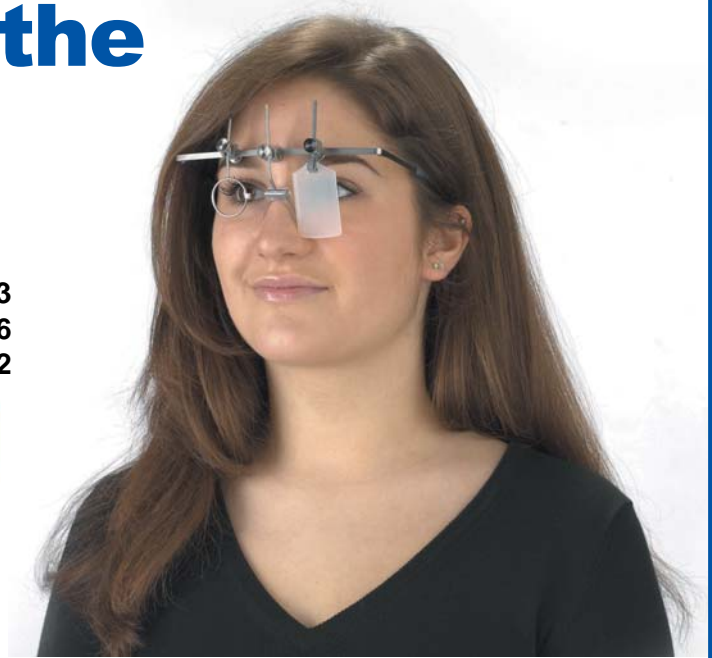
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# REGIONAL MATTERS

## Norfolk Open 24 April 2005

by Guy Bartle

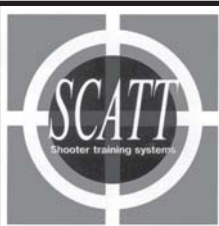
Sheringham's Glyn Barnett emphatically retained his Norfolk Open Fullbore Rifle championship title, bagging top score in every event.

A healthy turnout enjoyed a sunny day at Thetford Range. Though some regular attendees were lost to the conflicting Purples team match at Bisley, numbers were bolstered by the appearance of many of the England Commonwealth Games 2006 fullbore rifle squad, several of whom shoot for Norfolk. The number of first class shots necessitated the inclusion of the prestigious X Class for the first time in the competition's history.

Barnett laid down an early marker with a 50.8 at 300 yards, beating Surrey's Parag Patel by the narrowest possible margin: both men had the same score, with Patel finishing his ten shot string on a bull while Barnett's more central V bull bettered it. Peter Holden from Fakenham put down a 49.4 which was good enough for third, while Tim Clarke from Essex upheld the honour of the O Class men by winning there with a 50.6.

There was no stopping Barnett, and a 50.7 gave him the 500 yards prize, beating Whissonsett's Nigel Stangroom by one V bull and Chris Behn from Essex by three. Once again, O Class was won with a maximum in the shape of a 50.4 from Suffolk's Frank Bilton. At 600 yards with nobody else having gone clean, the overall title was Barnett's to lose, but he was in no mood to do that. While slightly disappointed to knock his sixth shot into the inner - his only dropped shot of the day - Barnett rose from the firing point to find that the rest of X Class had also had problems staying in the middle and his 49.7 was enough to take the range. This time it took a four shot count back to oust Bedfordshire's Roger Ellis's identical score into second, while Behn was a V bull behind in third. O Class celebrated as their man Clarke won with a 50.8.

Barnett's aggregate 149.22 gave him the championship, with Patel two points behind on 147.21 and East Rudham's Ant Ringer claiming third scoring 145.21. Clarke took the O Class title with 148.20.



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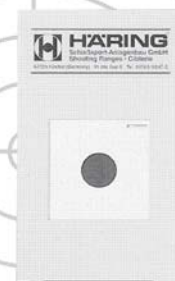
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# ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2004/2005

by Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council  
from 1 September 2004 to 31 March 2005

No of meetings	General Council	Shooting	Membership	
	2	2	0	
Bailie HRM	2	x	x	(R)
Barnard GV	1	2	x	(R)
Belither S	0	x	x	(O)
Bennett ID	1	x	x	(O)
Black MJ	1	x	x	(R)
Bloomfield JPS	1	1	x	(O)(R)
Brooks CM*	2	x	x	(O)
Calvert DP	2	2	x	(O)
Campbell-Smith AR	0	0	x	(D)
Carmichael JH	1	2	x	(O)
Clayton ARK	2	x	x	(O)
Coley PR	1	x	x	(R)
Gray PS	0	x	x	(R)
Horrocks AR	1	0	0	(O)
Hunter P	1	1	x	(D)
James S	0	x	x	(O)
Jeffs NG*	0	x	0	(O)
Jones N	1	2	x	(D)
Kidner TLW	0	x	x	(R)
Kynoch JM	1	2	0	(D)
Law CD	2	x	0	(R)
McAllister JA	0	x	x	(O)
Monaghan P	1	1	x	(D)
O'Brien CS*	2	1	x	(R)
Oliver-Bellasis CAJ*	1	x	x	(O)
Quilliam PF	0	0	x	(R)
Robertson KD	2	x	0	(O)
Shirra-Gibb I	2	2	x	(D)
Walton MWT*	2	x	x	(O)
Watson JA	2	x	x	(O)
Watt DD	2	x	x	(R)
Wills RHF	2	1	x	(D)
Young DG*	2	x	x	(R)

\* = Members of the Council (Board of Trustees). The Council meet at least eight to nine times per annum and its members are expected to attend all or most of such meetings. In addition, Trustees give attendance at other times for formal decisions.

There were no Membership Committee meetings in the 6 month period.

x = not a member of that committee

(O) = Ordinary Member

(R) = Regional Member

(D) = Shooting Discipline Member

# REGULAR ARMY V ANCIENT BRITS ANNUAL PISTOL MATCH

by John Evans

The Ancient Brits won the Annual Pistol match, the 18<sup>th</sup>, for the second year running.

The world over knows the British Army but what about the Ancient Brits? This distinguished body was founded in 1987 by John Evans and the late Wilfrid Ward. Selection is entirely at the whim of the founders who neither represent the intention of exercising, nor undertake to exercise, any degree of fairness whatsoever. Nonetheless, normally only those persons who have shot pistol for Great Britain, and are over 50 years of age on 1 November in the relevant year will be selected. In the event of a shortage of such persons, substitutes, who have shot for Great Britain and by reason of their dissipated lifestyles or other causes, appear to be of such an age or older, may be selected provided always that no shooter shall be less than 50 years upon the relevant date in the year in which he shoots.

Major David Whitelegg, the Army team captain, and John Evans, skipper of the Ancient Brits, decided that the top four pistoliers in each team would count as the team score.

The morning ISSF 10 metres match was held on the Lord Roberts range. Eight times Commonwealth Games gold medalist Mick Gault top scored with 574 and Robert Doak of the Army came second with 568, two points ahead of Iain Candlish on 566. Particular mention must be made of Nick Harvey, newcomer to the Ancient Brits who had a remarkable shoot until the last few minutes of the match when strident music from a hockey team meeting in the neighbouring room broke his concentration. Nevertheless the Ancient Brits led the Army by 38 points in the morning.

After lunch in the Army Clubhouse and before the afternoon match, Robert Bunney, inventor of the Patriot® .32 muzzle loading pistol, gave a demonstration on Melville Range.

The afternoon match was a simulated Centrefire shoot using air pistols at 25m on Melville. In the Precision, Mick Gault shot a possible (100) and was then extremely unlucky during the "duel" to have two skidders on separate targets ruled out by a whisker. However he still managed to produce a score of 568! Robert Doak became top scorer with 577; Nick Harvey second with 572 and WO2 Nigel Hodgson third with 571.

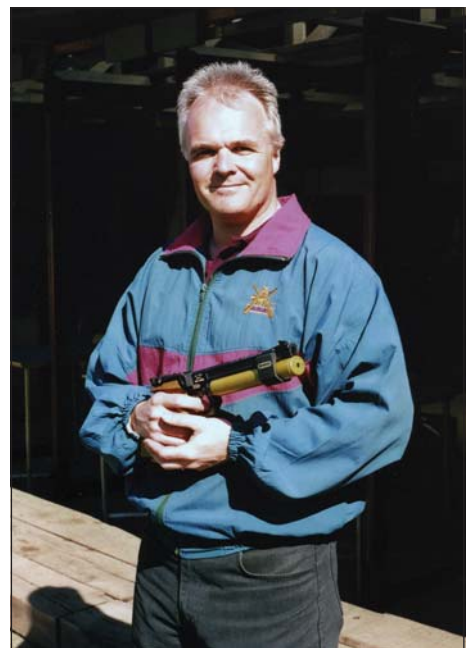
Although the Army team score was 12 points ahead in the afternoon match the overall aggregate meant that the Ancient Brits were victorious by a total of 26 points.

Tea was served in the Army Clubhouse where Major David Whitelegg thanked the Ancient Brits for their competitive shooting and sportsmanship and, of course, their success and presented John Evans with the coveted trophy.

The Ancient Brits Skipper handed out champagne and wine to all the winners in the various categories and also presented the much sought after drinking glasses engraved with the Ancient Brits logo. Finally he thanked both the injured Lt Col Richard Hoole for acting as Range Officer throughout the day and Eddie Harris, whose excellent photographs will be distributed, as usual, to all concerned.



Mick Gault and his "duelling" target of 99.



Major David Whitelegg - Captain of the Army Pistol Team.



John Evans receiving the special trophy for 2005 from Major David Whitelegg.  
(All photos: Edward Harris)

**ISSF Air Pistol****Ancient Brits**

M Gault	97	91	96	95	96	99	574
I Candlish	96	93	92	96	95	94	566
S Archer	97	92	92	95	91	95	562
N Harvey	95	94	97	98	91	84	559

**Totals****2261**

M Abrahams	93	91	92	91	86	89	542
W Smith	89	88	94	86	87	86	530
J Cairns	85	84	80	81	83	86	499

**Regular Army**

Pte R Doak	97	95	94	93	94	95	568
Major D Whitelegg	93	93	94	93	93	94	560
WO2 N Hodgson	91	94	88	93	94	93	553
L Cpl W Kennedy	87	93	86	90	92	94	542

**2223**

Pte D Alexander	93	86	85	89	85	86	524
Major S Townell	84	85	82	87	78	83	499

**Sport Pistol****Ancient Brits**

N Harvey	97	95	93	95	97	95	572
M Gault	97	95	100	88	89	99	568
S Archer	92	96	96	97	92	94	567
I Candlish	92	92	92	93	97	95	561

**2268**

J Cairns	90	89	89	89	95	96	548
W Smith	89	97	91	83	88	94	542
M Abrahams	56	83	88	94	95	98	514

**Regular Army**

Pte R Doak	95	99	91	98	99	95	577
WO2 N Hodgson	95	98	92	95	94	97	571
Major D Whitelegg	96	92	94	98	93	95	568
L Cpl W Kennedy	93	93	94	92	94	98	564

**2280**

Pte D Alexander	89	93	91	84	94	97	548
Major S Townell	81	86	79	85	88	85	504



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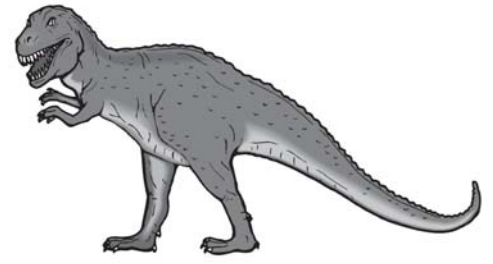
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# T REX - FALLING OFF THE POINT



## Absent Friends

I was thinking the other day (a strenuous process as the years pass), about those we have loved and known around the ranges. What took my eye was a photo on the wall of the smallest room that doubles as a gallery for odds and bits. There, gazing out with smiling looks laced with the experience of a task performed and enjoyed, were three of life's characters, Messrs Tucker, Payne and O'Brien, all now gone - but never to be forgotten.

I wondered who will replace them as the objects of affection for the younger generations who never toured or shot with them, or who never experienced their wit or had the benefit of their wisdom or advice. They only knew them as distant characters upon a shooting stage. For Andrew's self-deprecating humour, for Freddy's gravelly voice, for Colin's rapier ripostes, there will be no real replacements.

It is inevitable that there will be alternatives in an attempt to fill the vacuum, and that sort of competition is the best remembrance of the place that characters such as those three occupied in this small sporting chapter of our lives. Who knows, perhaps as you read this with a tear in your eye, *you* could be climbing unknowingly onto the back seat of the charabanc of fame in our cloistered world.

## Natural World

Extreme excitement filled my frame recently with reports of discoveries to stir my old bones. It seems that somewhere they have unearthed some tissue fragments of part of my body that could give rise to a cloned cousin. It is thought that DNA can be extracted from the bits that seem not quite to have reached their sell-by date.

This of course gives credence to those films in which I failed to get a stomp-on part, Jurassic Park and its sequel. Rest assured, all this activity can only lead to an amendment in the Bisley Bible, Appendix 4, Instructions to Officials, by way of an additional message as follows:

"15 On the sighting of any large dinosauric form in the vicinity of the targets, or the intervening range space or the firing point, the Chief Range Officer is

immediately to order the cessation of firing and all competitors will unload and form orderly queues to collect autographs or to offer themselves as a quick snackette in the interests of preserving as many fellow competitors as possible. A resumption of shooting will be ordered once appetite has been satisfied".

The National Shooting Centre's Press Office was quick to dismiss the possibility of this interfering with proceedings. "There is no evidence that the heathland can support such large life or that anything other than small mammals and reptiles flourish" came the reply.

## Courtship on the Common

Following quite naturally from the mention in the last issue of various acts of wedlock among shooting folk, my eye was drawn to reports in the Times of the strange courting habits of a previously unknown dinosaur, of the family pachycephalosaurs - or thick-headed lizards. Possessed of a flat forehead these creatures indulged in "blunt-force trauma", which is to say that they put their heads together and shoved really hard in violent courtship displays of their love or lust.

Of course I can see little place for this brand of canoodling upon the firing point. Indeed, while the opportunities might present themselves, the hollow sounding "chokking" noise may prove a serious distraction for others engaged upon their competitive business. Far better that they should keep such displays of amour for the post BBQ stage of the proceedings.

Rumour has it that the Shooting Committee is currently drafting legislation to outlaw such pre-carnal practice during shooting hours. Perhaps we could remind them that the dinosauric habit remains alive and well in the quaintly termed form of the "Liverpool kiss".



# COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

*by Lindsay Peden*

In the year preceding the Commonwealth Games, the Commonwealth Shooting Federation holds its Championships at the proposed Games facilities, so this year, in March, the Championships were held in Melbourne. However, for the fullbore event, the venue was Bendigo, some 150 km north of Melbourne. Once again, the fullbore shooters were separated from the rest of the shooting disciplines, which were based in Melbourne and were using facilities in or around the precincts of the city.

Bendigo is a gold town and has produced enough gold to be the world's seventh largest producer. Production ceased some years ago, but there are plans to restart limited production in the next year or so. As a result of this enormous wealth generation, the town is blessed with some fine buildings, particularly churches, and has many hotels and restaurants, making it a popular destination for conferences and conventions. The climate is warmer and drier than Melbourne and this was evidenced on the range where the greenest spots were the watered firing points, a popular spot for kangaroos. Before commencement of shooting and after shooting finished, it was not uncommon to find kangaroos on the range, and on occasions, during shooting, one or two would venture onto the range, seemingly oblivious to the danger of bullets flying over their heads. Another notable feature of the Bendigo range was its aspect: the range has sun behind the targets all day until about 15:00, making visibility more difficult than would be expected in the bright light.

The format for the CSF Championships is similar to that of the Games, so that the facilities at the chosen venue can be given a trial run and personnel can both be trained in the administration of the match and learn from the problems thrown up. One of the main differences of the CSF Championships from the Games proper, however, was that each participating country was allowed to send three representatives instead of a pair. Of the eleven countries participating in the 2005 CSF Championships fullbore event, all sent three representatives, other than Canada, who sent their pre-selected pair for the Games.

Most of the countries arrived in time to participate in the whole of the Victoria Rifle Association Championships, which were held over five days in the week preceding the CSF. This meeting was supposed to aid in acclimatisation but, for the competitors who had just left behind a European winter, the temperatures of almost 100°F on the range were somewhat sapping. Nevertheless, scoring was very high, with Diane Collings, the winner of the

Grand, dropping only five points for 695 ex 700. The Australians and New Zealanders swept all before them in the Queen's, Syme and Grand Aggregate, and the only outsiders in the top ten of these competitions were Johannes du Toit (South Africa) and Cliff Mallett (Jersey) taking seventh and eighth spot in the Queen's respectively. At individual ranges, Gareth Morris (Wales) won the 800 yards and Ian Shaw (Scotland) was second in the 500 yards shoot in the Syme. The English trio of Parag Patel, Glyn Barnett and Anthony Ringer didn't seem to need acclimatisation, as they shot the Queen's straight after arriving in Australia and finished 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It has to be said, however, that one or two of the visiting CSF competitors ruined what would otherwise have been good aggregates by cross-firing, a feature not unique to the Victoria Championships but recurring several times also during the CSF shoots.

After the studying of the conditions during the Victoria Championships, all the CSF competitors felt they were well in tune with the wind and had good zeros, having already used the special Commonwealth Games batch of ammunition. However, by the start of the CSF Championships the weather had cooled over 30°F and the winds had changed from being light and fickle to moderate with significant angle changes. This was reflected by both lower scoring than in the Victoria Meeting and lower V counts, despite the fact that the GB NRA V bull (GB target dimensions are used in the Games) is larger than its Australian counterpart.

The first event of the CSF was the Pairs Match, with the Badge Match shot alongside for the third person from each country. In the difficult wind conditions, the advantage of having a coach was borne out by the scores of the pairs against those of the individuals in the Badge Match. However, the difficulty of the wind was first indicated when there were only five scores of 50 at 300 yards out of the field of 32. The English pair of Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel took the gold medal after shooting very steadily, with Malaysia second, counting out the Northern Ireland pair of Martin Millar and David Calvert on V bulls. The Badge Match was won by Paul Salamon (Australia) with John Snowden (New Zealand) second and Antony Ringer (England) third.

Conditions for the first day of the individual match were much more benign, with five scores of 105 ex 105 in Queen's I, and six scores of 150 ex 150 over the Queen's II course of fire. After the first two stages, Geoff Grenfell (Australia) and Antony Ringer (England) both had the maximum score.



The drinks trolley visits Row 47 again.



The local wildlife.

(Photos: Jeremy Langley and Gareth Morris)



"Hurry up Gaz we're getting hungry!" the South African team enjoy an aperitif.



Gaz Morris throws another shrimp on the barbie!



Martin Millar prepares.



Alex Woodward - top Under 25 in the Grand Aggregate.



The Pairs medal ceremony - left to right Malaysia, England and Northern Ireland.



The Individual medal ceremony - left to right Glyn Barnett, Johannes du Toit and Ian Shaw.

The second day, when the Queen's III stage was shot, saw conditions turn much more difficult again, with the magpie easily found at 900 and 1000 yards in the rapidly changing wind. However, at 900 yards, Geoff Grenfell not only went clean, but had 12 Vs to boot, whilst most of those around him found it far less easy. Glyn Barnett (England) also had a 75, to remain two points behind, followed by Anthony Ringer (England) and Richard Fincham (New Zealand) on three off, and Ian Shaw (Scotland), Johannes du Toit (South Africa) and Michael Collings (New Zealand) on four off. It looked as if the Australian was going to run away with it, because he had the added advantage of being on his home range. However, the wind did not abate and half the field scored below 70 ex 75 at the final range. Unfortunately, the Australian got completely out of step with the wind and slumped to a 63 ex 75, and a position well out of the medals. Johannes du Toit (South Africa) shot 73 ex 75 to take the gold, and Glyn Barnett (England) and Ian Shaw (Scotland) continued their steady shooting with a 70 and 72 to take silver and bronze respectively.

The CSF Fullbore Championships were a great success and are a springboard to what should be an excellent competition at a challenging venue in the Games.

### **Post Script**

*from Bob Aitken, Chairman of the Fullbore Rifle Jury*

After carrying out the duties at the Commonwealth Games in 2002 based at Bisley I was appointed to repeat the activity in Melbourne at the CSF Championships in 2005.

Whilst the Commonwealth Games Federation rules state that the shooting events should be conducted according to the NRA (GB) rules that applied in 2002 this was found not to be possible in all respects. This, coupled with existing NRA of Australia rules and the proposed new worldwide International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Association rules currently being promulgated, led to some confusion in certain areas. It has already been agreed that any changes made as a result of the CSF Championships in 2005 will be circulated to all competing countries during this year and presented formally at the technical meeting before the Commonwealth Games themselves begin in 2006.

Whilst one might say that some of the range officials were over enthusiastic in carrying out their duties, I would ask competitors to consider that most were more used to operating under NRAA rules and were charged with applying NRA (GB) rules as written down. An example of this is the 45 second rule, which does not normally apply in Australia, and does not work anyway with their method used for scoring and marking shots. This was discovered on day one and was changed to 60 seconds through the Chief Range

Officer – so anyone given a warning after day one was exceeding 60 seconds per shot (NB neither do the Australians have a message nine so all timings were done from the firing point).

It was accepted, and in fact noted by CSF Management, that the firing points needed upgrading for the 2006 Games and this is to be done.

I, as Chairman of the Fullbore Jury, was unfortunately drawn into a variety of discussions which, in my personal view, were perhaps on reflection more properly the responsibility of others but we were all there to ensure that the shoots took place and that any improvements could be secured for 2006 of which I am confident.

One area which is still likely to cause concern is the issue of optics and further work is required to arrive at a universal and workable situation that can be easily policed, if required.

I hope that, all things considered, all competitors enjoyed the experience, the range, the camaraderie and the weather and look forward to meeting the selected pairs in 2006 to compete again together on a level playing field with a bit more clarity on the rules that will apply.

*Norman Clark*

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# GREAT BRITAIN TEAM TO THE F CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BLOEMFONTEIN SOUTH AFRICA 2005

by Mik Maksimovic

<i>Captain</i>	Mik Maksimovic
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	George Barnard
<i>Adjutant</i>	Pete Campbell
<i>Shooters</i>	John Campbell
	Chris Cuthbert
	Hugh Forgie
	Peter Hobson
	Peter Jackson
	David Kent
	Peter Medhurst
	Howell Morley
	Charles Oliver-Bellasis
	Des Parr
	Colin Shorthouse
	Darren Stewart
	Roger Wood
	Jo Wright

This tour promised to be exhausting and interesting from day one. British Airways finally managed to stow our baggage train and rifles aboard the plane. It must have been a big one as certain team members managed to get away with over 100kg of baggage due to the utter confusion that reigned during check in. Thank you BA.

On arrival we had the pleasure and privilege to be interrogated by South African Police and Customs regarding our equipment and firearms; thankfully this only took several hours! After getting our vehicles we were finally on our way to Potchefstroom for some acclimatisation and training on the military range, kindly organised by Cedric and Betts Van der Vyver. We had three days of team training and ammunition preparation at Potch, where team members loaded their ammunition using the local propellant (S385). Things looked very good at Potch - people seemed to be shooting well and the team began to form into a cohesive unit getting along very well. Some of us even managed to join the South African Army for a shoot using their issued assault rifles, which made a change to say the least. We left Potch three days later after making many friends and enjoying meals and drinks with the Potchefstroom shooters. Many thanks are due to Cedric and Betts for the ranges, butt markers, targets and all their help and friendship during these days.

## **SABU Championships**

We finally departed for Bloemfontein and the General de Wet Range, only to find on arrival that nothing that had previously been arranged with SABU had been done. No 300 metres zero range and no squadding cards, in fact our entries had been mixed up and we

had to start again with our admin (*Team Captain last seen heading into the distance with smoke coming from his ears*). On a lighter note our hotel was very good and only 15 minutes from the ranges. The Unitas Herberg had a very good restaurant and bar and the rooms were good and spacious.

The shooting started on Friday 1 April (April Fools Day) and GB started off very well with Hugh Forgie from Scotland winning the Scottish Sword. We started our team matches the following day with the RSA International F Class match. This was the first leg of the Afri-Euro F Class Championships and we managed a second place to the South Africans by two points.

We then had the first of **four** prizegivings where all the troubles began, SABU were having serious computer problems and did not issue any F Class stats at all. The target rifle shooters were also given incorrect stats and prizes; this issue has not been resolved at the time of writing.

Then our problems really started, the propellants that we had purchased in South Africa did not all perform the same and some serious barrel fouling and elevation problems began to occur. We tried very hard to overcome these with meticulous reloading and cleaning regimes, even spending hundreds of pound on new electronic scales in case ours had been damaged in transit. The fluctuating electrical supply in the hotel didn't help. Team members paired up and worked long into the night to prepare accurate ammo under adverse conditions. On reflection, maybe shipping the ammunition and the problems associated with it would have been preferable. The USA team paid nearly £1 per round for shipping and customs duty; their ammo was cleared by Customs the day before they started shooting after being in transit for nearly six months!

The team carried on shooting during the main part of the SABU Meeting, acquitting themselves very well against the very strong and well prepared competition from around the world. Numerous medals and prizes were won, notably by Des Parr and Peter Hobson who won the F Class Long Range Aggregate. We managed to get six of our team into the State President's Third Stage but only after the Adjutant and Captain had been woken at 05:45 by the SABU Range Office to be given the wrong cut off point for the third stage entries!

After numerous functions and official dinners we finally got to prepare for the main event, the F Class World Championships. There were no squadding details or squadding cards till about 30 minutes before



Responsible reloading!



The team captain tries to concentrate.



The Grandads are still happy . . .



. . . and so are Darren and Pete.



Charles O-B at his best!



Relaxing at Potchefstroom Ranges.



Rifle degunging the Hobson way.



Hugh Forgie - winner of the Scottish Sword.



World Champion Mid Tompkins.

the start of shooting, so we made the best of it and prepared ourselves as best we could. By now it was becoming a joke amongst all the competitors and "hurry up and wait" was the byword we all worked to!

On the Sunday, the South Africans staged a wonderful Opening Ceremony where all the competitors had lunch together and much shooting talk was exchanged. This really was a splendid event and was staged in Grey Hall at Bloemfontein University. After many speeches and presentations we finally left happy and rather merry.

The F Class World Championships was shot on the long range Palma target but with a 5" V bull and the original X ring becoming the 5 ring and so on. This was to be a very challenging target, especially with the tricky wind conditions that were to come into play in the next few days.

The next few day's shooting were very interesting and demanding; the ammo that we loaded in South Africa showed its limitations at 800 and 900 metres. Still we got some reasonable results in the tricky wind and heavy mirage conditions as the results show. But it was well done to Des Parr who came second in the 800 metres aggregate over the two days of individual shooting and also to Colin Shorthouse who came fifth.

#### **F Class World Championships Results**

1	Tompkins M	USA	467.41
2	Bartholome L	USA	455.38
3	Ahrens S	USA	453.32
4	Murphy J	USA	452.40
5	Crone R	USA	452.38
6	Dink J	USA	452.34
7	Bock R	USA	451.39
8	Praslick E III	USA	451.37
9	Scholze W	Germany	451.35
10	Blom J	South Africa	451.34
11	Mead B	USA	451.33
12	Berghus R	Germany	451.30
13	Taljaard C	South Africa	451.30
14	Van Niekerk F	South Africa	450.34
15	Campbell J	Great Britain	448.34
16	Parr D	Great Britain	448.33
17	Kruger	South Africa	448.30
18	Barnard G	Great Britain	448.23

#### **F Class Teams Event**

We moved on to two days of team shooting at 700, 800 and 900 metres. After three distances we managed to find ourselves in fourth place 30 points behind the Germans - we had had some small rifle problems that morning and our Captain was shooting with Darren Stewart's action, Charles Oliver-Bellasis's trigger and Colin Shorthouse's stock. The target and the conditions were tricky, but our wind coaches did a wonderful job and if our rifles and ammo had been

on form we would have done a lot better. We went into the second day after many hours of trying to sort out our problems at the reloading bench with the resolve to do better, and do better we did! We managed to claw back 28 points from the Germans, who only beat us into third place by two points. The South Africans, after trailing to USA after the first day, managed to win the second F Class World Championships by five points.

F Class is all about tight scores and even tighter targets. The challenge in organisation and shooting was pushed to the limit and many long hard hours in preparation were spent by the team's officers to prepare for this. The whole team immensely enjoyed the tour and its challenges and any disappointment was masked by the wonderful people we met and with whom we made friends. We all learnt an immense amount and intend to put it into practice in the future.

#### **F Class World Champs Teams Match**

1	South Africa	1126.097
2	USA	1121.104
3	Germany	1096.087
4	Great Britain	1094.093

#### **R & R**

We left Bloemfontein for Johannesburg via Harrismith and the mountain ranges of the Golden Gate. After an enjoyable team dinner at our hotel in Harrismith, we departed the next morning for the airport and home. This was not to be as easy as we thought, after four hours of checking in our rifles the Captain and Peter Hobson, as the last people at the counter, were asked to accompany the baggage to X ray and identify all the items in the individual bags. It was amazing what some people had taken with them! They then had 20 minutes to get through immigration and to the plane but after a little whinge to BA about this, they were both upgraded to First Class and then enjoyed fine champagnes and Chateau Briand for their meal. Heathrow Airport was not a lot easier on arrival and two hours after landing we finally emerged into the Arrivals Hall after 22 days of being away.

#### **Post Script**

Coming fourth after two years of training and preparation was a little disappointing, but many useful lessons were learnt and many friendships made. The team had put in a huge amount of personal effort and preparation, not to mention money, over the past few years and their efforts over a hectic, but enjoyable three weeks have earned them all my eternal gratitude and respect.

We are looking forward to the next F Class World Championships, which look like being staged at Bisley in July 2009. Why not get out that scoped rifle and have a go; you will be amazed at how much fun and frustration you can have in one day.



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- Bipods and Other Accessories**
- Target Master Ammunition**
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	over 10,000	42p each +5p case deposit
	over 20,000	POA
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	2,050 - 10,000	46p each
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# SPRING GENERAL MEETING – 26 MARCH 2005

## Speech by John Jackman, Chairman

Good evening and thank you for coming.

First I pass on the apologies for absence from Colin O'Brien. Colin has been very unwell recently and although I am pleased to say he is in good cheer and feeling better he has found it necessary to give notice that he is resigning his membership of the General Council, Chairmanship of the Shooting Committee, membership of the Council and of the Board of National Shooting Centre Limited. To mention these current offices is an indication of the amount which Colin has put into the Association over some 30 years. He had hoped to serve out his term on the General Council until 2007 as his final term. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his long service to the Association and wishing him well and a speedy recovery. (Applause)

Colin was the representative member of the General Council for Yorkshire and Humberside and the Secretary General will now seek candidates to fulfil that role for the balance of the term to 2007.

The notice of the Meeting was published in the Winter edition of the Journal. May I take it as read?

As is customary, the meeting will be in two parts.

First, I shall deal with the accounts and finances and take questions. This is the primary purpose of the Spring General Meeting.

Second, I will make a statement on certain Association affairs and take questions.

## Financial Position

### Year Ended 30 September 2004

As I have indicated in my Statement with the Annual Accounts, last year has been the first full year managed under the new constitution.

I refer you all to page 5 of the Accounts where the consolidated results of the year ended 30 September 2004 are summarised. You will see that the net increase in funds of £242,367 is reflected in the formal Audited Accounts on page 8, supported by the detailed notes which follow on pages 12 to 16. Underlying this increase in funds is an operating surplus of £251,419. You will recall that the format of the Audited Accounts is largely determined by the Charity Accounting Rules known as SORP, ie Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities.

Turning again to page 5 and the summary under the customary headings the first point to recognise is that staffing costs have increased and will increase more, first with management appointments, now in place, and second with membership support as resources are moved to recovering and supporting members and gradually more away from Bisley and to the regions. This must be funded with income from activities and keeping a tight control over expenditure ever with an eye on efficiency and productivity.

Looking at last year you will notice that total income was down by some £74,000 and operating and overhead costs were down by nearly £58,000. However, the largest drop in income was no surprise from the Imperial Meeting as we returned to an 'ordinary' year after three years of world events, but as I have said in my Statement, home entries were well maintained and there were still over 200 entries from overseas. This shortfall was largely offset by reduced costs. The Imperial Meeting over four weeks is still our primary event and the time to maximise participation most of all. The Association, therefore, puts considerable resource into the Annual Bisley Meeting.

For 2005 there are additional initiatives being put in place to increase cadet participation and future membership and encouragement of newcomers and club shooters. These are promoted in the Journal and entry form packages.

Other shooting income is marginally increased overall. Underlying this small increase has been an absorption of the reduction in the surcharge on range fees made last year. There has been an increase from Armed Services use and Association events organised by the National Shooting Centre, particularly for minority shooting disciplines which have been promoted by the management of NSC and are increasingly supported. As I have said in my Statement, income from ordinary range hire has not increased as much as desired and the Council is aware that clubs, particularly Bisley based clubs, are suffering too. I am pleased that Jeremy Staples has initiated what I might call a users group by drawing together chairmen of Bisley based clubs to discuss these and other issues of mutual concern and interest.

A major disappointment has been the problem with 7.62mm 155 grain ammunition and a consequent reduction in sales of RG ammunition. The National Shooting Centre has made considerable progress with Radway Green which has identified a newly emerged problem in the mass production of their target shooting quality ammunition and has corrected it. Thus, we hope and expect that the standard of bulk target shooting ammunition for 2005 will return to the standard achieved until 2003 as we undertook to seek to do at the last Bisley General Meeting.

Membership subscriptions are down, marginally, largely explained by the 2% reduction in the surcharge. I do hope that membership and membership income will gradually increase from this point in spite of a further 2% reduction in the surcharge. Early signs are good, not least in response to our communicating with shooters, including previously disillusioned members, through the 14,000 circulation monthly publication, Target Sports. Target Sports has been supportive of our initiatives of the last year or so and will circulate entry forms for the Imperial and other events.

Following the initial lead of Sarah Bunch, our clay range no longer needs a full-time director and has made further progress through the efforts of its permanent staff.

Estate income continues to benefit from negotiating fair lease and rental terms in accordance with Charity Commission guidance and the realisation of our own requirements to promote shooting interests. However, casual letting income from our huts is down as most hirers want a higher standard whilst many shooters accept the accommodation which we provide because they want low cost. Our policy is to provide accommodation of all types for shooters to suit all pockets as far as we can. Any investment which we make in accommodation must be demand/financial return led with the above policy as an overrider – no easy task.

Estate costs have had to bear the effect of recent increases in utility costs, especially electricity, but also gas and refuse collection. Unfortunately, this has meant that the Association has to recover more from tenants. Users must be assured that we seek to obtain the most efficient utility supplier over time. Of course, we also have to allocate and distribute the utilities ourselves.

When I was appointed Chairman in October 2001, finances, or lack of them, were the overriding concern. This was closely followed by a critical relationship with the Charity Commission with threats of de-registration with consequent loss of enormous financial benefits through tax reliefs; threats from the Sports Council to step into our affairs; and a perceived loss of relationship with Government ministries. Very simply and in order to give further confidence to members and prospective members, these problems are behind us, provided we keep our head and manage our affairs taking into account the lessons of the past and be business-like in setting budget plans. We have an 'open line' to the ministries, we are on good terms with the Charity Commission and the only problem with the Sports Councils is Government policy which is directing funds toward the Olympic disciplines – and not all of them in any event. However, we have a working relationship and can lobby through our membership of the Central Council for Physical Recreation and the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation.

To be more precise in relation to finances, our ten year bank loan from Barclays with, technically, seven years to run, is down to £750,000. At the end of September we also had some £250,000 in cash balances so we are also liquid and have ready cash resources. We should also remember that we benefit from a £50,000 interest free loan from an anonymous member for which we are grateful.

There is no room for complacency, however, and the Council is very aware that we need not only to repay the balance of the loans, but also to build up considerable reserves for future security, asset replacement and development.

I hope that our increasing self-confidence will also be reflected by clubs who we are encouraging to promote themselves as a Sport in the Community to their local Press, MPs, local Councils and local Sports Councils where they exist. At the same time we are encouraging clubs to recruit new members and, especially, to provide facilities for the young.

## **The Current Year and Outlook**

Whilst our Association as a Charity is, by nature, non profit making, the fact is that we must and I emphasise "must" generate surpluses for the immediate future and foreseeable future. We must generate significant surpluses to enable not only the replenishment of past lost funds, but particularly to ensure that we have a viable future and redevelop nationally.

Our target surplus for the year to 30 September 2005 is, once again, £200,000 which the Council regards as a minimum. However, I am also frank in telling you that this will not be easily achieved and depends on successful outcomes over a number of activities, range income and other commercial income in particular. As I have reported in the last two years, our accounts for those years have benefited from some exceptional credits which we cannot rely upon in future.

I have mentioned, before, our desire to have in place a written forward plan. After much consideration, the Council has recognised that in order for effective budgeting and planning to be achieved we need to change our financial year end to give more time for planning following the end of main seasonal activities. Today, the Council considered a paper from the Treasurer which has set out the case in detail. The Council has concluded that our year end should be 31 December in each year.

This necessary change will require a change to our Rules. In fact, the change of the accounting date, itself, is within the competence of the Council. However, it will not be feasible with a December year end to have audited accounts ready for presentation to you by the end of March, as is laid down.

At the Bisley General Meeting, the Council will propose:

- 1 That the Financial Year-end of the Association shall be 31 December in each year.
- 2 That Rule 9 be changed so that the Spring General Meeting shall be held no later than 30 June in each year, instead of by 31 March and be known as an Annual General Meeting.
- 3 That Rule 7 be changed so that the 'trigger points' relating to the election of Members of the General Council shall be fixed as from 31 March in each year instead of from "the date of the Spring General Meeting".
- 4 Subject to any views expressed by Members following today and subject to consultation with the General Council, the business of re-appointing the President and Vice-Presidents and the Auditors shall be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting in future. The Bisley General Meeting would then focus on receiving a Report from the Chairman, particularly on shooting matters, and taking questions from members as is traditional on that occasion.

There may be some other consequential timing changes required.

I have provided an overall picture on our finances and shall be pleased, in a moment, to take questions on the Accounts and Financial Statements.

Before I do so, however, I want to thank the Members of the Council, the Trustees, on your behalf for the skills and their time freely given which they bring to our affairs. In particular, Michael Walton who is Vice-Chairman and primarily responsible for the executive functions of the Council. Being a small body and in accordance with the requirements of Charity Law, we act, however, jointly in all matters. Every policy or decision we consider is done together. There is no management by one individual or small group. This, as I explained when we changed the Rules in 2003, is a key to the security of our future.

### **Future Developments**

I now move on to developments generally.

Last year I set out a number of reflections of the changes which we have made to our governance.

As the National Rifle Association, we are one organisation. The one fundamental change effected is to recognise that the Camp and Ranges at Bisley, which we acquired in 1890, are not just our own central headquarters and ranges, but also our asset to be exploited in a modern business-like way to provide finance, on top of membership subscriptions, to fulfil one of the objectives of the Council to regenerate target rifle and pistol shooting nationally. National Shooting Centre Limited is a business.

### **Bisley, National Shooting Centre**

First, I must record our thanks to the Directors of NSC generally, but particularly three directors who have recently retired, namely John Kynoch, Colin O'Brien and Jeremy Thompson all of whom have served the company since its formation in 2000. They are, of course, non-executive as the company is managed by its executive directors, Jeremy Staples, Sarah Bunch and Martin Farnan. The Board has been joined by David Argent and there is one non-executive directorship vacancy yet to fill. David Hossack continues as an independent non-executive director and Charles Oliver-Bellasis continues as Chairman, representing the Trustees.

The task of the Board and Management is to provide three fundamental services:

- 1 Management of Association properties.
- 2 Provision of rifle, pistol and clay target ranges on economic terms.
- 3 Exploitation of spare range and land facilities to provide an increasing profitable income stream for the benefit of the Association, through tax efficient Gift Aid to develop its core role of encouraging membership throughout the UK.

In short, National Shooting Centre Limited is both a service provider for the Association at Bisley and a commercial business.

## **1 Association Properties**

With the Planning Authority always a constraint we continue to seek to identify demand for and a supply of plots for new chalets. In addition we are seeking to identify demand and sites for clubhouses where overseas groups have been showing interest.

I am sometimes asked about Site 103, the old cookhouse at the top of King's Way. You will recall that we sold the freehold of this site to the NSRA some four years ago in order for them to build an hotel. At a recent meeting with the Chairman of the NSRA I was told that the NSRA still intends to proceed. For wider considerations we shall be fully consulted in the developments when they are ready.

## **2 Ranges**

I am sure that you will have noticed our new National Shooting Centre Range Office. This is our shopfront, the first place many visitors attend, especially new shooters and those who come for 'corporate events'. Not only does it make a better impression for marketing, it is more efficient in layout and equipment for greater ease of service to members and other visitors.

Last year I mentioned the legacy of the late Len Baron of Dorking and District Rifle Club. I am pleased that his legacy will be duly recognised in the Range Office as contributing towards the cost.

We seek to improve range facilities all the time to meet demand. Further targetry improvements are being made at Melville which will also have its own toilet block. Melville is also important for our 'corporate event' activity. Additionally, improvements are being made to Cheylesmore range.

Most significant is that we are now at the testing stage for electronic targetry facilities on Century and Stickle-down. There is much yet to be sorted out. I commend you to read Iain Robertson's excellent article in our Journal on page 46. We are very grateful to Iain for the expertise which he brings to our experimentation.

Huddersfield Rifle Club introduced electronic targetry a year ago and is very pleased. I am pleased that the Association has been able to offer to assist in their further expansion with a modest loan facility. We hope that the Club will be able to support a number of others in their region.

## **3 Land Facilities and Commercial Income**

Sarah Bunch returned last year to take up the new post of Commercial Director. In this leading role she will play a major part in increasing our commercial income. She has already generated new income and profits from corporate shooting events.

Plans are afoot for generating income from our underutilised land. Jeremy Staples has identified that our forgotten land to the south west of the Camp is potentially ideal for field games, as is some MoD land which it may be possible to rent. There appears to be a good market for these activities which may also provide further attraction and activity especially for the young during our Annual Meeting.

A well known area of underutilisation is the land to the west of our entrance known as 'Military Fields'. This is already used for caravan rallies, archery and other activity events such as the successful Harley Davidson rally last August which was introduced to us by Sean Hopwood of the Bisley Pavilion. We have recently had the opportunity to provide the site for a public market in antiques and bric a brac stallholders which has had to move from Brooklands after a successful run over a number of years following commencement of redevelopment of that site.

These events will be undertaken in a way which will not unnecessarily interfere with target shooting, being away from the ranges.

Our intention is to develop significant income over time.

### **The Association**

What we can achieve must be demand led though stimulated by creating interest. The success of our Open Days in 2004 and feedback generally indicates that target rifle shooting is potentially as popular as ever in the minds of a significant number if not most of the public. The speed of development will be determined by our ability to provide resources and the speed of reaction of members and of clubs. The speed will also depend on how we progress with the availability of ranges through the MoD/Landmarc as the principal range providers.

In these matters we must be both persistent, but also realistic about how much can be achieved and how fast.

I have already mentioned above the help which we have offered to Huddersfield Rifle Club. During the past year we have also assisted Camberley Rifle and Pistol Club and Hartlepool Rifle and Pistol Clubs with loans for their ranges.

I have been a life-long rifle and pistol shooter. I have been and am also a small-bore target rifle shooter. I am asked frequently why the NSRA and the NRA are not one body.

We have to recognise that both bodies have developed different styles and traditions over the last 100 years. The NSRA has, for example, a special position of providing potential shooters for Olympic Rifle and Pistol as well as for World and Commonwealth Games in which we also participate. We are in a special position in world-wide team events. The fact is, however, that at grass-roots we have enormous common interest in providing Sport in the Community and a large number of us have benefited from the seamless progress from air rifles to small-bore to fullbore and inter-changeability thereafter. We should be closer.

With the support of your General Council I am pleased to report that at a recent meeting which your Secretary General and I had with our opposite numbers at the NSRA we promised to explore and develop ways for achieving closer co-operation, starting with joint promotion of activities. Since our meeting, I am pleased

to report that the Shooting Council (ie members' representative council) of the NSRA has endorsed this move.

We have had generally positive feedback from our submission to the Home Office over Firearms Legislation. The Home Office has gone temporarily quiet on the subject although there has been some recent adverse comment in the Press arising from some misuse of airguns. Among shooters, however, the response has recognised that they should take the Association seriously in its quest to improve firearms legislation for the legitimate target shooter.

Recently, we have been invited to contribute to the House Magazine, the weekly journal of Parliament which is being taken forward by Glynn Alger. Clearly, this will give us a good opportunity to promote ourselves.

One submission which has proved contentious is also misunderstood. That is the issue of licensing of shooters for competence. Some no doubt biased or at least sceptical shooters have seen this as either or both of a further burden on shooters or a way for the Association to raise money. Simply it is neither. It is part of seeking to gain an initiative towards encouraging the Government to support a degree of supervised self-regulation. It would not affect existing licence holders and, in any event, it is already accepted that new target shooters must go through a probationary course. As for cost, we would seek to be more effective than the present system of licensing through the authorities.

Our Secretary General, Glynn Alger, is and will use our own Journal and our new website so well installed by James Watson. He also uses Target Sports and other publications to broadcast our strategy, plans and progress to get through to as many shooters and the public as possible. Please remember, however, that it will take time to regenerate interest.

In addition to developing Open Days for the public at Bisley, the Association has just applied to the Home Office for an Open Day at Altcar which we are hopeful of obtaining.

You, our members, affiliated clubs and their members are represented in our governance by your General Council. Your General Council appoints or ratifies the appointments to the Council (Board of Trustees) and the working Committees. In order for the General Council to fulfil that role and provide you with true representation, please put yourself or your friends forward. If you believe that you have or know members who have the special professional and business skills which your Association needs for its Board of Trustees and the Board of National Shooting Centre Limited for the future, please put yourselves forward or otherwise identify yourselves and those you know to me.

Thank you.

I shall now be happy to take questions.

*The following topics were raised by members present:*

### **On the Financial Statements:**

Q Is the National Shooting Centre Limited repaying its loan according to its terms, the position does not appear to be clear in the Accounts?

R Yes, the loan is being repaid annually according to its terms and the Company is gradually increasing its reserves, currently standing at £93,000. It should be recalled that the subsidiary company of a Charity cannot, essentially, raise share capital from the Charity.

Q In relation to Note 21, which appears to be obscure and, looking at note 9, it is difficult to understand how is it that the figure for Investments by the Charity is greater than the investments owned by the Group?

R The reason is that Group consolidated accounts have been produced. Thus, the investment of the Charity in the subsidiary company, National Shooting Centre Limited, amounting to a total of £473,388 (original shares and loan) is excluded from the Group total while being included as an asset of the Charity. The issue of clarity in future will be reviewed.

Q The Accounts appear to show a substantial profit from the Bisley Meeting, is this really true?

R As mentioned in the speech, the Association puts considerable resource into the Annual Bisley Meeting. This is for the full encouragement of as many shooters as possible to take part. Traditionally, the figures in the Annual Accounts show only direct income and expenses. From costings, which are being increasingly carried out as a matter of course, it is known that, after other attributable costs, the contribution from the Association for this annual event, which was recognised in our Royal Charter, is considerable. No, the Association does not make a profit from the event and the costing being carried out is more for management purposes and allocation of resources, than the prelude to any increase in overall charges, which is not intended.

Q Could the Accounts show a break-down of the numbers of members, annually, particularly by region?

R Consideration will be given to providing some statistics on members.

Q Could the Accounts show an itemised breakdown of Estate Income as shown in the Summarised Consolidated Account on page 5 as is Estate Expenditure in note 3?

R Note 3 analyses a figure in the SORP Accounts on page 8 and is not like for like with income and

expense on page 5. It is well established that the Annual Financial Statements are not designed as a management tool. As always, if members write in to the office, as much help on detailed figures will be given as practicable and what is shown in the Summary Account on page 5 will continue to reflect what members widely regard as a useful and straightforward summary of the accounts.

### **General Questions:**

Q With the proposed introduction of non-shooting activities, will full consideration be given to security and ensuring that visitors will not be able to access the hut and caravan sites where there have been incidences of intrusion and will not drive about dangerously? In addition, is there a way of joint sharing of armoury alarm facilities and connections to the police?

R Security is a main issue which is being covered in respect of non-shooting activities and events at Bisley and containment of participators to specific areas. Gates are being installed in various places to prevent joy riding. Security is a matter for periodic risk assessment, especially in view of plans to install more road signage to direct the public to the National Shooting Centre.

Q How can the Association be more effective at providing Licensing of shooters when clubs can provide probationary courses free?

R Clubs can provide probationary courses free, but that is not the entire point. The Association provides a probationary course facility for individuals to become licensed shooters albeit at a cost, but more easily accessible than many clubs. The Association club facility enables new shooters to become members of a Home Office club with a view to being introduced to local clubs afterwards.

*There was a general debate about clubs, recruitment and the difficulties of finding people to run clubs, which was seen as a common problem for sports today, not just target shooting clubs. It was recognised that there is no shortage of youngsters who would like to shoot.*

Q Is the problem with RG ammunition really sorted out? If so, will we tell potential overseas competitors, otherwise they will not come over this year?

R Yes, the problem with the bullet manufacture has been sorted out and the availability of accurate ammunition to the quality known up to 2003 will be advertised.

*There was general acceptance among those who had tried out the new batches of RG ammunition that it was excellent and the captain of the Palma Team 2007 offered to use it in the first team trials.*

# PHOENIX MEETING 2005

by Brian Thomas, Phoenix Match Director

Following last year's very successful Phoenix Meeting with its record number of entries, it was plain to see that we, the Phoenix Planning Committee, had our work cut out to improve on last year's meeting.

With weeks to go I was pleased to be dispensing words of reassurance to people who had never been to Bisley before by telling them that this was not a world championship but a safe, well run event with a relaxed atmosphere where the only pressures of shooting were self imposed.

Things looked promising until the long-range weather forecast predicted doom and gloom as the Phoenix weekend approached. The camp started to swell with tents, caravans, stands and people. Thankfully, the Met Office got it wrong and the rain stayed away all weekend.

Friday saw record-breaking hot weather where copious amounts of water were needed to keep the industrious volunteer work force of eighty five Range Officers happy and in fine fettle. As always, no meeting would run without the first class efforts of these people, many of who had travelled hundreds of miles and taken time off from work to assist in the running of this meeting. Thank you to all of those people, as quiet moments at the Phoenix were rare if there were any.

The mini heat wave over, windy conditions on the Saturday made it 'interesting' for competitors especially on the one thousand yards events on Stickledown range. Another new event tested by the wind was the Solid Slug at one and two hundred yards; this was very popular. We will be compiling other section one shotgun competitions at shorter ranges for all of the Gallery Rifle Action Weekend events held at Bisley from the August meeting onwards. One event heard all over the camp was the very popular Speed Steel Challenge and a special thank you must go to Peter Hobson and Hobson Industries Ltd for their charitable donation of the steel used in this event.

This year the Sunday Market, held at the front of camp, was a welcome addition with people stocking up on provisions. As always, over the Meeting, the Pavilion was a hive of activity with plenty of bargains at the Trade Fair for those braving the crowds of prospective buyers.

On Sunday, for the first time at the Phoenix, we had a Hunter Field Target (HFT) competition with a newly purchased piece of handsome silverware for a trophy. A big thanks to David Walker and to the members of the Bisley Field Target Organisation for constructing the thirty target course. Next year the HFT event at the Phoenix will not clash with the HFT National

Grand Prix circuit. This should encourage many new shooters to the Phoenix providing more of a mix of shooting styles at this our celebration of target shooting events.

Nobody could fail to notice the 22 members of the German team who visited the Phoenix for the second year running and we were glad to welcome the ten man Irish team, who were first time visitors to the event. Both teams stayed an extra day to shoot in a friendly International on the Monday morning in Melville (*match report below*). The NRA Chairman, John Jackman, presented the prizes with the Phoenix team first, the German BDMP second and the Irish SSAI in third place. However, the Phoenix team may not find it so easy in the future.

Some advice to people thinking of coming next year is to save yourselves disappointment and money by entering early. Competitions are now filling up very quickly once the entry form is produced. Entry forms will be posted to everybody who has entered a Phoenix, a Gallery Rifle Action Weekend or the National 1500 and Bianchi Championships. You will be able to find details on the National Shooting Centre's website at [www.nsc-bisley.co.uk](http://www.nsc-bisley.co.uk) and a link from the National Rifle Association website [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk). For future meetings we hope the facility of entering online will also be operational.

The prize giving was held in the London and Middlesex Rifle Association's clubhouse on the Sunday evening with the very popular raffle being drawn first. Popular, or are those lovely ladies on the front counter just very good at parting people from their money? This year the top raffle prize was a free entry to next year's Phoenix Meeting. Wes Stanton, the Managing Director of Target Sports presented the silverware and prizes to the winners.

Of course, this culmination to the Phoenix is only possible because of the wonderful but frantic efforts in the hidden world of squadding and stats. Behind the scenes before and throughout the meeting another sterling group of volunteers was led by Charles Murton, the Chief of Stats. Charles is also the new Gallery Rifle and Pistol representative on the NRA General Council and Shooting Committee.

By the time this goes to print, we will be planning for next year's Phoenix. We already have many new and exciting ideas to explore thoroughly, but we should also welcome any thoughts, comments or complaints either through the websites or by post to me at Bisley.

A big thank you to Target Sports for being the Phoenix's main sponsor; without promotions in their publications and their generous production of the meeting booklet we would have not been able to



An array of firearms and calibres.



The other end of the McQueen!



Growing in popularity at the Phoenix, the long barrelled revolver.



Bianchi Plates being shot on Running Deer Range.



Hunter Field Target shot on the BFTO Range.



Black Powder Revolver at 200 yards.



The popular Steels shot on Butt 0 of Stickledown.



Shooting 'off stick' in the sporting rifle events.

*Photos: John Robinson and Iain Robertson.*

achieve an entry level of over five hundred and seventy this year which surpassed last year's record by some eighty competitors.

However, back to the prize giving, where the last thank you had just been said. People were standing up to leave when David Walker pushed through to tell me that the winner of the inaugural Hunter Field Target event had just made it to the prize giving, was he too late? With such a lovely big trophy having been purchased it seemed a shame for the winner not to have it presented to him.

One attention seeking whistle later everyone had stopped and were directed to sit down. A quick explanation as to why the audience has been called back and I passed the large silver trophy to Wes Stanton. After a suitable introduction I turned to David for the gentleman's name, "Thomas McDonald" he says. I repeated this to the listeners who start to applaud and up stepped a fourteen-year-old Thomas. The volume of the applause increased ten-fold and people rose to their feet, "The future of the sport ladies and gentleman". A fitting end to a superb Phoenix Meeting.



Wes Stanton presents the trophy to Thomas McDonald.  
(Photo: Courtesy of Target Sports)

### **The International Match**

by Chris Farr, Phoenix Team Adjutant

Last year saw the inaugural Gallery Rifle International Match held between the Phoenix Team and, from Germany, the Bund der Militär und Polizeischützen (BDMP) Team. It was the first time such a match had been held on the Monday of the Meeting since the last Pistol Anno Domini Meeting in 1996.

Following this successful match, we were joined by the Shooting Sports Association of Ireland Team who were happy to compete in spite of only recently having had firearms restrictions lifted at home even to allow them access to Gallery Rifles Centre Fire (GRCF).

A reception was held the night before for all the teams and range officers where there was plenty of opportunity to gauge the opposition and to attempt to handicap them with plenty of hospitality.

Mementos of the occasion from the Phoenix Team, in the form of engraved silver salvers, were presented by the Team Captain, John Robinson, to the guest Team Captains, Dietmar Honersch and Pat Herlihy.

After several days of competition, including some limited opportunity for practice, the three teams met at 08:00 on Melville to compete for the International Trophy. The programme comprised three courses of fire to be shot in four hours with GRCF. These were the Multi-Target, 1500 and Timed and Precision One events; a fairly demanding morning's shooting totalling over 200 rounds.

The match was overseen by one of the most experienced Chief Range Officers in Gallery Rifle, Stuart Haxton, and he was well supported by a team of experienced and hard working Range Officers.

There was a nervous start for some of the competitors but they soon settled down to an enjoyable morning with the occasional malfunction thrown in just to keep them on their toes. Throughout the morning, Chief Stats Officer for the Phoenix Meeting, Charles Murton, kept up with the scores and, shortly after the last shot was fired, the result was announced with the Phoenix Team coming first, the BDMP Team second and the SSAI Team third.

John Jackman presented the International Trophy to the Phoenix Team and medals to all the teams and thanked all for participating in a very friendly match.

Every effort is being made to increase the number of teams competing from Europe and we hope that at least one more country will be able to join us next year.

<b>Phoenix Team</b>	Mike Chinery Phil Cowling Keith Cox Dave Hackett Gwyn Roberts John Robinson Richard Schofield Peter Watts	(Captain)
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<b>SSAI Team</b>	Declan Cahill Robby Carolan Tom Conachey Padraig Herlihy Pat Herlihy John McKenna John O'Grady John Walls	(Captain)
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<b>BDMP Team</b>	Jurgen Frank Wilfried Gockel Reto Grun Frank Heymel Dietmar Honersch Rolf Pobel Michael Riethorst Torsten Riewe	(Captain)
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The Team Captains: John Robinson, Dietmar Honersch and Pat Herlihy.



First place: The Phoenix Team.



Second place: The BDMP Team from Germany.



Third place: The SSAI Team from Eire.

(Photos: Darren Whitley)

## Grand Auction for the Great Britain Team to South Africa 2006

*Things that money can't usually buy – but we have found!*

**To be held on the evening of Monday 11 July in the Umbrella Tent.**

Sealed bids are being accepted prior to the auction should you not be able to attend.

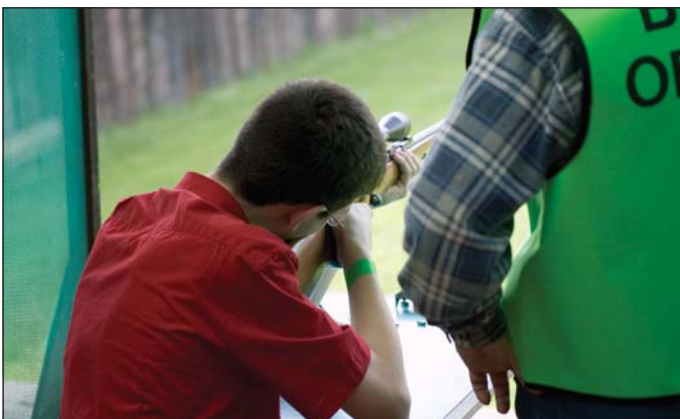
Telephone bids may also be made on the night by prior arrangement.

Please contact Paul Charlton for a full list of auction items and arrangements for prior bidding or by telephone on the night. E-mail: [Bisley05Auction@aol.com](mailto:Bisley05Auction@aol.com) or tel: 07977 065083

### ***A sample of just some of the items we already secured at the time of going to press . . .***

- a** Two guns for a 125 - 150 Bird (Pheasant) in Cornwall with the Coronet Syndicate on the Tregothnan Estate owned by Lord Falmouth. Estimated value £900.
- b** A weekend break for two people in Cornwall to include two nights hotel accommodation in Truro's Royal Hotel with tickets to the Eden Project and Falmouth's internationally acclaimed Maritime Museum. Estimated value £250.
- c** A day's sailing for two people from Falmouth along part of Cornwall's spectacular South Coast on a beautiful Hallberg Rassy 31. In addition to a champagne lunch, the successful bidders will (before lunch!) have the opportunity to man the helm the boat. Estimated value - immeasurable (when you know who the Captain is!)
- d** Limited edition Red Arrows Print signed by Arrows. Estimated value £1000 at previous auctions.
- e** Track day in rally car. Estimated value £500.

Other items include Vintage Port, Antique Prints and Memorabilia of Bisley, rare signed Bisley book set and many more! See your squadding envelopes and the NRA website for further details nearer the time.



# THE THIRD NRA OPEN DAY - SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2005

by Sarah Bunch

On a glorious spring day it was wonderful to see some 950 individuals, of all ages, register for the many activities being held on the National Rifle Association Open Day. This is the third event, in a 12 month period, that has been run at Bisley after a five year break. It was a fantastic opportunity for non shooters to try different shooting disciplines and it was also great to see so many NRA members bring family and friends to Bisley to 'have a go' at their sport.

A big thank you must be given to the 190 volunteers and other shooting governing bodies who worked from the crack of dawn until late afternoon on some 20 plus activities which included laser clays, shotgun, target rifle, match rifle, F Class rifle, practical rifle, historic rifle, McQueen, gallery rifle, black powder and many other events that were run over the course of the day.

## Registered Guests Feedback

*"Just a note to say thanks very much for a great day out. I came along with my dad and we had a fantastic day. It has always been a dream of my dad's to fire a Lee Enfield rifle and we had a great time doing this"*

*"I had been an avid pistol shooter until Dunblane legislation took my guns away, it was with great pleasure that I attended the recent Open Day on 30 April. It was made even more enjoyable by the fact that I could take my two sons, and let them share in the sport of shooting. The day exemplified everything that is good about the sport - great fun, informative, extremely sociable, and (of course) totally safe and, as a bonus, blessed with perfect weather."*

*"I attended the Open Day on Saturday and was most impressed - again. I came with a party none of whom had seen Bisley before and they were bowled over by the whole set-up."*

*"Just a quick note to say what an excellent show NSC put on for the Open Day on 30 April 2005. The team and volunteers managed a perfect balance between security/safety and the education/fun elements. Even when people - and they were from all backgrounds - were queueing, there was a sense of excitement and anticipation. I know and love Bisley of old but my partner, who had never been before, was most impressed."*

We look forward to a bigger and better Open Day on Saturday 3 September 2005. The more successful these events are, the more volunteers we need to help out. We would love to have enough coaches so that everyone can spend half a day coaching and half a day enjoying the events on offer; we would love to have enough coaches so that more information can be given to guests waiting to shoot; we would love to have enough volunteers to be able to run more activities but we cannot do this without **your** help. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are available to help out in any way on Saturday 3 September.

If you have any queries or comments about previous Open Days or suggestions for activities that could be incorporated into future Open Days, please e-mail Sarah Bunch on [commdir@nra.org.uk](mailto:commdir@nra.org.uk) or telephone 01483 799609.

*(All photos opposite: John Knight)*

.....

## 100 YEARS AGO

by Ted Molyneux

The year 1905 was a year of prosperity for the NRA. Bisley Camp was becoming established and shooting was a very popular activity both in fullbore and small-bore. With the increasing popularity of the latter and, since 1900, the formation of small-bore rifle clubs nationwide, the NRA now had over 670 affiliated clubs with a membership of over 43,000.

The value of prizes for the Imperial Meeting is recorded as £13,874.7s.11d, and the number of entries as 47,354. For HM The King's Prize there were 1,453 competitors, with Armourer Sergeant AJ Comber (2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Battalion East Surrey Regiment) emerging the clear winner by two points from Private TP Hooton (2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Battalion Liverpool Regiment). Staff Sergeant G Souter (1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders) won both first and second stages but found it hard on the longer ranges finishing in 64<sup>th</sup> place.

Lance Sergeant H Ommundsen (Queen's Edinburgh) won the Grand Aggregate by five clear points from Private J Reid of the Transvaal. (It is sad to note that Ommundsen was later killed by shellfire in 1914 soon after the commencement of World War One. He had won the Grand Aggregate in 1900, 1905 and 1910 as well as the Queen's Prize in 1901.)

The rifle of the period was the .303" calibre long Lee bolt action magazine rifle which fired ball mark VI ammunition. The bullet weighed 215 grains, was round nosed and 1.26" long with a diameter of 0.309". The propellant was 31 grains of ¾ size cordite, giving a muzzle velocity of about 1920 feet per second and a chamber pressure between 17½ to 18 tons per square inch. During the Imperial Meeting, 520,000 rounds of this ammunition were expended and declared excellent.

His Majesty King Edward VII graciously presented the major prizes at the Imperial Meeting over which period there were a large number of distinguished visitors:

The Duke of Sparta (*accompanying His Majesty*)

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught KG, Inspector General of the Forces

The Right Hon HO Arnold-Foster, Secretary of State for War

The Earl of Donoughmore, Under-Secretary of State for War

Field Marshall Earl Roberts VC (*who presented the remaining prizes*)

General Hon Sir NG Lyttelton, Chief of the General Staff

General Sir John French, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Aldershot

Major General Oliphant, General Officer Commanding London District

Major General Baden-Powell

to name the more illustrious!

Coincidentally, it was in 1905 that the formation of a museum was mooted. Major Hon TF Fremantle (later Lord Cottesloe) reported that a committee had been appointed to deal with the matter of forming a collection of the various rifles that had been used in the principal competitions of the Association. So, some 92 years later, blossomed the Museum as it is today, able to display many fine and rare historic artefacts so generously donated over the years. (If you have not yet paid it a visit then you are missing a very interesting exhibition.)

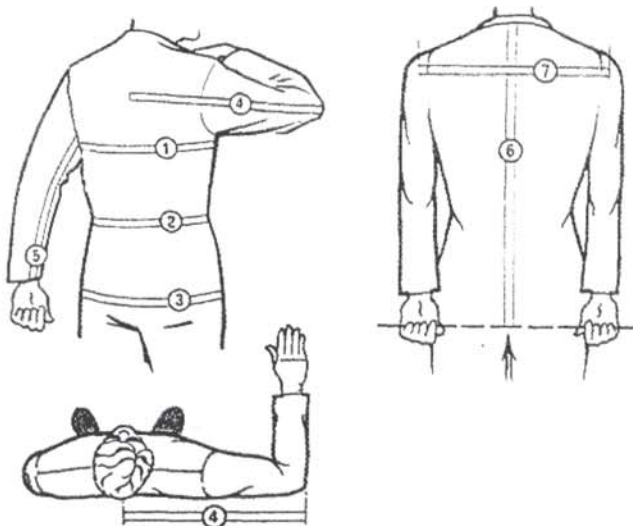


Scotland won the Mackinnon in 1905 - Lance Sergeant H Ommundsen is pictured far left in the front row holding a rifle.

# Self Measurement Chart for Andrew Tucker Jackets

## Measuring Instructions -

- A. Measurements should be taken while wearing a shirt and sweatshirt or the equivalent, as a knitted sweater is not recommended.  
 B. Having taken chest, waist and hip measurements, please add 2" (5cms) to each and fill in the form accordingly.  
 C. Measurement 4. should be taken with the upper arm raised parallel to the ground and straight out to the side, maintaining the line of the shoulder.  
 D. Measurement 5. should be taken with the arm down the side, with the tape running from armpit to joint of the wrist.  
 E. Measurement 7 should be taken across the back from shoulder blade to shoulder blade and NOT from the outside of the arms.



State right or left handed.....

Height.....ins/cms

1 \*Chest + 2"=.....ins/cms

2 \*Waist + 2"=.....ins/cms

3 \*Hips + 2"=.....ins/cms

4 Centre back to point of elbow.....ins/cms

5 Inside arm.....ins/cms

6 \*\*Length of Jacket.....ins/cms

7 Shoulder Width.....ins/cms

\* Sizes 50" and over are plus 10% on the list price

\*\*I S U / U I T rules state 'the jacket may not be longer than the bottom of the clenched fist'.

This order is for:-

The 'Auckland Gold Medal' leather jacket.

The 'New Arizona' leather Jacket

The 'Double Canvas' jacket

The 'European' Cloth Jacket

Is this garment to be used for shooting under ISSF Rules?.....

(If the answer is 'NO' thicker padding will be used)

I Do / Do not want a sling loop at the extra cost listed in the price list. (Please delete as applicable)

## COLOUR SELECTION CHART 'DOUBLE CANVAS' JACKET

	Blue	Green	Red	White
Front and Sleeves				
Back				
Suede				

or the 'JOSEPH' (coat of many colours)

## 'NEW ARIZONA' JACKET

	Blue	Brown	White
Front and Sleeves			
Back			

(NOTE - matching suede is used on the 'NEW ARIZONA')

## 'AUCKLAND GOLD MEDAL' JACKET

	Blue	Light Blue	Red	Wine	Brown	Grey	White	Black
Front								
Sleeves								
Back								
Suede								

(Note - contrasting sued can be used on 'AUCKLAND JACKETS')

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Phone No.....Date / / 05

E-Mail.....



## ANDREW TUCKER JACKETS

P. O. Box 298 Cobham. Surrey KT11 1XQ

Telephone and Fax No. 020 8755 0133

E-Mail: Jackets@andrewtucker.net

# NRA SHOOTING CLUB INAUGURAL DAY

by Heather Webb

OK, so whose bright idea was it to suggest that we run a shooting club?

Ah, that'll be me then!

So, having had the idea and being told to run with it, what next? Find out if there is any interest within our membership. Out went the e-mail and to say the least, you guys and gals came up trumps. Over 60 interested members in the first 24 hours and more interest still being shown. Best I find a suitable date and book targets then. As the club is designed to cater for all shooting disciplines I decided to try and cover as many as possible over the first day: Gallery Rifle, Black Powder, F Class, Service Rifle and Target Rifle were all on the agenda.

With Chris Webb running Melville and Cheylesmore, ably assisted by Garry Minton, and with Iain Robertson, Steve East, Hamish Tucker and Chris Law running Century we had a great team. John Gardner offered to run a service rifle competition for which there was a trophy, kindly donated for that reason.

The inaugural day dawned with clear blue skies and warm sunshine but, true to our British summers, quickly clouded over and threatened to rain. Fortunately there are other non-football fans out there as I had managed to book targets on Cup Final day.

Glynn Alger opened the proceedings with a few words about what the NRA was achieving both at Bisley and in the regions. Then it was out to the ranges. There were a couple of hiccups but nothing that couldn't be corrected.

We had a variety of shooters from 'plinkers' to serious shooters. Some were quite happy just to enjoy themselves and others were making good use of the experience that was around. Even the rain that arrived shortly after we started failed to dampen our spirits and gave us the chance to practise our wet weather drills.

We had one probationer, shooting one-on-one with a coach, who was delighted to have the opportunity to try some larger calibre gallery rifles. Unfortunately, as his mother, it cost me a fortune in ammunition. But then again the grin on his face was worth it and his shooting wasn't bad either.

Lunch was taken in the London & Middlesex clubhouse and provided an opportunity for us to find out if people were enjoying the day. I was very happy to hear a resounding "Yes". There were suggestions for future days as well as ideas on how to help it to

run more smoothly.

Back out onto the ranges in the afternoon and amazingly the weather improved tremendously. The service rifle competition was won by Steve Burnaby. There was one better score but he was disqualified as he seemed to know what he was doing! As Steve had to leave after the morning shoot we were unable to present him with his trophy and hopefully by the time he reads this I will have remembered to tell him.

Everyone seemed to have had a good day and agreed that it was a good idea. One of the e-mails I had after the event proved it was all worthwhile:

*Heather*

*Thank you and everyone for an excellent day on 21/05/05.*

*I only tried F Class and Target and although I enjoyed F Class I think I shall stick to Target. Everyone was friendly and most of all keen to help and pass on their own experiences.*

*The whole day was well worth it, I began at the outset feeling a little insecure about shooting in the wind, and although I only understood about 30% of what was passed on, and then only absorbed about 20% of that, I went home feeling 50% taller. It was also the first time I'd shot my rifle in the rain whilst lying in a puddle, and although it's not something I would encourage, I didn't even notice it until I looked down to what appeared to be another episode of blown seals on my incontinent trousers.*

*However I still feel a little bit of a cheat having spent the whole day "soaking up" other peoples hard earned experiences, perhaps soon I will be able to repay some of this.*

*I have booked time off for 11 June just to be sure to be there.*

*See you soon!*

*Ian*

So maybe the sleepless nights and hectic organisation was worth it after all. I'll just have to put on some more dates and hopefully see it grow. As they say, watch this space for future dates as well as our website, your e-mail and the postman.

Now all I need are more people in all the shooting disciplines to help me to ensure that we offer the best for our members. Any volunteers? (Pressed men and women are also acceptable).

*Heather Webb*

*Tired but happy Membership Secretary*

# THE BEGINNING OF THE NRA SHOOTING CLUB



"Damn! This kid is better than I am!" Chris Webb gets worried!



Be very very quiet, new member Philip Treleven concentrates.



"Brrrr wish I was on Melville!" Chris Law helps out on Century.



"Please Mum can I have a 44/40, can I Mum, can I Mum, can I?"



Coach Iain Robertson gives advice and shares his knowledge with less experienced shooters . . . whether they want it or not!

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<http://www.border-barrels.com>

# JIM BALDWIN

*Talking With Tony de Launay*



Big Jim, the camp engineer, is retiring - they said. Strange that: I had never thought of him as a shy or reticent person, nor would it be natural to think of him anything other than a permanent fixture around Bisley. (I choose to ignore the camp engineer bit on the grounds that I will get into deeper water.) Sadly, it (the retirement) is true. I found him up at Melville, looking perplexed at a mysterious electrical targetry fault.

To generations of shooters James Baldwin (aka Big Jim) has represented the working face of Bisley. As the NRA's mechanical fixer, a succession of battered Land Rovers in shades of blue, or blue and yellow, have been his smoking trade mark, responding to the cries for help across the spectrum of mechanical and other failures, from targets to drains, from earthworks to marquees.

Just how old are you? "I'm 73 this year and this will be my 40<sup>th</sup> Bisley Meeting, quite a milestone at which to depart". After stepping back in amazement, and with a muttered comment about him being the most active and youngest looking 73 year old in Surrey, we pursued his early years. "I was born in Knaphill, lived for many years in Sussex Road, and after getting married bought a house just at the end of Queen's Road".

"I was in the army for two years national service and then I became a motor mechanic", he said. "I used to do a little evening and weekend work for the NRA servicing the grass mowers. One day the NRA

suggested that I became a permanent fixture and as it was a better offer than anything else, I joined in 1965. Incidentally, we had a Ford pick-up and a Willys Jeep before the Land-Rovers."

And where did the "Big Jim" come from? "That was the Ghurkhas in the days when they were the duty company on site, doing all the marking and keeping it spotless. When a target broke they used to ask for Jim - the big chap, and it stuck". The memory etches into his trade-mark smile. It is a smile given whether in agreement to your plea for help or as a preface to the rare dishing out of a polite and constructive disappointment. When he does turn you down he has the knack of making you feel pleased with the fact that you have just failed miserably to rope him into mission impossible.

He has survived a formidable list of NRA Secretaries: Le Mesurier, Riall, Prescott, Ewing and Cheshire to name but some of them. "I also remember Admiral Hutton as someone who ruled the North London Rifle Club with a rod of iron, pressing for standards to be maintained. That was in the days when it was joked that NRA decisions were taken in the bar of that club". Ronnie Melville was another for whom Jim has a soft spot. "He was a generous and kind man of his word".

He has no regrets about staying with the NRA as he reflects on the changes he has seen in forty years. "We have done well with all the work that has been put into repairs and new facilities in recent years. Yes I have had moments of frustration, but the place was starting to look too run-down. Over ten years or so the money that has been spent on buildings and services has been essential. In some ways it has been at the expense of the older way of life and relationships: there is a harder edge to what we do in pursuit of commercial results". He would be a firm supporter of radio controlled electronic targets, making points about savings on marker costs, and cables being vulnerable to fires and animals.

He told me that his wife asked his daughter one day what it was that made him stay with the NRA. "Mum," she said from her experience as a part-time silver polisher during the Meeting, "it just grows on you". It grew on Jim.

Shooters have, quite rightly, been reminded in direct terms of the speed limit on camp; small children have been flushed out of areas in which they should not be. Emergency remedies for busted cars and caravans have miraculously appeared thanks to Jim and his bag of tricks and tools.



He laughs at an enquiry about his shooting prowess, or lack of it. "Yes, I shot once in a charity shoot run by the Masonic Lodge here. I shot ten shots in the morning and ten in the afternoon. My boss Tony Barrow saw me and told me that I was wasting good working time, and I never fired another shot again! One thing I have learned, though, is that shooters never miss".

Does he have any particular likes? "I love this place, the buildings, the ranges and the people. I have made many friends among shooters from home and overseas. It gives me satisfaction that they are enjoying facilities that are in good working order". It also reminds him of the time that he was digging out a drain with the digger and the bucket hit something, producing a shower of sparks. "I thought I had hit the gas main, so started prodding around with a spade. As the smoke got thicker a passing army officer told me to get out of it fast – I had found an old long lost cache of phosphorous bombs. It was one of the rare occasions that I did what I was told".

Surprisingly, in all that time he has never watched a Queen's Prize Final from the firing point. "I have been in the butts or acting as door-man for the winner, to keep the rabble out of the Office. But I do remember seeing Andrew Tucker being carried down the road on his second victory: he was one of shooting's gentlemen".

He has no real plans for retirement, except for an inclination to do some fishing. It is just possible that he may yet be seen passing on his expertise to those who follow in his footsteps. That is something that shooters will almost expect, judging by the number of smiles you get when mentioning Jim's contribution to proceedings.

It is a mark of his presence that not only the Bisley "home" shooters recognise him immediately; shooters from throughout the UK and abroad also know the direct route to a problem solved – send for Big Jim. Thank you James for 40 years of a job well done – despite the shooters!

---

## AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME JULY 2005

This has become, and is recognised as, one of the finest schemes of its kind in any sport anywhere in the world.

It is open to **any** firer from any country, county, association, club, school or unit shooting TR or F Class who would like help during the Imperial Meeting. It is **not** restricted to less experienced firers and novices. Indeed, an increasing number of experienced shots are availing themselves of the scheme.

If anyone would like to have an Aunt or an Uncle to help over shooting matters exclusively, do please get in touch with me preferably by e-mail.

Likewise, anyone with appropriate experience wishing to be an Aunt or Uncle will be more than welcome to join the team. Again, do please contact me. If previous years are anything to go by, and despite the increasing number of groups who now run their own schemes, I am going to need all the help I can get.

Finally, I have completely revised the annually updated Guide for First-timers at Bisley, creating a version for cadet or school shooters and one for others. If anyone would like a copy, then please let me know. Copies sent by e-mail come from me and hard copy versions come from the NRA; both are free.

Tim Elliott  
Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB

Tel and fax: 01234 740334  
Mobile: 07932 706171  
E-mail: tje@easynet.co.uk

## REMEMBER THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

A radical thought?

No, a way that you can support others to enjoy what you have enjoyed over a lifetime.

- **All legacies will be duly recognised.**  
A legacy from the late Len Baron of Dorking is recognised in the Bisley Range Office. Another pledge has already been received.
- **Instruct the Trustees how you wish your legacy to be allocated.**  
Failing expressed wishes the Trustees will allocate legacies to capital projects UK-wide or to the Young Shooters Fund.
- **Legacies are Inheritance Tax Free.**  
They can be made in cash or in rifles and other shooting equipment.

All you have to do is to instruct your Solicitor to add the National Rifle Association to your Will.

*If you have any queries, please contact the Secretary General, Glynn Alger*



## THE BIG FIVE

*by Ted Molyneux*

So just what is the Big Five? Basically the Big Five are our premier team matches - the National, the Mackinnon, the Kolapore, the Empire/ Australia and the Palma Matches.

The National and the Mackinnon matches are for the Home Country teams of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the other three matches are for Great Britain (previously known as the Mother Country) teams.

To qualify as one of the Big Five, one has to have been a member of all five teams. Instigated in 1995, such members are entitled to wear a special blazer badge and also a special Big Five tie. This tie is the same as the current GB team tie but with a dark blue figure 5 added to the dark blue background. This makes the 5 unobtrusive and barely visible. The special blazer badges are similar in appearance but the centre differs for each of the four Home Countries.

As the first year of existence of all five matches was not until 1907, being the inaugural match for the Empire trophy, nobody could qualify before that year.



The following list contains all who have qualified and the year of qualification:

CSgt A Lawrance	1907	JPS Bloomfield	1985
Ar Sgt G McHaffie	1907	NCM Fyfe	1985
Capt JE Martin	1907	LE King	1985
Sgt ANVH Ommundsen	1907	DA Painting	1985
Lt Col Sir Philip Richardson Bt OBE VD	1907	RP Rosling	1985
Maj FE Varley	1907	Dr JD Warburton	1987
Lt AG Fulton MBE DCM	1910	JEM Bellringer	1988
Maj EL Parnell TD	1910	PB Bromley	1988
Sgt Maj HJ Ward	1919	Lt Col CCC Cheshire OBE	1988
Col LN Langford Lloyd CMG DSO	1920	Maj NC Crawshaw MBE	1988
DF Cantlay	1967	CWA Cunningham	1988
Maj JA Crawford	1967	MR Pattinson	1988
Lt Col DAG Horton-Smith MBE TD	1967	DFP Richards	1988
Maj FG Little DL JP	1967	PN Hinchliffe QC	1991
Maj WH Magnay	1967	Wg Cdr DP Calvert MBE RAF	1992
AB Brown	1968	VC Carpenter	1992
NEC Molyneux	1968	DGM Coleman	1992
Maj S Armour RM	1969	ARH Jones	1992
RJ Bramley	1969	TA Ringer	1992
Maj RA Fulton TD	1969	GC Barnett	1993
Lt Col HJ Orpen-Smellie OBE	1969	KE Chard	1994
KM Pilcher	1969	MK Townsend	1994
Maj GE Twine	1969	AJ Luckman	1995
Maj NW McCaw OBE TD	1970	Miss JH Messer	1995
Lt Col DC Merry	1970	WCP Richards	1995
JS Spaight	1970	SNS Penrose	1996
The Rt Hon the Lord Swansea DL	1970	J Pugsley	1997
Capt HJ Thomas MBE	1970	JS Collings	1999
Maj HN Cooper RM	1971	DC Luckman	1999
DD Lovell OBE TD	1971	TG Rylands	1999
Maj E Nicholson MBE TD	1971	CN Tremlett	1999
EPJ Harrison	1974	JC Underwood	1999
JF Jackman	1974	JGM Webster	1999
CN McEachran	1974	Dr PM Patel	2001
KO Pugh	1974	Dr AF Aspin	2003
Lt Cdr JFO Willcox RN	1974	Lt NJ Ball	2003
Col RH MacKeith OBE	1975	Capt J Cload	2004
GF Arnold	1976		
CTS Belk	1976		
A Chown	1976		
JR Killian	1976		
RS Mason	1976		
Dr RH Nicholson	1976		
JMA Thompson	1979		
A St G Tucker	1979		
JH Carmichael	1981		
S Belither	1982		
AE Clarke	1982		
Dr JW Hadfield	1982		
PG Kent	1982		
CS O'Brien	1982		
FR Payne	1982		
SA Thomas	1982		

••• **WANTED** •••

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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN DAY



**SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Home Office Approval has been granted for an  
Open Day to be held at the National Shooting Centre,  
Bisley on Saturday 3 September 2005.

*Come and have a go at:*

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

Children's  
Entertainment

Refreshments  
available

Visit the  
NRA Museum

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  
or visit the new website [www.nsc-bisley.co.uk](http://www.nsc-bisley.co.uk)  
Tel 01483 797777 ext 125 E-mail [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)

# SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

## Great Britain Target Rifle Team, Kenya & Namibia, May 2004

Captain - David Hossack

A full account of the tour was given in the Winter 2004 Journal (pp 72-77). The team of 20 competed successfully in the Kenya Championships at Stony Athi Range and in the Namibia Championships at Windhoek, Leopard Valley Range.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Air Fares	34,672	OTF Grant	9,000
Coach Hire (UK)	440	Corporate Hospitality	38,680
Road transport (Kenya and Namibia)	7,857	Other (Donations, Auction, Interest etc.)	9,081
Insurance (Team and Individual)	535	Team Brochure Profit	2,917
Accommodation and Subsistence	16,641		
Shooting Costs	8,970	Team Member Contributions	27,286
Uniform	4,855		
Training	4,792		
Team Hospitality and Presentations	5,460		
Administration (Telephone, Postage etc.)	1,992		
Donation to OTF to support youth shooting**	750		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>86,964</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>86,964</b>

\*\* Note: after resolution of some residual matters the donation to the OTF may be a little larger

## Great Britain Match Rifle Team, Australia, September/October 2004

Captain - Colin Hayes

A full account of the tour was given in the Spring 2005 Journal (pp22-26). The major object of the tour was to compete in the Third Woomera Match at Lower Light Range, near Adelaide, South Australia. Before the individual competitions and the match for the Woomera Trophy, the team shot at Stawell Range in Victoria. The team of 17 shot successfully in the individual matches and won the Woomera Match by 22 points.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Air Travel (incl airport coaches)	38,092	OTF Grant	5,500
Transport	4,187	Donations, sponsorship & fundraising	34,051
Accommodation	16,958	Team member contributions	25,103
Entry Fees	2,084	(contribution per head: £1,477)	
UK Training	770	Bank Interest	710
Protocol (gifts & receptions)	2,235		
Administration, Insurance etc	1,038		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>65,364</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>65,364</b>

Special Note: not included in the figures above are sponsorship in kind, which covered team uniforms, air freight of ammunition, and website hosting and production. Team members also provided their own ammunition and covered personal expenditure on team dinners and travel in the UK.

.....



## WOT Is It?

This brass plate was excavated recently in a Wimbledon garden. It is almost certainly connected to the NRA Wimbledon Ranges but can anyone positively identify its exact purpose please?

Please contact the NRA Museum with any information. Thank you!

*Ted Molyneux, Hon Curator*

## OBITUARIES

### Colin O'Brien



Colin Stuart O'Brien was born on 26 September 1930 in Shipley, Bradford. Both his father, a journalist with the Yorkshire Evening Post, and his mother died early in his life, before he had reached the age of 15. Thereafter he lived with an aunt until national service beckoned. He died, aged 74, on Saturday 9 April after a fight against a recurrence of cancer, something that he had never talked about to anyone save his closest family and friends so as to spare others concern.

From national service with the Fleet Air Arm and an apprenticeship as a dyer with the Bradford Dyeing Association, he rose to become Chief Executive of a major group of companies at a time when the Textile and Dyeing Industries were facing emerging threats from Far Eastern competition. He joined Whitecroft plc in the early 1960s, and became Managing Director of Scottish Wool Bleachers in Barrhead, Glasgow. The number of companies under his leadership expanded to seven, including Ribble Carpets, Bealey's, Chorley Bleachers and Hardcastle's, mostly based in the North West.

In the late 1980s he held the Presidencies of the British Textile Employers' Association (1987-1989), the Textile Finishers Association, which he helped establish in 1989, and the Society of Dyers and Colourists (1988-1989), and was Vice-President of the British Textile Confederation. He participated as a member of many committees for these organisations, specialising in research into the ways that UK products could maintain an innovative edge and in which the textile industry could meet ever more stringent environmental demands.

His work and reputation in textiles brought him industrial honours. He was invited to become a Citizen

and Dyer of London in 1999, one of the few members of the Livery Company who was a true Dyer by profession. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Dyers and Colourists in 2000. He also held senior positions within Masonic Lodges in London and in Knutsford and was a member of Mensa.

He was to carry his business skills into his rifle shooting. Picking up an interest from his father (who had trained as a sniper in the first World War) and from his national service, he became a highly competent small-bore rifle shot, taking numerous championships and prizes. As a late convert to the open ranges, he went on to establish a reputation as a gritty fullbore competitor, reaching the final of the Queen's Prize on ten occasions between 1970 and 1991, and taking the Scottish Open Championship twice.

In all he made ten overseas tours as a member of Great Britain teams, twice as captain and once as vice-captain, visiting every country where fullbore target rifle shooting is practised, and captaining the England National and Mackinnon teams. He became known around the world as one of the thinking ambassadors of the sport. But it was his willingness to devote his spare time to the voluntary duties - without which amateur sports do not function - that made him friends and forged lasting links with other shooting national governing bodies.

He was elected to the Council of the National Rifle Association in 1974, keen to bring some of his industrial management skills to what was an organisation resting cosily in the arms of a thoroughly amateur ethos. With his typical Yorkshire bluntness and forcefulness, aided by his undoubted business skills, he was soon appointed to the powerful Executive Committee becoming its Chairman from 1977 until 1983. He continued to serve on the Committee and was its Chairman, again, from 1988 to 1990.

For those involved with him there was rarely a half-way house. He either had their support and agreement, or there was unlikely to be much of a meeting of minds! However, by common consent no one could ever doubt that he retained the interests of the NRA foremost in his contribution to managing their affairs. His efforts through difficult times, as the NRA faced a declining membership base and rapidly escalating costs, helped to hold together the disparate interests of the various shooting disciplines and earned him the respect of the rifle shooting community.

From 1989 Colin represented the Yorkshire and Humberside Region on the NRA Council, of which he remained a member until he stood down shortly before his death. He held posts on the Disciplinary and Shooting Committees for many years, including the Chairmanship of the latter, and was a Director of the National Shooting Centre Limited from its formation in 2001.

He was a member of the Yorkshire Rifle Team for 21 consecutive years and their champion four times until he fell out with their equally strong-willed leader, the late Laurie Comins. No one can recall with any precision the reason but the two of them at bay, each in his own inimitable way, was a classic case of irresistible force and the immovable object. Colin later shot for Cheshire after moving to live in that county, and for some 35 years was a member of Manchester Rifle Club. In all he won 17 Cheshire Championship gold medals.

Of medium height with, in later years, luxurious silver hair, he never lost his Yorkshire accent, which he used to good effect as a natural raconteur. He could be irascible, obdurate and dogmatic, but once won over by argument would be a doughty supporter. He was possessed of a lightning wit and a fund of stories, adept at delivering humorous shafts that punctured the defence of even the most argumentative colleagues. For young shooters he had ready advice and always the precious time in which to give it. In short, he had the quality possessed of many top amateur sportsmen and women – the ability to be a very kind and considerate friend.

He could encapsulate moments of frustration and humour in very few words. Coming off the firing point one day, he was boiling with indignation at the unthinking behaviour of the competitor next to him. "He was tapping his cartridge case on his rifle breech as I was trying to concentrate on my shot", he spluttered. "I had to tell him that it was like being squadded next to a demented woodpecker". On another day he announced that he had just been privileged to witness a very good shoot by a fellow competitor on the next door target - fifteen bullseyes out of fifteen shots. "His only problem", he said, "was that one of them was on my target".

He was involved in local issues in and around Goostrey, where he lived. His interests included the local Donkey Sanctuary and the Goostrey Gooseberry Society from whom, much to his delight, he received the "Most Improved Grower" award in 2003.

We send our deepest condolences to his daughter Lynda and two grandchildren Shelly and James, and his second wife of over 37 years, Janet, and son Stuart.

### **Colin O'Brien – an Appreciation**

What is it about our sport that produces such richness of character that we have seen, and have now lost, with the recent passing of Larry Orpen-Smellie, Andrew Tucker and now Colin O'Brien?

These three men were all giants of shooting, in totally different and completely unique ways. Past copies of this Journal gave us food for reflection on the lives of Andrew and Larry, and now it is appropriate for us to consider just how big a part Colin has played in the sport, over thirty years and more.

Colin was a talented shooter, an excellent wind coach, a team organiser and Adjutant second to none of his generation, and a highly respected, 'hands-on' Captain of numerous England and GB teams. To complete his mastery of all roles within the sport, he then became one of the prime organisers of the NRA for well over a decade. But how dry this all appears!

To leaven his sharpness of mind, Colin possessed a fine Yorkshire sense of humour, and a perhaps surprising propensity for practical jokes on unsuspecting teammates. It was Colin who organised the launching of a sleeping Jimmy Spaight onto a hotel swimming pool, inside a rifle packing case, draped in a Union Jack; Colin who decided that a rotating lawn-sprinkler just had to be popped inside Graeme Berman's motel door at first light on the morning of an Empire Match; Colin who glued a Charles Atlas advert (muscleman in thong) into a team-mate's passport, shortly before touchdown, and then stood back to enjoy the fun ("Very serious offence, not appreciated here in Singapore.")

There can be little doubt that Colin's massively strong character was a product of his early life. His mother died when he was just eight, and his father when he was fourteen, in 1944. Growing up in post-war Bradford with his aunt, followed by National Service in the Fleet Air Arm, and an apprenticeship in a vast and heavy industry, was never likely to produce a 'softy' – and it certainly didn't! He was only ever going to have total trust and confidence in just one pair of hands: his own. Colin knew he could achieve his goals efficiently and smoothly, directly and without subterfuge. While always prepared to listen to the viewpoint of others, and being quite ready to be outvoted, he knew that his own way was the best – and that, eventually, others less clear-sighted would agree.

Colin was a winner. He won things because, as well as being clever and skilled, he worked damned hard to ensure success, in whatever venture. He thought ahead better than the opposition, bottomed-out every likely problem, anticipated every riposte, and was a born leader of his men. On his teams (he was Adjutant, Vice-Captain or Captain on five full GB tours, and several lesser ones), he was the sort of Captain for whom you just knew you had to produce your best. Disciplinarian he undoubtedly was; a harbourer of ill-feeling against those who were trying their best – and not being stupid! – never.

In short, Colin embodied the best of his generation of Britons, and of shooters. And, as shooting was the sport of preference for such as Colin, Andrew and Larry, we should just feel privileged to have been around, in the same sport, at the same time.

*'I'm called away by particular business.  
But I leave my character behind me.'*

*RB Sheridan*

*Keith Pugh*

*The following has been reproduced with permission of the Financial Times.*

### **Nick Crawshaw MBE**

**(6 November 1963 - 13 April 2005)**

### **A talented team player in business, sport and the army. 1963-2005 Soldier and Businessman**

Nick Crawshaw, chief financial officer of the Financial Times, died on Wednesday at the age of 41.

Most people would find it sufficient to excel in one career; Nick managed to reach the peak in three separate fields in his short life, as soldier, businessman and sportsman representing his country.

His enthusiasm, bravery and disarmingly straight style were never more in evidence than over the past year. After a diagnosis of cancer, he talked openly with colleagues, without a hint of anger or self-pity, about the likely outcome of his illness. He worked to the last possible moment, helping the FT back into financial health after several tough years. He took up kite surfing for the first time last summer and revived plans for a gliding expedition to the Carpathians.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, owner of the FT, said: "We will remember Nick for his talent and energy, his decency and loyalty, and as a colleague, mentor and friend we could all count on. Nick was the kind of person we all wish we could be and I know I'm not alone in being proud to have known him."

In spite of his action man credentials, Nick was very centred on the people around him and, in particular, his home and family. He and Alison were married in 1990 and he was extremely proud of his daughters Thea, aged 12, and Lydia, 11. Nick and his family received many letters over recent days from those whom Nick had mentored, encouraged and supported.

Nick was born in Nuneaton on November 6, 1963 and attended Uppingham School, followed by Sandhurst. He studied philosophy at Essex University on an army scholarship and took great delight in shocking his left-wing fellow students by introducing himself as a serving officer in the British Army. He was also a business graduate of Cranfield University.

Nick was initially commissioned into the 1st Royal Anglian Regiment and later joined the Army Air Corps. He ended his distinguished 10-year military career in 1999 as a major and flew in Northern Ireland. He was awarded an MBE in 2000, particularly for his work in leading the army's career development programme.

After a year at PeopleBank.com, an online recruitment business, Nick joined FT Business, the Financial Times' magazine publishing business, and soon became managing director. He became the FT's finance director early last year, immediately making an impact with his decisive style and clear thinking.

By the age of 19, Nick was representing England and Great Britain in international target rifle shooting championships. In 1986, he competed in the Commonwealth Games. He was a glider pilot and instructor.

Nick was extremely modest about his considerable achievements and unstuffy in both his professional and personal life. John, his father, says he drove the "oldest and most decrepit car in the country", and he was never known to brush his hair, apart from when he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE.

Andrew Gowers, editor of the FT, said: "We'll miss him enormously as a colleague and a friend. In his short time here, he made a great and enduring contribution to the development of the Financial Times. Everyone here is thinking about his family at this difficult time."

I will miss Nick very much and was proud to have had him as a colleague. He was a real team player and a great support to his team as a peer, manager and mentor.

*Olivier Fleurot, chief executive, Financial Times*



Nick with the Grand Aggregate Trophy.

*(Photo: RB Gardiner)*

### **Nick, the Shooter**

Nick started his shooting career at Aldro School, Shackleford, in the 1970s before attending Uppingham School. He met with success at his very first Schools' Bisley; he won the 1978 Cadet Pistol competition. Being able to fire a weapon that was actually smaller than he was at the time must have suited him. Thus began an astonishingly successful shooting career. In 1979, he won a place in the Schools' Hundred and helped the Uppingham School VIII to second place in the Ashburton Shield. The team was second again in 1980. Nick was justifiably proud of his first Bisley "possible" in the Iveagh.

He then went on to compete in the NRA Open Meeting for the first time: he scored his second possible in the Daily Mail, which gained him second place after 25, 24 tie shoots. This contributed to his winning of the Young Rifleman's Aggregate.



A friend contacted Nick's father John in Germany: "You had better come and see what is going on at Bisley." was the summons. John arrived to find sixteen year old Nick winning so many Tyro class prizes that he was immediately promoted to X class. In the team matches, Nick represented his country for the first time in the AG Bell and made top score against the Canadian cadets.

The year 1981 was declared an "Annus Mirabilissimus" by the powers that be at Uppingham, because the team won the Ashburton and seven other trophies. Nick scored another clutch of possibles in the Open Meeting and re-Xed himself. He contributed to the defeat of the Canadians both in the UK and at Ottawa, where he toured for the first time with the Athelings.

The following year was Nick's turn to be captain of the school team, so they set about eclipsing the previous "Annus Mirabilissimus" by winning the Ashburton again, the Cadet Pair and a selection of other trophies. No Uppinghamian has a better record than two seconds and two firsts in the Ashburton. Nick went on to lead his country to victory in the AG Bell match and won senior honours as the youngest member of the NRA Channel Island Team.

Nick started 1983 as he had left off, with first place in the Grand Aggregate at the Easter Meeting. He then began his career in the Army by winning their Target Rifle Championships. He earned his place in the GB Under 25 Team and won the Canadian Grand while with the GB Senior Team. England recognised his talents by selecting him for their teams in the 1984 National and Mackinnon matches.

He had to wait until 1985 before gaining a place in the Final of the Queen's Prize but still won three meetings (Easter, Jersey and the North London) and came second in Canada. This gave the selectors the opportunity to pick him for the 1986 England Commonwealth Games Team in Edinburgh. He and his partner were one point behind the winners in the Fullbore Pairs.

NC Crawshaw (GC) was proclaimed in 1987 as the winner of the Grand Aggregate at Bisley. His achievements made him a certain choice for the Great Britain Palma Match Team that went to Australia in 1988. Nick won the North Queensland Grand and Queen's as a warm up to the main event. His unbroken run in the Queen's 100 at Bisley continued until 1990. His last appearance in the event was in 1992.

Career pressures were building and so Nick was lost from the shooting fraternity. It was very poignant to hear from John Crawshaw that Nick and his family had made plans to re-ignite his shooting in 2005. The caravan site had been booked at Bisley and, no doubt, his shooting hat resurrected from the dressing up box. Sadly, very very sadly, this was not to be.

Nick will be greatly missed by his family and all his many friends. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Alison and their daughters Thea and Lydia.

*Simon Pattinson*

## **Bill Norman**

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the passing of William Norman known to most people as "Bill". Most of his life was spent in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. His father was drum major of the 2nd Battalion at the time of his birth in 1920; Bill grew up in the regiment and went with them to whatever part of the world they were sent to. His school days began in Cairo and by the age of 14 he had decided that a life in the regiment would be the ideal thing for him. He joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot as a band boy. In 1936 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in India where he saw service on the North West Frontier.

In 1941 he was appointed Detachment Commander of the newly formed Mortar Platoon and went with them to Burma where he saw much active service including the swimming of the Sittang River after the bridge had been blown. Shortly afterwards he sustained a minor wound but while being transported on the deck of a tank which was involved in a collision, his leg was broken and he was flown out of Burma to India and to hospital. In 1943 Bill was brought home to England by a somewhat roundabout voyage which entailed a stop of several weeks in New York. The powers that were in England at that time decreed that he should become a weapons training instructor. This did not fit in with Bill's philosophy of what a soldier's life should be, especially in wartime, and so he volunteered for the Commandos. It was no easy thing to be accepted in that elite group of fighting men - they had to be convinced that you were really serious in your intentions and that involved relinquishing all rank and entering as a private. Bill was by this time a full sergeant and the drop in rank would have been noticeable. The training was arduous and eventually he was posted to No 2 Commando and served in the Balkans and in Italy.

At the end of the War No 2 Commando was disbanded and he went to No 4 Commando and served in Germany. In 1946 this too was disbanded and Bill found himself back with his regiment again. After some time with the 7th Battalion he decided to rejoin the regimental band and went to attend a course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. In spite of the pacific environment of the regimental band, not long afterwards Bill was weapons training sergeant at Halifax. In order not to lose his connection with music he joined the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra and maintained his contact with that body for very many years. It was at about that time that he joined Huddersfield Rifle Club and soon became club champion. He also shot with great distinction at Bisley and found himself in the Army Hundred no less than nine times. He was prevented from competing during the tenth year because he was



otherwise engaged with the Chinese in Korea where again he was at the forefront of the action.

It was while he was serving in Germany in 1952 that Bill met Margaret, his wife to be, who was at that time a children's nurse. In 1954 they were married and later his daughter Elizabeth was born in Gibraltar. At this time Bill was promoted to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. His second daughter Sally was born in Bangor, Northern Ireland some years later and in 1960 Bill went to Kenya at the time of the Mau-Mau emergency. This proved to be his last active posting and after that Bill found himself senior Warrant Officer at the Huddersfield Recruiting Office where he eventually ended his service.

After he left the Army Bill was able to spend a little more time on his flute playing and rifle shooting. He became involved with the Drum and Fife Society and he was able to spend time at the Regimental Records Office in the old barracks at Halifax, a duty which he performed right up to three days before his death

His whole life was active in some way, and during the course of this activity he was always willing and able to help others who were similarly engaged. He was always the one who would be found to be welcoming a new member of the club or giving encouragement to someone who was having a problem with shooting or in fact with anything. He never had a bad word for anyone no matter how strange or odd they may have seemed to be and we shall not see his like again.

*Rodney Bass*

## **Archie Butterworth**

There is always conjecture as to what might have happened if "so and so" had not been there; eg Churchill or the Beatles - would things have turned out the same? However it is really difficult to imagine how the British Sporting Rifle Club would have come into being if it had not been for the vision, the drive and the determination of Archie Butterworth in the early 1960s. At that time the Running Deer was only used during the Imperial Meeting and the NRA were considering leasing the whole range to the NSRA. To forestall this Archie drummed up support from enthusiasts with a view to forming the Bisley Sporting Rifle Club and an inaugural meeting was called for 18 March 1962. At the last minute someone came up with wheeze of calling it the British SRC which sounded grander; and so the BSRC was born.

Archie was born in Co Waterford and came to England in 1919. On leaving school, already with a keen interest in engineering, he went to study at University College, London. However it was the time of the Depression and, being the youngest son, he left to join the Army in time



honoured fashion. He served in the Irish Guards before being transferring to the RASC-MT as a driving instructor. During this time he built his first car, a dirt track racer, a category that was then enjoying a vogue. Before he could race it he was posted to Egypt where he spent much of his time with one of the new special units which were given no name. Demobbed from the Army in 1937 with no formal qualifications, he worked for a time on the production line at Ford and then in the tool room at Saunders-Roe. His shop steward discovered his lack of a proper apprenticeship and he was transferred upwards to tool design where qualifications were not apparently necessary. His mind always filled with thoughts of engines, he made a few moves, always with his tools and his lathe, and ultimately to Fairey Aviation.

Serving in France during the "Phoney War" he became aware of the superiority on the enemy's infantry weapons and so, creating a makeshift drawing board, he set about designing a medium range light machine gun. He was said to be perhaps the only soldier to have come off the beaches at Dunkirk clutching a tube of engineering drawings. During the retreat toward Dunkirk, Archie did not think much of the strafing his group were getting from enemy planes. He got himself up on a ridge over which the planes had to pass as they came out of the valley below. Armed only with a German Luger, he brought a plane down with one well aimed shot. And that was before he was involved in moving target shooting.

The authorities were impressed by his drawings and he was transferred to the design department at Enfield. The gun was built as a prototype but never put into production. The department was preparing the Sten gun and the politics were such that nothing was to be allowed to overshadow the project. Some time later he designed a machine pistol which he sent out to a friend in the Middle East for testing under desert conditions. He told me that it was said never to have arrived, but a few years later Uzi came out with a new weapon incorporating many of his innovations. From Enfield he was moved to Chobham working on tanks but anyone who knew Archie would recognise that he was not suited to be an employee and in 1950 he formed Butterworth Engineering Co to recommence building racing cars. As a result of racing successes he was elected to the British Racing Driver Club in 1947.

It was a privilege to have known Archie. He was one of life's special people; a colourful character of the old school. No-one could pour a gin and tonic like he. It was a real ceremony, with the lemon cut just so, and had to be performed on the bonnet of the Jaguar quite as frequently as that thirsty thing needed fuel.

We in the BSRC have particular need to be thankful to him and intend to have medals made in the style of the former Wykeham-Perry medals which will have Archie's quite striking features in bas-relief. They will help to remind members for many years to come of the Founder of our Club.

*John Kynoch*

## John Felton

John Felton's shooting career began at a very early age. He told the tale of when, as a young boy carrying a shotgun and two rabbits, he encountered his local police sergeant and bobby whilst returning home from a rough shooting expedition near his Aberdare home. Thanking John for the gift of the plumpest rabbit, the ranking officer advised Master Felton that on his next trip he should bear in mind that PC Jones was also partial to rabbit stew.



Born in 1932 into a mining community at the head of the Cynon Valley, there was very little opportunity for formal target rifle shooting, but John always had a rifle and shotgun about the place, which he used to supplement the pot, both his own and other people's. I first met John in 1980 when we both joined a newly formed shooting club, Senghenydd Rifle and Pistol Club. At that time he had just lost his "fabulous lady wife, Pat" to cancer, and was looking for any activity to try to distract him from this loss. Alongside working for the Education Authority as a Schools Supervisor, he was Branch Secretary of his union and the Chairman of the local council. As if this wasn't enough, John's enthusiasm and organisational ability soon had him running all the club competitions, as well as helping a lot of very inexperienced shooters get started in the sport.

John had a wicked sense of humour and was always quick to see the funny side of a situation, even when the joke was on him. Two days after buying a chronograph he rang me to complain about its fragility. I felt sure I could repair the item and pressed him to return it to me. Very reluctantly he eventually told me that when he dropped it and it broke he'd jumped up and down on it in temper. When I'd finished laughing he told me, "it gets better." John's son Graham informed him he could claim for the cost of a replacement from his household insurance. Out went John to retrieve the broken chronograph from the bin only to find it had already been emptied!

Talent spotted by Stan Gray, John was invited to join the Welsh Rifle Association and introduced to the Bisley scene. He went on to represent Glamorgan County and Wales many times with his faithful Musgrave target rifle. Then in 1992, John suffered a severe heart attack, which kept him out of the sport for over three years. With ill health forcing him to take early retirement from his many jobs, John suddenly found himself with plenty of time on his hands.

Target rifle became too uncomfortable and stressful for him so he tried all the other disciplines looking for an alternative. Black powder revolver, carbine and shotgun then match rifle and F Class rifle, both in which he excelled, competing for Wales in the Elcho from 1997 to

2004, and in all but one of the F Class international matches, again, missed only through ill health.

Whilst representing Wales in the 2004 Elcho, John had a rifle malfunction in the middle of his 1200 yards detail. After consultation with the CRO, John rushed to Fulton's with the disabled rifle. Back he came to continue his shoot. As I helped him onto the firing line I could see from his gritted teeth that he was in considerable pain. His first shot was a cooking bull and he went on to finish his string with a respectable score. This happened only weeks after a quadruple heart bypass and showed what a tough competitor John was.

Having said all that, John was first and foremost a family man. The only thing that could keep him away from a trip to the range was a family occasion, which always meant much more to him even than his shooting. He died of a heart attack on 22 December 2004 at his home in Penywaun. He was a proud old man, or as sons Graham and Kevin would say, "an Old Man to be proud of!"

*Ted Hobbs*

## Peter Lane-Joynt

Peter Lane-Joynt sadly died on 14 February 2005. He was born in Dublin on 21 May 1920 and went to Stoneyhurst School in Lancashire. He joined the RAF straight from school and, already interested in shooting, was trained as an Armament Fitter. During the War he served on Hurricane Squadrons and while based at RAF Kidlington met Connie his wife to be. They married in 1943. His career took him to many places but the one they enjoyed most was RAF Changi in Singapore.



Throughout this time he shot, concentrating on SR(a) (Service Rifle). He made the RAF VIII on seven occasions, a great feat in those days. In 1952 he won the RAF Service Rifle Championships. However he didn't receive the Queen's Medal for Champion Shot of the Air Forces because unfortunately that was not inaugurated until the following year, 1953!

In 1952 he also made his first appearance for Ireland in the National and Mackinnon matches; he last represented Ireland in 1991. During that period he amassed 32 National, 24 Mackinnon and six Elcho appearances. His grandfather who shot for Ireland in the Elcho in 1903 would have been justifiably proud.

He gained six Queen's Hundred Badges, two Grand Aggregate crosses, three St George's top 25 badges and represented Great Britain in Canada in 1968. From then on it was rare to see Peter on the range without his GB hat and in the evening without his GB blazer. He was very proud of that achievement. Peter represented the

RAF SR(b)/Target Rifle team in 14 Inter-Service matches and was a founder member of the RAFTRC Club in 1971. When his prime days as a shooter were over he became the RAF's central coach for many years, leading the RAF to numerous victories.

After he left the RAF he spent several years as the NRA Armourer. The rule then was that the NRA staff did not shoot the Meeting, however he set a precedent by only accepting the job on the condition that he could shoot. Peter used his position at the armoury to assist many young people trying to get into the sport. In particular he helped the Surrey Venture Scouts, of which he became Vice President.

Peter was always willing to help and give advice. His round happy smiling face with a twinkle in his eye will be sorely missed. Connie was always at Bisley supporting him and it is to her our thoughts go. He was cremated in Woking on what would have been their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

*Chris Fitzpatrick*

#### **From Connie Lane-Joynt**

*Thank you so much for all the messages of condolences after Peter's death on 14 February. The lovely cards, letters and telephone calls I have received from everyone expressing their sympathy and the regard in which they held Peter have been such a great comfort. Thank you again for your friendship and support.*

### **Captain John Fittler**

John Fittler died in Sydney on 10 February 2005, aged 60. John served in the Australian Army Reserve between 1962 and 1982, and was commissioned in the Sydney University Regiment in 1966. His service included 39 Air Dispatch Platoon, 5 Water Transport Platoon and 33 Transport Platoon.



After graduating from university, John began his teaching career. He was appointed an Officer of Cadets in 1968, commencing at Birrong, before transferring to Ingleburn and later Crows Nest High School Cadet Unit. He ceased his involvement with the Army Cadets in 1976, after the withdrawal of Commonwealth support for cadets. In 1998, shortly after he started teaching at Sydney Boys High School, John received a phone call from Lady Cutler, calling on behalf of Sir Roden, an Old Boy of the School. John had served as Aide-de-Camp to Sir Roden, then Governor of NSW. Lady Cutler told John that Sir Roden had become aware that the Sydney High School Cadet Unit was having some difficulty finding a new Commanding Officer, and asked John to resume his involvement with the Australian Defence Force Cadets. John served in this role until his death.

John made a lasting contribution to rifle shooting, particularly in promoting junior shooting both in Australia and overseas. He was dedicated to helping talented young athletes pursue their careers in their chosen sport, and his enthusiasm gave many young people the opportunity to represent their Cadet Unit, their School or even their country. John had a long-term commitment to high school sport, at one time being assigned to help administer the Combined High School Sports Association.

John became MIC Shooting at Sydney Boys High School in 2000, taking over at an exciting time, as Sydney High prepared to send a contingent of students to the United Kingdom as part of the Australian Schools Combined Rifle Team. John was one of a number of teachers and parents who accompanied this team, of both male and female students, to Bisley, the home of the shooting sports in the United Kingdom.

John's visit to Bisley in 2000, and particularly what he saw with respect to the British Cadet Shooting programme, inspired him to lobby for cadets in Australia to be given the opportunity to participate in the sport of target shooting. He was to visit Bisley another three times, once in a private capacity in what he termed a 'fact finding mission', developing a range of useful contacts within British shooting and military circles. He travelled to Bisley in 2002 as Team Commandant of the first official Australian Defence Force Cadet Rifle Team, and returned again in 2004 as National Coach and Selector with the second Australian Cadet Team. He had commenced planning for his next Bisley trip shortly before he died.

Aside from his interest in cadet shooting, John coached students from Sydney Boys High School in the sport of target shooting, taking them to ranges across NSW and the ACT to compete in matches. His hours on the range contributed significantly to the team's success in the annual schools' competitions in both 2001 and 2003. As well as coaching, John participated in the sport, sometimes competing alongside his students in competitions. He was a member of the Rail and Tramways Institute Rifle Club at Malabar, and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of long-range marksmanship.

John's sad death has touched many people. He has left a lasting contribution to the students he taught, coached and mentored in cadets, rifle shooting and other programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. He helped drive the renewed interest in rifle shooting in the Australian Defence Force Cadets, a legacy that will in future see many more young Australians given the opportunity to compete internationally.

It is an old shooting saying that when someone passes away they've 'gone to Bisley'. In John's case this is particularly apt. In John's final years, he loved the pulse of Bisley Camp, the traditions it represented, and the friendships and camaraderie. He is sadly missed.

## Peter John Ayres

Peter Ayres was a member of Witney Pistol Club who served on the Committee until his unexpected death on 28 August 2004. His interest in shooting started in the 1970s when he took up clay pigeon shooting. In the 1990s he started pistol shooting and became so proficient, winning the standard pistol section of the British Pistol Club Championships in 1997, that he was invited to join the British Olympic Team. Sadly the handgun ban brought those hopes to an end.



He continued shooting in a competitive capacity both with lightweight sports rifle and gallery rifle and enjoyed significant success in both disciplines, winning the Oxfordshire Lightweight Sports Rifle Championships in 2004 and attaining gold in the Gallery Rifle at the Phoenix Meeting in 1999. Although his achievements were many, his natural modesty prevented him from talking about them at his local club in response to all but the most direct of questioning.

An equestrian photographer by trade, he was married for 37 years; he leaves a wife Daphne and two children Annabel and Martyn to whom we express our condolences. Peter was an outstanding shot but above all a helpful and amiable friend and colleague. He is sorely missed.

*Martyn Stacey*

## John Higgs

John was taught to shoot by his grandfather. He still shot with some of these firearms including his three band Enfield which had been in his family's gun collection since new.



During his National Service he served with the Royal Artillery, "the Family Regiment", John was very proud to be a member of a family that had served continuously with the Regiment since the days of Waterloo. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, and used his skill with rifles to become a sniper during the Suez campaign. At this time he also shot in his first International match; 2004 was his 50<sup>th</sup> year of international competitive shooting. When he left the Army he continued to shoot .303" competitively until

the introduction of the 7.62mm, when he reverted to his love of muzzle loading.

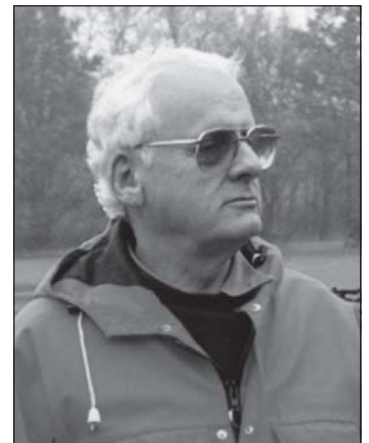
John would always find time to help other shooters with his extensive knowledge of firearms and how to use them. He also spent long hours helping overseas competitors to make the necessary arrangements to shoot at Bisley. Those of us who were privileged enough to shoot whilst John was Range Conducting Officer will remember him for his meticulous attention to safety and fairness. In spite of suffering from poor health and latterly developing leukaemia, he still always found time to encourage others and 'have a laugh'.

Sadly we will no longer see him on the ranges, but I feel sure many of you will want to join me in thanking him for the many years of friendship he gave to us all.

*Olivia Lamont*

## Ray Jewsbury

It is with great sadness we hear of the death of Ray Jewsbury on 25 February at the comparatively young age of 63.



He was a skilled motor mechanic and, in years past, he was involved in the rebuilding of classic cars. He then became a top grade engineer with British Telecom. He started shooting about 40 years ago – both small-bore and fullbore rifle and pistol with the Croydon Rifle and Pistol Club. Some 20 years ago he decided to specialise in long range pistol shooting and joined the International Long Range Pistol Shooters Association. Twelve years ago he became a founder member of the British Long Gunners Association. He was also a member of the National Rifle Association.

He was a skilled amateur gunsmith and most of us, at some time, have received not only advice but hands on help with technical problems with our guns. He was probably the most regular attendee at our shoots all year round; in the most foul weather, you could always rely on Ray being there. This was quite remarkable when you consider the continuous health problems he had faced over the past ten years. Ray also became very skilled in the making of hand carved pistol grips. Some 20 years ago he married Carol and she became his biggest supporter in his shooting endeavours especially during his period of ill health. Last year alone, he won six trophies - a remarkable feat. We shall miss him greatly; his wife Carol and daughter Emma even more so.

*Mike Lunnon*

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*Adopted 5 May 2005*

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# LETTERS

## RG Target Ammunition for the Imperial Meeting

*From Dr Martin Schwarz*

The Director of Shooting (NRA Journal Spring 2005) assures us that this year's ammunition will be better than last year's, based on testing of 'their new batch'. Whilst I am doubtful that the batch(es) we shall use in this year's Imperial Meeting have yet been made, I am even more doubtful that the methods employed in the batch testing will reassure potential competitors.

It is admirable that the ammunition was tested both from a bench rest and 'off the shoulder', but the presentation of the data needs to be a little more comprehensive before I submit myself to a repeat of last year's fiasco. To state that 'all shots were within 1 minute of angle vertically' does not inspire a huge amount of confidence: after all, last year's ammo produced **some** groups that must have been considerably better than that. Furthermore, the information that 'a score of 50.7' was made does not identify the ammo as the gold standard. After all, last year there were 56 x 50s in the Times, 78 x 50s in the Donegall, and 56 x 50s in the Wimbledon, all achieved with what was widely regarded as poor ammunition. The ammunition therefore needs to be tested scientifically and with statistically valid methods:

- It should be tested at every range shot during the Imperial, from 300 yards to 1000 yards (last year's short range batches were the worst)
- It should be shot through a variety of barrels (different twists and manufacturers)
- Sufficient rounds should be fired through each barrel at each distance, to allow valid statistical interpretation (I would suggest of the order of at least 20 to 30 per barrel per range)
- It should be shot from rest and from the shoulder
- Particular attention should be paid to fliers, rather than overall score (these are what ruin your shoot, after all)

I have discussed with shooting colleagues what they would consider to be an acceptable 'flier' rate, and I think the consensus is that the upper limit should be no more than 1 in 50 (still giving a potential average of 2 or 3 per shooter in the Grand Aggregate).

In addition to the rigorous batch testing I have outlined, I propose that the NRA requests Radway Green to take greater care in the production of target ammunition. I want to be assured that all the rounds in my box came from the same machine, that all cases and bullets are from the same (or even similar) batches, and that regular checks on powder weight and other variables are made.

Of course we must accept that RG ammunition for the Imperial Meeting is mass produced and, as such, will always be produced within certain tolerances rather than to an exact specification, but the more often we see poor ammunition, the more often shooters will pack up their

kit, never to return. There is an alternative, of course, as any F Class shooter will tell you! Ask them why they shoot F Class and you are not likely to be told "I can't hold a rifle steady, so I like a bi-pod"; you are more likely to hear: "so I can use decent ammo!".

*From Martin Farnan, Director of Shooting*

Like you, we are all desirous of having top quality ammunition for the Imperial Meeting (and at all other times of the year). The problems experienced last year were caused by the enforced three month closure of the RG factory, but I am glad to say that RG report that they have overcome their previous problems. I am a little surprised that you do not think that the fact that **all** shots fired fell within one minute of angle vertically was good news – the V bull is approximately 1.25 minutes of angle in diameter, so all perfectly fired shots would be capable of grouping within the V bull. The point I was making about the score of 50.7 at 1000 yards being made with the issued RG was simply to compare this score, shot using mass produced ammunition, with the identical score made with handloaded ammunition using Sierra bullets.

In testing ammunition we cannot rely on groups made shooting 'off the shoulder'. To do so would be to introduce the human element into the testing process, with the inherent potential slight trigger snatch, prolonged aim and consequent retina image, etc. It is for this reason that we rely more on the current purely mechanical test rig which removes all human errors. This therefore shows what groups **the ammunition is capable** of achieving, ie all perfectly fired shots should be able to fall within such a group. We then confirm the results achieved with 'off the shoulder' tests shot by a very limited number of firers of top class international calibre (if you'll forgive the pun!).

I take the five main points you have made in order:

- This would be impossible in practical terms. The strategy is to test at both short and long range.
- There is little point in this. Are you suggesting that we should report that "this year's ammunition is good in Barrels A and B, but don't bother entering if you have Barrel C"?
- This comment shows that you are unaware of how the current tests are carried out. If you would like to visit the NRA I shall be pleased to show you the test rig and explain how the tests are carried out.
- It already is, as I have already reported!
- If there are any "fliers" (the definition of which is that it is more than 3 standard deviations away from the mean) then the batch would fail the military specification under which the ammunition is supplied in the first place, and the batch would never have been issued.

You finally comment that "I would want to be assured that all the rounds in my box came from the same machine . . . etc." For the avoidance of doubt I state that:

- RG **only** have **one line** making RG target ammunition,
- RG manufacture all their own cases from purchased brass cups, and these are made by the million and are generally acknowledged to be some of the best in the world,

- RG manufacture all their own bullets from purchased brass cups, and these are made in lots of approximately 50 to 60 thousand. Only **one bullet lot** is used for **one batch** of ammunition.
- Checks on powder weights are made continuously throughout the production of an ammunition batch.

I hope the above has addressed your concerns and wish all competitors a successful Imperial Meeting.

## MEMBERS' PAGE

### Online Entries and Payment System

Members may have already noticed that the Imperial Meeting can now be entered online. This has the great advantage that the online version is easier to fill in than the paper version and all the difficult sums are worked out for you! You can then either elect to pay by cheque or credit card using our new online payment facility.

In order to use this facility you will need to register as a user. Visit the website at [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) and click on **Register as a user** under the **Users** drop down menu. Fill in the registration form and follow the instructions. When you have registered the Membership Department will check your details and authorise your registration (please allow one working day for this to occur).

Once your registration has been processed you can then log in to your own Home Page where, at the moment, you can update your details and enter the Imperial Meeting. This section will be extended in the near future to include other online facilities such as entry to other competitions, target hire, membership subscriptions, accommodation etc.

### More Feedback from the Website

Dear NRA Back in 1985 & 1986 I had tqo felonys 2deg. position of stolden property & 3rd deg. theft. "NOT WITH A GUN." I was only 18 at the time. In 1995 I received a

*certificate of discharge and was able to buy and concel a hand gun, but wene I went to renew my wepons permit thy said a certificate of discharge dose not mean anything any more you will need a certificate of rehabilitation. So I do not Know what to do? Please e-mail me or call to give me some advice*

• • •

*Dear sir My name is xxxxx. I am living in Pakistan, sir I am a best gun shooter. Unfortunately I have no chance to here show my performence. If your club take my test in shooting, I can win any world title for your club. thank you very much I hope you will think bright star of your club*

• • •

*My nane is xxxxx and I own a Ben and Jerrys Ice Cream Store in Texas. I know that my parent company is very liberal but you have a couple of Owners such as myself that have owned firearms most of our lives. I am writing you becauce another Ben and Jerrys Ice cream group which goes shooting as team building practice has brought up the IDEA of a "Ben and Jerry's Shoot Off". We were wondering if the N.R.A. would like to sponser it just for the media value. I would like to hear any input that you might have on this Idea. Yours Truly xxxxx Head Scooper*

The Membership Secretary assures us that the appearance of an extra large chest freezer situated just behind her desk has absolutely nothing to do with the last message!

### New Team for the Families

And finally, best wishes for the future to Jeremy Langley and Judy Farnan following their marriage at Bisley Church in April. That's a load off the Director of Shooting's mind (and wallet!). The Ju-Ju and Tin-Tin team has now been disbanded and we look forward to the naming of the new team.





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