



National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2005

Volume LXXXIV

Number 3



THE LONG-RANGE RIFLE

The result of modern engineering is the most advanced development to date of the long-range rifle. A resin-filled laminated, target configuration stock combines the beauty and sheen of wood with a heavy 26-inch Terhune Anticorro stainless steel barrel and the proven M77 Mark II action with new target-grey anti-reflective satin finish to give you a true out-of-the-box precision rifle. Factory machined for (and packaged with) Ruger scope rings, and available in several popular long range calibres, the Ruger Target Rifle is designed for the shooter who combines a love of fine rifles with an eye for the epitome of engineering function. KM77VT Mk II available calibres; .223, .22 PPC, .22-250, .220 Swift, 6mm PPC, .243 Win., .25-06 and .308.



RUGER®

Arms Makers for Responsible Sportsmen



SOLE FACTORY APPOINTED DISTRIBUTORS FOR THE U.K.

Please send £2 for full colour catalogue

VIKING ARMS LIMITED

SUMMERBRIDGE, HARROGATE HG3 4BW,

NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND

Telephone: Harrogate (01423) 780810

Fax: (01423) 781500.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

WINTER 2005

VOLUME LXXXIV NUMBER 3

Published three times a year by the

National Rifle Association

Bisley, National Shooting Centre

Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

Telephone: 01483 797777
0845 1307620 (local rate)

Fax: 01483 797285

Range Office: 01483 797777 ext 152

Clay Range Office: 01483 797666

E-mail: info@nra.org.uk

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

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

Material for inclusion must reach the Editor before:

15 January for Spring issue

1 April for Summer issue

15 September for Winter issue

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

CONTENTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Notes from the Secretary General |
| 6 | Membership - The Way Forward |
| 8 | Notes from the Director of Shooting |
| 12 | Notes from the Managing Director of NSC |
| 14 | Notes from the Director of Training |
| 16 | Scenes from the NRA Open Day |
| 17 | Shooting Discipline Matters |
| 24 | Regional Matters/Forthcoming Tours |
| 26 | The Special and Bisley General Meetings |
| 31 | Central Skill-At-Arms Meeting |
| 34 | Schools Meeting |
| 37 | Match Rifle Meeting |
| 42 | Target Rifle Meeting |
| 50 | F Class Meeting |
| 51 | NRA Channel Islands Tour |
| 54 | Anyone For a Mint Imperial? |
| 60 | NRA Council and General Council Committee Members |
| 62 | New Appointments to NRA Council and General Council |
| 67 | The Old Codgers - Jersey Tour |
| 69 | Great Britain Rifle Team to Australia |
| 76 | Great Britain Under 25 Team to Australia |
| 80 | BAE Systems Inter-Factory Competition |
| 82 | Obituaries |
| 84 | Letters |
| 85 | Sign In, Use It or Lose It! |
| 86 | Summary Accounts |
| 87 | Trade Members |
| 88 | Members' Page |

ADVERTISERS INDEX

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 85 | Bisley Pavilion |
| ibc | Border Barrels |
| ibc | Centra |
| 30 | Norman Clark |
| 81 | Diverse Trading Company |
| bc | Edgar Brothers |
| 59 | ETSys Electronic Target Systems |
| 23 | A Ford |
| ibc | GBRT to South Africa |
| 13 | Gehmann UK |
| 81 | Haring |
| 39 | HPS Target Rifles Ltd |
| 25 | Surrey Guns |
| 68 | Andrew Tucker Jackets |
| 62 | TWP Designs |
| ifc | Viking Arms |

Cover photo: Jim Paton GM by Alan Keating

Expected publication dates

Spring End of February

Summer End of May

Winter Between end of October and second week in November

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



*by
Glynn
Alger*

Good News for 2005

In the past year the National Rifle Association has demonstrated its credentials to all target shooters, showing itself to be a more dynamic organisation that is more innovative and driven. In twelve months we have:

- Announced our intention to create a national range structure in support of shooting.
- Reached initial agreements with the Army and Landmarc which could lead to:
 - Reduced costs
 - Improved access to ranges
- Held discussions with the Army to:
 - Manage, lease or buy some ranges in support of regional shooting
 - Formalise a relationship regarding cadets, allowing them to use civilian ranges and receive coaching
- Started to create a regional support structure to deliver advice and services locally in support of the above.
- Begun to offer improved services in relation to advice to clubs generally and firearms renewal legal advice to individuals.
- Announced our intention to seek the creation of a single national body for target shooting.
- Undertaken to represent and support the interests of all target shooting disciplines.
- Made formal representations to Government on legislation and policy on multiple occasions to:
 - Adopt a more strategic approach leading to taking control of the legislative debate
 - Finalise the position on who will be the Safety Certification authority for ranges

- Drive the reintroduction of pistols for ISSF competitions, allowing Great Britain to compete in international competitions.
- Begun to invest in a new Youth Policy.

Future Strategy

The NRA will be looking to progress a number of issues in the next year.

We will be holding formal talks with the CPSA and NSRA regarding merging the three main target shooting national bodies. In the interim we are already adopting joint positions on things like the Olympics and pistol shooting. The negotiations with the Army also have the potential to benefit all target shooting interests, if approached in a joined-up way.

The Association will continue to represent the interests of our sport, as a whole, politically with the eventual aim of creating facilities to deliver on marketing and publicity strategies across the target shooting spectrum.

At local level we will look to introduce a more service orientated regional network based around the current twelve regional representatives. To improve local delivery we have, for the first time, agreed Terms of Reference for the Representatives and their Agents.

Terms of Reference Regional Representatives

Role:

To represent, manage the delivery of services locally and oversee development of shooting facilities in the Regions on behalf of the National Rifle Association.

Responsibilities:

- Represent the Region at General Council.
- Represent the National Rifle Association in the Region.
- Promote the Strategic Objectives of the Association locally.
- Recruit and manage Regional experts.
- Oversee the delivery of services locally.
- Oversee the provision of shooting facilities within the Region.

Services:

- Promote benefits and membership of the NRA.
- Arrange annual Regional Meetings for members and clubs.
- Ensure the Region is adequately represented on all sports management bodies.
- Liaise with the police to offer local assistance to members on a one to one basis and as representative on Firearms Liaison Committee.

- Liaise with the military to negotiate conditions of use for ranges, deal with anomalies and provide booking conference structure.
- Represent target shooting interests with Local Authorities, Councillors and Members of Parliament.
- Promote target shooting through local media.
- Promote youth involvement in target shooting through schools, cadets and other initiatives.
- Identify potential funding streams for target shooting projects.
- Support members and clubs at local level.
- Promote and develop delivery of NRA competitions in the Regions.
- Provide local management of any regional range project.

Regional Agent

Role:

To provide support to NRA members and clubs, reducing bureaucracy and costs, and increasing the opportunities to shoot on MoD ranges.

Responsibilities:

- Negotiate processes locally with the military or Landmarc to manage regional booking conferences.
- Negotiate locally and introduce processes for opening, running and closing individual ranges.
- Negotiate understandings locally with range management to overcome misunderstandings and ambiguities, allowing increased access to ranges.
- Be involved in the training and accreditation process to enable RCOs to act as key-holders and manage a range without the presence of a Range Warden.
- Be involved in ongoing liaison with the range management.
- Liaise with clubs ensuring that both NRA and military conditions for use of a range are understood and met.
- Provide NRA inspection regime, ensuring clubs are complying with conditions for use and range orders relating to individual ranges.
- Be involved in any initial enquiry where an alleged breach of conditions of use, or range orders, has taken place.
- Keep NRA and Regional Representative informed of any problems that have arisen, or any potential issues for the future, in relation to individual ranges or ranges in general.

Membership and Funding

The National Rifle Association has an ambitious programme it needs to deliver on behalf of all target shooters. Unfortunately it does not have the ability to do all this for free.

To be able to create a media centre responsible for representing all our interests, to lease ranges, to fund youth projects and to create a regional structure to increase services to the clubs, all cost money.

At present the Association has done well in paying most of its debt. We have attracted new members and seen real growth for the first time for six years.

If, however, shooters want to see their sport protected and witness its expansion they need to sign-up to at least one of the national bodies. Clubs are essential for the well-being of the sport and they create the environment where individuals can carry out their day to day shooting.

National bodies provide leadership and representation at the very highest levels, internationally and with Government. Failure to be a member of a national body means that individuals have no interest in the long-term viability of their sport. Those who are not members of one of the national bodies limit what the associations can do for shooters as a whole.

To deliver on the NRA programme I need people to set aside their prejudice based upon the past and their self-interest and act on behalf of the sport as a whole. If every target shooter joined a national body we would have political and financial clout. Stay as you are, watch from the side-lines and witness the national bodies struggle, under-supported and under-financed as they try to protect your sport.

Join together and watch the sport grow.

Youth Strategy

Every club should have a youth strategy, because the long-term future of the sport depends upon being able to recruit locally. Clubs I have spoken to complain that they used to have 30 plus members, but in recent years this has reduced to near the threatening 10 mark.

Often one finds that the club is now dependent upon a nucleus of 60 to 70 year olds and no one younger is coming through. This has occurred for a number of reasons. Probably there has been little effort to recruit because some clubs were run for the benefit of a group of friends. Often these clubs represent a single shooting discipline. As for youth, they potentially were more bother than they were worth.

The Association has recognised for years that youth is essential to the sports wellbeing, but the effort has been focussed upon bringing people through with a view to representing their country. However, we have had to recognise that, like other sports, the bedrock of any activity, in an athletic context, are the local clubs.

If clubs are to sustain themselves in modern day society, they need to look hard at what they do. Our future customers, young to 40, have been brought up in an environment of choice. They want to try everything. Single discipline clubs will find it hard to exist in today's world. Clubs should be trying to broaden their appeal, as some have already done. To attract members for the future we should be offering air, small-bore, fullbore, shotgun and archery to encapsulate all of the target sports.

If this were the case, our ability to attract people to the sport would be enhanced strategically and legally. You can market a club by advertising instruction in how to use air rifles and pistols responsibly. Having attracted people to the club and judged to be of suitable demeanour and skills they are then able to try other licensed disciplines.

If clubs are unable, for any reason, to broaden the disciplines they offer, they should seriously try to develop a relationship with others from different disciplines to set up some sort of twinning arrangement. The only way a club will leave an on-going legacy is by investing in bringing new shooters into the sport.

Political Correctness

Recently, in a conversation with a shooter, I was told that the recent perception of shooting by the public had changed, our sport was becoming more acceptable, thus why were we toadying to PC requirements.

The truth is the general public do not understand what we do. In reality, because shooting issues have been off the public's radar for a long time, they don't think about us. The moment there is another significant incident we will be under scrutiny once again.

Unfortunately, the sport has not done much to improve its standards or image over the past eight years, preferring to maintain the status quo. I am afraid this will not do. We should, as I have said in previous articles, prepare ourselves, by taking control of the debate and setting the agenda for ourselves. I do not want to revisit old ground over training linked to licensing, national standards etc, which I have openly stated I believe is the correct way for the sport to go to guarantee survival.

Political Correctness in shooting is about the need to achieve an image change. We are a very insular sport which knows best about itself. We ask why we should be concerned with what the public think. Unfortunately, the non-shooting public in this country make up the majority and if we shoot at the wrong things, use the wrong language and present ourselves as paramilitaries or as though we have just taken part in a 'Deliverance' movie, the perception of the public is adversely affected.

Why should the public show understanding to a group of people that feel the need to shoot at humanoid targets, who use words like combat, police or FBI shoot, like a group of 'wannabees', who then dress for the part.

We all know the emotive image I have just painted is not what target sports are about.

We should be involved in a sport that is competitive, fun and projects a healthy image. We do not need to shoot at humanoid targets. Targets can be designed which present the competitor with the same challenges. Competitions do not have to be called police this or combat that. Courses of fire and the same level of difficulty can remain under a different name. None of us needs to look like a member of the Special Forces, a cowboy or a Hells Angel to shoot well (or badly in my case).

All I ask is that we do the right things for the future of our sport and do not give others excuses to condemn us.

Politics

In recent discussions with Members of Parliament they expressed the view that, for such a major sport in the UK, we do not punch our weight politically.

They identified the confusing number of shooting bodies and differing positions as an issue. In their view there should be only two bodies representing shooting; one for target sports and one for hunting, to ensure an unambiguous approach nationally. In terms of target shooting, the national bodies are already trying to address this issue.

At both national and local levels they said that shooting had a problem in that its members did not do enough collectively and individually to lobby MPs. If a shooting issue arises MPs will be guaranteed to get multiple letters from the anti-brigade and scant representation from shooters. The weight of the postbag evidently has great influence upon the view of our elected representatives.

In my experience, shooters seem to be largely prepared to leave representation purely to the national bodies. We can do some of this at national level but if the sport is to progress through understanding from politicians we must engage at all levels. Clubs and individuals must be prepared to regularly write and converse with MPs and local councillors to improve the profile of the sport and to show you care what happens to it. The national bodies are prepared to provide you with a view but we need you to push it at local level.

If your politicians are ever going to support your sporting interests they need to know you and experience what you do. As a matter of routine, local political representatives should be invited to club and association events to experience the event and present the prizes. In this way we can build relationships and dispel some of the current myths.

The Olympic Games and an Opportunity for Shooting Sports

The National Rifle Association is ecstatic that the Olympic Games are coming to London in 2012 and congratulate Lord Coe, his team and the Government for their achievement. We are particularly pleased having pledged expertise and resources to support the Games as part of the bid.

As you are probably aware there was a debate prior to the successful bid, regarding where the shooting events should be held. The Association's position has always been that the shooting should take place at Bisley, but if that were not the case we undertook still to support the events, wherever they were planned to take place, in the national interest.

The current proposal is for the shooting to take place in temporary facilities at Woolwich, which would be removed after the Games. If this is to be the case we believe all the national bodies should be working together to ensure whatever is built at Woolwich should be re-erected on a suitable site in the UK to be retained as a legacy for shooters in the future.

However, in the meantime, it is our intention to make the best possible arguments to both the bid team and Government that the shooting events should take place at Bisley, the home of UK shooting.

As for the sport itself we need to treat the current good news as a boost and plan to promote and expand target shooting through a co-operative approach involving the national bodies, counties and clubs. The Olympics is the pinnacle in sporting achievement, that gives us the opportunity to inform the general public about what we do and popularise shooting nationally.

Our plan should be to broaden the appeal of shooting bringing more people into the sport while ensuring we create one of the premier shooting teams for the 2012 Olympics, capable of winning medals in all events.

We have a target. Now it is down to us all to deliver!

General Council Elections 2005

The results of the recent General Council Elections are as follows:

Elected Members

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Miss MZJ Boston | 1479 votes |
| Miss J Rankin | 1438 votes |
| Flt Lt IW Robertson | 1413 votes |
| Flt Lt DP Calvert | 1123 votes |
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | 1026 votes |

Elected for a period of two years

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Mr M Maksimovic | 984 votes |
|-----------------|-----------|

Not Elected

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Dr NG Jeffs | 938 votes |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | 785 votes |

A total of 1703 voting papers were returned; four papers were spoilt leaving a total of 1699 valid papers.

The following Shooting Discipline and Regional Members were elected unopposed:

Shooting Discipline Members

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Match Rifle | Mr AMW Cargill Thompson |
| Gallery Rifle and Pistol | Mr CJ Murton |
| 300 Metres | Mr I Shirra-Gibb |
| Classic Arms | Mr RHF Wills |

Regional Members

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Northern Ireland | Mr HRM Bailie |
| East Midlands | Mr GV Barnard |
| Southern | Mr SJ East |
| Scotland | Mr TLW Kidner |
| Yorks & Humberside | Mr JD Warburton |

NRA Committee Elections 2005

The 2005 Committee Election process is now complete and the following appointments announced.

The members of the General Council have re-elected John Jackman to be their Chairman and Professor Richard Horrocks to be the Vice-Chairman.

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

Members of the Council (Board of Trustees) have elected Julian Hartwell to be their Vice-Chairman.

The Membership Committee have elected James Watson to be their Chairman.

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees), General Council, their Committees and Sub-Committees are shown on pages 60 to 61 of this Journal.

Team Captaincies

The following are congratulated on their appointments as Captain for the following teams:

Kolapore 2006

John Webster

GB Under 25 Team Bisley 2006

Susie Kent

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2006

Chris White

GB Under 25 Team to Canada 2007

Ed Jeens

GB Veterans Team to Canada 2007

Mick Barr

Nominations

Nominations are required for a Captain for the following team. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 10 January 2006.

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2007

MEMBERSHIP - THE WAY FORWARD

by James Watson

James Watson is the new Chairman of the Membership Committee. Here he outlines his thoughts on the future of the NRA, the new structure for clubs and the current proposals for individual membership in 2007.

Where will the National Rifle Association of the UK will be in ten years time? The way I see it, it can go one of two ways.

We could continue as a small organisation of about 5,000 members who bit by bit will have their sport taken away from them as this risk averse government increases controls of the nanny state. Let's not be complacent, they have already destroyed pistol shooting, a sport in which the UK used regularly to win medals. Further legislation has followed with regard to air rifles; on this basis, it would only take another incident for them to introduce further bans.

Our other option is to unite all shooters under one organisation so as to build a strong voice for shooting. Only if we come together under one governing body will we get the respect and influence with the government which we need to keep our sport alive. One MP I spoke with at a shooting fair in the Houses of Parliament recently said that if we (the NRA) can't legislate itself, the government is forced to and we all know that rarely tends to be beneficial to the sport.

One of the biggest challenges we face is the perception which the public have of our sport. When I talk to people and tell them I shoot, I get a variety of reactions; the most common is "are you still allowed to do that? I thought all that was banned now!" After a conversation explaining what we do and pointing out that gun crime has risen since the handgun ban, they are generally sympathetic to the sport. We all need to talk more about our sport and demonstrate the international successes rather than hiding away and quietly disappearing off to ranges to take part. Secrecy will not help educate the public and win them over to seeing us as the sport we are. We need openness. We need to be proud of our sport and generate positive publicity around it.

As a governing body uniting all disciplines, we will have a stronger voice and greater funds and ability to invest throughout the country for the benefit of all shooters and promotion of our sport. This work has already started and you will see new initiatives unfold as 2006 progresses.

There are over 20,000 members of affiliated clubs who are not currently members of the NRA. We must encourage more of these people to join and support the future of shooting.

Changes to Individual Membership Subscriptions

For next year (2006) individual membership will remain unchanged with no increase in the Full membership subscriptions. However, the structure is planned to change fundamentally from 2007. The Membership Committee has for a long time been working to restructure the categories to encourage the growth of our organisation. The new structure is designed to strengthen our position as a governing body and so the subscription for Full Individual membership no longer includes any contribution to the National Shooting Centre. For many years, prices have been related to how far away from Bisley the member lived. That basis for charging is now obsolete. From January 2007, there will be a single price for all full individual members (regardless of where they live). The rate is expected to be considerably lower than the £83 rate the majority of members now pay. Having removed the higher rate for those who live closer to Bisley, there will be some form of charge which relates to use of NRA facilities (note that we hope to have facilities other than Bisley in the not too distant future).

There will be a discounted subscription rate for new members, overseas, over 65s and under 25s but they will all be in the same category. A second, limited category will be introduced to make provision for the various other groups such as 200m membership, Friends of the NRA and Heritage Pistols.

New Club Affiliation and Licensing

The clubs subscription structure is also subject to change. The first of these changes is that the club year will run April to April to tie-in with insurance and MoD range licences. The NRA has been negotiating with our insurers and we will be offering a subscription package that includes public liability insurance. As you will read elsewhere, it is proposed that the NRA should be responsible for the issuing of MoD licences and so the new structure will reflect this as well as the insurance. Clubs should all end up with cash savings and better access to ranges as well as improved services. We have written to club secretaries with the full details.

Help!

Finally, I'd like to make an appeal. We need you to help defend and develop our sport. Please encourage your fellow club members to join the NRA. The first year introductory rate for new members is only £30, in many cases a saving of over 60%. The more members we have, the greater our strength and ultimately the lower the cost of both membership and shooting.

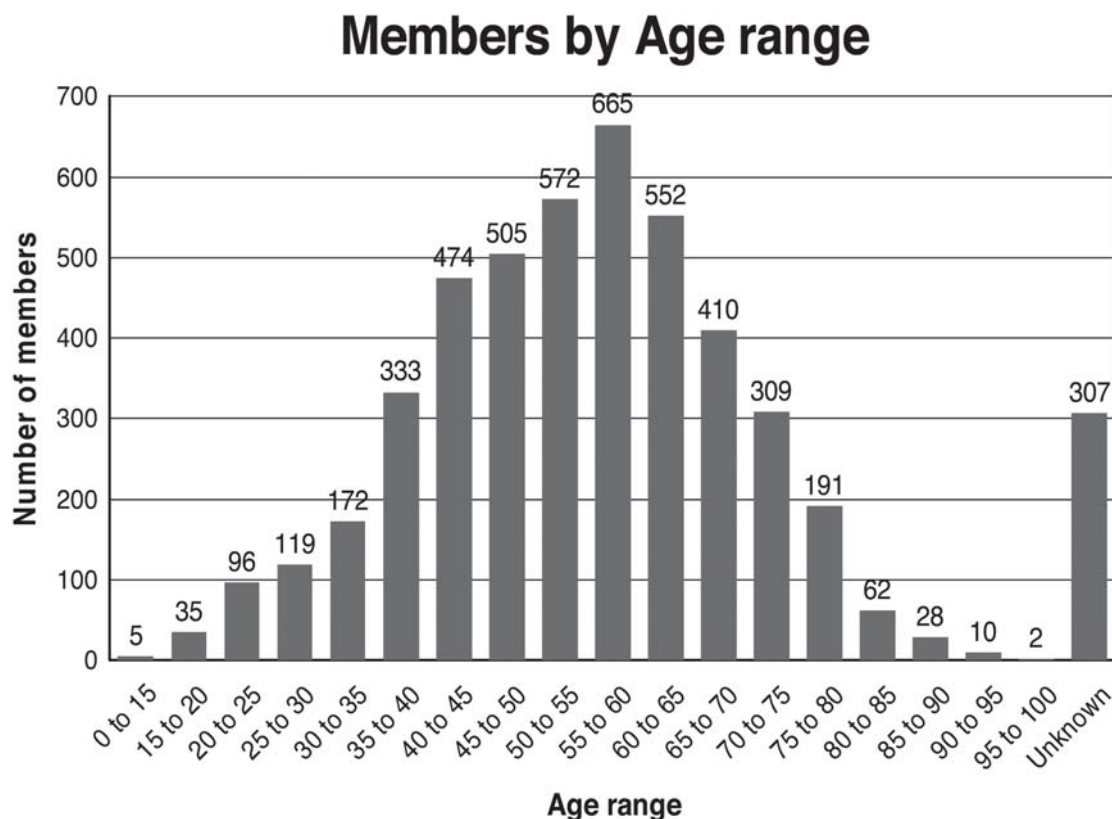
Your sport needs you and your club colleagues to survive and grow!

We would welcome any comments and suggestions on the proposed new structure for individual membership.

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

As part of the work the Membership Committee has been doing on restructuring the subscriptions, a detailed analysis of the make up of the membership was undertaken. There were some interesting trends, in the information.

The most striking trend we found was concerned with the age of our members. As you can see from the graph below, we have a bell-shaped curve with distribution skewed towards older members. This is not that surprising given that shooting is a sport that does not discriminate against age and we regularly see people competing who in other sports would no longer be able to. What it does highlight is that we need to be doing more to encourage younger members. Most people take shooting up early on in their life, some do come to it later on but we currently rely on cadet, school and university clubs and organisations to feed the sport. If we take the population of members, we can see how many new members we need to attract earlier on to make up for the peak of shooters who in five to twenty years time may not be members of the NRA. We will be working on initiatives to encourage more young people to continue in the sport and support their governing body.



Geography was also significant with over 50% of the membership coming from the South or South-East regions, something we hope to rebalance with the important new work being done in the regions by the NRA (please see the Secretary General's Notes).

The third trend worth pointing out is that Sporting Rifle is currently the fastest growing discipline, closely followed by Gallery Rifle. We hope these trends continue as the NRA increases its support for all target shooting disciplines in the UK. The Gallery Rifle shooting weekends are a huge success with more and more people taking part every year; we hope to see more of the participants becoming full members of the NRA!

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by
Martin
Farnan*

General

Communication with the Shooting Division

We should appreciate it if the main means of communication with the Shooting Division was by e-mail where possible. Since secretarial support is not available five days a week it is likely that response times will be shorter if you use e-mail rather than letter or fax.

Marksman's Calendar

The proposed 2006 Calendar of Major Events at Bisley is now being produced and it will be available on the website and sent to all club secretaries. It is based on historical precedent and many of the dates shown are simply the equivalent dates to those in 2005 (other than obvious changes such as Easter etc). As usual I ask club secretaries to check this calendar carefully and let Karen Robertson have their own club fixtures list as quickly as possible, preferably by e-mail to karen@nra.org.uk.

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

Ranges

New Range Danger Area Restrictions for .338" (8.6mm) Rifles

Range Safety Notice 06/05, dated 25 July 2005, has been issued by the Land Ranges Working Party (responsible for safety on ranges throughout the UK). This was received by the NRA on 30 August. Range Safety Notices are issued in advance of amendments

to JSP 403, and are to be implemented immediately on receipt of the notice.

This Range Safety Notice contains the new Weapon Danger Area (WDA) Template for the .338" (8.6mm) Long Range Rifle. Despite the fact that the MV and ME limits of this rifle fall within the normal limits for a Gallery Range, the designated minimum length of the Range Danger Area (RDA) for this rifle is 3,700 metres (4,034 yards).

Stickledown and Century ranges have RDA lengths of 2,900 and 1,830 metres respectively, and the new WDA template for the .338" rifle clearly exceeds both of these. In the case of Stickledown the WDA template runs well beyond Red Road into the housing estate beyond, and in the case of Century it overlaps either the Clay Ranges on the left hand side or Short/Long Siberia (and Furze Farm) on the right hand side.

Therefore we regret that an immediate ban must be placed on the use of .338" (8.6mm) Long Range Rifles on any of the Bisley ranges. No down loaded ammunition will be permitted. There will be no exceptions to this rule, and the Range Safety Regulations (Edition 4 dated 01 September 2005) have been amended accordingly.

Use of Benches on Short Siberia

All shooters are reminded that the benches on Short Siberia are for Bench Rest shooting only, and are not there for the use of anyone who has not booked them. It is obligatory that all those who wish to use one or more benches at 100 yards must inform the Range Office accordingly when making the booking. An obligatory safety space of one additional target to the right hand side of the bench(es) being used will then be allocated since the normal firing point is forward of the benches.

If there are few bookings at 100 yards on the day concerned, and the safety target would not have been used, no additional charge will be made. If, however, the range is busy then the shooter(s) booking the bench(es) will be required to pay for the additional safety target space in addition to the number of lanes used. There are two benches per normal target space, and therefore one or two benches will be charged as one lane, three or four benches will be charged as two lanes etc.

Electronic Target Systems

After extensive trials earlier this year, members will be pleased to know that we plan to install a number of electronic targets next year although exact details have not yet been finalised. Further details will be given in the Spring Journal.

Covered Firing Points

Marquees will shortly be erected on the 300 and 600 yards firing points on Century range. We hope these

will encourage more shooters, particularly from Schools, to come to Bisley in the winter months.

Booking In at the Range Office

We must remind club secretaries and individuals that they must be in possession of their club or individual membership card when booking in at the Range Office. This may well be even more important in 2006. Failure to do so may entail a delay in processing your booking.

Range Safety

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

Melville Bay A

Four new returning target systems have been installed on the right hand side four lanes of Bay A on Melville range. The target controls are extremely easy to use. The left hand two lanes have also been extended to 50 metres.

Use of Stickledown During the Winter Months

Stickledown range will again remain open during the winter months under the following conditions:

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

Midweek bookings and shooting will continue as during the rest of the year. It will, of course, be necessary to make advance bookings as normal.

Range Closure Dates

Please note that to allow for proper setting up of the ranges, all ranges that will be used for the 2006 Phoenix Meeting (25 to 28 May 2006) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 24 May 2006.

The 137th Imperial Meeting will be held on the same relative dates as this year (see below). The Services Skill at Arms Meetings will therefore start on Friday

23 June 2006. For this reason the annual de-leading of the butts, the Inter-Counties Meeting and the obligatory services practice period will have to be held before this date. As a consequence there may be some disruption during this period, but we will do our best to minimise this.

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

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges Bidding Conference

It was possible last year to accept all bids made by the due date for Gallery Rifle and Pistol ranges. We have therefore decided that a conference will again be unnecessary this year and bids that have been received are now being processed.

Markers

You are again reminded that markers are likely to remain in short supply, and that there is no guarantee that a marker or markers can be supplied on any particular day. Individuals and, in particular, club secretaries, are therefore advised to make alternative arrangements where possible.

Shooting Matters

Paramount Rifles

Owners of Paramount rifles may be aware of two accidents which took place earlier this year, one causing serious facial injury to the firer (but from which he has thankfully largely recovered). In one case a round detonated as it was being chambered, the eventual cause being found to be a broken firing pin (made from Duralium/Aluminium) where the tip of the firing pin had fractured and had lodged protruding through the firing pin hole. The bolt then flew back at considerable speed, tearing the cheek of the firer.

In the other case, the firer was attempting to open the bolt when a round appeared to be stuck in the chamber. As he knocked the (opened) bolt towards the rear of the rifle, the firing pin sprang forward, detonating the round. Fortunately no injury was caused in this incident.

The full text of a note which was recently received by the NRA reads as follows:

“Following a serious accident the NRANZ have taken the following action, (and) the following note has been sent recently to all (NZ) Club Secretaries:

A notice (was recently published) in the Bullseye (*the NRANZ Journal*) requesting

any owners (of *Paramount rifles*) to submit their bolts for replacement or clearance to their Gunsmith, and to alert them to be on the lookout for owners who might not have seen the notice (in the May 2005 Journal).

The June NRANZ Council discussed this, and later reports, at length and voted to ban Duralium/Aluminium firing pins from NRANZ competitions. For safety reasons please be aware that **this is not a request but a directive**".

If you are a Paramount owner please take note of this and, if you consider it necessary, take appropriate action by speaking to your gunsmith and having both your bolt and your firing pin checked.

The European Short Range Championships

In view of the low number of entries in this match we regret that it had to be cancelled this year. This was unfortunate since new targets (NRA of America Short- and Mid-Range decimal targets) had been purchased. We hope that this match can be held early next year; all country team captains have been canvassed on their views on the format of this match.

Open Days 2006

We have asked the Home Office to agree two NRA Open Days in 2006, on Saturday 29 April and Saturday 9 September. Please make a note of these dates which will be confirmed in the Spring Journal. An Open Day is also planned to be held at Altcar on Saturday 27 May. Full details have not yet been finalised but more information can be found on page 24 of this Journal.

Imperial Meeting

Prize Lists

The Prize List has now been printed and competitors should have received their medals, bars and prize money by the time this Journal is published. If there are any problems with your medals or prize money please let us know in writing (please address the envelope to the Medals Department) or contact squadding@nra.org.uk. If you would like to donate your prize money or vouchers to the Young Shooters Fund please send them to Karen Robertson.

Dates for 2006

The 137th Imperial Meeting will be held from 8 July to 22 July 2006. These events will be preceded by the Services and Cadets Meetings which will start on 23 June.

Programme

The programme of events for the 2006 Meeting will be broadly similar to that for 2005, with no radical changes proposed.

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2006. This will again be in the form of an A3 folded form. Page 1 will be full personal details, block entries and financial summary, page 2 will be for entries to individual matches and aggregates, and pages 3 and 4 will be the present Notes. Only pages 1 and 2 need be returned, meaning that the competitor will retain the notes. All entry forms (other than Schools and Services which are sent to all those eligible) will again be posted on the NRA website. Entries to TR and MR events may be made online via our secure payment system.

Service Rifle

There will be two main changes next year:

- The International Service Pistol Match will be moved from the evening of First Tuesday to the evening of First Monday.
- We have agreed that rules on clothing which may be worn will be relaxed, and gloves and smocks may be worn in all matches. Webbing, however, which presently states "Skeleton Order" only, will be required to weigh a minimum of 7.5 kg.

Match Rifle

The Australian MR Team will be shooting in the Imperial Meeting next year, and will be competing for the Woomera Trophy, currently held by GB. This match will be held on First Thursday at the same time as the Humphry.

A new match will be held during the Elcho on First Wednesday. The best four scores at each distance from the eight competitors from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales shooting in the Elcho and Australia shooting alongside will be aggregated to get each team's score. The Any Rifle 1200 Yards will again be held on First Thursday, this being 13 July in 2006.

Full details will be contained in the 2006 Bisley Bible.

Schools Meeting

The new format Schools Meeting was very popular this year, and will be repeated next year. To ensure that all competitors have equal opportunity for practice at all three ranges on First Tuesday and First Wednesday, we have decided to amend the traditional timings of Periods A, B, C and D on these days as follows:

| | | |
|----------|----------------|--------------|
| Period A | 08:30 to 10:30 | at 300 yards |
| Period B | 11:00 to 12:00 | at 500 yards |
| Period C | 13:30 to 14:30 | at 500 yards |
| Period D | 15:00 to 17:00 | at 600 yards |

All competitors will therefore have two hours at each distance. Special arrangements will be made for those British and Canadian Cadets who are involved in

shooting or running the Rex Goddard match on the morning of First Wednesday.

Target Rifle

A number of changes may be made, including amending the trial conditions this year of the Chairman's Prize. Qualifying scores are now likely to include the whole Grand Aggregate and to commence on Second Friday, thus avoiding the clash (for cadets) with the AG Bell on Second Thursday. In addition a new trophy, the Aiden Reece, has been presented by the family of the late Aiden Reece. It will be based on the aggregate of the St George's 1, Queen's 1 and the Prince of Wales. Full details will be contained in the 2006 Bisley Bible.

The Astor County Championship was opened this year to include the top three teams that had not qualified in their county heats. The administration of this required that all results, including team names and scores, were sent to the Director of Shooting. A register was then kept of all qualifying teams and also of all teams that had not qualified. Four significant problems were then identified, particularly for counties where the Astor qualifying round was shot concurrently with another match:

- some counties did not compete with teams of six, teams of eight or ten were noted;
- some counties did not shoot at the same distances as the Astor (ie 300, 500 and 600 yards);
- some counties did not shoot seven rounds at each of three distances, as in the Astor. Ten round shoots were noted;
- the final date for submitting Astor qualifying scores only left a maximum of two weeks for notification of the top three losing teams, and for these teams then to make arrangements to be present for the Astor Final (if they had not already planned to be competing as individuals in the Imperial).

The first three difficulties above made it impossible to compare scores of the top losing teams, and the lateness of the notification to the top three losing teams created problems for team captains. For these reasons the eligibility of the top three losing teams to compete in the Astor Final will be discontinued next year.

F Class

As from 1 April 2006 F Class targets will have white F Class V bulls, measuring three-quarters of a minute at each distance and scoring six points. For those using non-issued ammunition the remainder of the TR V bull will then become the F Class bull 5, and all other scoring rings will effectively reduce by one scoring value. The TR bull 5 will become the F Class inner 4, the TR inner 4 will become the F Class magpie 3 etc.

However in the case of F Class competitors who wish to use the issued ammunition, the scoring rings will remain as for TR. Full instructions on the completion of score cards will be given with the "Dear F Class Competitor" letter along with F Class squadding cards.

To encourage more entries from those who wish to start F Class shooting but do not yet want to start handloading their own ammunition, Jim McAllister has kindly agreed to present a trophy, based on the Grand Aggregate, for the top placed F Class competitor using issued ammunition. Full details will be contained in the 2006 Bisley Bible.

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

There will be major changes to the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meeting next year; full details will be notified in the Spring Journal. The entire programme of events will probably be held on three bays of Melville Range only, and will be shot between First Wednesday and Second Wednesday, 12 to 19 July 2006, both dates inclusive. During the Middle Weekend all squadded matches will be held on one day only, the other day possibly being a variety of popular GR matches. Further details will be included in the Spring Journal and the Bisley Bible.

McQueen

A large number of competitors were unable to compete in the McQueen this year, due in many cases to competitors who had made a score of 50 re-shooting the match as a tie-breaker. In order to allow more competitors to enter it is likely that the 1" V bull, already inscribed on the target, will be used, and that each competitor will shoot once only at a time.

All scores will be recorded in the same way as for TR. Only equal top scores (ie only those scoring 50.10, or those scoring 50.9 if no shooter scores 50.10 etc.) will then shoot-off on the afternoon of Second Thursday. If there is only one top score in any particular class then there will be no tie shoot in that class.

Trade Stands

If you plan to set up a Trade Stand during the Imperial Meeting please contact the Commercial Manager, Sarah Bunch, as soon as possible. A standard space will be £30 plus VAT per day, with larger sites in the region of £60 plus VAT. Space is limited, and you are advised to apply early. It is likely that these Trade Stands will revert to Bazaar Lines, running from the Fultons Block down towards the 500 yards firing point.

Imperial Meeting 2007 and 2008

For advance information the 2007 Imperial Meeting will run from First Saturday, 14 July, to Final Saturday, 28 July 2007. In 2008 the relative dates will be from 13 July to 27 July.

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by
Jeremy
Staples

NRA Open Day

Once again we hosted a very successful Open Day on Saturday 3 September with over 700 people registering to shoot. This number was slightly down on the attendees at the April Open Day but as a result the queues were considerably shorter and visitors were able to enjoy more shooting.

Thank you to all members who helped throughout the day. Without you volunteering we would not be able to run such a large event on a regular basis.

The next Open Days are scheduled for Saturday 29 April and Saturday 9 September 2006.

Electronic Targets

Two very competitive quotes have now been received from Kongsberg and Håring Systems. These are being considered by a small sub-committee looking at all the costs and implications of the electronic targets; hopefully their recommendations will be forthcoming before the next Journal.

Weekly Market

The regular weekly markets that took place earlier in the year on both Wednesdays and Sundays were halted by the Local Authority planners. Planning consent to re-start these markets is expected during November.

Imperial Meeting

We believe that all members and visitors enjoyed their time at Bisley during the Imperial Meeting but please remember that a lot of the staff work extremely long hours during this period to ensure the smooth running of the event. On occasions there are problems and I ask all members to respect the staff. Shouting and swearing at them does not help them resolve your problems.

HOG Rally

Over the weekend of 5-7 August we once again hosted Harley Davidson motorbikes and riders. Visitor numbers reached approximately 1500; all available accommodation on the estate was full and both camping areas were bulging at the seams.

The event was enjoyed by visitors, members and staff alike and HOG have rebooked for next year. The grounds were left immaculate by the visitors and estate income significantly increased over a traditionally quiet shooting weekend.

Staff

I am pleased to welcome John Swift who is currently being trained as Camp Engineer by Big Jim. Jim will be working part-time for us in the New Year. I also welcome Chris Bushell who has joined the Estates team.

Speeding on Camp

Members are asked to respect the 15 mph speed limit on the estate. We will be installing more speed humps over the winter months but clearly a number of vehicles are going too fast.

Suggestion Book Matters

Dogs

Please observe range regulations. Dogs should be on leads at all times in the domestic area of the estate and also on the ranges when shooting is taking place.

Re-cycling

We have investigated the installation of re-cycling containers on camp for glass, cans, paper etc but the cost of this to the NSC would be in excess of £1000 per annum. We shall continue to try and source a cheaper option.

Ablution Block Cleaners

We did experience some problems with the cleaning contractors over the summer. This contract has now been terminated and Dave and Jenny have been re-instated.

Childrens Climbing Frame

The old climbing frame was removed due to potential problems with Health and Safety. The cost of replacing this equipment is very high indeed.

Additional bridges on Butts 18 and 19

These additional sleeper bridges will be installed over the winter.

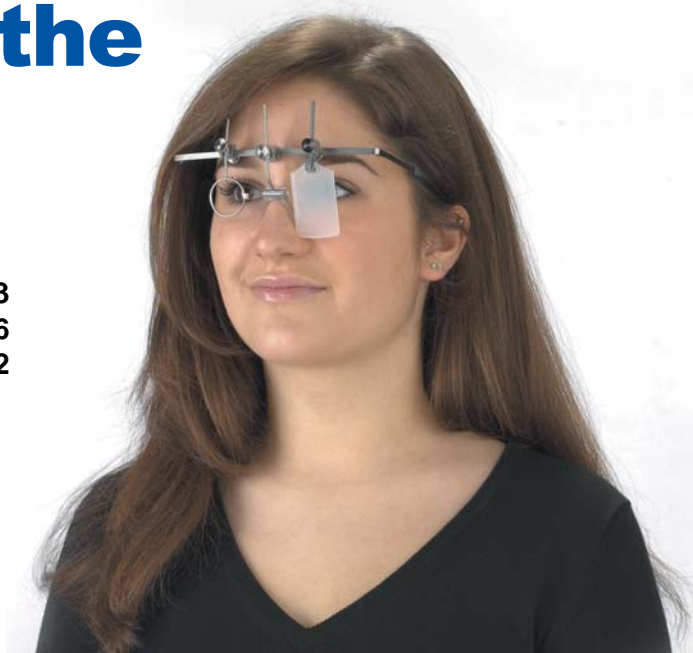
Sunday Market

The comments have been noted in respect of the potential security risk of the Sunday Market. It is vital that we continue to generate non-shooting income from the estate to provide the NRA with finance to assist shooting both at Bisley and throughout the country.

Looking for something better? Gehmann have the answer . . .



300 Gehmann Frames £93
301 Eyeshield (ISSF) £16
340 Iris Prescription lens only £19!



332 Knobloch Frames £109

320 Varga Frames (Above) £69



510



566



568MC



575

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 510 iris only | £40 | 568 iris, 48 cols, twin polys. | £159 |
| 550 iris, twin polarisers | £79 | 530 iris, 1.5x, -4.5 to +4.5 | £105 |
| 566 iris, six colours | £89 | 570 iris, 1.5x, 6 cols | £139 |
| 565 iris, 6 cols, twin polys. | £109 | 575 iris, 1.5x, 6 cols, twin polys. | £155 |



**30 YEAR
GUARANTEE**



418 Leather and Canvas Jacket £199



468 Glove £49



464 Glove £29



432 Artificial £32



431 Micro-adjustable with universal joint £79

GEHMANN UK
0208 395 8007

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



*by
Phyllis
Farnan*

NRA Training Courses

The NRA offers a number of training courses both regionally and at its headquarters at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley. Courses normally run from late January to mid June and from September to November at Bisley, but may be held all year round regionally.

New Members' Induction Days

An induction day is run for those new members who already hold a FAC, or who have previous firearms training and are not required to complete the full Probationary course. The induction will include briefing on range safety and NRA booking procedure, a TR assessment on the range and a lesson on gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistols.

Probationary Members' Courses

As a Home Office approved club the NRA runs probationary training courses at Bisley in the safe handling of firearms. Each course consists of five lessons over a three-month period and involves theory and practical range work. Candidates receive instruction on firearms and range safety and are introduced to fullbore target rifle shooting. They also have a lesson with gallery rifles and muzzle-loading pistols. Candidates are taught, supervised and formally assessed by NRA coaches. On successful completion of the course, probationers may be offered full NRA membership. Courses are normally run at weekends, though individual mid-week lessons can be arranged. The Probationary Membership scheme is also offered to school leavers who may undertake most of the training under the supervision of their school/cadet shooting officer, but must also attend an induction day.

Skills Courses

These weekend courses are open to full members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs and to adults and cadet members of the cadet forces. The course is designed

to enhance individual knowledge and shooting skills. Courses are offered in Spring and Autumn each year at Bisley, but can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NRA.

Club Instructor Course

This weekend course is open to members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs and to adults from the cadet movement. It is for experienced target rifle shooters who wish to assist with training at club or unit level. Candidates, who should have previously completed a NRA TR Skills Course, will be assessed and if successful will receive certification as NRA Club Instructors.

Club Coach Course

This course is run over three days (normally on two adjacent weekends). Candidates should be experienced shooters who have already completed a Club Instructor course. This course covers coaching techniques, and methods of instruction. Candidates will be formally assessed on the range and in the delivery of classroom lesson. Qualified Club Coaches may run NRA Probationary, Skills and Club Instructor Courses.

Wind Coaching Course

A weekend course at Bisley is offered at the start of the shooting season each year. The course includes both individual and team wind coaching techniques. A short half-day course is also offered to competitors at the beginning of the Imperial Meeting.

RCO Courses

The NRA Range Conducting Officer course is recognised by the MoD and qualifies civilians to conduct live firing practices on military ranges. Any club wishing to book military ranges must have members who are qualified as NRA RCOs. The course is run eight times a year at Bisley, regional courses can be run on demand all over the country by a network of NRA RCO Assessors. The course may be run as one long day, or as a two-day course depending on the local circumstances. Each course consists of a standard series of lectures, followed by individual oral, practical and written assessments. Candidates will be sent a manual for pre-course study. An optional study day is offered to those attending courses at Bisley on the weekend before each course date.

The NRA RCO course covers the management of small-bore ranges, gallery ranges for fullbore rifle shooting and pistol ranges for gallery rifle. The RCO qualification is valid for six years but may be renewed on application to the NRA.

RCO Endorsement Courses

Additional courses are available to qualify individuals wishing to conduct live firing for sporting rifles and muzzle loading firearms.

The British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) runs Club Instructor Courses for sporting rifle and the Muzzle Loading Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) runs the RCO Endorsement course for muzzle loading firearms. The MLAGB Course is offered regularly at Bisley but may also be run regionally by arrangement.

Course Dates for 2006

Probationary Courses

2006/1 begins on 28 January

RCO Courses at Bisley

Optional Study Days

19 February, 26 March, 24 September, 12 November

RCO Courses (one day course)

25 February, 26 February, 1 April, 2 April, 30 September, 1 October, 18 November, 19 November

Wind Coaching Courses

8 - 9 April

14 July (short course)

TR Skills & Club Instructor Courses (weekend)

22 - 23 April

7 - 8 October

Club Coach Course (3 days)

29 October, 4 - 5 November

Dates for all NRA courses at Bisley will be shown on the NRA website: www.nra.org.uk

For further information, or to book a course please contact the Director of Training on 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail: training@nra.org.uk

Amendments to Edition 2 of the RCO Manual

Edition 2 of the RCO Manual is dated 1 January 2005, and is being issued to all newly qualified (or re-qualified) RCOs. A set of amendments has been produced (and is available as a download from the NRA website) which will amend Edition 1 of the RCO Manual to Edition 2.

The SO1 Range Safety and also Headquarters Small Arms School Corps (the subject matter experts in the field of range safety) have both reviewed Edition 2 and have made a number of helpful comments and suggested amendments. These amendments will be incorporated into Edition 3 of the RCO Manual when it is reprinted.

In the meantime these Draft Edition 3 amendments have also been placed on the NRA website, and are being issued along with the present Edition 2 of the manual. To remain current all qualified RCOs should obtain copies of the relevant amendments and amend their present RCO Manual accordingly.

We hope that new style NRA RCO photo ID cards will be introduced from January 2006. The cards will be issued to all new RCOs and to other RCOs when their current certificates are renewed.

NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME IMPERIAL MEETING

by Tim Elliott

Last year, I blinded you with some statistics about this scheme. Therefore it is not appropriate to do so again. I should like to confine myself to a couple of more general comments.

First of all let me thank most warmly and sincerely those many experienced shooters who have once more so willingly offered their help to newcomers or to those perhaps a little uncertain about the Imperial Meeting. I have already written to all concerned, and so this broad-brush acknowledgement is not intended as a personal replacement for my - and the NRA's - gratitude.

Next, let me get my one - and not insignificant - gripe off my chest. It is a regular feature that, primarily but not exclusively because of firer inertia, sometimes those who help do not link up with those who seek help. I supply e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers and let people get on with it. I recoil from regulating things more closely. However, as they say, you can take a horse to water and ram its muzzle into the liquid, but nothing says that the horse won't choose to asphyxiate . . .

I have a problem: there is a gap between wind and water in the wider inclusion within the Aunts and Uncles scheme of the Open Units: I am trying to plug this gap, but so far, have not yet succeeded in putting something systemic in place. Any ideas out there?

The demand for the Guides for First-Timers, now split into one for adults and one for cadets, continues to grow. The Guides are routinely updated and seem to hit the spot big time.

In conclusion, I remind us all that this scheme is quite exceptional in sport generally and is so highly rated in the shooting world that attempts are made to emulate it everywhere that fullbore firing takes place.

TJ Elliott, Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB
Telephone and Fax: 01234 740334 Mobile telephone: 07932 706171 E-mail: tje@easynet.co.uk



SCENES FROM THE NRA OPEN DAY 3 SEPTEMBER



Don't mess with the Range Officer!
(Photo: Paul Hunter)



(All other photos: John Knight)



SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Match Rifle

Match rifle history was made on Saturday 11 June 2005 when the first recorded 100 ex 100 at 1200 yards was made by Paul Charlton during the London and Middlesex Match Rifle Team competition held at Bisley. Paul's personal account of this achievement follows:

• • • • •

Since shooting first started people have striven to achieve the best that they can. In our case the HPS, or possible, is a mark of that quest which delineates those that can from those who try.

Some of us score a few HPSs and are able to recall each and every one and how much pleasure they bring, others are so proficient they could not tell you even roughly how many HPS range scores they have, though they probably know how few 105s, 150s, 200s etc that they have had.

I can recall the first time I ever had a possible, and the many years it took to get the second! What I had never expected to do was to get a prime possible, let me explain, a prime possible is one that no one else has ever scored. Examples are R St G Maxwell scoring 105 in the 1948 National Match, the 105.21 has yet to be achieved but Keith Pilcher and Stephen Penrose are so far the closest with 105.20s, however the V bull has shrunk since then (and the bull since Keith's!).

My prime possible was very much a team effort, I had been invited to take part in the L&MRA Match Rifle Team Championship, but as I was having work done on my rifle, said I would if I could borrow someone's rifle and use their ammunition. The deal was struck; I would borrow Peter Campbell's, which had been built by Ron Hilyard, and use his ammunition.



The team behind the score.

Standing: Gary Alexander (Coach), Ron Hilyard (Gunsmith).
Sitting: Paul Charlton (Shooter), Peter Campbell ("Isn't it typical, you lend your rifle to someone else and they go and shoot like that with it!")

(Photo: Michael Wentges)

The team of six shoot 2 sighters and 20 to count at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards using two targets per team, so individual HPS is 300 and 1800 for the team. As I was to coach two others, I shot first then coached, whilst Peter shot last, allowing his rifle to cool off slightly between shoots.

As always using someone else's rifle is a bit of a compromise, do you conform to it or move every part possible until it feels comfy and destroy the setup of the rifle? Well my approach has been to conform to it as much as possible, so long as it does not hit me or hurt me. I found the butt-hook and deeply curved butt plate quite difficult to get to grips with at 1000 yards, but was reasonably happy with the result. When Peter shot he moved the buttplate assembly up six inches as I had shot it in the "rifle cleaning" position. I therefore found 1100 a **much** more comfortable experience and Gary Alexander and I coached one another to a pair of extremely satisfying 99s in conditions which were easily readable and changed gently.

After a satisfying lunch we resumed at 1200 with a marker whose work rate would have been generously judged as steady, certainly not fast. In fact we had only got to about shot 8 by the time our other target team had finished the first firer and were waiting for me to be the coach. But gamely we battled on. Gary by this stage had the fickle trickles of wind firmly under control and left my sights alone. In fact he made no wind adjustment between shots 2 and 13, this did not mean there were no changes, just that when eventually the target reappeared, we carried on using the same setting. One of the great differences in coaching an MR shooter and a TR shooter is the inability to gloss over a rank bad shot. The shooter has a perfect view of the target through the telescopic sight and even with a Galilean sight has a pretty good idea of shot location. Shot 13 caused me some concern as it was hanging in at 8 o'clock, but only just, so I asked Eric Adams if he was happy with the signalled value, which he was, and we carried on. Once shot 15 had been marked a bull I got a bit anxious. If only this had been a short shoot (MR only seem to do 15 and 20 shot shoots) I would have had my maiden 1200 proper possible, (I had had a 25.4 in a tie shoot but that only sort of counted). I realised that a ton was on, the wind played around a little and we did move for it, the marker remained steadily, but slowly, in his rhythm and the bull's-eyes kept on coming, 18 of them and I started to relax as this was likely to be a

Personal Best (98.10 to get into that tie shoot was my previous personal best). When 19 came up I said to Gary "Well we're in new territory now" but I don't know how he felt. Shot 20 - calm but excited, could we? - squeeze, bang - looked good to me, and wait, and wait, did we seem to ***** wait - Yes! YES YES YES!

This is what we do it for, to beat the inner demons, to beat the wind, to achieve that to which we aspire, a possible at every range!

Everyone was extraordinarily gracious in the congratulations. It is brilliant when asked "alright?" to say "Yep, got em all". Whilst there have been a few 75s at 1200 yards, this was the first known 100, and like Ronny Maxwell's 105 in the National, no other person can ever be first again.

There is room for improvement; I only had 8 Vs, but I'm not sure I care about that.

The scoresheet: those who know about such things might like to advise Gary Alexander to read the "Plot your Way to Better Scores" article and to use the correct scoresheets for each distance. Also, if you are intending to create a little piece of history that will be kept in the NRA Museum for future generations to marvel at, fill in your shooter's scoresheet neatly and accurately.

Post Script: Just before the Journal went to press it was reported that Rob Halloran of Wagga Wagga shot Australia's first 100 ex 100 at 1200 yards in the Victorian Match Rifle Championships at Corryong.

F Class

by Paul Monaghan

The Imperial Meeting showed an increase in the number of F Class shooters again. Following the large number of 50.10s shot last year, something had to be done about the target. After a minor hiccup, the eventual decision was made to use the TR target for each range, but introduce a $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bull. The existing bull and the rest of the scoring rings remained the same and the V was still scored as six. The advantage of this target was that it was suitable for both F Class and issued ammunition F Class. Although the number of entrants in the latter category was small, they all enjoyed the challenge. The only problem with having a dedicated F Class target was that all the F Class shooters had to be squadded on specific targets. In fact the use of one target per butt for this purpose was a simple and popular solution. The F Class Grand Aggregate was won for the second time running by Carel Taljaard from South Africa. He claimed that his plan was not to win – he was just coming back as a courtesy as he won last year. That's real style! HM Queen's Prize (F Class) was won by J Wright and the St George's Final (F Class) was won by Carel Taljaard.

The International Match on the Final Friday is a coached shoot for teams of four shooters at 900 and 1000 yards on Palma targets. This event is proving popular and altogether there were six official teams and two teams from Southern Ireland shooting

alongside. The event was won by Germany who dropped just one point over the whole course of fire.

At the open meeting of F Class shooters at the end of the Imperial Meeting it was clear that this had been a good Meeting. There was discussion about target dimensions and the proposals of the meeting were discussed by the F Class sub-committee meeting which followed. Targets for next year will be even tighter. For long range, F Class will use the Palma target. For short range, the $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bull (which will be solid white) will be retained, but also all other scoring rings including the TR V bull. The TR V bull will be the new F Class bull, the TR bull will be the F Class 4 and so on. Issued ammunition F Class will shoot on the same target and be scored on the firing point as for Open F Class. This means they may leave the firing point with what appears to be a poor score but stats will know their status and will convert their scores so that they will actually score as this year ie they will be scored on a $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bull, the TR bull scoring 5 etc. It seems complex at first sight, but it should work.

World Championships 2009

Although the result of the vote by the ICFRA F Class Committee to hold the FCWC 2009 at Bisley has been no secret, the decision has now been formally ratified by the ICFRA Council.

Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

Mostly I try to write about the actual Classics scene, but at times other more general matters in the NRA demand our attention and such a time is now.

On the menu are possibly the most important changes the NRA has contemplated in the entire history of the organisation, and they affect you and me.

By now I hope that most of you have realised that the NRA is changing, and mostly for the better. Not everyone agrees, and some matters of detail such as range timings have been forced on us rather than by our wishes. And some I just do not like!

But the idea has already been put forward that we should now take a pro-active view of our future and not be content just to react to matters imposed on us, even if that means flowing with changing fashions.

Even a change of name is in the wind, fuelled by the seductive promise of a shining future, blessed by Parliament, for all target shooting with a single National Shooting Organisation, with possibly Royal in the title. There are seemingly compelling arguments, for example the case that we are inextricably confused with the NRA of America. Part of this is the proposal to put "clear water" between Target Shooting and the Military and other versions.

Certainly Parliament would then love us, but at what price? What benefits? In a world dominated by pure target shooting, where will the collector or shooter and others fit in? Is it divide and rule all over again?

So could it be that within two years the NRA as we know it might cease to exist, and so much pass into history and be forgotten, such as our prized Defence and Volunteer origins? Just out of date rubbish? I offer no opinion, but it is your future we are debating.

So what can you do? If you cannot come to Bisley and attend NRA meetings, read all the reports in the Journal; become informed. Then simply make your voice heard, by giving reasoned opinion to the Trustees, whether you agree or not! The Trustees are now a very small group and unless you let them know your wishes, they will make their own decisions, and it will be too late to complain after the event. It is even more important that you ensure Members of General Council represent your views, and if necessary exercise their powers, should they disagree with the Trustees proposals.

In the past far too few have taken the trouble to do this. When the plans were published for the building of the Clays and the closure of our beloved Shorts, guess how many ordinary members sent in a reasoned critique? Well, I am not sure, but I believe I was told

it was less than six, and it may have been only four. If all else fails, pick up the phone and give them a call; I can assure you they are all ready to listen.

However, your views will not count for much unless you are an NRA member, so please look at the offer to HARC, at last seeing the light of day. After nearly three years of planning, HARC will now be a real class of NRA membership at reduced subscription, albeit with an increased cost (£30) over the old HARC rates, but offset by some savings in Meeting Fees and other charges, and other benefits. Please see the letter sent out with the IHAM and Trafalgar entry forms, or get a copy from the NRA.

Just before you decide things are just getting too much, it now seems certain the Crime Reduction Bill will go to Committee with the proposed ban on de-activated arms in place, so by the time you read this we may have another battle on our hands. I believe many of you also have collections of such items, which may be severely reduced in value if this becomes law. Such values are substantial, for example a good Vickers .303 de-activated would be in the region of £1,500.

We have not had a meeting of the Classics Sub-Committee for some time; the Trafalgar Meeting is seemingly a time when many are present, but in practice there is the dinner on the Saturday, and so much to do getting ready just before, it is just not the time. But I will look to arrange something in the spring.

On a happier note, Trafalgar promises to be a right royal Meeting and a great celebration of the Anniversary, and I have been able to get about here and also on the continent, looking up old friends and contacts, as increasingly our problems are theirs too.

Getting about has other rewards, and for me, for the purely historical context, the firearm eye candy of the year so far; at the recent London Arms Fair, a nearly mint Colt percussion revolver of 1851 with the rare fluted cylinder, which was shipped to the Confederates after the outbreak of hostilities of the American Civil War. A genuine proven Confederate Colt, rare specification. Hen's teeth come more often. Price? I did not dare ask!

Mind you the gentleman concerned also has an exhibition grade engraved Colt second model Dragoon, probably one of two (the other is in America) specially prepared for and shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Not to say a Pocket Pistol similarly connected with the Dublin Exhibition of 1853!

It's not the collecting I love; it's the wishing!

Gallery Rifle and Pistol – Your Sport Needs You!

by Charles Murton

As a new member of the NRA General Council, I should like to introduce myself to those of you who don't already know me. I have just taken up the role of Gallery Rifle and Pistol Representative. My thanks to all of you who supported me in this. Those who persuaded me to volunteer in the first place will be receiving an extra-special "thank you" in due course!

In case you aren't familiar with Gallery Rifle and Pistol, let's start there. Following the pistol ban quite a few of us decided we weren't prepared to give up our sport, so we invested our compensation money in gallery rifles – rifles built to fire pistol-type rounds such as .38, .357, .44 and .22RF. At first, our only remaining pistol options were air and muzzle-loading pistols, but careful research and creative gunsmithing resulted in the development of Section 1 long-barrelled revolvers which can be used in a similar way to normal revolvers. The GR&P community was fairly small when it started, as a lot of people lost heart and gave up when the pistol ban was imposed. However, we have grown steadily over the years and now have a flourishing discipline with a flagship meeting – the Phoenix – at Bisley every May, which attracts well over 500 competitors. These include an ever-increasing number of newcomers to the sport who are actually joining us to shoot gallery rifle without the remembered shadow of the pistol ban hanging over them, which I think is very promising for our future.

Let's move on to who I am and why I am doing this job. I am a career civil servant who started shooting .22 target rifle when I started my first job. From there I expanded into .22 pistol, then centrefire pistols. I have tried most disciplines over the years, but settled mainly to pistol and then GR&P. Having run a small shooting club in the early days and then taken a few years away from admin duties, I decided in 2000 that it was time to put something back into the sport,



preferably at national level where there was an obvious need for volunteers. Having a strong background in computers, I volunteered to run stats for the Phoenix. My first meeting was Phoenix 2001. Those who entered that meeting will remember we had huge problems – working from a building site which was supposed to have been the NSRA's Lord Roberts Centre and having the computer system eat most of the scores and die being just two of the highlights! I swore never to use anyone else's computer hardware or software for such a task again. Since then, we have used specially donated or purchased PCs and software written by me – which I can modestly(!) claim has been a huge success. Computerised squadding has also been introduced. The whole software suite is used at almost all of the GR&P meetings held at Bisley and is now being trialled at meetings around the country.

Over the period 2001 to 2004, I served on the Phoenix Committee as Chief Stats, Secretary and Chairman. In doing so, I came to know many of the key staff in the NSC and NRA well and also, of course, many of the range crew and shooters. Being a civil servant, I am used to committee work, so when the election of a new GR&P rep was approaching I was not surprised to find my arm being twisted. I put in my papers and . . . here I am!

As a discipline rep I believe that I have two main responsibilities:

- to represent the interests of the GR&P shooting community within the NRA;
- to provide a communications link from the NRA back to the GR&P shooters.

To fulfil the first of these responsibilities, I need to know what are your views and concerns. If there is any issue which you as a GR&P shooter (or indeed as a shooter from a different discipline) want to raise, there are several ways to do this. The most obvious is to speak to me in person. I attend all the NSC-run





GR&P meetings at Bisley, and I will be trying to get to a few more around the country over the next few years. However, I can be difficult to pin down at meetings because I am often running the stats! An alternative is to e-mail me - I have set up the e-mail address galleryrifle@ntlworld.com to make this easier. For snail-mail, just write to me care of the NRA at Bisley. Alternatively you can raise your point with any of the members of the GR&P Sub-Committee, who are:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chris Farr | Information manager – classifications, highest achieved scores, record scores, etc |
| Neil Jones | International long-barrelled revolver shooting |
| John Robinson | GR&P webmaster |
| Brian Thomas | NSC GR&P Meeting Director |
| Peter Watts | International gallery rifle shooting |

Each member of the Sub-Committee has the lead in one particular area, as identified, but all of them will be involved in other issues of interest or concern to GR&P.

In terms of my communicating with you, this article is a start - there will be more to come. John Robinson will be posting news on the ShootFastDontMiss website (www.galleryrifle.co.uk).

So, apart from my appearing on General Council, what is the GR&P news at the moment? Well . . .

The range of events on offer at GR&P meetings continues to expand. This year we have added Hunter Field Target and long range shotgun slug events to the Phoenix Meeting. At the recent National Championships we trialled short range shotgun slug events – these will be regular features of Phoenix and Gallery Rifle Action Weekends from now on.

We have built good international relationships with the BDMP in Germany and the Shooting Sports Association of Ireland (SSAI). Teams from both of these organisations took part in a friendly international match at this year's Phoenix. Next year we are hoping to have other overseas teams present as well, and to move this match onto a formal NRA or GB footing as soon as practical. Selection for the Phoenix 2006 squad will take place as soon as possible

after the October GRAW. I will be carrying out the selection, assisted by the Sub-Committee, based on scores achieved in the relevant events during 2005. Once the squad has been selected, the 20 squad members will elect a Captain and an Adjutant will be appointed. This is an interim arrangement – more formal squad selection, based on pre-published criteria, will be introduced for 2007.

We have also sent informal teams to competitions in both Germany and Ireland. In both cases we have been teaching them about gallery rifle shooting in exchange for the opportunity to shoot events and firearms which are simply not available to us over here. It has been great fun! Especially since, at the moment, we keep winning . . .

The GR&P Rules, as published on the ShootFastDontMiss website and used for some time at the NSC meetings, have now been agreed in principle by the Shooting Committee of the NRA and will shortly be submitted to the Council for formal endorsement. They will be published – split into a short rules section and a rather larger GR&P handbook of event details – early in the New Year, though there will be very little substantive changes in rules from the current version (3.03). These rules have already been formally adopted by the SSAI and are in the process of Federal approval in Germany. This means we have established common GR&P firearm definitions, range procedures and events across three nations – so far.

In a recent Journal article, my predecessor (Neil Jones) reported that the WA1500 (World Association for 1500 shooting) had agreed to allow UK shooters to use long-barrelled revolvers to compete in events in Europe provided that only iron sights of a maximum 6" radius were used and any wrist-brace did not give forearm support. Unfortunately this announcement was



slightly premature – the WA1500 did agree in **principle**, but one nation (Belgium) objected and the objection has not yet been resolved. Neil is still working on this, and will report from the WA1500's AGM within the next month or so.

Most of the old, tired turning target frames on Melville have just been replaced with brand new ones – at both 25m and 50m on some bays! There are new control boxes too. A few teething problems have been experienced, but I am sure those will be sorted in time for the next GRAW (October 29-30).

Many have commented that one of the GR&P meetings held at Bisley each year runs in a completely different way from all the others. I am talking about the GR&P element of the Imperial Meeting, which to date has run different events to different rules – and on the whole has been a lot less popular with the shooters than the other GR&P meetings. We are looking at ways to improve things without throwing away all of the traditions surrounding this meeting – more on this to follow . . .

Many of the GR&P shooters reading this article will doubtless view the NRA as being somewhere between unfriendly and hostile towards any discipline that isn't target rifle. This was certainly true when I joined the Association. However, things have improved enormously over the past few years. Huge effort has been put into supporting GR&P events at Bisley, and there has been considerable investment in the facilities at, for example, Melville range. From my own personal observations, the whole attitude towards non-TR disciplines has improved. That is not to say things are perfect just yet, and to improve them still further I need the help of all GR&P shooters. I believe that the best way to develop target shooting as a whole – and GR&P in particular – is through the NRA. Many of you (for example over 70% of those who shot at the Phoenix Meeting this year) are not members of the NRA. The more of you who become members, the more influence we can have over the future direction of the NRA, and the more funds will be available for longer term investment in our sport. There is a lot to be done, and it is going to be a challenge, but I am up for it. Are you?

Pistol Shooting

by John Jackman - Chairman, National Rifle Association



Photo: Paul Tonkin

After seven years it was a great feeling to be able to fire a target pistol again. This was courtesy of Derek Bernard in Jersey who lent to me his .32" calibre target pistol. Many readers will know Derek as a pistol champion from Jersey. I was in Jersey shooting target rifle with a veteran's team from the UK, captained by David Cole.

The NRA is seeking to find acceptable ways to re-introduce the fullbore cartridge target pistol as defined by the ISSF and up to .32" calibre. No one can seriously suggest that a .32" calibre target pistol with its fitted hand grip can be a weapon of choice for criminals. Of course, we are also giving our colleagues at the NSRA every support for the full return of the .22" calibre rimfire target pistols.

Without the ability to manage pistol shooting we are not only restricted to the long barrelled, counter balanced .22" free pistol (approved by the Court as a Section 1 firearm), but we cannot offer pistol events in World Games. We are thus precluded from holding Shooting World Games in England, Scotland and Wales. Neither can our aspiring Commonwealth Games target pistol shooters practice here, let alone club shots such as most of us including myself. All this is well known, but is bad for our international reputation where we have been very successful in target shooting sports.

We are asked frequently "why cannot we show politicians that the banning of hand-guns has done nothing to reduce gun crime – rather gun crime has increased and genuine target shooting athletes have suffered?" I am not saying that there are none but I have not yet met a politician who defends this position. The blanket ban as it affects target shooters is not defended, but the ban is there and there is no sign that the Government will change the law, which it made such a post election issue. Thus our case rests with finding ways within the legislation, using, for example, Section 5 and Home Office directions and subject to direct supervision by the Governing Bodies, the NRA and NSRA.

Target pistol shooting is a grand and not too expensive sport which is inclusive. It is hard and, personally, as an international target rifle shooter, I respect those who do it or aspire to it. We want to recover the sport for the whole UK.

As for where my shot went on the pictured 25 yards range - it was a bull!

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

As our season draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the last few circuit events.

The end of May and into the first days of June saw the team return to Thun for the Swiss Grand Prix. As entries were a little down on normal (probably due to shooters training for the 50m events in European Championships) and because the range is big enough (with over sixty lanes) there was no need for an elimination round so our men shot only once, finishing in the middle of the pack. Simon Aldhouse had the top British score with 592 after having a hard time on his second string. Simon's score was seven points behind the winner - Johan Gustafenson with 599: this top class field put sixteen shooters ahead of Simon! Graham Hawarth was a few places behind with 591. The team finished tenth: the winners Sweden 2 had an average per man of 597! In the Ladies competition Mary Pugsley was a steady sixth, again seven points behind the winner Enquist of Sweden on 594.

The same team made their way to the European Championships in Belgrade. This was the first big competition there since the war years and the city is still in recovery; there were still many visible reminders in bombed-out buildings and our police escorts to and from the ranges.

The forty lane range was built on an army base some twenty minutes from the hotel. The range was basic but adequate and scores remained high from all winners. The team again had steady results but the edge needed to win was not there, maybe because of the surroundings.

The top score again came from Simon on 593 with Graham on 592 and Tony Lincoln on 587, the winner Thomas Jerebek (Cz) had 598. In the Ladies event Mary had her best overseas score this year of 590 coming sixth behind the winner Charlotte Jakobson (Den) on 594.

Just two shooters travelled to the last event in Aarhus (Denmark). In the eliminators Simon produced an excellent 598, coming second in the relay, and Graham a 595 so both were into the Final. Here Graham had another solid 595, but it was not until the last shot that Simon realised there had been a cross shot so he ended up with a 586. The winner Keri Pennen (Fin) shot the first perfect score of this year's circuit with 600.

However our scores, together with earlier events, gave the three GB shooters enough points to make the European Cup Final in St Jean de Marsacq during early September. Travelling one day earlier allowed everyone to relax in the warm weather and prepare for the prone events which were first on the

programme. After a misty start Simon and Graham both produced a 593; the winner Bessy (Fra) scored 598.

In the Ladies competition the weather changed for the worst and Mary had to fight for a 583, her detail being very windy with flags often covering the targets when you needed to get the shot away - the winner Christine Chuard (FRA) shot well for 593.

Back in Britain we had our return match against our friends from France the following weekend, which was again a win on both days for the NRA A team however an individual silver medal did escape to one French shooter Michel Goberville.

October gave us the last two training weekends which included a club championship and the end of the TR Sunday League. This league (shot with TR rifles only) has been most interesting and enjoyed by those that competed, namely Wandsworth and Dorking Rifle Clubs (we are looking for at least another two teams next year).

Scores from this have been most encouraging with the top average going to Dave Crispin of Dorking over four shoots of 293.25, an average of over 97 a string, and it is worthy of note his Round Two score of 299 ex 300 was quite outstanding. Wandsworth RC took the team honours.

Next year will see three circuit events and a return to Croatia for the European Championships, plus the usual Final in Winterthur. Funds for these events are severely limited and we are looking for ways to overcome this. We would be pleased to find and talk to any potential sponsors for any of our overseas events or to run a corporate function.

If you wish to follow our yearly progress find us on www.gb300m.com

... WANTED ...

7.62mm FIRED CARTRIDGE CASES

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

COLLECTION FROM BISLEY CAMP,
OR ELSEWHERE BY ARRANGEMENT.

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

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

REGIONAL MATTERS

South West Champion of Champions

All secretaries of clubs in the South West region are requested to inform the South West Regional Representative, PR Coley, c/o NRA, by 28 February 2006, of the name and address of their Club Champion for entry in the South West regional heat of the Champion of Champions to be held in 2006.

NRA Open Day Altcar 29 May 2006

Planning is in progress to hold an Open Day at Altcar Ranges next year. The Open Day will use A, B and C ranges together with the Clays Range and feature all the disciplines currently enjoyed by clubs using Altcar. So far 13 of the local clubs have expressed an interest and wish to be involved. If you would like to be involved and your club has not already been in touch with David Young, the NRA Regional Representative, you can contact him at davidyoung7.62@ntlworld.com

FORTHCOMING TOURS

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2006

The NRA has honoured me with the Captaincy of the 2006 NRA team to the Channel Islands. I am pleased that David Dyson has agreed to be my Adjutant and Dave Davies and Robin Hatcher my coaches. I intend to take a straight shooting, friendly team of shooters, predominantly composed of those who aspire to represent Great Britain. I would, however, like the opportunity to select one or two "older" hands who have experience of touring at International level. The team will be unaccompanied and provisional dates are departure 24 May and return 31 May 2006 with the strong probability of a practice weekend at Bisley in mid-April.

Interested parties should apply in writing as soon as possible with a brief resume of their team shooting experience and details of any notable individual successes. Unless you are totally confident that I will know who you are it would help if you include a photograph of yourself.

Chris White
628 Western Boulevard, Nottingham NG8 SGL

Great Britain Under 25 Team to Canada 2007

I am honoured to have been elected as Captain of the GBU25 Team to Canada in 2007. The team will be defending their title as world champions and also have the opportunity to compete in the World Long Range Championships. The tour will take place in August 2007.

Edward Welford has kindly agreed to act as my Vice-Captain on tour. He is a dedicated and thorough shooter and I am most grateful for his involvement.

Any persons interested in a place on this tour should make an application despite any personal reservations about ability, but you must be under 25 on 1 July 2007. Applications should be sent to:

Ed Jeens
7 Sunnyside, Wimbledon, London SW19 4SH

Applications must reach me by 1 January 2006.

A squad will be selected not only on current ability but also future potential.

It would help me greatly if applications could include the following:

- Personal details (contact details, address and a photo)
- Shooting CV (achievements of note in reverse chronological order. Include scores and positions where applicable)
- Personal paragraph (200-300 words. How have you achieved what you have so far and how do you look to improve your shooting? What skills can you bring to a tour and what do you enjoy the most about shooting?)

I am also looking to appoint a Treasurer and Adjutant for the tour from the squad. Anyone possessing such skills should include them in the personal paragraph.

If anyone has any questions about the tour or application, I will be happy to respond to an e-mail to edjeens@hotmail.com or via the Under 25 website.

Great Britain Veterans Team to Canada 2007

I am honoured to have been appointed Captain of the GB Veterans Team visiting Canada in August 2007. I am delighted too, that Andy Chown has agreed to be Vice-Captain.

With time now at a premium it is our intention to establish a core of experienced team players very early in the New Year. All interested veterans and potential veterans wishing to be considered are invited to apply to me, at their earliest convenience please but no later than 31 January 2006, to either address below.

At this time I can only estimate that the tour could cover some three to four weeks, taking in the DCRA matches, World Veterans Team Matches, the LR World Championships, maybe watching the Palma, and all this possibly preceded by a Provincial Meeting. Full details will, I hope, be available shortly.

Until verified, I am assuming a Veteran will have attained 60 years on 1 July 2007; no upper limit.

This will be a serious team tour; Andy and I expect serious competition from several other world class Veteran teams. We also expect to have rather a good time.

Mick Barr
49 Broom Grove, Knebworth, Hertfordshire. SG3 6BZ
E-mail: Mbarr@homerange.freemove.co.uk

THE BEST GLASS FOR F CLASS & ANY OTHER DISCIPLINE!



RHINO
30mm, sidewheel,
illuminated Mil-Dot,
fast-focus reticule, sunshade

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|------|
| 3 - 12 x 56 | (can be used either red or green reticule) | £139 |
| 3.5 - 10 x 40 | | £125 |
| 4 - 16 x 52 | | £149 |
| 6 - 24 x 52 | | £169 |
| 8.5 - 34 x 52 | | £185 |



**RHINO SCOPE STAND
& UNIVERSAL MOUNT**
£79



**RHINO 20 - 60 x 60
SPOTTING SCOPE** £139
detachable base mount
for use with ring clamp

SURREY GUNS

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

Tel: 020 8647 7742 Fax: 020 8669 9199

e-mail: 106026.3374@compuserve.com

website: www.surreyguns.com

THE SPECIAL AND BISLEY GENERAL MEETINGS 20 JULY 2005

Speech by the Chairman, John Jackman

It is with some sadness that we recognise today the death of Lord Swansea, our Deputy President. John, a foremost member of the Council for many years, was one of the finest target shooters of his generation winning the Grand Aggregate twice, Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Medal twice, a Gold Medal at the 1966 Commonwealth Games as just examples of his many achievements. Will you please stand for a moment in his memory.

There will be a Memorial Service for Lord Swansea at St Margaret's Westminster at noon on Thursday 3 November 2005.

First, we turn to the Special General Meeting which I declare open. *The notice was taken as read.*

My letter accompanying the proposed resolutions sought to explain the reasons for the proposals in detail and we have received no questions.

If you have a question could you please put up your hand in the first instance. *There were none.*

I hereby put to you the resolution set out in the notice dated 5 May 2005.

Would registered members raise their hands if they approve. *Approved.*

I now turn to the Bisley General Meeting. *The notice was taken as read.*

As usual, this evening, we will first deal with the formal business, then I shall say a few words and afterwards take questions. I will close by announcing the result of the First Stage of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize.

I turn now to the Agenda for the Meeting which has been posted on the Secretary General's Notice Board.

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

May I have your approval? *Approved.*

I welcome all our Vice-Presidents who are attending Bisley this year, and particularly those from overseas: Mr Graeme Berman from Australia, Mr Jim Cantlay from Zimbabwe, M Robert Chombart and M Philippe Ginestet from France, Mr Norris Gomez from Trinidad, Mr Alan le Page from Guernsey, Mr Cliff Mallett from Jersey, Mr Stan Frost and Mr Sandy Peden from Canada. Welcome to you all.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Council in the first instance to propose the re-election of the existing Vice-Presidents as listed in the Programme, save for the late Colin O'Brien.

May I have your approval? *Approved.*

It is also my great pleasure to make two proposals on behalf of the Council, namely Mr Tim Elliott and Wing

Commander Chris Hockley. Tim, a former National Coach, has done much over the years for the Association to promote youth shooting nationally especially promoting and organising the Aunts and Uncles Scheme for newcomers to the Bisley Meeting. Chris Hockley has done much over the years for the Association especially as a leading member of the Welsh Target Shooting Federation, the Royal Air Force Small Arms Association and the Team Finance Committee, raising funds for our overseas teams. I hope that members will support these proposals, may I have your agreement? *Approved.*

Tim and Chris will you please come forward to accept your traditional badges. *Applause.*

The last of the formal business is the election of Auditors. Baker Tilly have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed

Mr Richard Bailie proposes the re-election of Baker Tilly and Mrs Karen Robertson seconds the resolution. May I have your approval, please? *Approved.*

That ends the formal business of the meeting, thank you.

The Association's Affairs

It is only four months ago that I updated you at the Spring General Meeting. I am concerned not to go over old ground too often and so I shall seek to concentrate on new developments and news.

Uppermost in many members' minds, however, is the issue of support in the regions and ranges in particular. Even to the sceptical, I can say that we are making progress which I said last year would likely be slow. Reading the articles of Glynn Alger not only in our Journal but in other publications, such as Target Sports, you will see what has been happening. Everyone here knows that we are determined to improve access to ranges and to provide regional representation by agents of the Association. I shall ask the Secretary General, Glynn Alger, to give you a very important progress report before we move on to questions from the floor.

Glynn will work closely with those involved near the ranges and is anxious to know who is prepared, wherever from, to come forward and help with the project. If you can help, please do not hold back from getting in touch with Glynn.

At this point I will mention some financial news. First, we believe that we shall meet our budget surplus target for the current year. Second, Bisley, ie the National Shooting Centre, is expected to make its first profit in my memory. What this means is that the Association will no longer need members' subscriptions to finance day-to-day operations at Bisley and more can be allocated to resource the Secretary General for our regional plans. This resource will increase as Jeremy Staples and his management team improve profits from particularly commercial activities remembering,

however, that the entry fees for Association competitions and for range hire are set by the Council.

As planned, membership has increased this year. The current tally indicates over 200 net increase with over 350 joining, or re-joining, the Association. This increase is split across many regions and several declared primary shooting disciplines. We have reached a point where we should all be recruiting new subscribers. Each of us here is in a position to recruit with confidence

The April Open Day at Bisley was a great success with some 950 registering to shoot and many more present to watch. The local press and radio were supportive. On this occasion we welcomed a well-known sports features reporter, Matthew Syed, from the Times. Although we tried to ensure that our various activities would be presented in a good light as a "Sport in the Community", the article written was distinctly unhelpful. It was yet another example of how difficult it is to get our message across and how important it is for us to continue to review how we present ourselves. One of the problems for us is that we have so many shooting disciplines to explain. This confuses the outsider. We need to seek common ground for projecting what we do if we are to protect this diversity.

As from my appointment nearly four years ago I recognised how important Public Relations are and emphasised that it is how we conduct ourselves that is most important as we increase our efforts to obtain positive exposure and to be increasingly accepted by Parliament, the media and the public. Since Glynn joined us we have made great strides in increasing our exposure to Parliament. You will have seen, already in our Journal, the article which Glynn was invited to provide for the Parliamentary House Magazine. We are in direct contact with a number of ministers, civil servants and opposition MPs with comparative briefs.

Just recently, he has written an article for Monitor which is circulated to Parliament, but also to local authorities. This widens our audience with minimum cost. We recognise that we could spend a lot on PR without real tangible benefit at present, but that is not to say that expense on PR will not be employed at some point in future, if the Council is convinced of tangible benefit rather than just a feel-good among shooters.

We need to re-brand ourselves to some extent. Although I have not used this modern jargon before, it is, in effect, what we have begun to do. Bisley, National Shooting Centre is now marketed and is a name which expresses exactly what goes on here without any confusing militaristic overtone. You will have seen as you arrived that we are beginning to change the road signs. By next year we hope to be signed from the two main roadways, the A3 and M3.

The NRA also needs to change its name. This is for two good reasons. First, the reality is that we need to move closer to the two other national governing bodies to present a united front for target shooting in due course and must accept that we should adopt a suitable operating name. This is being done with the support of

your General Council with a view to agreeing a suitable name which expresses what we do for competitive sport. We must not be precious about our name. Second, our name, NRA, in any event, has unfortunately taken on a meaning which is seriously misunderstood and consequently too often damaging as representing a gun lobby by many in Parliament, the media, potential customer corporations, students and the public. Recognising that it is our heritage, however, we are taking steps to legally protect our original names and logos.

I have mentioned the military. I hope from my previous speeches that you realise that we work closely with HM Regular and Reserve Forces. I am most anxious that members should not think that there is any essential difference in our thinking of the role of the National Rifle Association. The Services fully accept and support that we will go forward in two distinct streams, namely the support of Services and Cadet shooting on the one hand and support of civilian shooting as a pure recreational sport on the other.

They recognise as we do that there is a significant proportion of the public which, whilst respecting the Services, does not like civilians acting out or dressing like the military, police or enforcement agencies.

Unlike most other sports, the nature of the equipment which we use, firearms, engenders reactions from the public. I believe it easy to comprehend that there are sections of the public at one extreme who would ban guns under all circumstances and at the other there are those who would have no restrictions. In between are the majority who are towards one side or the other. It is that centre ground we must capture as a sport as we approach the 2012 Olympics. This will highlight UK sport including shooting.

We should also admit that there is a significant section of the public which objects to game shooting, which is not part of our remit.

Accordingly, civilian target shooting needs to take care that its conduct is clearly seen as a recreational sport with all the colour and conduct associated with any other sport, although that is not to say that there will be times when civilians are invited to join the Services in activity nor, hopefully, should sporting clays and running deer target shooting be affected. In any event, as part of our re-branding we are examining all our activities with a view to being easily projected as a recreational sport. The test is how we are seen or appear to be seen by the critical eye of the media. The fact is that we need the media and the public on our side.

I shall just mention the London 2012 Olympic Games. First, I can confirm to you that it has been accepted that shooting will be a major sport at the Games. You will have seen confirmed in the Press that the shooting events will be in Woolwich. The Council of the National Rifle Association encouraged the London 2012 bid and remained in touch with the organising board. The position as we see it is that London is an expensive alternative. This is tacitly recognised. I attended one of

the presentations of the building proposals for the Games and it was made clear to me then that the modular construction of the ranges would enable the structures and equipment to be used elsewhere after the Games and offered for bids. It will not remain in Woolwich. Thus, if the Games do not come to Bisley, we should work with the other two target shooting governing bodies to ensure that we benefit jointly from the legacy. In the meantime we shall co-operate fully with London 2012 so far as we can.

There has been no fullbore shooting in the Olympics since Munich 1972. It would be great for the Games to come to Bisley and one of the possibilities we would look at would be an exhibition event for fullbore target rifle. Perhaps we should do this in any event.

The Bisley Meeting

In spite of overseas engagements, there was a full turnout for the three Regular Services Team and Queen's Medal events. There were also teams from five other countries namely: Australia, the Falkland Islands, Oman, South Africa and the USA. There is a shared view that target rifle shooting is a high priority and just as important as combat rifle practice. This is good for us.

We were pleased to welcome to Bisley His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Patron of the Army Rifle Association, who presented HM the Queen's Medals.

Shooting alongside the individual and team events were our own civilian service rifle shooters. The winners of the eight teams competing were, once again, the Highpower Rifle Club.

The Methuen Trophy Inter-Services teams shoot itself was won by the Royal Gurkha Rifles with the Royal Corps of Signals runners-up.

The Territorial Army Queen's Medal shoot suffered again from absentees abroad, but was well attended in the circumstances. The winner was Captain Peter Cottrell of Surrey and part of the squad formed by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant to encourage new target rifle shooters in Surrey. The prizes were presented by Major General Andrew Farquhar who is Commander Fifth Division and a member of our General Council, ex officio.

The Services cadets were here again in force, including cadets from Canada, all as always enormously enthusiastic. Lt General John McColl, Commander Regional Forces and Inspector General of the TA, presented the prizes. Arthur Clarke and his V Club members once again held their long range shoot for some 150 of the cadets – a unit from Somerset won and a young lady cadet won the individual event at 1000 yards in not easy conditions with 73.5.

The prizes for the Schools' Meeting were presented by the Lord Ashburton, himself a former winner of the Spencer Mellish Trophy in 1946.

The Ashburton Shield was won by Dollar Academy with 760 points and 43 V bulls over the new course of fire including 600 yards. This win is receiving great publicity

in Scotland. As reported before, the whole meeting for schools cadets was expanded this year. A number of new trophies and events were introduced and it is encouraging to see this commitment to the future. The names of donors and sponsors are on the noticeboard.

There were 46 schools competing in the Ashburton Shield this year which is a further improvement over recent years. We welcomed Foyle and Londonderry College for the first time under their shooting master, Mr Martin Mace. Available masters and coaches at schools is a major inhibiting factor and members are encouraged to see if they can help their alma mater, where appropriate.

Glynn Alger ensured that all shooting cadets received a personal introduction to the NRA and its activities.

The Historic Arms weekend was again organised by Rae Wills and David Mumford and staffed by volunteers to whom we are all grateful. Entries were about the same as last year at some 200.

In the Pistol and Gallery Rifle squadded events the entry was just 48 and whilst increased on last year, and many turn up casually, it is very disappointing when compared with the numbers attending events at other times of the year.

The Match Rifle meeting had 150 entries which is slightly down on last year as was the entry for the Hopton at 114. Nick Tremlett retained his title gained last year. The Hopton was followed by the Elcho Match won by Ireland with 1,705 just one point from England. All the scores are getting closer, but this match will be especially marked in that it is the first time that Ireland has won since 1907 and will join their historic first win of the National Match in 2002.

The total Target Rifle entries are 1,317 with some 165 from overseas, 1,087 have entered the Grand and 1,170 HM the Queen's Prize. Overall, these are improvements on last year.

I am again very pleased to see so many younger shooters taking part this week. In fact there are a record 299 students and under 21s receiving the special discount and we also welcome 21 competitors awarded a free Grand Aggregate entry by their counties under our scheme for encouragement of new entrants.

I also welcome the teams and groups from Canada, Kenya, Malaysia, Germany, South Africa and the Channel Islands as well as individuals from a further ten countries.

As for our own teams, we both commiserate and congratulate Reg Roberts and Paul Wheeler upon their return from Australia. I have received exceptional reports from Australia of their sportsmanship. The senior team was just piped by V bulls in very difficult conditions and the Australian under 25s put up an exceptional shoot to win their match over our team.

I take this opportunity to wish Keith Pugh success in the Kolapore which takes place on Friday and Richard Jeens with his Under 25s team. We should also send our

best wishes to Bill Sharman and the Scottish Rifle Team, Richard Bailie and the Irish Rifle Team and Chris Hockley and the Welsh Rifle Team to Canada in August.

I am delighted that Radway Green have come up to scratch and provided good quality ammunition for us this year. It is a major issue for us, but a small part of their own operations. However, it is proof that they want to ensure that the quality provided to us acts as a shop window for their manufactured production.

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

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

Firstly, we welcome, most importantly, the support of Milforce provided this year by the East and West Riding Regiment under the command of Major John Hinchliffe. Milforce is a vital part of the organisation of the Bisley Meeting.

Once again, we thank Major Jim Sharp, Range Officer, Pirbright Ranges, for all his help throughout the year.

We have been excellently managed by the Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century, Doug Watt on Stickledown and Doug Glaister on Melville, together with the Chief Butt Officers, Michael Batty and Peter Alliss and the range officers, stats staff and particularly all the volunteers who have worked so hard to support this year's meeting.

Finally, special thanks. The Bisley Meeting is managed by our staff at the National Shooting Centre. It is easy to take for granted, but the National Shooting Centre is increasing its activities throughout the year. I am sure you will join me in thanking the Chairman, Charles Oliver-Bellasis, the Managing Director, Jeremy Staples, the Director of Shooting, Martin Farnan, their co-directors, management and staff for all they do throughout the year and for the efficient running of the 2005 Bisley Meeting. *Applause.*

The Chairman then asked the Secretary General, Mr Glynn Alger, to provide his update in relation to regional ranges. The Chairman expressed hope that the news will herald the recovery of activities away from Bisley in the regions and most importantly provide confidence in the future for members.

Secretary General's Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen I am going to speak on the issue of civilian use of MoD Ranges.

I will start with the bad news and then go onto the good.

The bad news is specifically directed to those who have a negative view of the future for shooting. The bad news for you is there is no bad news!

I will now deal with the good news of a meeting held today at Bisley with the Army by reading out firstly the note from the meeting, followed by the English language interpretation.

- 1 ATE to produce initial draft of letter, for CinC's signature, to Rear Adm Dunt, Defence Estates, regarding the provision of a National Licensing Agreement with the NRA to cover the use of MOD facilities (ranges) by NRA Affiliated Clubs. Draft to be sent to DACOS Trg for ACOS Trg, copy to GOC 5 Div.

This means that the Army are looking at the feasibility of issuing the NRA with a single licence to use MoD ranges. The NRA would then be responsible for accrediting clubs as meeting the set MoD criteria for range use. This effectively will remove the annual licensing fee.

- 2 ATE to facilitate the licensing/accreditation of NRA qualified RCOs as Range Wardens and staff the publication of amendments to Range Standing Orders to allow such NRA qualified staff to act as Range Wardens for civilian club's usage of MOD Ranges.

This means the Army will look to accredit NRA RCOs and act as key-holders for MoD ranges, thus removing the range warden portion of costs to clubs.

- 3 NRA to create regional structure to mirror MOD/Landmarc organisation to enable single POC between organisations to facilitate regional range booking and common understandings in relation to disputes over range orders/conditions.

The Army wish to have a single point of contact negotiating regionally with their managers or agents over range bookings and the conditions of use for ranges.

- 4 NRA to consider taking out insurance on a national basis to cover all NRA Affiliated Clubs.

The Army suggest to avoid unnecessary administration that the NRA look to see if a block insurance scheme for clubs can be introduced as part of the affiliation costs.

- 5 ATE to simplify the way costs and charges are presented in order to present, as far as possible, a single charge for lane hire, and provide the NRA with the information to allow publication on the NRA website.

This means the Army will look to introduce a single cost for using their ranges based upon the lane charge.

- 6 Strategic Goal. NRA to research and prepare a position paper supporting the MOD in its aims in relation to Ranges and the Training of Cadets, for joint submission to SofS.

It has been agreed that the NRA will produce a position paper for joint submission to the Secretary of State, proposing that the Association manage, lease or buy MoD ranges to run in the National Interest in support of Reserve Forces, Cadets, Police and civilian shooting.

Part of this submission would propose an official position in relation to cadets allowing them to use civilian ranges and receive coaching from NRA qualified members.

Questions

Malcolm Boyd Life Member NRA Bullet Lodge Rifle Club

Recommended that the Suggestions book could be categorised into two sections, one for complaint and a second identifying action taken.

Phil Harrison Life Member NRA City Rifle Club

Identified that there had been a lot of police activity at Bisley during the meeting.

Chairman

The meeting was informed that the police had given increased attention to the site at the NRA's request, to reduce the number of uninvited visitors, disturbances and improve the general security conditions.

Other measures such as the introduction of CCTV were under review.

Tim Webster

Central Bankers Rifle Club

Proposed that walking around Bisley during the meeting should be encouraged and the use of cars discouraged.

He further proposed that a club be formed for the purpose, called the LB Club, which allowed you to use your car only if one had paid £10 per year, entirely voluntary, with all profits going to under 25 shooting. A badge would be provided to display in the car stating £10 had been paid.

Chairman

Asked for a vote on restricting car use. Two thirds of the meeting were against restricted use of cars with the rest supporting the idea.

Maurice Ayling

Navy Target Rifle Club

Pointed out that as an 80 year old a complete restriction would stop him shooting in the meeting.

Chairman

The Chairman undertook to investigate other possible means of transporting people around site.

Nigel Wells

United Kingdom Police Target Rifle Club

Stated that there was a need to retain the 15 mph speed limit at Bisley and enforce it.

He offered the opinion that any upgrade of the ablutions blocks should include clothes washing and drying facilities.

Roger Mason Life Member NRA

Somerset

Gave a speech regarding the current negotiations relating to his leasehold at Bisley.

Chairman

The Chairman stated that there will be a few of those present who are involved in leases. "The Council has picked up a number of issues from the past and is determined to ensure that within a few months we will be in a position to let all those who have leases, seasonal tenancies, whatever at Bisley know exactly what the policy is, which will go through a debating process, because we are determined with going forward; all these matters will be done with absolute fairness. I can't comment on Roger's case because it would be improper for me to do so, but if you take any assurances from me, as Chairman, I mean what I say. Thank you."

Presentation – Ligue Midi Pyrenees de Tir

Mr Philipe Mullot presented a glass statuette to the NRA which the Chairman received on behalf of the NRA. *Applause.*

HM The Queen's Prize, Qualifying Score

The Chairman reported the result of the first stage of the Queen's Prize.

In Her Majesty the Queen's Prize three competitors have tied for the Bronze Badge with scores of 104 and 12 V bulls.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr RCT Jeens | North London Rifle Club |
| Flt Lt DP Calvert | RAF Target Rifle Club |
| Mr ARN Kinross | Northamptonshire Rifle Club |

The lowest qualifying for the Second Stage is 99 with 5 V bulls, finishing 32 with 2 V bulls at 600 yards.

There are four firers with this score who are in.

The meeting was closed

Norman Clark

GUNSMITHS

FULL GUNSMITHING FACILITIES

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

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

Shop Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 9.00am till 5.00pm

Tel: 01788 579651 Fax: 01788 577104

**Units 4, 5 & 8, Hunters Lane, Rugby,
Warwickshire CV21 1EA**

E-mail: info@normanclarkgunsmith.com

Website: www.normanclarkgunsmith.com

CENTRAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 2005

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

Despite the high levels of operational deployments of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, all three Services were able to conduct very full and comprehensive skill-at-arms meetings this year. The Territorial Army meeting was particularly well supported with a higher number of teams than for many years. The Regular Army meeting again ran at capacity with 198 UK competitors and 61 international competitors coming from Australia, the Falkland Islands, Netherlands, Oman, South Africa, US National Guard and a solitary representative from Belize. The East and West Riding Regiment provided the Command Team for this year's MILFORCE support task with most of the manpower coming from individual reinforcements from a number of TA units from 15 Bde in the North East.

The three Regular Forces SAMs have now been closely co-ordinated over the past three years to ensure that the best use is made of the available range space at Ash, Bisley and Pirbright. Once again this culminated with the Tri-Service finale to the Queen's Medal. The three Services conducted their own SAMs between 24 and 30 June, coming together on Friday 1 July to compete alongside each other on Century Range in the final match to decide the winners of the three Queen's Medals for Shooting Excellence for 2005. It is worth repeating here that Her Majesty The Queen's Medal¹ is the only shooting award that can be worn by Service personnel on their uniforms.

The Regular Army Championship ran at almost full capacity and attracted an entry of 28 five-man Unit teams, of which four were B teams, and some 58 individuals. The Unit Team Championship was fiercely contested between Royal Signals, Gurkha and Royal Irish units, who filled the top seven places, with 2 Signal Regiment just finishing ahead of 30 Signal Regiment with 279 to 274 match points; match points are awarded for each team beaten in the five matches that make up the Championship. 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles was third with 269 points, Gurkha Company (Sittang) from RMAS (262) fourth and 4th Bn R IRISH (242) fifth. The Inter Command/Division Team Match for the Western Command Cup was retained by 4th Division (aggregate score of 5104) from Northern Ireland (4859) and 5th Division (4852).

The individual events were also dominated by Gurkha and R IRISH firers; of the top 15 firers in the Army Championship nine were RGR, two were Queen's Gurkha Signals and two were from the R IRISH. After a fiercely contested individual championship, Rifleman Hira Pun from 1 RGR overcame the first stage lead of Captain Ashok Sen from GC (Sittang) RMAS to win the Queen's Medal by a narrow two

point margin on 1153. Former Queen's Medallist Warrant Officer Class 2 Dilip Gurung, also from 1 RGR, was a further two points behind on 1149 points with Staff Sergeant Bharat Shrestha of 2 Signal Regiment just behind on 1143 in fourth. The International Class was dominated by UK firers with the same four individuals taking the top placings with Capt Ashok Sen taking the International title and the Fattorini Bowl. There was only one overseas competitor in the top 12 who finished in sixth place. Of the 198 UK firers 137 were competing at Bisley for the first time, 105 had less than five years' service, only 63 had qualified for the top Army 100 before and there were 44 newly qualified Army 100 shots on the final day.

This year the Army Service Pistol Championship reverted to the beginning of June, outside the CENTSAM period. It was won by Warrant Officer Class 2 Nigel Hodgson Queen's Lancashire Regiment, in his final few months of service, unseating the winner from the last two years, Private Cameron Carson 4 R IRISH, by just one point. Another former winner, Lance Corporal Willie Kennedy 3 R IRISH, was two points further behind in third place. The Champion Gunner in the LMG/LSW Match was Lance Corporal Gault 4 R IRISH with Lance Corporal Shiva Gurung 30 Sig Regt second and Signaller Surajsing Gurung 2 Sig Regt, third. The Champion-at-Arms, based upon the aggregate score in the first stages of the Rifle and Pistol Championships, along with the LMG/LSW match, was won by Sergeant Mick Brown AGC (MPGS) with 1262 points, ahead of Corporal Devprakash Gurung 2 Sig Regt (1241) and Corporal Chalky White 1 RGBW (now RGBWLI) (12384). The Sniper Team matches, with a Closed Class for established and badged snipers, attracted a reduced entry of 21 Sniper Pairs from five Infantry Battalions with a pair each from the Royal Marines and the Honourable Artillery Company as well. Top honours in the Closed competition were shared between 2 RGJ and 1 GREN GDS, and between 3 R IRISH and 4 R IRISH in the Open competition. The overall Champions were the A Pair from 2 RGJ, whilst 4 R IRISH took the Team Aggregate for their three teams. The Short Range Match (600, 500, 300 and 200 yards) was won with the same score (266) as in 2004 (88.7% of Highest Possible Score (HPS)), whilst the Long Range Match (800, 900 and 1000 yards) was won with an improved score of 168 (152 in 2004) (84% of HPS).

In the International team events, honours were spread across the nations with the British Army Combat

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

Shooting Team winning the concurrent Service Rifle Team match for the Connaught Cup, ahead of the Sultan of Oman Armed Forces and the Australians, as well as the Fire Team match. The Omanis won the Parachute Regiment Cup, with its testing two mile approach march, and the Combat Snap and the Falling Plates match. The Falkland Islands took the individual LSW title, the South African National Defence Force's Lieutenant Looock the Roupell match, Sergeant Jahnssen from the Netherlands the Moving Target match and SSG Roberston USNG the Roberts.

The Royal Navy Skill-at-Arms Meeting (RNSAAM) took place concurrent with the CENTSAM meeting from 24 June to 1 July. This event consists of team competitions between the four Navy Commands (Plymouth & Scotland, Portsmouth, Naval Air Command and the Royal Marines) and the individual competition for Her Majesty the Queen's Medal. The meeting culminated with the Tri Service Queen's Medal Final on 1 July. In the team events the board was almost, but not quite, swept clean by the Royal Marines team with the other honours being equally shared amongst the remaining Commands. This year the Champion Shot of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines was Sgt Mick Cole RM QM, who is currently serving in the Commando Logistic Regiment. This is the third time that he has won the medal (previous years were 1993 and 1994). The QM runner up was AEM1 Jim Stead from GANNET Search And Rescue Flight and third was OM(SSM)1 Ben Fitch serving in HMS SCEPTRE. Sgt Cole also won the Service Pistol Championship, demonstrating that he is truly an all round marksman. The President of the RNRMRA, Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks, attended on the final day and presented the RN top ten badges to the ten highest scoring Officers and Ratings in the QM competition. Also present, and presenting the team trophies, were Rear Admiral Tim Chittenden, in his last year as President of the Portsmouth Command Rifle Association, and Brigadier Garry Robison RM, President of the Royal Marine Rifle Association.

The Royal Air Force Skill-at-Arms Meeting (RAFSAM) began with the highest entry of 100 competitors from the University Air Squadrons for the first phase of the meeting. The winning individuals were Offr Cdt Verry (London University) in TR and Offr Cdt Bugge (University of Bristol) in Service Pistol. The winning TR team was Southampton University Squadron and the SP Match was won by the University of Bristol Squadron. In the second phase comprising TR events Flight Lieutenant David Calvert (RAFR) once again took first place in the Championship but with a creditable performance from Flight Lieutenant Conrad Steele-Benny winning the TR Grand Aggregate.

While the main trophies were being competed for, some time was earmarked for the Air Officers' Match, a competition that was last held during the 1980s. Well

attended, by more than 20 air officers and station commanders, the President of RAFSAA, Air Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of Joint Operations, was the winner, following a tie shoot with the Air Commodore Mike Barter, Commandant of RAF College Cranwell.

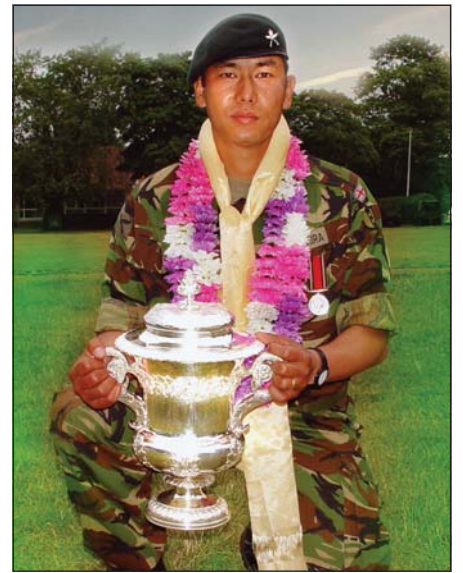
The Service Pistol Championship was a closely fought event between Flight Sergeant Ian Nicholas, Chief Technician John Prictor and Squadron Leader Lawson Smith. But the winner by a narrow margin of seven points, and recipient of the Barton Cup, was Lawson Smith. Also, in the Service Rifle Championship, Squadron Leader Lawson Smith found the form of previous years (1996 and 1998) and was a clear winner of the Queen's Medal for the third time.

The three Queen's Medallists were presented with their medals by His Royal Highness The Duke of York, Patron of the Army Rifle Association, before being chaired from Century behind the Band of the Royal Logistics Corps.

TASAM attracted a higher than usual entry with a number of new faces. There were international competitors from the Falkland Islands, the US National Guard and the South African Reservists. A very high standard of competition was possible with 19 teams participating and, in a repeat of the last two years' top three Order of Merit, 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment were once again victorious in the Unit Championship, the Dragon Trophy. They held off the challenge of the 51st Highland Regiment and 151 Logistic Support Regiment RLC. In the Queen's Medal Competition, Captain Peter Cottrell 3 PWRR, after being runner-up for the last two years, finally came through to take the top honours from Staff Sergeant Chapman, also of 3 PWRR and Lance Corporal Chapman the London Regiment.

During the NRA part of the meeting the various Inter-Services events were again hotly contested. The Regular Army beat off strong challenges from the Royal Air Force to win the United Services for Service Rifle and from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines to take the FIBUA rifle team title, whilst both the Royal Air Force and the Regular Army put in record scores in the Whitehead (Service Pistol) with the RAF retaining the trophy with a magnificent score of 1412. Once the results of the Short and Long Range Target Rifle events were added to those for Service Weapons the overall Burdwan Cup was won by the Regular Army by 28 points to the RAF's 24, the Navy's 13 and the TA's 11.

The overall Unit Champions were the Royal Corps of Signals, for the second year running, just ahead of the 3 PWRR. Royal Signals also took the Hythe, whilst the R IRISH A and B teams took the Brinsmead, Canada and Mappin between them. Staff Sergeant



SCENES FROM THE CENTRAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING



Morgan Cook Intelligence Corps was the top UK competitor in the individual Service Rifle Championships

In this year's International Service Weapon matches, Oman regained the ten-man Service Rifle Team match from Great Britain and Australia, whilst Great Britain retained the eight-man Service Pistol Team match against the Allcomers and the Falkland Islands.

The Methuen Cup, a six man rifle team match between Army Infantry Divisional and Other Arms and Services Corps teams, as well as RN and RAF Command teams, was once again closely contested. Top honours in the International Class went to Oman with a score of 1377 ex 1500 with the Australian Army beating the South African Reservists and the Falkland Islands Defence Force. The Sultan's team were the

overall highest team beating the top three UK teams by a considerable margin. In third place for the UK trophy were the Royal Marines Commando Forces with 1324, with the same score as the runners-up, the Royal Corps of Signals, who also took the top Other Arms and Services honours. This year's Champions by a margin of 32 points with 1356 were the Royal Gurkha Rifles to break the Irish Regiment's three year monopoly of the Cup, which was presented to the winners by the Chief of Joint Operations, Air Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, President of the Royal Air Force Small Arms Association.

Next year's programme will remain virtually the same as this year, with the only minor change being the bringing forward of the International Service Pistol Team Match by one day to the Monday evening after the NRA's Individual Rifle matches.

SCHOOLS MEETING 2005 - OUR FUTURE IN SHOOTING

by Captain Craig Stewart

One of the attractions of target shooting is the ability of the sport to demand so many different and varied solutions to the same question. I hope you find time to consider the following three questions (there are many more) and then decide if you are man (or woman) enough to present your solutions for general (and possibly brutal) dissection. Or failing that, at least support those who are giving of their best to ensure a good future for others.

"What more can I do Sir?" Having just dropped his last to count for the second consecutive time.

Is there more we can do to help the NRA improve their financial position?

How do we encourage more youngsters into target shooting?

The Cadets' Holy Grail is one thing; I am sure we can all remember shooting our first ever possible, so perhaps we will consider this towards the end of the article. However, few could possibly argue that there is not a major relationship between the two remaining questions.

Change is something that Bisley only accepts in small doses; when one introduces a laxative like a Cadet, it can be very amusing watching some of our more elderly stalwarts cope. I for one, even considering my relative recent introduction to Bisley, enjoy the traditional standards that Bisley tries to maintain. These values are increasingly difficult to find in modern society and upheld in fewer schools. So you can imagine the reaction of the Schools Committee

when Phyllis Farnan tabled a proposal that listed no fewer than eight major changes to Schools Week, including the fact that the Ashburton would need to be fired at 300, then 600 and finish at 500 yards! The model was extremely well presented and obviously well thought through; some small adjustments were considered and so onward to First Monday and the 08:30 siren.

First Monday came and went with few snags. The Schools Snap was won by Campbell College, the Marling by Ampleforth, the Marlborough Cup by FSgt Gillingham of St Johns, the Financial Times by FSgt Berger of Oratory and the Cadet Monday Aggregate by FSgt Pullar of Glenalmond College, scoring 34.3, 34.2 and 35.0! In all twelve different schools featured in the prize lists with only two schools being mentioned twice; the competitions were wide open with everything to play for. The Cadets quickly realised this as they all fought for a look at the scoreboard. Enthusiasm and eagerness was there by the bucketload as youngsters discussed "If only ...". The atmosphere around the scoreboard was similar to that of the evening of Second Wednesday after Queen's I. Cadets were engaged in conversation about shooting rather than their usual interests and this was only Monday. Well done Phyllis!

The following evening's scramble at the scoreboard saw postings for the Tuesday Aggregate, won by WO Benest of Elizabeth College with a very impressive 104.7. Here the top ten places were filled by ten different schools. The Cadet Clay Target competition was won by Cdt Wilson of Wellington College in a close run match where the top five competitors shot

ten clean clays. Wilson won the resulting tie with four out of four. The ABRO Trophy, however, was a different matter. Epsom College finished first, second and fifth giving them a potential score for an eight of 795 and 65 V bulls; some very inspiring and consistent shooting by the Surrey school. Ironically, these big scores were recorded on ABRO's Tuesday; yes these rifles can shoot and the friendly support available from their staff is hugely appreciated. What is even more encouraging is their understanding of the weaknesses of the rifle and their genuine desire to improve the rifle system. Hopefully this will see even better scores recorded in the future, and will help close the gap between the Canadian C12s and the CTR.

By Wednesday the intensity around the scoreboard was electric. Twenty-six possibles, nineteen scores of 100 plus and some very creditable team scores were submitted during the course of the day. It was obvious there was some genuine competition, results to be viewed by all, names on the board, prizes to be collected and places still up for grabs for the following day. What more can we offer our youngsters? Well done again Phyllis. Again the results posted showed a healthy spread of schools involved: full details can be found on the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk but a brief summary now follows.

The Wellington was won by Cdt S Hunter of Epsom with 35.5, Cdt K Boustead of the RCACNRT nudged out Sgt Snyder of Sevenoaks in a tie shoot for the Iveagh, with WO1 Howard of Bradfield winning the Victoria Tankard with a very creditable 35.6 at 600 yards. Victoria College won their own trophy with CI Mortimer winning the Schools Staff and CSgt Brett of Oratory crowned Cadet Champion at Arms. Epsom College, obviously deciding not to share any more trophies and led ably by Cdt Sam Hunter, went pot hunting with a vengeance; young Sam finished second in the Schools Hundred, first in the 300 and 600 Yards Aggregates and not surprisingly won the Wednesday Aggregate with a very impressive 103.11. His contribution helped Epsom secure the Devon followed closely by Marlborough (with three under 16s in their team!) then Victoria and Dollar. The Falling Plates still attracted some attention with a total of 41 teams taking part, won this year by the strong Northern Irish contingent, Campbell College. A close study of the scores revealed some consistency on Monday, improvement through Tuesday with a competitive edge producing results on Wednesday. The Ashburton beckoned.

Thursday morning brought its usual bustle. Cadets arriving earlier than normal, more eager (if that's possible) and the Scottish Contingents piped on as tradition demands. Did anyone see the Wellington College cap badge on parade? Were the Scots up to any of their fiendish tricks? Tony Clayton ensured

that proceedings started promptly, Cpl Briscoe of Epsom won the Reserve with a score of 47.3. At the end of 300 yards Dollar Academy returned an impressive score of 262.17 to win the Kinder, converting nine sighters and leading the field by ten points. At 600 yards there was a completely different story. Local knowledge suddenly became an advantage as the Bisley winds took their toll on the well-travelled visitors. The Scots started to show their generosity by aimlessly distributing points to the chasing pack, with Epsom first in the queue to recover gratefully from their ordinary start. Epsom won the Epsom Trophy two points ahead of Victoria College recovering ten points from Dollar. As we moved into lunch, Dollar led with 506 points, followed by Epsom on 502 then Victoria College on 498 with Marlborough, Oratory and Stamford close behind. It was all going to be decided at 500 yards. What a finale.

Dollar finished strongly and threw everything into the final distance including a collapsing flag pole. Nerves held together; a shaky 32.1 from Dollar's Captain Philip Lucey to go along with his 35.4 and 34.3 was enough to win him the Fox Quaich and help the Ashburton Shield go North of the Border for the first time in 53 years. The Spencer Mellish finished the day with Cdt Kendrick of Sevenoaks scoring a very respectable 48.7. The Cadet Pairs and Fours matches were won by Epsom: 191.12 and 382.23 followed by Dollar: 187.7 and 373.13, and Oratory: 184.9 and 352.15.

A generous thirteen point lead was handed over to the Dollar Veterans (average age 21 $\frac{3}{4}$!) where victory in the Lucas (for the aggregate of the Ashburton and Schools Veterans) was hard fought with Epsom finishing second and Marlborough third.

History was again made the following day. Tired eyes and exhausted staff reported for duty at 07:30 hrs at 300 yards for the Cadet National Match. Scotland, aka Dollar plus Jarrett and Forsyth of Angus and Dundee ACF returned an average team gun score of 102, good enough to defeat the other national sides including our overseas visitors. Quality coaching from Allan Mabon and Jacqui Rankin ensured that good elevations equalled high scores. Ian McCallum of Dollar was the highest Cadet on the day with an impressive 105.15.

Yes, history was made during schools week 2005. I have no idea how many Cadets discovered the secret of their Holy Grail this summer. What I do know is this new format for the Meeting broadens the base of youngsters' shooting, encouraging every school across the country to come to Bisley and compete with a genuine opportunity for excellence to be rewarded. The Cadet Meeting has moved on, and with style; all Bisley has to do now is capture this young blood to help protect its future.



"It was OK when it left me Sir?"

(Photo: David Pollard)



Sam Hunter won the Wellington and several aggregates.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Alex Kent - captain of Epsom College.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Scott Benest of Elizabeth College won the Tuesday Aggregate.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Dollar Academy in action in the Ashburton.



Final scores.



Dollar Academy - winners of the Ashburton 2005.



A very happy team with plenty of trophies to take home.

(Bottom four photos: Dollar Academy)

MATCH RIFLE 2005

by Keith Haskell

Last year's report was headed "The Tremlett Show", and 2005 turned out to be The Tremlett Show Part II, though Nick was kind enough to let others pick up a couple of Oscars, at least on the first two days.

With no team matches, this time, on the pre-meeting Friday, the only competitive shoots were in the Any Rifle Extras. All but one F Class competitor were clearly using these as no-pressure preparation for the Hopton though, as things turned out, their experience of the wind will have been of little help. On Friday there was a head wind fishtailing either side of 12 o'clock (with a bias to the right); but throughout the Hopton the wind blew consistently from around 2 to 3 o'clock, though the constant changes of strength and angle required careful watching. The weather throughout was glorious, with no hint of rain and some very warm sunshine, especially on Sunday and Monday.

At all events, Michael Wentges and Jim McAllister shared the Extra prizes equally between them. Wentges took the honours at 1000 yards with 75.11, on a countback from Guy Blakeney and Nick Tremlett, but McAllister came top at 1100 and 1200 yards with 73.9 and 73.7. However the aggregate went to Wentges with 220.27, just one V bull ahead of McAllister.

On Saturday, the four double possibles in the Whitehead were all registered by some of the usual suspects: Nick Tremlett's 150.25 being just enough to edge out David Calvert, Stuart Collings and Will Meldrum. By contrast, Jim McAllister decisively won the Halford with 148.18, no-one else getting above 146. Only 20 of the field made 70 or better at 1200 yards – an indication of how tricky the wind could be. McAllister edged Tremlett in the Saturday Aggregate, with 296.43 to 296.42.

The Cottesloe on Sunday ended in a tie between Paul Charlton and Chris Law with 100.13; Charlton's 25.4 was good enough to win the tie shoot. Five other shooters made possibles, including one Tyro (John Musso). At 1100 yards the Halford also resulted in a tie between Stuart Collings and Mike Crichton Maitland on 98.14: Stuart Collings won the tie shoot with 24.4. Just below, Martin Parker's 98.4 with RG ammunition was notable. Finally at 1200 yards in the Armourers there was an outright winner – John Knight with 96.9, ahead of four firers on 95.

Success in the aggregates was decided democratically. John Knight's win in the Armourers gave him the Martin Parr (Sunday) Aggregate with 291.35, a point ahead of Stuart Collings. Collings' consolation came in the Weekend Aggregate with 585.70, one point ahead of Nick Tremlett, and Will Meldrum took the

Weekend Selection with 150.21. The RG Aggregate went to Jeremy Langley with 400.31.

Away from the lists of scores and results, Bisley was producing its usual crop of cameos. Last year there was comment about the evolution of Julian Peck's rifle, which extruded new pseudopods and sensory organs as the days passed. This year Julian seems to have decided to hurry things along with plastic surgery, to judge by the heavily bandaged lump on the stock. Next year, genetic manipulation? Meanwhile the fickle wind in the Halford prompted Guy Blakeney, after recording a 93, to the memorable exclamation "I can't remember when I last got a magpie!" The rest of us should be so lucky . . .

Having lulled his main rivals into a mood of semi-optimism, Nick Tremlett started to pull away on Monday, winning the Edge with 193.24 (96.10 at 1100 yards and 97.14 at 1200), a point ahead of Paul Monaghan, with Lou Lou Brister a further point back.

The Five Nations Match (shot concurrently with the Edge) resulted in a win for Ireland with 738.51, potentially a good omen for the Elcho. Scotland were second with 736.51 and Wales third with 730.51. Later that day, Sussex CRA won the FW Jones with 549.35, two points ahead of the NRC of Scotland and Blair Atholl.

Meanwhile, those with a little time on their hands were registering scores in the Match Rifle Pairs and the Ranken, both at 1100 yards. Readers with a good memory will recall that last year's winning pair had a non-human captain – Bob the Dog, and the question was asked whether this year Michael Davis would entrust a team to Green Jim the Parrot.

Such is the power of the media that both Bob and Green Jim appeared as captains. On the face of it Green Jim's favourite wind call of "Three left . . . three left . . . stop!" seemed likely to have the edge over Bob's unvarying "Woof!" But this theoretical advantage was nullified by the fact that the wind was blowing consistently from the right, so Bob's team won the private contest by 188 to 182. However, the overall winners were a family pair, the Jobsons, with 192.26. Meanwhile Paul Monaghan's 74.8 was enough to take the Ranken.

Nick Tremlett followed his success in the Edge with another win in the Albert. His 217.24 was two points clear of Paul Monaghan's 215.23. This gave him the Hopton Match Rifle Championship with 994.119 as well as a bundle of other aggregates: the Victoria (Edge plus Albert), the 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards Aggregates and the Match Rifle Selection. About the only consolation for everyone else was that his margin of

victory in the Hopton was down from 23 points to 10. Paul Monaghan was second with 984.104 and Stuart Collings third with 983.102.

During the 1200 yards shoot in the Albert, Peter Campbell caused some concern when a back spasm prevented him from getting up and an ambulance was called. Fortunately the trouble subsided enough for him to make the equal top score for Ireland next day. The last time anyone can remember an ambulance being called to the 1200 yards firing point was when some idiot shot himself in the foot (I wonder who that could have been . . .).

Elcho Day on Wednesday turned out to be both exciting and historic. *A full match report by Paul Charlton follows this report.* The detailed scores were:

| | 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Ireland | 591.83 | 557.50 | 557.38 | 1705.171 |
| England | 580.67 | 561.53 | 563.42 | 1704.162 |
| Scotland | 580.64 | 560.50 | 554.43 | 1694.157 |
| Wales | 577.57 | 557.41 | 550.41 | 1684.139 |

Top Scorers:

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------|
| Ireland: | David Calvert | 218.29 |
| | Peter Campbell | 218.27 |
| England: | Paul Monaghan | 220.27 |
| Scotland: | Guy Blakeney | 221.22 |
| Wales: | Andrew Burgess | 214.17 |

Historians will know that Ireland’s last win was in 1907, though they have since come an honourable second on several occasions. Ninety-eight years is a long time to wait for a win, and it was celebrated accordingly. Several Irish faces were as green as their shirts on Thursday morning. Though Wales again finished last, they were not disgraced, and the bracket of only 21 points between the top and bottom teams shows how competitive the match was.

The Humphrey on Thursday was also very competitive. Oxford took a seven point lead at 1000 yards, but Cambridge shot brilliantly at 1100 to go to the final range with a lead of seven, which Oxford could not quite overcome. The scores were:

| | 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | Total |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Cambridge | 279.21 | 276.20 | 251.11 | 806.52 |
| Oxford | 286.26 | 262.09 | 254.06 | 802.41 |

Top Scorers:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Cambridge: | Peter Seebohm | 203.21 |
| Oxford: | Adam McCullough | 203.10 |
| | Phil Kelly | 203.09 |

The final competition, the Any Rifle, was won by David Calvert with 96.5, followed by John Knight with 95.9. But for the second year in a row, the week belonged to Nick Tremlett.

Any thoughts on how we can handicap him in 2006?

THE ELCHO MATCH 2005

by Paul Charlton

Following increasingly good performances over the past decade or two in the match from a cadre of shooters who often did not feature in the MR Prize lists, there was a scent of anticipation as the Hopton progressed and a cluster of Irish names stayed on page one of the carabox’s screen. Could the Ireland team improve on the 2004 performance of winning two of the three ranges? In the record books the previous 14 Irish victories came to a sudden halt in 1907, when the wins were evenly spread between the three nations.

The record-breaking start to 2004 when setting a new 1000 yards record score of 594.81 showed the skill base for Ireland was there, but a very disappointing 1100 yards had allowed the England team a toe-hold that they did not relinquish, whilst Scotland scrabbled with a few problems which they wished had not arisen.

So in 2005 with the eighth highest Irishman in the Hopton in 50th position, compared to 66th, 65th and 80th in the previous three years, the shooter skill set was higher. Could we produce a winning team and performance?

Finally a team was selected, notified and posted on the NRA Notice Board. Disappointed Irishmen were

consoled and commiserated with. Then a crisis, as Peter Campbell finished his 1200 yards detail in the Albert his back, which always gives him some trouble, locked up and he was unable to move. An ambulance was called and medically qualified doctors supervised his extraction from the firing point. How would this affect the Elcho? Would he be fit enough to start the match, or if he could fire no more than a couple of rounds, who should we use? If he completed some ranges but not all three, would we choose to use someone else as the alternate?

The other captains were flexible as to what we might do so long as the principle of no shared rifles was adhered to, a fresh firer must bring a new rifle to the match which complies with the match rules. This is important as the Elcho is unique amongst international matches in that, since its inception in 1862, not a single sighting shot has been fired, making it a true test of nerves to know your rifle, ammunition, wind corrections for non-standard bullets etc, the firer and coach working in harmony after double checking that elevations and wind zeros are correctly set.

The morning of the match dawned fair and lots of good news, Peter Campbell said his back was better



HPS TARGET RIFLES LIMITED



TR 701



TR 702

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

System Gemini Fullbore Stocks TR701 and TR702

Fullbore Tactical Series Rifle

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

Traditional Wooden Stocks, Rifle Barrels and Actions

System Gemini Butt Plates

AKTIV Handstop (with 23 mm of lateral movement either side of centre)

Bipods and Other Accessories

Target Master Ammunition

Point Master Shooting Mats

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

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

RPA and Centra Parts and Accessories

Complete Rifles Built to Customer Specifications

Plus a Full Rifle Servicing, Repairs and Refurbishment Service



FR 703



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

If you want to see the wide range of colours of our products visit our website www.hps-tr.com

HPS TARGET MASTER Match Grade Ammunition

The principal range of Target Master Long Range Match Cartridges steadily increases.

The range, available in plain or Molycoated, now comprises:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| .223 Rem. | Machine or Hand loaded | with 69 or 77 grain Sierra Match king bullet |
| | Hand loaded | with 80 grain Sierra Match king bullet |
| .308 Win. | Machine or Hand loaded | with 155, 175 or 190 grain Sierra Match king bullet |
| | Hand loaded | with 200 grain Sierra Match king bullet |
| .303 British | Machine or Hand loaded | with 175 grain Sierra Match king bullet |
| 6mm BR Remington /Norma | Machine or Hand loaded | with 107grain Sierra Match king bullet |



Sierra is our standard bullet supply. However, other makes of bullets such as (but not restricted to) **Lapua** and **Hornady** can be supplied upon request.

Other calibres to special order including 7.62 x 39, 7.62 x 54R, .338 Lap Magnum, and .300 Win Magnum.

All ammunition is available in minimum lots either 45 or 50 rounds, and in 400, 500, 800 or 1000 round containers, depending on calibre.

HPS is an HSE Licensed Manufacturer. All HPS ammunition is CIP approved, packaged and labelled according to UN regulations for UK and International Transport. HPS are also Liability Insured.

HPS TR Ltd. PO Box 308, Gloucester South, Gloucestershire, GL2 2YF, England
Tel: +44 (0)1452 729 888 Fax: +44 (0)1452 729 894 E-mail: info@hps-tr.com Website: www.hps-tr.com

HPS - Bringing Quality and Innovation to the Shooter

and the target draw was a dream. The Captains agreed that there should be no trigger weighing and do the draw for targets at each of the three ranges. Ireland draw the left hand set at all three ranges, thereby slightly reducing the faint chance of firers firing at the wrong target.

As usual over the past few years Ireland set off at a cracking pace. Peter Campbell led off and confounded the doubting Thomases by posting a quick and impressive 75.14. The prevailing 2 to 4 o'clock winds of the previous five days had been replaced with a 10 to 12 o'clock lighter breeze. Those whose zeros had not been adequately known now tested the coach and plotters group centreing skills. Ireland were the first to finish and were disappointed to have dropped nine, with two shots dropped right at the end when it looked like they might finish seven off. However, as the other countries found as they continued, the wind was becoming stronger and more fickle and the last firers struggled more and more with England and Scotland finishing 20 off and Wales only three behind on 23 off. A great result for Ireland.

Back at 1100 yards all the teams were putting in steady and good scores given the increased difficulty of the wind. At the end of this distance England had dropped a further 39, Scotland 40, Ireland and Wales 43. This made the match as tight as anyone can recall with Ireland ahead by seven, England leading Scotland by one point and Wales, who have normally struggled to stay in touch with the leaders, only six points behind Scotland.

There is a lunch break between the 1100 and 1200 yards shoots; the Irish team and support staff eat together on Elcho Day and our recently traditional dietary habits came in for some critical comments - chocolate éclairs, jam doughnuts and cream cakes?! The Adjutant claimed this is the secret to our recent successes.

Resuming after lunch at 1200 yards the teams were a little more scattered around the rear of the firing point as they sought the little shade available. As last man down I had a good deal of time to kill and nattered with the crowd of spectators whose presence over the years makes you proud to be part of an ongoing thread of national pride and competition. I smiled at the Very Reverend Canon Copeland who must be in his 90s, he beckoned to me and he chatted about the past. He asked if I knew of Maurice Blood, which I did; he too represented Ireland and the Stock Exchange Rifle Club. The Canon recalled that they shot together in the 1930s and when I got home I discovered that they shot against one another in the Elchos of 1932 to 34. What is more, Blood was in the winning Irish team of 1907. So in one easy link I, who had been squadded with the Canon in the Armourers in 1990 (my first ever shoot at 1200 yards when I missed with both sighters which is why it is engraved on my memory),

shot with a man who shot with a member of the previous winning Irish Elcho Team some 98 years earlier. What is more one of those Irishmen, JK Milner, in 1907 had also shot in 1873 when Ireland first won the Elcho Challenge Shield. Could these links be an omen?

Towards the end of the Irish 1200 yards shoot the tension had palpably increased. The lead of 11 after 1000, which was eroded to seven after 1100, had now all but melted away in that Ireland dropped 36 points from the first six firers. We were ahead on time, having only 30 shots left. Approaching the firing point with my kit I felt that we had a strong chance of success. Both Gary Alexander and I have withstood some fierce pressure in the past. The coaching of David Calvert and Martin Townsend had been working well. The support of Jeremy Earle in the Main Coach chair tucked away in the shade using the ARA Big Bertha Binocular telescope helped with a steady third set of eyes, the plotting by our reserve Adam McCullough, an extraordinarily talented and competent TR shooter, who is used to the task of aiding group centreing, had added to the Irish skill set.

As the shoot progressed a few points were dropped as must be expected at this range, but we were not dropping them at the previous rate. Gary and I managed to drop only seven points between us, but was it enough?

For the next twenty or so minutes the tension was there but was ebbing as the Englishmen also dropped points, finally enough, but only just! Last year England only won one range, but won the match, this time the same result gives Ireland its 15th win in the match, but the first since 1907.

Now when did Ireland last win the Mackinnon?



| IRELAND | | ELCHO 2005 | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| CAMPBELL | PMC | 75 ¹⁴ | 73 ⁸ |
| CALVERT | DP | 74 ¹² | 70 ⁵ 218 ²⁷ |
| BRILIE | HAN | 74 ⁸ | 71 ⁸ 218 ²⁹ |
| OLIVER BELLASIS | CAJ | 73 ⁹ | 70 ³ 215 ²² |
| NCLERN | AG | 74 ¹⁰ | 67 ² 205 ¹⁵ |
| WENTGES | NJ | 73 ¹¹ | 68 ⁵ 213 ²¹ |
| ALEXANDER | GK | 75 ¹² | 68 ³ 214 ²¹ |
| CHARLTON | PRE | 73 ⁷ | 69 ⁵ 72 ³ 214 ¹⁵ |
| | | 591 ⁸³ | 557 ⁵⁰ 557 ³⁸ 1705 ¹⁷¹ |



Rob Lygoe - happy with his score.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Hmmm does one of these competitors have a slight advantage?

(Photo: David Pollard)



Past Hopton winners David Calvert and Stuart Collings.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Nick Tremlett wins the Hopton for the second year running.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Green Jim and Bob the Dog keep their teams under control.

(Photo: Keith Haskell)



Cambridge University won the Humphry.

(Photo: Keith Haskell)



The previous winning Irish Elcho Team 1907.

(Photo courtesy of Martin Townsend . . . and no he didn't take it himself!)



Ninety-eight years later, this Ireland Elcho team seem slightly happier about their win.

(Photo: John Knight)

TARGET RIFLE 2005

by Tony de Launay

Friday 15 July

The general plan for the day was to have a decent lie in after the exertions of the Schools and Veterans, a day which for one reason or another is always fraught with one snag after the next. That it coincided with Bastille Day left me with an ancestral prickling of the neck hairs, and the mention of guillotines was a definite no-no. The trap I fell into was to admit that I was not doing any shooting on Friday morning, a mistake that meant instant selection for a last minute Astor team.

So with all those others at an ungodly hour we were able to watch an overcast morning developing swiftly into another fine hot day, but with a real teaser of a wind from the left front, switching around the flag-poles to come straight up Century range and almost the same on Stickledown. The Astor/United Hospitals/Cadet National is a quick shoot; seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards, six firers and two targets per team.

The Astor was won swiftly by Manydown of Hampshire, followed by Jersey Rifle Club. Birtwistle and Burton of the former and Horwood and Mallett CC of the latter all made maximum 105s. The United Hospitals went to Guys and Thomas's over the Imperial School of Medicine. The Cadet National was a triumph for Scotland.

The Admiral Hutton (900 yards) and the Century (600 & 500 yards in that order) dragged on, the latter's final detail at 7pm fading into the sunset. At that time the light is behind the targets giving them an unhealthy neon glow around the edges. Thanks to the reinforcing square behind the aiming mark the black circle appeared almost octagonal in the evening light. When the one or two clouds passed across the sun the targets were plunged into darkness. All quite poetic really, but it played havoc with the aim picture.

SC Postins of Troubleshooters produced the only perfect 50.10 in the Hutton. Jonathan Holmes (City of Newcastle) and Trevor Steele (Ulster RA) tied for the Century on 100.14 (later resolved in favour of Holmes 24.4 to 24.1). Rob Lygoe of Dursley took the Friday Aggregate with the better 149.20 ahead of Ant Ringer of Uppingham Veterans.

T Rex sideswipes: And who was it who started his Hutton with two magpies thanks to lousy sighters and a combination of front sight 900 yards setting and back sight 800 yards setting . . . ?

Saturday 16 July

Unbelievable - the weather remained hot and sunny with temperatures well into the 70s and the forecast was for more of the same. Bisley was looking a tad

parched now with plenty of dust, but the smiles seemed to be on the faces of the shooters.

The amateur psychologist might say that this was due not only to the warmth but also to challenging breezes to go with it, making competitors work for success, thus adding a little more satisfaction to each possible or other personal target. The winds were downright vicious in their unpredictability, mainly from the left at 10 or 11 of the clock but frequently heading straight up the range and angling in from the right, changing very fast. Add conflicting flags and mirage, the occasional lull, bright light and steam heat and it was a testing package. All good, clean fun.

The day dawned with the Donegall, ten shots at 300 yards for those desperate to check their basic zeros. Eighty-two 50s appeared on the prize list despite the conditions. Two 50.10s were notched by John Pugsley of Tavistock and Mick Silver of the RAFTRC, with Silver producing a perfect 25.5 in the tie shoot.

The rest of the day became largely a tale of two brothers. David Luckman produced the only 50 on the 1000 yards point to win the Lovell in which just six competitors made 49 and 31 scored 48, an indication of the tricks being played by the wind. Andy Luckman was the best of 24 scores of 75 in the Daily Telegraph (15 at 500 yards) to open the Grand Aggregate. He had 14 centrals, his cooking bull being his first counting shot.

Saturday's Aggregate also went to David Luckman to keep the Summerzet folk happy but David Calvert was a point clear in the Tucker Aggregate.

T Rex wrote: Should you be interested in leaping into the paddling pool outside Crawfie's caravan please do not try. It is not for people, but is for cooling the beer and diving onto the glass encased amber nectar does not do the beer any good.

Sunday 17 July

It was hot and got hotter and hotter. At 8.30am on Stickledown the flags hung limp and unmoving from the poles, but if the 50s were there for the having precious few weighed in the first detail. The mirage showed just a trickle of movement and it was enough to bring inners to the unwary and over-confident.

If Saturday was a day of vicious fish-tail and sudden and (relatively speaking) violent change, then the early part of Sunday substituted subtle and unseen change in equal measure. The winds developed from the legacy of the fish-tail into a more direct left hander as the day progressed. They still rose and fell and it was good to have the challenge. You never stop learning.

In the Duke of Cambridge (10 shots at 900 yards) fortune favoured the brave, that is to say (in the early details) those who knew when not to fiddle with their windage and when to do so. There were 43 possibles with a fair sprinkling of O class among the leaders, Nigel Burnip of NLRC coming in fourth. When the wind and dust had settled we found Alex Woodward of the Welsh Rifle Association as the clear winner with 50.10, and David Armstrong (Old Guildfordians) second ahead of Stuart Collings (Windsor) with the better 50.9.

Down on Century the Alexandra (600 yards) had three tied on 50.9, Steve Penrose, Steve Green and Roy Jobson. The three way decider went to Green with 25.3. Newspaper readers found that the Daily Mail (15 shots at 500 yards) was also a triple tie between Jon Underwood (Old Guildfordians), Kip Morton (RAFTRC) and Les King (Colchester). Underwood took the tie.

T Rex's traffic news: Stuart Collings was pedalling round towing a pristine bicycle trailer. With last year's happenings in mind Simon the Crusher has been giving it some envious glances. Do not park your rig near his 4x4, Stuart.

The Sunday Aggregate gave a shape to the real leaders, Underwood with 174.26, Stuart Collings 174.23 and Jane Messer (NLRC) on 174.21. The Weekend Aggregate redefined the look slightly with David Calvert (RAFTRC) on 345.48, Messer on 345.47 and David Luckman on 345.46. How kind of them to have been so consecutive.

After four of the eleven events the Grand Aggregate had Underwood a remarkable one off; Collings, young Adam McCullough, and Messer two off; Calvert, Armstrong, Jeremy Langley and bearded stats wizard Bill Richards three off. They were tailed by 11 hopefuls on four off. It was tight at the top. Who would the gambling person bet on? Calvert would dearly love to win, but Underwood had been on fire this summer. What about a second Grand for Jane? I was keeping my powder dry.

T Rex's Chump of the Week Prize: jointly to a young and promising young lady shooter and one of our most respected and reliable international shots. To put it in the words of the latter chump "It does rather help you to shoot the Daily Mail if you remember to take your rifle to the firing point with you".

Monday 18 July

Change was on the way said the weather folk. Monday dawned bright enough though, with high puffs of cloud but a bit cooler. Rain is a bit of a rare commodity around these parts, so the forecasted overnight freshener would not go amiss to lay the dust and feed the plants. Enough ecological musing; it was

the Times (10 shots at 300 yards), followed by the Wimbledon (10 at 600 yards) and the Corporation (10 at 1000 yards) in which the hopes and aspirations of many usually get a thorough testing.

There were 174 possibles in the Times in 2003, dropping last year to 55 in far from difficult conditions. The match is taken as some sort of unofficial marker for the grouping capability of the ammunition batches reserved for the Grand Aggregate events. In 2005 106 possibles were fired in conditions considerably less amenable than in 2004. For what it is worth, given the lack of the sort of whingeing that was rife last year in gunrooms and ablutions, it seems that someone had pulled their socks up and we had some pretty good RG. Thank you Royal Ordnance.

T Rex's excuse of the week: "I had difficulty in completing my shoot due to chewing gum in the breech", said a lady who was issued her rounds in a returned cardboard box into which some thoughtful anti-litter type had discharged their tired gum. The heat of the sun turned the tasteless residue into a glutinous mess, each bullet point drawing up a fine tracery of sticky string which wove a fine web inside the chamber. Hubby was still cleaning said rifle at midnight.

There were four 50.10s to shoot off for the Times Challenge Cup: a very welcome Jim Paton from the Canadian team on his 21st consecutive visit to Bisley; David Luckman (who seemed welded to the top of the lists); A&E expert Dr Glyn Barnett; and John Taylor of the Windsor Club. Paton took the Cup with the only perfect 25.5 tie shoot, to Luckman's 25.4 and Barnett's 25.2.

As the day progressed the weather began to turn. Clouds appeared and the wind got rougher, which was no consolation to later details in the Corporation. Not that this bothered Les King of Colchester or David Luckman who both made 50.6.

So to the Wimbledon in which a Canadian Cadet put the rest in their places. The wind was entirely baffling: magpies popped up in the later details as the wind increased or decreased to confound shooters' expectations. Was it 2 right or was it 5 left? N Poirier of RCAC made 50.8 ahead of Stuart Collings (another glued to the top of the lists).

I forgot to mention the rain. Not a lot, but it did, on the firers before 5pm. The Howcroft Newspapers Aggregate went to Jon Underwood (nailed to the top of the lists) with Andy Luckman second and Jane Messer third. You will notice that I have run out of descriptive fixings for those two.

And who was at the top of the Grand after seven matches? Underwood, Collings and Messer in that order (4 off, 5 off the next two) followed by David Luckman -6, David Calvert -7 and Adam McCullough



Message One has been passed to the butts . . .

(Photo: John Knight)



Jon Underwood, winner of the Grand Aggregate.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Mick Silver - 50.10 followed by 25.5 to win the Donegall.

(Photo: John Knight)



"Argghhh stairs!"

(Photo: John Knight)



Peter Slater, aged 14 years and 1 month, was the youngest competitor in the Meeting.

(Photo: John Knight)



Peter Wookey, aged 83, was the oldest competitor in the Meeting.



Target 46? This is too easy! Richard van Lingen might need a magnifying glass to read his sights but he still reached the Queen's Final.

(Photo: John Knight)



Jane Messer collects the All Comers Aggregate trophy.

(Photo: John Knight)



The Jeens brothers - well sorted for the next few years.



5 years, was the oldest competing.
(Photo: John Knight)



Second oldest competitor, Philip Rowell, shows the youngsters how it's done.
(Photo: John Knight)



A very busy firing point.

(Photo: John Knight)



Carol Painting's previous Queen's Final appearance was 30 years ago. Carol hopes that she won't have to wait quite so long for the next one!
(Photo: Bob Hawley)



The Great Britain Under 25 team.

(Photo: John Knight)



Well that's the Families...
(Photo: Carol Beecher)

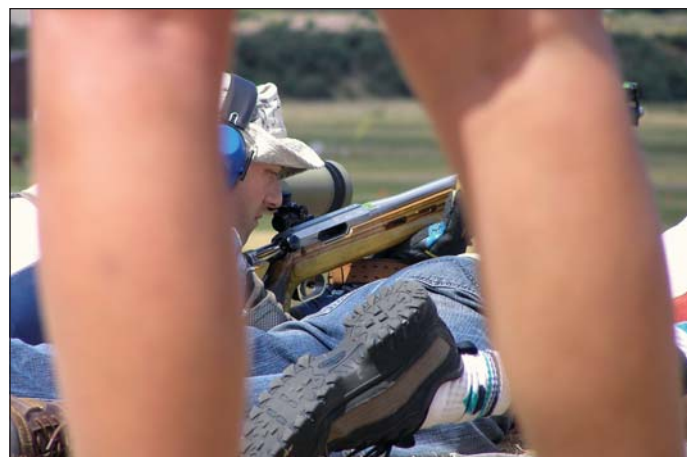


"I wasn't born the last time we won this!" Oliver Spencer receives the Chancellors for Oxford University.
(Photo: John Knight)



Team bonding!

(Photo: John Knight)



Guess whose legs? A Range Officer watches as Jon Underwood wins the Grand.
(Photo: Tim Webster)

-8, then Jim Paton, Andy Luckman, David Armstrong, Andrew Tompson and Lindsey Peden on 9 off ex 400. Some way to go but it was shaping up nicely.

Tuesday 19 July

A short sharp shower or two had left the air clean and fresh at six am on Tuesday. But it did not lay the dust for long as the sun rose to an early cloudless sky. The cloudless bit was transient: the wind became brutal for all but the first couple of details of the St Georges, roaring and whipping across Century and angling in from 9 to 11 o'clock. Anything up to three minutes of wind were required and the inner ring and further afield had plenty of visitors.

Suffice it to say that the first stage of the Georges was won by a Rupert, Clark that is, of the RAF with 75.14. He dropped out of the central ring only on his second shot. Messrs Alex Hunter (HAC) and A Louw (South African Juniors) followed him into the unsaddling enclosure on 75.13.

We were then treated to the Counties Short (Norfolk), closely followed by Counties Long (London) with Surrey, second in each, taking the aggregate. Such was the wind that calls of six and seven left were heard at 600 yards in the former and the dust storm in the car park had to be seen to be believed. Everyone took it in right good humour.

T Rex had been offering hospitality to some rejoicing Canadians, Jim Paton and Scott Murray. He was mightily amused to be asked if the T stood for Theodore and to note that Jim had arrived at the Times tie shoot accompanied by his lawyer, Scott. One had to assume that this was in case of disputed challenges

Wednesday 20 July

The main event was, of course, the first stage of the Queen's Prize. And a right tempestuous wind was provided for the occasion, strengthening into the afternoon with high scudding cloud and still plenty of sunshine. How many 105s would be seen and what would be the cut for Stage II? T Rex confidently predicted over the cornflakes that it could be one of the lowest for twenty or more years.

Well, there were no 105s, but three 104.12s: a tie shoot between Richard Jeens (NLRC), David Calvert (RAFTRC) and Alex Kinross (Northants RC). Jeens took the tie with the only 25 – and zero centrals! The cut was announced after the 9 o'clock watershed: 99.5.

Over the hill the Conan Doyle (10 at 900 yards) provided a challenge for all and sundry. "Outers to the left of them; misses to the right . . ." and so on. But none of that deterred James Watson of Uppingham Vets (veterans not animal doctors), Peter Jory of Guernsey and Ed Compton of Hurstpierpoint, all with a maximum 50. Wattie's five centrals prevailed over the other two with four.

The late evening entertainment was in the form of the Donaldson Memorial (15 at 1000 yards). It was won by Craig Leece with 74.7, one point clear of the rest.

What was the effect at the top of the Grand when the windy hammering had finished? With ten events gone the order was: Jon Underwood (621.76), Jane Messer (619.75), Stuart Collings (618.75) and Adam McCullough (618.72). One distance to go - the Prince of Wales at 600 yards. It would be a grandstand finish.

The Second Stage

*It simply seems to have been an age
Since I reached the second stage
Won a sweepstake, earned a wage
Saw my name on the 'got through' page
Makes me really quake with rage
Went for counselling, saw the sage
Said 'Come back next year' to assuage
Feels like low scores are locked in a cage
Isn't it time I came of age
Brain always seems to disengage
This time! Next time? My time onstage
I WILL get through to a second stage*

Thursday 21 July

That last Prince of Wales event was a down-to-the quick nail-biter. With a two point lead a 74 for Underperson would be unbeatable. But it was 600 yards, there were 15 shots to go and the wind was a continuation of Wednesday afternoon's vicious buster with fishtail to boot. There were just eight 75s which tells something of the story.

In the end the facts were simple. Jon suffered relative slippage with 72.7; Jane got 74.7 but finished with an ordinary bullseye. Jon, overnight, had had a two point and one central lead. If Jane's last shot bullseye had been a central there would have been a tie shoot. If, if, if.. You can do the maths and pursue the imaginings yourself, but it will not make a ha'porth of difference. The managing director of the plant hire company beat the civil servant by a gnat's crotchet, and it was a thriller to the final shot. Thank you to both of them for what Jon called "giving the spectators a little entertainment" in an understated reference to his own struggles at 600 yards.

We do not forget the contribution of Stuart Collings and young Adam McCullough in third and fourth places, nor the other players who also sauntered on and off the stage. There was Nick Mace highest overseas competitor at 10 and Jim Paton highest Canadian at 13, two Luckman brothers at 5 and 9, three Jeens brothers at 17, 20 and 31 (Ed at 20 being top 'O'), two Richards brothers at 12 and 51 and four or more doctors of various sorts in the top 50.

If the Prince of Wales match was the decider of the Grand it also had its own winner in the form of Kent's favourite sheep farmer Peter Bromley with 75.12,

followed by Mike Wood on 75.11 and S Pearson of Old Johnians with 75.10. Kind of them to sort out their own order so neatly.

In the National Match England won by 13 points over Ireland with Scotland and Wales in the other two places. Andy Luckman (England) and George Gilpin (Ireland) made 105s for their countries. In the AG Bell the UK Cadets had a very narrow victory over the Canadian Cadets by 1189 to 1187. If it had gone to centrals the UK would have been in deep trouble. The Overseas Match was won by Jersey ahead of Canada and Kenya.

Friday 22 July

Friday was another fine day with much more equable wind. Not surprisingly the scores were generally higher all round. At this late stage there were still no mutterings about the ammunition. Indeed, very positive comments abounded and that is good for shooters, shooting and the Royal Ordnance at Radway Green.

The Kolapore saw Great Britain win, ahead of Jersey, by the relatively small margin of five points but a lot more centrals. In fact the two teams were level pegging after 300 yards on four off, but GB edged ahead at the next two ranges. Canada was third on 1165. The St Georges' second stage for the Silver Cross (cutting 300 to 100) resulted in a tie shoot between Parag Patel and David Calvert each on 150.25. The good doctor beat the good flyer in the tie by 25.4 to 25.3. The cut for the George's Final rested at 147.22.

In recent years we have had a good spread of qualifying scores emerging from Queen's II, ranging from the 149.17 high down to the lowish 140s. This year, it was 147.16s tie shooting: nine for three places, arguably more properly representative of the good ammunition, not totally straightforward conditions and the quality of the field. There were 14 scores of 150 and a very pleasant surprise for our visitors when the first three places were filled by an Australian and two Canadians. James Corbett of Benalla took the Silver Medal with 150.23, closely pursued by Canadians Geoff Woodman and Jim Paton each with 150.22. So three points covered the 100 finalists and among the leaders on 150 were Glyn Barnett, Nigel Ball, David Calvert and Jane Messer.

Saturday 23 July

Which brought us to an early start on the Stickledown Hill for the finalists in the St George's. A dead flat calm on the surface but learned folks pointed to a semi-hidden mirage which betrayed just a smidgen of movement. It cannot have been much: 31 maximum 150s were recorded from the 100 finalists, the very best of which was that of Jane Messer with 27 centrals out of 30. She was chased home by David Calvert and John Tapster each with 26 centrals. Only 17 people scored less than 148.

The Mackinnon produced the fight of the day from Wales after Scotland had approached within four of England at 900 yards. One point behind Scotland, Wales equalled England's 1000 yards score to hold second place as both Scotland and Ireland faded and Jersey clawed back for the bronze position. The final margin of five points was close enough for some English but their score was a new record.

Lunch and then the Queen's Prize. Thirteen potential record-equalers entered the fray at 900 yards. Philip Bennison's 1998 score of 300.40 was in serious danger in the benign conditions. By 1000 yards that thirteen had reduced to six: Jim Paton (DCRA), David Calvert (RAFTRC), Rob Lygoe (Dursley), Stephen Penrose (Stock Exchange), Jeremy Langley (LMRA) holding the lead and Andrew Le Cheminant (Jersey). Could any one or more of them do the almost unbelievable? At 1000 yards the flags hung limp down the poles. Just occasionally one would stutter a few degrees from the vertical.

One by one the contenders conceded a point; some conceded more than just one. Glyn Barnett was first finished adding a 75 to his 224 from the earlier ranges for a total of 299.40. That would be more than enough on any other day. Early leader Langley fell by the wayside as did Le Cheminant and Penrose until only Calvert and Paton were left in a position to turn dream into reality. Calvert slipped one; Paton remained clean at shot seven, then nine and then eleven. He was clean at shot fourteen and, after an interminable wait, his last shot was on its way.

Not a movement from the firer, the crowd or the target. It was one of the few remaining up on the butt. Consternation was the order of the day. Had he missed, or fired it elsewhere? Message four; another wait and the target slowly disappeared, almost instantly to reappear as a central bullseye. The record was equalled; the Prize went to Paton and Canada. It was an enormously popular win, its acclamation equalled only by the sympathy for Calvert and his third second place. Barnett was third to add to his wins two and three years ago.

Members of the DCRA team and the Royal Canadian Cadets chaired Jim Paton off the range. It was a fitting end to his 21st successive visit to Bisley, what with his Times tie shoot win and many high placings.

All in all, a Bisley Meeting with a lot of plus points. Thanks to all those who laboured so hard to organise our enjoyment, range staff, markers, admin and everyone.

T Rex and the Velos: it is said that a certain lady of Irish descent, now living in South Africa had equipped herself with health-giving transport for the Meeting in the form of a borrowed bicycle. One day she pedalled up to the offices, abandoned her



(Photo: John Knight)



(Photo: John Knight)



(Photo: John Knight)



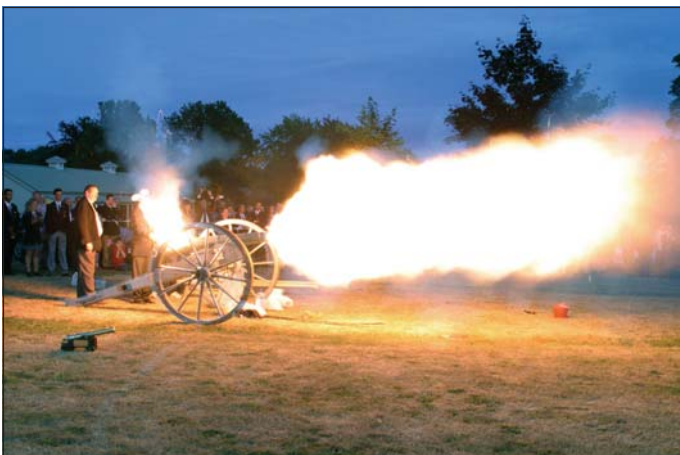
(Photo: John Knight)



(Photo: Alan Keating)



(Photo: John Knight)



(Photo: Alan Keating)



(Photo: Alastair Sainter)

bike and went inside to look for post. Emerging she leapt onto the bike and pedalled briskly away. She was hailed in stentorian tones by a male of the species, who enquired, forcibly, where she was going with his bike. "It's mine", "It's not", was the gist of the ensuing conversation. Imagine her confusion when she produced her trump card, that the bike she had borrowed was white, only to find that the one on which she sat was - green.

It gets worse: later on she arose one morning to pedal off to collect a paper, only to find that her bike had vanished from its position outside her hut. Ace sleuths Hue and Cry were raised as everyone in the vicinity searched for the ironmongery. Then pedalling down the road, oblivious to the commotion, came none other than hubby, who had borrowed the bike to run the early morning chore. Cue red faces all round.

JIM PATON - WINNER HM THE QUEEN'S PRIZE 2005

It is probably true to say that Jim Paton's victory in the Queen's Prize this year was received with as much acclaim as some of the most popular home victories in recent years. This modest man from White Rocks, British Columbia, has been as much a part of the Bisley Meeting in recent times as many of the top British rifle men and women. In fact, this year was his 21st consecutive appearance at our championships.

Jim earns a crust as a government liquor store manager, a civil servant in Canadian terms. He seems unflappable, is always quiet spoken and is possessed of one of the driest senses of humour laced with pithy comments. Among his team colleagues he has a reputation as a fine and steely sportsman, a perfectionist and someone who will always deliver a major contribution.

To visiting Brits in Canada he is a considerate and conscientious host. He personifies the ethos of an amateur sport in which rivals will always rally round to assist each other in times of mechanical and other trouble.

He can also shoot as an individual. In Canada he has won the Governor General's Prize on a record four occasions, and the MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate twice, currently sitting on the possibility of a third consecutive win in 2006 in the latter contest. He has Commonwealth Games gold and silver medals to his credit. At Bisley he has 14 Queen's Final appearances to his name in addition to eight finishes in the top 50 of the Grand Aggregate, as well as winning the St George's in 2003.



Jim Paton GM

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



This year he added the missing ingredient, making a maximum 300 to win the Queen's Prize and equalling Philip Bennison's record score to do so. It is a moot point as to whether Philip or he took longer over their final shot, but at least Jim did not wobble towards adding a sixteenth to count to his score!

It was a pleasure to lend him an e-mail facility earlier in the Meeting when he had just succeeded in a four way tie shoot for the Times Challenge Cup. His unassuming heading on the e-mail to wife Anna? "Your husband just got lucky". There was no luck in a 25.5 tie: just the skills that he also deployed to win the Queen's.

We hope to see him again next year.

F CLASS AT THE IMPERIAL MEETING AT BISLEY 2005

by David Kent

What stood out this year was the spirit of friendliness between F Class and F Class TR competitors who attended the meeting this year from all over the world. We were blessed with wonderful weather and constantly kept on our toes by the technical exactness required by our sport and the smaller V bull.

The New V Bull and Bull for 2005 and beyond

Right up to the Meeting the telephone wires were hot and the ether buzzed with last minute discussions over target size. To have the F Class and F Class RG targets the same size as the TR target was clearly not sensible. In the end the original suggestion of a $\frac{3}{4}$ minute of angle V bull with a white aiming mark inside it was accepted by all. In addition, the old TR V bull ring was to combine with the ordinary bull of the TR target to make a very large ordinary bull.

Did it matter that we had such a large ordinary bull? Probably not. It was a good thing for every F Class RG shot (eight of them in all this year in the Grand Aggregate – an increase in numbers) and frankly we needed the large bull for some of the trickiest winds seen at Bisley. It was very challenging indeed!

As a personal comment I believe we must get to a smaller V bull and ordinary bull eventually, if we are to compete head on with the US, South Africans and German F Class teams in the next World Championships for F Class. Next year the F Class Sub-Committee has decided that we will have an all-white V bull of $\frac{3}{4}$ minute up to 600 yards and a Palma target at 900 and 1000 yards. The all white V bull at short range will be excellent as it will prevent many of the mismarkings which some of us believed may have occurred during this year's meeting. Next year the remainder of the old TR V bull will become the ordinary bull and the ordinary TR bull will become our inner. Both F Class and F Class RG will be marked on the same marking system on the firing point but thanks to the magic of the stats office, F Class RG will then be re-marked up so that an inner for them will also become an ordinary bull and so on in sequence for the lesser scoring rings.

It is to be hoped in due course that for F Class we will move to a $\frac{1}{2}$ minute of angle V bull, although that may take several years yet.

Squadding

The new squadding system with a single target on each range was helpful and brought F Class competitors together more than has happened in the past. It has the beauty of not disrupting TR shooters because F Class competitors tend to shoot faster and TR competitors will perhaps be delighted that the lack of help that the F Class can give them as to wind changes will no longer be there to distract them. A great idea all round.

Much amusement was had on the first detail of the Century at 600 yards where Wolfgang Scholze scored a

50 with 9 Vs (ie a 59) on the TR target while Nick Tremlett scored a 49.6 on the F Class target! Both of course had to re-shoot together with the other competitors who shot with them.

An International Meeting

This really was an international meeting and please forgive me if I've missed someone out. We had a team of four from Germany: Scholze, Krueger, Berghus and Eggemann; two from South Africa: Carel Taljaard (who came to defend his Grand Aggregate win of last year and won it again!) and Siebie Kruger. Also from South Africa, Dave Meredith won the Grand Aggregate for the F Class RG (well done Dave!) We had two competitors from France and one each from Holland, Normandy and Jersey together with substantial numbers from Ireland and Scotland. Geoff Kolbe was here with two exceptionally good young shots both sporting Border Barrel rifles and logos.

The International Match

This was won by Germany with a magnificent score of 1199.77 (2 sighters and 15 rounds to count over 900 and 1000 yards). The German team scored one inner only! No one else could match this or get anywhere close. The great news is we had six full teams competing, the others being (in order of result): England, CPC, Scotland, Ireland and Wales with two teams from the Republic of Ireland shooting alongside. The match was shot in good humour and many congratulations to Germany. We are all going to have to work much harder to keep up.

The Weather

In case we needed reminding, it was only on the second Tuesday that we had some drizzle. Otherwise the weather was perfect, and over the middle weekend and until the Second Friday Bisley produced for us some of the most challenging fish-tail winds I have ever seen. Whether the wind was gusting, murmuring or simply moving gradually on the slightest mirage it was challenging. Many of us were in the position of seeing one flag at an angle of 180° different from the next flag in line. Wonderful stuff!

And then we had the Queen's Final (alongside Queen's II for TR). Those who had taken time to get used to the conditions did well. Jo Wright finished with a magnificent 50.9, 50.9, 50.9 or rather 59, 59, 59 F Class style, to win the Queen's. Well done Jo!

Conclusion

All in all a wonderful time and worth the hours spent in cartridge preparation, reloading, etc. For full and detailed Imperial Meeting results please see the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk. For details of what's next on the calendar please see the new NRA F Class website at <http://f-class.org.uk>

See you all next year.

NRA CHANNEL ISLANDS TOUR 2005

by Kitty Jack

Captain

Dominic Harvey GB, England and Surrey

Vice Captain

Peter Bromley GB, England and Kent

Adjutant

Alex Pilgrim GB, England and Sussex

Coaches

Anton Aspin GB, England and Cheshire

Simon Cleveland GB, England and Surrey

Shooters

Charles Dickenson GB, England and Berkshire

George Gilpin Ireland and Devon

Jo Hossack Scotland and East of Scotland

Kitty Jack Scotland and Kent

Bob Oxford Wales

Kelvin Ramsey GB, England and Surrey

Mark Shaw Nottinghamshire

Keith Sheead England and Bedfordshire

Chris Watson Wales and Northants,
Leicester & Rutland

Tuesday 24 May

The NRA Channel Islands Team assembled at Bisley in time for dinner in the LMRA clubhouse. The LMRA proved to be generous and attentive hosts, forcing the team to commence acclimatization to that major feature of Channel Islands touring – too much good food and liquid hospitality before a match.

Wednesday 25 May

The morning saw phase two of acclimatization. Henry Watson led the LMRA team of 10 against us for 2 and 10 at 300 and 600 yards. Chris Watson was the star of the match, scoring an excellent 100.17 coached by Anton Aspin. Peter Bromley and Mark Shaw also made 100, with Jo Hossack and Kelvin Ramsey on 99. The overall result was 979.121 (NRA) to 949.85 (LMRA). Gary Alexander led for the LMRA with 99.8. The event allowed us to integrate individual skills with the team drills rehearsed in April, proving that we were ready for the challenges of accuracy, meteorology and gastronomy that lay ahead. We would like to thank the whole LMRA team for their excellent hospitality over dinner and for putting the team through its paces on the range.

After a short prize-giving on the range, the drive down to Poole went smoothly and the Sea Cat crossing to Guernsey was relatively uneventful, bar a few green faces and Kelvin's sudden disappearance (he was later found assisting a poorly old lady).

Peter Jory met us at the Cobo Bay Hotel and kindly took the rifles away for storage. Most of the team stayed put for a delicious meal in the hotel restaurant, but some (led by Captain Harvey) were determined not to waste precious partying time and went for a taste of Guernsey night-life.

Thursday 26 May

For some team members, Thursday began with a hearty breakfast followed by a leisurely stroll along the beach. For others it started with a good lie-in followed by nursing of hangovers and general recovery from the previous night. The team then met for a recce visit to the range at Fort le Marchant, where the Captain reminded everyone of the huge task in hand.

The afternoon passed in St Peter Port followed by a swift retreat to the hotel where the team indulged in a couple of drops of champagne in the Jacuzzi, Anton braved the cold sea water as he went for a paddle, and the boys performed some kind of testosterone-fuelled ritual thinly disguised as a game of frisbee on the beach.

Friday 27 May

The morning's shooting consisted of individual competitions at 300 and 600 yards. While on first detail Dom was showing the team how it was done with 50.6, one of the more experienced members was rushing to the hotel to pick up his shooting kit that he had managed to leave behind in its entirety and that he realized may prove useful for the day's events. Mark Shaw beat Nick Mace by one V bull to win the aggregate with a score of 100.13. George came third with a respectable 99.15.

After heeding Cherry Le Poidevin's warnings that it could rain the following day, the team decided to make the most of the sunny weather by spending the afternoon having a picnic on the beach at Cobo Bay. The early part of the evening was spent at a wonderful reception hosted by the Guernsey Rifle Club at Castle Cornet followed by dinner with the Guernsey team at the Havelet Hotel.

Saturday 28 May

This extremely windy but sunny Saturday morning threw a number of challenges at the team. The individual competitions throughout the morning not only tested everyone's wind judgement but also their general ability not to get blown out to sea. A great lunch on the range must have helped the afternoon's shooting as everyone's body weight increased by several pounds; Paul Le Poidevin's chocolate cake (as requested by Alex Pilgrim the day before) was instrumental to this application of ballast against the breeze.

The team match in the afternoon was shot at 300, 500 and 600 yards, as the strong winds hard across the range from the left continued to gust throughout the day. Coaches Aspin and Cleveland strapped themselves into their coaching chairs and the (now heavier!) NRA team came out victorious with a score of 1164.120 to GRC's 1156.116. Adam Jory made top score in the match with 149.20 and Jo Hossack made top score for the NRA team with 148. In the Reserve Pairs match, Kitty and Bob were coached by Alex Pilgrim and beat locals Cherry Le Poidevin and Sylvia Sirett by 11 points with 286.23 to 275.19.

There was a swift pack up and prize-giving before the team headed for their ferry across to Jersey. After a long wait and a smelly Sea Cat crossing, the team arrived at St Helier where they were welcomed by Cliff Mallett. Rifles were swiftly loaded into Cliff's car and the team headed on to the Hotel Christina where they befriended Norberto (the barman) who kept them happy by ensuring that there was a healthy flow of drinks well into the night.

Sunday 29 May

The team had the morning off. The breakfast club was entertained by Simon who, as the increase in noise levels proved, had now fully recovered from his initial health problems - he decided to confront the bearded Navy contingent (Charles and Keith) with a pirate style "Aha, good morning Nautical Whitebeard and Blackbeard" - names that were to stick for the rest of the tour. It also transpired that the previous evening Alex and Dom had run into another Bisley personality. Anil Bhargava had rather unfortunately chosen the Hotel Christina for a romantic break.

The team met at 11.30am for their first visit to Crabbe Range where they were greeted by a lot of familiar faces and Peter and Mary Norman's mouthwatering bacon rolls. Shooting began just after lunch with a 2 and 10 at 200 yards where the Captain surprised himself with yet another 50! Charles Dickenson won the day's shooting (an aggregate of 200 and 500 yards) with 100.17. Mark was two places behind, having scored 100.14 and pipped to second place by Cliff Mallett who scored 100.15. Bob, meanwhile, faced the ultimate rifle disaster - his stock split during his 200 yards shoot yet he made a miraculous recovery, not only finishing the shoot with 50.6 but scoring another 50.6 at 500 yards with Simon's rifle, ending up in fifth place overall.

The evening consisted of a quick visit by a few adventurous members of the team to Jersey's drag cabaret club, the Cosmopolitan, followed by dinner at the Salty Dog. The food was great and everyone was content except Chris who, to the rest of the team's amusement, had forgotten to place an order! The team match the following day commanded a relatively quiet and early night for everyone.

Monday 30 May

The morning's shooting consisted of individual competitions at 300 and 600 yards. Alex (and Junior) scored 100.15, which resulted in a tie-shoot for first place with Bruce Horwood. Unfortunately she just missed out by a V bull as he scored 25.4 against her 25.3. The afternoon's team match was shot at 300, 500 and 600 yards and the team were determined to retain their unbeaten record against a Kolapore-strength Jersey team who were really fired up for the challenge. While the NRA made a solid start at 300 yards, the Jersey team made club history with a score of 400 out of a maximum 400 points. The NRA made every effort to claw back the difference throughout the rest of the match but Jersey matched them shot for shot and the overall margin remained at the six point difference that haunted them

from 300 yards. With a score of 1189.149, the Jersey team broke their previous club records and performed to an outstanding level that this NRA team (scoring 1183.147) and many other teams will aspire to.

The team kicked the evening off with some champagne on the hotel terrace overlooking St Aubin's Bay. Although there was a huge air of disappointment over the match result, there was also an overwhelming feeling of honest congratulation and camaraderie towards the JRA team, who arrived shortly afterwards for drinks and dinner. Speeches were made by Colin Mallett and Dom Harvey, who kept a promise to some Jersey friends by jumping up onto his chair for a song . . . (but of course he was always going to!). Dinner was followed by more drinks in the hotel bar, and then an exodus to La Cala bar in St Helier where there was much drinking and dancing, as ordered by the Captain. Having managed to convince the receptionist to provide an ice bucket for the champagne, an after-party ensued in Room 302 of Hotel Christina. After watching the new sport of bearded bed-dancing, it was decided in the early hours that Anil's romantic weekend should be cut short and he should be invited to join in the fun - strangely he agreed and the party continued until the sun came up at 5.30am.

Tuesday 31 May

This was a final day of holiday before the team had to make the journey back to homes, offices, exams, hospitals and farms. Given the excesses of the previous night, most took it easy with some shopping and an alcohol-free lunch, although an uncharacteristically quiet Simon continued to deny that he was suffering. Some regained strength sufficiently to join Cliff Mallett for a round of golf.

The team reconvened in uniform for one last team photo on the hotel terrace before a swift change of clothing and journey to Le Frere at Rozel Bay for an excellent dinner in quite stunning surroundings, courtesy of some advance planning by the Adj - she was eating for two after all! A final trip into St Helier to experience some more of the town's night-life followed, as did the massacre of a number of songs during a trip to a karaoke bar. Inevitably the evening eventually finished in Room 302 where the last of the champagne was finished off.

Wednesday 1 June

The NRA Champagne Team of 2005 started the last day of their tour at 9am in the only way they knew how, by enjoying a champagne breakfast with Cliff Mallett. We headed for the port and some took advantage of an upgrade to reclining seats for the crossing back to Poole - mercifully it was very calm and most of the team slept through the entire journey.

A great time had been had by all and no greater effort could have been made on the shooting front. Our hosts on both islands could not have done more for the team - we will all be eternally grateful to them for giving us such a trip to remember. Some excellent friendships had been forged and the team disbanded with the unanimous hope that they would find themselves touring with each other again at some stage in the near future.



And if the cannons return fire - duck!



"It was supposed to be warm!"



Simon Cleveland "Does my thumb look big in this?"



Presentation time!



Captain Harvey bravely saved his team from the attack of the giant crabs.



The fashion-conscious shooter. Colour co-ordinated rifle, jacket, hat . . . need to work on the glove though . . .



Teams and scores . . .



. . . win or lose, it was all a trip to remember!

(All photos: NRA Channel Islands Team)

ANYONE FOR A MINT IMPERIAL?

by Nick Steadman

Background

September 2003

I'm competing in Rorke's Easy Ration, the last stage of the Practical Rifle Nationals at Stoney Castle: three runs of 75 yards in three minutes. At the end I feel like Mr Blobby with asthma (red in the face and out of breath). I fail to complete all three runs. Decide to take up a more sedate form of TR.

July 2004

Sell PR rifle and start searching through gun catalogues. By chance meet members of F Class squad at Bisley. They seem a friendly bunch. Very exotic rifles with unusual calibres and lots of gadgets. Learn there is a 'shoot what you're given' class using standard rifles in .223 or .308. Spot an ad in NRA Magazine for Ruger M77. Looks nice and the price is right. A good place to start.

August 2004

Purchase Ruger. Seems to like 155 gr RG so should be ideal for F Class. Contact Phyllis Farnan on NRA website. Start receiving e-mails informing me of practice days at Bisley.

January/February 2005

Attend a couple of F Class practice days and hold the 5 ring at 1000 yards with RG. Things look good. Get talking to Paul Monaghan. "Why don't you come to the Imperial Meeting in July? It's a fantastic week of competitions. We need more F Class shooters to have a go." Makes sense to me so I decide to enter.

March/April 2005

Learn from my County Association that some first timers at the Imperial are entitled to a voucher offering discount on the entry fees. Names are put in a hat and lo and behold my name is drawn out. This means I will definitely enter.

Preparation

May 2005

Voucher arrives in the post with the entry form. Which bits do I fill in? No matter – I'll phone the NRA to find out. Karen 'no question too silly' Robertson is very helpful. She tells me which boxes to tick. Form completed and sent off.

June 2005

A big brown envelope arrives in the post. I'm Competitor 1113 - hope it's lucky! Squadding details and Bisley Bible have arrived. I download the NRA First Timer's Notes from the website for extra information. It takes a couple of evenings reading through but finally I realise my first comp is the Admiral Hutton on Middle Friday starting at 11.15am.

Thursday 14 July

Start to sort out kit. Rifle, case, cleaning rods, muffs etc. Wet weather gear, sun cream . . . Check scope is set for 900 yards. Restless night. It's hot and I'm excited. Very little sleep.

Friday 15 July

6.00am. Load car, have breakfast and on the road by 7.00am. Good run, not too much traffic. Call in at the Armoury to see if the rifle needs to be scrutinised. It's F Class so it doesn't. Round to the Front Office to collect squadding cards. There are free newspapers to be had. I take a Telegraph and make a donation to the Young Shooters Fund.

I find a quiet spot and read all the paperwork. I'm on the second detail at 12.00 noon. I've a chance to practise at 900 yards and book a session. Good job too because this issued ammo is hotter than my old batch and shoots high. I wind down 3 minutes. Windage is perfect. Again I'm holding the 5 ring. Looking forward to noon.

Admiral Hutton (900 yards)

I arrive at the range in plenty of time. I check the RO's blackboard and I'm on lane 1. Good news. It's sheltered along here. The same lane I used for practice.

My squad is due on the point. I seem to be the only one on my detail. Then I am asked to move to lane 21 and share with another F Class shooter (Roger Wood). He is a member of the British F Class team who went to South Africa. Pressure or what! Sadly this far up the line we are now fully exposed to the vagaries of the Stickledown breeze. Plus the sun is now beating down on the dried out grass and creating a mirage the Sahara would be proud of. Still that's what long range TR is all about – reading the wind and allowing for the mirage.

Four minutes to Message 1. Nerves are starting to jangle. Message 1 sent to butts. A forest of targets appear. I'm suddenly aware that the wind has increased somewhat since the practice session. I squeeze off the first round, peer through scope. The target drops. Internal sigh of relief.

The target reappears. Roger calls across "good elevation" but I'm out in the 2 ring at 3 o'clock. I wind on some windage. Roger has his go. My second shot is a 5. I think I've cracked it, but the wind on Stickledown can be deceptive to say the least! It gusts, it drops, it changes direction. I struggle but at least I keep them on the target. In what seems far too short a time my 12 rounds are spent. Time to total up the score and hand in the card.

Century (600 yards)

I should have realised from this morning that the ammo is hot. I dial in my 600 yards setting: 15 minutes for .308 RG. Targets appear on cue at 2.00pm. The first round misses completely. Wind down 2 minutes. Second sighter shot is at 11 o'clock. Have to make the first shot count. Wind down another minute and reduce the windage. A 2 at 12 o'clock, still too much elevation. I end up with only 11 minutes instead of 15. Heaven knows what I will need for 500 yards!

I'm shooting with Roger again. He scores a 50.2. Not bad! I now have to wait until 6.15pm before the 500 yards detail so I decide to bring the diary up to date. As

I sit here on a lovely summer afternoon putting my thoughts on paper I'm surrounded by people from all corners of the globe. A German F Class shooter has just shot a 50.6. He is very pleased. I shake his hand and congratulate him. He wishes me good luck for this evening. What a great day I'm having.

Century (500 yards)

The clouds have moved in, it's cooled down and the wind has swung through 90°. This is the first time I have ever shot at Bisley after 5.30pm. An evening shoot is a very pleasant experience. I'm joined on the firing point by Cliff from Oxford who is shooting in the same Class as me. He agrees with me that the ammo is hotter than usual. I reduce my elevation by 3 minutes. First shot is a 4 at 1 o'clock. I tweak the windage - second shot a V bull. Cliff asks if I wish to convert it. Too right, Cliff – it might be the only one I get! The wind changes again. I try to chase it to no avail. I revert to my original settings and end the shoot with a string of 5s. A good end to a splendid day.

Saturday 16 July Donegal (300 yards)

I'm on first this morning so I'm up early to make sure I'm at the range by 8.00am to give me plenty of time to get set up. As I arrive there are several sleepy people emerging from tents who look as though they've had too much pop and not enough sleep. Others are busy preparing breakfast. The tempting smell of frying bacon fills the morning air. I seem to be 'Billy No Mates' as I'm the only one on my lane. An RO marks for me. There is some confusion with my target at first. They still have a 500 yards centre left over from yesterday. It's a shame they don't leave it – my score would have been superb. Eventually it is changed for the 300 yards face. My word, that V bull is so tiny.

The weather is beautiful again with very little wind. Even so I struggle to hold the 5 ring. Yesterday Roger Wood suggested I buy myself a rear sand bag. As soon as I'm finished I dash round to Norman Clark's tent. He's just in the process of opening up. I buy a bag. Sadly he doesn't sell sand! He jokingly suggests I try the butts, then recommends B & Q kids' play sand. It must be bone dry so that it flows. I'll have to sort it out later as I'm due on Stickledown at 1000 yards for the Lovell. This time there are three of us on the detail but we learn there is only one shooter on lane 1. I volunteer to move to make it two per point. Lane 1 seems to be calmer with some cover from the trees. My partner is Peter King. It's his first time at F Class too.

Lovell (1000 yards)

We both start well with 5s but I start to drift into the 4 ring. Peter hits a V bull – we both give a cheer.

I mention my new sandless bag. He offers to dash home and grab his spare kids' play sand before we have to shoot the Daily Telegraph at 2.00pm. What a hero. I'm off to Norman Clark's again to buy a small funnel for the sand.

I spend the lunch hour stuffing the bag with the sand kindly provided by Mr King. Not only did he bring the

sand but a hand turned wooden funnel and a 'stuffing stick'. What a very, very nice man.

Daily Telegraph (500 yards)

At 1.45pm we are called forward to the firing point for the Daily Telegraph. Again I'm all alone. This time there is no RO available to mark for me so I'm shunted down to the next bay where Carel from South Africa is shooting. We are joined by a Frenchman who signs himself PP. I don't catch his name.

I put the sand bag to use. It makes a difference. The rifle feels more stable. My goodness, Carel is good – he shoots a 75.11, only dropping four V bulls. I shoot well at the 15 round comp, plus with three of us on the point it makes things last that little bit longer.

After it's all over I bump into Dr Paul Monaghan and David Kent. We chat about the tricky wind. Paul mumbles something about needing a beer to cheer him up and wanders off. He's not happy with his score. David prepares himself for his Daily Telegraph competition. I make my way home after a superb second day of shooting quoting those famous lines: "Every day in every way I'm getting better and better!"

Sunday 17 July Alexandra (600 yards)

The first shoot of the day is the Alexandra at 10.00am. The weather is superb. Not a breath of wind nor a cloud in the skies. A more leisurely start today. Dr Monaghan joins me on the point and passes on some hints and tips regarding the conditions. Message 1 is given. Load and carry on. Good luck wishes are verbally rippling down the firing line. First sighter is a 4, the second a V bull. I convert the V. Next two shots are a 5 and a V. Then suddenly a 3 at 3 o'clock. I've misread the wind. I'm amazed how the slightest change in mirage or breeze can make such a difference. Next shot a V. I'm caught out two shots later with another 3 but overall my shooting is definitely improving.

One spectacle that deserves a mention is the cavalcade of butt markers who set off just before 2.00pm for Stickledown butts. There are pedal-cycles, motor-cycles and all sorts of makes and models of cars. As soon as the all clear is given this plethora of transport roars off down the road to the butts in a whirl of noise and dust. It reminds me of the desert chase sequence in Mad Max. At this point I think I should say a big thank you to all the markers. Having experienced butt duty during my PR days I know how hard a job it can be. This weekend we had incredibly hot weather so hauling those massive targets up and down must have been hot work. Thanks guys and gals.

Duke of Cambridge (900 yards)

Who's a silly boy then? Mind you, I think I've got a good excuse. I arrive on Stickledown with plenty of time only to find I'm the only one on my detail again. I reckon I must be using the wrong soap. With less than ten minutes to go I am directed to the left block of shooters where Wolfgang and Philippe Personne are already set up. By the time I've moved in between them and got settled in there is less than five minutes to go and in my



Andy Brothers deep in thought.

(Photo: Paul Monaghan)



"Has anyone seen my glasses?" David Kent makes sure all optical requirements are covered.

(Photo: Paul Monaghan)



One of our overseas visitors, Philippe Personne of France.

(Photo: Paul Monaghan)



Another regular visitor, Wolfgang Scholze from Germany.

(Photo: John Knight)



Tim Kidner and Alex Henderson assist Scotland in the F Class International Match.

(Photo: John Knight)



Germany (pictured above with Paul Monaghan) won the F Class International Match.

(Photo: John Knight)



"Well I think light sabres should be allowed!"

(Photo: John Knight)



Mick Gault presents Jo Wright with the F Class Queen's Prize.

(Photo: John Knight)

haste I wind in the setting for 1000 yards not 900 yards. Doh! I'm sure it happens to everybody once.

Needless to say my first two shots go over the top and the target comes up clear. It's not until my first shot to count that I see a splash of sand just above the target. Finally it sinks in. I quickly adjust the elevation and the rest of the shoot goes well. It was however a great opportunity missed because the wind was the lightest I have ever seen on Stickledown and we are right down at the bottom under the trees. A valuable lesson learnt.

Daily Mail (500 yards)

Not only am I using the wrong soap but after today's hot weather I must be a bit whiffy. Nobody comes near me again on my point. I spot Dr Monaghan on the next row and agree with the RO to move up. He certainly gives me plenty of room. Then just as we get comfy Philipe joins us so we both have to shuffle up.

I adjust the magnification of the scope so that I can see the flag nearest the target. It helps me judge the wind. As a result my first sighter is a V bull; second is a 5. I convert both. Off to a good start after the disaster of the Duke of Cambridge. I only drop a couple into the 4 ring as the wind rises and falls. Paul congratulates me on a good shoot. I must be improving.

Once again it has been an absolutely glorious day. Some would say possibly a little too hot. Especially if you're toggged up in full TR shooting jackets. That's one of the benefits of F Class. You don't have to wear too many clothes and this makes for a far more comfortable shoot.

Monday 18 July Corporation (1000 yards)

Early start today shooting the Corporation at 9.15am. I shoot with Siebie (pronounced Cibby) from South Africa. Apparently he's called Siebie because none of us Brits can say his real name. His rifle is chrome with a rosewood stock. Even his Leupold scope has a matching silver finish. I enquire about the beautiful stock. He tells me he made it himself. It is a work of art. The finish is excellent and the patterns in the wood are stunning. I'm sure that's why it shoots so well. I score a 43 with no V bulls. All my 4s are literally scraping the edge of the 5 ring. Still I came joint third in the Lovell with a 42 so I'll watch the scoreboard with interest tomorrow.

Having blown the Duke of Cambridge yesterday with the wrong scope setting I was chuffed to discover today that I was third in the Alexandra. I might get a medal yet.

Times (300 yards)

Second competition of the day is the Times. My companion (last night I had a really good wash with different soap) is Jim Bell from Scotland. He has a superb periscope spirit level bolted on his scope (it makes it look a bit like a Faslane submarine). The cloud cover is better today and things are a little cooler. Even the wind is consistent. I only drop two points but hit two V bulls to compensate. Nearly there. Maybe I'll clean the Wimbledon this afternoon.

Wimbledon TR (600 yards)

I think I ought to take up the lucrative business of fortune telling. I've finally succeeded in scoring ten bulls, two of which are Vs. It's hard to believe in some ways. I was all in a rush setting up and it started to rain. My lovely new rifle was getting wet and the wind picked up. I didn't think I would do well at all.

In addition to the lack of set-up time I find we are shooting at the far end of Century Range on the notorious Magpie Alley. My first sighter is a 4 at 3 o'clock. I adjust the scope by adding 1 minute of left hand wind. The next shot is a 5 which I convert. What follows warms my heart despite the fact that I am now soaking wet. Six more 5s and two V bulls. The rifle feels like it's on rails. Each shot just gently pushes it back in a straight line.

No muzzle flip or sideways hops. Maybe it's the cooler temperature or the rain or a combination of both but I am now in danger of hitting my first complete string of ten bulls. My last shot feels as good as the rest and I wait for what seems like eternity to see the final marker. Yes, at last – it's another 5.

I'm shooting with Wolfgang. He seems slightly downbeat about the 50.3 he's just scored. As for me I'm over the moon with my 50.2.

I dash down to Paul Monaghan's point just as he's packing up and show him the card. It takes a moment to sink in but he soon realises what I've achieved. He insists on taking a photo of my Cheshire Cat expression and I proudly display my yellow score card.

A perfect end to a great day.



Tuesday 19 July St George's (Stage 1)

I feel slightly short-changed today – only one competition for the whole day. Still it's a 15 round comp

so it will last a bit longer than some. I'm joined on the point by Terry from Glasgow. He like me is having a go for the first time and he tells me he's in rifleman's heaven. I know what he means. He's shooting a Steyr in olive drab and using "as issued" ammo like me.

I'm still buzzing from the night before and assume a 300 yards shoot will now be easy-peasy. Oh how the cocky are fallen! I succeed in stitching a lovely neat line across the centre of the target from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock. Sadly a lot of the stitch holes are in the 4 and not the 5. Not my best effort.

I decide to go and check the scoreboards to see how my 50.2 fared in the overall classification of the Wimbledon. I return to my Cheshire Cat impression again when I see I'm joint first with two other competitors. It more than compensates for my poor wind assessment in the St George's.

Wednesday 20 July

HM Queen's Prize (300 yards)

Another early start. I get to Bisley with plenty of time to spare so I go and see if my 50.2 has won me a medal. Imagine my disappointment when I see I'm relegated to third place. My mood sinks as I cannot understand how I'm third when I haven't dropped a shot. The walk to the firing point is made with heavy feet. My companion on the point, a Dutchman called Paul Schouten Trautig, just wants to concentrate on his shooting and doesn't want to chat. I have no choice but to try and put my disappointment to the back of my mind.

I've left my 300 yards settings from yesterday on the scope since the conditions seem about the same. First sighter is a 4 at 9 o'clock. Windage adjusted, second sighter is a bull 5 which I convert. I only drop one 4 in the string and end up with a 34.2. I match my companion's score. He's using a full spec rifle with a Stolle bolt action. A small coup for the humble RG round. I leave the point determined to get to the bottom of the scoring query.

I read through the Bisley Bible and see that identical scores are sorted on a countback system. My last three shots are 5, 6, 5 – the best of the three. I decide to talk to Sharon in Stats.

Sharon admits that the computer has thrown a wobbly and is not processing the FRG stats correctly. On inspection she agrees that my score is the highest on countback and promises to amend the results. I've won a gold medal.

Queen's Prize (500 yards)

The talk today will be all about the wind during this shoot. It is strong enough to pick up the sand at the 600 yards Century car park and create a mini dust storm.

I'm paired with Terry from Glasgow for this stage and we settle down for what I'm sure will be a bit of a challenge. I try and judge the strength of the breeze by the flow across my face. It's reasonably successful as I only drop three points to score a 32. I hope it starts to drop a little as the afternoon wears on otherwise the 600 yards stage and the Conan Doyle will be a real hoot.

Queen's Prize (600 yards)

Well, all my sacrifices to the wind gods came to nought. That evil wind is still gusting. My 600 yards stage is even less inspiring than my 500 yards attempt. I seem to be unable to hold the bull. I am oscillating between 4 on the left and 4 on the right. My final score is a paltry 28. There is no way these scores will put me anywhere near the top of the leader board.

There has definitely been a slightly frenetic edge to proceedings today. I suppose it's because there are just so many shooters who have to shoot all three of the Queen's Prize stages. I also found the 2 sighters and 7 rounds to count something and nothing. It seemed just as you got comfy and into the rhythm all your shots were gone and you were being hustled off the point to make way for the next squad. Not my favourite of the competitions so far.

Conan Doyle (900 yards)

By the time 5.00pm comes around the wind shows no sign of abating. As I walk from the 1000 yards car park to the 900 yards firing point I have to keep a tight hold on my shooting mat as it gets swung round in the gusty conditions.

I've overheard the odd shooter enquire of another: "Have you been shooting over the hill?" At first I thought it was a sly dig at an individual's age or ability. I subsequently discover it applies to Stickledown Range. My previous four shoots on this range have all been at the lower end by the tree line. For this 900 yards competition I am right up on the top platform.

I can now see why it's called shooting over the hill. At about 600 yards down-range is a huge bump like the back of a giant whale in a gently undulating sea. The targets appear to lie in a distinct trough. I'm sure these peaks and valleys only add more idiosyncrasies to the already complicated wind patterns.

Carel from South Africa is my companion this evening. We have time to discuss our plan of action while we wait for the previous group to finish. He reckons we have drawn the short straw with our squadding. All the best scores are being achieved on the lower numbered ranges. By now the wind is really howling past us on this very exposed platform.

First thing to do is to ensure I have the correct yardage dialled in. I check and double check. We're OK. Next task is to assess the wind strength and direction. It appears to be a stiff breeze quartering from left to right. I wind in 6 minutes of wind.

My first round is perfect for elevation but is out in the 2 ring. I wind in another 3 minutes. Second shot is a 5. I convert it. Third shot is another 5. Carel's next shot is a 3 and I see him shake his head as he realises there is no way he can now win in this competition. Other competitors on the lower ranges have already shot perfect 50 scores with additional V bulls.

I should have paid more attention to Carel's shot. If a wind-bucking, high velocity, 6mm round ends up in the 3 ring because the conditions have changed, imagine



where a pedestrian .308 will go. You guessed it – out in the 2 ring. A wonderful thing, hindsight!

Shortly afterwards the wind steadies and I finish with a mix of 4s and 5s. My final score is a 44. My best yet at this distance despite the howling gale. If only I hadn't dropped into the 2 ring.

When I finish I see Terry from Glasgow is due on after me. Naturally he is curious to know how I fared. During our brief chat Terry informs me that he needs 8 minutes of wind. When I enquire how he calculated that figure he produces a chart. On further investigation it turns out that the figures are issued by Florida County's SWAT personnel. I'll check in with him tomorrow to see how good these charts are.

My busiest day of shooting is over and what with all the excitement and fierce wind I feel quite drained. I'm looking forward to a good night's sleep to prepare me for my final day.

Thursday 21 July

My first task this morning is to find Terry. He is shooting at the same time as me on the Prince of Wales. I meet up with him as he's leaving the Range. He has a knowing smile on his face. When I ask him how his Conan Doyle went he informs me with some pleasure that he beat me by one point with a 45. Oh, and by the way, his first shot was a V bull! Perhaps I'll get a set of those SWAT charts for myself.

Prince of Wales (600 yards)

I have a leisurely start to the morning and arrive at the range for a 10.55am start. I think I'm alone when Philippe Personne arrives at the last minute. Andy of Andy and Terry from London hints that today's wind is drifting anywhere from 1½ minutes left to 2 minutes right. Valuable advice from yet another of the very helpful F Class competitors I've met this week.

My first sighter is a 3, the second a V which I convert. The wind is much lighter today and I can't imagine I'll have too much trouble holding the centre.

Suddenly there's a very French 'oh la la' from Philippe as he hits a 4. Again like yesterday in the Conan Doyle when Carl hit a 3 I should have paid more attention. I think I've read the strength of the breeze and let fly with

my third shot. Just as I squeeze the trigger the wind drops completely. Unlike Philippe's 4 mine sadly is another 2. I creep back towards the bull with another couple of 4s. My final score for this 15 round competition is 66.2.

Then it's all over. I pack up my kit and withdraw from the point.

I sit for several minutes at the back of the range reviewing my first Imperial Meeting.

Eighteen competitions in seven days. My biggest shooting competition ever. What an event.

As far as I can tell, from my limited experience, F Class shooting is an ideal platform from which all wind and mirage reading skills can be developed from a comfortable shooting position.

Finally during the next few minutes a small ditty that sums up my week begins to form in my head. It goes like this:

*If your eyesight's turning bleary
And your sling arm's getting weary
Change your rear sight for some glass
And go and shoot some F Class.*

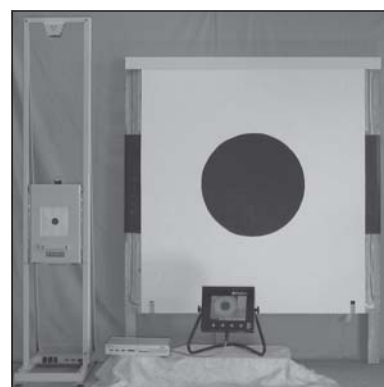
Then like me, you can have a fantastic time at next year's Imperial.

See you there.



**ETSys
Electronic
Target Systems**

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



For further information contact us at:
6, South Farm Court, South Farm Rd
Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7AY
Tel: 01395 442777
E-mail: info@etsys.co.uk
Website: www.etsys.co.uk

NRA COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council (Board of Trustees)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr JF Jackman | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr JEM Hartwell | <i>Vice-Chairman</i> |
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Mr CM Brooks | |
| Dr P Monaghan | <i>Chairman Shooting Committee</i> |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | |
| Mr JA Watson | <i>Chairman Membership Committee</i> |
| Mr DG Young | |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>Secretary</i> |

Audit Committee

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr DG Young | |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | |

Remuneration Committee

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Mr JEM Hartwell | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr DG Young | |
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | |

Investment Committee

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr JEM Hartwell | |
| Mr MJ Blythe | <i>(in attendance)</i> |

National Shooting Centre Limited

Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr JE Staples | <i>Managing Director</i> |
| Maj MG Farnan | <i>Director of Shooting</i> |
| Miss SC Bunch | <i>Commercial Director</i> |
| Mr DT Argent | |
| Mr JDI Hossack | |
| Mr MJ Blythe | <i>Secretary</i> |

The General Council

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Mr JF Jackman | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Dr AR Horrocks | <i>Vice-Chairman Elected</i> |
| Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Mr HRM Bailie | <i>Regional - Northern Ireland</i> |
| Mr GV Barnard | <i>Regional - East Midlands</i> |
| Mr S Belither | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mrs ID Bennett | <i>Regional - West Midlands</i> |
| Mr MJM Black | <i>Regional - Northern</i> |
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | <i>Discipline - Target Rifle/Elected</i> |
| Miss MZJ Boston | <i>Elected</i> |
| Col (Ret'd) WGC Bowles | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| Mr CM Brooks | <i>Elected</i> |
| Flt Lt DP Calvert | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr A Cargill Thompson | <i>Discipline - Match Rifle</i> |
| Mr JH Carmichael | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr ARK Clayton | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr PR Coley | <i>Regional - South Western</i> |
| Cdr IG Danbury | <i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i> |
| Mr SJ East | <i>Regional - Southern</i> |
| Mr PS Gray | <i>Regional - Wales</i> |
| Mr C Higginbottom | <i>Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain</i> |
| Wg Cdr CJ Hockley | <i>Welsh Target Shooting Federation</i> |
| Lt Col RT Hoole | <i>Army Rifle Association</i> |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr P Hunter | <i>Discipline - Practical Rifle</i> |
| Mr S James | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr MD Jones MP | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Mr TLW Kidner | <i>Regional - Scotland</i> |
| Mr JM Kynoch | <i>Discipline - Sporting Rifle</i> |
| Lt Cdr T Lapage-Norris | <i>Royal Naval Reserve Rifle Association</i> |
| Mr CD Law | <i>Regional - London & SE</i> |
| Mr CN McEachran | <i>Scottish Target Shooting Federation</i> |
| Mr M Maksimovic | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr HJ Malins MP | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Dr P Monaghan | <i>Discipline - F Class</i> |
| Mr C Murton | <i>Discipline - Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i> |
| Sqn Ldr DR Niblett | <i>Royal Air Force Small Arms Association</i> |
| Miss J Rankin | <i>Elected</i> |
| Flt Lt IW Robertson | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mrs KD Robertson | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr AJD Saunders | <i>English Target Shooting Federation</i> |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | <i>Discipline - 300 Metres</i> |
| Brig JR Smales | <i>Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting</i> |
| Wg Cdr M Symonds | <i>Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee</i> |
| Mr DE Spittles | <i>Discipline - Muzzle Loading</i> |
| Brig JAJ Thomson | <i>Territorial Army Rifle Association</i> |
| Mr MWT Walton | <i>Elected</i> |
| MR JD Warburton | <i>Regional - Yorks/Humberside</i> |
| Mr JA Watson | <i>Elected</i> |
| Mr DD Watt | <i>Regional - Eastern</i> |
| Mr RHF Wills | <i>Discipline - Classic Arms</i> |
| Mr DG Young | <i>Regional - North Western</i> |
| Vacant | <i>National Small-bore Rifle Association</i> |
| Vacant | <i>Clay Pigeon Shooting Association</i> |

Committees of the General Council

Disciplinary Committee

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr JM Holmes | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr DGF Evans | |
| Miss MF Gooden | |
| Mr HRM Bailie | |
| Flt Lt DP Calvert | |
| Mr RHF Wills | |

Appeals Committee

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Mr PN Hinchliffe | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr CTS Belk | |
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | |
| Lt Col RT Hoole | |
| Mr RM Mott | |
| Flt Lt IW Robertson | |

Bisley Facilities Advisory Group

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mr RHF Wills | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr HRM Bailie | |
| Mrs ID Bennett | |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | |
| Mr ND Anderson | |

Shooting Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Dr P Monaghan | <i>Chairman</i> | <i>F Class</i> |
| Mr GV Barnard | | |
| Mr JH Carmichael | | |
| Flt Lt DP Calvert | | |
| Maj SH Cox | | |
| Maj SB Fraser | | |
| Wg Cdr CJ Hockley | | |
| Lt Col AR Hoole | | |
| Prof AR Horrocks | | |
| Flt Lt IW Robertson | | |
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | <i>Target Rifle</i> | |
| Mr A Cargill Thompson | <i>Match Rifle</i> | |
| Mr C Murton | <i>Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i> | |
| Mr JM Kynoch | <i>Sporting Rifle</i> | |
| Mr DE Spittles | <i>Muzzle Loading</i> | |
| Mr P Hunter | <i>Practical Rifle</i> | |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | <i>300 Metres</i> | |
| Mr RHF Wills | <i>Classic Arms</i> | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | | |
| Maj MG Farnan | <i>NSC Director of Shooting</i> | |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>Secretary</i> | |

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Mr JPS Bloomfield | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Lt NJ Ball | |
| Maj MG Farnan | |
| Mr JDI Hossack | |
| Dr JDS Langley | |
| Mr WCP Richards | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>Secretary</i> |

Match Rifle and Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mr A Cargill Thompson | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mrs LJ Brister | |
| Mr JS Collings | |
| Mr C Hayes | |
| Mr MK Townsend | |
| Mr JM Kynoch | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>Secretary</i> |

F Class Sub-Committee

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr M Maksimovic | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr C Cuthbert | |
| Mr D Kent | |
| Dr P Monaghan | |
| Mr D Parr | |
| Mr D Stewart | |

Classics Sub-Committee

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Mr RHF Wills | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr A Claxon | <i>Northern HBSA</i> |
| Mr A Dagger | |
| Mr DD Glaister | |
| Mr P Godliman | |
| Mr I Grimble | |
| Mr R Hankey | |
| Mr M Hodgins | <i>HBSA</i> |
| Mr A Kirk | |
| Mrs O Lamont | |
| Mr D Lloyd | <i>VAA</i> |
| Mr D Minshall | |
| Mr H Pearce | |
| Mr D Robinson | |
| Mr V Rogers | |
| Mr R Seddon | |
| Mr C Smith | |
| Mr I Stanyon | |

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Mr AB Wiffin | <i>MLAGB</i> |
| Mr P Wikeley | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| Mr DK Mumford | <i>Secretary</i> |

Schools Sub-Committee

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Maj S Cox | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Lt Col ARK Clayton | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Maj MG Farnan | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Capt PJ Farnan | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Mr JP Hakim | <i>St Johns</i> |
| WO1 J Jones | <i>Sedbergh</i> |
| Lt Col VF McLean | <i>Ampleforth</i> |
| Maj SJ Pattinson | <i>Co-opted</i> |
| Maj AR Penfold | <i>Tonbridge</i> |
| Lt JWR Postle | <i>Epsom</i> |
| Mr O Shepherd | <i>CCF Association</i> |
| Capt CA Stewart | <i>Dollar Academy</i> |
| Brig JR Smales | <i>Chairman CCRS</i> |
| Lt Col NS Suffield-Jones | <i>Athelings</i> |
| Capt NE Topham | <i>Oratory</i> |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| Maj SB Fraser | <i>Secretary</i> |

Pistol and Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Mr C Murton | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr C Farr | |
| Mr N Jones | |
| Mr J Robinson | |
| Mr B Thomas | |
| Mr P Watts | |

Teams Finance Committee

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wg Cdr CJ Hockley | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr PN Hinchliffe | |
| Mr RM Hodgins | |
| Mr JDI Hossack | |
| Mr RCT Jeens | |
| Mr JWE Lewis | |
| Dr P Monaghan | |
| Miss J Rankin | |
| Mr I Shirra-Gibb | |
| Mr RWH Stafford | <i>Secretary</i> |
| Mr MK Townsend | |
| Mr CN Tremlett | |
| Mr JA Watson | |
| Mr CP Weeden | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>NRA Secretary General</i> |
| Maj MG Farnan | <i>NSC Director of Shooting</i> |

Membership Committee

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Mr JA Watson | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Mr CD Law | <i>Regional - Greater London & SE</i> |
| Prof AR Horrocks | |
| Mr JM Kynoch | |
| Mrs KD Robertson | |
| <i>Co-opted members</i> | |
| Mr GV Barnard | <i>Regional - East Midlands</i> |
| Mrs ID Bennett | <i>Regional - West Midlands</i> |
| Mr C Murton | |
| Miss J Rankin | |
| <i>In attendance</i> | |
| All Regional Representatives | |
| Mrs HL Webb | <i>Membership Secretary</i> |
| Mr GWJ Alger | <i>Secretary</i> |

NB The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Council and the Treasurer are all ex-officio members of all committees of the General Council.

THE TWO NEW VICE-CHAIRMEN

Julian Hartwell

Vice-Chairman of the Council (Board of Trustees)

Julian is a solicitor with over 25 years experience. He specialises in commercial property matters and has knowledge of a variety of related fields including company law and charities. Until earlier this year he was a partner with Godwins in Winchester where, as one of the owners of the firm, he gained experience in running a business with all the management issues that arise. He is now working part-time for Kingfisher Housing Association in Basingstoke where he is doing the legal side of their property acquisition work. Kingfisher is a charity so, with his NRA commitments, he is now working for much of his time in the charitable sector.



Since his co-option to the Council just over two years ago Julian has assisted with a number of projects including the preparation of the Services Agreement under which National Shooting Centre Limited undertakes various management functions on behalf of the NRA.

As newly elected Vice-Chairman of the Council, Julian sees his main task as an enabling one: he wants to see the Council run as effectively as possible so that the decision making process is forward looking, well informed and relevant to the needs of all target shooting disciplines.

Julian is a life member of the NRA and has been shooting target rifle at club level since his school days at Aldro and Bradfield. Much of his shooting is now with Hampshire Rifle Association.

Richard Horrocks

Vice-Chairman of General Council

My main role as Vice-Chairman of General Council is to provide the Chairman with a sounding board for issues discussed at Council level in the first instance and subsequently at General Council. As a non-trustee but an active regional TR shooter I feel that I am able to bring an objective regional perspective to those issues that will impact on target shooters generally irrespective of discipline. Furthermore, because of my non-NRA activities I understand many of the challenges posed by regional and national clubs and the role that NRA has to play in assuring their continued well-being. Not least in these respects is the challenge to convince members of affiliated clubs to become full individual NRA members and thus enable them to influence the future of target shooting as well as add weight to the overall membership and stature of the NRA.



Relevant experience that will assist me in this role includes my being President of both a small rifle club (Manchester Rifle Club) and the much larger English Twenty Club. In addition I shoot certain non-TR disciplines (post-1997 muzzle-loading and "Long Arm" pistol shooting) with a medium-sized NRA-affiliated club (Blackburn Rifle & Pistol Club).



...And I only
placed the order
5 minutes ago...

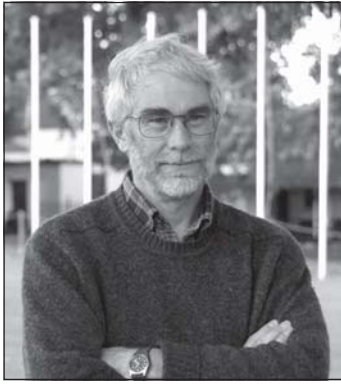
Get the right team behind you with one simple call or email. If you need effective and efficient project management, Tim Webster can organise the lot.

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

Tel: 01379 741174 Web: www.twp-designs.co.uk

**TWP
DESIGNS**

NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL



Chairman of the Shooting Committee Paul Monaghan (55)

I started shooting rather late in life – about 18 years ago. I became deeply involved with pistol shooting and in the year before the handgun ban, I achieved my ambition and won the National Long Range Pistol Championship in both Revolver and Free Pistol classes. I was the ILRPSA Chairman for a number of years.

After 1997, Match Rifle seemed a suitable new outlet for my competitive nature and since 1998 I have been proud to represent England in the Elcho team on a number of occasions and was a member of the winning Woomera team in Australia in 2004. However, in addition to Match Rifle, F Class shooting appeared on the scene and appealed greatly. This has evolved rapidly into a highly competitive sport and I have been fortunate to represent England in the F Class International Match and captained the GB F Class Goodwill and Official teams to South Africa in 2002 and to Canada (to the first F Class World Championships) in 2003. I am currently the ICFRA F Class Committee Chairman.

I feel it is important to try to put something back into a sport that gives me so much pleasure. I was asked to be the F Class representative on the Shooting Committee in 2001 and knowing little about the NRA, I agreed! I served on the Shooting Committee with both Colin O'Brien and John Kynoch as Chairmen; when Colin sadly died earlier this year I was asked to take on the position of Chairman. I see the Shooting Committee as a vital link between the shooters and the NRA organisation. I see my role as helping to ensure all disciplines are equally represented and that the NRA has a balanced view of the wide range of shooting currently undertaken. The restructuring of the NRA has given the organisation the opportunity to get out into the regions and really become a National body supporting all shooters and the Shooting Committee has a clear role to play in this development. The Shooting Committee relies upon a large number of Discipline Representatives and I should like to acknowledge the time and commitment they give to their role.

Chairman of the Membership Committee James Watson (31)

I have served on General Council for two years. During this period, I was co-opted onto the Membership Committee and took on the specific project to improve the NRA's website. The website is an increasingly popular method of passing information to members and provides significant benefits to delivering timely and relevant information. Following on from this successful project, I have also acted as consultant to the Membership Department with the development of a new membership database to increase efficiency and allow better use of the information supplied to us by members.



As Chairman of the Membership Committee I am responsible for steering the Committee to help improve membership services and produce a strategy that will allow the organisation to grow in numbers. With an increased membership base, we will then have more capital to invest in facilities to benefit members throughout the country. I believe that marketing will play an increasingly important role in our survival - we have all too often kept quiet and not rallied to our own defence and I think we owe it to our members to be more active in this area. I believe that everyone who shoots should be a member of the governing body; we will only have a future for our sport if we have a governing body to lead it.

Whilst we can grow our membership through existing club members, the future of any sport relies on bringing new youngsters into the organisation. I have had, and continue to have good connections with the cadet shooting organisations (I have coached cadets 12 of the 15 years since I myself left school) and am very aware of the issues facing young people who want to continue shooting after they leave cadet organisations. I played a part in the establishment of regular Under 25 team tours and continue to assist.

My primary discipline is TR (now shooting at GB team level) and I shot SR whilst in the OTC at university. Additionally, I shoot shotgun on a regular basis. I started shooting at Uppingham School and was Captain of the Athelings in 1993. Following a Masters degree in Civil Engineering I worked for a software company for four and a half years in Chicago where my job involved software sales, analysing businesses to find improvements and improve return on investment, as well as providing technical management.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mary Boston

My shooting career started at Gresham's School and continued at Edinburgh University. I was a 1996 Atheling, shot regularly for the Under 25s and have toured three times with Great Britain. Having started shooting in East Anglia and continued in Scotland, I appreciate the importance of regional ranges and am eager to see these facilities nurtured and extended, as it is vital to the future of our sport that it remains truly national. Additionally, although I am a committed TR shot, I recognise that this is a multi-disciplinary sport and as such it is important to raise awareness of the different shooting opportunities available to newcomers.



For the present time I feel my strength lies in developing opportunities for younger shooters. Having been involved in the creation of the present TR Under 25 structure, I sat for three years on the Team Finance Committee and have recently taken on the co-administration of the Young Shooters' Fund. I am keen to ease the jump from school and cadet shooting to adult civilian shooting. To this end, I see improving the accessibility and affordability of good quality kit, coaching and range time to be of the utmost importance.

I am very grateful to those who voted for me in the recent election, and am very much looking forward to being able to put something back into a sport that has given me so much.

Jacqui Rankin

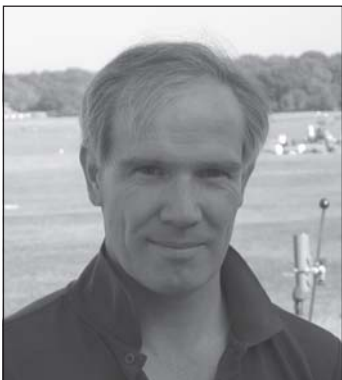
Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the recent election. I will endeavour to use my time on the NRA General Council prudently. For the last six years I have been involved with the GB Under 25 movement and held the post of Captain in 2004. During this time, the U25 organisation has grown significantly and I have been involved in establishing the fundamental infrastructure for Under 25 shooting. I intend to use my appointment to help maintain the growth of the sport through its younger participants and I have recently been asked to help manage the Youth Shooting Fund to ensure the funds are distributed to the appropriate applicants. Coming from Scotland, where the sport is rapidly declining, I am aware of the difficulties faced by regional shooting and I hope to help the NRA in their quest to make themselves a true *National* body for the sport by developing regional events around Britain. I have been co-opted onto the Membership Committee and am also on the Team Finance Committee so it looks like I have plenty to keep myself busy in the coming months!

I started shooting in 1992 at Dollar Academy and was their first Atheling in 1997. I continued at Edinburgh University, where I studied for my degree in Chemistry and received a Full Blue and Colours for fullbore shooting. I have toured with the Under 25s to the Channel Islands, South Africa and Canada and gained my first full GB cap when I toured Australia this year.



Iain Robertson

Flight Lieutenant Iain Robertson (49) is a helicopter pilot specialising in evaluation of new systems for the UK Search and Rescue Service. He has been shooting Target Rifle since 1979, has represented the Royal Air Force and Scotland at home and overseas, and toured with Great Britain to Canada in 2002 and Africa in 2004. He has been known to dabble in Match Rifle, and until the 1997 ban also shot .22" pistol just for fun. He was Secretary of the RAF Target Rifle Club for 10 years up to 2000 and continues to serve on the Club Committee. Iain was co-opted to General Council last year to enable him to take up a place on the Disciplinary Body, but sought election this year to establish the legitimacy for full participation. He supports the initiatives to modernise and expand the Association. Iain believes in participation as the key to the Association's future; as well as serving on the Disciplinary Body and the Shooting Committee, he is a regular if reluctant contributor to the Journal, has offered to assist in analysis of the Dunblane files being released under freedom of information laws, and is heavily involved in NSC's plans to provide electronic targets at Bisley.





Mik Maksimovic

I have shot since 1977, starting at school and getting back into competitive shooting after a stint in the Army. I have coached Stamford School for the past ten years and have coached on numerous junior coaching courses. I have shot F Class competitively for the past five years and my highest point was being selected to captain Great Britain in this years F Class World Championships.

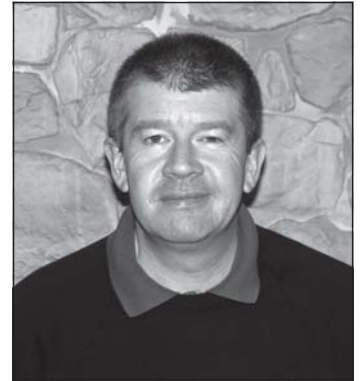
I feel that I can bring a Schools' point of view to General Council, from the junior's level. I have watched closely what happens at Bisley and I feel that I can assist in a constructive manner. I am also heavily involved with F Class, which is a hugely growing sport around the world, and I have many ideas which I believe would be good to both the NRA and its members. I believe in doing our utmost to promote shooting and help to keep it going.

Charles Murton

Discipline Representative - Gallery Rifle and Pistol

My early shooting experience was with .22" rifle and pistol; I later added Police, Service and Practical Pistol. Following the ban I moved to Gallery Rifles which I have been shooting regularly ever since.

I have been a shooter for over 20 years; I am an experienced RCO and have competed at all levels from club to national as well as having considerable experience of running a club. In 2001 I joined the Phoenix Committee as Chief of Stats, also serving as Secretary for one year and Chairman for another. I have introduced both squadding and scoring software which is now used for all NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meetings. There has been considerable development of Gallery Rifle and Pistol over the past few years but there is still plenty of untapped potential. Given my background and experience, I believe I can provide the right representation on General Council to move our sport forward.



Alex Cargill Thompson

Discipline Representative - Match Rifle

Alex started shooting at school, and was an Atheling in 1987. Having first tried supine (back-position) match rifle at university in 1988, he took it up properly the following year and has concentrated on this discipline ever since.

He is keen to ensure that MR maintains its unique combination of tradition and cutting-edge experimentation, and to that end loads his own ammunition and was an early convert to shooting supine with a telescopic sight (rather than antique Galilean sights). In addition, he is particularly keen to see more younger shooters compete at MR, and is a Trustee of the Lovell and Green Trust, which aims to encourage and support under 25 MR shooting. He was Treasurer of the GB MR Team to Australia in 2004, MR Vice-Captain of the North London Rifle Club (2000-2002), and has been Hon Secretary of the English Eight Club since 2000.

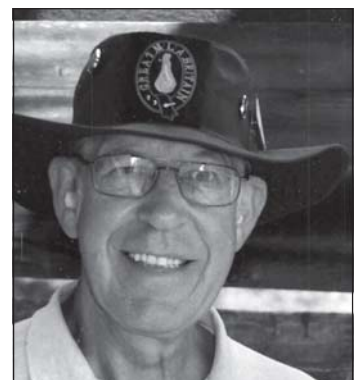
David Spittles

Discipline Representative - Muzzle Loading

I am 64 years of age and retired. I completed my apprenticeship as an instrument maker and worked in the Sales and Service departments selling industrial instruments worldwide.

I have held a FAC since 1983. I joined the Vintage Arms Association in 1983 and the Muzzle Loaders of Great Britain in 1988. I am a predominantly a pistol shooter but have competed with .303, .451 and .557 rifles. I was selected for the MLAGB International Pistol Team in 1992 and have competed each year since then. The highlight of my shooting career was winning the European Championships for original flintlock pistol in Finland in 2003 with a new British record. I became the MLAGB Pistol Secretary in 2001 and organise all their national pistol competitions. At the AGM in 2005 I was appointed as a Director of the MLAGB. I have assisted as a Range Officer at the South London and Imperial Historical Meetings since 1985 and the Trafalgar Meetings since 1995.

I believe that there should be more co-operation between organisations to the benefit of all shooters.



Steve East

Regional Representative – Southern Region



Steve started shooting in the Air Cadets at the age of 13 and has been involved in shooting ever since. On joining the Royal Air Force, a long career in service shooting started, eventually leading to being selected to represent the RAF in both Service Rifle and Service Pistol. Later taking up Target Rifle he was a regular member of the RAF team until his retirement from the RAF in 2005. He has been a member of overseas teams to South Africa and the USA and was on the 2004 NRA Team to the Channel Islands.

A long-standing member of the Oxfordshire Rifle Association he became County Captain in 2002 and was elected to the County Executive Committee in 2003. A qualified RCO and Club Coach he is heavily involved at County level and has experience of most shooting disciplines. This he feels enables him to understand the needs of the shooter be it Target Rifle, Gallery Rifle, Classic Arms or any other discipline.

By taking up the role of Regional Representative Steve is able to put something back into a sport that he has enjoyed for so long.

John Warburton

Regional Representative - Yorkshire & Humberside Region

Aged 43, John works in marketing in the technology sector. He started shooting at Sedbergh School in 1975 and first shot at Bisley in July 1976. In the intervening years he has shot for club, county and country both in the UK and abroad. Much of his formative shooting was done on ranges in the North of England whilst at University in Liverpool, and in particular at Altcar and Huddersfield both of which, in their own ways, are superb ranges and evidence that shooting thrives beyond Bisley. Although primarily a fullbore rifle shot John has also shot small-bore and clays, and is keen to try out 300m shooting having used the facilities at Bisley.

John is not a committee man and does not boast a long list of posts held in clubs and associations, however as a new member of General Council he is keen to represent the interests of all shooters, of all disciplines, in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. It is particularly important that the NRA caters for all its members and is not seen as just representative of the elite. An important part of this is to create strong and vibrant regional shooting.

John hopes to be able to use his experience in marketing to help the NRA provide the right product at the right price and importantly at the right place in the future. He is a supporter of the use of technology, where appropriate, and is eager to see the development of electronic targetry, which is already successfully used by Huddersfield RC, at Bisley and other ranges in the regions.



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 OLD CODGERS – JERSEY 2005

by David Cole (otherwise known as Captain Codger)

During last year's Imperial Meeting, a discussion was held at one of the proverbial Bisley Parties about the World Veterans match now being held every four years rather than every two. Two GB Veterans and a Jersey competitor came up with the idea of having a Goodwill Veterans Team going to Jersey in 2005 to take part in the Open Meeting followed by a team match against Jersey on the final Sunday morning.

Following word of mouth, we soon had Veterans who indicated their wish to join in the Goodwill Tour. This resulted in a team of twelve accompanied by eight ladies, complete with cheque cards.

Liaising with Jersey, an invitation for the team match was quickly forthcoming. At this stage it was felt that it should be put on a more formal basis with a Captain, Vice Captain and Adjutant. The title for the team of "Old Codgers" just appeared although it was probably the Captain's fault. Naturally the phrase "Old Codger" did not apply to the ladies.

Most of us travelled by fast ferry and we made a good deal with a Jersey travel company which resulted in substantial discounts for a block booking. One of the original team had to drop out, due to family reasons, but John Tuffen stepped in to fill the slot.

The journey from Poole to Jersey was best described as awful. It would take many pages fully to cover it. It is probably sufficient to say that we should have arrived at the hotel in Jersey in time for dinner; we had not expected to arrive in time for breakfast the following day.

A reception was held at the JRA Clubhouse on Tuesday and an early start was made on Wednesday morning for the initial competitions in the Jersey Open, although rain delayed things slightly. Two shoots at Les Landes for 900 and 1000 yards proved challenging.

Taking our turn in the butts we had one message five on target 4 which required clarifying. A message was passed back to the firing point advising them that the challenge was not upheld and the score was as signalled. The firing point were also advised that the marker on target 4 was the NRA Chairman, John Jackman. Well done John and we assume that the message "Thank the Marker" was duly passed.

The Old Codgers did not disgrace themselves on the prize lists. On the individual front Michael Black had two tie shoots, Dick Horrocks and David Cole were also involved in tie shoots although the best we could do was second in these. In the Grand, Dick Horrocks came second and Michael Black third - well done to you both.

On the team front we shot against a Jersey team of all ages. Their score, we understand was two points short of their record for a Queens II course of fire; losing only two points at 500 yards, they finished with 1188. The Old Codgers made 1166, with Michael Black scoring 150 - well done again Michael.

During all this shooting the ladies made good use of the Jersey shops and six of them went to St Malo for the day. We gather the return journey was a bit rough.

We had the pleasure of two further receptions, thank you Sue and Andrew, and Mick and his wife. Both receptions were greatly appreciated. For a few days at the end of the week, Glynn Alger, NRA Secretary General, joined us to see how things were done in Jersey and for a general chat on shooting.

On the Sunday Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire came to see the UK Cadets and the Jersey Cadets compete against each other. The UK Cadets won and suitable presentations were made. The Old Codgers presented a limited edition copy of Dick Britton's drawing of a lion, entitled 'Veteran' to the JRA.

Sunday evening saw us having a joint dinner which was very enjoyable and sociable; a big thank you to Sarah for her hard work in making the arrangements. John Saunders had arranged some coasters to be produced based on the logo for the 2003 Veterans Team which would have suited Andrew Tucker's sense of humour. These were handed out as individual mementoes.

The team did not disgrace themselves and worked together in an excellent manner. The ladies seemed to enjoy themselves and were quite happy to go their own way and leave the Old Codgers to the shooting. Thank you team and ladies for a great trip.



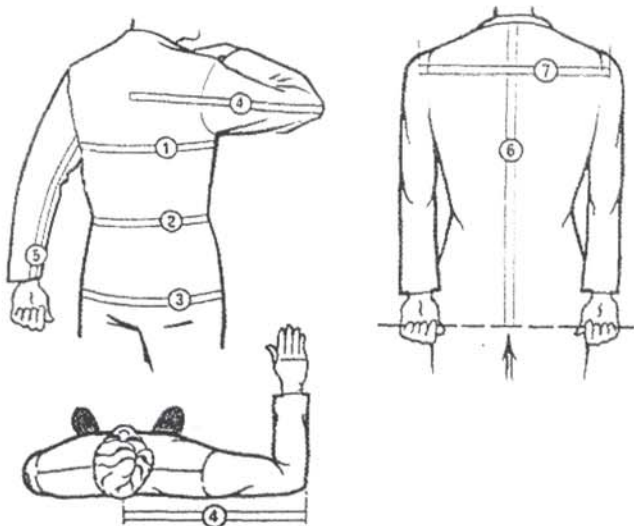
The Old Codgers.

(Photo: David Cole)

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

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2005

by Jonathan Holmes

Captain

Reg Roberts GB, England and Sussex

Vice-Captain

Nigel Ball GB, England and Norfolk

Adjutant

Kip Morton GB, England and Hampshire

Coaches

Rich Stewart England and Norfolk

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

Shooters

Mary Boston GB, England and Lincolnshire

Nick Brasier GB, England and London

Jon Cload GB, England and Sussex

Ed Compton Sussex

Dave Dyson GB, England and Yorkshire

Peter Holden GB, England and Norfolk

Jon Holmes GB, England and
Northumberland

Andy Luckman GB, England and Somerset

David Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Erica McMullan GB, Ireland and Ulster

Hamish Pollock England and Hampshire

John Pugsley GB, England and Devon

Jacqui Rankin Scotland and East of Scotland

Steve Thomas GB, England and Hertfordshire

Jeremy Thompson GB, England and Hertfordshire

It Starts . . .

The Surrey to weigh in. Cautionary tales of the shoes of P Patel, as would give Ms I Marcos pause for thought. The Vice did not wish to be reminded. As a neat and efficient packer, he remains genuinely troubled by those who are not. Few room mates (present or past) meet his standards. Some bags were packed in advance. Some were not. From the Highlands of London the Scots came. From the Lowlands of London the Irish came. From the North, the West, the South West, and the True North they came. Even from Australia one came.

In the Dining Room of the Surrey, picture the scene. Scattered around, bags, boxes, cases, tape, inner tubes, yellow raffia. In the centre Peltor's finest hearing aids (a kind and generous donation, thank you very much). Around that pile a gaggle of squabbling people perplexed as to which model or colour they had requested. A scene from perhaps Dante's Fifth Ring ensued.

Herr Baggage Meister, usually a mild mannered man with a calm and relaxed bedside manner, assumed a different form. Armed with bathroom scales stolen from a niece's dolls house, a TWP pencil, and a Weather Writer, he had been spurred on by seasoned travellers with tales of the cruelty of airline staff. He had been egged on by the Treasurer with tales of the charges levied. Perhaps it was the combination, or perhaps it was the 8" Meat Feast

with extra chillis, but in the hubbub he changed. There rose a red eyed creature of awful countenance, snarling and snapping at the would-be travellers. Appalled supplicants uttered strange incantations in an effort to placate him. To a plainsong of "remember the 5kg of ammunition" bags were individually offered up. Sacrifices of kit were demanded. These having been received well in some cases, and with a hideous cry in others, the night wore on.

Slimmer bags were packed. Many were re-packed. Some were re-re-packed.

Saturday

7am in the Surrey. A surprising number of the team attended (half an hour before official rendezvous). Their mission, to re-insert many of those items that had been deemed unnecessary the night before.

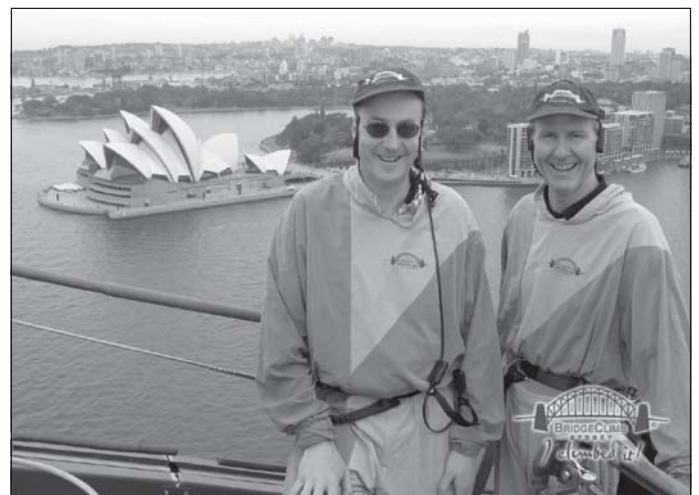
9am at Heathrow. Tick followed tock followed tick followed tock followed tick followed tock. Waiting. For the perfect moment.

Eventually, and duly deprived of our shopping opportunities, HMCE's finest emerge from their lairs playing dumb, and dumber. What is a serial number? What is a FAC? What should we do? Where should we look at, up, or into, on a rifle? Should we unpack and count each round?

Noon at Heathrow. From ants nest to peace. From departure gate to Air Malaysia Business Class. Strong supporters of GB teams in the past, Air Malaysia have been no exception for this one. I had requested extra leg room. This proved unnecessary, although the request was honoured. I suspect an Oriental jester. Fifteen feet. Honest. I paced it out. Herr Baggage Meister could be seen practicing his quaffing technique. So between rounds of hot towels, the team played the flutes.

Monday

The Manly Ferry gives a fantastic view of Sydney. It's not a patch on the one from the top of The Bridge though. See the Blue Mountains. See the ocean. See the boats.



Yes, gravity does still work here - Jon and Steve see the sights.

See the other bridge (does it blink? swing? or was it built by Stevenson?) See the Olympic stadium (memorable for Jonny W's efforts). Comfortingly each piece of steel in the bridge bears the legend "Dorman Long Middlesbrough". Long before Ikea there were flatpacks. Bet the instructions were better too. Joe the guide claims 6 million rivets, with only 10,000 dropped during construction. Such accounting! Worryingly the souvenir shop is selling rivets. Even more worryingly Lucky bought one. Is this an Australian form of Jenga?

Other interesting facts learned. How Didgeridoos are made: by termites. How the mouthpieces are formed: with beeswax. The best eucalyptus varieties: ironrod and woollybutt. The best way to blow a note: blow a raspberry into it. The easiest didges to play: D#. A lament followed as we left the shop unencumbered.

Tuesday

Sydney today: the destination of choice for the serious, and indeed the serial shoppers. The larger gentlemen moved down George St with single minded devotion. Offers to the left of them, bargains to the right of them. Nothing distracted their focus on boots, stout trousers, oilskin coats and lumberjack shirts offered by RM Williams. Not even a gaggle of girls blessed with extraordinary legs, and dressed in the sort of nurses' uniform that has never graced an NHS hospital, busily promoting a new television series. Perhaps the doc has been overdoing the bromide, or perhaps it's "the change". Once their destination was reached they settled amiably enough to grazing the shelves of stock. Mighty intellects were put to dividing by two and deducting "a bit", for an approximate sterling price. Discussion limited to the pros and cons of this colour or that fabric. We left them to it.

Wednesday

Dawned bright and fair. Bankers, Honorary Bankers, and a Wildebeest went to Palm Beach golf course for some gardening. Serious talking down of abilities, was rather offset by a mighty first tee shot (200 yards or I'm a vegetarian), and because the line was a tad wayward, square to the bonnet of a passing BMW. Name that golfer!

Although we had noticed and indeed commented frequently upon the vistas, and the passing of boats, parrots and seaplanes, we had not noticed the Captain and the Plumber hunting fish. To be fair they had not noticed us either. On return fishy tales were told. The plumber says he fought a fish for hours. I'm not sure why, they are usually unassuming creatures, unlikely to give offence. But the prized pilchard retaliated. It spent Wednesday night in a mini bar fridge. Thursday in the boot of a rental car, and Friday in a mini bar fridge again. Saturday saw strong language from the roomies.

The team repaired to the Royal Motor Yacht Club. Dinner courtesy of the long suffering senior Robertses, Lysle and Pammy. Patient and kind, a treat to meet them and their friends. Fantastic food (have I said that yet?) The searcher after something to accompany his Wynns

Coonewarra Shiraz would struggle to beat the fresh Tortellini, stuffed with prawns and scallops, and liberally topped with parmesan shavings. The floating gin palace brigade certainly know how to look after the inner mariner.

Thursday

Sydney at 3.30am is dark. The wildlife sleeps, as do the Luckmans. Others are busy, cleaning themselves, and attempting to pack new purchases into their existing luggage. Luckmans snore. It is about this time that the true qualities of Herr Baggage Meister could be observed. Unfazed by weight issues, due to extensive practice with Cload's suitcase. Untroubled by lack of sleep, due to long nights in the company of nurses. Untroubled by bad language, due to repeated encounters with pregnant women. What poise. What calm. What three dimensional cognitive skills.

Suitably briefed on routes, and suitably equipped with maps and directions we departed in convoy. At least that was the plan. Sadly the bankers jumped the lights without noticing. That was the end of that convoy. As dawn got going some time later on the Pacific Highway, the speed cameras lit up. I say that because they were plainly working from two hours north of Sydney and we didn't seem to be going any faster than we had before.

Time for a proper breakfast. Time for Bulahdelah. A moment that this town has been building to for a little while. I say a town, and so would you if you had lived in a village as small as mine. However you should not get a false impression and assume it was huge, or even big, or even quite large, or even moderately sized.

The portions being served in Wally's café were however another thing altogether. Wally was beside himself to have such international sporting superheroes to feed, and that requires quite a width. The Statistician, who has given up wheat, posed a poor challenge, since he was simply faced with a model of the Great Dividing Range constructed out of bacon, sausage and scrambled egg. It took him nearly as long to get around it as the GDR took the early settlers. Not their escaping cattle though, they beat them by many years. Moving north in a more stately manner, the observant were able to spot enormous eagles, and splendid scenery. Others slept.

Friday

Early morning on the Port Macquaire range. Founded 15 September 1900, and home to the Hastings Valley Civilian Riflemen. Also home to several hundred Rainbow Lorikeets; green on their backs and red under their wings. The range would provide an excellent opportunity to flight parrots. Perhaps 7 shot? Whilst we cannot discern any difference between the sexes, they clearly fly in pairs. Presumably therefore only a "left and right" would be appropriate. Alternatively one can just sit and admire the aerobatic displays put on regularly whenever they are spooked.

The kangaroos seem to favour the clover on the 1000 yards firing point and retiring area immediately behind

it. We haven't caught one there yet, but fresh evidence of their presence is all around. On arrival in the morning they gazed dolefully at us from the road to the butts, at about the 400 yards point, before bounding off. Certain team members were prepared to spend a sighter, but we have been assured that they are protected. Mind how you go there Skippy.

The team spent the day practising adjusting irises (front and rear) in difficult light. A low but very strong sunlight left plenty of heat in the day, although little as it set and rose.

Saturday

Another early morning start, that brought a fair bit of grumbling about the breakfast tea. Bankers and Fluffies compared it unfavourably to an elastoplast found in a swimming pool. Nasty. Investigations revealed that they had been drinking a brew called "Andronicus". This according to its packaging was a blend of Australian teas. No-one can of course remember exactly, but the majority favour the view that Titus A was less than pleasant, and met a sticky end. His links with the tea industry have however passed us all by.

Frost on the range. As a result few shorts are being worn, and several fleeces. This first shoot was an individual competition. All of a sudden our scopes and stands needed to be unpacked and put to use. This was the first experience for the majority of string shooting with scorers and check scorers all calling away at the different firers. Quite a different kettle of dory from Bisley style.

Port McQ was roamed after dark in search of a watering hole fit for Banker, Honorary Banker, Wildebeest, and Diarist. Luckily a profession that values the ability to eat dinners as a critical skill (and trains hard for it regularly) does mean that valuable life skills are acquired. We spotted the Trattatoria Café 66. Tautologous perhaps. Certainly both torts and tortes could be found. Or perhaps the proprietor feared one would presume that his premises were merely a polytunnel. The dining area into which we settled gratefully is an alleyway, roofed and walled with plastic sheeting and warmed by garlic bread and patio heaters. A combustible mixture. What drew us in, trusting souls and restaurant critics both?



Kippy and Skippy!

Well it wasn't the wine list because there was none. I fear that it was the charms of Port McQ's top waitress – Shaz. The Mitchelton Preece Sauvignon Blanc proved a hit. Great with grilled baby octopi, who were themselves excellent. Pity the little suckers got their revenge later.

Sunday

Using the bullets built by Stewart and Cload the entire team performed quite magnificently. Extraordinary scores. The knockers may mutter about the lack of wind, but there was always some, albeit courtesy of the Vice-Captain.

The team were all a little stunned by the day's shooting results. No-one can recall a target of six putting in a perfect score over this course of fire. No-one can recall a team of twelve putting in the score they did. Those who believe they know about these things believe this all amounted to a Record.

Monday

Baggage assembled at 4am. The remainder of the team followed.

It was some time up the Pacific Highway before dawn broke.

The rest of the day passed in something of a daze as the team having conquered jetlag now found itself suffering from Reggielag.

Check in at the Hotel Carindale, a rather soulless establishment located in a shopping mall. I have stayed in many strange places but I have never previously found an Irish Bar that shuts at 9pm.

Tuesday

An allotted day of Rest. The Diarist and the Senior Coach took in some culture in central Brisbane whilst waiting for the Adj to be ritually run around the houses by Brisbane Customs officers. Gaze upon Aboriginal art, and reflect on the fact that pointillism has been around a lot longer than various history of art students might realise. Although the Senior Coach was not too impressed, he did prefer it to the Modern Section, through which we passed at a gentle canter, pausing only to allow him to paddle in the water feature. This was a rather splendid pool equipped with hundreds of silver spheres that move around in the water flow. We suspect that the artist did not have in mind the title that we selected for his untitled opus. "All art is balls" of course.

Once the Adj was extracted from the warm and sticky embrace of Customs we visited the Lone Palm Koala Sanctuary. A Massed Band of Rainbow Lorikeets played. Wallabies snoozed. A Koala called Gandalf was duly hugged. (It is true – they do smell of air freshener, or at least the sort of smell with which air freshener is often associated.) Although we had been warned at inordinate length (by those who claimed to know about such things) that all of the koalas would be asleep, and that such a trip would be pointless, we were Undeterred. A Good Job too, for the little chaps were in fact full of beans. Granted one or two had wedged themselves into a forked branch and had snuggled down to catch some Zs, but

the rest were enthusiastically filling their faces and rushing around. Well all things are relative, and a koala at speed is an impressive sight.

Off then to a team dinner at the Pinkenba Hotel. Pinkenba is a light industrial area with no evident residential development anywhere nearby. Our hosts were Toshiba Australia, and the establishment's owners were Reggie's brother Angus and his colleague Steve. A Fantastic Bash Followed. Jolly Well Done, and Thank You Very Much.

The two certainly do know how to run a team dinner. Passing lorries had been separated from their finest seafood. Fatted calves had been selected and separated from their hindquarters. Grapes had been ruthlessly separated from their vines, and crushed, and handed to Messrs Penfolds. All for us. If word gets out about this place I expect the light industrial units will be being bulldozed at top speed in favour of residential units, so that customers can live close by.

You may be interested to know that the team sampled oysters in depth. Andy Luckman showed a remarkable and hitherto unsuspected capacity. We all ran out of fingers and toes trying to keep track. Extremely worrying for those sharing a room with him.

Then it was into the Moreton Bay Bugs. These (for those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting them) are a rather heavyweight crayfish, and it was felt that they needed a Big Ozzie Chardonnay to carry them off. The Barossa Reserve did the job nicely. So picture the scene if you will. An Australian Valhalla? The appearances, and reappearances of platters of shellfish and molluscs being met with roars of approval from the assembled team. That these should coincide with the appearances and reappearances of Christina our waitress was of course entirely coincidental.

The steaks would have comfortably upholstered a medium sized hippo. They also had the good fortune to be washed down with the Kalimna Bin 28. The suggestion that the team should return to Pinkenba was passed before dessert, without opposition, or even debate.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

These were all shooting days. It became apparent during these four days that someone had been teasing the Australians. Someone had told them that the standard RPA adjustable ladder foresight is in fact a perfidious device of Albion. A device for the tuning of barrels no less. Naughty.

It was very indecisively windy and we were trying to master string shooting. Well it was indecisively windy. Not in the sense of the gentle zephyr indecisiveness of the 8.30am detail of George's 1, but in the "Am I from the left or from the right, and am I strong, or am I particularly strong at this precise moment?"

The Vice when in drink will admit to having been blown clean off the target not once, but twice. That there were reliable eye-witnesses to the locations of his bullet strikes I am sure made no difference to his decision to "cop a

plea" whatsoever. Other Famous Names fared similarly in the sense that not all of their fired rounds were recorded by Cathy and Ray the Butt Officers as striking the target, although these firers had the comfort of a lack of witnesses and could therefore be found muttering darkly about "Dark Forces". It is difficult however to see what interest either Saruman or Lord Voldemort would have in rifle shooting.

Readers will be pleased to know that your Diarist was Spared. His secret? Well no secret really. He remembered the wise words of a certain fitter armourer (Captain of the Retired Members Section of his local club) and so duly shot with a left wind call when the wind was trying to get behind his left eye, and a right wind call when it was pummelling his right, although as usual this led to a certain blurring of the vision, and perhaps rather fewer central bulls eyes than the master would have managed, or wished. Smug? Not I.

The Management as was to be expected had requested accurate plot sheets of all shoots, complete with both wind and elevation graphs. This posed something of a crisis of conscience for some, since the advice from those few kind hearted Australians who were prepared to share their knowledge of the now long out of print "How to Succeed At String Shooting" by Sir Les Patterson, was that this was a request to be Ignored. It is perhaps fitting that 2005 is an anniversary of Nelson and his works. Sadly the Management do not appear to be historians, humorists, or artists, and did not consider that all of the team were entirely reliable witnesses as to what had occurred during their own shoots. You can be sure that many beautiful Works of Art were lovingly prepared and submitted, only to be scorned.

Sunday

Today saw the Kaltenburg Cup and the Queen's Prize Third Stage. Brisk winds again fishtailing from the front took many rather further into the white than they had expected. No rain though, so something to be thankful for.

Four of the team had to battle for the Kaltenburg Cup, shot Bisley style in pairs. Much excitement that this would give an edge to our four in the last thirty. And so, indeed, it proved. The Luckies did what they do best. Second and fourth to David and Andy respectively, with Pete Holden on sixth and Rich Stewart on tenth.

Showing the squad the way to go and highest placed Brit in the Queens was Ed Welford of the U25 team in eleventh place. Not far behind, at 18th, our very own horse doctor, John Pugsley.

As to the Grand, scores in the Kaltenburg, Presidents, and Queens count for the top 30. So Andy pulled up to sixth, David to 14th, Pete Holden to 16th, and his room mate, Richard Stewart to 18th.

Monday

A full dress rehearsal was called for the Big Match. The Australians, who find shooting in the rain unpleasant, duly cancelled shooting, and thus there was that day to be no competition for places in the team, and no dress



"Did someone say shopping?"



"Did someone say lunch?"



Shooting at Port Macquarie.



The stunning local wildlife.



Shooting at Brisbane.



Andy Luckman "Has anyone got a calculator?"



A real gentleman would offer to carry a lady's kit!



"I'm doing my best!"



"It's done it's worst!"
(All photos: GB Team to Australia)

rehearsal. Lest it be suggested that there was some Australian gamesmanship at work here, please bear in mind three things.

Firstly the targets are on cardboard. Cheap and ecologically sound, and weatherproof in a country suffering a twenty five year drought. Emulsion paint is applied against the remote chance of rain in order to provide some waterproofing, but the practically minded reader will have spotted that the effect is lost when **holes** are put into them. (The patches only go onto the front remember.) The targets then absorb water, and sooner or later will fall apart to mush, particularly when struck repeatedly in a similar place.

Secondly various Hollywood producers would be extremely proud to try to film rain like this. No fire hoses necessary. Whilst at 300 yards visibility of a sort of the aiming mark was possible, none was possible even of the white targets at long range.

Thirdly none of the Australians wanted to get their kit wet, and most never got out of their cars.

Tuesday

I would have liked to say that the skies shone blue and clear. Instead the rain continued on and off overnight, and well into the morning. The sun then emerged, and those on the range at least got 300, 600, and 900 shot before it returned.

The team was finalised that night to the sound of thunder, and a deluge.

Would-be Noahs wondered where they could find some carpentry tools in a hurry, and just how well eucalyptus floated. No time for sea trials though.

Wednesday

The rain persisted overnight, and again into the morning.

My view of the match was a little restricted.

Whilst 300 yards was shot my boots filled with water.

One of the team hire cars had to be towed off the range by a tractor because it had become stuck in the mud that formed during the string.

Whilst 600 yards was shot I was able to wring my hat out twice, even though it was shielded with a hooded waterproof coat.

A large lake formed between the 800 yards and 900 yards firing points.

There were several cessations of fire during 600, 900 and 1000 yards at the demand of the range officer because he felt he could not see the targets.

So far as we are aware no firer, and no team captain, felt compelled to call for such a ceasefire.

There was a wholly inexplicable refusal to allow 1000 yards to be shot immediately after 900 yards, and an insistence that it could not be shot until the start time of 3.45pm that it had been given in the programme. Whose decision this was I do not know, but it was odd because (a) it was not then raining, and, (b) everyone knew it was going to get dark earlier than normal because of the

heavy cloud cover. (The light was in any event appallingly bad all day.) Brisbane is to all intents and purposes located in the tropics, and in these parts night doesn't hang around waiting for an invitation, but marches straight in and demands a drink. Sadly this decision left the match in an extremely vulnerable position because the time allotted for the 1000 yards shoot would have expired after nightfall. Thus it was that in the rapidly falling night the final shots of all the teams were fired.

Nevertheless. When all was said and done, thirty men and women shot in the most appalling conditions, and produced quite remarkable results.

We applaud Richard Stewart and Jon Cload, who together developed loads for each of us, and then set to and built the ammunition we used in the matches in Port Macquaire and in Brisbane. Reflect perhaps on this - two teams beat the record score that had previously been set by the third.

That Australia won you will by now know. You may also by now know the margin of victory in terms of V bulls. What you will not know is that the penultimate shot fired by GB had to be gauged out, on a soggy wet cardboard target, by the width of gnat's eyelash. I know because I was there, and I did it.

That we salute the Australians, it is right that you all should know. Those of us who saw those conditions know how well they shot to beat us. If a match is to be fought, then for someone to win it, someone else must lose it. Let us remember our Kipling.

Let the matches of our sport continue to be fought in good spirit. Let them be close.

And so our saga ends. We return. All older. Some perhaps a little wiser.

To all the many friends, hosts, characters, and acquaintances that we met; Thank You for the pleasure of your company. To all the chefs, and winemakers whose efforts we enjoyed: Thank You for the pleasure that you gave us. Remember that he who drinks Australian thinks Australian, at least as long as they do so.

Postscript from the Australian Captain Rick Scoones

Having dodged deluges at 300 and 1000 yards, resulting in more than an hour of delays, the match was eventually concluded under very difficult light conditions, against which anyone could have been excused for appealing. However, despite Australia having posted an imposing score, and with the light dropping rapidly, the Great Britain Team stuck with the task, seeking to beat us on merit rather than a technicality. For that reason, they deserve much recognition and appreciation for their sportsmanship and courage, having upheld the true traditions of long-range target shooting, despite the risks that such actions carried and which were ultimately realised. Further, following such a close finish and not having won, the entire GB Team must also be applauded for their spirit and manner in which they conducted themselves in defeat.

AUSTRALIA MATCH, 29 JUNE 2005, BELMONT RANGE

AUSTRALIA

Captain: Rick Scoones
Manager: Rex Wigney
Coaches: Greg Warrian (Main), Steve Negus, Gordon Duncan
Reserves: Gillian Webb-Enslin, Geoff Grosskruetz

| | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1000 | Total |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| Tim Berry | 50.04 | 50.07 | 50.06 | 50.05 | 200.22 |
| Col Bruce Scott | 50.08 | 49.05 | 50.05 | 50.07 | 199.25 |
| Dr Gray Robertson | 50.07 | 50.06 | 50.05 | 49.04 | 199.22 |
| Barry Schlam | 50.04 | 50.03 | 50.07 | 49.05 | 199.19 |
| Paul Salamon | 49.07 | 49.04 | 50.07 | 50.07 | 198.25 |
| Jim Bailey | 50.09 | 48.05 | 49.07 | 50.04 | 197.25 |
| Simon Wotherspoon | 50.08 | 50.05 | 49.09 | 48.01 | 197.23 |
| Frank Pinyon | 50.07 | 49.06 | 50.07 | 48.01 | 197.21 |
| Mark Buchanan | 50.06 | 50.06 | 49.04 | 48.01 | 197.17 |
| Gil Walker | 48.03 | 49.06 | 48.03 | 49.06 | 194.18 |
| | 497.63 | 494.53 | 495.6 | 491.41 | 1977.217 |

GREAT BRITAIN

Captain: Steve Thomas
Adjutant: Jacqui Rankin
Coaches: Martin Townsend (Main), Reg Roberts, Rich Stewart
Reserves: Ed Compton, Mary Boston

| | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1000 | Total |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Nigel Ball | 50.07 | 50.05 | 50.04 | 50.08 | 200.24 |
| Kip Morton | 50.07 | 49.04 | 50.04 | 50.03 | 199.18 |
| Peter Holden | 50.04 | 49.05 | 50.05 | 50.03 | 199.17 |
| Andy Luckman | 50.07 | 50.06 | 50.05 | 48.06 | 198.24 |
| Nick Brasier | 48.05 | 50.07 | 50.06 | 50.05 | 198.23 |
| David Luckman | 50.08 | 49.07 | 50.05 | 49.02 | 198.22 |
| Jon Cload | 50.05 | 50.07 | 48.03 | 50.04 | 198.19 |
| Dave Dyson | 50.05 | 49.05 | 50.05 | 49.03 | 198.18 |
| John Pugsley | 50.09 | 49.07 | 50.06 | 48.02 | 197.24 |
| Jeremy Thompson | 46.04 | 50.06 | 50.03 | 46.01 | 192.14 |
| | 494.61 | 495.59 | 498.46 | 490.37 | 1977.203 |

NEW ZEALAND

Captain: Kevin Win
Adjutant: Ray Vine
Coaches: Geoff Smith (Main), Glen Newman, Bevan Mehrstens
Reserves: Janine Legarth, Malcolm Dodson

| | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1000 | Total |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Rick Fincham | 50.03 | 50.05 | 50.05 | 50.03 | 200.16 |
| Ross Geange | 50.05 | 50.06 | 49.07 | 49.03 | 198.21 |
| Rob Johansen | 50.08 | 50.01 | 49.04 | 48.02 | 197.15 |
| Kim Williams | 50.04 | 50.07 | 48.04 | 47.03 | 195.18 |
| John Whiteman | 48.04 | 50.06 | 49.04 | 48.04 | 195.18 |
| John Snowden | 49.03 | 50.05 | 48.03 | 48.05 | 195.16 |
| Rex Chilcott | 49.04 | 49.05 | 46.04 | 49.04 | 193.17 |
| Iain Millar | 49.04 | 49.06 | 48.03 | 46.04 | 192.17 |
| Brent Vann | 47.01 | 49.04 | 48.02 | 48.03 | 192.10 |
| Owen Whiteman | 48.03 | 47.04 | 48.02 | 49.01 | 192.10 |
| | 490.39 | 494.49 | 483.38 | 482.32 | 1949.158 |



Finally some sun!



Brisbane Range.



The social side of string shooting.



Enjoying the "Sunshine State".



Jon and Ed get to grips with the Aussie scoring system.



"What's that Skippy? Fell down a mine you say . . ."



Dave prepares to leave under 25 shooting and go straight to the veterans squad.



Morale boosting during the team match.



"I didn't come all this way to get wet!" - Bruce 'soaking' up the sun.

(All photos: Under 25 Team)

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 25 RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2005

by Emma Nuttall

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Captain | Paul Wheeler |
| Vice-Captain | Dave Rose |
| Adjutant | Susie Kent |
| Shooters | Jen Charlton |
| | Ed Jeens |
| | Jon Kent |
| | Emma Nuttall |
| | Simon Shouler |
| | Ed Welford |
| | Rachel Wenham |
| | Mark Westmoquette |
| | Bruce Young |

Saturday 11 June

Saturday started bright and early for a relaxed session of packing and kit re-arranging. Well, all except Susie and Jon Kent who had a mad dash home to collect Jon's passport, whoops! There were only a few overweight bags, but after our care check-in didn't actually weigh everything. We cleared Customs eventually with no problems. A few albums and pairs of sunglasses later we were setting off on the long walk to the plane. Allegedly 1½ miles but then we were going to be sitting down for the next 30 hours, might as well get some exercise!

Sunday 12 June

Sunday came and passed in a haze. Most of the flight was spent in the dark and only about ten hours officially spent in Sunday. After two hours in Dubai came another excellent flight with over 500 channels of movies, music and games to choose from. We were spread to the four corners of the plane but as it was empty we soon shifted to make the best use of the 13 hours together.

Monday 13 June

We touched down at Sydney International airport at 6am. The Australian Customs officers were extremely efficient and thanks to Susie's preparations, we passed through in a little under 45 minutes. Shocking! It was all too good to be true though as there was a long wait for the hire cars. So we had more time to admire the, um, airport!

Once the rifles were safely stowed away at the Sydney International Shooting Centre we set off in our fabulous Postman Pat vehicles to our accommodation in the centre of Sydney. We found the Railway YHA with not too many dramas and were suitably impressed. The accommodation consisted of two bunk beds per room (oh brings back childhood memories) and a pool table - what more could you need?

We headed off to explore Sydney. We had a much-needed lunch, which was amusingly interrupted by a seagull which left a present on Jon Kent and also in Jen Charlton's drink. After lunch we visited the Aquarium where Emma Nuttall scared everyone by being so tired

that she fell asleep standing up; the only thing that woke her was Susie Kent telling her she had found Nemo! The Aquarium completed we headed back to our accommodation where some stayed up, some went to bed and some did both, namely Dave Rose who we found made a very good artist's canvas!

Tuesday 14 June

A day of essential tourism. After some souvenir hunting, we took the harbour taxi to the Opera House via the Sydney Harbour Bridge, well worth 12 dollars. With the Opera House and the Bridge as backdrop we lunched at a waterfront café where the salad bowl was a hollow loaf - edible crockery!

With the team reunited at lunch time ten of us took our seats for the wildest ride in Sydney. Oz jet boating was definitely the way forward, tail spins, wake riding and many other tricks and stunts; 45 minutes later and ten soaked under 25s were returned to the quayside.

Wednesday 15 June

Manley Beach was the venue for sunbathing and body boarding. Also chasing the surf were some of the GB team, namely Cload, Morton, Pollock and Luckman D (which made Susie Kent's day).

After lunch the team split with half going back to Sydney for more shopping and to go up the tower, with the remainder deciding to stay and soak up more sun. Jon and Susie Kent showed their brotherly-sisterly love with a sand fight and after burying Simon in the sand we reluctantly headed back to the Hostel.

That evening some watched the State of Origin Game while the rest went to the Australia Hotel for some crocodile and kangaroo pizza, followed by a few bars in the Kings Cross area.

Thursday 16 June

It was an early start for the drive to Hunters Valley. Ed Jeens entertained himself by taking pictures of jelly babies in various poses. A little shuteye on arrival prepared us for dinner at the Windmill Restaurant with some fantastic wines.

Friday 17 June

We started with a guided tour of a vineyard learning about different grapes and how wine was produced. However it all too soon became hard work with the first wine tasting at 10am at a cellar that specialised in sparkling wine. After lunch and a quick stop at the smelly cheese shop a few members of the team decided to go horse riding, while the wine tour continued.

Saturday 18 June

Up at daft o'clock and a lot of driving and seven hours later we arrived in Coffs Harbour. With not a lot to do in this sleepy town we played ball; we then lost the ball

under the building, Susie Kent found the ball, so we played more ball! There was also a spa in the complex and eight of us crammed into a five-man spa, needless to say, not much water stayed in.

A relaxing evening was spent round the barbie as everyone was tired, especially the drivers who were a bit jaded except Paul Wheeler and Mark Westmoquette who had their own club night going on in their car, and had been listening to pumping trance music for the last 600 kilometres.

Sunday 19 June

Arrival at the Belmont Shooting Centre saw us move our shooting kit into the shipping container that would be our home for the next week and a half (only joking we did actually stay in a hotel). We met with the extremely welcoming people at the NRAA, QRA and Q Store. The Aussies, especially Rex Wigney, made us feel most at home straight away.

After a quick look at the range we moved five minutes down the road to the Hotel Carindale. After checking in it looked like some of the boys would have to share a double bed. Luckily a clever bit of rearranging was done and all was well.

Monday 20 June

This was the first day of shooting. Arrival at the range was gloomy; it was **raining** in Queensland; proudly known as "The Sunshine State". We were assured that this was temporary and it would be sunny the rest of the time as rain was unusual for the time of year.

The shooting began with a one day short range competition. There was some good shooting, Mark Westmoquette being the star of the day with 200 ex 200 taking second place, narrowly missing out on Vs to Don Thompson. Ed Jeens also put in a valiant effort with 199 coming seventh on the day.

A dry out and chill out session back at the hotel saw us hook up with some of the GB team for Emma Nuttall's birthday. We had a sensational dinner at Vino's on the riverside in Brisbane - fantastic food and wine. This was followed by a search for an establishment that would let us in, as they don't seem to accept GB driving licences. Finally a bar was found and a good night ensued.

Tuesday 21 June

Today was the long range individual competition. More good shooting from all; Paul Wheeler took the medal for 700 yards, Bruce Young for 800 yards and Ed Jeens getting a second for 900 yards. Bruce Young ended up second on the day and Paul Wheeler fifth.

That evening was a Meet and Greet at the range complex, introductions all round and a fine feast courtesy of the NRAA and QRA.

Wednesday 22 June

The President's Match began today. Some good solid performances were put in from all team members, however we were all in the shadow of the Australians

who really do know what they are doing on home turf. Ed Jeens was unlucky to finish second to Reg Roberts by one V for the 700 yards medal.

Thursday 23 June

The second day of the President's was even more fun. An extremely difficult wind with sudden drop-offs and pickups like none of us had seen before. It seemed to be a case of close your eyes and hope for the best.

And then there was 1000 yards.

Nothing could have prepared anyone for this 1000 yards shoot. People were coming off the range giggling at how outrageous it all was. That said there was a lot of potential to drag yourself up the leader board with a solid 44 or 45. Simon topped the team finishing 16th overall in the President's.

Friday 24 June

The Queen's started; the biggest of the individual shoots over three days and ten ranges. First the short range distances; there were some steady scores with Jen on three off and Dave Rose, Susie and Ed Welford on four off. An extremely pleasant barbie in the evening at the Natives RC Clubhouse gave us the chance to socialise a bit more with the Aussies.

Saturday 26 June

The second day of the Queen's was a chance for some to redeem themselves from the day before and catch up some lost ground on the leaders. Susie managed a 50.8 at 800 yards to win the distance. Ed Welford put in a stunning two off for the day closely followed by Bruce and Susie with three and four off respectively.

Weather to local standards once again gave many the chance to catch up on their suntans; especially Jen who had now been given the nickname of Little Miss Flexible by ably demonstrating this fact in her various sun tanning positions.

Sunday 27 June

The final day of individual competition and many of the under 25s were performing very well indeed. The Queen's was decided at 900 and 1000 yards with the Prize going to Colin Cole of Australia with an extremely strong finish. Ed Jeens, Paul Wheeler and Ed Welford dropped only two on the final day. Ed Welford put in a sterling effort finishing eight off overall and earning him not just eleventh in the Queen's but also winning him the Under 25 Queen's Prize, beating not only the Aussie under 25s but also several under 25s in the senior GB team!

Following lunch most began to look forward to the team competitions whilst the top 30 headed out to contest the Kaltenberg Cup. Sadly Simon Shouler missed out on competing for this one, coming 31st.

Monday 28 June

The morning of the first team matches saw the heavens open in a big way. With only two firers through, shooting was abandoned for the rest of the day. With the

unexpected free time some went off to the Drizabone warehouse and returned adorned with various waterproof garments. Others went to the mall behind the motel for a bit of shopping, with the remainder visiting the Koala sanctuary and making some new friends.

Tuesday 29 June

A full team run through of the Australia Match mixed with a little rain was finally achieved with a mini emergency at 1000 yards when Simon “coach extraordinaire” Shouler pulled Dave Rose’s elevation knob off his sights halfway through the shoot. After a bit of emergency surgery and stealing Jon Kent’s rear sight all was OK. The team performed superbly with six firers dropping only one point at each of 300 yards and 600 yards, and three points at each of 900 yards and 1000 yards. Spirits were high; we were ready for the team match the following day although we knew the Aussies would give us a run for our money.

Wednesday 30 June

The day of the Australia Match was met with a look of gloom when we saw the weather. A dreary start saw a short interruption to shooting at 300 yards. After a few initial nerves we were lucky to be two points ahead of the Aussies. Moving back to 600 we managed to lose ground and conceded a lead to the Aussies who appeared to have the conditions nailed and were shooting very well indeed.

A break for lunch and a chance to dry out a bit before heading back out to more of the rain. Jen and Rachel were managing to keep up morale with their antics in the puddles.

At 900 yards there was nothing in it with the two teams both shooting well until an unfortunate shot on the wrong target left the team facing a deficit of seven points going back to 1000 yards. All was looking doubtful for GB to win but a sterling effort at 1000 yards saw us claw back to within two points. Sadly it was not enough and the Australian Under 25 team were victorious. A disappointing result for GB but the Australians performed well and took advantage of our mediocre performance on the day. All team members worked hard and supported each other well throughout the whole match including covering the firers with towels during the very frequent rain breaks!

| Results | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1000 | Total |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Australia | 244.25 | 246.19 | 247.20 | 239.17 | 976.81 |
| Great Britain | 245.19 | 243.26 | 241.23 | 244.22 | 973.90 |

That evening we drowned our sorrows with an excellent Thai meal. After this we met up with the also despondent senior team in Brisbane, where we both commiserated with each other on the very close and unfortunate events of the day.

Friday 1 July

An early start saw the Land Rovers beating their way up a steep sand track out of the resort towards the

wilderness with Paul Wheeler managing to stall several times before the summit. The tracks wound their way through the tropical rainforest until we arrived at Lake McKenzie, a freshwater lake in the middle of the island. Water fights and a game of rugby were played. We headed back to the vehicles; hitting the hard sand we were able gain some speed down the beach, compared to the 10mph limit on the inland tracks. Stops at the coloured cliffs, the wreck of the Moheno, and frequent forays across the washouts were all immense fun.

On the way back across the island we stopped at Central Station, an old logging centre with a picturesque walk through the rainforest, clear streams and an eerie stillness. At this point we thought we had broken one of the vehicles as loud clunking was coming from one of the Land Rovers. It actually turned out to be exploding tinnies in the pick up that were making all the noise.

Another visit to Lake McKenzie on the way back to the resort saw Dave Rose get wet by being dragged into the water; Emma Nuttall was next on the hit list but made a sharp exit. A few games of British Bulldog and we headed back to a picturesque sunset, our last in Australia.

A fantastic meal at an award-winning restaurant followed by a few more drinks accompanied by live music made for the perfect end to the tour. Several people went down to the beach with Ed Welford leading the way for some people who didn’t like the dark. Once there we lay on the beach and watched the masses of stars. Mark Westmoquette, studying astronomy, gave a fantastic lecture on the stars and the Milky Way.

Saturday 2 July

We arrived back in Brisbane where there was frantic packing, with just a couple of hours to get ready to depart for the airport. Goodbyes were said and after a quick stop at the hotel we were on our way to the airport.

Susie, the supreme organiser, had Customs well covered and Emirates check-in cleared us in record time. Departures saw an addition to the team in the form of a didgeridoo; it could be bought in duty free yet apparently you can’t take them on the plane.

A few quibbles about sights and torque wrenches later we boarded what was to be a long trip home.

Sunday 3 July

Quick stops in Singapore and Dubai saw the final leg of the journey well on its way to London. Arrival and some very tired under 25s with baggy eyes collected their oversize luggage which was quickly cleared by Customs only to discover that the bus driver had forgotten about us. Crisis over we finally boarded the bus and headed back to Bisley. A quick tidy up and then home.

Our thanks go to Paul, Susie and Dave for their organisation. The team would also like to thank all our sponsors and those that have helped us along the way.

It was all very much appreciated.

THE 2005 BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY COMPETITION

by Tony Di Domenico

On 6 and 7 May 2005, Bisley was the venue for the annual Inter BAE SYSTEMS target rifle shooting competition. Four competitions were being competed for over the two-day event; two team trophies and two individual trophies shot at distances from 300 to 1000 yards. Since we are all part of BAE SYSTEMS ROF Radway Green generously donate the excellent quality 7.62 mm, 155 grain target ammunition and send along a senior Director to present the medals and trophies to the winners. Despite the diversity of the company's commercial activities this is in fact the only Corporate event that uses a company made product, which is just as well when you consider what we make!

This year's competition began with the long range event on Stickledown for the Weybridge Memorial Trophy, so named because it was donated by BAe Weybridge shortly before the site closed in the 1980s. At 800 yards Nick Verduyn from Capability Green scored the only 50 with 8 V bulls (three up on last year) with team mate Alistair Bullen, Charles Grundy from Warton and Mark Roberts from Summerfield all scoring 49. In the team scores after the 800 yards shoot Capability Green gained a five point lead ahead of Summerfield with a team score of 194 ex 200, with Warton a further five points behind. At 900 yards the competitors found the conditions a little harder, as the wind has more time to make its mark and this was reflected in the scores returned. There were no 50s, 49s or even 48s and just one lowly 47 which at least showed that we were all suffering together! Even with this fine performance Summerfield were unable to close the gap as both they and Capability Green scored 179 with Warton remaining in third place, now some 26 points behind the leaders.

At 1000 yards the wind dropped slightly and the top shots did as well as they had at 900 yards. The highest individual score was again 47 and in the teams match Capability Green managed to extend their lead over Summerfield by a whole two points, which meant that they had regained the lead and retained the Weybridge

Memorial Trophy. Summerfield were a very respectable second and Warton came in an equally respectable third. In the individual competitions in X class Nick Verduyn scored 140.14, just four Vs ahead of team mate Alistair Bullen, with Charles Dickenson from MBDA Stevenage only one point behind him. In the M class competition Ian Hookham from Summerfield scored 136, a modest two points ahead of Martin Watkins from Glascoed and Geoff Allcock from MBDA Stevenage.

The following day saw the second of the two competitions, the Warton Challenge Shield. The wind never seems to be kind to anyone even at 300 yards and this was shown in the scores, with no possibles and just Charles Dickenson and Mark Roberts scoring 49. In the team scores it was again very close with Summerfield taking a small but important lead with a score of 181 ex 200, three points ahead of Capability Green and four points ahead of Glascoed.

At 500 yards there was no improvement in the weather and unsurprisingly no improvement in the scores, with no one scoring anything better than a 48. In the team scores both Capability Green and Glascoed scored 183.9 with Summerfield just two points behind them. In the rankings this placed Summerfield a point ahead of Capability Green with Stevenage four points behind them in third place. Thus, it was very, very close indeed and it would all depend on the final shoot. Shortly after we decamped to the 600 yards firing point the weather had improved very slightly, which was just as well, as the guest of honour had arrived from company head office. The 600 yards scores were only slightly down over the shorter distances, and again there were no great individual scores and no one managed anything better than a 48. In the team scores Capability Green again produced the highest score of 181, well down on last year's score, but nine points ahead of Summerfield, who were just two points ahead of MBDA Stevenage. Thus, the Capability Green team managed to sneak ahead and win the Warton Challenge Shield by eight



points ahead of Summerfield, with MBDA Stevenage in third place.

In the individual competitions the scores were even closer. In X class Alistair Bullen produced the highest score of 141. Combining these with the long range scores gave Alistair the Summerfield Challenge Trophy with a total score of 281.19, beating Nick and Charles by just two points. In M class it wasn't much different, with Martin Watkins the top shot with 139. Combining these with the long range scores gave Martin the Glascoed Challenge Trophy, with a score of 273.19, just one point ahead of Geoff and three ahead of Ian.

During the 600 yards shoot our guest of honour, Brian Johnson, Director responsible for Corporate Marketing, arrived to present the medals and trophies following the competition. The company takes the event very seriously and always sends along a Director to show their support and during their brief visit it is customary to show them around the Bisley range complex and introduce them to all the competitors.


With the competitions finished by 17:00 it was back to the Army Target Shooting Club for refreshments whilst the competition officials sorted out the scores, in a mad frenzy, for the prizegiving. This gave the guest of honour an opportunity to speak to the competitors and for them to speak to him. The



Directors are always pleasantly surprised with the diversity of backgrounds amongst the shooters, which is of course reflective of our sport as a whole.

With the prize giving done and dusted it was over for another year. Special thanks are due to: Brian Johnson and Maj Gen John Russell Jones at Farnborough Head Office for their support, Ian Clay at ROF Radway Green for the supply of 155 grain ammunition and the Army Target Shooting Club for their catering and support without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to 2006.



Used by the
victorious
GB Palma Squad

SCATT Professional USB
electronic training and analysis system

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

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

•
Gold Medal winners in both the
Olympics and Paralympics

•
European Air Rifle Championship winners

•
World Cup winners

For further details contact

DIVERSE TRADING COMPANY LTD
Tel: (020) 8642 7861
24 hour fax: (020) 8642 9959



H'ARING®

Schießsport-Anlagenbau GmbH
Shooting Ranges · Shooting Equipment · Ciblerie

ESA

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

Products supplied:

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

Inform yourself!

Supplier of
equipment to international
and national championships!

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

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



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



▶ **Full electronic targets
of high quality**

OBITUARIES

John Hussey Hamilton Vivian
4th Baron Swansea DL (GC2 SM2)



Lord Swansea pictured at the 1966 Commonwealth Games

The 4th Lord Swansea, who has died aged 80, was one of the finest marksmen of his generation and a dogged champion of the shooting lobby in the aftermath of the Hungerford and Dunblane shootings.

Singlemindedly listing his recreations in *Who's Who* as "shooting, fishing, rifle shooting", Swansea was the Chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council and Deputy President of the National Rifle Association involved in a vain defence of law-abiding shooters against restrictive legislation. In speeches delivered in the House of Lords and letters to the *Daily Telegraph*, he supported the banning of Kalashnikov rifles and the requirement for shotguns not in use to be locked up.

But no Home Secretary was prepared to draw on the expertise of the shooting lobby, and Swansea resigned the Conservative whip to sit on the cross benches before being removed from the House by Tony Blair's reforms in 1999.

As he fought the steady stream of government Bills that included a ban on the private possession of pistols, so that marksmen had to go abroad to practise for international competitions, he argued that the government was shooting at the wrong target. It should turn its attention to the vast underground pool of illegally held weapons, he declared, though he also put his finger on the problem by remarking: "You cannot legislate for nutters." One consequence of his losing the battle was

that, as Captain of the Lords' shooting team, he saw the Parliamentary gun club, which met under the Palace of Westminster, closed down after 80 years.

The descendant of a baronet who was created the 1st Lord Swansea after long service as a Liberal MP in the 19th century, John Hussey Hamilton Vivian was born on New Day's Day 1925. He succeeded his father, a game and clay pigeon shooter who had won the DSO in the First World War, at the age of nine. Young John's passion for shooting developed at Eton, where he was in the VIII and took a hand, during the war, in turning out pivots for two-pounder anti-tank guns.

After going up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read French and German, he worked for a land agent, and concentrated on the 11,000 acre family estate outside Builth Wells, where he bred Welsh mountain ponies, ran a shoot and had a pub and 1,000 yards of fishing on the River Wye, though it was sold in 1966; he also worked for the publisher Alvin Redman.

But it was in competitive rifle shooting that Swansea excelled for more than 30 years. He regularly captained both Great Britain and Wales, won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1966, and a silver at Brisbane in 1982. He represented Wales 37 times in the short range National Match and 34 times in the Mackinnon at long range. He also won the Bisley Grand Aggregate in 1957 and 1960 and the Match Rifle Aggregate in 1971 and 1974, and competed in the Queen's Prize 18 times, coming second in 1958 and 1968. When an elbow injury curtailed his rifle shooting, he proved a dab hand with a pistol.

In his maiden speech in the Lords, Swansea waded into the contentious waters surrounding the Welsh language by suggesting that necessary Midlands workers would not be attracted to new industries in Wales if their children were compelled to learn Welsh. He took a dim view in the *Telegraph* of the BBC's plan to include accounts of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in a round-the-world programme on Christmas Day 1954. In addition, he took an interest in road safety, remarking that it was "a curious aspect of human psychology that no one will ever admit to being a bad driver".

A reserved man who could talk to anybody who showed the smallest interest in shooting, Swansea was provincial grand master for the masonic province of South Wales eastern division and holder of the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry.

Lord Swansea, who died on June 24, married, in 1956, Miriam Caccia-Birch. After a divorce, he married, in 1982, Mrs Lucy Temple Richards, who survives him with, from his first marriage, two daughters and a son, Richard (born in 1957), who succeeds to the titles.

This obituary, first published on 6 July, is reproduced by kind permission of the Daily Telegraph.

Wing Commander Ronald Guy

Wing Commander Ronald Guy combined a love of target shooting with a career in the RAF, followed by business consultancy and, latterly, politics in Guernsey.

After Reading School, Guy worked for seven years in banking, before entering the RAF in 1936 - he was one of only eight chosen from 2,000 applicants, a success that he always regarded as one of his best achievements.

Within a year, and only a few weeks after marriage, he was posted to Iraq where he found himself, some three years, later at the outbreak of the Second World War. Then, as part of the RAF's logistics corps, he served in North Africa. At one point he was the senior British officer on a troopship wrecked on the North African coast in the Mediterranean. Showing resourcefulness and determination, he led the ship's company to safety. He was posted to Coastal Command in 1943. After the war he was posted to India and served there during Partition. His final posting was with NATO to Norfolk, Virginia, in 1957 in a liaison role.

Guy retired from the RAF in 1960 and moved into a varied business career, first with ICT, then in the early throes of the information technology revolution, and next with Thornton Baker as a business consultant.

His ability to reach considered business views quickly and with conviction established his reputation. He impressed John Stephen of Carnaby Street, who offered him the position of managing director of the flourishing clothes business that would become a household name of the mid-1960s. Guy did so with his customary energy but found it tiring to reconcile his strict business approach with the flamboyant eccentricities of the fashion world.

In 1972 Guy retired to live in Guernsey where he became a well-known figure in the island's administration, first as a douzenier (similar to a parish councillor) for St Peter Port and then as a States Deputy. He gained a reputation for speaking his mind, particularly where budgetary and financial issues were concerned.

In the RAF Guy had developed as an outstanding pistol shot. He competed in events around the globe, finishing 12th in the free pistol event in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. In October 1954 he "hitchhiked" to a World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela. This involved obtaining Admiralty authority and signing on as a crew member on an empty fuel tanker, *RFA Wave Sovereign*. He and his competition pistol progressed via Trinidad to his destination where he won a gold medal in the free pistol event.

Among his many pistol shooting successes he won the Granet Jewel (1951, 1953), the Scott Medal (1955, 1956) and the Silhouette (1951, 1956), as well as the small-bore pistol aggregate in each year from 1952 to 1956. He also captained the RAF pistol team in the Whitehead Cup.

In 1957, when the administration of fullbore pistol shooting was subsumed into the National Rifle

Association, he was instrumental with others in founding the British Pistol Club to ensure continued support for British competitors in the Olympic disciplines.

He was manager and free pistol shooter in the Guernsey Commonwealth Games team at Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1974, and was shooting manager for Guernsey again at Edmonton in 1978. A member of that team remembers his reserve, thoughtfulness and quiet confidence, which did much to help the athletes under competition pressure.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s he also shot target rifle with distinction, representing Guernsey in the Kolapore Match against Great Britain and other nations on nine occasions from 1974 to 1988. He reached the final of the Queen's Prize at Bisley once, much earlier in 1953. It was always a matter of regret to him that he never managed to add to that one appearance.

He is survived by his third wife, Elizabeth, his daughter from his first marriage and five stepchildren. Wing Commander Ronald Guy, airman, marksman, businessman and politician, was born on November 3, 1912. He died on August 4, 2005, aged 92.

This obituary, first published on 31 August, is reproduced by kind permission of the Times.

Leslie Quilter OBE

Les passed away after a short illness on 1 September 2005 at the age of 79. Born in 1926 his early career revolved around the war, enlisting at the age of 17 into the Black Watch, then into the Palestine Police Force. After the end of the Mandate, he joined the General Post Office in 1948, where his work on quality control was the ideal grounding for an internal move into the prestigious London Telecommunications Region where he was promoted to Telecommunications Traffic Supervisor, concerned with planning and control of the telephone exchanges. Computers were the next step in Leslie's life and a transfer into the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication in 1969 and then into the Department of Trade and Industry proper. As a Principal in the Personnel Management division, he was the Secretary to the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee for the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology. It was during his time there that Leslie was recognised for a life time of service to his country with the OBE in the New Years Honours List of 1984.

Leslie loved the outdoor life and, in parallel to his professional life, he served as a Special Constable for ten years, followed by a stint in the Territorial Army until 1969. Leslie practised his love of rifles, gained in Service, by joining the National Rifle Association; he spent many happy times with fellow devotees. Being a very well rounded type of fellow with a proper social conscience, Leslie was a life long donor and supporter of many charities and worthy causes all of whom will miss his passing. Leslie is survived by Joan, his loving wife of 48 years.

Peter Norman Huggett

Peter Huggett died 13 August 2005 aged 80 - his name will not be unknown to many rifle shooters in Middlesex and no doubt other areas as well.

Peter joined Wembley Rifle Club in 1965 and, had the club not closed in 2004, would have been a member for forty years. He joined when it was at Marsh Road, and saw, or rather took a major part in, its move to Abbey Road and the building of a new outdoor range and clubhouse. The club then saw the addition of an indoor range and a major rebuilding after they put a road through it. All these happened with great input and effort by Peter.



On the shooting side, he was a top shot for many years. He became a Club Instructor for rifle and then a County Coach. He ran Wembley's beginner courses for many years, and many, many shooters got their start at Peter's tender mercies. No doubt they all thank him. At the same time he served on the Club Committee as Chief Coach and also on the County Committee as an Area Representative from 1984 to 2002. He became a Vice-President of the County Association in 1996.

When Peter finally retired from a formal position on the Wembley Club Committee, they co-opted him back as an advisor for the benefit of his knowledge of the sport. He helped to run the club, including overseeing maintenance, until the final closure of the Abbey Road site.

Peter's efforts were a major contribution to Wembley Rifle Club; he will be remembered and sadly missed by all who knew him.

LETTERS

Paramount/RPA Rifles

From Rob Needham

In the Notes from the Director of Shooting in the Summer issue of the Journal about Paramount and RPA actions was the phrase, "incidents which occurred in Australia earlier this year involving the initiation of cartridges which were not fully chambered".

Now this may be technically correct gunsmith-speak, but I'm not sure what it means. However, my guess is that it means, "the rounds went off while the bolt was being closed". If this is correct, then two things occur to me:

- 1 Shouldn't what sounds like a serious safety issue deserve a more prominent and clear warning in the Journal?
- 2 The fault may lead to serious damage to the firer's face if the rule that the bolt must be closed while the rifle is in the shoulder is being observed.

This rule has always bothered me, particularly as I am a left-handed shot who uses a rifle with a right-handed action. The rule seems to offer very little additional safety to anyone else whilst putting the firer's safety at more risk.

I believe that the Journal should explain clearly what the incidents were, what shooters should do about them in the short term, and invite RPA to publish a response to these incidents.

Reply from Martin Farnan, Director of Shooting

In connection with question 1 the reason for my not giving any further details in the Summer Journal was that the enquiry had not been concluded at that time, and no conclusions had been reached. Reasons were suspected, but not proven. I therefore could not give advice on rumour and speculation, but I put out a guarded warning saying that owners of these rifles should consult with their gunsmiths. My Notes in this Journal give further details now that the facts are known.

In connection with point 2 I can state, with absolute certainty, that I have never, ever said that the bolt must be closed with the rifle in the shoulder. What I, and the Bisley Range Regulations, state is that the bolt must be closed (or opened if there is a live round in the chamber) **with the barrel horizontal**. I would not dream of having the butt in my shoulder when I close the bolt, and have never promulgated this as a safe practice. Indeed, each year at the RCO's briefing, I go on at some length to emphasise that this should **not** be done!

I hope this answers your questions.

Starting details early

From Carol Painting

I should like the NRA to change its policy for Queen's II so that the CRO only has discretion to delay details but cannot start them early.

For this year's Queen's II we had cards specifying 3.15, 4.15 and 5.15 as start times. The Bisley Bible allows the CRO to continue at a different time. I was extremely annoyed that at seven minutes to five, when I thought I had over twenty minutes to prepare, we were told "ten minutes to message one".

I complained after the shoot; the CRO said that he didn't want to keep people waiting in the heat. I believe hot weather is a good reason for allowing people to recover from the previous shoot. I said it was blatant discrimination against older shooters, but interestingly two young friends said that they would also have preferred to have the scheduled extra ten minutes.

Queen's II is a tough shoot, not because of the course of fire but because we fall back immediately and because the fall back means moving across the range. A walk from range 11 to range 17 via the loo is fine even for pensioners, if we have time to prepare properly afterwards.

The time on the card should be an earliest start time.

SIGN IN, USE IT OR LOSE IT!

The need to maintain a personal shooting record and using the Range Office computer log-in system

by Roger Speak, NRA Firearms Liaison Officer

Since taking over as Firearms Liaison Officer at the NRA one of my responsibilities has been to verify members' shooting records to the police at Firearms Certificate renewal time. It is also my responsibility to complete one of the Police reference forms as Club Referee where you give NRA as your primary club, ie the club referred to on your Firearms Certificate.

As you are aware, if you are a target shooter, one of the conditions for keeping your Firearms Certificate is that you must be an active member of a Home Office approved club, in this case us. You must demonstrate good reason to the Police showing that you shoot each of your firearms regularly: at least three shooting attendances or the NRA Imperial Meeting each year is agreed by all police forces to meet the good reason requirement. If you have no record of shooting during a 12 months period, the police are within the law in removing your Firearms Certificate and firearms as you no longer have good reason to own them. Note that it is your responsibility to ensure that adequate records of your shooting activities are maintained. With a membership of over 4600, it is not practical for the NRA to remember each time each member shoots without some form of permanent record!

Each year, by law, the NRA must submit to every police force a listing of those NRA members in that force area whose shooting record shows that they have not shot during that year. We must apologise that the non-shooting returns for January to December 2004, only recently submitted to each of the UK police forces, omitted reference to those who shot at the 2004 Imperial Meeting. This was due to a computer glitch, now thankfully corrected. The 2004 returns will shortly be re-run and re-submitted and a letter explaining the omission has already been sent to all police forces. This problem will not occur with the 2005 Imperial entrants as this data has already been added to the shooting records database. However, we must stress that everyone should sign in on the Range Office computer at least once during the Imperial Meeting.

In order to assist members as much as possible we maintain a self-help computerised log-in system in the Range Office where members should, each time they shoot here, enter details on that computer. At the end of every year the NRA is obliged by law to make returns to police forces where our records show that club members have not shot at Bisley during the past 12 months. Obviously, if you have not completed a range record entry during that 12 months, your police force will list you as not shooting during that time and take action accordingly, as you may no longer have good reason to keep your firearms.

I recommend to any shooter that you keep a personal shooting diary, detailing when and where you have shot (ie which club, ranges, etc), the firearms used and any other relevant details: if you have a problem proving your record, this can often help overcome any difficulty.

When it comes to Firearms Certificate renewal time, if you list the NRA as your primary club, then you **MUST** ensure that we complete Part E of the Firearms Form 101, sign one photo certifying that it is a true likeness and complete one of the referee forms, Firearms Form 125, on your behalf listing your shooting record here. Your other reference form should be completed by a friend or colleague who is not a member of a shooting club.

If you have any problems regarding your shooting record or need help in completing your Firearms Certificate renewal paperwork, NRA Firearms Liaison is always available to assist.

Sign In, Use it or Lose it!

The Bisley Pavilion Hotel

at

Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking

home of the

National Rifle Association

NOW OPEN

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

En-suite Rooms

Television

Breakfast



For Reservations & Enquiries

Tel: (01483) 488488/489270

Fax: (01483) 486600

e-mail: Hotel@bisleypavilion.com

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Great Britain Target Rifle Team, Canada, August 2002

Captain – John Bloomfield

A full account of this tour was given in the Spring 2003 Journal on pages 26-31. The team of 18 shot first in the Ontario Rifle Association Championships at Mons Range, CFB Borden, where the team won the Canadian Pacific Match against the ORA. This was followed by the DCRA Meeting at Connaught Range, Ottawa. All three of the international matches were won, with new record scores in the Canada and Commonwealth Matches, as well as a win in the new America Match.

| Expenditure | £ | Income | £ |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Air Fares | 13,538 | Sports Council | 8,355 |
| Coach Hire | 350 | NRA OTF Grant | 9,750 |
| Road Transport | 4,004 | Brochure | 708 |
| Travel Insurance | 386 | Calendar & Quiz | 3,950 |
| Accommodation | 11,744 | Auction | 7,640 |
| Food & Drink | 5,852 | Cufflink Sales | 2,429 |
| Shooting Costs | 13,861 | Hospitality Days | 1,390 |
| Hospitality | 434 | Spot the Shot | 2,910 |
| Presentations | 1,283 | Car Draw | (650) |
| Clothing | 5,083 | Donations & Interest | 3,187 |
| Admin | 390 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 220 | Team Members' Contributions | 17,084 |
| | | Transfer from Car Draw | 392 |
| Total Expenditure | 57,145 | Total Income | 57,145 |

Great Britain F Class Rifle Team, South Africa, March/April 2005

Captain – Mik Maksimovic

A full account of this tour was given in the Summer 2005 issue on pp27-9. The team of 16 shot initially at Potchefstroom near Johannesburg for acclimatisation and then went on to Bloemfontein, General de Wet Range, to compete in the SABU Championships and then the F Class World Championships.

| Expenditure: | £ | Income: | £ |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Air Fares | 18,387 | OTF Grant | 4,000 |
| Car Hire | 2,983 | Sponsorship | 3,393 |
| Accommodation & Subsistence | 4,233 | Other Income | 1,508 |
| Shooting Costs | 5,319 | Bank Interest | 260 |
| Team Kit | 1,183 | Team Members' Contributions | 23,559 |
| Hospitality | 280 | | |
| Presentations | 335 | | |
| Total Expenditure | 32,720 | Total Income | 32,720 |

Great Britain Under 25 Target Rifle Team, Australia, June 2005

Captain – Paul Wheeler

A full account of this tour is given in this issue of the Journal (pp 76-79). The team of 12 shot in the NRAA 2005 National Championships at Belmont Range, Brisbane and competed in an Under 25 Australia Match against an Australian team.

| Expenditure | £ | Income | £ |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Travel & Accommodation | 14,934 | NRA OTF Grant | 5,400 |
| Car Hire & Petrol | 3,852 | Sponsorship & Donations | 3,773 |
| Shooting Costs | 5,909 | Payment by Team Members (12) | 20,400 |
| Team Kit (inc Brochure) | 2,400 | (contribution per head - £1,700) | |
| Subsistence | 953 | | |
| Team Admin & Insurance | 1,525 | | |
| Total Expenditure | 29,573 | Total Income | 29,573 |

NRA TRADE MEMBERS

Robert George & Co Ltd

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

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

Perdix Firearms

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

High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6AT
Tel: 01722 782402 Fax: 01722 782790
E-mail: perdix@eclipse.co.uk Website: www.perdix.co.uk

Sporting Services

Manufacturers agents, wholesaler to the trade, distributor Stoeger shotguns. Factory appointed distributor Accuracy International Ltd. Specialist supplier of ammunition and ballistic test equipment.

PO Box 432, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 4YT
Tel: 01342 716427 Fax: 01342 717847
E-mail: sales@sportingservices.co.uk

Foxtrot Productions Limited

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

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

Alan D Wey & Co

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

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

Praetorian Associates

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

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

HPS Target Rifles Ltd

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

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

Edgar Brothers

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

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

Shooting Services

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

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

Geometrotec Ltd

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

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

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

Beechwood Equipment

UK distributors for the following:

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

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

MEMBERS' PAGE

Range Supervisor and official NRA Poet John Gardener had a prolific Meeting this year. We hope the following offerings will brighten your day!

Someone's Car

*Someone's car broke down last week
I cannot tell you who*
Besides we're very busy here
And I've better things to do.*

*Now he also was a busy man
Running round and round.
Much needed was this person's car
On the shooting ground.*

*Can we help you, someone said
Do you need some aid?
No thank you said the owner
It's beyond you I'm afraid.*

*For I have tried the obvious
And done all I can do.
The AA man will fix it soon
If it's all the same to you.*

*Now our friend was fair upset
To be without his truck.
He'd done all that he could do
But still he had no luck.*

*So duly after some short time
Can do it man arrived.
Said owner, somethin's very wrong
Can't fix it, Lord I've tried.*

*Said AA man I know what's wrong;
Though not a mortal sin,
In order for a car to go,
It needs some petrol in.*

Anyone Seen Big Jim?

*Has anyone seen Big Jim?
Or called him on the Radio?
I've a dozen jobs for him to do
Or places he should go.*

*Has anyone seen Big Jim?
I've been calling him all day.
Is he having another day off
Or taking time away?*

*Has anyone seen Big Jim?
He won't answer when I call.
Is he sleeping down a hole
Doing bugger all?*

*Ah, someone's found a radio
With on it scribed Big Jim.
I think I'll give the chap a call
To give it back to him.*

Oh, I can't – he's lost it!

Imagine Mik Maksimovic

*Imagine Mik Maksimovic
Thinking well ahead;
Gets a 'lectric buggy
And then he finds it's dead.*

*Imagine Mik Maksimovic
Telling all around
No petrol bills or queues for me
On the shooting ground.*

*Imagine Mik Maksimovic
Boasting to one and all
That he has got a buggy;
Then it won't go at all!*

*Imagine Mik Maksimovic
Has to send for aid
Big Jim says "I'm down a hole
And won't come 'till I'm paid."*

*Imagine Mik Maksimovic
Embarrassed, hurt or what.
In shame, pushing his buggy;
We didn't laugh a lot!*

The Army's Flag

*We'd like to know the name of the wag
Who upped and stole the Army's flag,
Because the stinking thieving soul
Has left them with a naked pole.
The Army's offering a small reward;
About fifty pee they can afford.*

* Oh OK it was Martin Farnan

The Bisley Camp Cookbook

A New and Different Souvenir of Bisley for 2005
and an Ideal Present for Christmas

Written by Deborah Sabalot Deane, this cookbook has 100 pages of easy to prepare recipes, which reflect her American background and especially features Louisiana and Southern USA Styles. The booklet is illustrated by pictures of the Victorian time at Wimbledon and Bisley.



The Bisley Camp Cookbook is sold in aid of all GB Rifle Teams supported through the NRA Overseas Teams Fund. Place your orders now using the order form available from the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk and click on OTF and Bisley Cookbook. Copies cost £8.50 to UK addresses and £9.85 to overseas addresses including postage and packing.

Have you ever wondered who makes these items?



EAGLE EYE



ACTION STIFFENING RAISING BLOCK



RAISING BLOCKS



NEW PRODUCTS
SIGHT RAISING BLOCKS
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THE NEW RULES



ADJUSTABLE IRIS



LEVEL BARS



NEW EYE BLINDER WITH
VARIABLE POLARISING
FILTER FITS ON TO
CENTRA EYEPIECES



UNI TOOL



ADJUSTABLE FORESIGHT



OFFSET SIGHT
MOUNTS



CLEANING
ROD GUIDE



ADJUSTABLE
FORESIGHT



MIRROR

NEW FOR SENIOR
SHOOTERS
ADJUSTABLE IRIS
WITH FILTERS



SPIRIT LEVEL



DIOPTRIC OPTIC
WITH FILTERS



CLIP ON IRIS



FOLDING BIPOD



SPECTACLES



EYE BLINDER



HANDSTOP



HI-TECH REARSIGHT

this is

CENTRA UK

PO BOX 2000 - WOKING - SURREY - GU21 4GF

WWW.CENTRA-UK.CO.UK 01483 756969

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL GUNSHOP

when you've had a long, tight day
on the range, and need something
to help loosen up
- why not try.....

A SUPREME CHAMPION ALE AIMED AT THE DISCERNING TASTE

S.H.I.T.T.

SKINNER'S
ALC 5.0% VOL

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
INTERNATIONAL TOURING TIPPLE

HAND LOADED IN CORNWALL TO A PRECISE BALLISTIC FORMULA

award winning quality bottled beer
available from the GB Rifle Team to South Africa 2006
£2 a 500ml bottle
contact Jonathan Haward for orders jah@county-homesearch.com



ARCHER BARRELS



Button rifled barrels by Border Barrels Ltd.

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

Call us at:

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

FIRING ANYTHING MORE ACCURATE WOULD REQUIRE A LAUNCH CODE

Year after year Remington continues its extraordinary pace of introducing the most advanced, most innovative ammunition products in the industry. As always, you can expect more from Remington. And as always, Remington will deliver.

The new Remington Premier AccuTip is the ultimate mid-size big game cartridge on the market. Featuring a precision-engineered polymer tip bullet designed for match-grade accuracy it offers an unprecedented combination of super-flat trajectory.

Whatever the situation, Remington has the ammunition for you, with the accuracy you need, when you need it.



Heather Close · Lyme Green Business Park
Macclesfield · SK11 0LR
tel 01625 613177
fax 01625 615276
www.edgar-brothers.co.uk
Edgar Brothers are trade only



Edgar Brothers