



National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2006

Volume LXXXV

Number 1



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CONTENTS

2	A Short Review by the Chairman
5	Notes from the Secretary General
10	NRA Membership and Insurance
12	Notes from the Director of Shooting
18	Notes from the Director of Training
20	Notes from the Managing Director of NSC
22	Shooting Discipline Matters
26	Regional Matters
27	Forthcoming Tours
30	Procedure for General Council Elections
32	Online Entry for Imperial Meeting
33	A Licence to Shoot would give Pistol Athletes a Chance
34	Target Sports Campaign
36	Talking with Martin Townsend
38	The Athelings Tour to Canada
43	Highpower Rifle Association Nationals
46	T Rex: Bah, Humbug
48	The Ages Match
50	Everyone Goes to Canada - Wales
53	Everyone Goes to Canada - Scotland
57	Prost(r)ate on the Firing Point
58	Muzzle Velocity v Barrel Length
62	100 Years Ago
64	Obituaries
68	Letters
70	Summary Accounts
71	Trade Members

ADVERTISERS INDEX

19	Big Red Shooting Company
61	Bisley Pavilion
ibc	Border Barrels
ibc	Centra
30	City Rifle Club
61	Norman Clark
17	Diverse Trading Company
bc	Edgar Brothers
19	ETSys Electronic Target Systems
25	A Ford
21	Gehmann UK
17	Haring
31	HPS Target Rifles Ltd
47	Surrey Guns
42	Andrew Tucker Jackets
45	TWP Designs
ifc	Viking Arms
37	Zylab Ltd

Cover photo: F Class shooter Colin Shorthouse in action
by Paul Monaghan

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A SHORT REVIEW BY THE CHAIRMAN

In this Review I shall not only comment on the Association's finances, but also on a number of other developments and matters under consideration. Your Council has been very active planning to seek a prosperous future.



Finance

Last year we resolved to change the financial year end to 31 December, particularly to allow more time to complete the annual budget for the following year after the end of the shooting high season.

As I reported a year ago and after a period during which we benefited from one-off credits, we planned for a target surplus of £200,000 for 2005. I also said that demands on resources to develop the Association and its membership, particularly away from Bisley, would mean that it would be a hard target to achieve. We have to be financially realistic as we seek to move forward.

We have, of course, internal accounts for the year ended 30 September 2005 and I summarise these below where you can see that we were not far short of the target.

Unaudited results for the years ended 30 September

	2005 (see note)	2004 (see note)
Income Sources		
Shooting	874,760	813,655
Estate	776,954	754,988
Membership, Coaching etc	446,930	435,941
Imperial Meeting	392,330	388,681
Clays	368,161	328,530
Other	11,606	12,494
Total Income	2,870,74	1 2,734,289
Staff Costs	1,106,914	1,039,640
Expenses and Overheads	1,529,173	1,388,777
Total Operating Costs	2,636,087	2,428,417
Operating Surplus	234,654	305,872
Bank Interest	47,717	54,453
Net Operating Surplus	£186,937	£251,419
Repaid to the Bank	£150,000	£450,000
Loans Outstanding	£650,000	£800,000

Note: Certain income and expenses and comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to allocations used for 2005.

As I write, the operating result for the 15 months to 31 December 2005 is expected to be a loss – a salutary reminder of the costs of operations in the lean winter months for which we have to provide funds. Our Endowment Funds have shown an improvement, however.

Aims and Objectives

a) Priorities

When I became Chairman in October 2001, the key initial objective was financial survival. However, I recognised and declared then that the key to a successful future lay in:

- 1 High standards of Governance, advantaged and regulated by virtue of our registration by the Charity Commission based on our good fortune of having a Royal Charter.
- 2 Urging the various interests of target shooters, not all of whom are formally recognised within the current adopted nine shooting disciplines, to understand each other and to work together for mutual support.
- 3 Public relations - I emphasised that it is how we conduct ourselves and present ourselves to local people, politicians and the Press that is most important. It is sometimes put to us that we should employ PR consultants to "explain to the public what we do". The Council has no current plans for such expenditure.

The Council's PR policy of focussed attention to politicians and the Press has made more progress than might be imagined. However, this becomes of little consequence or use unless countrywide clubs conduct their activities sensitively to the public mood and openly, projecting local 'athletic sport' – the modern definition including covering target shooting. The forthcoming 2012 Olympic Games will have some 15 target shooting events. We must make the most of the resulting exposure of target shooting as an 'athletic sport'.

To the above end, the Council has agreed that we should produce a pamphlet, not unlike that produced by our game shooting colleagues, for example, a Code of Good Target Shooting Practice or "Guidelines for the Conduct of Target Shooting". In this way we shall not only have a PR pamphlet to describe what we do, but also can set out guidelines for the conduct of all target shooters, wherever participating.

b) Moving Forward

It is often put to me that the Association, especially at Bisley, projects an 'elite' image and even puts some shooters off from visiting. I have been aware of this image for some years, especially after seeing criticism

of the extent of resources going into international events.

Since our foundation in 1859, our objective has been to encourage competitive marksmanship with the rifle and, later, pistol. This does not mean that we have to be elite, rather the contrary. We gain national and international respect by encouraging those with special ability to reach for 'gold', but our overriding task is to encourage the many. In 1860, my predecessor stated that what he wanted to see was 100,000 [men] who can hit a dinner plate at 200 yards and a six foot target at 1,000 yards. That is the basis. I see the make up of participants as a pyramid. We need the people who will achieve the peak of performance just as we need the broad participation of those who just want to learn and practice the art of marksmanship for recreation.

The Council has now published its first Strategic Plan to achieve these aims which the Secretary General refers to elsewhere in the Journal.

Membership and Subscriptions

The Council has embarked on a review of the structure of our subscription arrangements for both Clubs and Individuals.

I want to emphasise, at once, that it was mainly, if not only, through the robustness of our membership in facing our financial difficulties of 2001 that we have survived and can look forward to a prosperous future, if we take care.

Overall, the most important point is that the Association needs its subscription income of some £420,000pa, which it raises currently with the benefit of Gift Aid (from which many members can benefit by tax recoveries, themselves as those that pay 40% tax can recover 23p in the £). However, as reflected in the Strategic Plan, we seek to reduce the individual cost as the number of members increases whilst, at the same time, increasing income for the benefit of development.

a) Clubs

In view of the initiatives being taken by our Secretary General on our behalf to achieve greater access to ranges UK wide and to improve the way shooters are covered for insurance, early steps to change the club affiliation arrangements were taken over the winter. Otherwise changes would have been introduced more gradually. It is a profound concern to me, as Chairman, that the reaction of some clubs has been negative, mainly owing to some (inevitable) misunderstandings and an immediate reaction that we intend to impose more cost. The truth is the opposite and I do hope that Club Secretaries will work closely with us to ensure that we are covering their club's particular position in the best way, in due course.

b) Individuals

In the last three years the Council has met its 2002 undertaking to members to reduce the annual subscription to individual members each year by passing on the decrease in the necessary surcharge applied in 2001 for 2002 without increasing the underlying rates of subscriptions. If inflation had been added, the 'Full' subscription rate paid by direct debit of £82.50 in 2002 would now be £92.00, whereas it is currently £78.00 – a real reduction of £14.

There was no decrease passed on in 2006 (the surcharge (notional 3%) has now been incorporated in prices generally). This was not because increases are envisaged, but was a conservative step taken to maintain income whilst the review referred to in the Winter Journal takes place to see if we can accelerate a process of standardisation of subscriptions at a basically lower level than the current "Full" rate. No promises can be offered for 2007, but the foregoing is the eventual intent.

c) Open Days

The Open Day at Bisley on 3 September 2005 again proved successful, thanks to the considerable voluntary support from representatives of our various shooting disciplines. The next will be held on 29 April. Of especial good news is that the Home Office has licensed the NRA to hold an Open Day at Altcar, Lancashire, on Saturday 27 May. We wish our Trustee, David Young and his colleagues, who are organising this Open Day, every success.

Annual Prize Meeting

Since 1859 the Annual Prize Meeting has been central to our purpose, as recognised in the Royal Charter of 1890, available for examination on our website. Bearing in mind what I have said, above, in relation to regenerating our regional activity, nevertheless the Annual Prize Meeting remains our Flagship event and has world renown.

At the Spring General Meeting last year, in response to a question, I indicated that the Annual Prize Meeting absorbs considerable NRA Charity funds and resources. In principle, there is nothing wrong with this cost as a Charity expense. Nevertheless, the net cost is an important matter which the Council has required to be addressed as it does mean funds are not consequently available for promoting target shooting elsewhere and at other times.

The review is to be 'root and branch' although the Council will be very mindful of traditions.

Many members will have views on the Annual Prize Meeting whether it is, for example, the cost of entries, discounts offered, the extent and qualification for competitions and prizes, or the issue of voluntary help with butt marking and range officering. Sponsorship will be re-examined, but is more difficult than it used

to be owing to changes in corporate practice with companies looking to a tangible value benefit from any grants made.

The Working Party of the Shooting Committee which together with the directors of National Shooting Centre Limited will advise the Council, would like your views on any issue relating to the Annual Prize Meeting. To make it as simple as possible to reply you can express your views direct to the Secretary General (e-mail: secgen@nra.org.uk). To further assist, I hope that a questionnaire will appear on our website in due course. Please encourage fellow club shooters, particularly those who do not ordinarily come to the Annual Prize Meeting, to express their views. It is a principal purpose of the Meeting to encourage as many people as possible to participate in its events.

One National Governing Body for Target Shooting

By consent of the Chairmen and Councils of the three original National Governing Bodies (the NRA, 1860, the CPSA, 1865, the NSRA, 1901) the following announcement has been made and which you may have seen, already.

The NRA, NSRA and CPSA have embarked on a series of discussions regarding the possibility of forming a single National Governing Body for the major target shooting sports.

As a member of the NSRA, myself, I can say that in the last year or so I have only had encouragement from rifle shooters to move towards one overarching National Governing Body for Target Shooting. I am asked, naturally, how quickly this could happen. Simply, I do not know, but I can say that progress is quicker than I expected only last year when I touched on the subject at the Spring General Meeting. Such a

move should strengthen us in many ways, including, for example, service to shooting membership, political and international sporting influence.

150th Anniversary of the Founding of the National Rifle Association

Historians will know that the original Association was founded at a meeting of promoters on 16 November 1859 at which Lord Elcho was appointed the NRA's first Chairman.

The first Annual Prize Meeting was held on Wimbledon Common starting on 2 July 1860 with the first shot being fired with a Whitworth rifle by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

We propose to celebrate these events and I would emphasise that the celebration is for the formation of the National Rifle Association as a country-wide body. Thus I hope that to further celebrate our hopefully increasing re-development away from Bisley, our formation will be marked at a number of places around the country.

Outlook

My main review will be given at the Annual General Meeting in June and will be published on our website and in the Journal. As promised, when our new constitution was put in place in 2003, we have reviewed the working of it to date in the light of experience. At the AGM we shall be proposing a few amendments to the Rules to assist us in going forward.

In the meantime I can summarise that we are seeking to achieve our target of a surplus of £200,000 from operations and to move ahead with our detailed plans for regional development, being led by our Secretary General, Glynn Alger.

John Jackman

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.

Donors wishes will be taken into account.

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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

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



*by
Glynn
Alger*

Strategy

The Association has been discussing its long-term strategy for target shooting over the past year and has recently agreed the following:

1 Aim and Objectives

- a) The National Rifle Association (NRA) aims to become part of the governing body for the sport of all lawful target shooting throughout the United Kingdom.
- b) As such, it will have as its primary objective the promotion of the sport of target shooting in all its various lawful forms, throughout the United Kingdom, and to all who may wish to participate.
- c) Historically the NRA has had a parallel objective of assisting military and civilian defence forces in their requirements for marksmanship, ammunition testing and weapons training, providing competitions for Services personnel and cadets and co-operating with the military wherever it was consistent with the original Objectives of the NRA.

2 Strategies

In furtherance of these objectives the NRA will:

- a) Actively promote the sport and encourage the recruitment of new participants.
- b) Strive to reach agreement with the NSRA and CPSA for the creation of a single National governing body for all lawful forms of target shooting.
- c) Review the structure and stated objectives of the NRA in the light of changes to legislation governing charitable bodies.
- d) Assist with the provision of suitable facilities for the recruitment, induction, training and subsequent specialisation of all wishing to participate in the sport.

- e) Set, maintain and administer the various rules and regulations for the conduct of the sport and the protection of its future reputation, including in particular those relating to safety.
- f) Make representation to Parliament and the relevant regulatory bodies for a legal and administrative environment to allow individuals to pursue all forms of the sport of target shooting and, in particular, for the reintroduction of the sport of target pistol shooting.
- g) Organise, or cause to be organised, such competitions on a local, regional, national and international level as will satisfy the demands of all participants at all levels in the sport, and encourage them in the pursuit of marksmanship.
- h) Seek to minimise the costs of entry to, and participation in, the sport by the efficient delivery of services provided by or under the auspices of the NRA.
- i) Encourage individuals to belong to the organisation.
- j) Seek to establish and maintain a sound financial base.

Basically the National Rifle Association has committed itself to acting in the best interests of all target shooters: providing leadership, guidance, the correct image, increased opportunity to enter the sport, training, ranges, representation with the politicians and media, and commitment to a single national body all for £30 for anyone who joins as a new member this year.

All target shooters should belong to an appropriate body, such as the NRA, NSRA and CPSA to ensure that they are being represented and to strengthen the sport.

It would be nice to have a joint strategy for all target shooting sports.

Single National Body for Target Shooting

A series of meetings have been taking place between the NSRA, CPSA and NRA to explore the possibility of merger into a single national body, representing all target shooting sports. It is planned to hold more meetings over the next year. When any progress is made on this front, it will be communicated to the wider membership.

At a personal level I would like to see this happen for the good of the sport, in that not only will members benefit from wider access to their sport, but the single body will be better able to represent all our interests with politicians, media and public to create the right conditions for target shooting to flourish and grow.

It might be a long and difficult road but the journey is worth making.

Range Safety Certification

We have been talking about this subject for a long time. After pressuring the Home Office and MoD for the last twelve months to get some sort of resolution, we are pleased to announce:

Clubs will be aware that the arrangement whereby the Army inspected ranges and certified them as conforming to their standards was withdrawn some 18 months ago.

Since then the NSRA and NRA have been in discussions with the Home Office as to what should replace this agreement.

Earlier this year, the Home Office advised us that they would not be establishing a new mandatory certification process.

Historically, ranges have been built to Joint Service Publication 403 standards for the calibre and type of firearm to be used on the range. The insurance companies had the satisfaction of knowing that the facility was built to a standard which, historically, was found to be safe. Concerns were raised that if these standards were not maintained then the insurance industry would perceive there to be an increased risk and premiums would escalate. In addition, the police expressed their concerns that any lowering of the standard may have an impact on public safety.

It has been agreed that the NSRA and NRA will together produce range construction guidance, and any organisation that requires to take advantage of the insurance schemes operated by those two Associations will be required to demonstrate that their facility meets a minimum standard, either by the production of an Army Form AK1314 (historic), or confirmation in writing from a person appointed by either Association to confirm that the range is considered suitable for the safe use of that class of firearm.

There is still some work to be undertaken before all the arrangements are in place, however, we hope to be able to move forward with effect from the beginning of May.

You will be pleased to know we have “a cunning plan”. In the short-term we will be using a consultant to certify ranges; in the long-term, NRA staff will be trained to carry out this role.

Investment in Shooting Sports

I am often asked what does the NRA do for us in the regions? “Not a lot” you say. “Untrue” I say. Over the past few years we have been representing your interests nationally and some of that effort is beginning to bear fruit.

What you do not know is that in recent times, while successfully trying to clear a large debt, the

Association has quietly continued to stick to its principles. The NRA has year on year continued to invest large sums of money in youth shooting. The Association has supported a number of clubs by assisting them with long-term interest free loans for building, maintenance and repair projects.

In the future the Association will invest where it can in leasing, buying ranges or supporting others to do the same. As the financial situation for the NRA improves, you will see direct investment in local range facilities where clubs and associations are having problems, in an effort to ensure ranges remain open.

Where clubs or individuals have wanted to redevelop or open a new range, the Association has quietly given free advice, assistance or support.

All of these projects are necessarily confidential between, clubs, individuals and the Association. It is however quite disappointing to hear individuals or club officials criticising the NRA for what it does not do, when you know that for the cost of affiliation we have invested thousands of pounds directly or indirectly in their future. It is even more disappointing to hear club secretaries encouraging members not to join the Association.

The message is that you have got it wrong. All that this organisation is trying to do is to make things work for all those who shoot at targets, as long as what they do is well conducted, lawful and safe. If your motive is to damage the NRA, what you are really doing is damaging the sport in the long-term, because it is the national bodies that will make sense out of where shooting is and where it needs to go. But this can only be achieved if you work with us, not against us.

One club secretary recently took me at my word and has already recruited over 60 new members to the NRA. They all joined on the £30 new member deal and the club donated their £10 vouchers to the Young Shooters Fund. There are over 700 affiliated clubs - can you recruit a few new members from your club?

Ranges

The National Rifle Association has commenced formal negotiations with the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association in Scotland to reopen Dechmont ranges, on the outskirts of Glasgow, for cadet and civilian shooting.

The initial Dechmont survey reveals the potential for a multi-discipline target shooting facility, including clays, small-bore and black powder as well as target rifle.

The next phase will be to see if we can expand the envelope to allow longer range shooting, while starting to negotiate with all interested parties. A bit of a change from the “Bisley Target Rifle Club”.

Also the Association is looking at making direct investment in a range in the north Midlands, is looking at another range in Scotland and is considering a mutual benefit arrangement with a commercial range builder.

Regional Manager

To ensure the needs of the regions and clubs are met, the NRA has appointed Chris Webb as the new Regional Manager.

Chris has a military background, knowledge of the vagaries of both target shooting bodies and the club scene, hence his appointment.

Initially he will be focussed upon creating the right infrastructure to support clubs and members at a local level so that the Association can deliver on current plans to reduce shooting costs for those using MoD ranges, improve access and cut back on the bureaucracy experienced by club secretaries. In particular, the identification and appointment of people willing to act as Range Agents will be critical.

To do this he will be putting together an index of MoD, club and commercial ranges and their specifications, identifying which disciplines can use them and when.

With the new Range Agents he will look to build long-term relationships with MoD and Landmarc managers to improve booking services and clearly set out conditions of use for each range.

A critical piece of work for the Range Agents will be to identify the protocols needed for the use of each individual range and to orchestrate the training of RCOs, in partnership with the Army, to permit them to have key holder status.

Where a serious problem arises that cannot be dealt with at a local level, because of issues at national level or interpretation of national policy, Chris will be your man on a day-to-day basis.

In the longer term Chris will work with regions and clubs to deliver on the creation of a national range structure.

NRA Club Affiliation

The affiliation year will change to start in April 2006 so that the start of the MoD Licence and Insurance all coincide thus reducing the administrative burden of clubs.

The cost to the NRA of taking on the administrative burden on behalf of the MoD to the benefit of clubs will result in an increased affiliation cost. However, to put this into perspective, if any club shoots more than once on a MoD range in a year, it will be making considerable savings.

The NRA currently is investing £145,000 in this venture in support of the clubs in the regions. This is

made up of increased costs in staffing, administration and providing public liability insurance.

The proposed increase in the affiliation fee is designed to cover the cost of the MoD/NRA Licence (Range Licence) which includes public liability insurance.

The NRA has agreed to take out a block insurance, at the insistence of the MoD, providing £5 million public liability cover for each club, as per the new standard required for sporting organisations. This means, in real terms, club insurance costs provided as an integral part of the affiliation package for those clubs that shoot on MoD or NRA Ranges will be reduced to lower levels than last year. In addition for the cost of the public liability insurance the clubs also get:

- Employers Liability, which covers officials, RCOs, volunteers and any employees of the club.
- Property Insurance, which includes club shooting equipment, trophies and contents of premises.
- Personal Accident cover for Death or Injury to Club Members

By affiliating to the NRA, clubs are able to use NRA or MoD Ranges. As agreements are reached, their fee will include their Range Licence, low cost insurance cover and range booking conferences. All of this should reduce costs and administrative burdens at club level, while improving access to ranges.

Landmarc and the Army

The National Rifle Association has received many letters regarding bad treatment from Landmarc, which seemed to blame the Association for not taking any action.

Firstly, we have been busy on your behalf and secondly, we have never agreed any of the increased charges or policy changes; effectively we are in dispute with Landmarc.

Before proceeding further I need to explain the relationship between the Army and Landmarc so that you may all better understand what the NRA has been doing. Landmarc is contracted to run all training facilities on behalf of the Army, acting as their agent. They have about seven or eight years of the current contract to run. As agents they implement the Army policy and charging structure. They interpret policy which leads to different conditions in different regions.

The contract between Landmarc and the Army failed to give organisations like our own any status or recognition. Effectively, at present Landmarc do not have any obligations to offer any form of customer service or to accommodate us on any ranges that they run.

Recognising that Landmarc is the agent of the Army, the Association has concentrated its efforts on reaching

a negotiated settlement with the military, rather than Landmarc, as we felt negotiating with an agent was a waste of effort. We have, however, been regularly informing Landmarc of any complaints from yourselves in an effort to get some resolution in the short-term.

Our main focus of effort will be to get an agreement with the Army in relation to Licensing to use MoD Ranges, training of RCOs to run ranges instead of Range Wardens (thus removing that cost) and setting up a regional booking service to reduce administration pressures on both the Army and club secretaries.

Hopefully we will finalise agreement with the Army on these issues in the next few weeks to the benefit of our members in terms of cost reduction and increased access.

In relation to the current policy change from Landmarc requiring clubs to pay for the Range Warden on a normal working day when the military are present, the NRA has objected to this. We have written to the General in charge of the current negotiations. The proposal is that this issue should not be considered, as the Landmarc policy may well be superseded by decisions reached between the Army and the Association.

New Shooting Disciplines

Following the pistol ban the NRA, with help from others, created the flourishing Gallery Rifle shooting discipline to keep people in the sport. We have stated ambitions that this shooting discipline should gain international status. Last year's international match involving GB, Germany and Ireland was a good start. Over the past few years Bisley has become the home of the Gallery Rifle Championships with the Phoenix and Gallery Rifle Action Weekend events, which are both competitive and fun.

Many of you have written to the NRA pointing out many who shoot fullbore are not members of the NRA and have no interest in becoming so, because their shooting interests are not accommodated. I have become aware in my travels that many of you shoot sports rifles with scopes on the range next to target rifle shooters, effectively competing in an unrecognised shooting discipline. Perhaps the time has come for the Association to work with you to develop your sport into a new discipline.

The NRA has always been interested in the wider development of the sport as long as the target shooting undertaken is correctly conducted, lawful and safe. So if you want to develop a new recognised part of the sport come and talk to us.

Apathy

The British Shooting Sports Council (supported by the NRA), recently proposed a forum to discuss the strategic future for the organisation and shooting.

Unfortunately not all national bodies saw this as a priority, preferring to continue with the usual navel gazing.

Shooting has been given an opportunity to improve its profile on the national stage with the build-up to the 2012 Olympics. To take advantage of this situation we need to be able to work in concert portraying what we do in a positive manner.

Working together gives us the opportunity to be taken seriously by Government, particularly if we can be seen to present a coherent policy, representing the reasonable face of the sport.

Bill Wiggin MP, who is appalled at this failure, is trying to arrange an alternative event. He has the Association's fullest support.

Bill has a view that as members of the National Rifle Association you fail to 'punch your weight' and he has asked us to publish the following information that identifies what influences an MP to support a particular issue.

Why it pays to keep your MP fully informed!

No MP wants to lose his or her job, therefore they will be careful not to throw away votes and will want to win support whenever possible. There are usually two opposing sides to every decision and he or she will have to choose between them. Helping the MP make the right choice is called lobbying.

How does your MP know what his or her constituents think or care about, and how does the MP know what will make them vote for or against? After all, how would you feel if you had to vote on a subject about which you knew little?

As an MP I am very aware of how many letters and e-mails Members of Parliament receive every day. I, like my colleagues, do my best to ensure that I am meeting and listening to constituents and picking up the issues that matter in my constituency. The sheer volume of correspondence is almost overwhelming and this often means that only the most persistent and active lobbying gets significant attention. However, I suspect that we all separate the constituents' letters from the lobbying literature.

Constituents are the most important. They get priority; therefore they are the key to success. The lobby groups know this and orchestrate card campaigns, so that their members send us postcards supporting whatever campaign is currently running. Cards cannot have the same value as letters that people have taken the trouble to write. Considering the environment of fierce lobbying which already exists, I strongly

encourage your members to keep writing to their local MPs with their views and with news of their campaigns. No need to write to any other MP just your own.

I also suggest that you keep lobbying to ensure that your cause is never lost amongst the sea of other groups and societies who meet or write to MPs on a regular basis. If your members maintain a co-ordinated, concerted and on-going campaign across the UK, MPs will think twice before bringing in or supporting legislation which will cause them to be inundated with letters and criticism. Ongoing pressure is the key, and it does not hurt to be nice and thank them every now and again.

Armed with a second class stamp or two, YOU can make a difference. Just let your MP know how much shooting matters to you, how your vote depends on your MP's vote, and how many of you there are out there.

Bill Wiggin MP

NRA Open Days

The Association will be holding three Open Days this year, two at Bisley and the other for the first time at Altcar on the following dates.

Saturday 29 April 2006 – Bisley

Saturday 27 May 2006 – Altcar

Saturday 9 September 2006 – Bisley

Basically these popular events are run to introduce potential shooters to all the shooting disciplines, including clays, small-bore and air. They also give the chance to existing certificate holders to try other forms of the sport.

The events are run by the Association, having been given special dispensation from the Home Office. This allows non-shooters to turn up on the day, register, purchase tickets and try any of the different shooting disciplines. Everyone is individually coached ensuring the correct approach and safety is maintained.

Those who wish to fast-track the system can download a registration form from the NRA website, (www.nra.org.uk) and complete it before arrival.

News Updates

Discussions with the Government are still on-going about permitting ISSF Target Pistols to be reintroduced, thus allowing our international athletes to train and compete in the UK.

General Notices

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16 June at 17:30 in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2006 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 21:00 on Wednesday 19 July 2006.

Team Captaincies

Election of Team Captains

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

Great Britain Service Rifle Team

Peter Cottrell TD

Great Britain Service Pistol Team

Major Steve Townell

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2007

Gary Alexander

Forthcoming Tours

We send our best wishes for successful tours to Mark Hodgins and his GB Historical Rifle Team who will be competing in the Fourth World Historical Rifle Long Range Championships in South Africa in April and also to Chris Hockley and his Great Britain Target Rifle Team to South Africa who will be competing in the South African Championships in April.

UPPINGHAM

Assistant Shooting Officer

Uppingham School, founded in 1584, is one of Britain's leading co-educational independent boarding schools. We have 750 pupils who participate in numerous extra-curricular activities such as sports, CCF, music, drama, and expeditions.

We seek an outstanding shooting coach to assist our RSM/SSI with school full-bore shooting from Easter to late July each year. Uppingham School has a long tradition of excellence in this sport. We have our own indoor .22 range, while full-bore shooting takes place at Beckingham Ranges during the week and at a variety of ranges at weekends. Preparation and participation at Bisley is a key activity.

For an application pack please contact the Personnel Manager, Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9QB.
Tel: 01572 820645
Email: kflb@uppingham.co.uk
www.uppingham.co.uk

NRA MEMBERSHIP – THE MOMENTUM GROWS . . .

by James Watson, Chairman of the Membership Committee

When I wrote in the last Journal, the NRA was on the cusp of exciting developments within the Membership Department. For our affiliated clubs, we introduced a new package aimed at reducing overall costs and improving the benefits of affiliation. Due to the speed and timing of its introduction, many clubs needed to talk to the Membership Department for clarification (over 400 clubs directly contacted us). At this point, I should like to register thanks to Heather and Nick for all the extra work they have put in over this busy period to keep on top of all the requests.

As you will read on page 11, we have a new insurance broker that gives us an improved policy at a lower cost. This change should directly and immediately reduce costs for clubs insurance by a net saving of over 20% whilst increasing the net benefits.

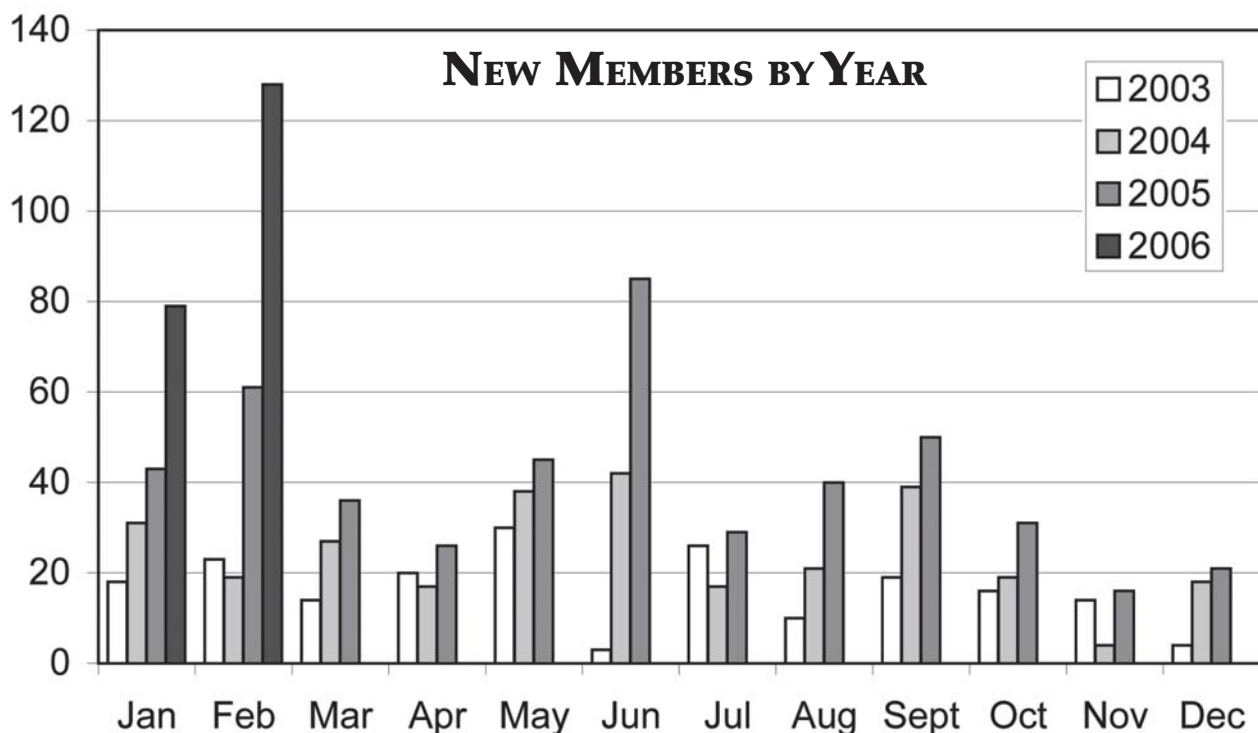
The changes have on the whole been welcomed by the clubs; some clubs had questions, but once the changes were explained, they realised the savings and have fully supported them. We appreciate that the changes are substantial and if any clubs need further explanation or information, we are there to help so please contact us (preferably by e-mail at membership@nra.org.uk).

On the individual membership side, the Membership Committee proposed a new first year introductory rate of £30, Council approved it and this has brought in a flood of new members. In the first two months of 2006, over 200 people have joined – that's 50% of the number of new members for the whole of 2005! This is great momentum and will help justify the economics of reducing membership fees next year.

One member has already encouraged 67 members of his club colleagues to join up! However we still need your help: if everyone succeeded in encouraging just one member each, we could swell our numbers by nearly 5,000. Please take the time to persuade a friend to join – the benefits more than outweigh the £30 membership fee this year. The more perceptive of you will realise that non-members entering the Imperial Meeting pay a Meeting Membership fee of £40 and could therefore save £10 this year and enjoy all the benefits of full NRA membership by joining up now.

The structure and subscription rates for 2007 will be set in August so that they can be communicated to the membership as early as possible. The Membership Committee remains committed to the strategy announced last year; that we should like to see a single category for the majority of members at a rate well below the existing full £84 fee. However this will be subject to Council's approval of our detailed budget.

We are always interested in hearing views of our members. Please feel free to send us any suggestions and comments either by post to the Membership Department or by e-mail to membership@nra.org.uk.



As you can see there has been a growth in every month over the past two years month on month. This is particularly highlighted with the results in January and February 2006.

THE NEW INDIVIDUAL AND CLUB INSURANCE POLICIES

Following an extensive review of the NRA Club and Individual Membership Programme the Association has made the decision to appoint Sport Specialist Insurance Brokers Perkins Slade as their new advisers.

Perkins Slade provide insurance services for 300 National Governing Bodies of Sport and Recreation in the United Kingdom including, coincidentally, the NSRA, CPSA and Muzzle Loaders Association. They have used their experience of shooting to significantly enhance previous arrangements as well as generating significant savings to affiliated Clubs.

A summary of the new insurance arrangements is as follows:

Individual Policy

1 Civil Liability Protection, £5,000,000 Limit of Indemnity

Civil Liability is a generic term for a Policy that includes Public and Products Liability, and additionally, Professional Indemnity, Libel and Slander and Directors and Officers' indemnity which were previously uninsured.

The Policy of course covers the use of Ministry of Defence facilities.

2 Shooting Equipment, up to £5,000

Based on your previous arrangements this provides "all risks" cover for your guns and ancillary equipment, for example spotting scopes and also trophies.

3 Personal Accident, up to £5,000 Lump Sum

Providing death or permanent injury cover for individual members, following accidents whilst shooting.

4 Revocation of Firearms Certificate – Legal Fees

In addition to the above individuals will have Legal Expenses protection in relation to the suspension revocation curtailment amendment or refusal to renew a Firearm or Shotgun Certificate under current Legislation/Acts of Parliament. There is also a 24-hour legal advice helpline in relation to any other legal issue an individual might have.

Important

The operative Clause on the Policy is "ANY ACTIVITY RECOGNISED OR APPROVED BY THE NRA".

Club Policy

1 Civil Liability Protection, £5,000,000 Limit of Indemnity

Civil Liability is a generic term for a Policy that includes Public and Products Liability, and Professional Indemnity, Libel and Slander and Directors and Officers' indemnity (previously uninsured). Critically, this provides specific protection for coaches, and range conducting officers

(professional Indemnity), and club officers and officials in respect of their executive responsibilities (directors and officers).

The Policy of course covers the use of Ministry of Defence facilities.

2 Employers' Liability Protection, £10,000,000 Limit of Indemnity

It is a statutory requirement for Clubs with employees [or volunteer employees] to have Employers Liability protection. The definition of employee is very broad and Clubs may indeed have had employees without necessarily knowing it. This automatic protection plugs what was a very significant gap in your previous arrangements.

3 Club Shooting Equipment, up to £5,000

Based on your previous arrangements this provides "all risks" cover for your Club guns and ancillary equipment, for example spotting scopes and also trophies. It is possible to extend this cover to include members shooting equipment, and details are available from the NRA.

4 Club Fixtures and Fittings, up to £5,000

Whilst similar to previous arrangements, this cover is wider than previous arrangements. Cover is on an "all risks" basis for the Contents of your Club facility such as fixtures and fittings, and other contents.

Important

[i] The operative Clause on the Policy is "ANY ACTIVITY RECOGNISED OR APPROVED BY THE NRA".

[ii] There is no limit by insurers on the number of visitors and guests permitted to use your Club, providing they sign the visitors' book.

Optional Cover

1) Revocation of Club Certificate - Legal Fees

In addition to the above, affiliated Clubs/Counties can have Legal Expenses protection in relation to the suspension revocation curtailment amendment or refusal to renew a Club or County Firearm or Shotgun Certificate under current Legislation/Acts of Parliament. There is also a 24-hour legal advice helpline in relation to any other legal issue a Club might have. This cover has not previously been in place for clubs/counties.

2) Individual Members Shooting Equipment £5,000 - Additional Cost £65 per annum

Based on your previous arrangements this provides "all risks" cover up to £5,000 for individual guns and ancillary equipment.

If you have any questions please contact the Membership Department.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by
Martin
Farnan*

Bisley Open Days

Two NRA Open Days will be held at Bisley this year, one on Saturday 29 April and the other on Saturday 9 September 2006. These days will be administered by the NSC, but all the firing points will be staffed by NRA appointed coaches. Members of the public as well as members of the NRA and affiliated clubs may, under a Home Office dispensation, shoot without the normal requirement to have a Firearms Certificate etc. Visitors who wish to shoot must pay a registration fee of £6. After registering a visitor can buy books of tickets to try whichever disciplines they like, although there are some age restrictions on some disciplines. Please see the NRA website www.nra.org.uk for further details.

We are seeking members who can help coach or supervise the general public at either event (NB the ranges will be controlled by qualified Range Conducting Officers). If you are interested, and can give your time freely to promote the sport, please contact Sarah Bunch on commdir@nra.org.uk or 01483 799609 with brief details about your shooting history and availability. Please let all your friends know about the day.

Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting will be held over the long weekend Friday 26 - Monday 29 May this year. The event is again being organised by the NSC on behalf of the NRA, and the planning committee is chaired by Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting. Over 80 events will be held, ranging from 10m Air Pistol to 1000 yards F Class Rifle. The event is again being supported by Target Sports magazine, for whose generous sponsorship we are extremely grateful, and will feature in their forthcoming issues along with the entry form.

The Match Conditions, Rules and Entry Forms are now available from the NRA, and copies may be obtained by ringing the NRA Range Office or the

Shooting Division Secretary (extensions 152 or 149 respectively). Copies of the entry form are being sent out to all those who are on the Gallery Rifle database. The entry form and courses of fire are also available to download from the NRA website. Don't forget that you can also enter on-line via the NRA website.

Imperial Meeting

RG Target Ammunition

Radway Green are confident that the ammunition which will be produced for this year's Imperial Meeting will be of similar quality to that of last year (which produced an equal record score of 300 ex 300 in HM The Queen's Prize).

Entry Forms

Entry to the Imperial Meeting TR and MR events can now be made online; entering online will save you time, effort, calculator batteries and postage stamps. In addition it will make life considerably easier for the squadding staff, since all entries made online can be uploaded directly to the Imperial Meeting entry and stats program, thus saving many hours of manual entry of the details. May I therefore encourage all those wishing to enter the Imperial to do so on-line. The entry forms may also be downloaded from the NRA/NSC website.

The entry form is again in its redesigned format as an A4 booklet. Pages 1 and 2 contain important notes on completing the entry form correctly: it is essential that you read these notes carefully **before** the entry form is completed. The actual entry form is on pages 3 and 4. The majority of competitors only need to complete page 3 (personal details, block entries and financial reconciliation). Only those competitors wishing to enter **individual** competitions or aggregates need to complete page 4. Pages 1 and 2 should be kept for reference and only the entry form on pages 3 and 4 should be returned.

Aggregates

This year the aggregate competitions, based on the individual squadded matches in both TR and MR, have been adjusted for the added convenience of competitors. These aggregates have been grouped into four blocks as follows:

Block C including Grand Aggregate matches **only**
Block D including Middle Saturday matches **only**
Block E including First Friday matches **only**
Block G including all MR competitions

This will enable competitors more easily to enter the blocks that fit with their date of arrival at Bisley. Those who enter only matches in the TR Grand Aggregate, and who previously had to hunt and tick the aggregates open to them, should enter Block C this year. Those who previously entered Block C should enter Blocks C **and** D this year to cover the same aggregates.

Block entry fees are discounted by approximately 10%. In Block C, for example, you get 22 aggregates for less than the price of 20! Please note that sweep entry fees are not reduced (since these entry fees are returned as prize money).

Also enclosed with this Journal is a request form which may be used to obtain entry forms for Team Matches (including Schools Veterans), Pistol & Gallery Rifle, Any Rifle (MR), Civilian Service Rifle and the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting.

Entries

We intend to start processing entries in mid-April. Once entries have been processed and entered in the computer, a detailed entry summary sheet will be forwarded to each competitor as usual. This should be thoroughly checked for any errors.

Late entry fees for individual TR and MR events will again be payable after 31 May (10% extra) with 25% extra payable after 30 June and 50% extra if entry is made within 48 hours of (but before 12:00 noon the day before) the start of the competition. No entries will be accepted after 12:00 noon the day before the competition.

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

Individual Entry Fees

This year's overall entry fees for individual TR and MR competitions, aggregates and sweepstakes will remain exactly as for last year. TR team competition entry fees also remain the same, but some MR team competition entry fees have changed to bring them into line with TR competitions.

Marker Fees

It was a sad fact that the marker fees last year were not sufficient to cover the expenditure, and a substantial loss was made. For this reason the marker fee per squaddled TR competition will have to be raised from £4.50 to £5.00 this year. The total marker fee payable must then be calculated (= number of individual squaddled TR matches entered x £5.00). The calculation of marker fees will allow a 25% reduction in the marker fees to be given to all competitors under 21 years of age, or under 25 years of age who are in full time education, and a 50% reduction in the marker fees to those aged 70 years of age or over. Those aged under 21 or under 25, as above, will also benefit from a 50% reduction in their entry fees (less sweeps).

Competitor ROs

The paid NRA RCOs will be responsible for ensuring that each range is fully equipped with all the required

equipment before the start of all competitions, for the safe running of the range and for closing it down on the conclusion of shooting. Competitor Range Officers (ROs) will be appointed as hitherto and will continue, under the supervision of the NRA Competitor Wing Officers, to be mainly responsible for the interpretation of the rules. No competitor RO should have more than two duties. Their assistance in the running of the ranges during the Imperial Meeting will be much appreciated.

Service Rifle

Entry forms for both Service and Civilian competitors may be obtained from the Director of Training on ext 150. They should be returned by 23 June 2006.

Target Rifle

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

- a the Champion of Champions Final will return to the Imperial Meeting and will be shot on the evening of Second Thursday as hitherto.
- b the Parting Shot team match will now be open to any team of four firers and a coach, with a maximum of two Class X firers. The coach may be of any class. All five members of the team must be either full members of the NRA or have taken out Meeting Membership.
- c the conditions of the Chairman's Prize (two parallel Championships, one open to Class O and the other to Class T competitors only) have been changed to take account of the difficulties experienced by many competitors last year. This year it will be open to the top 75 Class O and the top 75 Class T competitors in the Grand Aggregate **who have not qualified** for Queen's II. The list of the 150 qualifiers will be published on the afternoon of Second Thursday.

This match will now be shot at long range (900 yards only before the Queen's Consolation) on Second Friday and at 300 and 600 yards on Final Saturday. Classes O and T will shoot the same courses of fire. Separate prize lists will be produced for Class O and Class T competitors and the top 25 competitors in the overall championship in each class will be awarded special badges. Full details will be contained in the 2006 "Bisley Bible".

- d a new individual aggregate has been added this year, the Aiden Reece. This will be open to all comers and will be based on the aggregate of the St George's I, HM The Queen's Prize Stage I and the Prince of Wales.

F Class

We again plan to squad F Class competitors on a specific target (possibly the extreme left hand target) on each butt at both short and long range. This will

have two distinct advantages in that (a) F Class competitors can shoot with other F Class competitors, and (b) it will allow these targets to be specific F Class targets with the new F Class white $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bulls. Those F Class competitors using their own ammunition will be scored as 6 for the F Class V bull, 5 for the remainder of the TR V bull, 4 for the TR bull, 3 for the TR inner, 2 for the TR magpie and 1 for the TR outer. Those F Class competitors using the issued RG ammunition will be scored as for TR except that the normal TR V bull will be scored as a 6.

Schools

The new Schools Meeting programme, with matches at 300, 500 and 600 yards, proved extremely popular last year, and will be repeated. The revised Schools entry form will be sent out to all schools later this month. Entry fees remain unchanged. A new match has been added for those schools which have difficulty in finding an Ashburton VIII. The new match will be known as the Schools Fours, and will be open to teams of any four cadets, of any age, eligible to shoot in the Ashburton. No school may enter both the Ashburton and the Schools Fours in the same year.

Schools Veterans

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

Match Rifle

An Australian MR team will be competing in the Imperial Meeting this year. They will also be shooting alongside the Elcho in an MR Overseas Teams match, where the best four of eight scores will be taken as the team score at that distance, and these team scores will be aggregated to give the match total. Martin Townsend has kindly presented a trophy for the winning team in this match.

In addition the Australians will be shooting against Great Britain for the Woomera Trophy, presented for the first time in 1997 in Tasmania. Match conditions will be as for the Elcho **but** with two sighting shots at each distance. This match will be shot on First Thursday alongside the Humphry. The Any Rifle 1200 yards competition will also be shot on First Thursday this year, after the Woomera Trophy match. The present Any Rifle Extras competitions shot on Pre-Friday will continue, as will the Any Rifle Extras Aggregate.

Match Rifle competitors shooting prone are reminded that the use of a rest is restricted to supporting the hand or forearm. Para 244 specifically prohibits any contact whatsoever between the rifle and the rest. Competitors using slings need to take particular care

to ensure that the sling attachment and handstop are at all times clear of any part of the rest. RCOs will be paying attention to compliance with this requirement during the Match Rifle competitions.

Again you can enter the MR Meeting in F Class, shooting alongside the Hopton competitions for medals (Prize List D) only. Please complete the appropriate box on the entry form.

McQueen Competition

There will be a number of changes this year, mainly in nomenclature. The match itself will be known as the McQueen (Precision Snapshooting), and the classes will be named as follows:

- a McQueen A will be known as Precision
- b McQueen C will be known as Classic
- c McQueen E will be known as Open

The Sniper ACE Trophy will be renamed the ACE Trophy. The entry fee for this competition has, regrettably, had to be raised to £7 per shoot, and £3 for cadets.

The note reference the scoring to be used in the McQueen in the Winter 2005 Journal contained a typo, in that a 1" V bull was referred to: this was incorrect, and the scoring conditions will be that in order to allow more competitors to enter the **4" 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 will then shoot-off on the afternoon of Second Thursday.

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

The programme will remain similar to that of last year but, in view of the small number of competitors, only three bays on Melville will be used. An additional match will be shot on Middle Sunday, this being a 1500 Match. It will be shot on Bays D and E on Melville in four details throughout the day. Entry forms will shortly be available from the Range Office (ext 152) or the Assistant Director of Shooting (ext 148).

Taster Weekend

It is again planned to hold a Taster Weekend either at the beginning of the Imperial Meeting or on the weekend before the Meeting starts (alongside the British Commonwealth Meeting). This weekend is particularly for those who may be unfamiliar with competition shooting and who would like practice and assistance in the practical elements of competitive target rifle shooting. Experienced shooters and coaches will be on hand to assist and dispense advice. It is hoped that a package deal will be available which will include all shooting costs, accommodation and a social event on the Saturday evening. We will need a minimum number of attendees to run this Taster Weekend and costs will depend on final numbers.

Full details will be included in the Summer Journal however please send initial indications of interest to the Squadding Department on extension 146 or e-mail squadding@nra.org.uk. If you are an experienced shooter who would like to help run this event or can even help out for an hour or two, please contact the Squadding Department.

Prize Lists

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

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

Sponsorship

There are still many competitions which are not sponsored, and you are invited to consider whether any firms, companies or individuals you know might like to sponsor, or present a trophy for, a competition in the Imperial Meeting. Full details of the advantages for sponsoring firms are available from the Director of Shooting.

Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

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

Ammunition

Prices

The purchase price of RG ammunition has risen in the last two years by nearly 2p per round, but this increase has been absorbed by the NRA and was not passed on to the customer. This is clearly uneconomic and I regret that we will have to increase the price of ammunition by 1p per round with effect from 1 April 2006. The pricing structure for 2006 will therefore be as follows:

for orders from 1 to 4999	45p per round;
for orders from 5000 to 12999	44p per round;
for orders from 13000 to 19999	43p per round;
for orders of 20000 and up	42p per round.

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

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

Ammunition for County Open Meetings

It has again been agreed that, as an exception to the prices shown above, all 7.62mm RG 155 grain ammunition (of whatever quantity) bought for use at County Open Meetings only (**not for resale** outside the County Meeting) will be priced at 42p per round, ie with the maximum discount possible. Any ammunition remaining unused after the Meeting may be returned for a full refund, and should **not** be retained for resale. County Secretaries should contact the Armourer for further details.

Ranges

Insurance Cover for non-members of the NRA

Members of the NRA firing on NRA ranges are covered for all risks, including third party liability. Non-members, including members of affiliated clubs, may not be covered for third party liability unless adequate insurance has been purchased (either as part of the NRA Range Pass or under separate arrangements). Please note that members of affiliated clubs are only insured under their club's insurance when shooting in an event organised by their own club. If you are unsure about your insurance cover, please contact the Membership Department on ext 155 or memsec@nra.org.uk who will be able to help you.

Bisley Range Regulations

The 2006 Range Regulations have now been published. The timings for shooting will remain as for last year. Copies of the Range Regulations are available on the website or from the Range Office on request.

Reverse Echelon Shooting on Century

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

Range Radios

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

Butt Markers

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

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

When there is a shortfall of markers the Range Office staff have to prioritise where those markers present will mark. This is usually done in the following order: Stickledown Range, large competitions, the longer distances down to shorter ones on Century and finally Short Siberia.

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

It does help to build up a rapport with your marker. Tell the marker the name of your club and find out the marker's name. Tell the marker the course of fire and stand him or her down where possible, even if for only a couple of minutes. If the marker has done a good job say so, and particularly good service might be rewarded with a small tip.

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

American Short- and Mid-Range Targets

We have in stock about 100 of the NRA of America Short-Range (300 yards) and Mid-Range (500/600 yards) targets. These are decimal targets, similar to the long range Palma targets, and have somewhat tighter scoring dimensions than the normal GB targets. If any Club fancies a challenge and would like to use these targets for their annual meeting or similar, please

contact me and we can put these arrangements in place.

Shooting Matters

Civilian Service Rifle Meeting 4 and 5 March

The first Civilian Service Rifle Meeting run by the NRA outside the Imperial Meeting took place over the weekend 4 and 5 March 2006. A total of 56 competitors entered, although some had to withdraw and there were a couple of no-shows. However a total of 48 competitors shot a total of ten competitions over the two days, including rapids, timed fire and snap shooting in the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions at all ranges from 100 yards back to 500 yards.

The weather started cold (-7°) on both days but soon warmed up to zero! In fact Saturday was a glorious day with a 100% blue sky, though Sunday was a little windier. This affected the scores of those using 5.56mm, particularly at the longer ranges. Paul Hunter, the Practical Rifle representative on the General Council, ran the range without a hitch on both days, so well, in fact, that they finished shooting early each day (90 minutes early on Sunday morning)!

Jeremy Staples, the MD of NSC Ltd, presented the prizes: medals in all four classes of rifle (SMLE, No 4, Any Rifle Iron and Any Rifle Optic). It was unanimously agreed that a similar event should be held as soon as practicable, and I will now be conferring with Paul Hunter to agree a sustainable annual programme of Civilian SR competitions.

Attendance Records

You are reminded that in the Range Office we have the self-service system for recording your attendance and the use of your firearms on a computer. You will have your own PIN that enables you to log your firearms activity. The system has been developed in conjunction with the Surrey Firearms Licensing Officer following the Home Office guidelines.

The Range Office staff will be on hand to assist you if you need guidance. An important point to remember is when your personal record is opened that is **that date** which is automatically entered on to the attendance record **so no retrospective records can be entered**. *You must log your attendance on the day you use your firearms.* You are encouraged to record the use of all your firearms to justify their continued possession.

Postal Matches

At the last meeting of the Shooting Committee it was decided, with great regret, to discontinue the NRA Postal Matches. For the 13th year in succession, and despite numerous articles in the Journal, direct mailshots to Club Secretaries and extensive advertising on the website, the entries for the Postal Matches have amounted to virtually nothing.

The biggest number of entries in any of the team matches was two, only one person had entered the British 50 Roll (for the third consecutive year) and a number of matches had no entries at all. The entry fees received did not even cover the cost of the medals awarded. The Committee agreed that these matches should be discontinued and that the five trophies, one of which has not been awarded since 1994, should be reallocated. It was agreed, however, that all qualifying awards for Cadets and Schools should be continued.

The 2006 Ages Match

Many members of those teams which competed in the 2004 and 2005 Ages Matches at the end of October again confirmed that they had enjoyed them so much they wished that one could be held every year. They particularly commented very favourably on the amazing fireworks display and the buffet dinners and disco which followed, and said that it was an excellent end of season weekend when they could enjoy a fun shoot.

It has therefore been decided to hold an Ages Match over the weekend 28 and 29 October 2006, and to follow the same broad programme as last year. The team size may remain at 12, though teams of eight are being considered since this might allow two teams from the same age group. Further details will be given

in the Summer Journal, but please note this weekend in your diary now.

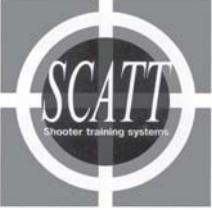
The 2006 European Long Range Championship

The European Long Range Championships have been held biennially at Bisley on the last three occasions, and have usually been attended by six or seven teams from the Home Countries and Europe. Teams have said how much they had enjoyed the last Championships in 2004.

This year's Long Range Championship will be held over the weekend 14 and 15 October, and will follow a similar format to previous Long Range Championships. As with the Ages Match further details will be given in the Summer Journal, but I would again ask potential team captains and members to note this weekend in their diaries.

Marksman's Calendar

A revised and updated Marksman's Calendar is enclosed with this Journal. If any subsequent corrections are required, or new events are added, please inform Karen Robertson by e-mail at karen@nra.org.uk as soon as possible. Any major amendments will be published in the Summer Journal. The full Marksman's Calendar is available on the NRA website.



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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by
*Phyllis
Farnan*

NRA training is well underway and several courses have already been completed. Please note that courses are not run at Bisley during the period mid-June to September because the ranges are busy with competition shooting, but regional courses may still be arranged during this time. The price structure of training courses has been reviewed by the NRA and details of course fees for 2006 are shown below.

RCO Courses

Since the beginning of January, in addition to the two central courses held at Bisley, there have been eight regional RCO courses and several more are planned to take place in the next few months. Any club that wants to book a regional course for their members is asked to contact Maureen Peach to make the necessary arrangements. As reported in the last Journal, the RCO photo ID card is being updated and will be replaced by a new style plastic card bearing the RCO's photograph and specimen signature. Currently, only new RCOs and those applying for renewal will receive the new style card. If you have an older version of the card, this remains valid and will be replaced in due course when you renew your qualification. The RCO course fees are:

At Bisley:

£70 (NRA member), £100 (Non-member)

Regional:

£30 (NRA member), £50 (Non-member)

Please note that membership of a club affiliated to the NRA does not count as individual NRA membership. Dates for the Bisley RCO courses and study days for the rest of 2006 are shown in the summary below.

Renewal of RCO Qualifications

All RCOs who qualified in 2000 will be due to renew their qualification during this year. You are now asked to supply a specimen signature in black ink in addition

to the normal renewal information. The documents required for the renewal of your RCO qualification are:

Two recent passport photographs (name on back), your old photo ID card, confirmation from your club chairman or secretary that you have run ranges for your club during the past 12 months, a specimen signature in black ink, and your current postal details.

The renewal fee is £20 for NRA members and £30 for non-members of the NRA.

All documentation together with the renewal fee should be marked for the attention of Maureen Peach. Please allow three to four weeks, initially, for this renewal process as we embrace the new card technology.

RCO Endorsement Courses

A MLAGB RCO Endorsement course for Muzzle Loading firearms will be held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley on Sunday 14 May. For further details and an application form please contact Maureen Peach. This course is open to any NRA RCO who wishes to add Muzzle Loading rifle and pistol ranges to his or her qualification.

Probationary Members Courses

The first course for 2006 has been completed and the second course is underway. A third course will start on Saturday 13 May. Three further courses have been planned for the period September to November. Individual tuition can also be provided mid-week (Tuesday – Friday) but at least one week's notice is required for this. The Probationary course has been restructured for 2006 and now consists of three training days on fullbore rifle, and one day on gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistol. Each session consists of classroom theory followed by range work. All enquiries concerning Probationary membership should be made to the Membership Department.

Skills Courses

Cadet Skills courses were held at the National Shooting Centre, during the February half-term holiday for 52 cadets from the CCF, ACF, SCC and ATC. A number of regional Skills courses for cadets will also be run during the Easter Holidays.

The next Skills course, for members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs, will be run on the weekend 22 - 23 April at Bisley. This course is for less experienced shooters and those who have recently completed the Probationary course.

Club Instructors Course

Twenty-seven cadet force adults successfully completed a Club Instructors course held at the

National Shooting Centre in February. A number of regional courses are also planned.

Weekend courses for NRA members and members of affiliated clubs will take place at Bisley on 22 - 23 April and 7 - 8 October. Please note that a course may have to be postponed if there are insufficient numbers to make it viable. The course fee is £90 for NRA members and £120 for non-members.

NRA Club Coach Course

The next Club Coach course will be held on 29 October and 4 - 5 November. This course is open to NRA members who have completed a Club Instructor course. The course fee is £90.

Wind Coach Course

Bill Richards will be holding his annual Wind Coach course again this year on the weekend 8 - 9 April. The course fee is £90 for NRA members and £120 for non-members of the NRA. A short half-day session will also be held on 14 July for the benefit of those attending the Imperial Meeting.

For further information concerning any NRA courses please contact the Director of Training on 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail training@nra.org.uk

Timetable for Courses at Bisley for the remainder of 2006

Probationary courses

Course 2006/3 begins 13 May
Course 2006/4 begins 2 September
Course 2006/5 begins 14 October
Course 2006/6 begins 11 November

RCO Study days:

26 March
30 September
12 November

RCO courses (one day course):

1 and 2 April
30 September and 1 October
18 and 19 November

TR Skills & Club Instructor courses (weekend)

22 - 23 April
7 - 8 October

Club Coach course (3 days)

29 October, and 4 - 5 November

Wind Coaching Courses

8 - 9 April
14 July (short course)

Dates for NRA courses at Bisley are also shown on the NRA website: www.nra.org.uk.

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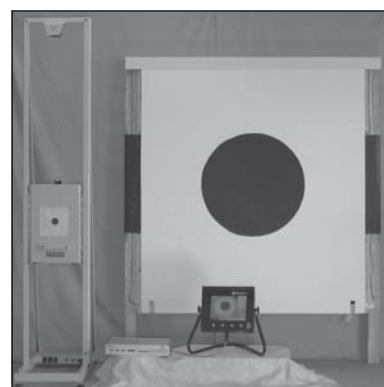
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NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by
Jeremy
Staples

Electronic Targets

Following considerable consultation and discussions I now confirm that ten Häring electronic targets have now been ordered which will hopefully be operational by mid-May this year. It is proposed that there will be seven targets on Century and three on Stickledown. The system is a wireless system and details of the usage together with charges will be on the NSC website in due course.

We are hoping that these targets will allow members to shoot at short notice during mid week without the problem of finding a marker.

Site Security

We have experienced a number of caravan break-ins over the winter months. It has been decided to install CCTV at the entrance of the estate together with selective CCTV coverage on a number of the more exposed caravan sites. We hope that this will reduce the risk of vandalism throughout the site.

Butt Zero

Work is underway to create additional facilities on Butt Zero. A moving target is currently being constructed to provide part of a Bianchi complex due for completion by the end of April. In addition there will be an opportunity to shoot turning targets on Butt Zero later in the Spring from 100, 200 and 300 yards.

Zero Range

A new roof has now been fitted to the Zero Range and hopefully this will maintain the stop butt in a better condition.

Short Siberia

We are continuing to upgrade the targetry on Short Siberia and an additional four targets should be installed hopefully by the beginning of May this year.

National Clay Shooting Centre

Once again we have a very busy year ahead hosting many competitions including the fourth Bisley Grand Prix, the English and British Open Single Barrel DTL and a number of other selection shoots of various disciplines. A new member of staff has joined the team, Lee Moore as trainee instructor/groundsman.

Recycling

Following comments made during the last Imperial Meeting I can confirm that we will have recycling facilities on the estate for both glass and cans during the main summer period.

Sunday Market

Due to difficulties with the Local Planning Authority the Wednesday and Sunday market has been postponed. The matter is now going to appeal with the Local Planning Authority.

Chalets

We are currently looking at a number of potential sites for small 1/2 bedroom wooden chalet buildings which will have main services connected. These will be available under the terms of the Real Estate Policy. Please contact me if you would like to register your interest in a chalet or would like a copy of the Real Estate Policy.

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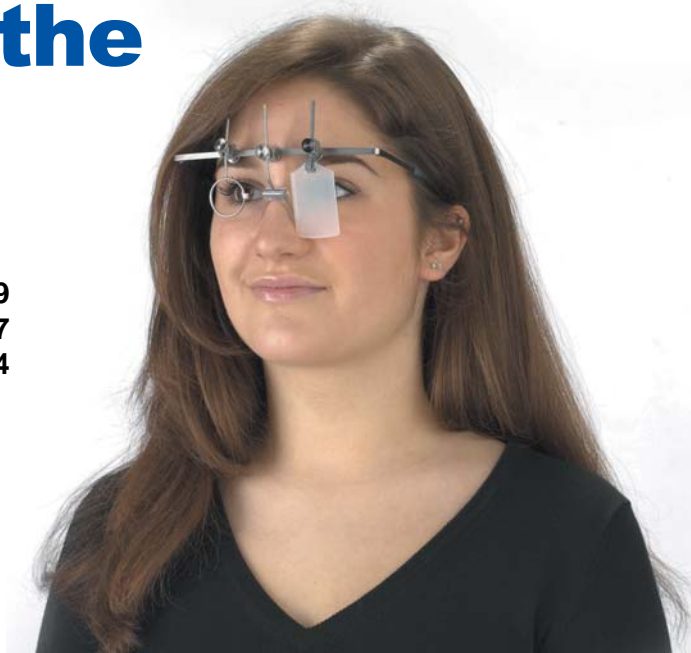
Slots may be booked on the day or by telephone during the preceding week

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566 iris, six colours	£85	570 iris, 1.5x, 6 cols	£135
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SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

F Class

by Paul Monaghan

Following initial discussions at the Imperial Meeting in 2005 and enthusiastic support from around the country, the F Class Sub-Committee has set up a National League. The purpose of this is two-fold. Firstly it is to try to bridge the North – South divide that we seem to have had in F Class; the southern shooters rarely travel to the northern shoots and vice versa. Secondly, the F Class shooters need to find a way to prepare for the World Championships in 2009 and establish a mechanism for GB Captains to select their squad.

This is a very exciting development and the idea has been well received. In overall charge of the League is Mik Maksimovic (Chairman of the NRA F Class Sub-Committee) who is looking after the Bisley end of the country. The northern end of the country is being looked after by the ever-enthusiastic Des Parr, who is based in Scotland, and Les Holgate from Diggle, who will liaise with Altcar Rifle Club and Northern England. Darren Stewart is organising the website.

The National League will award points, from 20 points for first place down to 1 point for place 20 and below. This simple format means that a league shoot could be held at any of the ranges on any targets at any distances and still be fair over the year. The inaugural shoot was held at Bisley in November 2005 and was attended by nearly 60 people over three days. Next year there will be four shoots. The first will be organised and held at Diggle in May, the next at Barry Buddon in Scotland in June, the August shoot will be at Altcar and the final shoot of the year will be at Bisley in October.

Our main aim is to get all our good and budding F Class shooters together, to train together and to

compete against each other nationwide. We have a good cadre of F Classers at Bisley, but as the results in November showed, there are equally as good, if not better, shooters from the regions who would strengthen a National Squad enormously. Of course, in order to become part of the National F Class Squad in readiness for the 2009 World Championships, all will have to be full members of the NRA!

Inaugural F Class Autumn Challenge Bisley November 2005

The inaugural F Class Challenge was held on Stickledown Range from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 November 2005. Friday was devoted to practice at 800 yards, 900 yards and 1000 yards, all on the ICFRA F Class international target. The target was a normal Palma long range target face with a 5" solid white V bull. The scoring rings then counted down, ie the X ring becomes the bull (5), the bull becomes the inner (4). This is an extremely tight target and is regularly used in practice at Bisley by the F Class shooters. There was a turnout of approximately 60 people on the Friday which was a very cold but bright and sunny day. To everyone's surprise and joy there was no wind at all - we used a maximum of 0.5 moa all day!

The joy stopped at Message One when people who had never seen the F Class target took their first glimpse at it. That 5" V bull is very small even at 800 yards, although not impossible to hit - after all an F Class rifle should be a 'half minute rifle' if it is to be seriously competitive. There were many new F Classers from all over the country getting their first glimpse of Stickledown and the new target. We had fourteen Irish shooters, one German, eight Scots and the remainder made up from other NRA members and NRA affiliated clubs from around the country. The



Germans were supposed to come over in force, but we understand that internal politics prevented them from getting organised in time, but it was nice to see Wolfgang Scholze (a previous World Champion) able to come and shoot with us.

Saturday was for individual competition. The course of fire was 2 and 15 at 800 yards and 900 yards and 2 and 20 at 1000 yards. Unfortunately it was very foggy and we were unable to start till 09:30. Also the lack of butt markers meant we had to re-squad on the morning. With all these delays we ended up only shooting 2 and 10 at 1000 yards, unfortunately this is the distance which sorts the men from the boys on the very tight F Class target. A total of 57 shooters competed in this individual competition and everyone seemed to have a good time. The shooting ended and was followed by an informal meeting of F Classers and a small buffet with a beer or two. The National League was discussed and people put forward their suggestions; a comprehensive set of rules and conditions are currently being put together.

On Sunday morning an informal four man team match took place, where we managed to field nine teams and coaches. This was shot at 900 and 1000 yards (2 and 15 at both distances) and gave a number of F Class shooters their first taste of coached shooting. There was some extremely good shooting in virtually zero wind conditions and some people learnt how good their rifles were (or not as the case may be). The overall consensus was that the target was extremely enjoyable and totally unforgiving! Many people who had never shot on Stickledown were extremely impressed by our organisation (apart from a few hiccups with the butt

markers) and a number of new members were recruited, one even paying for life membership!

After an informal prize-giving, people departed the ranges at approx 13:30. The whole event went well – ably organised by Mik Maksimovic supported as ever by the Range Office and other NRA staff.

Some of the results are included here to show just how good the shooting was. Remember the V bull is only 5" and the bull only 10". This event has created much interest from all over the country, including an article in Target Sports.

Results (top placings only)

Individual (ex 200.40)

	Name	800	900	1000	Total
1	D Groom	73.9	75.6	50.2	198.17
2	M Maksimovic	75.6	70.3	49.4	194.13
3	A Carter	74.7	73.8	46.3	193.18
4	P Crosbie	75.7	73.3	45.5	193.15
5	P Medhurst	74.3	74.6	45.2	193.11
6	M Anderson	74.1	71.1	48.5	193.07
7	G Costello	74.6	72.3	46.2	192.11

Team Match (ex 600.120)

1	Team Border Barrels	567.40
2	England's Glory	567.34
3	Haggis Bashers	559.21
4	Diggle Dollopers	554.26
5	The Germans	552.28
6	Team Guinness	539.17
7	England's Hope	537.24
8	Slam Firers	482.13
9	Team Shamrock	470.09

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

Our new season is now underway with the first training shots being fired during mid-March on the now much improved range facilities. There have been several working parties during the winter, bringing the firing points, butts and building up to a reasonable standard.

This year will be busy for the NRA National Squad with training, trials and European Cup events, from these events the team will be selected for the World Championships in Croatia during July. Our first friendly match will be in mid April in France against Clermont/Creil.

We welcome any NRA Members who would like to come and have a go on non squad days, especially on a Saturday. The firing lanes can be booked in half hour slots; this is just the right sort of training to sharpen up your TR short range V bull grouping! If you visit our website www.gb300m.com you can find out the dates that 300m can be shot on butt 10 and when we are there.

The TR League is going from strength to strength and was enjoyed by all last season. If your club or a few individuals wish to enter a team of four shooters (unlimited sighters and 30 shots to count), please contact us. The League starts at 14:00 on certain Sunday afternoons and free coffee will be provided!

The NRA 300m Championships will be held during May and it would be good to see more entries in the TR Saturday English Match (all shot on electronic targets). Please apply to the NRA for an entry form.

As always if any company or individual would consider a European Cup sponsorship for a small team we would be glad to hear from you!

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Please send your entry in early. Late entries make squadding and administration very difficult and cause inconvenience for competitors and range officers. Entry forms postmarked after 6 May, and online entries received after this date, will incur an additional fee of £1.00 per event entered.

Five new events have been added for this year, two catering for the Black Powder Cartridge Rifles over 4/5/600 and 8/9/1000 yards. In addition there are three short-range matches for Section One Shotguns.

A new, purpose-built, Bianchi Moving Target and Barricade complex is being sited at Butt Zero on Stickledown. It has always been our hope that GR shooters would make up a substantial part of our membership as shooting moves forward and grows. For this reason we are offering an initial full membership of the NRA at £30. Please ask the Membership Department (01483 797777 ext 138) about benefits and details. If you choose not to join at this time you will require Meeting Membership to cover insurance and organisational costs at £5 for the meeting. If you choose to join the Association in 2006 this cost will be credited against your Membership subscription.

If you are able to offer your services as a Range Officer for any of the Gallery Rifle events please contact the Match Director, Brian Thomas at brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

At one time it seemed as if there were not many competitors on the Sunday afternoon of the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, so for the past few years we stopped the main matches at lunchtime and put on some more informal events which, when I put them forward, produced some enthusiasm. However, that enthusiasm did not translate into bodies on the firing point.

To put it politely my winning idea fell flat as the proverbial pancake, to the sound of lead balloons descending. However, it is now suggested that a number of shooters who would only be able to come on the Sunday do not do so, as they would only have time for one or two events if competitions stop at lunchtime, fewer if they travel from afar.

Accordingly, this year we will revert to the old format, with shooting in most, if not all, competitions available until 16:00 on Sunday. Actual range space will be limited, to contain the cost of extra markers etc, but unless there is a magical deluge of shooters, there should be space for all to get in at least two details. It may be possible to include some of the side events, such as Pool Bull, but that depends on space and, again, markers.

As I write this, the preparation of the programme is underway, and will be posted out in early April, though I hope it will be on the website before then in a format so you can print out your own. This year I would make a strong plea for you to enter your e-mail address on your entry form, as we will be making an effort to harvest these so we can send you information, such as when a programme or suchlike is on the website, by e-mail.

There will be a gradual move to make the website the usual place to get your programme, but paper copies

will always be available. At the moment about four programmes are printed for each actual entrant, so in the future we may be able to reduce these if you opt for an electronic version.

The ultimate aim will be for you to be able to make your entry online, and who knows, even book your detail! Any cost saving is important, as although entry fees, I would admit, are scarcely an incentive to enter extra matches, rest assured they are the absolute minimum required to cover costs and make some contribution to the range fees.

Another matter to note is that there will be two details for the NRA Percussion Revolver Championship, one on each morning, the first shot at 09:00 sharp; so now you will be able to enter more than one class.

To look at other matters, at present shooting sports have started to reclaim their position, so that the man in the street now looks favourably on us, and when a Local Authority asks for advice on re-opening a range things have certainly changed.

However, the politically correct anti-shooting lobby may be lying low, but they certainly have not gone away. I have recently had to complain to the BBC alleging bias, by only giving the anti-shooting view in a recent news report. Therefore it is prudent to review our activities from time to time, to see if there are any potential problem areas.

Currently targetry is under review, and if you have any views or special target you use, in the first instance approach your main club, as HBSA, LERA, and MLAGB are assisting the Shooting Committee in this task. This may be to our advantage, as in future, depending on the recommendations of the Target Working Group and acceptance by the Council, many of our historic targets may be available for us to use under NRA rules for use in their context, such as a match based on an historic Military Classification shoot.

In such a review, however, we must all be very careful not to sell one discipline down the river to save another, and whilst it may be prudent to show examples to our potential critics and adversaries, any adverse leading questions must be studiously avoided, such as suggesting something might not be to their liking, thus making up their minds for them.

Remember, any matter you wish to raise, I am always available and my telephone number and e-mail address can be obtained from the NRA office, but for security reasons they may only pass on your details to me, but I always will contact you in return.

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REGIONAL MATTERS

Cornwall Takes on the Shooting Challenge

by Adrian Pettman

The annual Inter-Counties Challenge Rifle Meeting took place at the Millpool Range near Bodmin over the August Bank Holiday weekend organised by the Cornwall Rifle Club. Over 50 competitors took part coming from many parts of the country.

The first match on Saturday, at 300 yards, was won by Ross McQuillan with a score of 50.8 after a tie with Stuart Young. The following match consisted of a fifteen round shoot at 300 yards using a metric target where the ten ring is only a fraction larger than the V. David Young was quickly off the mark to win with a 149.6 with Rob Shaw coming second on 148.7.

During the afternoon David Young continued on top form by winning the third match at 500 yards with a maximum 75 and 13 V bulls putting Mike Cosway with the same score in second place after a tie shoot. Later on Ross McQuillan rose again to take the final match of the day with a fine 50.8 with the second slot filled by James Watson on 50.7.

The following day the start was delayed by a hill mist which has plagued the meeting for the past three years. Nevertheless the day's shooting got underway with a fifteen round match at 600 and 500 yards. This match, known as the Anchorage Marine Plastics Trophy was eventually won by Ross McQuillan with a total of 148.24 with Rob Shaw coming close behind on 148.22 and George Cann making third place with 146.19 - a very close contest.

Although pushed for time because of the delayed start it was just possible to squeeze in the ten round rapid shoot at 600 yards. The winner here was J Garnett on 48.6 with George Cann following closely on 48.4.

The final competition which was reserved for the top twenty of the Grand Aggregate took place at 600 yards but this time only one sighter was permitted; Ross

McQuillan again showed his form by gaining the Duke of Cornwall Trophy with a magnificent 75.11. George Gilpin was close behind with 75.10 and Keith Ellett raised the Cornish flag with a fine 74.7.

So ended two full days of concentrated shooting. This meeting is a little unusual in as much as the conditions regarding ammunition are quite open. Prior to the advent of 7.62mm ammunition, target shooting was largely confined to the military rifle namely the No 1, No 4 and P14. Their accuracy was about comparable with each other, the ammunition mostly varying batches of RG. Today with the tremendous wealth of equipment on the shooting scene and the multitude of permutations of barrels, actions, sights and ammunition, the shooter is presented with a distinct challenge to piece together his or her equipment to the best advantage. This is why meetings such as this do allow individuals to experiment and bring together a package which is designed to achieve the best possible scoring performance. Apart from the basic requirement to restrict the bullet weight to 155 grains the competitor has a much greater variance of ammunition when compared to the conditions in the NRA Imperial Meeting.

During the two days of this meeting from the relatively small number of competitors a surprising high standard of shooting was achieved with little assistance from the two small wind flags on the range.

The actual County Challenge Match, which was based upon the Sunday shoots at 600 and 500 yards, was won by Devon with a score of 859 out of 900 with Lancashire coming second on 853 and Cornwall just behind in third place with 851.

The individual events comprising the Grand Aggregate, the Jobson Rose Bowl, was won with a high



Ross McQuillan picked up quite a few trophies.



It was also a successful weekend for the Young family.

score of 420 out of a possible 425. David Young from Lancashire and George Cann from Devon tied with this total, but David with 48 V bulls against 41 from George was the overall winner for the second year running. The Harvey Shield, shot over the same course, was exclusively for the Cornwall club members. Martin Gregory and Adrian Pettman both finished on 409 but Martin with 34 Vs was just ahead of Adrian on 31 Vs and thus came out the winner.

The other Aggregate results were as follows:

E Thompson Construction Trophy (300 & 600 yards)

1	R McQuillan	100.16
2	G Cann	100.12
3	R Shaw	100.11

Royal Ordnance Trophy (RG ammunition)

1	Mrs KM Young	314.23
2	A Pettman	314.22

Helena Rubenstein Bowl (Ladies match)

1	Mrs KM Young	404.31
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The Hallows F Class Trophy

1	M Mowbray	420.43
2	R Weeks	414.42

The Junior Aggregate

1	S Young	415.39
2	R Shaw	389.25

The Homeloads Trophy

1	J Watson	419.40
2	R Shaw	415.34

The Dickson Pairs Trophy

1	D and S Young	643.47
2	G Gilpin and J Watson	635.47

At the end of the meeting the prizes were presented by Colin Williams, a Vice-President of the Cornwall Rifle Club. Our sincere thanks go to Keith Ellett who organised the whole event most efficiently and was instrumental in providing the refreshments for all the participants. In addition we are very grateful to many of the club members who acted as Range Officers, also Mike Hallows who volunteered to produce the computerised results, and finally to Rob Moyle and his very efficient team of cadet markers who worked tirelessly during the two days of the meeting.

I cannot finish without mentioning the generosity of our sponsors, these being Albie Fox, HPS who donated a free rifle bedding service, RPA (Trakker Rear Sight), Keith Chard of the Exeter Gunshop, TWP Designs and Tim Webster, Roy Jobson, Keith Ellett, the NRA, the L&MRA, the City RC and Norman Clark Gunsmiths. The 2006 meeting will again be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend (26 and 27 August); anyone who is interested in taking part should contact Keith Ellett on 01822 614567.

This is proving a very popular venue in the shooting calendar. Why not combine a short break holiday in Cornwall with a bit of shooting?

FORTHCOMING TOURS

Great Britain Palma Squad

The following have been selected as the Great Britain Palma Squad.

Captain

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

Vice-Captain

Andy Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Adjutant

Nigel Ball GB, England and Norfolk

Coaches

David Calvert GB, Ireland and Ulster

Matt Charlton GB, Scotland and London

Simon Cleveland GB, England and Surrey

Nick Hinchliffe GB, England and Cheshire

Jeremy Langley GB, England and Devon

Jane Messer GB, England and Sussex

Reg Roberts GB, England and Sussex

Reserve Coach

Matt Ensor Surrey

Shooters

David Armstrong GB, England and Surrey

Mary Boston GB, England and Lincolnshire

Nick Brasier GB, England and London

Jon Cload GB, England and Sussex

Danny Coleman GB, England and Surrey

Ed Compton GB, England and Sussex

Rupert Dix GB, England and Somerset

David Dyson GB, England and Yorkshire

Peter Holden GB, England and Norfolk

Kitty Jack Scotland and Kent

Henry Jeens Wales and London

Richard Jeens GB, Wales and Gloucestershire

James Lewis GB, England and Norfolk

David Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Alwyn McLean GB, Ireland and Ulster

Ross McQuillan GB, Ireland and Ulster

Martin Millar GB, Ireland and Ulster

Gareth Morris Wales and Cambridgeshire

Parag Patel GB, England and Surrey

John Pugsley GB, England and Devon

Toby Raincock GB, England and Surrey

Jacqui Rankin GB, Scotland and East of Scotland

Rick Shouler GB, England and Nottinghamshire

Rich Stewart GB, England and Norfolk

Jon Sweet GB, Scotland and Hertfordshire

Jon Underwood GB, England and Surrey

Michael Walton GB, England and London

James Watson GB, England and Northants, Leics & Rutland

John Webster GB, England and Cheshire

Alex Woodward GB, Wales and London

Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada 2006

The members of the Great Britain Palma Squad who have been selected for the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada 2006 are as follows

Captain

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

Vice-Captain

Andy Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Adjutant

Nigel Ball GB, England and Norfolk

Coaches

David Calvert GB, Ireland and Ulster
Matt Charlton GB, Scotland and London
Nick Hinchliffe GB, England and Cheshire
Jane Messer GB, England and Sussex

Shooters

David Armstrong GB, England and Surrey
Mary Boston GB, England and Lincolnshire
Nick Brasier GB, England and London
Danny Coleman GB, England and Surrey
Ed Compton GB, England and Sussex
Rupert Dix GB, England and Somerset
Kitty Jack Scotland and Kent
Henry Jeens Wales and London
James Lewis GB, England and Norfolk
Ross McQuillan GB, Ireland and Ulster
Gareth Morris Wales and Cambridgeshire
Toby Raincock GB, England and Surrey
Rick Shouler GB, England and Nottinghamshire
Rich Stewart GB, England and Norfolk
Jon Sweet GB, Scotland and Hertfordshire
Michael Walton GB, England and London
James Watson GB, England and Northants, Leics & Rutland
John Webster GB, England and Cheshire

WIN MONEY!

and support the OTF

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

This year sees the introduction of the Albert Swindle for Match Rifle shooters which will be run along similar lines.

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

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2006

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2006.

Captain

Chris White GB, England and Durham

Adjutant

Dave Dyson GB, England and Yorkshire

Coaches

Dave Davies GB, Wales and South Wales
Robin Hatcher GB, England and Suffolk

Shooters

Daniel Blake County of London
Tom Horrocks Lancashire
Kenny Macdonald Scotland
Steve Robinson Yorkshire
Chris Claridge Sussex
Ed Wood Norfolk
Ed Jeens Wales and County of London
Phillip Oxnam Northants, Leics & Rutland
Simon Dixon Surrey
Andy Wilde Somerset

British Universities Sports Association Rifle Team Channel Islands Tour

In August 2006, a team of twelve British university fullbore shooters will travel to Jersey and Guernsey to take part in what will be the inaugural BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) Rifle Team Channel Islands Tour. The tour has been put forward in order to promote fullbore shooting within UK universities and to give young shooters the experience of competition shooting at an international level. Unfortunately, within England, Scotland and Wales there are only a handful of universities with active and populous rifle clubs which can provide the means to train and compete in fullbore shooting. This tour will aim to consolidate the shooting talent spread over the UK's universities and give it a focus. Whilst in the Channel Islands, the team will compete individually in both the Jersey and Guernsey summer fullbore meetings, and will compete in a team match against the Jersey and Guernsey National teams, and the UK Cadet Channel Islands touring team.

Mark Westmoquette has been appointed Captain of the tour; he is a PhD student at University College London (UCL) studying Astronomy. Mark has appointed Ed Welford from Exeter University (who studies Biology) as his Vice-Captain and Tom Hunter (also UCL, studying Computer Science) as tour Adjutant.

The tour organisers are actively seeking sponsorship, and any help (sponsorship or otherwise) would be very much appreciated. If you feel you could help the tour or would like to discuss sponsorship, please do not hesitate to send an e-mail to ci2006@busarifle.org.uk.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN DAY SATURDAY 29 APRIL



Home Office Approval has been granted for an
Open Day to be held at the National Shooting Centre,
Bisley on Saturday 29 April.

Come and have a go at:

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

Children's
Entertainment

Visit the
NRA Museum

Refreshments
available

Doors open
8.30am

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

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

For further information please contact the NRA Offices
Tel 01483 797777 ext 125 E-mail info@nra.org.uk
www.nsc-bisley.co.uk www.nra.org.uk



PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2006

These procedures are derived from the simplified Rules approved at the Special General Meeting held just prior to the Bisley General Meeting, 2005.

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid-up their subscriptions for 2006 by 31 March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

Those voting for Regional Candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region even though their nominated Candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for Shooting Discipline Candidates must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary Shooting Discipline.

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2006.

Nomination forms for Candidates and Proposers with an explanation of the procedures for nominations, are available from the Secretary General's office.

Curriculum Vitae

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

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

The Programme of key dates for Elections

31 March 2006

All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

30 April 2006

- Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Secretary General by 17:00 on this date.
- Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.
- All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

31 May 2006

Voting slips will be posted to all entitled Members by this date together with the procedures for voting.

17 July 2006

Voting slips, in the correct envelope supplied, must be received by the NRA office by mail, or by hand, no later than 18:00 on this date.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 6 April 2006.

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2006, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

S Belither *
CM Brooks
Prof AR Horrocks
S James
JA Watson


Four Regional Members

Mrs ID Bennett	West Midlands
PR Coley	South Western
PS Gray *	Wales
CD Law *	London & South East

Two Shooting Discipline Members


P Hunter	Practical Rifle
JM Kynoch	Sporting Rifle

* not standing for re-election.



CITY RIFLE CLUB

FOUNDED 1898



Looking for a base at Bisley?

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

Full membership for 2006 season	£50.00
Under 21 & serving members of HM Forces	£25.00
Locker rental for 2006	£40.00

(plus refundable key deposit of £20.00)

For further details please contact:

Mick Barr	01438 811451
John Saunders	01276 502476
John Gardener	01483 289233

or call into the Clubhouse.



HPS TARGET RIFLES LIMITED



Announcing the **NEW**
System Gemini F Class /
Bench Rest Rifle Stock for
Target Rifle (FC 704T) or
Match Rifle (FC 704M).

HPS is Britain's premiere target rifle supplies company, bringing the combined experience of two international target rifle shooters in both fullbore and smallbore 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 smallbore shooter a variety of products and technical support as they pursue their sport:

System Gemini Fullbore Stocks TR 701, TR 702, FC 704T, FC 704M
Fullbore Tactical Series Rifle

System Gemini Smallbore Stock - FR 703 - 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 Smallbore 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



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 107 grain 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.

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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

WEBSITE UPDATE - ONLINE ENTRY FOR IMPERIAL MEETING

The online entry facility for the Target Rifle and Match Rifle elements of the Imperial Meeting is now available on the NRA and NSC websites.

In order to encourage competitors to enter online, there will be an additional Early Entry Online Draw for all entries over £100 received by Friday 14 April. One prize of £100 will be awarded to one online entry drawn at random after the closing date. This prize is in addition to the usual Early Entry Draw which will occur as normal.

A normal paper entry form is enclosed with this Journal for those who do not wish to enter online. However we prefer competitors to enter online before Friday 14 April because the entry information from the website can then be imported directly into the Imperial Meeting squadding database which will result in more efficient processing of your entry (*as well as saving a huge amount of the Editor's time*). It is also far easier to enter the Imperial Meeting online because the entry form is much quicker to complete than the paper entry form and **all the complicated sums are worked out for you**.

Comments from those who have already entered online include:

Great system - so easy to enter - well done

Excellent online entry form!

Much easier and more sensible way to enter - well done

Hooray for online entries! Much easier!

This is an excellent way of entering the meeting, but it does rather reduce the anticipation and mystery of wondering how much it is all going to cost as one fills in the massive paper form!

Can I just say, whoever put together the online entry form deserves a pat on his back. I filled it out in 5 minutes in my lunch break – normally with the paper format, I would sit down for an hour or so with a calculator and still get it wrong!

First detail in the Corporation please!

Registration

To enter the Imperial Meeting online, you need to register as a user if you have not already done so (click on the Users drop-down menu at the top right hand side of the NRA website). Once registered, the Membership Department will check your membership and authorise your registration. If you are an NRA member please allow one working day for this to happen otherwise you will be charged a Meeting Membership fee which will need to be refunded when you collect your cards.

Save Money!

This year Meeting Membership costs £40 for an adult. Full Individual Membership of the National Rifle Association now only costs £30 for your first year's membership. So why not join now and save money - just click the box on the registration page to be sent a Membership pack.

NRA Individual Entry Form (TR & MR) - 137th Imperial Meeting (2006)

If any of your personal details are missing, or need changing, please close this window and change your registration details.

Name: Mr U25 Test-Account
Email: testu25m
NRA Membership Number: 99998
Date of Birth: 02/03/1983
Home Phone: 01483 797777
Mobile Phone: null
Work Phone: 01483 797777
Address: Bisley, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0PB

Click here to view notes on the entry form.

Please enter the details below.

I am eligible to shoot for: East of Scotland and Scotland

Tick if you shoot Left Handed: ☐

Primary Club/School/Unit: British Commonwealth Club Secondary:

NRA GB TR Class: Class X NRA GB MR Class: Class O Overseas TR Class:

I will be using the following rifles: 1: 738 Swing 2: 2472 Paramount

If using any other rifles, please include the details in the comments section on the final screen.

Please answer the following questions.

Are you eligible for cadet prizes? No ☐ Is this your first Imperial Meeting? No ☐

Are you undergoing full-time education, or were you in full-time education during last term? No ☐ Are you physically incapable of doing special duties? If so, you will need to send a doctor's note to support this claim. No ☐

Are you using drugs forbidden by NRA rules? If so, a current Doctor's Certificate must be sent. No ☐

Match Rifle Competitors only:

Shooting Position: Prone I will be firing: 7.62mm I will be using issued RG ammo: No ☐

All Competitors:

CERTIFICATE:

I make this entry subject to the Rules for the Imperial Meeting (which includes strict provision in connection with the misuse of drugs (Rule 250.8-544(m)) and Appendix 14 and an undertaking to do Special Duties, if required, on any day on which I have entered a Squadded Competition) for the competitions against which I have inserted the entrance fees now remitted. My name and club may be used in prize lists. I also certify that I am qualified to compete in accordance with the Rules and the entries I have made. A signature will be required on collection of your squadding cards.

Proceed to Competition details

Step 1 - Fill in your details and tick the certificate.

NRA Individual Entry Form (TR & MR) - 137th Imperial Meeting (2006)

Block Entry option - If you wish to enter individual competitions or aggregates (in addition to or instead of block entries), please proceed to the next screen.

Block Entry	Entry Fee	Sweeps
Target Rifle Competitions 1-11 and Grand Aggregate	£153.40	£6.00
Target Rifle Competitions 15-18 (Pre-Grand shoots)	£48.50	£2.00
Target Rifle Aggregates 21-42 (Grand Aggregate only)	£87.20	£9.50
Target Rifle Aggregates 45-52 (including Middle Saturday)	£32.80	£3.50
Target Rifle Aggregates 54-58 (including First Friday)	£19.80	£2.50
Match Rifle Competitions 61-67 and Hopton Aggregate	£103.10	
Match Rifle Aggregates 71-79	£35.80	

Click here to view notes.

Competition only £153.40 ☐

Not entered ☐

Competition only £48.50 ☐

Competition and Sweeps £50.50 ☐

Not entered ☐

Not entered ☐

Not entered ☐

Proceed to extra competitions

Step 2 - Select the competitions you wish to enter. Other pages (not shown here) will allow you to enter individual competitions, aggregates and sweeps as well as all the other bits and pieces you would normally find on the paper entry form.

PROTIX SECURE SERVER

National Rifle Association

You have now entered the Protix secure server, if your browser isn't showing the secure padlock on the bottom right of your screen click on the padlock below.

To Pay For: NRA Imperial Meeting Entry for Member Test-Account
Amount: 308.55 GBP

Enter Card Details

Please enter your card details below and click proceed to submit your payment. Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Card Number* (enter without spaces)

Payment method*

Cardholder Name* (name as it appears on the card)

Valid From Month: Year: (if not present, leave blank)

Expiry date* Month: 03 Year: 2006

Issue No.

Security Code* (switch/solo/Maestro only, if not present leave blank) what do I enter here?

Enter Cardholder Details

Billing Address* Bisley Brookwood null Woking what do I enter here?

Billing Post Code* GU24 0PB what do I enter here?

proceed cancel

Step 3 - Pay using our secure online payment system.

A LICENCE TO SHOOT WOULD GIVE PISTOL ATHLETES A CHANCE

by Kate Hoey

Pressure is mounting on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to double the funding for sport so that a genuine medals challenge can be mounted for the 2012 Olympics in London. But Gordon Brown will not be swayed easily. More than anyone else in the Government, he will want to be convinced that extra money will lead not only to medals but to a legacy that will benefit the entire country.

So the comments of Jacques Rogge, the International Olympic Committee President, that the money is very much needed and that "good results for the host nation are vital for the success of the Games" are unlikely to be a deciding influence on the Chancellor.

The British team finished 10th in Athens and aim to be fourth in the medals table by 2012. If we do badly in Beijing in 2008 there will be calls for more cash. But as the BOA have pointed out, it will be too late by then. Now is the time to back the young people who could star in Stratford.

It is not all about money. There is one simple decision that, if taken by the Government, would immediately enhance the British team's prospects considerably. I refer to the ludicrous legislation brought in after the Dunblane tragedy. The outcome of the 1997 Firearms Act was effectively to ban target pistol shooting in mainland Britain. There was no differentiation between pistols held legally and those held by criminals. Overnight, the sport of thousands of decent, law-abiding people was taken away and our competitive pistol shooters from England, Wales and Scotland were faced with a choice - to hand in their pistols or take them abroad to continue their sport.

Target pistol shooting was always a popular sport and British shooters won more than their fair share of medals before the ban. For the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002, special arrangements permitted the pistol events to take place despite the ban. In some parts of London it is easier to buy a handgun than to find a taxi in the rain, so the sight of competitors' pistols being escorted in armoured cars from Heathrow to the National Shooting Centre at Bisley was farcical.

There are three events in the Olympic Games that use the banned .22 pistols - the men's 50-metre single shot, the 25m men's rapid fire using five shots, and the ladies' 30-shots precision and 30-shots rapid fire using a five-shot pistol. These pistols are personalised for the individual athlete and are not general issue items. The ban has resulted in a reduction in the number of our shooters achieving international standards - not everyone can afford to travel to Switzerland to train,

particularly up-and-coming competitors. But there are some talented young people shooting air pistols, such as Georgina Geike and Helen Lydall, who I saw compete at Bisley in the summer. Their medal prospects for 2012 would be excellent if they could prepare as a performance athlete would in any other sport. To win medals in shooting requires the same dedication, training frequency and skills as in any other event in the Olympic programme.

Urgent action is needed. It is perfectly possible for the Home Office to agree that competitive pistol shooters be immediately given a Section 5 Licence, as happened during the Commonwealth Games. This allows the individual the authority to possess a firearm that would otherwise be prohibited. Registered regional shooting clubs across the country would be designated under Section 7 (3) of the Firearms Act as a place for weapons to be used.

The shooter needs daily access to the equipment for 'dry training' - training without ammunition. In order to ensure the amount, frequency and intensity of training necessary to deliver medals it has to be possible to do this dry training at home. The ammunition would be kept in the regional centres. Hosting the pistol shooting events at the Olympics will require at least 50 judges and officials - and these will also need to be trained, again using Section 5 licences.

The Olympic Charter states: "The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising his or her sport in accordance with his or her needs." This is not the case for our pistol shooters. The British Olympic Association knows this and is working behind the scenes with the shooting sports to seek changes. The Minister for Sport is sympathetic but it is the Home Office who have the final say.

Isn't it bizarre that while criminals use guns daily and illegally, law-abiding shooters participating in the most disciplined of sports are banned? Surely the Home Secretary must recognise it is shameful that most democracies have more faith in their citizens to take part safely in one of the oldest Olympic sports than we do?

These changes would be a legacy for sport and London 2012 that would not cost the Treasury a penny. Even the Chancellor can afford to support them.

This article is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Daily Telegraph, in which it first appeared on 29 December 2005.

TARGET SPORTS CAMPAIGN - SIGN UP AND BE COUNTED!

Put your name to the Target Sports campaign to bring back target pistol shooting



There's a feel-good factor among the British sporting fraternity thanks to the efforts of the London 2012 bid team having secured the Olympic Games for our country for the first time since 1948.

Back then, the shooting events were treated as somewhat second class, with no official clay target event taking place; instead, an unofficial clay competition took place at Bisley, and though it was called "Olympic", it was really nothing to do with the main festivities a little further East in the metropolis.

Happily, nowadays, shooting has become considered by most countries in the world as being an important part of its culture, either as a competitive sport or in a hunting context. This cultural recognition is clearly shared by the International Olympic Committee, and although numbers of shooters competing in the Games have been reduced owing to commercial pressures, shooting enjoys the widest participation of any sport in the Olympic Games – or indeed the Commonwealth – with even the smallest nations able to find the resources to field competitors. And that's the beauty of our sport.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, though; if you've been a British target shooter for any length of time, you may behold it as beautiful but our government – in particular the Home Office – seem to perceive it as ugly and unnecessary.



Arguments in favour of target pistol shooting have been submitted to government on numerous occasions and while logical arguments have been presented well and won, naivety in dealing with Westminster has seen legislation railroaded through, because our government is more concerned about appearing to do the right thing rather than thinking through all the logical arguments.

Take a moment to study the principles of the Olympic charter.

The Olympic charter

- 1 Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.
- 2 The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.
- 3 The Olympic Movement is the concerted, organised, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. It covers the five continents. It reaches its peak with the bringing together of the world's athletes at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games. Its symbol is five interlaced rings.
- 4 The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. The organisation, administration and management of sport must be controlled by independent sports organisations.
- 5 Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.
- 6 Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.

Legislation currently in the UK prohibits target pistol shooting taking place – unless the Home Secretary grants Section 5 authority for a person to be able to do so, as happened at the Commonwealth Games.

Paragraph 4 of the Olympic Charter, then, is entirely at odds with the situation in our country. Sportsmen and women wanting to practise target pistol shooting cannot do so freely in this country, and even though there is a legal instrument to be able to make this happen, it has not been exercised to the benefit of our shooters. Anyone who wants to shoot target pistol competitively must travel abroad to do so –

discriminative; a deliberate and wilful position by government, and contray to the principles of the Olympic charter.

And yet the Olympic Games is coming here in 2012, to a country that clearly has not upheld the principles of the Olympic charter. It's likely that our future pistol medallists – if they are able to be competitive then – are still in full-time education, or if not, shoot so infrequently as to make their chances of winning a medal slim.

Public gets behind the sport

In a representative survey, 1003 people from all ages and social groups were asked the question:

“Currently it is not possible for the UK Olympic Shooting Team to train here in the UK. They need to do so abroad and can only compete here. Do you support this decision to ban them from training here?”

The results were as follows:

Yes	20%
No	73%
Don't Know	7%

Source: Countryside Alliance poll

So what are we going to do about it?

Target Sports is to take a petition to government, requesting that .22 target pistol shooting be reintroduced in the UK as early as possible to allow our sportsmen and women to compete effectively with their counterparts from all over the world.

In order to have a serious impact, we need names, addresses and signatures – and all you need do is fill in the form below, and send it back to us, putting your name to our cause.

Alternatively, you can sign the petition on our website www.blazepublishing.co.uk/petition.

Behind the scenes talks in Westminster with government have not started well. Phrases like “Not a hope” in terms of bringing back target pistol shooting have been uttered. But politicians are a fickle breed, and if we can create impetus behind this campaign, and put many thousands of people behind it, then we stand the very best chance of getting substantial publicity for our cause in the years running up to the Olympic Games. Already we have been involved in gaining press coverage in The Times. So do your bit now – fill out the form, send it back to us: sign up and be counted!

I believe that the practice of sport is a human right and that every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

The legislation regarding target pistol shooting in this country is at odds with paragraph 4 of the Olympic charter and is hence contrary to the Olympic spirit. This must be permanently remedied with alacrity, and in any case in a timescale to enable any British subject who so chooses to train effectively and on equal terms with sportsmen and women from countries where the use of .22 target pistols is permitted, thereby giving our country a realistic chance of medal success in the cartridge pistol events in the 2012 Olympic Games.

I draw your attention to a recent poll, conducted across a representative sample of the population on behalf of the Countryside Alliance, that shows 73% of the population do not believe that our potential medal winners should be unable to train on home soil.

The reintroduction of this sport presents zero risk to public safety and as there is no reason to maintain a ban, I request that .22 pistols are reclassified as Section One firearms with immediate effect.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

TEL _____

SIGNED _____

DATED _____

Please cut out or photocopy this form, then fill out and sign, and send to: Target Sports, Blaze Publishing Limited, Lawrence House, Morrell Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5SZ. Tel: 08700 468778 Fax: 0870 062 1576.

Your name and address will not be passed on to any third party other than for the purposes of this campaign, where it will need to be included in those handed to 10 Downing Street.

MARTIN TOWNSEND

Talking With Tony de Launay

Veteran of three world championships with a gold medal from each, renowned short and long range coach, distinguished philatelist, voluble Irishman and redoubtable trencherman - all are comments that apply to Martin Townsend who will next year take the British team to the Long Range Rifle World Championships in Ottawa to win the Palma Trophy. I caught up with him on a dazzling, cold, February Sunday morning at Bisley, where he and some of his squad were testing ammunition.

Over a cup of tea and an inevitable bacon roll, we talked first about his business career. From training as a precision engineer, Martin's early work was with his father's engineering company. As sometimes happens in family businesses he found his role over-supervised by a watchful parent, to the point where a parting of the ways was inevitable. "I had to find my own way and decided that I would work for myself. It was sheer luck that when I took a stamp collection to sell in the Strand I saw some other interesting stamps for sale. I bought them with the proceeds. I spent the day walking up and down the road selling and buying and ended up £68 to the good".

It was 1968: for a day's work it was a very tidy sum and the bug had bitten. As the dealing continued Martin noticed that at the end of every album there was a section for "postage due" stampings and he bought the entire stock of Stanley Gibbons, among other dealers. Re-advertising them in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" brought a deluge of mail to his front door: "I had to shovel the letters into the house, and ended up with more applications than I could satisfy". It snowballed from there, until he is now a recognised expert philatelist and postal historian. He adds a word of warning. "You do have to realise that as a self-employed person you simply do not earn money unless you discipline yourself to do the hard graft. There is no luxury of turning up and being paid by someone else".

His entry into shooting came via his father who himself shot at Bisley. "My earliest memories of Bisley are days spent with my brothers in a punt on the lake behind what was then the Worplesdon Place Hotel. My father was shooting, but stayed in the officers' lines where the inmates had the services of a batman". He was a passenger on the last run of the Bisley Bullet in 1952, perched on his father's shoulders. From a birthday present .22 BSA he graduated to reasonable county level small-bore success with Hertfordshire.

As happens to so many, a good woman interrupted things and in 1970 he married Pearl. It is a relationship



that has endured. "Support, friendship and the odd pithy comment" was the analysis. And many of us have, probably deservedly, been on the end of the "pithy" bit. Crawford Alexander lured him back to shooting some six years later. "In those early times I recall freezing days spent on the point, with a youngster called Coleman and Peter Medhurst", he said with a shudder. It was Arthur Riall and Lex Lyons who, once they learned of his Irish grandfather, steered him towards that allegiance.

Shooting was curtailed in the 1980s by serious eye problems, causing him to switch from right to left eye with the aid of an out-rigger sight. It diverted his energies into coaching. "Over the years I learned a lot from the likes of Keith Pilcher, Robin Fulton and David Painting". County, national and international success followed, including all the major international matches.

His Irish affiliation explains his personal best moments. "After my marriage, I nominate Ireland's win in the National Match and our Elcho win last year. The gap between all the home nations is closing thanks to the development of the training and squad systems pioneered by GB teams, particularly the world championship teams of the late 1980s and through the 1990s". What he does not like to see is negative

contributions, issues being taken out of context. "Had it not been for the work done with the Palma teams we would not have developed our county level practices to the high levels that they are today". Has he Queen's Prize memories? "I have watched a lot of them", he says.

He includes the funding of overseas teams and the continued introduction of fresh young shooters among his concerns. "Now that automatic sports funding by way of grants to overseas teams has disappeared, we have to adopt a pro-active approach to funding with UK Sport and Sport England. If we do not, we will never have the opportunity to give the right opportunities to the best new shooters. We now have an excellent intake from the schools and cadet forces: we must not let it slip". He believes that many other countries envy that element of the UK position.

Martin can see the day when all the shooting disciplines are under one roof, with a shooting federation capable of fronting up for the sport as a whole. "I think that the cause of shooting will be best served if the NRA can get our representational approach right", he says "That way our voice is heard as a uniform voice, without gifting our opponents the cracks into which they drive their wedges".

I suggest to him that he has a reputation as the man who, whether on tour or at home, can seem to appear at the front and back of the food queue simultaneously, for any course at all meals. How does he manage it and yet remain a moderately slim figure? "It's worrying about what Pearl will say when she finds out what I have been eating", is the reply.


How does he see his role at the 2007 Championships? Can he both coach and captain? This draws a Townsend chortle. "My role is to ensure that we get it right on the day. I am there to encourage, support and draw out of the team their maximum performance". I have the feeling that the question is not being answered and that powder is being kept dry.

Bacon roll demolished, he heads back to the testing having caused chaos by ordering six more teas 'to go' for his crew. We discover that catering band-aid sticks well to cling-film used in lieu of take-away cup lids, and that hot tea can go anywhere. Having sat with him in the coaching role on a couple of occasions on tour, he is not so messy on the firing point. The parting shot has to be - good luck next year at Ottawa.

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FEATURES

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- Supplied with TWO 5-shot chamber blocks
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THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM (THE ATHELINGS) TOUR TO CANADA AUGUST 2005

Commandant

Lt Col A Smith Somerset ACF

Adjutant

Capt M Reid Dorset ACF

Civilian Instructor

WO1 JT Jones Armourer/Coach CCRS

Assistant Adjutant

Mrs D Reid Late Dorset ACF

Team

Benest SD	Elizabeth College CCF
Burton NH	Elizabeth College CCF
Davies NT	The Oratory School CCF
Gilbert SJ	2 (NI) Bn ACF
Illsley S	Stamford School CCF
Jarret G	Angus & Dundee Bn ACF
Keen T	Somerset ACF
Kent AL	Epsom College CCF
Latimer MW	2 (NI) Bn ACF
Lucey PA	Dollar Academy CCF
McKendrick NW	Gresham's School CCF
Newhouse O	Clifton College CCF
O'Kelly D	Gloucestershire ACF
Peebles MDA	Dollar Academy CCF
Pollock JJ	Yorkshire N & W ACF
Redman JMG	Sevenoaks School CCF
Stebbins RN	Durham ACF
Watt REWD	Wellington College CCF

Reserve

Billot JC Victoria College CCF

After a somewhat turbulent flight the team arrived in Ottawa to find that Alex Kent's luggage had been left behind and would be on the next flight! They were met by Maj Bob Dymock, their Liaison Officer, and Captain Ellis Langdale, the Connaught Camp PRO. It was very hot but the usual yellow bus soon took the team to Connaught Camp where the welcome was as warm as ever.

Next morning it was into the deep end, off to Bryson to do white water rafting. Most of the team went swimming before a BBQ lunch beside Lake Ontario. Then came the thrills and spills. Tim Keen, in the second raft down, was projected out as if from a cannon to everyone's great amusement. A great day was had by all topped off by a splendid meal on the way back to Connaught.

On Sunday morning they moved, in a brand new coach equipped with DVD players, to the CFB Montreal Exacta USS where all Canadian recruits do their basic training. Accommodation was first class in a very complex building – the Commandant

managed to get lost twice, once ending up in something called the Snakepit! The afternoon was spent exploring down-town Montreal, which was in festival mode with street buskers, fire-eaters, sword swallowers, jazz bands, jugglers and magicians everywhere; altogether a great deal to see and do. We had supper in the old port followed by a ghost tour of old Montreal. Our ghost made us all laugh. In the morning, after a bus tour of Mount Royal with fantastic views of Montreal, we set off for the airbase at Trenton where, some 4 1/2 hrs and a Tim Hortons stop later, we arrived in time for supper in the galley. Then the team split three ways: some went shopping to a local mall, some went off to a wave pool and the rest found an excellent gym.

Next morning was spent at the RCAF Museum including the restoration of the world's last remaining Halifax Bomber. A little shopping in the Canex preceded an afternoon's swimming and sunbathing on the Sandbacks Beach, then it was back on the bus to Sheridan College, Oakville near Toronto which was to be the team's base until returning to Connaught. On the way they stopped at Shoeless Joes, a real Canadian eating house, for dinner.

Wednesday was a day for relaxation, personal admin, shopping and sport. On Thursday they were up early for breakfast, then onto the bus, driven by their adopted Atheling, Cpl Derek Hiendhass, (who got involved in everything they did and wore his Atheling shirt with pride) and off to Wonderland. There was so much to see and to do. This was a great day with Top Gun voted the best ride. From the Commandant's view it was terrifying. They had lunch and supper in Wonderland before returning to Sheridan College a very happy team.

Next day the first port of call in Toronto was the CN Tower tour, the glass floor area on the 181st floor was the biggest attraction. Some were quite brave, walking straight on and some needed a little coaxing; it took Dannica O'Kelly 25 minutes to venture on. Robbie Watts, James Redman and Nick Davies took great delight in jumping up and down on the floor, scaring tourists and the rest of the team alike. There were fantastic views of Toronto from the tower. After a short stay in the gift shop it was off to the centre for lunch and then to the Eaton Shopping Centre and a chance to explore Toronto. Everyone assembled at 18:00 for the Medieval Times dinner and Tournament. The bill of fare was a tankard of mead, in our case Pepsi, followed by garlic bread, hot vegetable soup, half a baby dragon spare rib, herb basted potato, pastry of the castle finished off with coffee. Before dinner, the

King knighted Phil Lucey and Scott Jarret because it was their 'birthdays' – a shock for both of them. During dinner everyone was entertained by displays of falconry, horsemanship, swordplay and jousting announced by fanfares from trumpeters, in a wonderful setting. All had a magical night.

The next day the team paid a visit to Niagara Falls with their usual stop at Tim Hortons for coffee and cookies. First they took a return cable ride to the USA, although they couldn't land, with great views of the whirlpool some 350ft below. Then it was on to Niagara for lunch and a trip on the Maid of the Mist which took them right up to the base of the falls, all cameras were overworked. Exploration and shopping for souvenirs of Niagara Falls more than filled the time before a lovely meal overlooking the Falls, then it was back to Sheridan College after a long but wonderful day.

Sunday and they were up early and heading back to Connaught. More DVDs and of course a Tim Hortons stop followed by lunch and arrival around 13:30. After unpacking, they immediately drew their Canadian C12 rifles and started fitting them to the team. It was range maintenance day so they could not fire that afternoon but the main purpose of the tour had begun. Monday was the team's one practice day with the C12s, on the range shared with the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team; 300 metres in the morning and 600 metres in the afternoon. After supper the team went to the local wave pool, while the officers attended the annual mess dinner. With just the one day's zeroing and practice the Canadian National Cadet Fullbore Championships (CNCFC) began with the BCRT and RCACNRT teams shooting in the open class; there were separate classes for the ACLM and the ACLIM/ACF courses. On the first day they shot three matches and results were excellent. In the Pat Vamplew a tie shoot was needed to split James Redman and Olivia Newhouse who both scored 50.5. James won by one point to take the Gold, Olivia Newhouse took Silver and Malcolm Peebles Bronze; in the Ernie Sopsich, Philip Lucey won Silver, Malcolm Peebles Bronze; in the Clem Tremblay, Philip Lucey won Gold, Michael Latimer Bronze, and in the Tuesday Aggregate Philip Lucey won Gold with Malcolm Peebles taking Silver; not a bad days shooting.

Wednesday and again, three matches were shot and success continued. Malcolm Peebles won Gold in the Gerry Ouellette with Nicholas Davies taking Bronze in this competition and in the Gil Boa, then Silver in the Alain Marion and Gold in the Wednesday Aggregate in which James Redman took Bronze. James also won Bronze in the Alain Marion. In the Grand Aggregate Malcolm Peebles won the Gold, scoring 288.23. That night the Rex Goddard Team was picked; coaches, plotters, firers and register keepers

were all selected and the Adjutant talked tactics. Everything was set for the next day's match in which they only had the slender lead of 15 V bulls from the first stage at Bisley. Every point was going to count.

Stage two of the Rex Goddard Match – the plan was put into action – the Union flag was higher than the Canadians for a start! After 500 yards the scores were still tied, both teams hitting 816 points but GB's nose was just in front with V bulls. At 600 it went right to the wire with the very last Canadian to fire. His last shot a magpie was enough to give us the match by one point and 18 V bulls. Thanks were given to our British Mascot Bear (named Bisley) for bringing us luck. The CNCFC Prize-giving followed with the BCRT carrying Malcolm Peebles aloft in his winner's chair. He needed quick reactions as his porters headed him for the top of the doorframe. It was somewhat disappointing, to say the least, when the Canadians decided only to present awards for Gold positions in the open class with nothing for silver or bronze. Despite that the team was on a high.

On Friday the C12s were handed back and the team's own rifles drawn, weighed, triggers tested and appropriate stickers put on stocks. This was due to be the first practice day to find zeros with their own rifles but the heavens opened. Not a good day, the Ottawa Regiment Practice was cancelled due to bad weather at 17:55 and all team members returned from the range very hot and wet. The rifles had to be stripped by the Armourer for bedding to be dried before cleaning. The Commandant and Armourer attended Lt Col Sainsbury's Graduation Parade and the team watched the end. In the evening the team was debriefed on the touring phase, briefed for the DCRA Meeting and squadding cards were issued.

Saturday and the Commandant, unusually, opted for a day off, so after a morning's administration and lunch the team went 5-pin bowling with the RCACNRT and celebrated their Commandant, Major Hailstone's birthday presenting her with a cake, then it was back to Connaught for dinner.

The DCRA Meeting got underway; all team members settled into their rifles and became more confident, they achieved eight possible scores in one day. Michael Latimer shot outstandingly to win the Norman Beckett scoring 100.08, the only possible in the match. Philip Lucey (36th) and Mike Reid (47th) fired in the Governor General's Final. The Grand Aggregate concluded with Philip Lucey as Cadet Champion in 48th place winning the Strachan trophy. Philip also thus secured both the Bond and Waller Trophies. At the prize-giving on Saturday, the team also collected various other awards.

In the Michael Faraday, despite the welcome visit from Nigel and Veronica Suffield-Jones, the team unfortunately did not find their best form and were

beaten by 22 points. They also lost the Under 25 Short Range Match by eight points but with two reinforcements from Scotland and Wales secured a 12 point victory in the Under 25 Long Range Match. Nicholas Burton won the Suffield-Jones Tray, for the most successful Athelings' coach in the Faraday. In the evening of the Faraday both teams gathered for the Faraday dinner, at which BCRT thanked the Canadians for their hospitality and friendship and made a few presentations.

On Sunday BCRT moved to Algonquin Park, drew canoes and after a little instruction were off up Lake Opeongo, unfortunately, not all in the same direction. Eventually after a few collisions they made it to the first campsite, set up camp, had a meal and sat around the campfire relaxing. Up early, breakfast, tents down and into canoes heading for the next campsite. The trip took longer than planned as their canoeing was not that good and large water fights became the norm. The rest of the day was spent swimming, sunbathing and making friends with the chipmunks. In the evening they cooked marshmallows over an open fire and told jokes. Next day was a repeat with a very slow paddle with breath-taking views all along the way. All too soon it was Wednesday which meant an early start, packing, breakfast and paddling back to the outfitters thence to Connaught to get cleaned up, do final packing, say "Goodbyes" and off to the airport. Air Canada checked in 21 people, 22 rifles and all the luggage in just 15 minutes! Most managed to sleep for the journey. At Heathrow Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Suffield-Jones and Major Simon Fraser were welcoming faces landside. Goodbyes were said to those travelling to Scotland and Ireland before the remainder returned to Bisley. The adventure was over.

The Michael Faraday Imperial Cadet Trophy

This is a Challenge Trophy presented by the late Surgeon Captain RJE Hanson OBE, VD, MA (Cantab) of Fowey, Cornwall, England in honour of Michael Faraday (1791-1867) and in recognition of the friendly

relations between the Home Cadet Contingents and the Cadet Corps of Canada. The Trophy was presented in 1932 for contest on the Connaught Ranges, Ottawa, since that date it has now been won by Canada on 34 occasions and by the Athelings on 27.

The Athelings

Coaches: M Peebles, J Redman, N Davies G Jarret

D O'Kelly	104.12
N Burton	102.09
S Illsley	101.10
R Stebbings	101.08
M Latimer	101.07
P Lucey	101.05
S Gilbert	100.09
M Peebles	99.09
T Keen	99.02
N Davies	98.07
J Redman	97.04
G Jarret	93.05

Total 1196.087

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Team 1218.107

Rex Goddard Match

The Rex Goddard Match for Cadets, was instituted by the Canadians in recognition of the services rendered to Cadet Shooting by Lt Col Rex Goddard. The trophy was presented in 1987 by Lt Col AJ Cafik CD, Commandant of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Teams 1985 - 1988 for competition between the RCAC Bisley Team and the British Cadet Rifle Team to Canada (the Athelings). The total score represents combined results from Bisley and Connaught in the same year. The trophy is presented at Connaught each year; since 1994 the match has been fired using Host nation rifles. The Canadians have now won on ten occasions and the Athelings on eight.

	Bisley	Canada	Totals
BCRT	770.57	816.61	1586.118
RCACNRT	770.42	815.58	1585.100



Philip Lucey receives the Jim Waller Trophy.



Some were happy with their trophies; some were not!



Nick Burton receives the Otter.



The team on tour.



Not quite up to military standard!



Having won the Rex Goddard . . .



. . . Bill Plouffe hands over the trophy.



Others also succeeded.



Lloyd Sainsbury with Cadet Champion Malcolm Peebles.



Athelings in action.

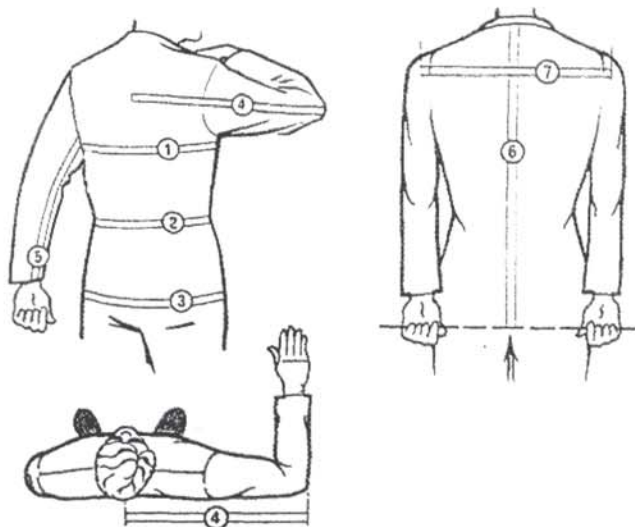


The GB Under 25 team won the Long Range Match.

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')

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HIGHPOWER RIFLE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

by John Morgan-Hosey

On the same weekend as the Trafalgar Bi-Centennial Meeting, the Highpower Rifle Association held its fourth National Championships at Bisley on 22 and 23 October 2005. The Championship consists of two days of competition comprising a Civilian Service Rifle event on the Saturday and a Highpower Rifle event on the Sunday and, for those competitors who can't get enough time on the range, a day's zeroing took place on the preceding Friday. This year saw a total of 26 shooters taking part with most shooting both events.

Friday 21 October

A very hardy bunch assembled at the 300 yards car park on Century for an opportunity to get a good zero before the competition started in earnest. The HRA use Bisley on a regular basis and as such are well organised. Shooters are expected to do their turn in the butts and on arrival for a day's shooting are allocated details; match organisers ensure that there is a spread of experience in each detail so that the firing point and butts run smoothly. Unfortunately the weather was not looking too favourable for the first shooters with heavy rain beginning on cue as soon as the targets appeared. Luckily, by the end of the day most people had managed to achieve what they wanted. With spirits high many of the travelling competitors retired to the Canadian Pavilion, which was used as the admin base for the weekend. It is also an ideal location for friendly banter and reflection on why that supposedly perfect 10 was actually a 7 at four o'clock plus numerous other shooting excuses.

Saturday 22 October

The Service Rifle event is based on the courses of fire used during the NRA Civilian Service Rifle Championships held in July. The HRA usually field a very strong team for the July event so the shooting standard was expected to be high with most competitors using scoped rifles. There was a plethora of straight pull AR-15 clones although other marks could be seen including SMLEs, No 4s, Remington 700s and a Blaser. The 100 yards stages were shot on Short Siberia and all other distances were shot on Century. This necessitated several target lane moves due to a very busy weekend and the Range Office having to accommodate us and all the Trafalgar events. Saturday saw considerably improved weather and the day started with the Standing; Matt Greenall leading the way with a score of 41. Mark Bradley then took the lead at 200 yards with a 47 and 49 respectively in the Bisley Bullet and the Sitting. After the move to 300 yards Dave Green took the honours with a 49 for the Kinnard and a HPS of 50 for the Stephens. Steve Oakland managed a 50 for the Wantage, although Dave managed to hold onto the 300 Yards Aggregate with a 147 total.



The HRA Service Rifle Champion, Paul Hunter, takes aim at 500 yards on Century.

The final move of the day saw all shooters at 500 yards for the HRA Queen Mary, the Long Wantage and the Long Stephens. Two HPSs were shot in the HRA Queen Mary and one of our two lady shooters, Helen Cooke, took the honours in the Long Wantage with a 48. Dave Green was first past the post again with a 49 for the Long Stephens, however the 500 Yards Aggregate went to Matt Greenall. Proving that you don't have to win every stage to be a Champion Shot, Paul Hunter won the HRA Service Rifle Championship with a very respectable 414 out of 450. Following a good days shooting, the majority of shooters again retired to the Canadian Pavilion for an expertly prepared three course dinner prior to the HRA AGM.

HRA Service Rifle Championships Results

Paul Hunter	414
Dave Green	412
Steve Sheldon	399
Matt Greenall	392
Nick St Aubyn	381
Mark Bradley	375
Dave Livingstone	373
Rowan Chaplin	361
Ken Jarmos	340
Brian Chapple	339
Dave Hodgson	337
Fred Cooke	337
Alan Canavan	335
Ian Dewey	332
Lee Southworth	315
John Morgan-Hosey	314
Jenny Hunter	307
Alan Seagrave	299
Steve Oakland	297
Jerry May	262
Phil Mansell	206
Stewart Staudinger	198
Helen Cooke	175
Bill Ellis	134

Sunday 23 October

After a sociable evening and a hearty breakfast we all mustered on Century for the Highpower Championship, an 80 round course of fire shot at 200, 300 and 600 yards. The rules for the competition are based on the NRA of America rules for Highpower Rifle but are modified to take account of the restrictions placed on UK shooters. The targets used are the same as those in America with scoring rings from 10x to 5, the black aiming area sized at each distance so that the sight picture is the same from 200 to 600 yards. The first stage consists of 22 shots fired from the standing unsupported position, the first two shots being unconvertible sighters in a total time allowed of 22 minutes, each shot is marked back and scored by a member of the next detail. Again most competitors chose to compete with an AR-15 clone but with almost exclusively open sights. A shooting jacket is essential for the standing stage to provide firm upper body support; a sling is not allowed in this position and by the end of 22 minutes your rifle feels almost twice as heavy as when you started. The next stage consist of two sighting shots from the sitting position marked back individually; the shooter is then required to stand, rifle pointed down range, magazine applied with bolt held open to the rear. On appearance of the target for 60 seconds the shooter adopts the sitting position, makes ready and fires 10 rounds; a sling can be used and a shooting jacket provides useful support. A magazine change is required during this stage. After 60 seconds the targets are pulled down and scored in the butts, spotting discs are placed in shot holes and a marker board hung from the target frame indicating the number of Xs, 10s, 9s etc. Once the scores have been recorded on the firing point the shooter stands and prepares to fire a second string of 10 shots. On completion of the 200 yards stages all shooters move back to 300 yards.



Shooting the 200 yards Rapid Fire Stage.

The next stage consists of two 10 round rapid fire strings following two sighting shots in the prone position. Again the shooter starts from the standing position but is this time given 70 seconds for 10 shots including the magazine change.



Helen Cooke testing her aim before the 300 yards Rapid Fire Stage.

The final stage sees all shooters at 600 yards for 22 shots slow fire in 22 minutes; it is well known that Highpower matches are won with a good score at 200 yards standing and lost with a poor score at 600 yards so the pressure was on with the top two scorers starting the stage neck and neck. A good spotting scope is essential to be able to see the mirage between shots and make any necessary adjustments to compensate for the effects of the wind. With most competitors shooting .223 Remington reading the wind correctly is a must. However, as each round is loaded individually, the bullet seating depth is not restricted by magazine length. Therefore competitors can gain some advantage by using the heavier 77 and 80 grains bullets now widely available. The scores being achieved are very encouraging and have improved year on year since 2000.



Rowan Chaplin at 600 yards.

The Highpower Rifle Championship finished with several shooters achieving personal best scores and there were some HPSs shot in both the 200 and 300 yards Rapid Fire Stages. The overall match winner was John Morgan-Hosey with a 757.14 closely followed by Mark Bradley with a 755.07

HRA Highpower Rifle Championship Results

John Morgan-Hosey	757.14
Mark Bradley	755.07
Steve Sheldon	743.13
Matt Greenall	734.14
Paul Hunter	733.10
Dave Livingstone	726.12
Nick St Aubyn	722.06
Rowan Chaplin	718.10
Jerry May	701.12
Fred Cooke	698.09
Dave Green	697.07
Ian Dewey	697.04
Bill Ellis	692.05
Steve Oakland	678.04
Alan Canavan	666.08
Dave Hodgson	646.00
Mark Dougan	638.06
Brian Chapple	632.00
Ken Jarmos	630.01
Stewart Staudinger	605.03
Lee Southworth	590.01
Helen Cooke	573.02
Simon Rogers	540.02
Alan Seagrave	507.07

HRA Champion SR and HP Aggregate Results

Paul Hunter	1147.10	
Steve Sheldon	1142.13	
Mark Bradley	1130.07	
Matt Greenall	1126.14	
Dave Green	1109.07	
Nick St Aubyn	1103.06	
Dave Livingstone	1099.12	
Rowan Chaplin	1079.10	
John Morgan-Hosey	1071.14	
Fred Cooke	1035.09	
Ian Dewey	1029.04	
Alan Canavan	1001.08	
Dave Hodgson	983.00	
Steve Oakland	975.04	
Brian Chapple	971.00	
Ken Jarmos	970.01	
Jerry May	963.12	
Lee Southworth	905.01	
Bill Ellis	826.05	
Alan Seagrave	806.05	
Stewart Staudinger	803.03	
Helen Cooke	748.02	
Mark Dougan	638.06	HP only
Simon Rogers	540.02	HP only
Jenny Hunter	307.00	SR only
Phil Mansell	206.00	SR only

Highpower Rifle competition can become addictive. The HRA stage Highpower Matches at Bisley and around the country on a monthly basis; since the association started shooting Highpower in 2000, the scores have kept on improving. Testament to the skill gleaned from this style of target rifle are the HRA Team's performance in the NRA Civilian Service Rifle Methuen Cup Match winning the Mauser Trophy five years in a row. Details of courses of fire, targets, rules, how to join the Association and the dates of forthcoming shoots can be found on the HRA website at www.highpowerrifle.co.uk. If you are looking for a new shooting challenge then consider giving Highpower Rifle a try.



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T REX: BAH, HUMBUG

The sleet is knocking on the door to the cave as one ponders the goings-on of 2005 and conjures up a few wishes for 2006. The last of the festive spirit has departed as dinosauric courage is up-plucked to venture out towards the cinematic re-construction of my epic battle with Kong.

Woolwich Puzzle

Notably to the fore in my addled thoughts lies the not-yet-ended saga of the London Olympics and the venue for the shooting events. One has the feeling that this may re-emerge as the interested players jockey for position.

Bisley, Woolwich and Dartford have all staked a claim. Despite early indications and (it was heavily rumoured) signals of a return to base nature in favour of Bisley, the bid nomination of Woolwich is the odds on favourite at a projected cost of £16 - £20 million. Indeed, London 2012 press office has indicated on more than one occasion that the selection is definite, despite pre-Christmas rumblings that certain of the London venues were being reviewed on security and other grounds.

Cue also proposals last year from the marshes of the Dartford Crossing in the form of Dartford Clay Shooting Club. A consortium has offered space to construct a new leisure complex embracing the Olympic shooting disciplines in the threshold of the Thames Gateway. In a nutshell their bold plans are for a leisure complex with sporting and cultural activities in addition to shooting ranges.

Both Bisley and Dartford represent opportunity in their different ways and, perhaps more importantly, legacy value for shooting. Each would require major construction works to provide Olympic standard facilities. Woolwich, as far as one can see, has no permanent value, save in those temporary buildings that might be salvaged and transported to other locations when the whole lot is torn down after the event. Thus far there seems to be no guarantee that local shooting clubs would be the beneficiaries.

The stew simmers on. You pays your money and someone makes a choice, eventually.

Christmas Present

Socks featured heavily this year after my wails that I had fifteen assorted singletons lurking on the shelf. It makes finding a matching pair something worse than a lottery on dark mornings. So Santa has done wonders to ensure that the scaly tootsies are now warmed. Incidentally, recent reports that my forebears may have been covered in feathers leave me feeling itchy.

The natural man-made fibre deluge also prompted the sudden appearance of twelve more pairs of freshly laundered and almost matching socks from the bowels of Hotpointosaurus. Quite what the sock fairy thinks it was doing enforcing pre-Christmas rationing is not clear.

I reckon that it was all a plot to make the actual presents seem a lot more welcome.

So, we would welcome contributions from our readers as to the finest or oddest pair (or not) of socks seen upon the firing point. Fair skin and odd tattoos will qualify in a special section. Thus far, on the sock front, Homer Simpson's visage is a front runner.

New Year Wishes

In common with most others in the haze of the New Year, we can but dream. In 2006 it would be joyous to see some or all of the following come true.

- Recognition of a life-time's achievement by Michael Gault, so sadly omitted (again) from the Honours lists. Now, some delving has excavated the fact that in this egalitarian society anyone can nominate a worthy person for recognition. The Downing Street Honours Scrutiny office has said (last June) that Mick's name has not been put forward from any source be it political, civil or sporting. If that is correct it is something that those in shooting's high places would do well to remedy post-haste.
- Our shooting teams in Melbourne bring back medals, and that among them is the medal that will make Mick very happy and a record breaker to boot.
- Positive change is made in the legislation surrounding the owning and sporting use of cartridge pistols. As Kate Hoey wrote in the Daily Telegraph just before Christmas (see page 33), it is a disgrace that the current legislation continues in its present form. If this (or any other) government want medals at any Commonwealth or Olympic Games they must allow our athletes to compete on equal terms – and quickly. There are other international events including one Olympic and two Commonwealth Games before London 2012 reaches the horizon.
- RG hold on to their improvements of last year on the open ranges for the enjoyment and accuracy of all.

Toodle pip!



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THE AGES MATCH 2005

by Toby Raincock

With the 2005 shooting season drawing to a close there could only be one competition to see the year off with a bang . . . the Ages Match 2005.

This event was back by popular demand after the good time had by all in October 2004. And so off to the tropical climes of Bisley in October for the rematch! True to form I think it is fair to say that team captains across the board had difficulties coaxing some of the more fair weather shooters from winter hibernation, but for the second year running they need have feared not! We were greeted by an extraordinarily mild late October Saturday afternoon with which to kick off the weekend's festivities, much to everyone's delight.

Pre-match betting saw the big money being laid on the Under 25s following their solid performance in 2004. Surely they would bounce back from their 1000 yards disappointment of 2004 to take the spoils? However, last year's winners (55-65s) had other ideas. They were setting about business with their experienced and wise heads collectively channelling positive thoughts. Meanwhile the 25-35s, having spent the previous few weekends discussing strategy and bullying those hedgehogs into coming out of retirement, were quietly confident. Alongside, the 35-45s, 45-55s, Over 65s and the Under 25 development squad were similarly planning their own routes to the top.

And so to the competition. The format was as last year with Queens II on the Saturday afternoon to kick things off. Conditions were fairly benign with a gentle westerly keeping the coaches occupied. The usual sluggish start at 300 yards saw the Under 25s nip into the lead in accordance with their supposed form, but it was short lived as the 25-35s came back strongly over 500 and 600 yards to finish the day on top. Given the format of the match, the spread in the scores was unlikely to affect the outcome for Sunday as there were considerably more points on offer at long range.

25-35s	1762.205
Under 25s	1755.197
55-65s	1755.194
35-45s	1748.193
45-55s	1746.186
Over 65s	1733.185
Under 25 Development Squad	1708.159

Time for all the participants to make their way to various watering holes before reconvening on Stickledown for the Grand Firework Display. This year the event was very well supported by local residents and their families and was particularly impressive as it was performed to music, much to the delight of the crowd.

The teams then headed off for dinner in various locations, with Canada House becoming the venue for a fancy dress party and disco (for those with enough energy). Sadly there is only space for a couple of photos here but if you care to check out the NRA website you will find many

more with familiar faces wearing weird and wonderful outfits.

And back to the shooting. Conditions on Sunday morning couldn't have been more different from the previous day with a very strong wind and skies darkening by the hour. There were no easy details for the coaches today and they were working very hard from the off.

Palma targets were used for 900 and 1000. As mentioned earlier, this would place even more reliance on the longer range in deciding the outcome of the match. For those of you who haven't shot at these targets, it is all too easy to score a 7 or 8 with a misjudgement of the wind, when on a NRA target you would still be clinging on to the edge of the inner.

To give you an idea of the wind, the 25-35s were the only team that managed to break 1700 points at 900 yards (ex 1800)! This, however, was good news for them as they managed to extend their lead over the opposition.

Back to 1000 yards and more of the same with sight wheels beginning to smoke with over-usage as the coaches toiled. This time however, it was the Under 25s who showed the way with a very impressive score of 1,664.39 and in doing so closed in on the 25-35s who had a nervy few minutes to wait before the results were in. In the end, the 25-35s managed to hang on to take a very well deserved victory!

The final match results were as follows:

	Sat pm	Sun am	Total
25-35s	1762.205	3361.73	5123.278
Under 25s	1755.197	3357.73	5112.270
55-65s	1755.194	3299.74	5054.268
35-45s	1748.193	3301.59	5049.252
45-55s	1746.186	3269.41	5015.227
Over 65s	1733.185	3254.63	4987.248
U25 Dev Sqd	1708.159	2100.42*	3808.201

* Incomplete score due to mislaid scorecards

The top individual scores were (ex 450):

Toby Raincock	25-35s	437.32
Adam McCullough	Under 25s	434.24
Steve East	35-45s	433.28
Tom Hembrow	Over 65s	430.24
Brian Cambray	55-65s	428.25
Peter Griggs	45-55s	427.20
J Dunbar	U25 Dev Squad	426.18

As last year the event was very well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Karen Robertson for organising just about everything and to all the team Captains for agreeing to lead their respective age groups and coax out their teams for what was once again a fantastic weekend. If you haven't taken part in this match before I strongly recommend that you make yourself available for the last weekend in October 2006 for the next instalment. I know I'll be there!



The 35 to 45 team in action.



Chief Range Officer Tony Clayton announces the results to the waiting teams.



Paul Monaghan presents the silver medals to Under 25 Captain Susie Kent.



James Watson, Captain of the winning 25 to 35 team, thanks everyone else.



Jo and Jacqui try their best to get a council flat near Bisley.



The future of shooting! The Under 25s.

(Photos: Jon Underwood)



CRO Tony Clayton selects a new hat for the Imperial Meeting.



Fantastic Fireworks - an amazing display by Dragon Fireworks. Note the size of the Clock Tower.



(Fireworks photos: Andy Luckman)

EVERYONE GOES TO CANADA IN 2005 - WALES

by Richard Jeens

Captain	Chris Hockley
Adjutant	Richard Jeens
TR Shooters	Lou Lou Brister Carys Dee Jim Dunn Al Haley Russ Jackson Ed Jeens Chris Marlow Alan Phillips Martin Watkins
F Class Shooters	Howell Morley Jo Wright

As with all shooting tours, the Welsh started their tour to Canada with repacking overweight kit in the clubhouse. This repacking was enlivened by the sight of a 79 year old racing his car round camp to burn off the excess petrol. Fortunately, after a short time the petrol level slipped below the hole in the fuel tank and the car was parked safely by the clubhouse. Though shorn of our most recent GM, SM and half a dozen other Mackinnon regulars, the team was eventually ready to depart.

Conveyed efficiently to Heathrow by Laurel Mini Coaches, the team juniors jumped to their role as baggage handlers. Having checked our normal baggage in we then moved on to the normal wait for Customs to process our firearms. After a few of us had been through the small office designated for firearms, the officials realised that the pre-faxed list detailing firearms and people actually matched the motley crew passing through their office. All apart from one Al Haley, who brought his shotgun certificate to expedite the transfer of his rifle out of the country. Fortunately Cheltenham police were able to fax his rifle permit through and Customs let Al on the plane.

On arrival in Canada, processing was remarkably efficient until the stage of filling in our visitors' permits. After an hour and a half of watching Customs staff filing forms we had already filled in, we came through to a very generous welcome from members of the British Columbia Rifle Association. Tom Walters, our now Canadian ex-Welshman, provided much needed refreshment before the ever efficient Gayle Vickerson of Rainbow Country Travel and Tours whisked us off to our waiting coach. Having checked into the Rainbow Inn, we ventured out for what the clock but not our jet-lagged bodies told us was supper. Brits being Brits we ended up in the same place as the Scots party, who had arrived twenty-four hours earlier.

Once shooting got underway in the British Columbia Meeting at Chilliwack, we appreciated three things. First, how stunning the range is; second, the warm

welcome we received; and third, quite how much shooting there was each day. Averaging over 60 rounds a day to count and starting at 08:00 was certainly a draining experience. Nonetheless the Welsh team acquitted themselves well - individual highlights included Ed Jeens winning the Lt Governor's Second Stage and Jim Dunn coming second in the City of Westminster. In the aggregates, Richard Jeens won the U25 prize in the BC Open, the Long Range prize in the Open class and came third in the Grand Aggregate. Carys Dee won the Letson Aggregate and BC Open in the sharpshooter category (T Class equivalent).

More cheering than individual success, however, was the performance from team Wales as a whole in the team events. First up, the Jeens family extended its successful 2005 by winning the shoulder-to-shoulder Families Match. Next, our F Class shooters Howell and Jo contributed to the Celts victory in the Galletly Match. In the target rifle events, both the BC residents and visiting teams were almost universally cowed by the US teams, in particular the Washington Wranglers. Nonetheless, the Welsh, with significantly fewer resources to call upon than the Canadians or Scots, managed to come second in the Gen Sir Arthur Currie, BC Electric shoulder-to-shoulder team matches and the Laurie Bugle and BC Target Rifle concurrent team matches, scored on the Grand and Open Aggregates respectively. These proved a good omen for the main event - the International Team Match. Shot over three days of the Meeting, this was a testing match, not least as it was always the seventh shoot of the day and switching from individual to team shooting after hours on the range was a challenge for many. Notwithstanding a truly phenomenal exhibition of short range shooting from the US team, Wales overcame their numerical and age disadvantages and came second in this match. Coupled with the individual successes, this was testament to the superb ammunition that Dave Adams had loaded for the Welsh team.

Following the collection of trophies and one last longing look at the wonderful range, the Welsh team moved on to a superb barbecue hosted by Tom Walters and his fiancé Heidi. Celebrations over, the party fragmented for the R&R phase of the tour. The team juniors set off to tour Vancouver Island, Lou Lou thrashed Chris Hockley round BC's golf courses and the remainder of the party joined the Scots on their guided tour of the Rockies. Each group returned after a week with very different but equally interesting tales of pleasant activities, stunning scenery and thoroughly filling food. Personal highlights included bears by the side of the road, sea kayaking in the dawn mist and a lunch stop at a secluded mountain pool.

Back in Vancouver the party was amused by the city's many attractions for forty-eight hours before flying east to Ottawa. Bob Pitcairn had further extended his immense generosity by storing both Scots and Welsh shooting kit while we toured in BC. Having collected our belongings and thanked Bob again for his assistance, the Welsh prepared to move on to the next shooting venue.

Transit from Vancouver to Ottawa was perhaps the least trouble-free aspect of the tour. En route we temporarily lost at least one team member, one screw driver, various other items of kit but, most importantly, we never lost our cool. We do remain indebted, however, to the honesty of a passing pick-up truck driver and the understanding approach taken by the Canadian Police in the recovery of those bits of kit that quite literally fell off the back of the team coach. Despite these hiccups, before closing time all of the Welsh team (and their kit) was either in bed or the bar of the Barons Hotel in Ottawa. Our stay at the Barons was made hugely easier, both in the booking and while we were there, by the efficient, professional and, above all, friendly help given by Shirley Robson.

In the brief respite before the DCRA Meeting commenced the tour party amused themselves with golf, ammunition loading, art galleries, shopping and Ottawa's nightlife. Once shooting began, however, there was little time for such pleasures.

Although not as intensive as in British Columbia, the DCRA Meeting still gave a fuller day's shooting than a normal Bisley day. The Long Range Challenge was intended as a warm up to the main competitions but was shot in such grim, wet weather that most competitors rapidly rued deciding to take part. Indeed, one evening shoot was postponed to be reshot once conditions improved. While the weather did improve, the wind conditions remained hugely challenging. This made for a very enjoyable (but often frustrating) meeting. Typically, some of the hardest shoots came at long range and there was a genuine difference between one detail and the next.



Inspirational leadership is so tiring!

Nonetheless, no competitor seemed to receive any more favourable treatment than any other overall.

Almost all members of the Welsh team had days to be pleased with and days to forget. Everyone, however, was pleased with the ammunition we had, which was a real testament to Dave Adams' skill and Tom Walters' loading patience. Individual highlights included Richard Jeens finishing third in the Aggregate of the 21st Century, the fullest aggregate of the meeting, and fifth in the DCRA Open, Ed Jeens finishing seventh in the Governor General's Prize and almost all members of the Welsh team featuring in the prize lists. Already for a Welsh team without some of their strongest shooters and coaches this was a very successful tour, even if some of them felt at times that the most efficient use of their kit was to leave it at the 600 yards range while moving themselves to another.

In the team arena, there was some early Celtic success as Iain Robertson and Richard Jeens took the Senior-Junior Pairs by a six point margin and the officially non-English County of London mastered the fiendish winds to win the Coaches' Match. Now faced with the full Canadian and US teams, a reinforced Scots team and German and Irish teams who had 'only come for the shooting', the Welsh team faced the senior team matches with some trepidation. We were proud, therefore, to achieve second place in the Outlander Match, behind the ever strong USA. Welsh short range weaknesses resurfaced in the Canada Match to push us down to fourth place, behind Canada, USA and Scotland. Despite this we felt our overall results in team matches, all of which had involved every team member doing more than one of shooting, coaching, plotting or register keeping, were very creditable, especially compared to the larger teams we shot against.

The shooting concluded, the Welsh party had one last night of conspicuous consumption on a Canadian scale before preparing to return back home. Thankfully, there were no unexpected problems, apart from some broken duty-free, or significant delays on the return leg.

The undoubted success of the tour was based upon the hard work of many but particular thanks must go to those in Canada who gave advice, assistance and aid both before and during the tour. This includes, but is not limited to, Bob Pitcairn and the hard working volunteers at the BCRA, Jim Thompson and his staff at the DCRA, Dave Adams, Tom Walters, Gayle Vickerson and Shirley Robson. In the UK thanks must go to the Welsh Sports Council, the WRA and Chris Hockley. Separately Al Haley would like to thank the following: Laura, Courtney, Justine, Kathleen, Emily, Cinthia, Jennifer, Kaylah, Stephanie, Stefanie, Elsie, Heather, Isabella, Alex, Alice, Charlotte, Katy, Liz, Emma, Emily, Jessica, Nicole and Jacqueline, who all helped make his (and those he told) tour so memorable.



The Welsh team in British Columbia.



"So how many rifles are we supposed to have?"



Extra wind information always welcome!



The Scots waited in vain for the girls to tidy the room.



The Scottish Captain collects the Scottish Claymore Trophy.



The Scottish team and their trophies in BC.



The Scotland team in the Canada Match.



Scotland DCRA 2005.

EVERYONE GOES TO CANADA IN 2005 - SCOTLAND

by Bill Sharman

<i>Captain</i>	Bill Sharman
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	David Hossack
<i>Adjutant</i>	Allan Mabon
<i>TR Shooters</i>	Sam Adamson
	Mike Barton
	Jonny Borland
	Matt Charlton
	Pete Dingle
	Alan Haggerty
	Hamish Hunter
	Tim Kidner
	Peter Law
	James Lawrie
	Kenny MacDonald
	Alastair Marr
	Iain Robertson
	Bruce Roth
	Ronald Scaglione
	Ian Shaw
	Iain Thomson
	Henry Watson
<i>F Class Shooters</i>	James Bell
	Martin Brown
	Paul Crosbie
	Peter Hunt
	Daoud Rhouma

Monday 1 August

A damp and chilly Monday morning at Bisley for some, a brighter gathering in Glasgow for the majority. However, day one means cockup number one. Not by any member of the team but by Air Canada. Overbooking of flights is becoming quite common these days so a hotel room, overnight stay and upgraded flight next day for Liz Kidner were in order.

Anyway, the two team flights from Heathrow and Glasgow arrived almost at the same time into Vancouver Airport to be met by several familiar faces. We found our bus and continued our journey on to the Rainbow Motor Inn in Chilliwack.

Tuesday 2 to Wednesday 3 August

Days free for acclimatisation and pick up of team vehicles. On Wednesday afternoon we visited the range to ensure that the rifles had travelled without mishap. We arrived at the beautiful General Vokes range – home of the British Columbia Rifle Association (BCRA), where we were welcomed by a group of our hosts and a contingent of the Welsh team. After a few shots to ensure that all gear had arrived without mishap we returned to the hotel, well satisfied with what promised to be a well organised and enjoyable meeting.

Thursday 4 August

The first day of the BCRA Grand Aggregate, and Captain Bill Sharman led from the front with a respectable 50.7 at 300m for the City of Victoria and then another 50.7 at

500m for second place in the City of New Westminster match. Not to be outdone our Vice-Captain David Hossack put in a tidy 50.9, the top score in the first competition of the day. Yet this very nearly became David's first and last day of shooting on the tour after a 'washroom' accident. After using the nearby spacious and nature friendly open air toilet, David turned and began his descent from the bushes and fell – spraining his wrist in the process.

A great start for the Captain and Vice but not as great as the one Paul Crosbie was having in the F Class category. Paul won the Victoria with 60 ex 60, and the City of New Westminster with 59 ex 60 and was by the end of the day leading the Grand Aggregate with 230 ex 240; Peter Hunt was close behind with 225.

At this juncture we might mention the 'V bull indicator incident'. Pete Dingle believed that the red V bull indicator (which in British Columbia is on the mid right hand side of the target frame) was his fall of shot and therefore adjusted accordingly. Unsurprisingly, the subsequent shot missed the target!

There was a US Goodwill team participating in the BCRA Championships. Very friendly they were too but little goodwill was extended when it came to the prize lists. This meeting was being treated as a trial for the US Palma Team and their shooting was as hot as the weather we were experiencing.

Friday 5 and Saturday 6 August

With seven shoots a day being the norm, the hectic schedule was taking its toll in the heat with a few of the more senior shooters dropping out. As a team we had problems with getting the water intake right; it seems too much is as bad as not enough!

The West Atholl team won the Sir Arthur Currie Match with 292.20 (Sam Adamson 50.1) and the St Charles Challenge Shield went to a BCRA team who counted out our Caledonia team on V bulls.

Paul Crosbie continued his domination of the F Class competitions. These included the Lt Governor's Stage II and III and the Flintoff Memorial Trophies – first place in all of them! Friday evening was spent at the excellent International Reception where the 2005 Queens Prize Winner Jim Paton was guest of honour against a soundtrack of Henry Watson's bagpipes.

Sunday 7 August

Final day of the BC Champs, thankfully only four individual shoots plus a team match. We had some successes to report. David Hossack clinched the Short Range Aggregate early in the proceedings with 369.39; James Lawrie won the Norm Beaton in the last shoot of the meeting with a 75.9; and Tim Kidner was a very respectable eighth in the Lt Governor's Prize final.

As a team we lost our way somewhat in the International TR Team Match which was won by the US Goodwill

Team by a fairly large margin. The International F Class Match was won convincingly by the Scots.

The prize-giving produced a couple of surprises, where Bill Sharman, unbeknown to him, won the Scottish Claymore Aggregate with 150.18. Peter Law came third in the Charles Jackson Memorial Aggregate with 793.63 and James Lawrie came second in the Lt Governor's Prize Third Stage with 174.18.

No surprises in the F Class though, where Paul Crosbie just about swept the board. Paul won the Grand Aggregate with a very impressive score of 761.108, five points clear of his nearest contender Chris Dodd; he also had a most impressive haul of silverware. Jim Bell had a successful meeting including a perfect 60.10 to win the Vern Barclay. All in all a very successful meeting both individually and in building the team up for the DCRA Meeting at Connaught.

Bob Pitcairn and his team were wonderful hosts throughout our stay, and our particular thanks are due to Bob for kindly storing our gear while we went on our bus tour of the Rockies.

Monday 8 to Tuesday 16 August

From here we have an interregnum until the team's arrival at Connaught as the Captain deserted the team at the R&R phase of proceedings having arranged to go to Vancouver Island with some Canadian friends for a spot of salmon fishing off the west coast at Tofino.

And on to Connaught . . .

It is always a stressful time moving the team and all their kit from one venue to another and we were very grateful for the comic relief provided by our friends on the Welsh team who were travelling on the same flight from Vancouver to Ottawa. Whilst the Welsh tour report may have vaguely mentioned their problems on the journey, this report can tell the truth! In the space of a few hours:

They had been stopped for speeding. Fortunately the Mounties didn't speak Welsh.

They left behind a team member in Vancouver after he got into a heated discussion with airport security about the screwdriver in his hand luggage. The discussion was still raging after the plane took off for Ottawa! His luggage was so annoyed with the whole affair that it flew to Montreal.

They also managed to leave two rifles behind at the airport hotel, or so they thought until they realised that the rear doors of their van had minds of their own, enabling them to open and close of their own accord on the freeway. It was a very good thing that the Mounties are an understanding bunch and didn't seem to mind that various firearms had been artfully arranged on the hard shoulder.

Friday 19 August

We woke to bucketing rain and wended our way to the ranges for some practice shoots and also to get ourselves moved into our accommodation.

We shot in the pouring rain, and it was a little disheartening continually having to dry out wet bedding between shoots and to haul on soaking kit before the next shoot. To everyone's relief, the Ottawa Regiment was postponed until Wednesday. Some might argue that that's a wee bit late to find one's 800 yards zero in time for the start of the Grand but really, everyone was very, very happy indeed to go home. Allegedly Peter Vaughan, the DCRA statistician, spent the night drying out scorecards in the microwave!

Saturday 20 August

There was a lot of shooting, the greater part of it at the longest range. There was a three-way tie in the Gooderham (F Class) with scores of 148 (HPS 150), between Paul Crosbie, John Brewer and Jim Murphy. Conceivably, results might have been a bit different had not two senior DCRA Life Governors convinced each other that the 500 yards range was a 10, not 15, shot match, scored 50.8 and 50.4, and then left the range!

After the shooting, the Canadians treated the visitors to a Meet and Greet barbecue, and it was good to be reunited with everyone present in a thoroughly convivial manner.

Sunday 21 August

And so to the start of the Grand Aggregate. The team settled down to some serious shooting. In the Macdougall (300 and 500 yards), David Hossack came sixth with 99.10, Tim Kidner ninth with 99.8, sex-stud (according to reactions to the brochure pics) Kenny MacDonald came 12th with 98.14, sex-stud (according to him!) Ian Shaw came 13th with 98.13; and Paul Crosbie was fourth in F Class with 116. David was so pleased with himself that he declared: "I could really do with a dairy maid tonight, as long as she's delicious!" I think you meant Dairy Queen, David.

Monday 22 August

Monday was a fine day, apart from a few drops of rain in the morning and a fairly strong breeze which changed direction quite swiftly. In the afternoon especially, shooting at both 600 yards and 800 metres was quite a challenge. Wind at 800 metres swinging from zero to double figures left was not out of the ordinary.

Tuesday 23 August

Tuesday was, as Jim Thompson put it, "a grand day for shooting - cool, no rain, partly cloudy, and with a brisk breeze from the north (ie a headwind) varying in direction quite rapidly". Ideal for a day containing the Letson (Queen's I equivalent) and the Alexander of Tunis (regular maker or breaker of Grand Aggregates). The Letson is a three-ranger and quite a few team members started well by going clean or dropping one or two over the morning ranges. Most people then had a three or four hour break before shooting the 600 yards range and the Tunis in less settled conditions.

Scottish team management had decided not to enter teams in the Coaches' Match over lunchtime, which would have been a fifth range of the day for the shooters and a possible source of fatigue ahead of the important

afternoon shoots. Good practice for a coach though. Matt entered a County of London team for this match with two of the Welsh boys. They scored 98.9 out of 100, level with the top F Class team (USA) and four points clear of the TR field. Well done the Celts!

Allan Mabon carried on his excellent form, coming third in the Letson with 105.12. During the afternoon, Tim Kidner came seventh in the Tunis with 49.6. Martin Brown and Jim Bell were top Effers in ninth and tenth with 55.

In the Jack Gorrie (Tuesday) Agg, Allan Mabon was third with 153.15 and Tim Kidner seventh with 151.18, while Paul Crosbie was eighth in F Class with 175. In the Klondike (halfway Grand) Agg, Ian Shaw was top Scot on 440.51 and Allan Mabon, on 438.37, was impressively seven points clear of the next best Scot!

Paul Crosbie did very well indeed to win the F Class Letson with 125 points (ie just one V bull dropped!). One would have thought that likely to bode well for his tie shoot that afternoon, the first of several. After the initial five shots each, at 25.5 all round, it looked as if the tie shoot might run and run, even at 900m. But then each of the next two shots saw a different firer drop out with a mere bull, leaving our hero in third place.

Wednesday 24 August

Wednesday was sunnier again, warmer and bright with a variable (some claimed diabolical) breeze. The morning brought the 300m and 500 yards ranges of the President's (Queen's II, though unlike at Bisley there is no cut-off after Queen's I but rather after an aggregate of Letson and President's), followed by 600 yards and the 800m range of the Gibson in the afternoon.

Determined to do things the hard way in the President's, David cross-shot. Expensive that when he had 49, 50 to go with his 44! But worse, and well deserving the Prat Hat was Jonny Borland. He didn't think his foresight ring looked circular. His mistake was in using the word "ring" in the singular. When he investigated after the shoot, he found that he had somehow managed to jam three elements into his foresight tunnel. Not quite concentric circles then?

In the Governor General's (F Class) Paul qualified on 300, while Jim made it through on 296. In the TR stakes, Allan Mabon (only one off on 254.19), Philip Lucey, Ian Shaw and Tim Kidner all qualified for places for the Final.

Thursday 25 August

The morning's shooting consisted of the 300m and 600 yards ranges of the Gibson and, with them, the realisation that the Grand Aggregate was very rapidly drawing to a close . . . already! Jimmy put himself firmly in the running for the Prat Hat by turning up to one of his Gibson shoots with a box of empty cases.

A few other competitions were settled on the Gibson. In the Short Range Agg (all 300m), David Hossack was fourth with 234.28 and Ian Shaw seventh with 233.36. Our best in F Class was Paul Crosbie, sixth with 276. In the All-Comers Agg, Ian Shaw was ninth on 597.75 and Paul Crosbie came second in F Class on 710.

Finally in terms of newly completed aggregates, the Senior/Junior Pairs was won by a Celtic pair: Iain Robertson along with Richard Jeens of Wales came first, with a score of 1183.117 (of which the senior member's contribution was 584.50 - you can work it out!).

Thursday lunchtime brought the presentation of Jonny Borland's 19th birthday cake (which had a Saltire iced onto it) and a "verbal voucher" for an adjustable iris foresight - Paul Reibin had none left, so strings were being pulled to locate one. Apparently he had wanted one for ages and we had all learned why the day before!

Next order of business was the Outlander Match, at 600 yards and 900m, for international teams other than our hosts, who were competing in provincial matches. Well done Ian Shaw on being top scorer in the match and Pete Dingle on shooting his way into the Commonwealth Match team for the following day.

The selection committee pondered on the Commonwealth and Canada teams for much of the evening, delaying the Captain's return to the range that evening for a hospitable evening with the DCRA Executive and several bottles of red wine at Jim Thompson's caravan.

We weren't quite sure whether Jonny was ready for the important new privilege bestowed on him by the ripe old age of 19 - he was now old enough to drink in Ontario. Some of his "friends" arranged with the bar staff that they would definitely ask him for ID, ask him his hour of birth and call the manager to see whether the time difference between Scotland and Canada meant they'd have to wait a few hours to serve him . . .

Friday 26 August

The Gatineau was the main shoot on Friday morning, on another fine day. It was the last shoot in the Grand and was squadded on the basis of people's standings after the Gibson. Iain Robertson was top TR Scot, in eleventh place on 74.11, and Martin Brown was top F Class Scot in seventh on 86.

The Patron's followed, also at 900m. About eight Scots qualified to shoot in it by being in the top 82 overnight; the next couple of Scots on the list picked up returned tickets from those who had already had enough of this shooting lark. And at last, in the final major individual TR shoot of the DCRA Meeting, a Scot emerged triumphant. Well done Ian Shaw on a fine 75.7 at 900m. Paul Crosbie was fourth in F Class on 87.

The afternoon brought the first of the big ones - the Commonwealth Match for teams of 12 at 800 and 900m. The conditions were interesting but surely easier than we made them seem. Canada, the eventual winners, benefited from shooting fast but also from having the pick of the best shots in the Grand - much more strength in depth and a huge amount of talent - and on their home range too. Their performance was extraordinary - so good that their scores made it look like it had been a windless day. They really blew us all away. Sadly Scotland, carrying an unexplained cross-shot, finished a mere two points behind Ireland. We had always thought that this match would be a stretch (though not

as much as for Wales, who couldn't raise a team) and that the Canada Match was a more realistic goal. Final positions were:

1	Canada	1185.120	G Bowman	100.09
2	USA	1172.106	G De Costa	100.15
3	Ireland	1124.070	P Charlton	98.07
4	Scotland	1122.083	I Shaw	99.09
5	Germany	1098.055	R Kappstein	97.05

Simultaneously, Jimmy was one of the coaches for the GB Under 25 team that beat the Canadians in their long range match by 756 points to 744. Malcolm Peebles (Athelings), Jonny Borland and Grant Jarret (Athelings), all of them Scots, were also in the team.

As to the Grand, the Scottish placings in the top 50 (TR) were:

Ian Shaw	28 th	804.86
Allan Mabon	45 th	800.53
Philip Lucey (Athelings)	48 th	799.75
Iain O'Robertson	49 th	799.75

Top Brit was Richard Jeens in sixth on 816.82. Overall winner, with a superb performance, was Jim Paton on 823.84.

Saturday 27 August

Saturday was sunny again. All day, especially from noon onwards, there was quite a strong breeze from the rear, changing direction between left and right in the twinkling of an eye and needing at least handfuls both ways in the Governor General's Final. First order of the day was the big one from a team perspective: the Canada Match.

The match started well for Scotland. Wind conditions had a fish-tail often requiring quick moves either side of zero. After 300 yards, Scotland was only three off, level with both Canada and the USA and ahead of the pack. One target was even shooting well enough to have gone clean but it was early days. At 500 yards, Scotland dropped a further ten, while Canada only lost four points. Given that Canada only dropped another five at 600 yards, victory was already impossible for Scotland. At the last range, the fishtail's magnitude increased and a couple of waits and message 5s meant that Scotland's last shot was fired with only 30 seconds remaining. However, in finishing 23 off, Scotland had dropped fewer than a point per man per range, which was a satisfying performance if not enough to dislodge the North Americans.

Final positions (and top scorers) were:

1	Canada	1188.139	D Vamplew	150.20
			G Bowman	150.20
2	USA	1182.137	D Flaharty	150.21
3	Scotland	1177.122	B Roth	149.17
4	Wales	1172.109	R Jeens	149.21
5	Ireland	1164.104	G Alexander	149.15
6	Germany	1136.075	K Thumschat	147.11

Afternoon brought the Governor General's Final, in which only three Scots TR shots and two of our F Class

were involved. The rest of the team turned up to support but we really had no idea what was going on, given there were no boards behind the firing points. What we could see was that the wind was being demonic. Scores in the 50s ex 75 at 900m were not at all uncommon. In the end, Tim Kidner handled the conditions best amongst the Scots, moving up to 18th with a score of 284.27. Ian Shaw was 25th on 281.26 and Allan Mabon 48th on 264.9. Ian had shot with winner Pat Vamplew (294.34) at 900m and had been mightily impressed with Pat's 72 to Ian's 65. Apparently Pat had thanked Ian afterwards for the help that his shots had provided! Top Brits in the Final were the Jeens brothers, Ed in seventh and Richard in tenth.

In F Class, James Bell finished a fine fifth with 334 and Paul Crosbie seventh with 330. The winner was Dave Rumbold, of Old Guildfordians but now a local.

The Final was followed by prize-giving. The Captain went up, early on, to pick up absentee Ian Shaw's prize for a rare (at DCRA) 50.10. Someone else had received an award for an Impossible Possible (50.0) which isn't as impossible at Connaught as at home. Having missed his first award, Ian did get to go up for his victory in the Patron's. Other awards for which Scots went up for cups, money and other prizes: the Outlander (all the Caledonia team, bronze medals), the Coaches' Match (Matt), several F Class matches including an excellent Letson win (Paul) and, most unexpectedly (to him at least), Ian Thomson went up to collect a prize for finishing exactly two-thirds of the way down the Grand Aggregate!

Saturday evening brought the Scottish team dinner at our hotel. With alcohol in plentiful supply, there was of course a little horseplay and merriment. Jonny won the Prat Hat for pouring no water into a glass, despite much effort with the jug. Jimmy won it off him by doing the same, followed by the clatter of a large quantity of ice cubes landing on his table. And David outdid them all when he made a suggestion for where the London-bound party should spend a couple of hours after checking in at the airport the following day: "There's a place that Jim Paton took us near the Skyport," followed, after it dawned on him, by "Ah - that was in Vancouver!"

Sunday 28 August

And then we went home.

So to summarise, we had:

- Excellent competition.
- Excellent hosts.
- Excellent marking.
- Excellent ranges.
- An excellent time.

Connaught will be a superb venue for the Palma and World Championship matches at the 125th DCRA Prize Meeting in 2007 and for the warm-up matches in 2006.

From all the Scottish team a thank you to all the DCRA staff, those in stats, on the range and in the butts, for an excellent meeting. An especially large thank you to the Scottish team's management for making it all possible and to every member of the team who made it such a memorable month.

PROST(R)ATE ON THE FIRING POINT

(Tony de Launay thanks enquirers after his health)

A number of you have been good enough to enquire if I have recovered from that which caused a speedy departure to St Peters A&E, blue lights flashing, on the morning of Queen's I last year. Thus far all seems well after the application of the surgeon's knife – or whatever tool was used in the confined spaces.

However, many of the male enquirers - with furrowed brows - went on to ask deeper questions, indicating something more than a general feeling for my health. Now, this is not the ballistical equivalent of *The Lancet* and I am not qualified to speak with anything other than the authority of my own experience, but each of the gentlemen who asked the more inquisitive questions thought that it would be a good idea to pass on the information. So, with some misgivings, I do so.

The prostate is a particularly man thing and, other than when stricken by the common cold, men are very good at keeping a stiff and buttoned upper lip. It is in an intimate place. It was described to me in non-medical speak as being "like a ring doughnut placed around your pipeworks". As your years advance it can enlarge, constricting the pipe. That something may be wrong is signalled in a number of ways: you get up more often in the night to visit the loo; you may have lower back pain; passing water is an increasingly lengthy process; the power and glory of the stream fades away.

Preliminary inspection is by intimate and briefly uncomfortable backdoor digital communication; the accompanying blood-test of the PSA (prostate specific antigen) is routine. By no means definitive by itself, PSA level is an indicator to be taken into account with the other symptoms. Recent articles in the press have reported research casting some doubt on the efficacy of these preliminary examinations, but any medical advisor will tell you that they are not the sole indicators.

More detailed examinations in the form of ultra-sound, internal camera inspection and tissue acquisition for biopsy may follow. Yes, the last is uncomfortable and personal, but in the order of things it is essential to establish whether the enlargement is benign or malignant to determine the necessary treatment. I should say now that in either case early diagnosis allows the highest chances of treatment being successful. With regular monitoring I had lived with benign enlargement diagnosed several years ago, knowing that the problem could increase.

My disappearance on the Wednesday morning was as unlucky as it was swift: I joined the small percentage of those who experience something known as "acute retention". In bald terms, you can't pass water, and that becomes painful, uncomfortable and - if ignored (how I do not know) - dangerous. Thanks to the very prompt action of the St John's Ambulance crew and the Surrey Heath Ambulance service, I ended up in St Peter's Chertsey A&E in double quick time. There Dr R, a man of enormous good humour, did the necessary, inserting temporary plumbing (instantaneous relief) that allowed me home an hour later and back onto Stickledown on the Saturday to watch Jim Paton equal Philip Bennison's record.

Two weeks later my consultant performed the re-sectioning to remove the inner parts of the gland, an operation known in the trade as a TURP. This can be done by laser, which evaporates the bits, or by the more traditional "scraping out" which has the benefit of providing material for biopsy. The anaesthetist offered a choice of local or general knockout. Devout coward as I am, I decided that any chance, however remote, of overhearing the ops room chatter was not a good idea and opted for oblivion. "No problem" said the gas man, "You are young enough", raising my spirits no end.

The outcome is uncomfortable for a while: it takes time to heal fully and to re-establish full control, but as far as I can judge it has a high success rate. The added good news was that a fresh biopsy showed that the enlargement had remained benign. The PSA will still be monitored.

You may wonder what this piece is doing in a shooting journal: the answer is that it is justified if it gives information and encouragement to just one male shooter to go and talk to his doctor if he has worries. Men are not very good at sharing their health problems, sometimes even with their medical advisers it seems. If any shooter's wife or shooting lady reads this, recognises the signs in her partner and persuades him to go for a check, then that too can be reckoned a success.

Comments from those I have spoken to suggest that there are quite a few of my friends and acquaintances who may feel reassured that they will not be seen as foolish if they do share their concerns. It is what happens when you approach that certain age!

MUZZLE VELOCITY VERSUS BARREL LENGTH IN THE .308" WIN/7.62MM NATO CARTRIDGE

by Mike Baillie-Hamilton

Objective

In the United Kingdom most competitive shooting is done with the .308" Win/7.62mm NATO cartridge. In the Target Rifle (TR) class ammunition is usually issued to competitors and will be based on the Sierra 155gn MatchKing bullet to Palma Match specification or the Radway Green 155gn bullet. Shooting at 1000 yards demands maximising the performance of the ammunition and so barrel lengths are normally 30" which is readily achievable within the rifle weight limit of 6.5kgs (14.32lbs). In the Match Rifle (MR) class any bullet may be handloaded and Sierra 200 MatchKings are fairly standard. Shooting at 1,200 yards again demands maximum performance to stay supersonic and so barrel lengths have grown to a fairly common 34". However the rules limit the barrel weight to 2.5kgs (5.5lbs) and to avoid very skinny, whippy barrels it has become common practice to flute 34" barrels or stick with unfluted barrels of 32". There has been some fairly animated discussion as to the merits of the rules and fluting. Missing from this discussion has been firm knowledge of how valuable the extra two inches are in terms of extra muzzle velocity and hence downrange velocity. This paper describes an experiment designed to answer the question "What is the velocity benefit of additional barrel length in current British TR and MR shooting?" There are other potential benefits such as more complete and hence regular combustion, lower muzzle pressure and hence lower muzzle blast dispersion and possibly a more favourable exit point within a changed vibration pattern which I have not set out to answer in this study.

A number of sources quote data for velocity/length increases but none for the conditions outlined above. Hatcher (1) quotes several older experimental relationships including that observed for the M2 ball round from the 30-06 cartridge which is much quoted. Some more modern but anonymous data is quoted at (2). Perhaps the most comprehensive test is that written up by Dan Lilja (3) which shows increases of 13 - 19 fps/ inch with the 338/378 Weatherby Magnum at a usable length of 32" with reducing increments out to 46". Geoff Kolbe (4) discusses the theoretical work of Powley and Leduc which sacrificed some accuracy in the quest for mathematically simple formulae. More recently Mohazzabi and Shefchik (5) have sacrificed mathematical simplicity and derived more realistic formulae which they have fitted to .22" rimfire observations.

Loads

Sierra bullets and Vihtavuori powders are the market leaders for anyone handloading in either class. I felt it would be of interest to use the high energy 500 series

powders alongside the standard 100 series powders as I suspected the 500 series might benefit more from extra barrel length whereas the 100 series powders would be burnt out and give little extra value from extra length. I wanted to explore beyond the current standard of 34" and so a 36" Border barrel was purchased. Many loading manuals quote velocities from 24" barrels and so the plan was to cut the barrel down from 36" to 24" and observe the velocity of shots at different lengths. The barrel was notched at approximately 2" intervals to facilitate parting off on the range. Actual lengths from bolt face to muzzle positions were measured accurately and were all about 1" short of the nominal lengths with the maximum actual length being 35.3". Before the test barrel was fitted, loads were developed using a different barrel fitted with an Oehler M43 strain gauge and powder charges selected to give equal pressures with the four loads to be used. Unfortunately a mix up in my instructions to my gunsmith, Callum Ferguson of Precision Rifle Services resulted in a seating depth suited for pure MR shooting whereas the load development had been in a hybrid barrel capable of shooting both TR and MR. The result was a test barrel in which Sierra 200s could be seated sensibly at 20' off the lands but the Sierra 155s, with only minimal engagement in the neck of the cases, still had 100' jump to reach the lands. I attempted to allow for this by increasing all the loads by half a grain over my previous estimate. The barrel was run-in using all the odds and ends of ammunition lurking in my stores to minimise any effect of running in during the test and to check pressure levels.

Before reporting the loads I will repeat the usual warning that these loads were safe and the brass cases undamaged by firing in **this particular long throated barrel** and in **cool conditions**. They are not recommended for general use and readers are advised to start at lower charges based on loading manual figures and work up loads for their particular circumstances.

The loads I used were:-

48.0gn Vihtavuori N140, Sierra 155gn MatchKing, OAL 2.919" (100' jump)

48.5gn Vihtavuori N540, Sierra 155gn MatchKing, OAL 2.919" (100' jump)

44.0gn Vihtavuori N150, Sierra 200gn MatchKing, OAL 3.001" (20' jump)

47.0gn Vihtavuori N550, Sierra 200gn MatchKing, OAL 3.001" (20' jump)

All loads used fully sized Winchester cases and CCI BR2 primers.

Test

As the barrel was to become scrap it was not fitted with a strain gauge and so an Oehler M35P chronograph was used with 8' screen spacing and generous muzzle to screen clearance. Five rounds were fired with each ammunition type before the barrel was cleaned and two inches chopped off. This was repeated at seven lengths. I would have preferred to clean between each group but the thought of 28 cleanings was too much to contemplate. The first shot from every group was ignored as powder residue from a different or no powder would affect the next shots. Subsequent analysis of the first shots showed they were substantially more erratic than the remainder. A few spare rounds were prepared and some used to check the chronograph operation before starting the main test with a clean and warm barrel. Ammunition was allowed to sit in open boxes and reach ambient temperature before firing. Test conditions were cold and miserable with overnight snow lying on the range. Fortunately the overcast conditions gave very consistent chronograph performance without orange screens and with almost every proof screen figure being within a spread of 4fps except at the end of the test when the sun showed through intermittently and the orange screens were required. The temperature was initially very steady rising slowly from 5C to 10C at the end. Ideally a small correction for temperature at the shortest barrel lengths could but has not been made. A hot water bottle was placed under the Oehler M35P with a freshly charged battery as experience has shown that the M35P can die of battery failure at these temperatures. Shortening the barrel was done with a standard hacksaw and with a needle file to remove any burrs on the inside of the muzzle. Care was taken to clean out metal filings. Despite the crudeness of this crowning and no particular attention being paid to firing carefully aimed shots, the group obtained on a single target set up to ensure consistent chronograph alignment was respectable.

Results

The results are shown as four graphs of muzzle velocity against barrel length. Individual shots are shown together with lines fitted using quadratic curves which give good fits.

As expected all four loads produce increasing velocity with length and with the velocity increment decreasing at longer length increments. The equations of the curve fits are:-

$$\text{Vihtavuori N140, Sierra 155gn } V = 2169 + 37.3 \times V - 0.439 \times V^2$$

$$\text{Vihtavuori N540, Sierra 155gn } V = 2329 + 25.2 \times V - 0.226 \times V^2$$

$$\text{Vihtavuori N150, Sierra 200gn } V = 2106 + 23.2 \times V - 0.275 \times V^2$$

$$\text{Vihtavuori N550, Sierra 200gn } V = 2012 + 33.6 \times V - 0.442 \times V^2$$

The slopes are somewhat less than I had expected and I suspect a great deal less than many shooters might expect. The short answer to my primary question is

therefore that the two inch increment between 32 and 34 inches with typical MR loads generates an extra 10 fps averaged across the two powder types. Running this through my favourite (own) ballistics program shows that this would enable the bullet to remain supersonic for an additional six yards. Clearly this is a miniscule improvement. I suggest it is a waste of effort and expense in buying a longer barrel blank and fluting it. As an aside, the 1,200 yards firing point at Bisley is not quite square to the line of the targets and so the actual range varies by nearly 15 yards from one side of the range to the other. Hence two inches of extra barrel are worth considerably less than the luck of the draw of squadding position on the firing line. I will not be ordering any more 34 inch barrels. In TR the increment between 28 and 30 inches generates an extra 24fps. This is equivalent to 11 yards. This may just be worthwhile. Since there is no need to flute the longer barrel, the extra cost is quite modest.

Another effect I had anticipated was that the longer barrels might generate more consistent velocities since all the powder should be more completely burnt within the barrel. My data does point in this direction with average SDs falling from 8 at the shortest length to 7 at the longest length but the sample sizes of four are too small to give weight to this observation even with 28 groups.

Contrary to my expectations, it can be seen that the N500 series powders did not make any significantly greater use of the extra inches. I was very surprised by this observation. There is a suggestion that the N540 might finally have benefited more than the N140 from the longest length increment but this may only be because the selected load was a little light and combustion may not have proceeded as fast as it might have done with a fuller charge.

The Vihtavuori manual (6), confirmed by personal experience, indicates N550 should produce around 100fps more velocity than N150 at the same pressure whilst the velocity increment between N140 and N540 should be around 40fps. My results showed smaller differences which I believe to be due to my loads not generating exactly equal pressures due to my mix up with seating length. I believe that with the long throat the pressures generated by the high energy powders fell off more than those with the standard powders. The differences are small but inspection of the fired primers suggests the N540 load could have generated slightly the lowest pressure and N150 slightly the highest. All primers looked reasonable.

It is possible to extrapolate the fitted velocity/length curves to hypothetical points at which there would be no further velocity increase at all. The quadratic curves used to fit the data in the graphs shown could be used for extrapolating by small amounts. However fitting Mohazzabi and Shefchik type curves is clearly more realistic for extrapolating well beyond the observed data. Unfortunately the data for the Vihtavuori N540/Sierra 155 data does not produce a meaningful M & S curve.

curves from which one can estimate the length for maximum velocity and also the extreme length at which friction would bring a bullet to a stop still within the barrel (!) as follows:

Vihtavuori N140, Sierra 155gn Vmax at length 56", Vstop at length 300"

Vihtavuori N540, Sierra 155gn curve does not produce sensible results

Vihtavuori N150, Sierra 200gn Vmax at length 54", Vstop at length 350"

Vihtavuori N550, Sierra 200gn Vmax at length 42", Vstop at length 190"

Since these extrapolations are well beyond the experimental data they should be treated with caution. Averaging and rounding the figures gives a point of no further velocity gain for the Sierra 155 at 56" and for the Sierra 200 at 48". Since this is commensurate with the driving force dropping below the bore friction at these theoretical lengths it seems entirely reasonable that this should happen earlier for the Sierra 200 with its longer shank compared with the lighter bullet. These extrapolations also show that the bullets would come to rest within a barrel of approximately 24 feet or 8 yards length.

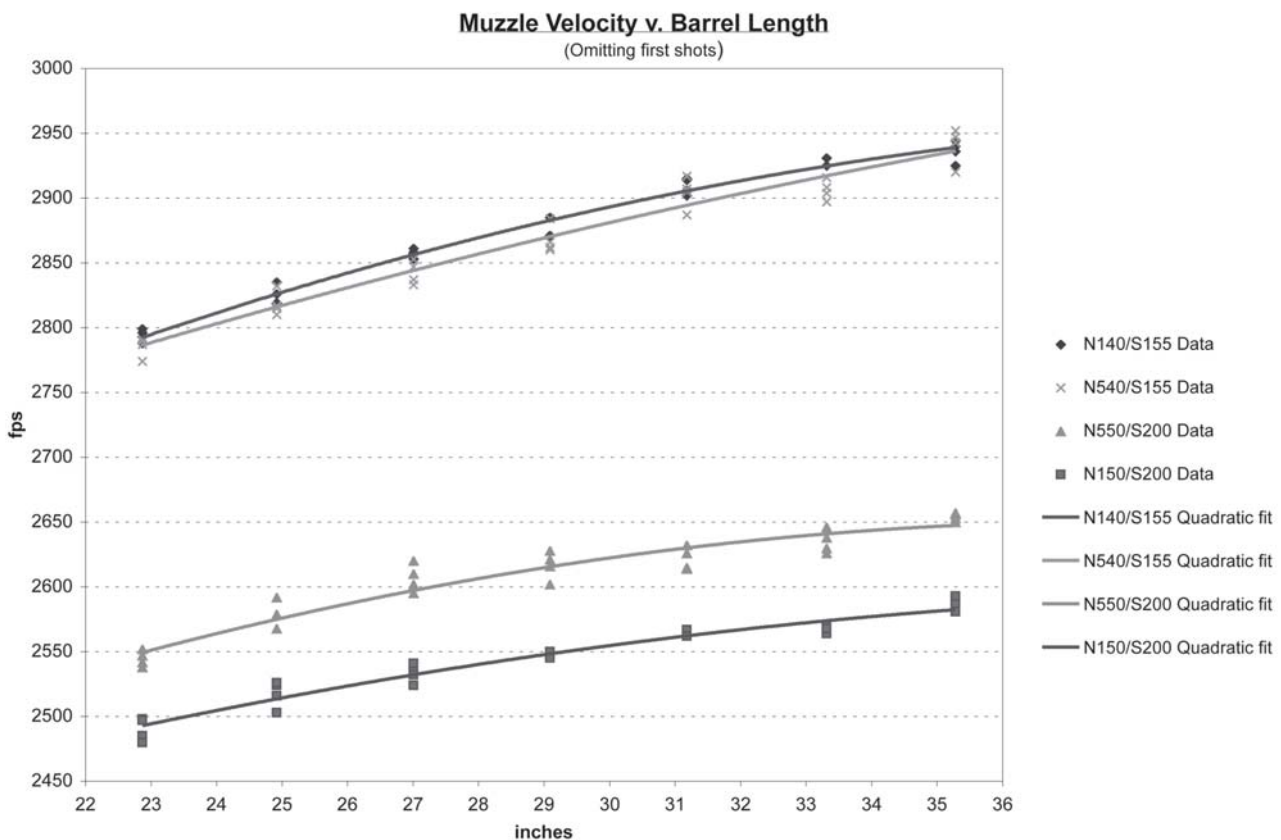
As another aside, maximum velocity in a .22" rimfire is achieved somewhere between 16" and 26" (5)(7)

depending on the ammunition used so that most bullets will be slowing down within the last few inches of small-bore target rifle barrels.

Were I to repeat the test I would not change much but would have taken more trouble to equalise the loads for pressure in the actual test barrel. Also it would have been interesting to investigate the performance of moly coated bullets which might be expected to benefit more from longer barrel lengths. I considered doing this but felt the two or three shots required for the barrel to settle when switching from non-moly to moly and back again at every length would have added considerably to my workload.

Conclusion

The increase in muzzle velocity due to increasing barrel lengths achievable with typical MR and TR components was found to be less than expected. In MR the increment between 32 and 34 inches would add 10fps to the velocity of an uncoated Sierra 200 MatchKing and extend its performance by only six yards. I suggest this improvement alone is not worth the expense involved. In TR the increment from 28 to 30 inches would add 24fps to the velocity of a Sierra 155 MatchKing which may just be worthwhile. Whether the other possible benefits of longer barrels make them more worthwhile I have to leave to be answered by others.



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LONG RANGE RIFLE ACCURACY

from Mike Baillie-Hamilton

"Well . . . er . . . um . . . golfers need more than one club . . . er . . ."

Members of the GB Match rifle team to Australia 2005 were lucky enough to receive copies of a pamphlet entitled "Long Range Rifle Accuracy" written by Graham Mincham and (Dr) Alexander R Krstic. Both authors are shooters and have been involved with Australian Defence research. In their paper they describe the results of a study into the suitability of various bullets for TR and MR shooting. The study used an advanced computer model to predict group sizes for various bullets at different ranges and from different twist barrels. Much of the paper is filled with rather dense tables and graphs which do not make for light reading. However the 15 page introduction and two page conclusions make interesting reading for anyone interested in the technical aspects of bullet flight. Amongst their conclusions is confirmation of the widely held belief that a slower twist barrel will generally produce smaller groups at short range whilst a sharper twist barrel will generally produce smaller groups at longer ranges. The following quote referring particularly to the Sierra 155 Palma bullet may be of particular interest to UK shooters needing to persuade their firearms licensing authority of the desirability of owning more than one rifle.

"It should be quite apparent now as to why top level fullbore shooters should consider using two rifles with this projectile, one employing a 1 in 15" twist barrel for short to medium range work (300 metres to 600 metres) and a 1 in 13" barrel for medium to long range competition (600 metres to 1000 yards)."

For RG 155 the advice is similar but 12" for medium to long, 15" short to medium and possibly even 16" for 300 metres only. For MR there is a wealth of comment on Lapua, Sierra and Berger bullets including the surprising result that the BC of a Berger 185 might be higher than that of a Berger 190. Whilst all the results are only as good as the computer model used, I can confirm that from my own BC measurements I have actually observed almost the same result although my error limits only allow me to claim that "the 190 appears no better than the 185" which is contrary to the manufacturer's claims and intuition. This may explain why the Australian MR team to Bisley in 2001 all used the Berger 185 to the surprise of many Britons.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Paul Gale of the South Australian Rifle Association on admin@riflesa.asn.au

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100 YEARS AGO

by Ted Molyneux

For the NRA, the year of 1906 was one of comfortable progress, but elsewhere in the world things were not so calm. Mount Vesuvius erupted and devastated Naples; SOS became an international distress signal; the motor car was beginning to replace the horse-drawn carriage with Rolls Royce being registered as a company. John Betjeman was also born that year and may have been inspired by the poetry of the time.

One such poem was written by Corporal JB Lloyd of A Company, the Inns of Court Volunteers, with humour, wit, ingenuity and imagination of things to come a century in the future. It reflects how active minds relaxed to create light entertainment in the times before radio and television. Read on, chuckle and try to visualise the world of the volunteer rifleman of that time.

In the year of Grace 2000, the authorities of war,
Served out the latest rifle to a certain famous corps,
And the colonel drew a notice up in language plain, and clear,
That the musketry instructor was appointed to appear,
And to lecture on the merits of that very novel gun,
On Thursday nights at half-past eight, on Saturdays at one.
Yes, he drew that notice plainly, with a firm, unflinching pen,
Then he published it in Orders - to conceal it from the men.

But the musketry instructor was a man of ready wit,
And he called to him the adjutant, who also knew a bit,
And they swore an oath between them, in a manner stern and dread,
That, in face of every precedent, those Orders should be read!
So they printed right across them, "Don't read this," in scarlet ink,
And they sent them out in sweetly scented envelopes of pink.
And the consequences were that every member of the corps
Perused them, as no Orders had been e'er perused before.

On Thursday night the musketry instructor took his stand,
With that epoch-making rifle lightly poised within his hand,
While before him, to the farther walls, with expectation mute,
Spread a mass of legal intellects, abnormally acute.
"Now, gentlemen, before you," so the lecturer began,
"Is the most ingenious weapon that was ever made by man;
And to prove that in my statements of deception there is none,
I will turn up both my coat sleeves, and will show you how it's done.

First the barrel is convertible; you change it at your wish
To a billiard-cue, a tent-pole, or a rod for catching fish;
While for men of Scottish origin, who recreation seek,
'Tis a never-failing niblick, or a creditable cleek.
Then the stock, if kept in order in a reasonable way,
Is equally adapted to the needs of every day;
You may use it, by the exercise of ordinary care,
For a bedstead, or a chest of drawers, a sponge-bath or a chair.

Then I turn a little handle, on the diagram marked 'B',
And produce two nice warm blankets, and a pot for making tea;
Or, by pressing pennies in the slot denominated 'Q,'
A cooking apparatus is at once exposed to view;
While the contents of the part marked 'X' are varied in their scope,
There's a pair of ammunition boots, a tooth-brush, and some soap,
A pair of socks, a night cap, and a knitted under-vest -
In fact, *you* press the button, and the rifle does the rest.

Then, to go a trifle further, I must indicate with pride
That the cravings of the inner man have not been set aside;
For within the complicated mechanism of the breech
There's a little box of lozenges - I pass one round to each -
Now the merits of these jujubes is most easily explained,
For the juice of seven oxen in each lozenge is contained.
They will prove a perfect substitute for sandwiches, or chops,
And we advertise them widely as our patent 'Buffalo Drops'.

Then the magazine's divisions have been accurately set
To retain the perfect flavour of the messroom cigarette,
While the pouches are constructed to hold fifty at the least,
Of our celebrated threepenny, called 'High Life in the East.'
Nor need you fear lest cigarettes, or brushes, socks, and boots
On the action of the rifle may impede the man who shoots,
For, when Parliament assembles, it will promptly be proposed
That, for reasons of economy, all ranges must be closed.

So, for musketry instruction, a new drill has been designed,
That is readily remembered by the intellectual mind.
At the word 'One' you lift your gun; at 'Two' you let it drop;
Then you breathe a simultaneous breath, and every man says 'Pop.'
Now, for independent firing, regulations such as these,
To minds of high intelligence, commend themselves with ease;
But to fire a volley smartly, as a volley should be fired,
Considerable practice is most certainly required.

And this drill will prove quite ample should hostilities befall,
For the bullets are innocuous, they are so very small;
And the Continental armies, who might land upon our shores,
Have all been armed with rifles, that have even smaller bores.
So the list of killed and wounded will be settled on by lot,
And the ambulance will see them home before a round is shot;
And the European Concert will send umpires of resource,
Who will faithfully adjudicate the fortunes of each force.

But the Quartermaster-Sergeant will regret those days of yore,
Before his post was turned into a bloated sinecure.
He will heave a sigh full often for those Easter times so dear,
When his head was full of kippers, and the measuring of the beer.
For the baggage-waggon joins the train of those whose day is done,
When every man is carrying his kit inside his gun;
Or, better still, each section, with a spanner and a screw,
Can change theirs into motor-cars - that they may carry you.

So take this rifle with you, friends, wherever you may roam,
You will find that it will furnish all the comforts of a home;
It will never be a worry, never cause domestic strife;
You may let your children play with it, or lend it to your wife;
You will find it fully fitted for each age, or race, or clime,
For its versatile variety will get there, every time.
And, when all its points are mastered, every thought of war must cease,
And posterity will prize it, as the panoply of peace."

OBITUARIES

Thomas James Paterson

Tom was born in London and completed his education in Reading. From an early age he looked forward to a career in the Army; after leaving school he went out to India in the hope of joining the Indian Army. However, a change in legislation at that time ruled this out and in 1946 he was commissioned into the Queen's Regiment. He subsequently entered Southampton University, before rejoining the Army in 1952; initially he served with the Royal Artillery, before transferring to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1957 with a regular commission.



Tom retired from the Army in 1978 and joined a Berkshire based company as the Company Secretary; he also took on the duties of Company Welfare and Training Officer. He put to good use the relevant skills he had acquired in the Army, and became a highly regarded member of the firm; his opinion was often sought on diverse matters not directly connected with his area of responsibility. He finally retired in 1993.

While in the Army, Tom had taken part in, and organised, service weapon shooting at Unit team level; with the introduction of the 7.62 cartridge into Target Rifle competition, and the advent of Warren Whittaker as the Secretary of the Army Rifle Association, Tom became an active member of the rejuvenated Army TR Club. He was always available to help run meetings and matches, or to instruct on courses for beginners. Meticulous attention to detail, thorough preparation, and unobtrusive efficiency were the hallmarks of his participation. In later years he continued to run courses for the L&MRA. After Warren Whittaker retired, Tom took over the statistical analysis of results of the Imperial Meeting each year, with a view to relating the quality of the RG ammunition provided to all the other prevailing factors; this work was particularly useful when the thorny subject of changes to target dimensions came under discussion.

When Tom left the Army, he took up residence conveniently close to Bisley, which allowed him to become a familiar sight on the Common, almost invariably accompanied by his two trademark Westies. He became interested in Match Rifle, and thus, almost of necessity, in hand-loading. The study of Ballistics also formed part of his interest in shooting in general; and theory was always supported by rigorous testing. After winding down much of his participation in active shooting, Tom continued to employ himself for the benefit of others; most people attending NRA Meetings in recent years will best remember him as a cheerful, helpful, and dedicated Range Officer, always keen to ensure that competitors were fairly treated.

Tom preferred to get on with things without making a fuss, and was often to be found efficiently working away behind the scenes while others garnered the plaudits. Tom leaves his wife Pat, daughters Annie and Jane, and grand-daughter Jodie of whom he was inordinately proud. His ashes will be scattered in the traditional manner during the 2006 NRA Imperial Meeting; the date and time will be announced in due course, so those who wish to pay their respects will be able to do so.

Roland Greenwood

Dr Mike Walker

Mike died, peacefully in his sleep at Kingston General Hospital, Ontario, on 10 January 2006. He was in his 91st year.



Mike will be warmly remembered by his many friends around the world as a friend, a shooter, an ambassador, a traveller and a lover of life's good things. He was also a very successful and much loved family doctor, first in England and from 1958 in Canada.

Educated at Harrow School, he then read medicine at Oxford. Following graduation, he did clinical work at Oxford's Radcliffe Hospital, and interned in Bristol. One of his strongest memories of medicine in Oxford was being associated with the Sir William Dunn Pathology Laboratory from which the new drug penicillin was just being introduced to a receptive world.

In 1943, he joined the Royal Navy and served until 1947, mostly on HMS Colombo in the Mediterranean theatre, reaching the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant Commander. He had many memories of his service days, often recounted with his sharp wit late in the evening following DCRA Executive meetings. I shall not easily forget his account of the WRNS panty inspection.

Leaving the Navy, he went into practice in Cornwall, working through the complexities of the birth of the National Health Service, with its attendant challenges and frustrations. After visiting Canada several times with rifle teams, he moved across the Atlantic for good in 1958, setting up his practice in Kingston, Ontario. He closed his practice in 1990, a move very much regretted by his patients and by the Kingston community. He had also been an important member of the medical staff at the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, the Prison for Women, and Providence Manor, a home for the elderly. During these years, he had also served as the medical officer to the Kingston Reserve Force Units, the Princess of Wales Own Regiment and HMCS Cataragui. Never one willingly to reveal his age, he managed to stay with Cataragui for many years after the usual time for compulsory retirement, before National Defence caught up with him as he approached 65.

Mike was an active member of the Kingston Rotary Club and was made a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in 1990. He was much involved in the local ice hockey scene, serving on the Kingston Hockey Council for many years.

But I would not be writing this appreciation if it were not for Mike's career in shooting, especially in latter years with the DCRA. He started all this at Harrow and was Captain of the Oxford University Rifle Club. During his years at Oxford, his teams defeated Cambridge three years out of four in the annual battle for the Chancellor's Plate. He did not let me forget this, since I am a Cambridge man! In 1935, he travelled to Canada with the OURC team, the first from any university to tour North America. They fired at Long Branch (Toronto) and Connaught. In 1937, he was selected as a member of the Great Britain Team about to embark on a long tour to Australia. Reluctantly, he had to turn this down when given the stark choice by his College Tutor of either shooting or medical studies, but not both. After the war, he became a regular competitor at Bisley, a member of several English Teams in the National and Mackinnon matches, a reserve for the Kolapore, and a member of the GB Team to Canada in 1954 and 56. It was those visits that acted as the spur for him to move to Canada permanently in 1958. In those days, teams travelled across the Atlantic by ship, so that there was a week or more of pretty good living before arrival in Canada. On the first of these trips, Mike was the winner of the "Asterisk Aggregate", awarded to the member of the GB Team who danced with the largest number of different partners on the voyage. The score was kept by one Neville Cooper. Mike claimed to be horrified to find that he had won the aggregate, but really he was quite proud of this "achievement".

After moving to Canada, the demands of establishing a new medical practice, a new home and a new family removed Mike from shooting until 1967. Returning in Canada's Centennial year, he qualified for the 1968 Bisley Team and thus travelled back across the Atlantic. There was much friendly abuse levelled at him for becoming one of the "enemy". In the years that followed, he was a member of several Bisley and Palma teams, gaining a reputation as a good team shooter. He was Commandant of the Bisley Team in 1979.

One of Mike's great loves was to travel, and he was able to combine this with shooting expeditions, especially to New Zealand and Australia. Indeed, he became known as "Mr Canadian Shooting" down under, establishing for Canada a great reputation for good shooting and good sportsmanship. He first went in 1975, then captained teams in 1978 and 1984, was a member of the 1979 Palma Team, and made several other private visits to both countries.

Mike was a dedicated supporter of the DCRA. He served on the Executive Committee for many years, chairing the International Teams and Nominating Committees. His many contributions were recognised by his election as a Life Governor in 1992. And for many years also, he ran the Ontario RA's annual Fall Match at the Kingston

Range, making this, for a long period, one of the highlights of the shooting calendar. It has sadly not been the same since he had to give it up.

Mike's wife, Mary, has been a wonderful partner for 45 years. Mike's three sons with Mary, Jeremy, Robin and Peter were a continual source of pride for him and he never ceased to tell of their achievements. He was equally proud of David and Tricia from his previous marriage. It was a great happiness for him that all his family have now come to live in Southern Ontario, so he was able to see his children and grandchildren frequently.

Mike was a good friend, whom we shall all miss. But we are thankful for his life and for his many contributions in so many ways. He and I had a lot of fun together, which I shall always value – in spite of his strange preference for Canadian rye whiskey as compared with good Scotch whisky!

Jim Thompson

Peter Bransgrove

Peter Bransgrove was one of the four founder members of the Concord Rifle Club.



The first meeting of the 'Concord Rifles' was held on the day that the first Concord flew over Bisley - Sunday 13 September 1970. Shooting was stopped for the flight, something the day's heavy rain and mist had failed to do. The name 'Concord' was chosen because it meant exactly what the Founders wished, ie harmonious agreement between persons in opinions, sentiments and interests.

This was Peter to a fault. In the 15 years I knew him I never saw him other than friendly and interested, nor did I ever hear a sour or unkind comment pass his lips. He taught me how to shoot and I learnt more from him in 15 minutes than I have learnt since, yet he never professed to know everything, always took a keen interest in what any shooter was up to in his immediate vicinity and was always open to new ideas. When a club member proudly crowed that he had just shot a 50.7 Peter would congratulate the shooter warmly then ask him if he knew where the three V bulls had gone but never with any malice.

He served as a tank commander in WW2 but the only anecdote we could wring out of him was about the day he lost control and demolished a taverna, fortunately with no injury to anyone. He was retained by the Army after the hostilities were over for unspecified reasons and was known to command very prompt salutes from serving personnel on the production of his warrant card. After the war he worked in the MoD until his retirement.

If it went bang, boom, twang or pop Peter had one. His gunroom was the envy of any lucky soul whom he invited into its cavernous recesses. He had spears from

Africa, hunting bows from America, several original black powder rifles, and of course before The Ban a comprehensive selection of handguns. For some reason that it was hard to fathom he had two cannons and a Verey pistol.

Peter was an active countryman and, before his health declined, was out beating and helping with the rearing at the Killinghurst shoot. He would put on a firework display at Killinghurst at the annual BBQ, which he would fund, and I shall treasure the look of great joy on his face when he lit a particularly spectacular rocket.

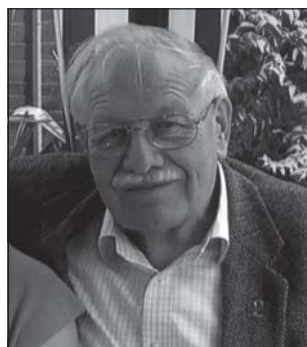
Club meetings at his house were always a lively and looked forward to affair. He would always provide a hot buffet and plenty to drink with the real business starting after the club agenda had been worked through. Invitations to his dinner parties were much sought after, he cooked the perfect roast pheasant with all the trimmings which was always a prelude to all-too-short evenings of anecdotes, lively banter and tales that improved with each passing year. Peter was an excellent shot but never mentioned his shooting achievements; he valued the company of like-minded people before anything else and would supply an endless stream of cups of steaming coffee and tea when on range from his collapsible canteen. It was always easy to find the Concord firing point you merely looked for Peters grey Landrover, the one with the orange hazard light. Even towards the end Peter was content and happy, asking about his dogs and planning the next dinner party.

Peter was one of that generation of Bisley characters who are growing fewer as the years pass. He never married, though he came close on occasion, and is survived by three nieces and one nephew. It speaks volumes about the man that at his funeral the church was filled to overflowing. He is sadly missed and will be fondly remembered.

Nick Halford

Ron Garside

Ron started his career as a youth in training with the GPO. He progressed through the Civil Service grades to Assistant Engineer until the launch of BT where he was in charge of providing telephone exchanges. He transferred to the postal side developing machinery for postal mechanisation.



Ron started shooting small-bore in 1956; he represented the GPO at small-bore. He soon took up .303, often shooting at Tipner. He regularly shot both disciplines. He was a member of the Post Office RC, South Hants RC, Kent County RA, RMCS RC, Civil Service RA (now

CSSCTSA), NSRA and NRA. He regularly competed in the Civil Service Small-bore Championships at Hendon, and represented the Civil Service in fullbore TR matches. He, his wife Veronica (another shooter) and their daughter Diana all drove to shooting events in an Austin 7. The first was a yellow and black 1932 box saloon; the second was a green 1937 Pearl cabriolet, which lasted until they moved to Swindon in 1987 to be closer to Ron's work.

Ron loved shooting. Although he was not a high flyer in shooting circles he had his moments, like winning the first stage of the St. George's in 1990. He was proud to have reached the Queen's Final three times. In addition to small-bore and fullbore rifle he shot small-bore pistol until the ban.

He took early retirement in 1988, which allowed him and Veronica to spend more time indulging their fondness for collecting or staying at Bisley in their caravan. In 1992 he took up classic arms, which he said were more appropriate for his eyesight than modern fullbore rifles. He still shot the NSRA and NRA Bisley meetings but also took part in the HBSA meetings, where he won medals in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Ron had a triple bypass in 2000; he had a slight stroke in 2004, followed by back pain caused by a trapped nerve. With support from Veronica he continued shooting through the summer of 2005, but died in the autumn from ischaemic heart disease, following an operation to relieve the back pain.

He will be missed by many, particularly his wife and daughter.

Pat Daniell and Carol Painting

Cyril Pope

We regret to inform you that Cyril Pope died on 15 August 2005 aged 73. Cyril was born in Long Sutton, Somerset, and lived there all his life, with the exception of a short spell as a child and when he served his National Service, being posted to Egypt. He started shooting for his unit at this time and shooting became a large part of his life. He met and married Hazel Peppard and they remained together for 45 years, until her death two years ago.

His career took him in the direction of building and carpentry with the latter being one of his passions. He then changed direction for 15 to 20 years running a garden and pet store before returning to woodworking. He enjoyed motorbike riding, running, cycling and gardening as well as target shooting.

He shot for Somerset County, and had held various posts on the County Committee. He served on the Air Weapons Sub-Committee, and latterly was Vice-President of the County. He also shot at Langport Ranges with the SCRA. He was a reliable club shooter and shot competitively in many disciplines (.22 prone rifle, fullbore rifle, clays and

air). He used to shoot in the Imperial Meeting at Bisley and in many other events and he was often seen at Bisley riding his bicycle with trailer attached for his shooting gear.

As a member of Westland R&PC he was involved in the setting up of Westland's Airgun Open Competition which has been a regular event on the shooting calendar since 1988. We remember him arriving to help set up the first event with a lorry load of scaffolding for the target holders as we were not allowed to screw anything to the walls. It was an event he was proud of but due to illness he was not able to assist in recent years and sadly, Parkinsons Disease prevented him from continuing his shooting. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his son Mervyn, daughter Penny and their families.

Joan Herbert

Veronica (Donna) Spencer

Donna, the widow of Tony Spencer, died peacefully in her sleep on 3 November 2005, after having suffered a severe stroke at the end of July. Tony and Donna came to the Imperial Meeting every year bar one from 1969 to 2003 and leave many friends. They are together again. RIP.

Ken Chard

Rob Harrison

Brian Hawkins

Tony Scates

We are sad to announce the deaths of Ken Chard of the City Rifle Club, Rob Harrison of Central Bankers, Brian Hawkins of Kenya and Tony Scates of South Africa. It is hoped that full obituaries will appear in the next Journal.

CELEBRATING LIVES OF THE SHOOTING FRATERNITY

Two long time friends and work colleagues, Jonathan Haward (Devon) and his friend Hugh Hastings both lost brothers early in their lives, one through terminal illness, the other through a flying accident.

Keen to share fond memories and family photos with a wide group of friends and relations they realised that other people might also welcome such a celebratory service.


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In addition to celebrating life, visitors to the site can also help others through links which are provided on site to allow donations to each person's nominated charity. The administrative charges to help defray the costs of running the site are to be waived for past members and associate members of the NRA both at home and overseas, and it is envisaged that, over a period of time, some wonderful shooting anecdotes and photographs will be there for people to see, read and add to over the years to come.

As the Journal goes to press, tribute pages have been collated for Ken Chard and Colin O'Brien – please feel free to visit the site and add your tributes; and if you would like other people added then please either contact Jonathan Haward at +44 (0)1872 226800 or email him at jonathan@friendsandrelations.com or indeed through the 'contact us' button on the www.friendsandrelations.com website.

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Ronald Hastings, 1922 - 1996
*"This is exactly how I remember Dad:
smiling, looking like he knows how to
enjoy life - which he certainly did."*



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LETTERS

Formation of Bisley Residents Group

From Roger Mason

The vast majority of groups of leased property have a Residents Association to look after their interests and liaise with their landlords.

There are a large number of clubs, associations and private "huts" on Bisley Camp, to say nothing of the caravans, but there is no organisation to look after their interests.

To rectify this it is proposed that a Residents Group be formed of all those with a lease, short term tenancy, caravan site, or any agreement with the NRA to occupy property on Bisley Camp.

If any individual member of the NRA, or affiliated organisation, falls into any of the above categories, and is interested in being part of this new association, even if they are unable to attend the inaugural meeting, please write to Graham Clark, whose address is below, giving their name and both home and Bisley addresses, telephone/fax number and e-mail if they have one. If they have any specific matters that could be of interest to such a group, please feel free to outline them as well.

The inaugural meeting will be held at Bisley Camp on Saturday 13 May at 18:00 in Canada House to form this Group officially, determine its name and format, its aims, and appoint officers to run it. A preliminary suggested set of aims is given below.

- A To keep members informed of NRA actions or intentions
 - i over occupier's property on camp
 - ii on future proposed development of all or part of the camp
 - iii on any matter than could impinge on members enjoyment of their leased, rented or tenanted property
- B To put forward to and discuss with the NRA members considered suggestions and proposals for a fair lease policy, both for the NRA and for the leaseholders.
- C To discuss and formulate members suggestions for changes or improvements in the administration and development of the camp, both for the members and for shooting in general, and to put such suggestions to the NRA as a basis for discussion.

To join this Residents Group or if you would like to attend the inaugural meeting please write to:

Graham Clark
Viking Cottage, Crowhurst Lane, Crowhurst,
Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6NA
Telephone 01342 893065 or fax 01342 892800

County Victor Ludorum 2005 - a correction

From Tony de Launay

It has been pointed out to me that in my diary of the Bisley Meeting I generously credited Surrey with the Victor Ludorum title in the 2005 County Short and Long Championships. It was of course a very close run thing with just one point in it, but it was the County of London team who were victorious thanks to their resounding victory at long range and a solid fifth place at short range behind victors Norfolk.

In fact it is a reflection of the very hard work put in by the counties to bring on their squads and to develop their own coaching and team systems, that we have had quite a variety of winners over the past few years. That is good news for the competitions and for our national and international teams. So my apologies to London for the glitch which I put down to other distractions at the time.

Political Correctness

From Maurice Kanareck

What is it about the NRA that it does the devil's work for him?

It is not easy to forget the unilateral ban that the Government placed on self-loading rifles following the tragic events at Hungerford.

Now, our Secretary General wishes to distance himself, and presumably the NRA, from humanoid targets and related disciplines.

What is this obsession with humanoid targets and "police this and combat that"? Why the use of this, in itself, emotive PC terminology? Where on earth has this word "humanoid" come from? I have no problem with the figure targets that they truly are, nor the courses of fire that they are used in. I am, moreover, proud of the heritage and tradition that they represent.

The original NRA, which sprang from the Volunteer movement of the 19th Century, was not ashamed to train using figure targetry, for that, indeed, was its purpose, and I am not aware that the NRA has yet abandoned its Defence of the Realm obligation, much as some would wish.

Two World Wars saw this country draw on the skill-at-arms embodied at Bisley and, indeed, in subsequent post-war conflicts, not excluding my own and millions of others experience during National Service. No PC considerations then.

Furthermore, comments and opinions bowing to self-imposed PC considerations, such as those expressed by officers of the NRA, can only encourage unwanted divisions between traditional match and target shooters and those of us who engage in the more recent Practical disciplines and use of Historic Arms.

To anyone who has bothered to attend Practical matches, they will have seen an extension of the skills learned from match and target shooting as applied to a different set of challenges. Likewise, Historic shooting not only explores the capabilities of arms of the past, but also their performance against contemporary targetry - including figure targets.

Are we to abandon this in the face of some perceived PC consideration? I say perceived, as the argument that we are an insular sport can just as easily be used to point out that as the public apparently have no idea of what we do, so also they are presumably unaware that we even shoot at figure targets, much less jump to condemning them.

Using figure targets in the context that they are I see as posing no problem, even to those who would cite any image consideration. Should the Police and the Services also abandon their figure targetry? And what next? Just imagine, there are people out there who actually shoot at representations of animals - deer and boar, not to mention real animals!

No, Mr Secretary General, instead of cringing and apologising, try taking a pride in our noble traditions and explain from whence they emanate rather than prostrate yourself before the demands of Political Correctness.

NRA Winter Ball

From David Hossack

I was very disappointed to learn that Katrina Rea's excellent idea of a Winter Ball in London had to be cancelled through lack of support. It seems to me that this would have been an ideal opportunity for members to bring guests outside the shooting world to a function, away from Bisley, which shows us as being responsible and normal people. It would have brought in much needed cash from those not normally required to dig into their pockets for shooting, and it would have provided a lot of fun for all in the lean winter month of February, the pits of the year.

I cannot believe that only two tables had been reserved out of the membership, many of whom can be considered to be 'well heeled'. Of course this sort of function is not for everyone, but I would have thought that there were enough people on the common who are interested enough in this sort of entertainment to have made more of an effort to get it off the ground. It is good fund-raising ideas like this which need support, and it must be most disheartening for the organisers to be faced with the crashing silence that seems to have been the result of this initiative.

Are we really so apathetic?

What a shame.

CONGRATULATIONS!



● Robert Stanton.

Robert Stanton - Bridlington (Shooting)

ROBERT has dedicated himself to Bridlington Rifle and Pistol Club for over 40 years. He is the club's secretary and always takes a keen interest in developing all aspects of the club.

He is well known within national shooting organisations and arranges many competition shoots with other clubs, even attracting members from north and west Yorkshire.

Robert has also worked hard on the maintenance of the club and improving the facilities available to members. Robert's enthusiasm is one of the greatest resources available to the club and he always gives his time freely and is down at the club most week-nights and weekends.

He also organises a number of fund raising events in support of cancer charities. His contribution to the club constantly goes far beyond of what is normally expected from a club secretary.

Nominated by R.J Smith

Congratulations to Robert Stanton of Bridlington Rifle and Pistol Club who recently received a Service to Sport Award for his services to shooting from East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Congratulations also to Grand Aggregate winner Jon Underwood of Surrey who was named the senior individual winner in the Sport Godalming Awards.

The NRA is always pleased to hear about any local awards or successes - if you have any similar stories to report, please send details and press cuttings to the Editor.

Awards Sport Godalming honours its stars

HOTSHOT Jonathan Underwood was right on target again as he scooped his latest major prize this week.

The rifle shooter from Milford was named as the senior individual winner at the Sport Godalming Awards.

Underwood, who included the blue riband Grand Aggregate at Bisley among a host of achievements this year, collected the Charterhouse Club trophy from BBC sports presenter John Inverdale, who was the special guest at the awards bash on Tuesday.

Farncombe & Godalming club marksman Underwood got the nod from the judging panel ahead of Godalming Masters swimmer Ellery McGowan and athlete Chris Scott.

It is the second time Underwood has lifted the Sport Godalming senior prize. His victory in the Millennium World Individual Championship helping him to the award in 2000.

Golfer Charlotte Thomas was the junior individual winner, impressing with a string of fine performances.

The 12-year-old from Dunsfold, a member of the Broadwater Park club, cut her handicap from 23 in April to just eight. She was seventh in the National

Weetabix finals and became Surrey Girls U18 champion at Bursill in September. Thomas was also voted most improved junior in Surrey by the county's Ladies Golf Union.

She received the Denningberg Shield, pushing lacrosse player Kate Newall of Bramley's St Catherine's School into second with Wey Kayak Club paddler Charlie Welch third.

In the team categories, an unprecedented achievement from Godalming bowlers Nick Dyer, John Carpenter, Stuart Young and Ian Mackay in reaching the National Championships for Surrey earned them the senior Waverley Shield.

And the successful St Catherine's U18 lacrosse team, who started the season as Surrey champions and have 11 players in county squads, took the junior Go Godalming Shield.

Guildford Hockey Club's Ian Russell was the first winner of a new award - the Chris & Jenny Skyfield Trophy for outstanding service to Godalming sport. Long service prizes went to Godalming CC cricketer Pater Mayne and Hella De Vere of the Stella Hancock Driving Group.



Prize guys - and girls: John Inverdale was a knockout success as he presented the trophies at the Sport Godalming Awards. Picture: Mike Hawley.

LETTERS (CONTINUED)

Fireworks Marvel

From Chris Hockley

Chairman Team Finance Committee

Could I say what a fantastic fireworks display was held on Saturday 29 October. The display to music was certainly one of the best I have ever seen, which enthralled both shooters and families from the local area alike. We owe a really big thank you to a lot of people who made this extravaganza possible, but Barry Desborough in particular, who master-minded the pyrotechnics deserves a gold medal. Also thanks to Karen and Iain Robertson for all their efforts co-ordinating the event and advertising it in the local area. Finally thanks to the members of the Under 25

TR squad and the GB TR teams in 2006 who helped as marshals and ticket sellers. The event is now a permanent feature in the calendar; it makes a great finale to the summer shooting calendar with the TR Ages Match and the Gallery Rifle Action Weekend. It is intended that the fireworks event will be run in future for the benefit of the Overseas Teams Fund; would all those willing to volunteer their help please contact me via the NRA.

For those of you who are local, please come to support a great event and bring along your friends. We expect it to be on 28 October so please put a note in your diary.

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Great Britain Target Rifle Team, Australia, June 2005

Captain Reg Roberts

A full account of this tour appeared in the Winter 2005 Journal on pages 69-75. The team of 20 shot first at Port Macquarie and then competed in the NRAA 2005 National Championships at Belmont Range, Brisbane. In the Australia Match, Great Britain were counted out on V bulls to Australia, with New Zealand third.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Air Fares	26,800	OTF Grant	10,000
Accommodation	8,237	NRA Training Grant	800
Car Hire, coaches & petrol	4,537	Interest	479
Entry Fees	4,145	Donations	4,265
Ammunition	4,348	Brochure	3,962
UK Training	1,630	Auction of Promises	3,890
Clothing	890	Corporate Days	13,143
Team Receptions & Food	3,696	Spot the Shot	152
Insurance	653		
Sundries*	1,692	Team Members Contributions	19,937
Total Expenditure	56,628	Total Income	56,628

*stationery, gifts, photos etc

NRA Target Rifle Team to Channel Islands, May 2005

Captain Dominic Harvey

A full account of this tour was given in the Winter 2005 edition of the Journal (pp51-3). The team of 14 shot against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Travel & Accommodation	6,812	NRA OTF Grant*	2,700
Tour Shooting Costs	1,256	Sponsorship & Fundraising	2,078
Admin	220	Team Member Contributions	7,364
Team Dinners & Receptions	1,418		
Team Kit	1,302		
Team Training	1,134		
Total Expenditure	12,142	Total Income	12,142

*Includes £200 from a donation by the 2004 GB Team to New Zealand.

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ELECTRONIC TARGET TESTING – HELP REQUIRED

from Iain Robertson

Members may remember that we conducted a formal evaluation of electronic target systems last year. This showed that, for many purposes, electronic targets would be both reliable enough and accurate enough. However, the statistical samples we obtained were too small to give a definitive answer to the question of just how accurate and reliable the targets are. Further, if we are to use electronic targets for top-level competition, we need to demonstrate their accuracy and reliability to a very high degree of confidence.

Therefore, it is intended to run an extended trial of the electronic targets over the next year or so. One feature of that will be an intensive data-gathering session, in which we hope to log 8000 shots, followed by analysis of every shot fired.

In order to complete this task, I really need a big group of helpers. I anticipate having to run four groups of targets (each group at a different distance) throughout a weekend, then measure the fall of shot (on paper backers fixed to each target). To run the trial will require ten people, and the more analysts we have afterwards the easier the task will be.

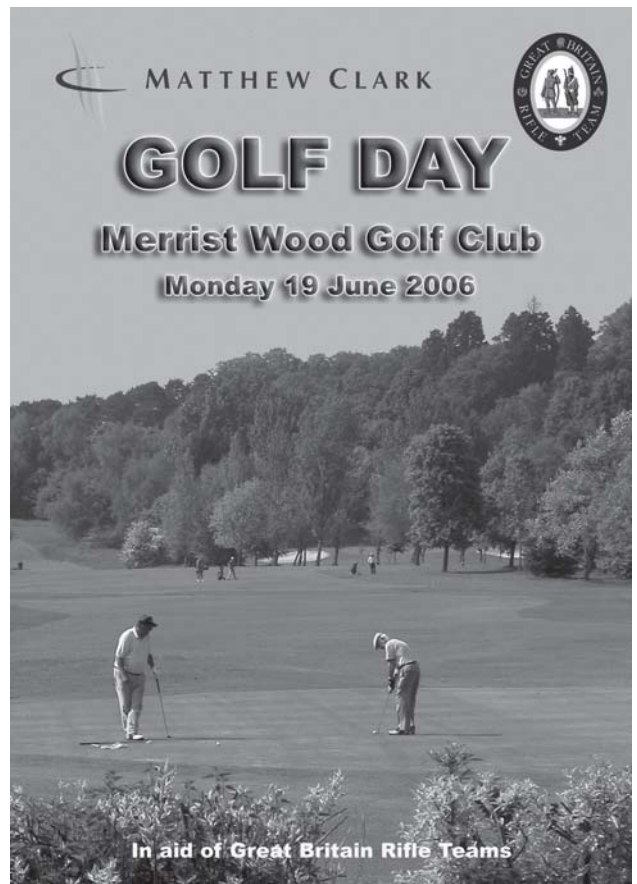
Ideally I would like 40 people each willing to give a half-day at Bisley to run the trial (four teams of ten), and 40 people each willing to measure the fall of shot (40 people each doing five backers each with 40 shots on, total 8000 shots). Analysts could do the job from home – I would post the backers out and get the results back as datasheets or computer datafiles.

On the evaluation weekend, trial staff will have the opportunity to shoot on the electronic systems without charge, and as a small recompense we will give volunteers a voucher for a free session on the system at a date of their choosing (subject to space as always).

As yet we do not have a date for the evaluation; I am looking for expressions of interest only at this stage. If you would in principle be willing to help, please contact me by e-mail at iain@bang.eclipse.co.uk, or by phone on 07974 128402.

ENTER THE MATHEW CLARK GOLF CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT GB TEAMS

Does your Company have any golfers? Would they be interested in a great day out, perhaps hosting a few clients? Are there any golfers in your family or circle of friends? The Mathew Clark Golf Day is again being held this year on Monday 19 June, the day after the Inter-Counties weekend. It is a great day out with masses of prizes donated by Mathew Clark who supply the drinks to many of the Clubs on Camp. Their sponsorship of this day helps us raise much needed funds for GB teams through the OTF without targeting shooters – if you will pardon the pun! We are not after shooters to participate necessarily, unless they would like to of course; rather we are after a little bit of marketing from all shooting disciplines to persuade Companies and Businesses to enter a team of four. Entry fee is £275 per team of four and includes breakfast of coffee and bacon rolls and a buffet lunch to finish. The competition includes prizes for the longest drive, nearest the pin on a designated hole and a car worth £8000 for a hole-in-one on another. Team and individual prizes for the top four places and a putting competition are part of the day's event. Last year there was a "tie-shoot" for the putting competition which went to sudden death on the 3rd hole for a gallon of whisky. It was run in proper tie-shoot format with a non-convertible sighter! If you would like an entry form please contact Chris Hockley via the NRA or e-mail info@nra.org.uk. Closing date for entries is 20 May.



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