



National Rifle Association Journal

Summer 2006

Volume LXXXV

Number 2



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Cover photo: England's most successful Commonwealth Games medallist, Mick Gault, with his collection of medals. Photo reproduced with the kind permission of the Eastern Daily Press.

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
Glynn
Alger

National Association of Target Shooting Sports

Following a recent meeting involving the CPSA, NSRA and NRA regarding merger talks the following press statement was agreed.

The Steering Group, formed from senior representatives of the three Governing Bodies, met again yesterday and reaffirmed their commitment to progressing towards a unified body that will best represent the interests of target shooting sports. The new organisation will be known as the National Association of Target Shooting Sports (NATSS).

The formal merger of the Governing Bodies is subject to further detailed discussion, however some areas for short and medium term collaboration have been identified and will be progressed.

The naming of the new proposed organisation can only be seen as a positive step forward. Hopefully over the next few months we will see a greater move towards integrated services, such as a single insurance for target shooters and publicity statements from NATSS rather than individual bodies on issues affecting the sport.

Towards 2012 and Beyond

While unification of target shooting as a sport is very important for organisational, political, promotional and financial reasons we cannot afford to look purely inwards.

The Olympics coming to London means that in parallel with unification talks the National Bodies need to develop a strategy designed to impact on the sport's image and our ability to exert some influence over our political future. I think it would be useful to look at what we need to do under the label of the 3Ps.

- Protection
- Promotion
- Participation

Protection

To have some effective influence over the future of target shooting our community needs to get organised and act more effectively. In recent communication with politicians I have learnt that if you make the effort you will often get some of what you want if not everything. Basically 'if you do not ask you do not get'.

The sport has often been too reactionary in its approach, acting without any form of plan.

In the future we need to position ourselves to try and influence policy and legislation, which means organisationally we need to be more proactive and have a closer relationship with both the authorities and politicians.

We need to be able to act when necessary and take some responsibility for the wider governance of our sport, driving the agenda.

How do we do that?

Reaction

To be able to react you need to be well informed in the early stages of an issue. At national level the British Shooting Sports Council tends to fulfil this role, monitoring future legislation and questions in the Houses of Parliament.

Unfortunately although the monitoring is done, there is often no plan as to how we use the information, leaving individual bodies to their own devices. No co-ordination leads to contrary views being expressed.

At a local level there is even less ability to counteract bad news or influence proposed legislation because clubs are not set up with basic information nor do they generally have the necessary relationships with media, local politicians and MPs.

There is also a view that dealing with these issues is the responsibility of the Governing Bodies not the clubs. Unfortunately, the NRA for instance can deal with the national level but is dependant upon clubs and individuals to work with those who have influence at local level if we are to get our messages across.

How do we change things?

- The unification of target shooting under one body should deal with the issue of giving conflicting messages.
- We need to be able to monitor issues at both a national and local level.
- We need to have gathered statistics to be able to counter misleading information.
- We need to develop key policy messages that can be publicised at national and local levels.
- We need to act in the interest of our sport as early as possible.

At present the target shooting bodies are not set up to create the necessary central support and national network required for two reasons:

- 1 We are not funded well enough to take on additional staff.
- 2 We are not well supported by the bulk of shooters nationally in terms of both membership of the National Bodies or volunteer effort for causes.

The NRA would like to set up a Policy and Monitoring Unit, staffed initially by volunteers at the centre and in the regions to gather information and disseminate the messages necessary to protect our sport.

Is anyone interested in heading up a challenging project of this nature? If you are please contact me, Glynn Alger at the NRA.

Proactive

- Shooting must be correctly portrayed as a sport not a gun lobby.
- We must recognise the power of success in international sport and promote what our athletes have achieved for the good of all.
- To be recognised as ethical and reasonable in the eyes of the authorities, shooting needs to act to self-regulate its activities and take ownership of its sport and its problems.
- Shooting needs to become a well-run sport having ensured that proper national courses and standards are in place for:
 - 1 New entrants to the sport
 - 2 Coaches
 - 3 Range management
- The sport needs to engage with the authorities, taking some control of the debate and future legislation by promoting a modernisation agenda designed to separate sport from crime.

Promotion

We have to improve the profile of the sport through the media. The politicians and the public have to see that our sport is well run and regulated.

If we are to regenerate the sport as one of mass appeal we need clubs to become part of the community, having an inclusive approach towards disability, gender, ethnicity and age.

Clubs need to be represented on local Council websites, on Sports Councils and other local bodies representing sport.

Clubs need to be open about what they do, extolling the virtues of Olympic sport, competition, skill, safety, fitness and the social elements of target shooting.

Local authority politicians and MPs should be regularly invited to club shoots and presentation ceremonies to get a better understanding of what shooting is about.

The local media should be invited to competition shoots and fed any appropriate results or stories giving a positive image of shooting.

At national level, accepting that target shooting is never going to be the most exciting spectator sport we should feed policy and stories to the press to improve the image of shooting, while always being ready to counter negative press.

Participation

One of the major aims of the build-up towards 2012 is to increase youth participation in sport. The Treasury are pump priming this aim with vast amounts of money being spent on a schools programme.

As an Olympic Sport we should be part of this programme, accommodating those children that are not attracted by conventional athletic sports. Like other sports we can also offer a crime diversion opportunity. Shooting teaches safety, control and social responsibility like no other.

The National Bodies will be pressing the Sports and Education Ministers to recognise a role for shooting within a school sports programme. Those of you that are school governors, councillors, teachers or influential former pupils should be trying to sell the benefits of an air rifle/pistol club in your local schools so that pupils can take part in an Olympic sport while being taught why guns should not be used in crime.

Clubs should seek to develop relationships with cadet and scout units to extend the possibilities further.

If you make a genuine effort in the interest of your sport, as you have in the past when times seemed better, we will see more youth entering the club shooting environment, while helping the Government meet some of its targets on participation in sport.

The opportunity is here. If we don't try we won't win.

National Standards

In recent discussions with the CPSA and NSRA over unification it was agreed in principle that we should develop National Standards for training which are independently accredited.

The rationale for this decision is that quietly the Home Office and Police would prefer to see training linked to the issue of a FAC. This is quite evident from the Home Office consultancy document and efforts last year by LANTRA (a Government sponsored body) to introduce shooting courses where the Government ambition to go down this route was explicitly expressed.

If the National Bodies are not prepared to own their training others will do it for them, creating a perverse situation where we lose control of one of the most essential elements of our sport and having to buy in courses from outside bodies.

International Politics

I regularly receive e-mails and letters about the threat from the United Nations as they try internationally to effect a ban on the movement of small-arms.

In conversations with the United Nations it is obvious that at one level they do not understand our sport and at another they do not see us as a target. However, inevitably if we are not more proactive we could get caught up in the problem.

We need:

- To enter into discussions with the authorities internationally to explain our aims and what we do
- We need to agree common protocols internationally for the movement and security of firearms for sporting purposes
- We need to consider condemning the largely illegal trade in firearms best seen in Africa where armies of children are armed for the sole purpose of acting as the cannon fodder in factional disputes

The last issue is one that shooting needs to deal with one way or the other. If we do not speak up and distance ourselves from the illegal trade in weapons of war we will never be able to separate ourselves as a sport from this issue and inevitably get caught up in the fall-out.

Any of you that travel abroad to shoot must increasingly be aware of the difficulties of transporting both your firearms and ammunition. This will only get worse without some effort.

The Violence Debate

I have always been aware that shooting as a sport has quite rightly seen itself as safe and responsible. Unfortunately a few past incidents have done a lot to damage our reputation, thus the negative way we are perceived by the politicians and the wider public.

We grumble endlessly about our inability to get the sport appropriately represented through the media. Unfortunately although shooting is interesting to the participant and former shots, to the general public it is not an enthralling spectator sport.

If we are going to grab the public's imagination we will need to find another platform to project the reasonable, safe, responsible and lawful image that should be ours by right.

Our sport is seen as being linked to the crime and violence debate. Efforts to disassociate ourselves from

this position have been difficult because both politicians and the media would not like the facts to get in the way of a good story.

I would argue that the time has probably arrived for the National Governing Bodies to involve themselves in the violence debate.

For years we have heard horror stories about the young or mentally ill being influenced by inappropriate images of violence in films, leading to individuals acting out their fantasies in the real world with catastrophic consequences.

More recently the computer game has arrived where the young (and not so young) can lose themselves for hours totally involved in a fantasy world of violence, gore and death without consequence. We are currently beginning to see the outcome of that all encompassing fantasy world, transposing itself onto the streets of this country, where levels of violence are escalating in frequency and intensity.

Perhaps it is time to stand by our credentials relating to safety and responsibility by taking the platform against violence in the media, film and computer games.

If shooting was prepared to be the rational voice against the portrayal of violence, we would gain media interest and improve the sports profile.

Views please.

Range Certification

The NSRA, NRA, Home Office and Police are close to agreement about responsibility for the certification process passing from the MoD.

In preparation the NSRA and NRA have agreed in principle to produce joint Range Inspection and Range Management manuals to meet Home Office requirements. In addition we have agreed to set up a joint inspection facility for efficiency and cost reasons.

Pistols

Proposals backed by the Minister for Sport Richard Caborn for the limited reintroduction of target pistols to allow preparation and training of athletes for the Olympics are currently sitting on the Home Secretary's desk, hopefully for approval.

Dechmont

The initial examination of Dechmont proved very promising in that clays, small-bore and fullbore disciplines could take place at short range on the site with minor modification.

However, the NRA has asked our consultants to look again at the plan with a view to being able to accommodate fullbore target shooting back to 300 yards or metres.

When the report is complete we will then be holding a meeting in Scotland with all the interested clubs and

associations to see how we can develop the complex to accommodate everyone's needs.

Onwards and Upwards

General Notices

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16 June at 17:00 in the NRA Pavilion.

The Agenda is enclosed with this Journal together with a notice of four Special Resolutions to be tabled at the meeting for approval.

The Financial Statements of the Association for the 15 month period ended 31 December 2005 are also enclosed with this Journal. If any member has any question on the Financial Statements or any question to put to the Chairman under Item 6, the 'Open Forum', please give prior notice by noon on 14 June addressed to the Secretary General.

NRA Bisley General Meeting

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

Beating of Retreat

All members are invited to attend the traditional ceremony of the Beating of Retreat by the Band of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This will be held on the evening of Wednesday 5 July starting at 20:45 on the Exhibition Lawn.

General Council Election Results 2006

The following have been re-elected unopposed to the General Council to serve until 2009:

Ordinary Members

Mr CM Brooks
Prof AR Horrocks
Mr JA Watson

Shooting Discipline Members

Mr P Hunter	Practical Rifle
Mr JM Kynoch	Sporting Rifle

Regional Members

Mrs ID Bennett	West Midlands
Mr PR Coley	South Western

Team Captaincies

Congratulations to Chris Hockley and the GB Rifle Team and to Mark Hodgins and his GB Historical Rifle Team on their successful tours to South Africa in April.

We send our best wishes for success to

Chris White	NRA Team to Channel Islands
Stuart Collings	Woomera Match, Bisley
John Webster	Kolapore, Bisley
Susie Kent	Under 25 Team, Bisley
Martin Townsend	GB Team to Canada

Nominations for Team Captaincies

Nominations are requested for the following team captaincies by 31 July 2006:

2007 GB Kolapore Team - Friday 20 July

2007 GB Under 25 Team Match - Friday 20 July

Inter-Counties Meeting Prize Giver

The Inter-Counties Meeting Prize Giver will be Mr RF Quick QPM.

Imperial Meeting Prize Givers

ISCRM	Air Marshal B Thornton CB MSc BSc CEng FIMechE FCMI FRAeS RAF
TASAM	The Duke of Westminster KG OBE TD DL
Ashburton	Brigadier RL Scott Bowden MBE ADC
Imperial	To be advised

Acknowledgements of Donations and Legacies to the Association

The Council expresses its thanks to the following for their generous contributions to the Association's funds:

To the General Funds:

Loughton House Rifle Club
The estate of the late Lord Swansea

To the Young Shooters' Fund:

The Manydown Charitable Trust
The Daily Telegraph
The Times
The Daily Mail

To the Prize Funds and for Perpetual Trophies:

Mr David Lacey for a perpetual trophy for the 'Schools Fours'.

WANTED

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

We also will pay 10p each for .303 chargers, we pay the carriage. Other rifle calibres also wanted including 7.62 x 54R (brass or steel) 7.92mm, GPMG clean links, chargers etc.

Contact us at *Proofmark Ltd* for prices on 01803 812058 or fax us on 01803 814103 Registered Firearms Dealers since 1962 Devon & Cornwall No 140
E-mail: proofmark@talk21.com

NRA MEMBERSHIP – MORE MEMBERS THAN EVER BEFORE

by James Watson, the Chairman of the Membership Committee

It's only been two months since the last update, but I am happy to report that the membership of the Association has continued to grow at the same pace as the beginning of the year. In 2005, we took on 400 new members. We have already achieved this in four months of 2006! With new members coming in at a rate of almost 100 each month, we have now surpassed the 5,000 membership mark.

The Membership Department is working flat out to process this growth, and in the past few weeks we have seen the new database go live. This will enable more automated processing giving the department more time to deal with individual and club enquiries.

Many people will already have signed up as users on the NRA website, and as we go forward, this system and the new database will become more integrated allowing users easily to change contact details, pay for membership subscriptions and enter competitions online.

The Membership Committee is in the process of putting the fee structure and subscription rates together for recommendation to Council so that we will be able to communicate these to the membership as early as possible for 2007. The more members we gain this year, the more flexibility we will have in the budget to reduce rates, so please take up the opportunity to encourage fellow club members to join.

The sport appears to be getting better press in recent time, we are beginning to see the results – at the last Open Day, we had over 1,400 people attend and dozens of membership packs were handed out. Please continue to spread the word to your friends and colleagues. The next Open Day will be held at Altcar near Liverpool on Saturday 27 May followed by another one at Bisley on Saturday 9 September.

Whilst the NRA is the National Governing Body, we still have a majority of members from counties nearer Bisley. As you will read elsewhere in the Journal, the NRA is increasing its presence in the regions, with financial and other support. In return, we need regional support for what we are doing, please encourage those who shoot with you in the regional clubs to step up and take an active role in their sport's governing body by at least joining the organisation. First year membership is only £30.

As in past reports, I'll finish by saying that we are very interested to hear from members – either negative or positive views – If we don't know that you think something is wrong, we can't fix it! Please write to the Membership Department at the NRA or send an e-mail to membership@nra.org.uk.

REMEMBER THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

A radical thought?

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

All legacies will be duly recognised.

Donors wishes will be taken into account.

Instruct the Trustees how you wish your legacy to be allocated.

Failing expressed wishes the Trustees will allocate legacies to capital projects UK-wide or to the Young Shooters Fund.

Legacies are Inheritance Tax Free.

They can be made in cash or in rifles and other shooting equipment.

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

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

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by
Martin
Farnan*

Imperial Meeting

Free Grand Aggregate Entries

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

Early Entry Draw

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

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | HN Watson | Index No 168 |
| | (100% refund of entry fees) | |
| 2 | Mrs M Pantelon-Ginestet | Index No 409 |
| | (50% refund of entry fees) | |
| 3 | D Parr | Index No 417 |
| | (25% refund of entry fees) | |

These refunds apply to entry fees only, and not to meeting membership, marker fees, sweepstakes or any other payments made on the Individual Entry Form.

The winner of the Early Online Entry Draw for £100 is JAC McAllister Index No 057.

Stats Personnel

There is a requirement for some new data entry personnel to enter scores made by competitors in the Imperial Meeting. Anyone with good keyboard skills who will be available from 13 to 22 July and who would like to join the Stats team should contact me as soon as possible.

Changes

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

Target Rifle

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

The timings of certain competitions, which were adjusted to accommodate the Chairman's Prize last year, have been re-adjusted this year. Full details are contained in the Bisley Bible but the main changes are as follows:

- a the St George's Second Stage will start at 12:15.
- b the Queen's Second Stage will start at 14:30 and will run until approximately 17:15. Tie shoots, presentation of Queen's 100 badges and collection of Stage III squadding cards will therefore not take place until after that time.

Schools

Mr David Lacey has very generously sponsored a trophy for the new Schools' Fours match, open to teams of any four cadets, of any age, eligible to shoot in the Ashburton. For the avoidance of doubt I emphasise that no cadet may enter both the Ashburton and the Schools' Fours in the same year, but Schools may enter both the Ashburton and the Schools' Fours in the same year.

F Class Targets

For the avoidance of doubt please note the following in relation to F Class targets:

- **Short Range (2006 and onwards)**
Standard TR targets will be used at all distances from 300 to 600 yards. In the case of F Class competitors using their own ammunition, the white circle stuck in the centre of the TR V bull will count as the F Class V bull, scoring 6, with the remaining rings simply being valued one point less than for TR. In the case of F Class competitors using issued ammunition, the white circle is merely an aiming mark for those using cross-hairs, and all scoring will be as for TR.
- **Long Range (2006)**
The Palma target will be used at all distances from 800 to 1200 yards. In both F Class using their own ammunition, and also F Class using issued ammunition, the white circle is merely an aiming mark for those using cross-hairs, and all scoring will be as for TR except that the V bull will be scored as 6.
- **Long Range (2007 and onwards)**
The Palma target will be used at all distances from 800 to 1200 yards. In the case of F Class using their own ammunition the white circle stuck in the centre of the TR V bull will count as the F Class V bull, scoring 6, with the remaining

rings simply being valued one point less than for TR. Scoring for F Class using issued ammunition will continue as for 2006.

Imperial Meeting Dates 2007 – 2012

Advance notification is given that the dates of the Imperial Target Rifle Meetings from 2007 to 2012 are planned to be as follows:

2007	First Friday 20 July to Final Saturday 28 July
2008	First Friday 18 July to Final Saturday 26 July
2009	First Friday 17 July to Final Saturday 25 July
2010	First Friday 16 July to Final Saturday 24 July
2011	First Friday 15 July to Final Saturday 23 July
2012	First Friday 13 July to Final Saturday 21 July

It is planned that all other meetings, eg Service Rifle, Match Rifle, Schools etc, will be on the same relative days as at present.

Ranges

Flags on Stickledown

Two new flagpoles have been erected on Stickledown, mainly for the benefit of Match Rifle shooters. One is located at a distance of 1150 yards on the RHS of the range, and the other is just behind the track behind the 1100 yard firing point in line with the existing flagpoles.

Mounting of Targets in the Butts

You are reminded that the targets on Century Range are retained in the wooden frame by three fixtures:

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

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

Snail Bullet Trap

If you intend to use the Snail Bullet Trap which is on the right hand side of the Zero Range you are reminded to read and comply with the printed instructions which are displayed alongside the Trap.

Large or expensive foresights should be removed to prevent damage, and the rifle must be firmly controlled when firing to ensure that the barrel does not recoil upwards.

Movement on and off the Firing Point

When moving on or off the firing point you are requested to have consideration for other firers, and try not to disturb them. Do not place firearms onto the firing point unless you are about to commence shooting, and only when the RCO has given permission to do so.

Handloading Advice

For those who handload their own ammunition, some useful links to manufacturers websites have been added to the NRA website. All handloaders are advised to consult these websites in the interests of safety.

Compliance with the Firearms Act

A number of instances have again been observed where firers have been letting their friends "have a go" with their firearms where the friends were not covered by the Firearms Act. You are reminded that this practice is illegal, and the firer concerned could well have his or her FAC revoked as a consequence. Please be aware that letting others (without FACs, not being members or probationary members of a club or attending guest or open days) simply have a go is forbidden by law.

Insurance of Club Officials and Club Markers

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

Weekday Markers

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

Payment of Markers

I should like to confirm that if shooting has to be curtailed or cancelled for any reason outside the NRA's control (eg wind or other extreme weather, or fire in the Danger Area) all markers which have been booked by the NRA on behalf of any club or individual

must still be paid for by the club for the duty for which they were booked. Not to do so would be breaking a contract with the marker(s) concerned.

Ammunition Sales

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

The 2006 European Long Range Championships

As already notified in the Spring Journal it is intended to run a European Long Range Championships over the weekend 14/15 October on Palma targets. The match conditions will be similar to the Palma course of fire, ie 2 sighters and 15 to count per firer at each distance on both days. Team Captains are asked to contact the Director of Shooting for further information.

The 2006 Ages Match

As already announced in the Spring Journal another Ages Match will be held over the weekend 28/29 October 2006. Teams will be of 12 firers, and the match conditions will be a Queen's II on Saturday afternoon followed by a reduced Palma course (900 and 1000 yards only) on the Sunday morning. The age brackets will again be:

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

Those who wish to be considered for the appropriate team, dependent on age, should write to me as soon as possible giving their full name, contact details, date of birth and whether you would be prepared to Captain or be an officer of the appropriate team. The NRA Grand Fireworks Display will again be held on the Saturday evening followed by social events around the Camp.

RCO Renewals

You are again reminded that this qualification is valid for six years from the date of issue of the certificate and is applicable on any range throughout the UK. You may apply to renew your certificate on or before the sixth anniversary of the passing of your course, and full details are available from Maureen Peach on ext 149. After this date it may be necessary to attend another course to re-qualify.

In the case of those who hold a military range management qualification up to the equivalent of

Stage 3 (which has been validated by the SASC) they may apply for a straight transfer to the NRA RCO Qualification. This also applies for a period of up to two years after leaving the forces. Please note that this also applies to Cadet Force Officers who hold the CRCQ qualification. Again full details are available from Maureen Peach on ext 149.

Range Office

Opening hours

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

VAT payable by Associations

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

Booking In

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

Signing In to Record Use of Firearms

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

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

Those NRA members who will be competing in the Imperial Meeting should, at least once during the time they are here at Bisley, go to the Range Office and record the fact that they shot here in July this year. There will now be an additional box labelled "Imperial Meeting 2006" which should be used.

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

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by
*Phyllis
Farnan*

The Easter holiday period was a busy time for target rifle training courses. Four courses were held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley and two were run regionally. Twelve candidates completed the Skills courses, while twenty-nine completed NRA Club Instructor courses. Eight candidates also attended the annual Wind Coaching course at Bisley.

As the summer season approaches, courses at Bisley will give way to competition shooting. Target rifle training courses will resume again in the Autumn. The full programme of courses for the remainder of 2006 is detailed below.

RCO Courses

To ensure that the professional integrity of the NRA RCO course is maintained it has been decided that in future no Assessor may run an RCO course for members of his or her own club, unless an independent Assessor from another club is also present to validate the course.

Regional RCO courses continue to be very popular and they can be run throughout the year. Any club wishing to book a regional RCO course for their members is asked to contact Maureen Peach on ext 149 to make the necessary arrangements. Dates for the Bisley RCO courses and study days for the rest of 2006 are shown in the summary below.

The new RCO photo ID card system has been successfully introduced. All 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 but it will be replaced on renewal.

RCO course fees for 2006 are:

Bisley	£70	NRA member
	£100	Non member
Regional	£30	NRA member
	£50	Non member

Renewal of RCO Qualifications

All RCOs who qualified in 2000 are due to renew their qualification this year. The documents required for this revalidation 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 sent to the NRA marked for the attention of Maureen Peach. Please allow three to four weeks for your renewal to be completed.

Probationary Members Courses

Course 2006 /3 will start on Saturday 13 May. No courses are run during the very busy summer competition period but four further courses have been planned for the post-Imperial period and the Autumn. Individual tuition can be provided mid-week (Tuesday – Friday) but at least one week's notice will be required.

Skills Courses

These are designed to improve individual knowledge and skills for new shooters. NRA Club and Regional Coaches can run Skills courses by arrangement with the NRA. A TR Skills course will be held at Bisley on the 7 - 8 October. The course fee is £90 for NRA members and £120 for non-members. Regional fees are: £20 per person (£15 for cadets). In addition the Club or Regional Coach's subsistence and travelling expenses must also be paid, as these are not included in the regional course fee.

Club Instructors Course

A course for NRA members and members of affiliated clubs will take place at Bisley on 7 - 8 October. The course fee is £90 for NRA members and £120 for non-members. Regional courses can also be run by arrangement with the NRA.

NRA Club Coach Course

A Club Coach course will be held on 29 October and 4 - 5 November. This course is only open to NRA members who should have also completed the Club Instructor course or hold an equivalent qualification. The course fee is £90.

Wind Coaching Course

A short wind course will be held on 14 July for the benefit of those attending the Imperial Meeting. Course fee: £5 for Class O and T and £10 for class A and X. Proceeds will go to the Young Shooters Fund. Further details will be given in your competitor envelopes.

For 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 Course 2006/3a begins 29 July
 Probationary Course 2006/4 begins 2 September
 Probationary Course 2006/5 begins 14 October
 Probationary Course 2006/6 begins 11 November

RCO Study Days

30 September
 12 November

RCO Courses (one day course)

30 September & 1 October
 18 & 19 November

TR Skills & Club Instructor Courses (weekend)

7 - 8 October

Club Coach Course (3 days)

29 October, 4 - 5 November

Wind Coaching Course

14 July (short course)

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

FORTHCOMING TOURS

GB Veterans Target Rifle Squad to Canada 2007

The following have been selected for the Great Britain Veterans Target Rifle Squad to Canada to contest the World Veterans Team Championships at Ottawa, Canada in August 2007. The following list of twenty contains three travelling reserves.

Captain

Mick Barr GB, England & Hertfordshire

Vice-Captain

Andy Chown GB, England & Surrey

Adjutant

John Saunders GB Veterans, England & London

Coaches

Dave Allen GB, England & Yorkshire
 Robin Baker GB, England & Kent
 Dick Winney GB, CG, England & Hertfordshire

Shooters

Michael Black GB, England & Northumberland
 George Cann GB, England & Devon
 Brian Cambray GB, England & Devon
 John Carmichael GB, England & Hereford & Worcs
 Colin Cheshire GB, England & Hampshire
 Peter Coley Ireland & Cornwall
 David Davies GB, CG, Wales & South Wales
 Garnett Faulkner Ireland & Tyrone
 Dick Horrocks GB, England & Lancashire
 Mike Fugeman GB & Berkshire
 David Hossack GB, CG & Scotland
 Carol Painting GB, England & Hampshire
 Keith Pugh GB, England & Northumberland
 Ken Willingale Middlesex

CG = Commonwealth Games

BUSA Rifle Team to the Channel Islands 2006

The following have been selected for the British Universities Sports Association Rifle Team to the Channel Islands in August 2006.

Captain

Mark Westmoquette University of London

Vice-Captain

Ed Welford Exeter University

Adjutant

Tom Hunter University of London

Shooters

Samantha Adamson Dundee University
 Jen Charlton Napier University, Edinburgh
 Nick Healy Edinburgh University
 Pete Law Edinburgh University
 Isao Matsumoto University of London
 Laura Moore Edinburgh University
 Emma Nuttall Manchester University
 Matthew Stewart Glasgow University
 Alasdair Webster Heriot-Watt University

Reserve

Chris King University of London

*** PAINTINGS OF BISLEY ***



ORIGINAL
 WATERCOLOURS & PEN-&INK DRAWINGS
 by Margaret Thomson

I am happy to discuss commissions for paintings of Bisley (clubhouses, ranges, individual shooters etc.) as well as other subjects such as homes, pets, landscapes...

Some of my work is on show at the National Clay Centre clubhouse and also Kennedys, and I will be at the NSRA Meeting August 12th to 19th 2006

But we shall not be at the Imperial Meeting this year

* Please ask for a brochure and price list *

Contact me either at: 01271 - 858859 or applestore@amsolve.com
 Or The Old Cider House, Week, Harracott, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3JQ

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by
Jeremy
Staples

NRA Open Day

Once again we hosted an Open Day on Saturday 29 April and I should like to thank all NRA volunteers who assisted in helping make this a very successful day. We calculated that 1435 guests registered to shoot and although there were some very substantial queues, most of our visitors seemed to have a thoroughly enjoyable time and we have received very positive feedback. Any suggestions on how we might improve the day would be gratefully received. The major issue is that we are unable to judge the numbers that will be attending as this is very weather dependent.

The next Open Day is on Saturday 9 September and we will once again be asking for members to volunteer to help us coach and co-ordinate the day. Please contact Sarah Bunch by telephone on 01483 799609 or e-mail at commdir@nra.org.uk if you are able to help.

Electronic Targets

Much of the infrastructure work for the electronic targets has now been completed with a power source to Century butts and we are currently eagerly awaiting the delivery of the electronic targets from Häring this month.

In addition the moving target will be fitted at butt zero in time for the Phoenix Meeting and eight new advancing targets are being installed on Melville range hopefully during June this year.

Road Signs

You will notice AA road signs to the National Shooting Centre installed on the main roads from both the M3 motorway and the A3. These are being installed for

June and July only but will hopefully increase awareness of the National Shooting Centre.

Site Security

Approval has been given to install CCTV at the entrance to the estate and on a number of caravan sites. These will hopefully be installed over the next few months.

Staff

I am very pleased to welcome Alison Hepworth as Receptionist in the Front Office. Sally Philcox has moved to the Shooting Division as Shooting Secretary and Medals Officer.

Congratulations to Michael Lucking of the Range Office on the birth of his son Joseph and also congratulations to Rob Batty of the Range Office on his marriage to Sarah in early May.

Chalets

We had a good response in respect of our request for initial enquiries for possible one or two bedroom wooden chalet buildings and if there is any other interest in such properties, which will be available on new 21 year leases, then please contact me and register your interest.

Range Office Targets

Targets available by the hour at weekends

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

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

All available ROTs are listed on the NRA and NSC websites

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

Call 01483 797777 ext 152
or 0845 130 7620 ext 152



SCENES FROM THE OPEN DAY 29 APRIL 2006

Pictures of some of the 1435 registered guests enjoying the events on offer at the recent NRA Open Day, including 98 years old Miss Bertha Kilby of Hertfordshire (pictured bottom left) who attended with her young nephew, Mick Barr.

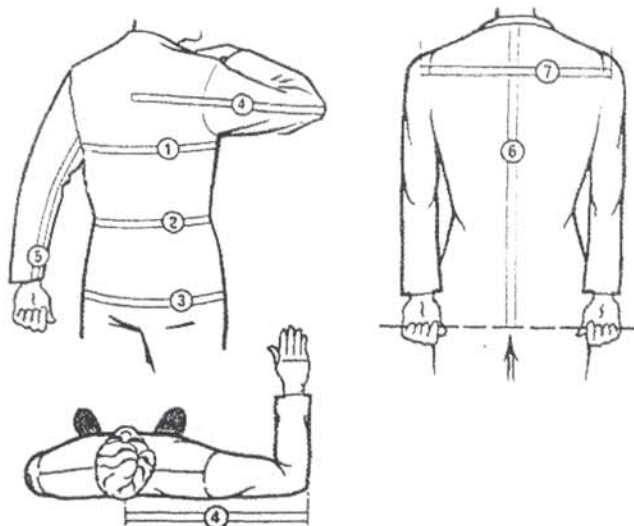
(All photos: John Knight)



Self Measurement Chart for Andrew Tucker Jackets

Measuring Instructions -

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



State right or left handed.....

Height.....ins/cms

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

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

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

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

5 Inside arm.....ins/cms

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

7 Shoulder Width.....ins/cms

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

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

This order is for:-

The 'Auckland Gold Medal' leather jacket. ☐

The 'New Arizona' leather Jacket ☐

The 'Double Canvas' jacket ☐

The 'European' Cloth Jacket ☐

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

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

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

COLOUR SELECTION CHART

'DOUBLE CANVAS' JACKET

	Blue	Green	Red	White
Front and Sleeves				
Back				
Suede				

or the 'JOSEPH' (coat of many colours) ☐

'NEW ARIZONA' JACKET

	Blue	Brown	White
Front and Sleeves			
Back			

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

'AUCKLAND GOLD MEDAL' JACKET

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Phone No.....Date / / 05

E-Mail.....



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THE MANAGEMENT OF LEASES AT BISLEY

PROBLEMS FOR NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED

by Charles Oliver-Bellasis FRICS

I have been Chairman of the National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC) for just over three years now and the Trustees have asked me to write an article for the Journal on problems facing the Company in relation to leases.

In general, I think it is fair to say that we have come a long way since the early days of NSC's formation and with the appointment of Jeremy Staples as Managing Director the efficiency and productivity of NSC has improved enormously. However, we faced many outstanding issues from the past in relation to leases, not least unfairness and uneconomic rents being received.

In spite of our best efforts and admitting that some delays in the past have been at our end, our main problem lies in the undeniable fact that we have been unable to carry out and complete quickly our negotiations with many of our tenants over such matters as lease renewals, rent revisions and new tenancies. This has proved too costly in management time and professional fees.

I think the basic problem lies in the fact that because a lease does not concern a business for the majority of tenants there is no urgency to carry through the negotiations at a reasonable and businesslike pace. This is partly because it is difficult for the officers of the clubs to arrange committee meetings to agree the business in hand, or simply that the agent acting for the club does not see it as a primary job and the negotiations run from months to years. Some of the negotiations have been taking up to four years to complete, which the directors of NSC now find totally unacceptable. Added to which there is a cost implication which although difficult to budget for usually ends up at a much greater figure than was anticipated. It is this extra cost which I want to eliminate.

In the last accounts professional fees of both solicitors and agents amounted to approximately £40,000. Whilst I appreciate that no negotiation will ever be free, this figure could be reduced by at least 50% if the negotiations were carried out in a professional manner. Therefore the problem we face is one of having to pay much higher bills than we should.

In every aspect Bisley is managed by NSC and that includes its land and property and lease management. However, it is NRA land and the Council has provided a detailed Policy, Guidelines for implementation and an "Open Letter" of explanation which is readily available to any interested party upon application to Jeremy Staples. The policy document and open letter have been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act wherein the Trustees do not have total freedom and have to comply with the Act.

I think it is worth summarising how the procedure works.

New Leases

NSC will produce a 'Heads of Terms' after initial negotiations have taken place and the tenant will be expected to adhere to these negotiated terms. The Trustees want confirmation from our Surveyors and Solicitors that the terms are appropriate before they will approve and sign a lease.

Rent Reviews

Our main problems seem to arise from rent revisions where they are to be assessed on an 'open market' basis. Where the revisions are at RPI this is easy because it is a simple case of mathematics.

"Open Market" rents are assessed by Strutt & Parker. Strutt & Parker have a database of transactions and know the other comparisons on camp. The requisite letter will be sent out and it is then up to the individual tenant, the club secretary or treasurer to respond and commence negotiations. For reasons suggested above, it is clubs which give us the greatest problems.

NSC is going to have to tighten up its procedures because we cannot allow rent negotiations to take so long in the future. It is an unnecessary cost where the money saved could be spent to much greater effect and benefit elsewhere on camp.



REGIONAL MATTERS

CLRA Cadet Meeting Sunday 7 May 2006

by Christine Chorlton, CLRA Hon Secretary.

The annual County of Lancaster Rifle Association's Cadet Meeting was held on Sunday 7 May at Altcar following a day of zeroing the cadets' new rifles with the assistance of CLRA members. The competition was well attended with 98 cadets attending from 13 North West units - a massive increase from last year's entry of 64 cadets from nine units. The shoot consisted of 2 and 10 at 300 and 500 yards, and the competitions were made up of individual and team competitions from the aggregate of both ranges.

The day was enjoyed by all and we hope that even more cadets will take up and enjoy target rifle shooting in the future and hope to see the competition grow. In an attempt to encourage the cadets into continuing target rifle shooting, the CLRA has started an Adopt a Cadet scheme where we hope to sponsor interested cadets to join our affiliated clubs prior to our Open Meeting in August. Within the clubs they will be coached and tutored by CLRA members in the skills of target rifle shooting. They will then gain a free entry to our Open Meeting where they can experience competitive shooting alongside talented shooters. We are hopeful that this scheme will be well received and will encourage cadets to continue shooting after they leave the cadets.

The principle winners were:

The Formby Cup (individual) was won by M McDonough from Liverpool College CCF with a very respectable 92.4, from J Roulston, Sedbergh School CCF (91.6) and G Ogden, Sedbergh School CCF (89.3).

The Cadet Pairs Salver was won by K Buffoni and J Roulston, Sedbergh School, second were H Born and



On the range.

G Ogden also from Sedbergh School and third, D Shaw and TD Starhlsmid from Cumbria ACF.

The Quartet was won by Sedbergh School, second place was taken by Cumbria ACF and third by Liverpool College.

The CLRA (Red Rose) Challenge Cup (teams of 8) was won by Sedbergh School, second place was taken by Cumbria ACF and third by Lancashire ACF.

The Reserve Pairs was won by D Moss and M McDonough from Liverpool College, in second place was Worden and MacFarlane from Lancashire ACF and third place H Barrett and L Crowson from Sedbergh School.

The Centenary Aggregate Trophy (teams of 10) was won by Sedbergh School, second place taken by Cumbria ACF and third by Lancashire ACF.

The 42(NW) Brigade Trophy, which is open to individual females, was won by G Ogden, second place was taken by H Born and third by K Buffoni all from Sedbergh School.



M McDonough collects the Formby Cup.



Sedbergh School collect the Quartet Trophy.

HEREFORD SHOOTING CLUB WINS TOP MIDLANDS SPORTS AWARD

Herefordshire Acoustic Shooting Club won Sports Club of the Year at the recent prestigious npower Disability Sports Awards at Aston Villa FC.

Herefordshire Acoustic Shooting Club is based at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford and boasts some of the country's top shooting stars with three senior winners and one junior winner at this year's British Championships. The club is open to anyone in the county who is blind or visually impaired, with up to 20 people turning up to practise on Friday and Sunday evenings.

Technology plays a key role; on top of the rifle is a photo-electric cell. There is a light that shines on the target, the cell picks up the reflected light and translates it into sound. Athletes wear headphones and shoot when the pitch gets to its highest point.

Hereford Acoustic Shooting Club is one of the first of its kind in Britain and secretary and coach, Harry Hancox, is keen for more clubs to be set up both here and abroad, saying: "There are currently nine countries participating in acoustic shooting. It's our mission to raise that number to 16, when it will be eligible to become a paralympic sport."

The awards were amongst ten presented at the npower Disability Sports' Awards annual dinner at Aston Villa in front of some of the Midlands' most celebrated sportsmen and women. They recognise and reward the efforts and successes of competitors of all ages and abilities, schools, teams, coaches, supporters and volunteers.

Celebrity guests included paralympian dressage rider and winner of six gold medals, Lee Pearson MBE OBE; Claire Cashmore, paralympian swimmer; Nigel Murray, the world number one Boccia paralympian; wheelchair basketball star and BBC presenter Ade Adepitan MBE, and Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis OBE.

Kevin Rodgers, community involvement executive for npower says: "It was a wonderful evening. The quality of nominations was excellent, highlighting the many achievements of disabled athletes in the Midlands, and it was very difficult to select the winners. Energy is npower's business, which makes our continued support of this valuable programme so appropriate; it was inspirational to be involved. Congratulations go to everyone at Herefordshire Acoustic Shooting Club."



Delighted Herefordshire Acoustic Target Shooting Club members collect their award. Harry Hancox, Mike Phillips, awards presenter Nick Owen, Carole Brown (front), who is British champion and record holder, Rose Gardner, npower's community investment manager and Bernard Haines.



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NORFOLK OPEN RESULTS

by Guy Bartle

Richard Stewart is rather pleased with his new 7.62mm target rifle after winning the Norfolk Open meeting at the first time of using it. Despite clashing with the Purples Match at Bisley, a healthy field turned out at Thetford range with half being Great Britain shots. England's Commonwealth gold medal winning duo from Melbourne of Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel also took part and presented the prizes.

The drizzle which threatened to mar the day dried up as the contestants settled on the firing point, though the skies remained overcast throughout. A near flat calm produced very high quality shooting, though there were gentle gusts in the wind with just enough force to push the unwary out of the bullseye.

Peter Holden lead the way in X Class at 300 yards, his 50.8 giving him victory by one V bull. Stewart came second with 50.7, though it took a nine shot count-back to edge Tim Clark's identical score into third. Standards were just as high in O class, where Chris Behn won with a 50.7. James Bennett was two V bulls behind with 50.5, while a 49.6 by Bill Flentje was enough for third.

Back at 500 yards Flentje eclipsed everybody with a perfect 50.10, seeing off Doug Keeble into second with

50.6, while a 49.6 from Alastair Bullen put him in the bronze medal position. The X class men were not far behind: Jon Underwood almost emulated Flentje's feat but just dropped his last shot from the V bull for a 50.9. Stewart was again involved in a count-back; however the 50.8 by Peter Barry had a six V bull finish shunting Stewart into third.

Jeremy Hinde came top of X Class at 600 yards with a 50.6 finishing with a V bull, beating Barry by a whisker who had the same score but finished on a 5. Barnett clawed his way into third by dint of 50.5 with a two V finish. In O Class, Behn also got a 50.9 letting the last slip, with Flentje just behind on 50.6 and Bennett on 50.3.

Flentje's O class winning score of 149.22 was exactly the same as that with which Stewart took X Class. The man from Macclesfield saw off Behn into second with 148.21 while Bennett was in the bronze position on 148.13. Stewart only just held off Holden's 149.22, while Underwood's 148.24 put him third.

Other results

Club teams of 4: Commonwealth Club 589.73 ex 600
English XX Bronze Jewel: Richard Stewart 149.22

NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME – JULY 2006

This well-known scheme is open to **any** firer from any country, county, association, club, school or unit shooting TR or F Class who would like help during the Imperial Meeting. It is not restricted to those competing for the first time.

If anyone would like to have an Aunt or an Uncle to help over shooting matters exclusively, do please get in touch with me as under, for choice by e-mail (see below).

I am constantly on the lookout for appropriate Aunts and Uncles, especially from our various representative teams. Do please contact me if you would like to become involved. If 2006 is anything like last year, I am going to need all the help I can get. I also try, very successfully so far, to keep our average age down . . .

Finally, the widely appreciated Guides for First-timers at Bisley are available online, by e-mail from myself and free in hard copy form from the NRA.

Online, go to the website (<http://www.nra.org.uk>) highlight the tab "Competitions" and then the link to "Imperial Meeting 2006" in the drop-down menu. Then click on "Imperial Meeting Information". In that window you will read: *"Download the guide for cadets which contains information particularly useful for first-time entries to the meeting. Download the guide for adults entering for the first time."*

Do not be misled: these guides are useful to **all** those who are competing, whether first timers or not.

Tim Elliott

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

SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

F Class

by Paul Monaghan

The F Class League is continuing to gather momentum. For some years F Class shooters who have been seeking competition have mainly entered the various TR matches that permit F Class shooting alongside on an ad hoc basis. This has been most successful and it has been good to have been welcomed by the TR shooters. The awarding of the 2009 F Class World Championships to Great Britain has prompted us to look closely at the team selection method and from this has come the F Class League. This is still developing but it looks as if it will have six events a year held throughout the country. Results from this will be used as a guide for the GB Captain to select the F Class team for 2009. For more information on the League, or to join the current 102 members, contact Mik Maksimovic by e-mail at mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk. League events are not just for the experts, they are the best place for beginners to learn and see some of the best kit available in the world, and are a great source of F Class information.

A most successful competition was held as part of the Combined Bisley Clubs Easter Meeting, which was run this year by the City Rifle Club. There were over 100 entrants to the event with just over 30 F Class shooters. There were competitors from Holland, Germany and Eire as well as the regular Bisley F Classers (the 'usual suspects' to use a political term) showing that there is a considerable interest in F Class shooting outside GB. As usual, the standard of shooting was very good, with dropping just a point costing you dearly. There were several die-hards of the V = 5 who were converted to V = 6 when they realised they would have still had a chance at the Grand Agg with V = 6. The long range was shot on Palma targets with a 5" white aiming disk. Some of

the best F Class shooters in Europe were troubled by the wind at the longer distances of 900 and 1000 yards, leaving it to Pete Hobson and his new 7mm WSM (Winchester Short Magnum) to take the Long Range Aggregate with a clean score. The 7mm calibre was used to good effect in the last World Championships; Peter Hobson and Mik Maksimovic have done a lot of development work with this particular round. Following the domination of US benchrest shooting for the past couple of decades by the 6mm PPC cartridge, (a short, fat case) there has been a lot of interest in trying a similar proportion in more 'beefy' calibres. Both Remington and Winchester have produced a range of these short, fat cases, and if Peter's result is anything to go by, this is not just a marketing ploy.

Several of the GB F Class shooters (English and Scottish) travelled to Eire to shoot the Irish F Class Match at Tullamore in the Midlands, approx 1½ hours west of Dublin. This is a brand new range complex with 16 targets out to 600 yards, 10 targets at 300m for ISSF, 10 targets at 100 yards for small-bore and 20 targets at 50 yards for small-bore, which have covered firing points, except the fullbore range. With planning permission just having been obtained for a new enlarged clubhouse and armoury this seems to be a well organised and run shooting organisation. The 900 and 1000 yards firing points should be completed ready for next year's competition. There was a first class welcome to the shooters.

The shooting was extremely difficult as the wind flags were only temporary ones, with mirage on the Saturday that was interesting to say the least. The team match on Sunday was won by SRA A team winning from the English team by only five V bulls

••• WANTED •••

7.62MM FIRED CARTRIDGE CASES

MINIMUM £1.50 PER KILO
FOR CLEAN, UNDAMAGED BRASS.

COLLECTION FROM BISLEY CAMP,
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For further information please contact
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ALSO REQUIRED - .303 BRASS, G.P.M.G. LINKS,
CHARGER AND STRIPPER CLIPS, ETC.
(.303 CLIPS 10p EACH)

Grand Auction of Promises

Date: Monday 17 July

Time: 21:00

Location: Umbrella Tent

Come along and bid on a wide range
of desirable items!

A full list of lots will be available from the
NRA Front Counter during the Meeting or
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over three distances; it could not have been closer. There is every chance that an enlarged 'mainland' contingent will be there next year.

The Spring Open Day was a great success this year and the F Class targets were struggling to keep up. Darren Stewart and his team of helpers (Dudley Turner, Anthony Turner, Peter Medhurst, Trevor Little, Roger Wood and Charles Oliver-Bellasis helping with match rifle) worked non-stop – even having to do butt duties to help speed thing along. The verdict? A tiring but very enjoyable day. This is an important chance to show newcomers the enjoyment of F Class shooting and we could do with many more helpers next time. So when the call goes out for the next Open Day (Saturday 9 September) please try to find some time to help.

Yes, it has been in the Journal before, but just to be sure – the targets for the F Class matches in the Imperial Meeting will be as follows: on Century, the targets will be as the TR target for the distance, but there will be a $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bull. The remainder of the TR V bull will score 5 and the TR bull will score 4 etc. For issued ammunition F Class the scoring will be as last year. The $\frac{3}{4}$ minute V bull will be used but the remainder of the TR V bull and the bull will score 5.

On Stickledown, Palma targets will be used. There will be a white 5 inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ minute at 1000 yards) white aiming mark (not scoring) in the X ring. Scoring - the X ring will remain the highest score of 6, with 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 available for those not concentrating on the wind!

County of Lancaster Rifle Association F Class County Team

from Christine Chorlton, CLRA Hon Secretary.

With the growth of F Class shooting amongst the County of Lancaster Rifle Association members and affiliated clubs, we have begun to develop a county F Class team.

However thus far we are struggling to find other associations who are doing the same, leaving us with no one to compete against. If any other associations have a county F Class team (or are developing one) and are interested in a match please contact me at Christine.lemaitre@manchester.ac.uk.

We are hopeful that given time this will develop and become established so that inter-county competitions, like those which take place for TR shooters in June and July, can be initiated.



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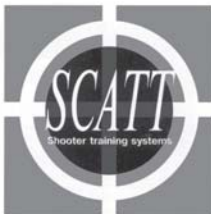
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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON – MORE (V) BULL THAN YOUR AVERAGE TEAM!

by Mark Westmoquette

The University of London Rifle Club (ULRC) enjoys a distinguished history with many notable achievements since its foundation in 1911. However the conditions that allow a university club to continue achieving are difficult to maintain. The average university degree length is only three or four years, meaning that the turnover in membership is rapid. The ability to maintain continuity in such circumstances is very restricted. However a good history, a dependable president (Peter Cullimore), a fairly aggressive recruitment ethos, and a pool of 125,000 students to choose from, has meant that ULRC has prospered. Since I joined in 1999 (yes, I know, for those who can do the maths, that means I've been at university seven years), ULRC has had its name on at least one trophy per year!

This isn't to say there haven't been any low points. In 2000, the club found itself recovering from the rather sudden loss of a core of talented shots including the likes of Parag Patel, Rachael Ambrose and Andy Eldridge. Since then, however, it has ascended (albeit sometimes staggering) from strength to strength. Our membership has increased despite the closure of yet another range in London: in 2005 Imperial College decided to re-vamp their sports centre and in the process, seemed to forget to allocate space for the continued existence of a range. Through the hard work and dedication of the many committees that have passed in and out of being, the skill level is also on the rise. We have had members of our club represent GB in the Under 19 tours to South Africa 2003 (Sam Dash) and 2005 (Tom Hunter), and the Under 25 tours to the Channel Islands 2002 (Kitty Jack), South Africa 2004 (Rob Clarke, Kitty Jack, Paul Sykes and Alex Woodward), and Australia 2005 (Mark Westmoquette). Tom Hunter and Sam Dash are currently on the GB Under 25 selection squad for the World Championships being held in Canada in 2007, while Kitty Jack (who has made a brief return to university this year) is on the Palma 2007 squad. Both Paul Sykes and Mark Westmoquette have also won University of London Sportsman of the Year awards in the past few years.

Current University of London shooters are not the only ones who have been performing well recently. There is a fairly sizable list of prominent Bisley names that began their illustrious careers at one of the capital's universities. Glyn Barnett (Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, Medicine, 1996) has seen a level of sustained success in the past five years that I would poke my (non-shooting) eye out to attain. He won bronze in the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games Fullbore Pairs event (with Jane Messer), and won the HM Queen's Prize in 2002 and 2003.

This year's Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne was particularly special for ULRC as Glyn and another ex-member, Parag Patel (Guy's & St Thomas's Hospitals, Medicine, 2000), won gold in the Fullbore Pairs event. Following a succession of individual success over the last few years, including winning the Bisley Grand Aggregate in 2001 and 2003, Parag also followed his gold with a silver in the individual event. Who knows? – with their combined genius and medical knowledge they may even be able to re-attach my poor eyeball if I was ever that desperate!

Continuing in the tradition of high-flying University of London alumni, Alex Woodward (an ex-student as of 2005) also rose to the dizzying heights of the Melbourne Games as he competed for Wales in the Fullbore events. You might be forgiven for thinking that three weeks of training and competition out on the blistering Australian ranges would amount to enough shooting to last him the year but, it seems, Alex wasn't of that opinion. He immediately followed the Games with a stint in South Africa with the GB senior team! This brings me finally to Jon 'Underpants' Underwood (UCL, Biochemistry, 1991). Besides shooting for GB many times in both overseas teams and the Palma squad, Jon has enjoyed a very successful five years culminating in his Grand Aggregate win last year. A gratuitously nail-biting finish brought memories from countless previous years where Jon has finished in the revered Grand board top-ten. Those of you who have been at university recently may know Jon more for his sterling efforts organising the university team matches.

Top team performances are always harder to come by since this requires not only high-flying individuals but a depth of skill spanning the whole team. In the Imperial Meeting three university competitions are held, all of which comprise a team of four: the Universities Aggregate based on the team members' Grand Aggregate scores; the Musketeers shot at short-



Last year's winning university team.

range (2 & 10 at 3, 5 and 600 yards); and the Universities Long over on Stickledown (2 & 10 at 9 and 1000 yards). Last year saw the ULRC A team swipe the lot – and it doesn't end there. We broke the all-time record in the Musketeers scoring 592.72 ex 600, a record that Edinburgh held since 2001 (with a score of 591). We also shattered the all-time record in the Long scoring 391.50 ex 400, taking the honour from Southampton (who scored 387 in 1997). As far as I'm aware this is the first time both records have been broken in the same year by any one team.

I'm only going to mention briefly the small-bore side of the club. We train twice a week at the Stock Exchange Rifle Club (SERC) range in the heart of London's financial district. Since the Imperial College club were forced to re-locate, they now also have range time at SERC. Our successes on the small-bore front haven't been quite as impressive, but we always manage to hold our own in the annual university competitions. Recently, however, even ULRC's range time allocation has come under question, with claims from SERC that we take up too much time and space (can we be blamed for being successful?). We are in talks to try and secure alternative training times at the weekend – but at a substantial additional cost to the club.

That said, I think it's going to take more than a change in practice times to affect our determination to keep those trophies coming back. We are constantly on the lookout for potential members to join this crack team. Those of you who are at university in London and who haven't made contact, and those who are thinking of going to university (young or old) and could be convinced that London is the place to be, please contact us. With such a fast turnover in members, there's always the worry of who's going to be in the next team. Maybe you've been thinking of a short career hiatus or study break? After all "you're never too old to be a student" says Lynne Johnson who's been back at university and shooting for us for the past couple of years.

As a final note, I should just like to mention that this year sees the first overseas tour of a British Universities fullbore team for 25 years. As captain, I have purposefully designed the tour as a way of developing, fostering and encouraging young shooting talent across all UK universities. Ably assisted by another London shot, Adjutant Tom Hunter and Vice-Captain Ed Welford, Exeter University, I'll be taking a team of twelve to the Channel Islands in August to compete in the Guernsey and Jersey summer meetings. It seems fitting that after all these achievements, the University of London forms the epicentre of this ground-breaking tour aimed at gathering together a diverse mix of experience, talent and enthusiasm for what I hope to be the first of many such university-centric tours.

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GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2006

by Alistair Speirs

<i>Captain</i>	Chris Hockley
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	Chris Fitzpatrick
<i>Adjutant</i>	Jonathan Haward
<i>Chief Coach</i>	Nick Tremlett
<i>Coaches</i>	David Calvert Stuart Collings
<i>Shooters</i>	Nigel Ball Matt Button Paul Charlton John Deane * Rupert Dix * Peter Griggs Peter Holden Jonathan Holmes Richard Jeens * Jeremy Langley Richard Shouler * Alistair Speirs James Watson Alexander Woodward *

** denotes new caps*

There are many good reasons to travel to Bloemfontein in the Spring to take part in the South African Bisley Union's Open Championships: to enjoy some Summer before it reaches our northern shores, to get one's season off to a flying start and to enjoy the outstanding hospitality of the South African shottists. Above all however, it is a place where one finds excellent, challenging conditions and very competitive shooting.

The beginnings

Nowadays the logistics of taking a team abroad necessitate a significant amount of preparation. Accordingly, selection for the 2006 team took place in 2004. The strategy was to select a team which would contain a mix of those who had experienced shooting against South Africa in Bloemfontein and those who had never been to Southern Africa and would, hopefully, return many times again. We were also very fortunate for our long-term future in having a large number of very talented young shooters to choose from. The result was a blend of youth and experience which included five new caps.

The above preparation also included a management visit to the Championships in 2005. Chris Hockley first visited South Africa as Vice-Captain to Robert Stafford's GB team to South Africa in 1993 and had returned many times in the intervening years with RAF and Welsh teams. Nevertheless, as Captain of a GB team there were many plans to be made and the visit as part of an RAF team, with his Vice-Captain Chris Fitzpatrick, was both an enjoyable and necessary part of the groundwork. A crucial decision to be made

concerned the ammunition to be used. South African shottists are very competent and experienced handloaders; the team would require ammunition which could match their expertise and deal with the particular characteristics of the General de Wet ranges, not least its altitude of some 4,700 feet. After considerable testing, and the help of our sponsor Lapua, we had settled upon a Lapua Scenar bullet with a moderate VLD (very low drag) profile which had been carefully handloaded by Martin Brown.

The team

Given that the team was chosen 18 months before the off it would have been surprising if there was nobody among those originally selected who did not have to stand down as a result of unexpected circumstances. Notable reasons included pregnancy (congratulations to Alex Pilgrim) and inclusion in the Scottish Commonwealth Games Pair (congratulations to Lindsay Peden).

Departure

The beginnings of tours follow a familiar pattern. First there is the ritual of submitting one's case to be weighed by the baggage master (nearly always this post is occupied by Nigel Ball), then long waits at airports while Customs staff have a think about what to do with rifles before finally heading off. It is a tribute to the silver tongue of our Adjutant that at no point on this tour were we all required to open our rifle cases for inspection but instead, in each instance, the relevant authorities were satisfied with a small random sample.

After an uneventful flight to Johannesburg there were a couple of crucial tasks to be achieved. First, of course, was to collect the rifles and other luggage and shepherd it through Customs. We were greatly assisted in this by our welcome party from SABU - Natie and Willem du Plooy and Richard van Lingen. Equally important was the job which the Captain and Adjutant set themselves - to rescue from the South African authorities the ammunition which had been sent on ahead and which had become stuck in customs. It took a while, and many body searches, but by about four hours after landing the ammunition was released and we were on our way to our first weekend's shooting at Nottingham Road.

Nottingham Road

This small community in KwaZulu Natal derived its familiar name from an ex-Nottinghamshire regiment sent here to quell stock raids. The First Sherwood Foresters completed their garrison in 1856 and named it after their English Midlands home. It is now best known in some circles for the fruits of Nottingham Road Brewing Company and the famous Rawdon's



A small portion of the baggage corralled at Heathrow.



Who needs a team armourer . . .



Peter Griggs and the Captain take on the Nottingham Road 300 yards.



The GB team and their hosts after an excellent weekend's shooting at Nottingham Road.



The Vice-Captain decides to make it harder for the Captain's team to keep hitting the bull.



“Are you sure we can bounce the bullet off the lake surface?”



Nearly everyone remembered the Captain's instructions to bring the correct kit for the official photograph . . .



An exciting programme of R&R awaited the team.

Hotel where the team stayed. For the shooter, however, it offers a lovely range which draws comparisons with the Jubilee Range in Blair Atholl for its picturesque setting.

On the first day of our weekend we had a fairly relaxed shoot - effectively a Queens II with plenty of time for fettling rifles and enjoying regular hospitality from our hosts. Although we were not using the tour ammunition but SA produced factory ammunition the day's shooting went reasonably well - there was no 150 from the team but four scores of 149 (Nick Tremlett (17), Rupert Dix (16), Peter Griggs and Alistair Speirs (both on 12)). Top score of the day was gained by local man, Tim Valentine with 149.22. James Watson won the Queens I competition (first 7 of 10 counting) with 105.14 and the conjoining of the Club Chairman, Steve Berkemeyer, with Rupert Dix won the pairs competition.

The following day we had our first chance to operate as a team (or rather teams) on foreign soil. The team was split into two eight man teams, captained by the Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, to compete against each other and a Nottingham Road team at 300 metres, 600 yards and 1000 yards.

At 300 metres some team members experienced difficulty achieving good groups. The consensus was that the PNP ammunition which we were using was a little 'hot' for 300 metres at altitude. After the first range the Captain's team was leading the Nottingham Road team and the Vice-Captain's team (by 7 and 13 points respectively). The Vice-Captain's team pulled back somewhat and, indeed, won the 600 yards range but at the end of the day it was the Captain's team which had prevailed. The scores were:

Captain's team	1158.98
Nick Tremlett	147.13
Vice-Captain's team	1143.90
Peter Griggs	146.16
Nottingham Road team	1117.68
Clarry Hawthorne	146.12

Team-building, rest and recreation

After airing our rifles over the weekend we had a week before the start of the SABU Championships at Bloemfontein. The first part of this week we spent at Bushlands Game Lodge, close to the Eastern coast, where we had the opportunity to observe animals at Hluhluwe Game Reserve and also, during a slow boat trip, on the river delta by St Lucia. The middle of the week was given over to visiting the battlefields of the Zulu war, Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana. We finished with a couple of nights up in the heights of the Drakensburg mountains at the Little Switzerland Hotel.

The Freestate Championships

Shooting started on the Monday, for us, with the second day of the Free State Championships. This

constituted a pairs match in the morning and a competition for teams of four in the afternoon. The highest GB pair's score came from Richard Shouler and Jeremy Langley with 203.20 which was not good enough to displace the local pairing of D Steyn and S Steyn which achieved 205.16. In the foursomes competition we were rather more successful, claiming the top three places:

1	The Dorn Tado Team	408.35
	(J Langley, R Shouler, A Speirs, J Holmes)	
2	The Cluster Lane Team	408.32
	(N Tremlett, R Dix, R Jeens, P Holden)	
3	The Vee See Ten Team	401.35
	(C Fitzpatrick, P Griggs, N Ball, A Woodward)	

The SABU Championships

The following day we had our first individual successes in the very first match of the Championship, the Scottish Sword which is shot at 300 and 900 metres. Team members claimed six of the top ten places, headed by Nick Tremlett who won the match with 99.8. Nick was able to claim a further success in the afternoon's match, the Dewar Shield for teams of six, when he coached the winning North London Rifle Club team (Griggs, Woodward, Deane, Jeens, Ball and Langley).

The team's run of success continued the following day in the Hamilton Cup (teams of six over a Queens I course of fire). Again it was the Chief Coach who shone, shepherding his team to a win with a combined score of 624.63. South African teams were also excluded from second place - Stuart Colling's team claimed this spot. We had a little less success in the afternoon's long range match, the Rhodes Cup. Here it was South African teams which occupied the top three positions.

On Thursday the Championship started in earnest with the first counting match in the Grand Aggregate, the Orange Free State Cup, but for us the main business of the day was our first full international match - the RSA International, shot at 800 and 900 metres. In the Free State Cup GB team members acquitted themselves well, gaining six of the top ten places (David Calvert being highest placed at second).

The RSA International

The RSA International started well. In a very tricky quick-moving fishtail (something like 5 right to 1 left) the GB team surged ahead by three points at 800 metres (878.68 against 875.70). At 900 metres, however, it was the South African team which pulled significantly ahead, by 25 points, giving them the match with 1743.135 as against our 1721.118. If we had had any illusions as to the difficulty of beating a South African team at Bloemfontein (and we did not) then this match would certainly have dispelled them.

Back to the Championship

Over Friday and Saturday there were six more individual competitions, a total of nine ranges; one certainly gets a good quantity (as well as quality) of shooting at Bloemfontein. The highlights from a GB results point of view over these two days were mainly provided by Jeremy Langley who not only won the Col R Bodley Memorial Match at 900 metres with 50.6 but also the General Koos de la Rey Trophy. This competition is the aggregate of the three Queens I shoots in the Championship - which Jeremy cleaned, scoring 315.31, only the second time that the competition has been won without a point dropped. The other match which provided a GB winner was the Dave Smith Cup, shot at 900 metres, a competition which has a similar reputation to our very own Corporation. Here David Calvert scored 50.9. He was not, however, the winner of the Cup. That accolade went to the lady officer of the GB Under 19s team, Lucy Corner, with, of course, a 50.10. Lucy achieved this feat with a rifle with a 28" barrel which she bought for £90 and a strategy for dealing with wind changes which earned the incredulity of our Chief Coach and David Calvert himself.

The team hosts a dinner

On the Friday evening the team hosted a charity dinner at the Lettie Fouché School for Mentally Handicapped Children. In recent decades visiting teams from Great Britain have made visits to the school or have hosted events using their facilities. The dinner was a great success. The team entertained about 120 guests in a very nice thatched hall at the school and raised £2,100 for the school.



The final week

Sunday provided us with a very welcome day of rest. This did not, however, mean a lie-in since management had decided that early morning team photographs were called for. A number of different photographs were required for various purposes, resulting in several carefully choreographed changes of clothes.

After photographs, representatives of the team went to a memorial service at the range for George Bramley, the former President of SABU who died shortly before the meeting. The afternoon was spent variously, one



party to the golf course, one to Kimberley to see the Big Hole and one to a braai hosted by Peter and Lexie Bramley at their farm 20 km from Bloem.

On Monday morning we returned to individual competition with the Jack Mitchley at 300 metres followed by the Presidents Cup at 600 and 800 metres. These competitions marked the end of the Grand Aggregate. The Grand Aggregate was won by David Calvert for the sixth time (1996 and 2001 - 2004 inclusive). We should, however, record the sad tale of Alexander Coetzee who led the Grand throughout but was given a miss in his final shoot with the result that he came in second to DC by only two points. In a tribute to the consistency of DC's shooting he also won the Bramley Chain - a running total of the last three years' Grand Aggregates - by a clear 12 points.

Thomas Theron / Grand Aggregate

1	DP Calvert	655.79
2	FWA Coetzee	653.64
3	TF Breedt	653.50
4	JG Du Toit	652.67
5	TB Hayter	652.67
6	W Du Plooy	652.65
7	JC Jonck	651.77
8	CA Van Niekerk	651.64
9	NJ Ball	651.62
10	JDS Langley	651.59

Tuesday 11th April was the big day – the day of the Protea Match. First, though, was the State Presidents Second Stage. Here things started promisingly for the members of the team. There were 12 possibles at 300 metres and 13 at 500 metres. At 600 metres conditions were a bit more tricky. The team posted six clean slates here. By the end of second detail we had four 150s on the board. It was very much the Coaches day, with all three of them claiming the top (GB) slots. Nick Tremlett and Stuart Collings each had 18 V bulls and David Calvert 16. The only non-coach possible was put up by Jonathan Holmes which meant that he outstripped the rest of the team in qualifying with no points dropped in either the First or Second Stage. The Presidents follows the format of the St Georges at Bisley in that the First and Second Stage combined



The South African team . . .



. . . and the Great Britain team in action in the Protea Match.



The team after the match.



Hennie keeps the two coaches apart prior to the tie-shoot



Nick claims his Scottish Sword.



Breedt and Calvert are "sort-of-chaired" from the range.



The "inevitable" Bramley Chain.

scores are used to decide who qualifies for the Third Stage but the final result does not include the Stage 1 scores. Going into the Third Stage, therefore, it was the above-named four who started with a clean slate.

The Protea International Match

As noted above, we were under no illusions as to the difficulty of defeating the South African team at Bloemfontein. Whilst their Palma squad was yet to be announced, their selection process ensured that we were going to be up against 18 of their Palma squad. We were, however, buoyed by the performance of the team at 300 metres and 500 metres, in particular, in the morning's shoot. It has to be said, however, that we did ourselves no favours at 300 metres in the match. Given the scores over the past two days one could be reasonably confident of a slew of possibles. This confidence was not rewarded and, as a team, we dropped eleven points to the South African's three. At 600 metres we pretty much held our own - each team dropped six points, although the South Africans were hitting the centre bull more often than us. However, if the writing was not already on the wall it certainly was by halfway through the 900 metres range. The South Africans had six possibles on their board while ours showed eight points dropped over the same number of firers. The tide had turned somewhat by the end of the range - we had dropped 16 points to the South African's 14. The final totals were SA 1777.200, GB 1767.155. This represented a record score for the Protea Match and, as a team, we recognised that the South African team had had a marvellous day's shooting

It was a rather deflated team which attended the Protea dinner on the range that evening. We had had considerable individual success here already, notably DC's win in the Grand and four team members entering the Presidents Final with a clean score sheet. The Protea Match, however, was the big one and we were outshot on the day by an extremely capable team shooting at its very best.

The Final

The final of the State Presidents began at 13:00. Another hot, sunny day greeted us - the weather for this meeting was a full house of glorious days. At 800 metres the wind was difficult - quick changes in the range of zero to 5 right, with the near flags disagreeing with the far ones and both contradicted by the mirage. Four team members managed a 74 here. At 900 metres the wind seemed somewhat easier, or perhaps we were just getting the hang of it. GB high scores here were 72. Once the dust had settled and the Second Stage scores were added it was Stuart Collings who had come out top of the GB scores with 296.29 with David Calvert and Chris Fitzpatrick just one behind.

Before the announcement of the winners there was a tie shoot to decide the winner of the Second Stage. This involved Stuart Collings and Nick Tremlett, two

greatly competitive rivals. Also taking part was Hennie Gerber from Pretoria. Hennie, as readers of the team diary will already know, had achieved international fame a few days before through the act of firing three shots in the Municipal match while a bird perched on his head and pecked at his ear defenders. In this tie shoot, however, it was the unflappability of Nick which won through.

After the tie shoot the announcement of the winners was made. We did have hopes for Stuart's 296.29 in the Presidents but he was only able to claim second place behind Tielman Breedt of Northwest Province. We did have a winner, however, of the Championship. General Mac Alexander prefaced his announcement with "almost inevitably". The reason for this is that the winner was our own DC who has won it every year from 2001 (and in 1996), making this his seventh win. A remarkable record in this highly competitive environment.

State President Trophy

1	TF Breedt	296.32
2	JS Collings	296.29
3	W Du Plooy	296.24
4	DP Calvert	295.33
5	C Fitzpatrick	295.28
6	JG Du Toit	294.36
7	SW Cullinan	294.27
8	TB Hayter	294.26
9	NJ Ball	294.24
10	CW Lauterbach	293.34

SA Championship

1	DP Calvert	950.112
2	TF Breedt	949.82
3	W Du Plooy	948.89
4	JG Du Toit	946.103
5	TB Hayter	946.93
6	FWA Coetzee	946.90
7	NJ Ball	945.86
8	CA Van Niekerk	944.95
9	JM Holmes	944.75
10	JS Collings	943.93

That was pretty much our tour over, barring a very jolly team dinner when we celebrated our successes and did not dwell on our disappointments. As a team and individuals we had achieved much and, while we did not win the major match we had come close against a full-strength South African team at their own meeting. Above all, the team had worked well together and had represented Great Britain responsibly both on and off the field. As for shooting in South Africa, for anyone who has not been we all urge you to go for the first time; for those who have already been, to return. The constant themes which ran through the speeches of the South African shooters at prize-givings and dinners was just how welcome overseas competitors were and the plea that we keep coming over.

THE RANGE TRAMWAYS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

PART ONE - WIMBLEDON

by Christopher C Bunch

The greater part of this article was first published in the January and April 2006 editions of The South Western Circular, the magazine of the South Western Circle, and is reprinted by their kind permission.

Introduction

The National Rifle Association, so long associated with Bisley, had its origins in the 1850's war scare with France. Originally formed in 1859 its purpose was to foster and encourage the rifle shooting proficiency of the newly formed Volunteers (later the Territorials). In 1860 the first Meeting took place on Wimbledon Common and Meetings were held every July thereafter. However, in 1888 the NRA was given notice to quit and, in 1890, moved to a permanent site near Bisley in Surrey. Its new home at Bisley Camp was very close to Brookwood on the London and South Western Railway main line.

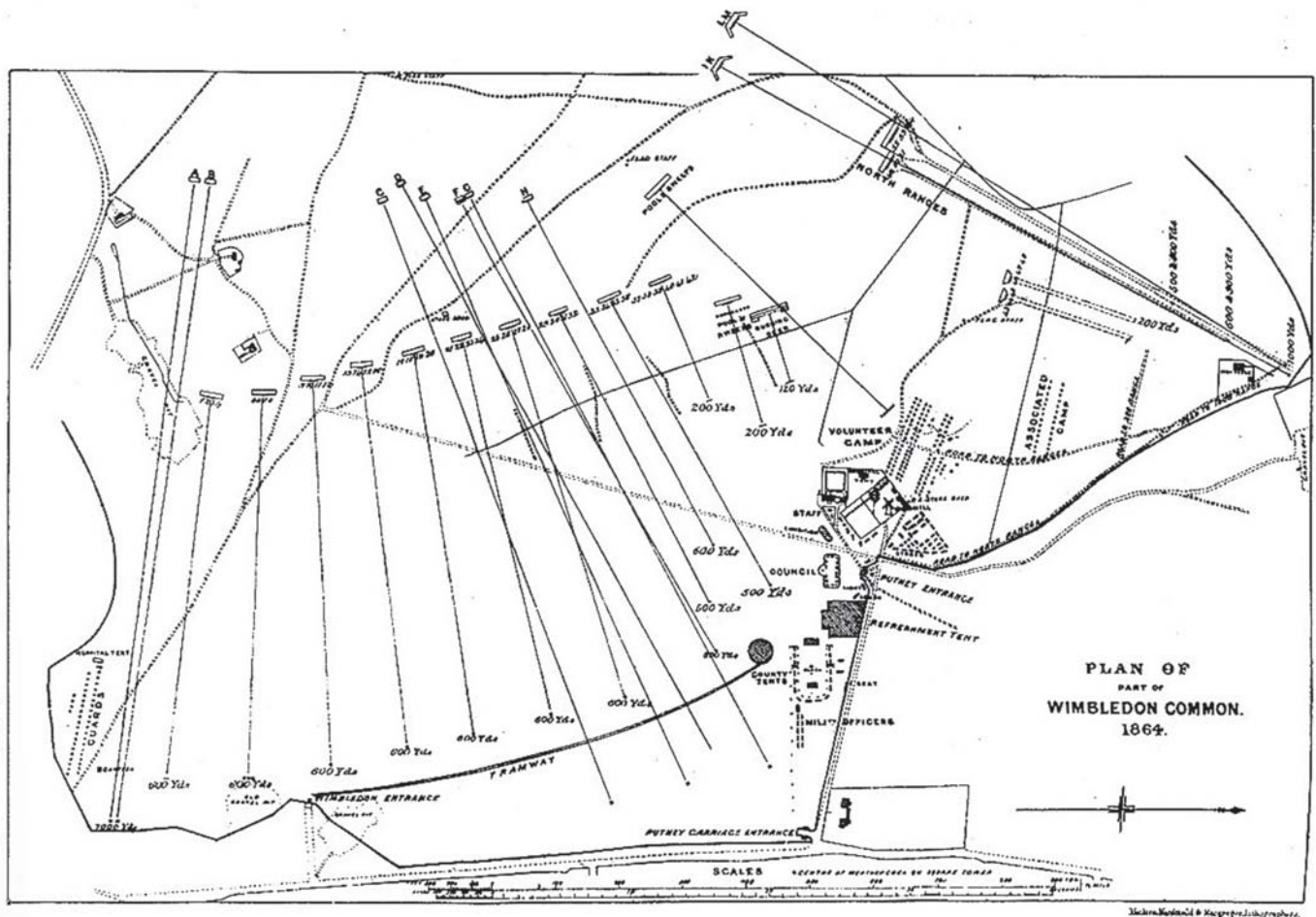
Wimbledon was in 'LandSWR Territory' and the Railway Company was keen to retain and expand the potentially lucrative business connected with the NRA Meetings, mainly the transport of large numbers of Volunteers between London and the new venue. It was ultimately successful in capturing this business against strong competition from other railway companies. The move to Bisley, coupled with the opening of the 'tramway' connecting Brookwood Station with Bisley Camp, started

a close relationship between the NRA and the London and South Western Railway that lasted until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

Early Days at Wimbledon

After its formation the annual Meetings of the NRA were held on Wimbledon Common until the move to Bisley in 1890. Between Meetings the equipment used to run the event was stored at a small farm, the only property that the NRA owned on the Common.

In February 1864 Captain St John-Mildmay, the NRA Secretary, attended the Woolwich rifle trial and was greatly impressed by the railway that ran, for arsenal purposes, from the 1000 yards firing point to the target. His enthusiastic recommendation resulted in the construction of a temporary 3 feet 6 inch gauge track for the July Wimbledon Meeting that year which linked the firing points of the various ranges for the convenience of competitors and visitors alike. Six small horse-drawn four-wheel cars, equipped with back to back seating, were provided for passengers. The horses to draw the cars were supplied by the Military Train of the Army, the precursor of the Royal Army Service Corps. The Prince of Wales, who continued to be a great patron of the NRA up until his death, as King Edward VII, in 1910, opened the line.



Plan of the NRA 1864 Meeting showing the Wimbledon Tramway as first constructed

The NRA Report for 1864 commented:

For the use of competitors, a tramway was to be laid down, at an expense of between £200 and £300 for communication between the different ranges . . . the idea of such a tramway had been suggested by that in use at Woolwich.

It also mentioned the contractor for the tramway:

. . . as well as the Tramway, the great novelty of the Meetings, were well and efficiently executed by Mr Thomson of Winchester.

The 'Volunteer Service Gazette' (the Gazette), the weekly magazine of the Volunteers, described the arrangements.

The carriages were, by kind permission of FM His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, horsed by the Military Train, Colonel Kennedy, Commandant, making the necessary arrangements.

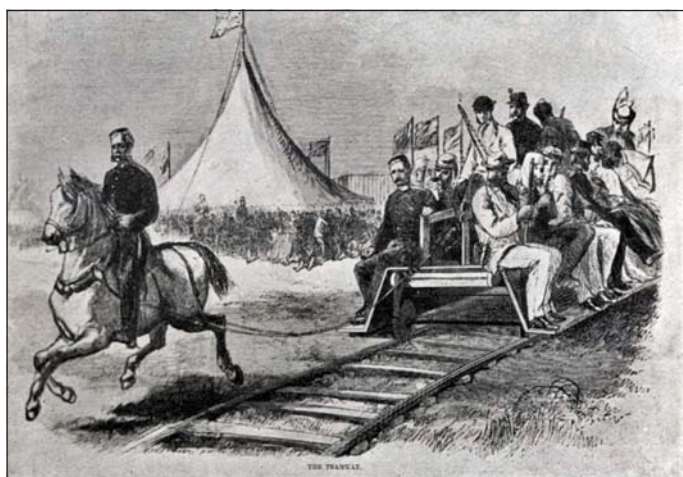
In its 1864 daily report, which was titled 'The Prize Meeting of the NRA', the Gazette paid especial attention to the new tramway.

Monday July 11th

. . . the new tramway was being laid down for the conveyance of shooters to and from the firing posts in the far south. This tramway and the new refreshment house are among the most conspicuous improvements in the laying out of the ground, . . .

Wednesday July 13th

The aspect of the ground was gay enough at mid-day, under a bright sun, many ladies visiting the ground, and the excellent band of the London Scottish playing a succession of lively airs. The tramway from the Wimbledon entrance was used today for the first time, and found to be a great convenience. The sum of two pence is charged for the ride, which is performed upon a plain vehicle, resembling in shape the Bianconi Cars of Ireland.



The Horse Drawn Tramway at Wimbledon

All did not go quite according to plan at the opening, however, leading to some rather flippant observations being included in the NRA Report for the year.

The Tramway was a great success, notwithstanding one or two trifling incidents that unfortunately occurred to the passengers, the result of too great speed, as is frequently the case in railway travelling . . . !

However The Gazette showed more concern and, in its usual thorough way, commented on these 'incidents' in some detail.

Thursday July 14th

In one particular, however, matters did not run quite so smoothly to-day; for about one o'clock, one of the cars came off the line of the tramway, and the wheel passed over the left foot of a gentleman who had been sitting in front. The sufferer was conveyed at once to the hospital tent, where an examination was made of the injury, which we are glad to hear, is not of a serious nature. But the fact that this is the second accident which has occurred on the line, some persons having been thrown out by a collision which took place on Wednesday evening, through inefficiency of applying the break, will, we trust, draw the attention of the Council to the subject, and so ensure the perfect safety of passengers in future.

There are no other reports of accidents in later years so one must assume that the Council took appropriate action. Certainly, by 1877, these cars had been rebuilt to a more conventional and safer design as shown in the photograph of one partially dismantled.



A greatly enlarged picture of the body of one of the original Wimbledon cars shown dumped near the Bisley Camp Workshop ('W' on the maps) in 1899

The track was re-laid every year for the annual July Meeting. At the end of the Meeting it was taken up and stored, together with the rolling stock, at the NRA's farm.

In 1869 all the operations connected with the tramway were handed over to a contractor, Messrs John Aird and Son of 13 Kew Bridge Street, London. The latter also acted as an agent as well as performing other services for the NRA.

On 13 February 1877 the NRA Council minutes recorded a recommendation from the Finance Committee. The latter had received a letter from the Metropolitan Carriage and Wagon Company of Birmingham through the same Messrs Aird and Sons.

The letter enclosed an estimate for a new tramway car from tracings supplied by Messrs Aird and had been left with the Secretary (of the NRA) by their manager, Mr Soane. The Company state that they will undertake to supply cars, as per tracing, and loaded onto trucks at Birmingham for the sum of £24 each nett cash.

The Committee recommend that two of these cars should be ordered with a view of using them on emergencies in addition to the two now used for each journey during the meeting. Mr

Stockman in connection with the subject strongly recommended that the tramway should be opened during the dinner hour, and for one hour after gun-fire, also that it should commence running half an hour before morning gun-fire.

No details of these cars have been found, however there is some evidence that they were basically a larger version of the rebuilt cars originally supplied for the opening of the tramway.

The Gazette for 10 July 1877 contained an interesting official notice to prospective Tramway passengers.

Official Notices (Wimbledon Meeting) Tramway Regulations

1. The charge for each single journey is 3d.
 2. No one will be allowed to travel who has not first paid the fare.
 3. A ticket will be issued on payment of each fare, available for one journey only, and the ticket must be presented when demanded.
- N.B. - it is particularly requested that persons will tear up their tickets on leaving the cars.
4. An interval of 5 minutes is allowed between the arrival and departure of the cars.

Further significant developments also took place in 1877. The firm of Merryweather and Sons supplied one of their steam fire engines to the NRA and at the same time negotiated a trial of one of their early steam tram locomotives. Merryweather's were well known in the business of fire engines and pumps, however they had only started the manufacture of steam tram locomotives in 1872. It seems likely that they saw this trial as an important business opportunity, the use of steam locomotives as tramway prime movers being still in its infancy. The Gazette commented on both vehicles in their July Wimbledon Meeting report and included some perceptive observations on the future use of steam tram locomotives in London. Contemporary street tramways in the Capital used horses exclusively.

Saturday July 7th

... A beautiful steam fire engine, appropriately termed the "Volunteer," arrived this afternoon, and is housed in a tent near the Council. This engine, which is of the latest construction, is from the establishment of Messrs Merryweather. It is fitted with the "Field" tubular boiler, and it is said that it can be got into full working order in less than ten minutes after the fires are lighted.

Thursday July 12th

A new locomotive steam-engine has made its appearance on the tramway. It has been sent to Wimbledon by Messrs Merryweather, who are the constructors of it, and if the rails are found to be strongly laid enough to bear it, it will be used instead

of horses for the rest of the meeting. The engine, chimney, and all are boxed up in a metal carriage, and there is nothing in the appearance of the machine to alarm horses. It is said to work without either noise or smoke. It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to use it, for we shall certainly have to come to steam tramcars in London before long, and if Merryweather's engine succeeds at Wimbledon, some of the prejudice which at present exists may be overcome.'

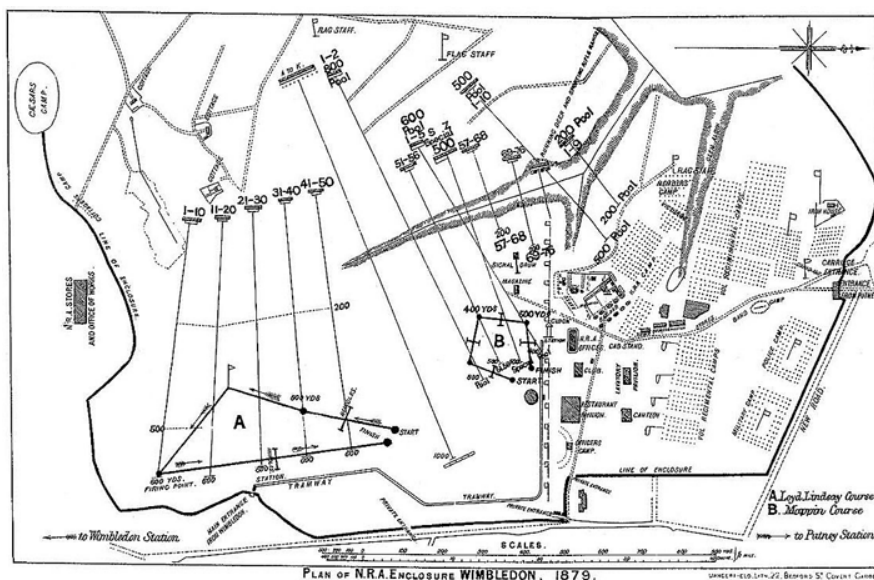
Friday, July 13th

The tramway steam engine has worked in a very satisfactory manner all day. It makes no smoke, and absolutely no noise, and runs at a very respectable speed over the slightly laid road on the common.

In April 1878 Merryweather offered to place a steam tram engine at the NRA's disposal free of charge. This was on condition that the latter widened the tramway to standard gauge (4 feet 8½ ins) or pay £100 to narrow the tram engines 'width between the wheels' to suit the existing tramway gauge of 3 feet 6 inches. The NRA, after consultations with their contractors, Messrs Aird, decided to purchase the locomotive from Merryweather's which the latter had now agreed to offer at the advantageous price of £320.

Monday July 8th

The tramway is greatly improved this year. Messrs Merryweather's noiseless steam locomotive experimented on last year is now in full working order, and the trams run very smoothly. The only objection to it appears to be that it is a little too noiseless. It may be well to provide the driver with a loud whistle, or other means of warning those riflemen who - absorbed in their mutual condolences as to the magpie that ought to have been an inner, or the miss that ought to have been a bullseye - stand, as we have seen them doing today, right on the track, and have only just time to skip out of the way of the engine. We should mention that the tramway now extends quite up to the front of the council building, which, if the weather is as hot as Mr Gregory, the Manager of the Meteorological Department here, declares it is likely to be, will be of great advantage.



Plan of the NRA 1879 Meeting showing the Wimbledon Tramway in its final form



The Wimbledon site, taken not earlier than the 1878 Meeting when the tramway was extended

The tramway, complete with Tram Locomotive and passenger cars, can be seen in the middle distance where it terminated near the clock tower. The prefabricated NRA Office Building, dominating the centre right of the picture, was transferred to Bisley in 1890 and is still used by Messrs Fulton

The Gazette, in its Wimbledon Meeting Report of 27 July 1878, also provided a glimpse of how the NRA was exploiting the latest contemporary technology.

Friday July 19th

The telephone has worked, we believe, very well; and the noiseless steam locomotive of Messrs Merryweather has performed its task of drawing the tramcars in the most perfect manner.

Perhaps this was largely due to the efforts of Major Edmond St John-Mildmay, Secretary of the NRA, the same gentleman who had recommended the introduction of the original tramway in 1864. He had already issued the following statement after the 1877 Meeting.

The experiment made with the little traction engine was most successful and the Executive Committee have much pleasure in testifying to the zeal with which the persons in charge worked, and to their courtesy towards the numerous visitors who were all day crowding around the engine.

The NRA Report for 1878 contained the following item:

Messrs Merryweather and Sons supplied one of their noiseless tramway engines made to suit the exceptional gauge of the NRA tramway, and as the firm offered it on very favourable terms to the Council, and it was found to work admirably and in some respects to have great advantages over the former expensive system of employing horse power, the Council purchased it.

The Accounts for that year showed the cost of purchasing the tram engine as £331-2s-0d.

In 1879 The Gazette, in its notes for Saturday 12 July, commented:

. . . The Tramway locomotive which performed so well last year, has, we believe, been purchased by the Association, and is now christened "The Wharncliffe".

A photograph has recently been discovered showing "Wharncliffe" pulling a train of six small passenger cars at Wimbledon. No date is given but the picture is stamped 'Merryweather and Sons Engineers London' and is therefore likely to have been an official one issued after the locomotive had been named, probably in 1879. The appearance of "Wharncliffe" is similar to that following its transfer to Bisley.

The locomotive, a 4 ton Merryweather Type 1 tram engine constructed in 1877, carried the Works Number 32 and was named "Wharncliffe" after Lord Wharncliffe, the Chairman of the NRA at that time. Merryweather tendered each year for the contract to transport and operate "Wharncliffe" during the annual meeting. They used a horse and trolley for transportation between the storage area and the tramway and also supplied two engineers and assistants to prepare the engine and operate it. At the end of the Meeting they greased the engine and returned it to store. This contract was maintained up until 1892, after the NRA had moved to Bisley.

As "Wharncliffe" was only used during the annual Meetings in July little maintenance was required, however it is recorded that Merryweather supplied new brake blocks in 1885 and 1886. They also carried out £11 worth of repairs in 1888.

Tender.		£		s.		d.	
To be returned to the Secretary of the National Rifle Association, 12, Pall Mall East, S.W.							
by seven on the <i>April 1889</i>							
For	<i>Charge of Tramway Engine</i>						
From	<i>Merryweather & Sons Greenwich</i>						
<p><i>We undertake to supply two engines and assistants, to clean and get ready for use during the Wimbledon Meeting to be held July 8th to 28th inclusive. Messrs Tramway Engine. To send holly and horses, move engine from stores to Stone-road, Engineers and assistants to work engine during the Meeting, afterwards to clean same, follow over and have in proper order for presenting post. Afterwards to send holly and horses and remove again to stores and put away.</i></p> <p><i>The men during the Meeting to be considered the servants of the National Rifle Association and to be under the control and orders of the person in charge of the game, for the sum of Thirty-four pounds, fifteen shillings</i></p> <p>Signature <i>Merryweather & Sons</i></p> <p>Date <i>May 30 1889</i></p>							
34 15 -							

Merryweather Tender document

During 1878, as noted in the Gazette, the NRA Council had agreed to extend the tramway by 150 yards in a minute dated 2 April, 'as the starting station is inconveniently situated'. The work was carried out by Aird for £120. This increased the length of the tramway to about three quarters of a mile.

The Wimbledon Meeting by this time had become internationally well known and the Gazette for 21 September 1878 contained a letter from an American that had originally been published in a New York periodical. A short quote from the letter helps to paint the scene.

... As if by magic a small city springs into existence. A substantial fence is thrown around the grounds, a railway put in operation, post office and telegraph-office stare one in the face ...

An American at Wimbledon

from a letter to the New York 'Spirit of the Times'.

(Part Two of this article, The Bisley Range Tramway, will appear in the next Journal.)

References

The Tramways of the National Rifle Association by Mike Hutson - HMRS Journal January - March 1991

Volunteer Service Gazette

NRA Annual Meeting Handbooks, Reports, Council Meeting Minutes, and other Documents and Records.

Acknowledgements

I would like to record my thanks to all those who assisted in compiling this article, especially Ted Molyneux, Curator of the NRA Museum, for his assistance and allowing me full access to the NRA records.

All photographs, unless otherwise acknowledged, are reproduced from NRA Museum sources.

THE BISLEY CLUBS EASTER MEETING 2006

by John Gardener

The kind weather and good (on the whole) marking went towards making the weekend as good as it was. The revised format, Georges I and II on Saturday afternoon, Queens I and II on Sunday and Queens III on Monday was not so popular with those who hadn't had any long range practice this year. It did however reduce marker costs and put extra money into the prize pot. Although there had been the opportunity for a long range practice on the preceding Thursday, it unfortunately left Friday with nothing to do as the ranges were closed.

One hundred and eleven competitors fought for honours in eight competitions and three aggregates. Sixteen F Class competitors, including some from Germany and Holland, joined in the fun, and fun it was especially during the second detail at 1000 yards when some very tricky wind gusts caught a few napping. A team of young shooters from Northern Ireland so enjoyed themselves that they vowed to come back next year and win!

We had thought that with the number of competitors, it would be a tight finish for the Queens II. Range

Officer John Matthews's tight control on the firing point, and the Butt Supervisor's sterling efforts in getting the targets re-faced, meant that we actually finished early.

Pam, Sara and Mandy catered for fifty-two at the dinner on Saturday night where many ate too much, drank well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. For the healthy there were plenty of vegetables, and for the rest, the puddings were to die for.

I would like to make known my grateful thanks to the following for their help. The Range Office, John Matthews who was Range Officer for the weekend, Sid Carter for squadding and stats, Pam, Sara and Mandy for an excellent dinner, the markers and especially the Butt Supervisor, Jess who worked his own butt off re-facing targets, filling markers gaps and generally helping out. A special thanks to Viv (She who Must be Obeyed) who helped, encouraged and generally bailed me out when I got it wrong. And thank you to all the competitors who supported the City Rifle Club and made it such an enjoyable weekend.



A good showing from the F Class contingent.

(Photos: John Gardener)



7mm may not be much good at 300 yards but these sausage rolls are great at 6!

Results

Georges I

1	T Raincock	75.13
2	D Armstrong	75.12
3.	I Robertson	75.11
X class	T Raincock	75.13
A class	I Robertson	75.11
O class	P Schumann	74.10
T class	S Doble	71.07
F class	D Parr & H Mitera	75.15

Georges II

1	I Robertson	75.14
2	C Mallett	75.12
3	B Horwood	75.11
X class	C Mallett	75.12
A class	A Wilde	75.11
O class	H Larter-Whitcher	75.09
T class	PA Wilson	74.06
F class	P Eggemann & H Mitera	75.15

Queens I

1	T Raincock	105.14
2	R Koostermann	105.14
3	B Roth	105.12
X class	T Raincock	105.14
A class	A Wilde	104.14
O class	C White	104.13
T class	S Doble	102.08
F class	D Parr & W Scholtz	105.19

Queens II

1	P Stock	150.22
2	D Armstrong	150.19
3	A Burton	149.27
X class	P Stock	150.22
A class	D Richardson	149.23
O class	D Argent	149.18
T class	S Doble	149.20
F class	D Parr	150.29

Comp 5 900 Yards

1	B Roth	75.13
2	T Green	75.13
3	D Richardson	75.09
X class	B Roth	75.13
A class	D Richardson	75.09
O class	S Larter-Whitcher	74.07
T class	N Healey	73.10
F class	D Stewart	75.12

Comp 6 1000 Yards

1	J Sweet	72.07
2.	A Langley	72.06
3.	S Doble	72.05
X class	J Sweet	72.07
A class	CC Mallett Jnr	70.08
O class	C White	71.06
T class	S Doble	72.05
F class	P Hobson	75.11



Colin Shorthouse trying to master the new F Class wind calculator. Could this be considered an illegal aid to shooting?

Grand Agg

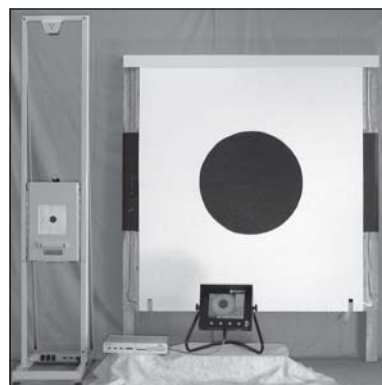
1	C Mallett	544.71
2	R McQuillan	544.68
3	T Green	544.68
X class	C Mallett	544.71
A class	A Wilde	543.65
O class	C White	541.60
T class	S Doble	541.57
F class	P Hobson	555.90



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FROM THE BUTTS

by John Gardener

From 1986 to 2003, I was lucky enough to be the Wing Officer and later, Chief Butts Officer in Stickledown Butts for all but two of those years. During that time things progressed from mainly competitor marking, through stages of being able to buy out and on to fully paid marking.

Now, due to tightening legislation, higher wages at superstores, not to mention being in the dry, free uniforms and heavily subsidised meals, we are swinging full circle back to competitor/own marking. You should hear the screams of anguish from shooters who had it easy for so long. Many have never marked and for some it all seems far too difficult. I think all shooters should complete a full days marking each year as part of their membership or qualification to shoot at Bisley.

During my years in the butts, I saw scrawny kids who could hardly shift the target, grow into sensible adults. Many became friends. A few failed, some were better at marking than others, but generally I think shooters received good service, especially at long range. Don't get me wrong; I'm not blowing my own trumpet here. The Range Office always picked me out the better markers, and the young people who assisted me as butt officers did wonders to make things run smoothly, often running a butt, issuing kit, passing messages and marking a target.

In the main, shooters get the marking they deserve. If you use up all, or in many cases more than, your allotted forty-five seconds, your marker will lose concentration, you send a message four and so the situation is exacerbated. Slow shooting begets slow marking, because you shoot slowly, you are the last on the firing point and send message nine. That's unnecessary, unfair, and very annoying. The best shooter gets on with it and any marker is delighted to try and keep up with you. We loved to finish a detail early, so that we could get on with the serious business of playing cricket between details. If you give your marker time to sit on his bench and start a conversation with his neighbour he will!

In the past, during the Imperial Meeting we often did a ten-hour day with no proper meal breaks. The markers love to see you do well, pints have been won and lost betting which target gets the highest score, and we certainly don't like to see you miss (it means the target has to come down an extra time, to look for a shot hole in the sand) but, everyone misses at some stage and believe it or not, it's not the marker's fault. In a ten-detail day, three shooters per detail firing two and ten the target has to be lowered and raised 360 times. Imagine yourself lifting half a hundredweight (I've not been converted to metric and anyway if God

wanted it that way there would have been only ten disciples) that many times in a day, only to be told to have to do it more often because someone has missed the target.

Electronic targets are coming. From a Range Supervisor's point of view, great. From a shooter's point of view, great. There is a downside; those kids who we trained, those young adults who have the experience and have now become Butt Supervisors during the main meetings will no longer be here. That core of young people, a community in themselves, will be gone. Yes, the Scandinavians run large meetings on electronic targets and I don't doubt that we will too, eventually. In the meantime, be prepared to mark for yourself. Get used to the idea that you will have to go into the butts and allow squadding time for changeover. Learn how it is actually very physically and mentally demanding to mark a target, in the wind, the rain or the dust and the heat for up to eight hours without the full hour for lunch and then perhaps you will please, stop blaming the markers for your poor shooting, bad weather, poor light, wrong sight settings, forgotten bolts etc. Put yourself in their shoes and think of your marker in Stickledown Butts, who has to be in there before Pirbright starts and stay in until Pirbright, Melville and Running Deer have finished. It can, and is often, up to an hour after you have left the firing point.

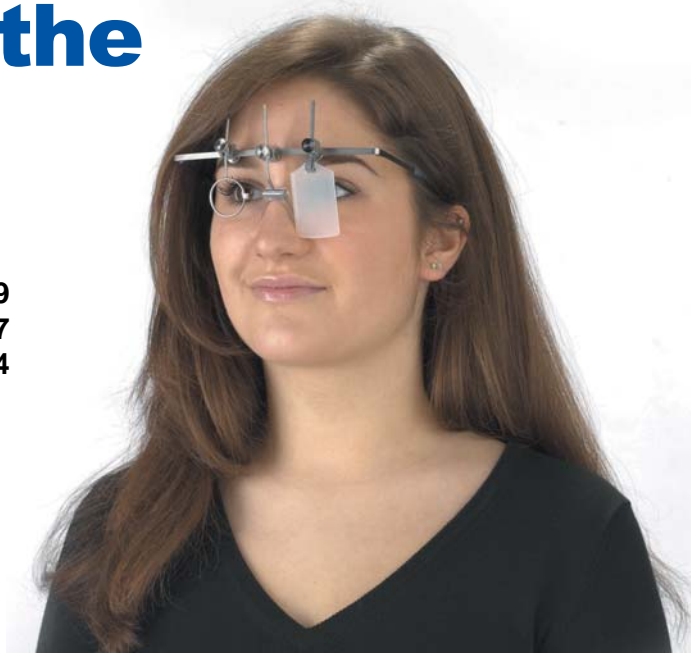
You have been in the bar long before they get out. Their shower water is always cold; they are always at the back of the queue for food. They don't, in the main, do it for the money, they do it because, like shooters they love the magic of coming to Bisley, they like to provide a good service and they enjoy seeing you do well. What you have to do is exercise a little patience, shoot well, and say thank you once in a while. A tip is always welcome but never expected.



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FULLBORE AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2006

by Gaz Morris

The Commonwealth Games is held every four years and is the only major multi-sport event in which fullbore rifle is included; this makes the Games a singular event and one which is fiercely contested, despite only two shooters from each country attending. Just as fiercely contested are the trials which each of the home nations hold to select the competitors who will represent them at the Games. Out of these trials had been selected one pair for each country, who would go out to Melbourne to compete in both the Pairs and the Individual matches. It is the highest level at which it is possible to shoot for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, but with this honour comes the responsibility to train hard and make the most of the opportunity afforded.

Hanging around in airports has long been a feature of shooting trips and it is only getting worse. Moving firearms and ammunition between countries is rapidly becoming the *bête noire* of touring, with the ever increasing burden of bureaucracy weighing down team managers. It was a distinctive feature of the journey out to Australia for the home countries' fullbore pairs and their managers on their way to the XVIIIth Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Forms are signed in duplicate, baggage and firearms must be declared, shown to be unloaded, and baggage x-rayed before the pre-flight ritual of book buying and duty free can commence. Fast forward twenty four hours, which were spent variously inside aeroplanes and Singapore airport, and most of the shooters had arrived in Australia. No bureaucracy worries in Tullamarine airport though, as it appears to have Customs officials who may be unparalleled in their helpfulness and efficiency; they checked serial numbers against certificates and wished the shooters well. Job done, bless 'em.

The teams spent the first few days in the athletes' village, except for the Scots, who were ensconced in a holding camp near Bendigo. One of the few metropolitan areas to have been built in recent years, the athletes' village was designed to be turned into a housing estate once all of the athletes had left, and the final flags were packed away. The additions to support four thousand competitors and their support staff included a number of prefab buildings and the mess tent; with the floor area of a large sports hall and half a dozen different food counters, this became a favourite meeting point, particularly once the Irish discovered that there was a coffee bar in the outdoor area.

Most teams elected to travel up to the event area in Bendigo after a couple of days' acclimatisation in Melbourne. Most people spent this time doing a little

sightseeing, or some shopping. Chloe's Bar opposite Flinders Street station became a haunt of the Celtic fringe, possibly because of the excellent beer, possibly because of the nude study in oils of the eponymous lady hung over the fireplace. Buses ran from the village to every quarter of Melbourne, and all of the event locations, local or distant, including the Athletes' Village Bendigo, aka the All Seasons Hotel, which had been commandeered for the duration of the Games for the exclusive use of the fullbore shooters and some itinerant basketball players. While the lodgings were a little more commodious, sadly the food lacked the wonderful variety of the mess tent. Fortunately Bendigo is well supplied with good restaurants, and most of the teams enjoyed some excellent local food and wine at one point or other of the competitions.

The first week in Bendigo was taken up with zeroing, tinkering and practice on the Victoria Rifle Association's Wellsford Rifle Range, located just outside town or a five minute drive from the hotel. A number of improvements were made to the range with the help of a significant grant, and it was in excellent condition when the teams arrived; although the 'roo poo was still a significant issue as the range was exempt from the hosepipe ban, allowing lush grass to grow on the firing points. Key debates during these first few days included the safety benefits (or otherwise) of loading in the shoulder, and quite why athletes and team managers needed to be searched on the way into the range, given that we had free access to our firearms and ammunition within the complex. As with so many rules handed down from on high, no satisfactory or non-self-contradictory explanation was ever given. Anna, the teams' compere without compare, also organised cultural events; a volunteers versus athletes cricket match was held, and there was a visit to an Aussie rules footie match. Proving that they were fitting in nicely, the Welsh and Northern Irish were observed discretely sloping off to the nearby Rifle Brigade pub at half time.

The culmination of the week's practice was the Badge Match, which was held the day before the opening ceremony. The Badge Match is organised to give the range officials and scorers a chance to have a dry run, and to give the shooters an opportunity to remember what shooting in a competition is like. By the kickoff, there was a deceptive right-hand wind, which varied in strength and angle. Shooters who chose their moment could keep them in the bullseye, however, and at lunch the Scottish shooters Ian Shaw and Lindsay Peden were in the top two slots, with 150.24 and 150.22 respectively. Hamsan bin Zulkeflee of Malaysia was in bronze medal position, also clean

with 19 vees. The long range in the afternoon proved trickier, with the wind starting to swing round from the left occasionally, which caught a few people out and the lead swapped after each range. After 1000 yards, it became clear that Adam Jory of Guernsey has taken the gold with 296.35, followed by Peter Jory, also of Guernsey, and Gaz Morris of Wales, both only a point behind. Exactly equal, with 29 V bulls, a tie shoot at 1000 yards was indicated to decide who would get the silver. Peter put in a fine 25.2, but a slightly wayward sighter meant that Gaz finished with 23.2, leaving Guernsey to take the two top slots.

Gold	Adam Jory (Gue)	296.35
Silver	Peter Jory (Gue)	295.29 (tie 25.2)
Bronze	Gaz Morris (Wal)	295.29 (tie 23.2)

The Opening Ceremony was looming large, and after a certain amount of weighing the pros and cons, most teams decided to go to the Opening Ceremony and get a bus back up to Bendigo the same night. Unfortunately, the timing of the buses the following day was such that most people had the choice of a good night's sleep in the village and missing most of the following day's shooting, or getting to bed very early in the morning, but having the opportunity to practice as normal. The Opening Ceremony itself is one of the highlights of the Commonwealth Games, particularly for those who are competing in the Games for the first time; the journey round the stadium with 80,000 spectators cheering, clapping and taking flash photographs is a heart-pounding and bewildering experience. For the first time ever, the home nations trouped out together, and once clear of the ramp down into the stadium, there was a certain amount of mingling going on to get photographs with friends from other teams. Attempting to chat up the young ladies who had led each of the teams out also appeared to be a popular pastime.

After a further three days of practice, the first of the matches arrived. The Pairs competition is based on a Queen's Second Stage and a Queen's Final shot in a single day, with each shooter being allowed to coach the other. Early conditions looked promising; with very little wind, but by Message One at 300 yards there was a right-hand wind which could be a little tricky to read. The top shooters demonstrated their ability to raise their game when it mattered most, and at lunchtime England, Guernsey, New Zealand and Australia had all dropped only a single point apiece. The England pairing of Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel managed an outstanding 299.47 ex 300.60, with Parag putting in a perfect 50.10 at 500 yards. Lunch was a slightly tense affair, with some people kicking themselves for early mistakes due to nerves, as the pressure to perform is considerable.

Moving back to long range, the wind repeated its earlier trick of swinging through zero with enough

strength to take the shot into the magpie. The most successful strategy seemed to be to wait until the wind swung back round from the right. Tricky conditions continued back at 1000 yards, with sudden gusts requiring up to seven minutes right, compared to an average of three minutes. Parag Patel, coached by Glyn Barnett, managed the only possible on the range; England took the gold, a point ahead of Australia. Malaysia took bronze.

Gold	England	594.87
	Parag Patel	297.44
	Glyn Barnett	297.43
Silver	Australia	593.74
	Bruce Scott	297.39
	James Corbett	296.35
Bronze	Malaysia	592.72
	Mohamed Bin Zainal Abidin	297.42
	Hamsan bin Zulkeflee	295.30

With a day off before the individual competitions, many of the teams took the opportunity to escape from the hotel and go out for dinner, or find some other way to wind down before the practice session the next day.

The Individual Match comprises a full Queen's Prize course of fire, with the short and long ranges being spread over two days. Fortunately, the practices before the start of the Games proper had very sensibly been rescheduled so that there would be the opportunity to practice at both long and short ranges in the morning and afternoon. The light conditions on Wellsford Range are very dependent on the time of day, with the morning light coming from 1 o'clock behind the butts, and a significant change in conditions in the afternoon, as the sun swings round in front of the target faces. As with the Pairs Match, there were a few shaky starts from nervous shooters; however the conditions were relatively easy for 300 and 500 yards. Moving back to the 600 yards distance of the Queen's First Stage, a number of shooters got badly caught when the wind started to shift significantly. In the afternoon, the winds continued to be tricky, and only Bruce Scott of Australia and Parag Patel of England completed the day with a clean slate.

With a practice day between the long and short ranges, many shooters elected to recheck their zeros the next day. They were all in for a bit of a shock. The relatively benign wind that they had got used to had become something more malicious, with rapid and significant shifts in both angle and velocity, throwing shots into the wide inner and magpie. Many left the range making strange and terrible predictions about the short range scores being swamped by a hurricane of magpies. The night was a sober one. The hopes of many of the lower ranked shooters to make up a few



Sometimes the weather was too hot to shoot . . .



. . . and sometimes too wet!



Team Wales in action.



Team England practising.



The Individual Match.



Parag Patel, Bruce Scott and Jim Corbett on the winners podium.



Bruce Scott is chaired from the range.



Is it a cover shot for GQ Magazine? No it's Team Wales at the Opening Ceremony!



Parag and Glyn with medals and Team Manager Jeremy Langley.
(Photos: Jeremy Langley, Gaz Morris and Lindsay Peden)

points on the leaders weren't to be realised; the weather was clear and the winds were eminently readable as the crowds tramped in to watch the final. With the prophets of doom and hope dispelled, the scoring was very high and as a result there was only a minor rearrangement of the standings.

Gold	Bruce Scott (Aus)	403.60
Silver	Parag Patel (Eng)	402.57
Bronze	James Corbett (Aus)	401.57

The medals ceremony anthem rang out again, predictably followed by "Advance Australia Fair" in a ritual which was repeated endlessly over the ten days of the Games. It was the sound of inevitability; however no one begrudged Bruce the medal which he had earned with some fine shooting.

The staff and volunteers at the All Seasons had arranged a party for all the athletes and team management to celebrate the end of competition; although declaring a free bar for an hour could have been a tactical blunder on their part. After the party, all of the younger shooters and many of the old ones escaped into town for a few rum and cokes; although the English preferred gin and tonic. More than a few finished off the evening in a nightclub in town, to which we had been invited by its part-time manager and Wellsford Range Warden, Matt Crowe. Sadly, the

man of the hour was not in attendance, as he had been called down to Melbourne for a television interview.

The main events over, the teams left the hotel and tramped back down the motorway in coaches to the athletes' village to spend a few days sightseeing before enduring the day-long flight back home. Parts of the English, Welsh and Northern Irish teams drove down the coast to see the twelve apostles; whereas others mooched around the café culture of Melbourne. Rather like the end of the Imperial Meeting, there was a definitely sadness at leaving the wonderful experience and lifestyle which the teams had enjoyed for over three weeks.

Addendum

While there may have been over four thousand competitors and officials at the Games, the real stars of the Games were the fourteen thousand helpers. Many or most of the administrators, catering staff, bus drivers, and range staff were all volunteers who gave up to three weeks of their time entirely unpaid to run the Games. To Bert Bowden and the range staff who ran the whole shooting match for us; to the butt markers, who gave us all impeccable service; and finally to Anna, who acted as our social secretary, we owe our thanks; which we amply repaid by throwing her in the swimming pool when she wouldn't stop squirting us with a water pistol. Thanks to all of you.

Norman Clark

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FULLBORE RIFLE PAIRS RESULTS

1	England	BARNETT Glyn PATEL Parag	50.08 49.09	50.07 50.10	50.07 50.08	75.14 73.09	72.07 75.08	297.43 297.44	594.87
2	Australia	CORBETT James SCOTT Bruce	50.07 49.08	50.08 50.06	50.07 50.06	74.08 75.13	72.05 73.06	296.35 297.39	593.74
3	Malaysia	ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN Md ZULKEFLEE BIN Hamsan	50.06 49.04	50.09 49.05	50.09 50.05	75.10 74.08	72.08 73.08	297.42 295.30	592.72
4	Scotland	PEDEN Lindsay SHAW Ian	49.06 47.07	49.06 50.07	50.09 50.08	75.11 75.11	71.06 74.10	294.38 296.43	590.81
5	Canada	PATON James VAMPLEW Patrick	48.04 49.07	50.08 50.09	49.08 50.09	71.07 75.09	74.11 74.08	292.38 298.42	590.80
6	Northern Ireland	CALVERT David MILLAR Martin	49.06 50.05	50.06 50.06	50.06 49.06	72.10 74.12	73.11 73.11	294.39 296.40	590.79
7	New Zealand	CARTER Brian SNOWDEN John	50.09 49.07	50.04 50.07	50.08 50.07	73.07 73.06	72.04 73.08	295.32 295.35	590.67
8	South Africa	du TOIT Johannes HAYTER Robert	50.05 50.09	50.09 49.06	50.05 49.06	75.14 74.09	74.07 68.01	299.40 290.31	589.71
9	Guyana	GOODLUCK Ransford PERSAUD Mahendra	49.06 48.07	50.07 49.05	48.07 50.05	74.09 74.11	74.07 70.07	295.36 291.35	586.71
10	Jersey	BENEST Richard LE QUESNE David	48.04 49.07	50.08 50.04	49.08 48.05	72.10 73.10	73.08 73.06	292.38 293.32	585.70
11	Guernsey	JORY Adam JORY Peter	50.07 50.05	50.09 50.10	49.05 50.07	72.10 75.08	74.11 63.02	295.42 288.32	583.74
12	Wales	MORRIS Gareth WOODWARD Alexander	48.06 48.04	49.07 49.03	49.07 50.08	74.11 73.09	73.09 69.07	293.40 289.31	582.71
13	Jamaica	NELSON Denis RICKMAN David	50.04 50.04	49.05 50.06	47.04 49.04	69.04 73.10	68.03 68.02	283.20 290.26	573.46
14	Trinidad & Tobago	AWONG Carl GOMEZ Norris	48.07 49.07	47.04 50.07	47.02 47.04	65.04 72.09	68.05 71.04	275.22 289.31	564.53
15	Falkland Islands	ALDRIDGE Kenneth McCALLUM Christopher	48.05 49.08	48.04 50.09	39.02 48.04	72.05 71.05	68.06 70.05	275.22 288.31	563.53
16	Kenya	NDAMBUKI Simon SEHMI Satiender Singh	49.06 49.05	49.08 46.05	50.06 46.03	68.06 71.07	66.02 67.04	282.28 279.24	561.52
17	Barbados	BRANCH Karl KING Louis	48.05 46.01	49.05 48.03	45.05 46.05	67.03 73.01	65.02 72.06	274.20 285.16	559.36
18	Bermuda	SIMONS Nelson TROTT Stewart	46.05 35.01	48.03 45.02	47.04 41.01	67.06 63.03	66.02 60.03	274.20 244.10	518.30
19	Antigua & Barbuda	GOMES Ivor JOSEPH Christopher	42.02 39.01	42.01 47.02	34.01 41.03	46.00 60.00	56.02 57.02	220.06 244.08	464.14

FULLBORE RIFLE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1	SCOTT Bruce	AUS	35.06	35.05	35.07	50.06	50.06	50.08	74.12	74.10	403.60
2	PATEL Parag	ENG	35.06	35.06	35.05	50.07	50.06	50.07	75.14	72.06	402.57
3	CORBETT James	AUS	34.05	35.05	35.04	50.07	49.08	49.06	75.14	74.08	401.57
4	ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN Md	MAS	35.05	35.04	34.03	50.05	49.09	49.07	74.13	75.05	401.51
5	ZULKEFLEE BIN Hamsan	MAS	34.04	35.04	34.03	50.07	49.05	50.06	75.10	74.10	401.49
6	HAYTER Robert	RSA	35.05	35.02	34.02	50.06	49.07	50.05	75.10	73.09	401.46
7	du TOIT Johannes	RSA	35.05	34.03	35.05	50.06	50.07	48.05	75.09	72.12	399.52
8	PEDEN Lindsay	SCO	34.03	35.06	35.06	49.05	49.06	48.05	75.10	74.09	399.50
9	CALVERT David	NIR	34.04	34.05	34.05	49.07	50.07	49.06	75.09	74.07	399.50
10	PATON James	CAN	35.04	34.05	34.05	50.06	50.06	48.06	74.10	74.08	399.50
11	JORY Peter	GUE	35.05	35.05	35.05	50.09	48.03	50.05	74.10	72.08	399.50
12	CARTER Brian	NZL	35.06	35.04	35.05	50.03	48.08	49.05	74.10	73.06	399.47
13	JORY Adam	GUE	34.04	35.03	35.05	49.02	49.08	49.06	75.13	72.04	398.45
14	RICKMAN David	JAM	34.06	34.03	35.04	50.04	50.08	48.05	75.09	72.06	398.45
15	MORRIS Gareth	WAL	33.01	35.04	35.05	49.08	49.06	48.03	74.10	74.06	397.43
16	SHAW Ian	SCO	34.05	33.02	32.02	50.10	50.07	49.06	74.10	74.11	396.53
17	GOODLUCK Ransford	GUY	35.03	35.07	35.05	47.03	50.07	49.02	73.08	72.08	396.43
18	MILLAR Martin	NIR	33.03	34.04	34.02	50.06	50.04	49.07	73.10	73.06	396.42
19	SEHMI Satiender Singh	KEN	35.05	34.00	35.01	48.06	49.06	49.04	74.09	72.06	396.37
20	WOODWARD Alexander	WAL	34.02	33.05	34.06	49.04	49.06	49.04	74.10	73.09	395.46
21	SNOWDEN John	NZL	34.03	35.05	33.02	48.05	50.07	50.01	74.11	71.05	395.39
22	LE QUESNE David	JER	33.02	34.01	34.04	49.05	49.06	49.05	73.08	72.05	393.36
23	VAMPLEW Patrick	CAN	35.04	33.04	33.01	50.09	49.06	50.08	74.09	67.03	391.44
24	BENEST Richard	JER	33.03	34.05	35.05	46.04	49.04	49.07	74.09	71.05	391.42
25	PERSAUD Mahendra	GUY	34.03	35.05	34.03	50.08	49.05	48.03	71.08	70.07	391.42
26	BARNETT Glyn	ENG	35.04	35.05	30.03	49.06	48.05	50.06	73.09	70.07	390.45
27	NELSON Denis	JAM	34.02	33.03	33.02	49.05	50.06	45.03	74.08	69.05	387.34
28	GOMEZ Norris	TRI	32.01	35.03	34.02	47.03	48.04	45.05	73.07	73.07	387.32
29	AWONG Carl	TRI	33.04	34.01	34.02	45.03	49.06	49.06	72.07	69.05	385.34
30	BRANCH Karl	BAR	34.03	34.03	33.04	49.03	44.03	44.03	72.08	65.04	375.31
31	ALDRIDGE Kenneth	FAI	34.04	34.03	30.02	47.03	49.06	45.02	69.03	67.04	375.27
32	KING Louis	BAR	31.00	31.02	34.04	46.03	47.02	43.03	72.04	70.04	374.22
33	McCALLUM Christopher	FAI	30.01	33.03	34.03	47.05	43.04	46.03	69.03	69.06	371.28
34	NDAMBUKI Simon	KEN	34.02	32.03	33.04	46.02	44.02	43.02	64.06	71.04	367.25
35	SIMONS Nelson	BER	32.04	31.01	33.03	47.03	47.02	43.01	67.05	64.02	364.21
36	TROTT Stewart	BER	30.02	31.02	29.01	37.01	37.00	41.01	64.01	68.03	337.11
37	JOSEPH Christopher	ANT	31.00	30.03	29.03	41.01	40.01	37.00	62.01	62.01	332.10
38	GOMES Ivor	ANT	23.01	29.00	29.02	35.01	37.00	30.00	49.00	56.04	288.08

T REX - DOWN UNDER FROM MY ARMCHAIR IN THE CAVE

Two things preoccupied me as, feeling distinctly crotchety, I sat down with the Brontosaurus Broadcasting Corporation to watch some bits of the Melbourne Friendly Games - between other Jurassic commitments. How much of the shooting would I see, and would any of my wishes come true? On balance I was pleasantly surprised.

Broadcast Blues

Earlier I had clicked my way to the BBC website and into a section reserved for square eyed sports fans. There I came across a complete schedule for something called "interactive". You cannot say that us dinosaurs are anything other than adventurous. Loitering amongst the ingredients at the end of the menu were some regular slices of enjoyment: an hour a day (give or take) of shooting.



It was a pleasant surprise for someone accustomed to the Manchester diet - which was to shooting what biblical plagues of locusts were to the harvest. I then realised that every upside has an opposite: one had to have access to digital TV in the form of cable, freeview or satellite and, more fundamentally, one had to be able to skive off work between 2.30 and 3.30pm on the days in question.

Or I suppose you have to have a recording machine for which you have the knowledge that allows you to set it with ease, in such a fashion that it records what you think you want – roll out the eight year old child who will set it for you with a sneer.

Luckily I had part of the kit and some of the time. As I negotiated my way through a variety of button pressings on the remote I found myself facing the interactive screen offering five choices and there, on stream five, it was. Shooting from Melbourne. I genuinely thought this discovery was a major evolutionary move forward from four years ago.

That is where my euphoria ended. It was the day of Charlotte Kerwood and Rachael Parish winning the womens' pairs double trap gold medal. The programme started with a somewhat wooden commentator announcing that this was shooting from Lillydale. Just in case you missed it in the shock of your discovery, the video tape spluttered and he said it again. (Sugar to editor – "Listen sunshine, I am not deaf. You're fired").

Now, I do not wish to carp or appear overly cynical, but the commentary went from wooden to chipboard. Information about the discipline was sparse to non-existent. Camera work was a matching waste-land. I am sorry: I was not impressed. One longed for a spark of life, a nugget about Kerwood instead of his crushing opening strike that nominated her as the Indian representative.

I spun off a cretaceous email pronto to Messrs. BBC, offering a view on a view. I think I was to the point and marginally constructive. I did say that I welcomed the change in policy from four years ago. But no reply.

True, the coverage progressed to smallbore and pistol. The reports and stories were there, driven by Mick Gault's record breaking efforts which by then had been picked up by the media. But I regret that, due to competing commitments, I did not manage to see any of the other one hour specials. If they did not improve from the first, then I have the feeling that it simply would have offended my sense of what could, and should, have been on offer, or what two half sensible lucid shooters could have voiced-over from their armchairs back here. Perhaps a more devoted watcher can enlighten me.

Broadcast Royals

Despite that, the coverage was there. Even though I was not able to abscond at all in the rest of the week, I was able to make do on normal BBC round-ups. Back on the BBC mainstream there was frequent and accurate reporting, with decent slots and some short interviews. Gault in a seaplane; Babb, Hector, Lacey, Kerwood, Barnett and Patel all with comments about their successes.

So I have to be even-handed. Thank you BBC for your studio based coverage: Balding, Richardson, Davies, Irvine 'et al' were generous in their approach and made a point of saying just how successful the Home Nations shooters had been.

But to whom should I address the question "Why not in 2002?" I take comfort in knowing that the answer would never come. What the shooting bodies need to do now is to develop contacts with the broadcasting

media to ensure that the BBC (or whichever) has the right helpful expertise on board for 2008, 2010 and 2012. Anyone fancy a Chinese or an Indian before the fish and chips?

Game Statistics

I have also been amusing myself with some amateur analysis of the medal tables. My statistical skills, normally confined to working out my share of the odd carcass at dinner, yields the following Commonwealth Games Shooting Medals Analysis.

A total of 116 medals were awarded in the shooting disciplines. (In some events there were not enough competitors to justify the award of a bronze medal). The table (courtesy of Pteradactyl Number Crunchers Inc) shows:

- (i) the percentage of the shooting medals won by each of the home nations out of the total number of shooting medals awarded to all countries
- (ii) the percentage of the total number of shooting medals awarded to the home nations, of medals won in all sports contested by those nations.

	(i) Shooting					(ii) All Sports				
Country	G	S	B	Total	% all shooting medals	G	S	B	Total	% medals won in all Sports
England	6	8	5	19	16.3	36	40	34	110	17
Scotland	2	1	0	3	2.6	11	7	11	29	10
Wales	1	0	2	3	2.6	3	5	11	19	15
N Ireland	0	1	0	1	0.8	0	2	0	2	50
Total	9	10	7	26	22.4	50	54	56	160	16

Shooting thus accounted for 16% of the total number of medals won in all sports by the home nations. In fact this broke down to 18% of each of the gold and silver medal totals and 12% of the bronze. I leave you with the somewhat bizarre and selective statistic that N Ireland's shooters were the most successful, securing no less than 50% of their nation's medals.

Some of My Wishes Come True

Those of you who read this prattle will remember that I looked forward in the last issue to a number of bonuses in 2006. Well, believe it or not, the words were written before the Games. All four of the teams from the home nations deserve congratulations for their aggregate success. They have given GBTSF evidence and results to support their work in securing funding for future Games, whether Commonwealth or Olympic. They have demonstrated that target shooting in all its forms is a medal force to be counted and, unlike some of the circus, that it tries not to drop the baton or step outside the lane in the process.

Prime Minister Blair is on record as stating that the medal successes at the Games demonstrate the talent available and are an excellent start to the process of stepping up to the next set of challenges. OK: let us have the funding and the wherewithal to do so - quickly. Chancellor Brown has promised the £312 million support in his budget: stick by your promise Gordon and ensure the private finance element comes in and that the funding starts now.

But above all give our cartridge pistol shooters something of a level playing field on which to practice their sport at home. A BBC interviewer asked Mick Gault what he could achieve if he was able to practice in the UK. "I might get quite good", came the laconic reply.

Closing Ceremony

I leave you with the utterances of the two BBC commentators at the closing ceremony. Barry Davies: apropos of the Commonwealth Dames closing ceremony: "Well . . . it's different. It is a disgrace in my opinion that we have seen nothing of the athletes and they deserve to be seen, including all those selected to be their nation's flag-bearers . . ."

Hazel Irvine: "Yes, among them Mick Gault of England who is the record medal winner with 15, including another gold at these Games . . ." Cut to view of athletes sitting in the spectator seats.

I keeps a-wishing . . .

RECORD BREAKER GAULT

by Tony de Launay

He finally did it in Melbourne. Pistol shooter Mick Gault clinched four more Commonwealth Games medals, in the process equalling the record of 13 held by the swimmer Karen Pickering and then becoming England's most be-medalled athlete in the history of the Games with a final total of 15.

For a time it seemed that he would have to be satisfied with two silvers and a bronze to seal his achievement, but in the tradition of leaving the best until last, he hit gold in the final event – the standard pistol.

The story, as it broke, captured the interest of the UK's media corps, led by debate in the BBC's Melbourne studio featuring Pickering and others speculating on whether her record would be toppled. Inevitably the demands for interviews increased the pressures on Gault. By his own admission he had not realised just how intrusive the interest could be: that he was able to put it to one side speaks volumes for his own mental approach and the advice of those who assisted him.

Gault has been a familiar face in this Journal, having appeared after the 2002 Games and featuring last year when presenting the prizes as guest of honour at the Bisley Meeting. His story, too, will be familiar: the RAF technician turned civilian employee pursuing his trade at RAF Marham in Norfolk.

Like all the other cartridge pistol shooters he has had to struggle with the demands of going overseas to practice his sport for his country. His achievement is a triumph of sheer hard work over statutory adversity.

For this record breaking triumph he deserves – and has – the admiration and congratulations of all those who practice shooting sports. The record speaks for itself:

Victoria 1994

Gold medal for Free Pistol Individual
Silver medal for 25m Centre Fire Individual
Bronze medal for Free Pistol Pairs

Kuala Lumpa 1998

Gold medal for Free Pistol Pairs
Gold medal for Free Pistol Individual
Gold medal for 10m Air Pistol Pairs
Gold medal for 10m Air Pistol Individual

Manchester 2002

Gold medal for 10m Air Pistol Pairs
Gold medal for 10m Air Pistol Individual
Gold medal for 50m Free Pistol Individual
Bronze medal for 25m Standard Pistol Individual

Melbourne 2006

Gold Medal for 25m Standard Pistol
Silver medal for 10m Air Pistol Pairs
Silver medal for 50m Pistol Individual
Bronze medal for 50m Pistol Pairs

Full 2006 Shooting Medals List for the Home Countries

England	Gold	Mick Gault	Men's 25m Standard Pistol
	Gold	Charlotte Kerwood	Women's Double Trap
	Gold	Louise Minett & Becky Spicer	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Pairs
	Gold	Chris Hector & Mike Babb	Men's 50m Rifle Prone Pairs
	Gold	Charlotte Kerwood & Rachel Parish	Women's Double Trap Pairs
	Gold	Glyn Barnett & Parag Patel	Open Fullbore Rifle Pairs
	Silver	Mike Babb	Men's 50m Rifle Prone
	Silver	Parag Patel	Open Fullbore Rifle
	Silver	Rachel Parish	Women's Double Trap
	Silver	Mick Gault	Men's 50m Pistol
	Silver	Sharon Lee & Helen Spittles	Women's 50m Rifle Prone Pairs
	Silver	Peter Flippant & Simon Lucas	Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol Pairs
	Silver	Mick Gault & Nick Baxter	Men's 10m Air Pistol Pairs
	Silver	Richard Brickell & Clive Bramley	Men's Skeet Pairs
	Bronze	Pinky La Grelle	Women's Skeet
	Bronze	Chris Hector & Jason Burrage	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Pairs
	Bronze	Mick Gault & Nick Baxter	Men's 50m Pistol Pairs
	Bronze	Georgina Geikie & Julia Lydall	Women's 10m Air Pistol Pairs
	Bronze	Richard Faulds & Stevan Walton	Men's Double Trap Pairs
Scotland	Gold	Sheena Sharp	Women's 50m Rifle Prone
	Gold	Sheena Sharp & Susan Jackson	Women's 50m Rifle Prone Pairs
Wales	Silver	Martin Sinclair & Neil Stirton	Men's 50m Rifle Prone Pairs
	Gold	David Phelps	Men's 50m Rifle Prone
	Bronze	Johanne Brekke	Women's 50m Rifle Prone
Northern Ireland	Bronze	Gruffudd Morgan & David Phelps	Men's 50m Rifle Prone Pairs
	Silver	David Beattie	Men's Trap
Isle of Man	Bronze	Trevor Boyles & David Walton	Men's Trap Pairs



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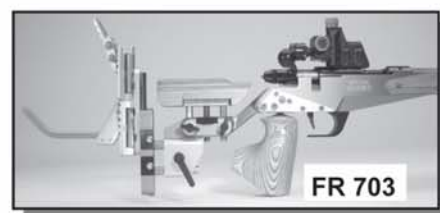
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GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 19 RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2006

by Simon Fraser

Commandant:

Paul Hughes Kent Army Cadet Force

Adjutant

Simon Fraser CCRS

Lady Officer

Lucy Corner Dorset Army Cadet Force

Team members

Timothy Keen Somerset Army Cadet Force

Iain McCallum Dollar Academy

James McSparron-Edwards
formerly Cheltenham College

Dannica O'Kelly Gloucs Army Cadet Force

William Owen Winchester College

Frazer Pimblett formerly Sedbergh School

Richard Stearn formerly Gresham's School

Stuart Young City of Salford Rifle Club

The team assembled at Derby Lodge, Bisley, during the evening of Thursday 23 March. It was the first time we had been together since the selection weekend during October 2005 and the very first time that Tim Keen was to meet the Commandant and some of the other team members.

The next two days were spent working alongside the Maple Taste weekend, zeroing rifles and practising our team shooting. Unfortunately it started to rain heavily during Saturday afternoon so the decision was taken to cancel the team shoot at 1000 yards in order to save our equipment and rifles from becoming soaked.

Sunday found the team trying to pack all the clothing and kit required for three weeks in a sunny climate, into a single crew bag and one item of hand luggage. After much effort the task was completed, with only a small amount of unessential personal items needing to be left behind.

The short trip to Heathrow was completed in record time, as was the checking in of our rifles. The overnight flight on BA57 to Johannesburg was uneventful, and a number of the team saw the new day dawn in the clear skies of Africa for the first time.

We were met at the airport by our South African friends, of whom I will talk in more detail as our tale unfolds. After the simplest processing of our rifles through the SA Police in nine years we drove the short distance to Deon Burger's house in Pretoria where we had traditional breakfast with extremely tasty dishes. The team transferred to the South African Army Medical Training Centre barracks, which was to be our home for the night. After unloading our vehicles we made the short trip back to Deon's house for our first of many braai.

Next day we again breakfasted at Deon's before setting out on a long trip north to Frik Eloff's game farm that is located outside of Thabazimbi in Limpopo Province. The farm was situated a good 15km along a typical African dirt road. We were all overcome by the magnificent views from the farms patio and the calls of birds and baboons, which seemed to fill the air. After a quick tea, our host Frick and his vet friend, Peter, took us on a tour round the farm's perimeter looking for game.

The next two days were spent on the farm and a visit to the Marakele National Park, during which we spotted many wild animals, some at incredibly close quarters, in particular klipspringers; we actually participated in the successful hunt of an impala. We all marveled at the night sky, which due to the total lack of any ambient light was seen at all its glory, including a very bright Milky Way and our first view of the Southern Cross. On Wednesday night most slept out under the stars.

On Thursday, making an early start, we headed for the Magaliesberg Canopy Tour. This consisted of a number of high wire 'Death Slides' over a very deep gorge. I am pleased to report that every member of the team completed the tour without any mishap. Then after lunch en-route back to Pretoria we stopped at Hartbeespoort at the local market where much shopping for curios and trophies took place, with the mandatory haggling. Many good deals were done and both those selling and the team were happy and satisfied.

On arrival back at Pretoria we entertained Therese Lauterbach, who had organized our safari tour, and Deon and his family at a local restaurant with vast quantities of food and ample drink. The restaurant also had a bucking bronco bull, just what the team needed after their long journey! I am sure that I can leave it to your imagination as to the fun we all had trying to see who could stay on the longest. Needless to say the bull beat all of our attempts.

On Friday we made the journey to the General de Wet Rifle Range at Bloemfontein. Arriving in a rainstorm, we quickly settled into the long, low bungalow, which was to be our home for the next two weeks. The bungalow was somewhat basic, but comfortable. Once we had explored the range complex and had our rifles weighed and checked, we drove the twenty minutes into Bloemfontein for our evening meal.

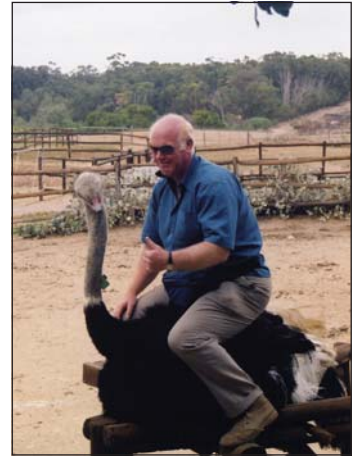
Saturday dawned bright and clear. I think it was at this stage that the team realized we now had a job of work to do; the main reason for our tour of South Africa was focused on the days we were to spend at



Lucy with the Dave Smith Cup.



The Great Britain Under 19 Rifle Team to South Africa 2006.



A very unimpressed ostrich!



The team at the Cape.



The two teams at Bloemfontein.



Lucy teaches the GB coaches how to read the Bloemfontein wind.



The team at the Prizegiving.



"This wasn't in the itinerary!"



The Magaliesberg Canopy Tour.



"Arggghhhhhhh!"

the range. This first day was spent competing in the Free State Bisley Meeting individual matches enabling us to obtain elevations (in the lighter air nearly 5000ft above sea level) for our rifles at 300, 600, 800 and 900 metres. In the evening was the first prize giving at which several team members picked up medals. Our top gun was Iain McCallum but the ladies and Vice-Captain Jamie McSparron-Edwards were also rewarded.

No shooting takes place on Sundays, so we seized the opportunity to visit a launderette, do some shopping and then spend the afternoon relaxing at Mazelspoort, swimming, playing water polo, mini golf, football and simply lazing in the sun. The second day of the Free State Bisley was fired on Monday with a pair's competition at 300 and 900 yards followed by a team competition, which we shot alongside at 800 and 900 yards, gaining valuable practice.

The morning of Tuesday was the Scottish Sword, the SABU Meeting's warm up match at 300 and 900 in which Frazer Pimblett made top score followed by Tim Keen. In the afternoon we had our first opportunity for a practice of the team shoot at 300 and 600m. A number of minor problems were noted and corrected. Wednesday provided more alongside team practice, which was much needed.

Thursday started early with the Opening Ceremony followed by the first shoot in the Grand, the Free State Cup in which Stuart Young picked up the first of the team's Merits. The first of the two International Matches against the South African Junior Team took place during the afternoon, consisting of two coaches and six firers, firing 2 convertible sighters and 15 to count at 800 and 900 metres. The result of this testing competition was a comfortable win for the very strong and well drilled South African team.

The next two days were filled with individual competitions. In the Dalymple Cup, Stuart picked up his second Merit, in the Municipal it was Iain's turn to win one, but in the Dave Smith Cup at 900 metres Lucy Corner dumbfounded everyone, achieving a perfect 50.10, to be the first lady ever to win the trophy. In the State President Stage I, Stuart again led the GBU19 pack but in the Kings Norton Cup it was Will Owen who led our contribution before most of us suffered in the Col R Bodley, except for Richard Stearn, the Captain, who only just missed a Merit. No time to gloat as we had to do a rapid change into our team uniform for the first Prizegiving during which Lucy received her due acclaim and we collected silver medals for the International Match. Then it was out of camp to the Cattle Baron Restaurant for our team official dinner at which we thanked many of our most generous South African friends for their major parts in making our tour such fun. We gave them GB U19 team engraved glasses as tokens of our appreciation.

On Sunday, after some of us had attended the church service on camp, a memorial service for George Bramley, the President of SABU, who had sadly died just before the Meeting, we visited Kimberley. Lunch was at the Spur where several big holes were filled, then we went to 'The Big Hole' which was truly a sight to behold. It had been excavated at the end of the nineteenth century in the search for diamonds.

On Monday morning individual matches continued with the Jack Mitchley at 300 metres, in which Will, Iain and Dannica O'Kelly all picked up Merits, followed by the President's Cup with Iain again achieving a Merit. In the afternoon we had a final check of wind zeros and attempted to resolve one problem on the range despite the distraction of a strong urge to go shopping that was rife amongst many. In the evening the team, less the Commandant and Adjutant who went to the SABU Announcement of Teams Function, went into Bloemfontein for a team bonding meal.

On Tuesday morning we fired the Second Stage of the State President's; Stuart finished at the top of the GB U19 team but sadly missed the Final by just seven V bulls. And so to the afternoon, the second of our team matches, the Junior Protea Match, took place. It consisted of 2 convertible sighters with 10 to count at 300, 600 and 900 metres. Once again the well-prepared South African team deservedly won. That evening the team attended the Protea Dinner with their opponents; Richard earned his spurs with an excellent speech.

Wednesday, the final day of the 'Bisley', found us busy cleaning rifles, packing them and our kit as well as preparing the items to be left in South Africa. Then it was onto the range to support the finalists in the State Presidents before changing into our best uniform for the Prizegiving. It is pleasing to report that a number of individuals from the team collected awards. The evening was rounded off with the now traditional braai with the SA Junior team.

Up and on the road by 05:30, we started the long drive of 1200km to Kleinbaai, via Oudshoorn where we stopped at a crocodile farm. There a number of the team made close personal contact with white tiger cubs and cheetahs. We finally arrived at our next temporary home, Cedric and Bets van der Vyver's house, at 00:30 that night.

Friday, a day of relaxation, was spent exploring the local area including Cape Agulles, the southern most point of the African continent. It was quite strange to look on the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean at the same time and several team members could not resist the urge to paddle.

Next day we paid our respects to the wreck of HMS Birkenhead, which lies 1.5km off Danger Point, before

exploring Hermanus and traveling on the spectacular coastal route around False Bay to Cape Town, and on to our final base at Melkbosstrand just 20 minutes north of Cape Town. We spent our last two full days visiting Table Mountain, a tour round the Cape of Good Hope, the Waterfront, an ostrich ranch, a vineyard at Stellenbosch and finishing with a great dinner at a restaurant called On the Rocks at Bleuberg - it really was on the rocks facing across the bay to Table Mountain, most spectacular.

The day of our departure had come all too fast. Having packed the night before we just had the short drive to Cape Town Airport. Unfortunately the airport's computers were down and all was confusion. The long trip home started at 14:00 with a two-hour flight to Johannesburg, followed by a four-hour stopover before we took off on the ten and a half hour overnight flight back to Heathrow.

Before closing I wish to thank Cedric and Bets van der Vyver, Deon and Jeanette Burger, Therese Lauterbach, Hendrick van der Linden, Peter Bramley, Syd Goslin, Adolf Borsman, Anita du Randt, Frik Eloff, Christo and Sonia Lauterbach, General Alexander, the South African Bisley Union, our many friends in South Africa plus our families, friends and benefactors in the UK, all of whom made our trip possible and so memorable. Thank you one and all.

Match results

International Junior Long Range Match

South African Juniors	848.52
Great Britain Under 19	781.20

Junior International Protea

South African Juniors	846.61
Great Britain Under 19	810.37

60 YEARS OF FULLBORE OR THE MEMOIRS OF A RIFLEMAN



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It tells of starting with a .22 at Prep school before WW2, then with a SMLE at Public School followed by service with the Grenadier Guards and Sandhurst as well as his experiences of two years in Kenya. The booklet is full of amusing events which have improved with the telling at the bar over the years. .303 is fired from Lee-Enfields and a Bren; 7.62 from Target and Match Rifles.

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SHARING OUR WARMTH WITH THE WORLD

NRA TEAM V CONTINENTAL PALMA COUNCIL 2005

by Iain Robertson

No it's not a misprint. The Association accepted the challenge from CPC in autumn of 2004 for a match at Bisley, continuing a series that has been going since 1993. Match conditions of a modified Palma course of fire were agreed – by reducing to 12 firers from the full Palma 16, the three distances could be shot on four targets in a half day which allowed the CPC team to have some practice on Saturday morning, shoot the match on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and travel home on Sunday afternoon. A variety of problems then got in the way of a shot being fired, but after two postponements the teams met on 20 May 2006, almost exactly a year late.

Representing the NRA were:

Captain

Iain Robertson GB, Scotland & Oxfordshire

Vice-Captain

Dorothy Hume GB, Scotland & West of Scotland

Adjutant

Karen Robertson Ireland & Oxfordshire

Main Coach

Simon Cleveland GB, England & Surrey

Coaches

David Calvert GB, Ireland & Ulster

Charles Dickenson GB, England & Berkshire

Ross McQuillan GB, Ireland & Ulster

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland & Hertfordshire

Shooters

Jason Curd Kent

John Deane GB, England & Gloucestershire

Steve East Oxfordshire

George Gilpin GBU25, Ireland & Devon

Lynne Johnson Ireland & Ulster

Jeremy Langley GB, England & Devon

David Rose GBU25

Bill Rowland Somerset

Heather Webb Suffolk

Paul Wheeler GBU25 & Surrey

Stuart Young GBU19 & Lancashire

The philosophy behind team selection was to give as many people as possible experience at the next level up in their shooting career (for example, it's my first run as Captain outside the military teams). I did want three GB shots to provide one rock-solid gun platform on each detail, and four really experienced team shots so I had one to guide others on each target. For the rest, I indicated that preference would go to young shooters with realistic aspirations to County or Home International selection, but there were no quota places. Stuart Young, at seventeen the youngest team member, responded to a back-of-a-scoresheet advert in South Africa in March this year, when some previously selected members were unable to join the team for a date confirmed at only 10 weeks notice.

With such short notice, training in the conventional sense was never going to happen. Exactly half the team (fortunately including most of the less experienced members) made it to a training day on 6 May, at which we hammered home plotting, zeros with the match ammunition, effects of taking Eagle Eyes in and out, use of headsets and suchlike. We moved on with an extended questionnaire on capabilities, likes, dislikes and preferences, and from there to a plan which would work in theory at least.

Came the weekend of the match. Ferries were stopped for high winds in the Channel. Aircraft were stopped for a firefighters' strike in France. Continental shooters, scheduled to arrive in time for some practice on Friday, dribbled into Bisley on Friday night and Saturday morning. I tried to stem panic. I had dragged all these people to Bisley to shoot – would the Adj have to venture out to drum up some opposition? She very sensibly refused to do so, and by about 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, a slightly depleted but reasonably organised CPC team emerged on Stickledown to practice alongside us. We worked right through the match format, but firing 7 to count at each distance, and throwing in the zeroing of spare guns, Eagle Eyes in and out and an unrealistically tight time limit to force everyone to raise their game in one lesson.

By Saturday lunchtime the weather was definitely "interesting". Wind and rain at 800 yards gave us a slightly ragged start until the coaches got to grips with the conditions. The first shooters were definitely the sacrificial lambs of the team; scores improved steadily until the final four finished 148, 149, 150, 150. One of those clean scores was Jeremy Langley, who is not exactly short on experience or ability. The other was the new kid on the block – obviously nobody has ever told Stuart Young it's not supposed to be easy!

At 900 yards the wind steadied somewhat and the rain held off. The team, running on a plan that had been pushed round by e-mail, but practised only once,



The team in action on a cold, wet, windy day.

excelled themselves to average just short of 148 ex 150. A score helped along by Stuart Young (still doesn't know it's supposed to be difficult) with another 150.

At 1000 yards the wind blustered and swung. Simon was incisive and unflappable. We were routinely getting 10s and 9s to the opponent's 8s and 7s, when things came to a dead stop. One of the targets had snapped off its legs in the wind, and after some thinking, a short experiment with two other targets snapped them as well. The risk to the markers was real, and with eight good scores in the bag and Stuart desperate to make 450 the match came to a halt for the day, 1000 yards null and void.

The last GB Palma team agonised with their trickcyclists (sorry, sports scientists) about how to spend the evening in the middle of the match. We went to Hunters' Lodge for dinner and a few drinks with the opposition. The whole thing is supposed to be fun, no?

Sunday, the weather forecasters got it right. A steady wind brought cloud, then drizzle, then rain. Fortunately the really serious rain held off till the afternoon. The team, having been through the routine six times on Saturday, now ran like a well-oiled machine. As Captain,

I had the pleasure of watching them giving their best to produce a sparkling performance unprompted. The scores dropped gradually as we moved back and the weather deteriorated, and there were individual disappointments, but the team did more than I ever dreamed possible. Two or three shooters accepted the 8s that come when you have the "honour" of firing a pilot shot in a shifting wind. Heather showed true grit when she jarred a nerve in her shoulder on the first shot at 1000 and continued through the pain to make 140. The coaches remained calm as groups expanded in rain and failing light. And every shot was placed with care right to the end.

Then we ran for cover.

The CPC team had struggled throughout with their endemic problems – a team widely dispersed, with few if any local ranges to practice on, and lacking a single focal point such as we have in Bisley, is always going to have a mountain to climb. They did learn with practice and their firing point organisation showed the effects of even a day's rehearsal. Philippe Ginestet led with dignity and took away a team that will remember the experience and I am sure will improve with each future match.

Name	800x	900x	Day 1	800x	900x	1000x	Day 2	Grand
National Rifle Association			Total				Total	Total
Langley	150.10	148.07	298.17	150.12	150.08	148.07	448.27	746.44
Rose	150.09	148.06	298.15	150.11	148.08	149.07	447.26	745.41
East	149.12	149.04	298.16	150.10	149.08	148.05	447.23	745.39
Gilpin	148.08	150.05	298.13	150.11	149.03	146.02	445.16	743.29
Rowland	146.05	149.07	295.12	150.09	144.03	147.05	441.17	736.29
Young	150.10	150.06	300.16	149.09	148.09	138.04	435.22	735.38
Wheeler	148.08	149.05	297.13	147.06	146.06	144.08	437.20	734.33
Hume	146.05	147.02	293.07	148.05	148.09	145.04	441.18	734.25
Deane	142.04	149.07	291.11	146.07	148.08	143.04	437.19	728.30
Webb	144.03	148.05	292.08	147.08	145.01	140.03	432.12	724.20
Curd	147.07	145.05	292.12	148.08	143.02	140.04	431.14	723.26
Johnson	146.01	142.03	288.04	146.07	144.05	140.01	430.13	718.17
Range Totals	1766.82	1774.62		1781.103	1762.70	1728.54		
Day Totals			3540.144				5271.227	
Grand Total								8811.371

Continental Palma Council								
Martens	129.02	136.01	265.03	135.03	125.01	106.00	366.04	631.07
Heys	137.02	126.01	263.03	128.02	122.01	131.02	381.05	644.08
Briand	130.02	127.01	257.03	120.00	133.01	111.00	364.01	621.04
Goberville M	147.05	143.03	290.08	148.03	145.04	140.00	433.07	723.15
Ginestet M	140.02	148.03	288.05	144.03	140.03	142.03	426.09	714.14
Goberville C	147.02	141.04	288.06	147.05	126.00	141.05	414.10	702.16
Chombart M	131.02	132.01	263.03	137.01	137.00	125.00	399.01	662.04
Ginestet Ph	136.06	142.03	278.09	148.08	138.02	134.01	420.11	698.20
Deschacht W	139.04	131.02	270.06	140.03	141.02	128.02	409.07	679.13
Range Totals	1236.27	1226.19		1247.28	1207.14	1158.13		
Day Totals			2462.46				3612.55	
Grand Total (9 shooters)								6074.101
Adjusted Grand Total (for 12 shooters)								8099.134

NRA OVERSEAS TEAMS FUND

15 months ended 31/12/05

Year ended 30/9/04

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GB AND OTHER TEAMS

GBRT Australia 05	10,000.00	0.00
NRA team to Channel Isles 05 (04)	2,700.00	2,800.00
300m 05 (04)	618.33	4,381.67
GB F Class	4,000.00	0
GBRT Africa 04	0.00	9,000.00
GBRT Canada & USA 04	0.00	9,000.00
MR Australia 04	0.00	5,500.00
U25 Australia	5,400.00	0.00
U25 South Africa	0	5000
Total Contributions to Teams	22,718.33	35,681.67
less Sports Council Grants received	0.00	5,000.00
CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTF	22,718.33	30,681.67

INCOME FOR THE YEAR

Donations

New Zealand Team 2003	0.00	900.00
South Africa 2004	1,103.00	0.00
GB F Class	708.66	0.00
No-Vee insurance	248.13	0.00
2005 Imperial competitions TR	3,441.00	3,923.00
2005 Imperial competitions MR	492.00	470.00
V Bull	988.00	1,120.00
Gift aid claim	902.56	0.00
Newspapers (to YSF)	0.00	913.73
Other donations	69.00	676.00
	7,952.35	8,002.73

Supporters Clubs

Freddy Payne 100 Club	6,000.00	6,000.00
OTF Swindle (net)	2,325.00	2,400.00
Albert Swindle	0.00	520.00
Wind course	0.00	185.00
Share of fireworks surplus	680.00	0.00
Golf day	2,241.00	2,535.32
Cookbook (net)	2,791.58	398.50
Bullet Ball	443.50	896.87
	14,481.08	12,935.69

Interest

Interest on Gilts	3,489.27	3,271.66
Loss on redemption	-83.76	0.00
Tax reclaim	97.62	195.24
COIF interest	5,342.43	2,646.16
Bank & other interest	45.31	44.32
	8,890.87	6,157.38

TOTAL INCOME

	31,324.30	27,095.80
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Less Expenditure

Contributions by OTF to GB & other teams	22,718.33	30,681.67
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SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR 15 MONTHS

	8,605.97	-3,585.87
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Unrealised (loss) profit on investments in period	-312.00	-1332.00
Reserves at 1/10/04	125,258.89	130,176.76
RESERVES AT 31/12/2005	<u>133,552.86</u>	<u>125,258.89</u>
Represented by:-		
Investments at market valuation (Gilts)	27,142.00	51,441.00
COIF Deposit account	99,493.00	67,993.00
Business Premium account	2,133.51	7,598.50
Owing by (to) NRA general funds	4,207.35	-1,871.23
Debtors	577.00	97.62
Creditors	0.00	0.00
Net Assets at 31/12/2005	<u>133,552.86</u>	<u>125,258.89</u>

Reserves at 31/12/2005	TR	116,768.82	116,768.82
	MR	0.00	0.00
	300m	0.00	618.33
	U25	1,103.00	400.00
	General	15,681.04	7,471.74
		<u>133,552.86</u>	<u>125,258.89</u>

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OBITUARIES

George Bramley



George Bramley, the President of the South African Bisley Union and an Honorary Vice-President of the NRA, died on Monday 27 March at his home in Cape Town. George had been in declining health since the death of his beloved wife, Phyl, a few years earlier. He is survived by his son, Andrew, his daughter Lynn and five grandchildren.

A small private cremation service was held in Cape Town on Wednesday 29 March and a memorial service at the Gen De Wet Shooting Range on Sunday 9 April, during the SA Championships. The moving service was conducted by ds (the Rev) Johannes Schabort, a fellow shooter and long-term family friend of the Bramleys. The service was attended by family members and a large number of shooters, including Chris Hockley and the members of his GB team.

In a tribute, on behalf of SABU and its members, Christoph Schulenburg, a one-time protégé and frequent Springbok team-mate, praised George's selfless devotion to his family, particularly during Phyl's long illness, and to SA shooting. He recounted many memories of happy overseas tours under George's leadership in both official SA teams and with the Bramley-Group, the "we-are-not-a-team" parties to Bisley during the sporting boycott years of the late-Seventies and Eighties. Having been privileged to be a member of four of those touring groups, I laughed and cried with Schulie as he recalled George's love for ice-cream and our several ice-cream parlour crawls in London and elsewhere in Europe. Each trip to the Imperial Meeting also included an unforgettable holiday period – up the Norwegian fjords or down the Rhine and up again on a cable-car in the Swiss Alps – each year something completely different and exciting. One of my most cherished memories of those visits to Bisley illustrates the close friendship between George and Sir Ronnie Melville, the NRA Chairman at the time, and the bond between shooters. The Commandant of the Canadian team received a cablegram (no faxes or e-mails in those days!) from his Government ordering the whole team to return home if there was a single South African competing in the Imperial Meeting. When informed of this, Ronnie drove up to London and told the Canadian High Commissioner that the Gleneagles Agreement forbade team contact

with SA but that South African individual entrants would always be welcome. He went on to say that the shooting relationship between GB and the DCRA was the longest-standing of all, with the exchange of teams going back over a hundred years. It meant much to the NRA but, if forced to, he would sacrifice it rather than turn away a single entrant from elsewhere. The upshot was a retraction by the Canadian Government. The Canadian team then made their feelings very clear. Instead of the normal "Captain plus X members" invitation to the Canadian reception, we found 29 invitations in our pigeonhole, personally addressed to each member of the Bramley Group.

Speaking for himself and all George's many overseas friends, Roger Mason praised George's ability to make friends wherever he went, his pride in South African shooting achievements but complete modesty about his own personal successes, which were significant.

Roger and George were both members of the Foxtrot Nine Club – a shooting club with strange annual rituals involving a Stilton cheese, a company knife to slice it, and a bottle of Glenmorangie. The club was founded on the final night of the 1979 SA Championships, at the old Hamilton Range, when John Killian insulted his hosts by telling us that we hadn't a clue about how to "braai" (barbecue) a steak! To prove his point, John introduced himself to the local butcher, bragged of his credentials as a blockman and was permitted to cut his own steaks. He allowed none of us near the fire and **did** cook the meat to perfection. Meanwhile the whisky flowed and Peter Jacques wrote the club constitution on a linen tablecloth. The significance of the name was that the British group had earlier practiced on target Foxtrot Nine but, more importantly, it was the scene of an hilarious incident during one of the inter-club team matches. A member of the Pretoria Defence B team, one Martiens Uys, swore that he was aiming at target F9, but kept hitting Golf 1 until someone noticed that his foresight had come loose and was canted over. Sadly, of the original nine members, the Musgrave brothers, Trevor and Bennie (of the other famous South African shooting family) and Bob Hassell have also passed away, leaving Roger, Peter Jacques and John Killian of GB and Dries Möller and Richard van Lingen, of SA, as the surviving club members. "Then there were five!"

After the service, George's brother, Bill, spoke of the close ties between their family and many British shooters over the years. He remembered Marjorie Foster spending several days in the home of his parents in Bloemfontein, during the 1953 SA Championships, when she was a member of Tom Anstey's GB Team. He could still picture Marjorie in the kitchen, with her sleeves rolled up, helping his mom prepare the traditional Afrikaner dishes for the official reception, held at Mazelspoort, a well-known picnic resort outside the city. He also talked of George's close personal friendship with Robin Fulton and the remarkable similarity in the shooting achievements of the two families.

George was born in Bloemfontein on 27 July 1930, the son of Jaco Bramley, himself a Springbok marksman. George attended Rondebosch High School and the University of Cape Town and later became a director of companies in the mother city, where he lived for the rest of his life. As a member of the Peninsula Rifle Club, he attained Western Province colours for fullbore (.303) and smallbore in 1952 and for clay pigeon in 1964. He first won fullbore Springbok colours in 1966 and went on to represent his country on more than twenty occasions – a record sixteen times as team captain. He was a true leader of men and a most able administrator, having served as SABU (then SANRA) Chairman for more than twenty years, through the Seventies, Eighties and early Nineties. It is in this capacity that he will be best remembered. However his individual shooting achievements were considerable. He won the SA Grand Aggregate (then recognised as the SA Championship) in 1968, following in the footsteps of his father, Jaco, and brother Bill, who were victors in 1948 and 1955, respectively. He then went on to win the Bramley Chain (the aggregate of three successive Grands) in 1970. (This

prize, in the form of a mayoral chain, has recently become the “property” of David Calvert of the RAF, who has just won it for a record sixth year in succession!). George also followed the lead of brother Bill by winning the Governor-General/State President’s Trophy (our equivalent of HM the Queen’s Prize) in 1970. George has the unique distinction of having, over the years, won each of the three stages, as well as the Final!

Like the Fultons, there is now a third generation Bramley achiever. Bill’s son, Peter (GC), has also won the State President’s (1992), a Commonwealth Games silver medal (Pairs 2002) as well as the Grand Aggregate and the British Open Target Rifle Championship at the NRA Millennium Meeting in 2000. A truly remarkable shooting family!

South African and World shooting is diminished by George’s passing but the record books and meeting minutes will ensure that he will never be forgotten!

Goodbye dear friend.

Richard van Lingen

Brian Hawkins

The NRA regret to announce the death of their Honorary Vice-President, Brian Harland Hawkins, who passed away at the age of 74 at his home in Nairobi, Kenya, on 8 February 2006, after a short illness



‘Hawkeye’, as he was fondly known by his many friends and shooting colleagues, was for some 40 years the organising force and backbone of target rifle shooting in Kenya. His enthusiasm to promote this sport never flagged in all those years and it is to his credit and selfless service to the sport that he was able to bring together the cream of marksmen from the Kenya Army, the Kenya Police and civilian sectors, that in later years, under his guidance, became an international target shooting team to be reckoned with on the world circuit and at Bisley in the UK.

Target shooting was his hobby and his life. Those of us who are left to close the bolt and one day, fire our last shot, will know where to seek out his indomitable spirit. It will be found walking tall and proud among the firing ranges at Bisley Common in England, hand in hand with the great legends of our sport.

Brian is survived by his loyal wife, Shelagh, and his two daughters, Sandra and Veronica.

Farewell, Hawkeye. Your total dedication was an inspiration to us all.

David Drummond

My Dad ‘Hawkeye’

He was a goodwill ambassador for Kenya and somehow made all those who came into contact with him feel special. He was a diligent volunteer. He never sat still. There was always something to be done. He left his mark wherever he went and was a generous friend to all. I am still known as Brian Hawkins’s elder daughter!

He was a good shooter in his day. He lived and breathed it and the international shooting world and his Kenyan comrades will miss him. However they’ll remember him with honour for the great service he gave to the sport. He was greatly admired for the tireless effort he put into Kenyan shooting. Over the last decades he put Kenya on the map for shooting . . . a country to be contended with.

Many remember him at Bisley working the cocktail parties regaling all those that would listen with his stories and anecdotes. He made friends wherever he went and he ensured his team comrades did the same. He led by example. Every country needs a Brian Hawkins.

So onwards and forward to more V bulls my dad could be heard to cry from the ranges and so I ask all of you . . . onwards and forward!

I think my Dad was a lucky man. He had a fabulous wife, two adorable children (I think) Sandra and Veronica, two amazing grandchildren and a truly wonderful circle of friends from all walks of life. Yes the world is a poorer place without him . . . but by jove we are certainly the richer for our memories of him.

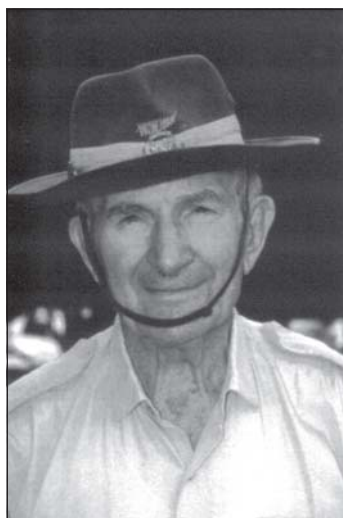
To Brian, my Dad, rest in peace. May your soul soar with the Kenyan dawn and rest with the evening dusk.

Sandra Vaughan

Donald Edward Whiteman

"Big Don" died peacefully and with dignity at Te Omanga Hospice, Lower Hutt, New Zealand on 13 April 2006. He was in his 81st year.

Don will be fondly remembered by many as a friend, shooter, lover of things British and a big upright man with a firm handshake.



Born in Upper Hutt and educated in Greater Wellington, Don enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 1944 and saw overseas service with 2 NZEF J Force posted to 16 NZ Workshops RNZEME in Japan 1946/1947 and was discharged after his tour of duty. Don re-enlisted in 1948 and served in the RNZEME until 1973 at Trentham Military Camp rising to the rank of Warrant Officer 2nd Class. Upon his retirement from the Army, Don (with partners) operated a local engineering business and manufactured fifty modern target carriers for the upgraded Seddon Rifle Range at Trentham.

Don commenced target rifle shooting in 1951 with the Trentham Camp Army Rifle Club and regularly took part in the annual Combined Services Championships at Trentham. When in the Army he received an Army Blue for Sport and Sport Administration. He joined the Upper Hutt Rifle Club in 1962 regularly participating until February 2006. Don's achievements as a marksman and administrator were numerous. He shot in the New Zealand Queen's Final for the Ballinger Belt 23 times and represented New Zealand on 19 occasions, six of those were overseas. Don was Team Captain three times. He was in the Wellington Provincial team for 32 consecutive years and Club Champion eight times.

When the future of the Trentham Range was threatened, Don worked tirelessly for the Trentham Range Retention Committee liaising with Defence and helping in the conversion to a 50 target range. Don held office in the Upper Hutt Rifle Club over the years on the Executive Committee and serving terms as Secretary and President. He was awarded Life Membership of the Upper Hutt Rifle Club, Wellington Rifle Association and National Rifle Association of New Zealand.

Don became a member of the National Rifle Association of New Zealand Executive in 1969, was Deputy Chairman from 1975 to 1981 and Chairman from 1981 to 1991. He was Deputy President from 1991 to 1998 and Chairman again 1998 to 2000. Don served on the Jury of Appeal at the 1990 Commonwealth Games at Auckland and was Match Director for the World Long Range Rifle Championships held in conjunction with the 1995 Palma Match.

For over fifty years, Don gave of his time to work on maintaining and improving rifle ranges at Trentham and after retiring in 1987 acted as Range Director. For decades, Don (on occasions assisted by his wife Edna) maintained the NRANZ targets. In recent years, he has been leader of "The Last Of The Summer Wine Gang" whose average age was 80 and met weekly to repair and maintain NRANZ and club targets. Don was an active Justice of the Peace (JP) and was proud of his appointment in 1985 as a Vice-President of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain. He was also a Vice-President of the British Commonwealth Rifle Club. He was recognized in the New Year's Honours list in 2000 being made an "Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the sport of rifle shooting."

"Big Don" will be remembered as a practical and hospitable man. Visiting overseas teams would often be met on arrival at Wellington Airport by Don and others to facilitate the passage of their large boxes of rifles through Immigration and Customs. He would always lend his Landrover to visiting competitors. He could always be relied upon to supply his home-grown lemons for the club bar gin and tonics.

Don's funeral service, conducted with full military honours, was attended by several hundred mourners, many of whom had travelled long distances to pay their respects to a man who was noted for his comment "You will never get to shoot at Bisley if you can't shoot in the rain."

Tom Penrose, Graham Derby and Robert Morgan

Mike Freiheit

It is my sad duty to inform you that Mike Freiheit, the Club Treasurer of Wrexham Rifle and Pistol Club, passed away on 22 March aged 55. He had been diagnosed with throat cancer 14 months previous and died peacefully in hospital. His funeral took place at Marchwiel Church on 28 March and was very well attended by club members. Mike was very respected and liked and despite his illness still attended the club several times a week until he was admitted to hospital a few weeks before his death. He was a member of the club for more than 22 years and Treasurer for the past 14 years. Mike lived for shooting and he and myself ran the club range four nights and one day a week (despite his illness).

Mike was a keen pistol shooter who since 1997 travelled regularly with myself and other club members to RO ranges at Bisley Phoenix Meetings and Action Weekends. He always looked forward to a week at Bisley with his friends and enjoyed his shooting and running the ranges. Mike was an active shooter who whenever possible travelled to shoot at other clubs. I am proud to say that I have shot alongside Mike in competitions at Bisley, Stourport, Mattersey and Frome to name but a few and also abroad in the Caribbean and America. He will be much missed by his many friends in shooting circles.

Keith Roberts

Kenneth Edward Chard

Ken Chard passed away in his eightieth year, having had health problems which cut short his shooting activities.



A born and bred Devonian, he joined the Royal Navy as a boy and subsequently served on HMS Saumarez, which was escort to the wartime convoys to Russia. He left the Royal Navy in December 1946, and soon after became a small-bore shooter with Pinhoe Rifle Club. In the 1960s he became more interested in fullbore, joining the Exonia and Tiverton Rifle Club of which he was Chairman for many years. Always immensely loyal to his county, he was also Chairman of Devon County Rifle Association and represented his county for some thirty-five years. He had immense energy and enthusiasm sufficient to include the Chairmanship of the City Rifle Club at Bisley which flourished by his example.

Ken was well known as a gunsmith with businesses in Exeter and Bridgewater, ably assisted by his surviving sons. Ever with a big grin and gourmet appetite to match, he was a well known figure at Bisley and a rifle shot of repute. He was a first class armourer and fine wind coach, who would always help and encourage any deserving young shooter.

In 1977 Ken made the England National team and in 1978 Lawrence Hoddle's Great Britain team to the West Indies, which began a shooting career which included fourteen GB teams to overseas destinations between 1978 and 1996. These included Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and the West Indies. Twice he served as Adjutant, twice as Vice-Captain and twice as Captain (to Canada in 1986 and to the West Indies in 1996). He was also on a team to the Falkland Islands in 1992 and was Captain of the England team to Canada in 1999.

In 1980 he won the Canadian Governor General's Prize (CGM) at Ottawa. By 1994 he had qualified for membership of the Big Five with appearances in the National in 1977 and 1992 (Captain); the Mackinnon in 1978 (Reserve), 1979, 1990 (Coach) and 1993 (Captain); the Empire/ Australia Match in 1979 and 1984 (Adjutant); the Palma Match in 1979 and 1982; and the Kolapore in 1994 (Captain).

In individual competitions he reached the final of HM The Queen's Prize on eight occasions between 1971 and 1984 and appeared three times in the top fifty of the Grand Aggregate. His overseas tours continued when he became of Veteran status and one of the Old and Bold.

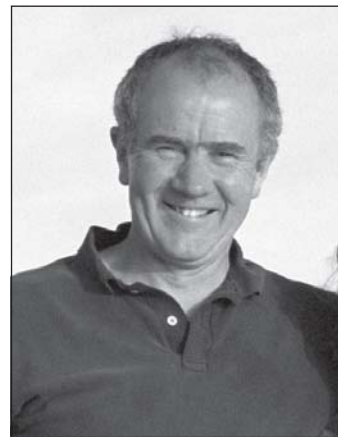
To say that Ken was good company hugely understates the man. He radiated good humour, a sense for doing the right thing and generally uplifted flagging spirits by his sympathetic understanding of human nature.

Those who knew him will sadly miss his company and will surely wish to convey their most sincere condolences to his wife Chrissie and to all his family.

Ted Molyneux

Robert Harrison

Rob Harrison was born on 28 November 1951, second son of Col PMJ Harrison OBE, and Mrs Phoebe Harrison; and younger brother of EPJ (Phil) Harrison. He won an Exhibition scholarship to Lancing in 1964, distinguishing himself both academically and, like his brother, as a rifle shot. In his final year (1969) he was Captain of Shooting and he toured Canada with the UK Cadet Team (the Athelings).



Following Lancing he went up to Oriel College to study Chemistry, graduating in 1973. In addition to his half-blue for shooting and the Oxford University RC Captaincy he showed considerable talent as an oarsman – rowing in the Oriel second boat and winning his oar outright in Torpids for two successive years.

He continued to shoot after University and was selected for the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada in 1975, 1979 and 1984 as well as twice being reserve for England in the National Matches of 1976 and 1980. He reached the final of HM the Queen's Prize in 1974 and was Captain of the Old Lancing Rifle Team for a number of years.

Rob was perhaps best known at Bisley as a founding member of the Central Bankers RC, playing an intellectual role in the introduction of the Grand Aggregate Leader Board in 1977 and the Kaltenburg World Championships in 1980.

Rob's early career was with the Radiochemical Centre (Amersham International) but he decided to retrain and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Whinney. After returning to Amersham International for a number of years he moved to Glaxo and then had various positions in both the private and public sectors. In latter years he preferred to work for himself as a consultant finally undertaking a study of the rationalisation of laboratory support services at his old university.

He was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in December 2005 and died suddenly and peacefully on 11 March, leaving his widow, Sue, and son, Tim - himself a competent rifle shot, and many friends who will miss him very much.

Jeremy Thompson

LETTERS

A new 'Commonwealth Pairs' competition?

From Andrew Horton

The Commonwealth Games Fullbore Pairs competition gave England a well deserved Gold medal this year. But, why isn't this competition format more widely used? A great deal of teamwork must have gone into this achievement - while one coaches, the other shoots and then they swap over. I imagine the pair's performance was largely due to the strong bond between them - a bond of confidence, dependence and encouragement. I am sure Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel will attest to this. Yet, unless you are fortunate enough to be selected for your Commonwealth team, the opportunities to compete in this exciting format seem limited.

The nearest equivalent we have during the Imperial Meeting is the Fulton Pairs. Here, though, there isn't the same close-knit, intimate teamwork involved. You just wait to hear how your partner got on at the end of the shoot. Imagine the chance to compete against another pair shot by shot, on the range. We could have pairs of the same class working together to beat another pair, with all the intensity and fun of a regular team match. I know the Imperial Meeting's squadding is already quite hectic, but could we not have a weekend dedicated to a new 'Commonwealth Pairs' competition. It would even be good training for future Gold medallists!

Plumbing Problems

From Dave Rumbold

As an NRA Overseas Life Member and a frequent Bisley competitor from Canada in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, I always read the NRA Journal with great interest. However, your Spring 2006 edition was particularly outstanding.

Firstly, John Jackman's masterly overview left no-one in doubt as to the NRA's current situation and its necessary future direction. The NRA is in excellent hands under his leadership. Secondly, the magazine's broad range of coverage even-handedly covers most shooters' disciplines and interests - congratulations. Thirdly, Tony de Launay's article on male prostate problems was most apropos and has prompted me to share the gory details of my own recent predicament.

I was literally leaving my house on the way to compete in our 2004 Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships (CFRC) when my doctor telephoned unexpectedly. "David," he informed me "we have just discovered a tremendous growth on your right kidney and your only option is to have the kidney and growth removed right away". "Not next week," I of course replied "I'm shooting in our National Matches". "Well," he reluctantly agreed, "let's do it as soon as possible after the matches are over".

I shot the matches feeling I was under a death sentence, because I had misunderstood him and thought the growth was on my liver (and we have only one of those as opposed to two kidneys). Nevertheless, I had an excellent 2004 CFRC, coming away with more than my fair share of the F Class loot.

My subsequent major surgery went well, and it was fortunately found that the cancer had not spread. However, it was noticed that I had similar flow problems to Tony's so I, too, was soon subjected to the intimate indignities of a TURP - though luckily my advanced age dictated that I be kept awake throughout so as to enjoy the action in full Technicolour (the surgeon equated it to "coring out an apple and leaving the skin").

Several months following all this, and as reported in your account of the Scottish Team's recent visit to Canada, I was fortunate enough to win our 2005 Governor-General's F Class Prize - a level of accomplishment which I had been unsuccessfully pursuing during my previous 40-odd years of shooting TR and F Class. My fellow competitors are convinced that this result stemmed only from old age and treachery overcoming youth and skill. Nevertheless, if any of your male readers have a personal plumbing problem, I would advise its early rectification - it's bound to improve their shooting to unheard of levels!

I do hope that Tony continues to notice dramatic improvement on all fronts (including the target) . . .

Cancellation of NRA Winter Ball

From Alex Hamilton

I have read David Hossack's letter in the Spring issue with interest and some agreement, but my assessment of the causes for the cancellation of this venue goes beyond mere apathy.

First, let me deal with the economic situation. In the past two years the Western Home Counties and the Midlands have suffered at least 30,000 job losses, mostly in engineering. To name just a few: MR Rover and its subcontractors (18,000) Buncefield Oil Depot (5,000), Peugeot Coventry (2,300), Satchwells Slough (1,000) in addition to many smaller losses that have not made it into the news. In addition we have the prospect of job losses in HHS, NTL etc. Further, CBI forecast 24,000 job losses in manufacturing in the first quarter of 2006 and I am prepared to speculate that many of those will be within easy driving distance from Bisley too!

There were 67,580 personal insolvencies in 2005 - an increase of 45% on 2004. There were 10,260 home repossessiones on 2005 - an increase of 70% on 2004. Both trends continue into 2006 and will get worse when the Base Rate goes up as forecast!

It would be appropriate at this point to mention the Pensions! If one happens to be a 55 years old professional at the peak of one's career, or if you want to be more realistic, a clapped out, unemployable old duffer, one would need to accumulate about £300,000 over the remaining 10 years of working life to buy a £20K pension in place of one that was lost! I know one or two people who could put away £30k pa and not notice, but they need neither pensions nor jobs. The majority of ordinary people including a great many NRA members face uncertain old age even if they remain in employment and for them funding someone else's shooting is not on the agenda.

I am not sure what "Winter Ball" actually means, but it conjures an impression of a "Dinner and Dance". The organiser should note that this type of entertainment died out a quarter of a Century ago and it was too boring even in its heyday. Spending an evening in the company of near total strangers - I would not know non-shooting guests, wives and partners and my wife would not know anyone - in an environment where annoyingly loud music precludes intelligent conversation is not my idea of an evening out for the £200 it would have cost me!

Are we really so apathetic? I think apathy is the last of our worries! Give us something that we really enjoy doing (like a shooting contest), at the price that we can afford (absolutely vital ingredient) and you might have better luck next time.

Bisley Residents' Group

From Roger Mason

Following on from my previous letter in the Spring 2006 Journal, I should like to report the formal inauguration of the Bisley Residents' Group which was set up on 13 May 2006.

Its objects are

- a To keep members informed of any actions or intentions of the NRA or its subsidiaries
 - i over occupiers 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, or its subsidiaries, 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, or its subsidiaries, a basis for discussion.

Membership is open to any club or individual with an agreement with the NRA, or its subsidiaries, to occupy land and or premises in Bisley Camp, for a period in excess of six months.

The Officers are:

Chairman	Roger Mason
Vice-Chairman	Nigel Cole Hawkins
Secretary	Graham Clark
Treasurer	Iain Robertson
Committee member	Martin Brister

The Committee, and all those present at the meeting, would like to invite those clubs, hut owners and caravaners who were unable to attend, or were unaware of the meeting, to get in touch with the Secretary, if they have not already done so, preferably by e-mail, so that there can be a full and genuine representation of all those involved with property at Bisley. Any member with a problem is urged to do so.

Bisley Resident's Group

Graham Clark,

Viking Cottage, Crowhurst Lane,

Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6NA.

Tel: 01342 893065

Fax 01342 892800.

E-mail: graham@clarkarbitration.com

Car registration NRA 1 P for sale

From Peter Smith

This registration was owned by Andrew Tucker, and is held on retention by Cathy Tucker. All fees have been paid. Cathy has asked Peter Smith to handle the sale for her. Anyone interested in buying this instantly recognisable registration should make their offer in writing and send to Peter Smith at 6, Howard Court, 35, Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5NZ, or e-mail: home@peterrsmith.fsnet.co.uk.

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 online, on your Imperial Meeting entry form or by contacting any member of the Palma Squad during the Imperial Meeting.

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MEMBERS' PAGE

THE NRA SHOOTING CLUB

A member writes . . .

Don't get me wrong . . . I'm still a very happy and enthusiastic member of my local rifle club, but the sessions of the NRA Shooting Club have greatly enhanced my shooting activities. The local range, indoors and heated, is a welcome facility especially on a winter's evening, but it's just one aspect of the sport and not comparable with getting out to Bisley and shooting there. I'm also a keen scuba diver, and it's a bit similar: you wouldn't want to be without local swimming pools to train and practise in, but you've got to get out and jump in the sea to do the real thing!

It was with my local club that I first came to visit Bisley and was, of course, amazed by the place! I'd been meaning for years to get around to reactivating my interest in the target sports, and it was about three years ago that I was able to create some spare time to do so. Within a few months I'd come down for club sessions of black powder pistol on Cheylesmore and subsequently rifle on Short Siberia and Century, and I was more hooked than ever. So it went on for a couple of years: the club would come to Bisley a couple of times a month, and I would join in whenever I was available, though with vague but increasing thoughts that this wasn't really quite enough but that I wasn't sure what to do about it. By the time I subtracted the weekends when I was away diving, or had other commitments, I was left with a reasonable number of opportunities for the black powder pistol sessions but not a lot of rifle opportunities – especially for 300 yards and above which the local club eschews during the winter season. I eventually got around to applying for my FAC and continued pondering.

When the April 2005 Open Day came around, I brought a group of my diving friends along so they could see some of the other activities that I got up to (and of course much more besides). They enjoyed it greatly – despite the queues – and it wouldn't surprise me at all if some of them eventually take it further (of course they are, by definition, already pouring chunks of their spare time and cash into diving trips, so this make take a while to come to fruition). One thing that I did that day was to pick up an NRA membership pack and reasoned that if I became an individual member then I could hire ranges which would give me more flexibility in when I could come to Bisley and shoot, and thus many more opportunities to do so. The half-price offer for the first year's membership (what a good idea) convinced me, and I signed up. At this stage, I began thinking about what I would need to do to bribe friends to come down and mark for me!

After a more thorough reading of the information in the membership pack, and of the website, it was good to see that there were other options besides twisting the arms of my friends. The availability of Range Office Targets (another great idea) meant that I wouldn't have to press some reluctant acquaintance each time and despatch them to the butts. And then of course the Shooting Club came into existence (yup, another great idea) and opened up a lot more options for straightforward, no-hassles chances to shoot at a variety of ranges. I wasn't able to attend the very first meet, but have been to quite a few since then, and it has turned out to be even better than I expected. Not only is the range hire and marking all taken care of (for a pleasantly low price: the costs are just split between the participants), but with club guns available for hire, ammunition for purchase as used, and a chance to borrow various bits of the paraphernalia (mats, spotting scopes, etc.) it really does provide an effortless way to shoot for a day with various ranges and disciplines on offer. Of course, I realise that it's only so straightforward for the members because of the organisational effort that Heather & Co are putting in (there are parallels here too with scuba diving!), so I'd like to register my heartfelt thanks to Heather and to all those others involved in getting the Shooting Club started and in keeping it going.

There's even more to it than easy opportunities to shoot, though. There are the people too. It has been an interesting chance to meet a varying group of other shooters of all types, from various places around the country, and of all levels from recent beginners to experts. Better still, the experts have included some skilled and patient coaches who have certainly helped me improve my knowledge and skills so I owe it to them to thank them too for their time and efforts.

Congratulations to the NRA Shooting Club on its very successful and much appreciated first year. I'm sure that as it becomes even more established the scope of its activities will increase further still – I'd bet that there are some other great ideas still in store - so may it go from strength to strength in the future!

The NRA Shooting Club is open to all full members of the NRA and meets about twice a month (weekdays and weekends) with a wide range of disciplines and distances available. Please visit the NRA website www.nra.org.uk and click on the Clubs drop-down menu for further information and dates for future Club days. To join the NRA Shooting Club, please contact Heather Webb on ext 155 or e-mail memsec@nra.org.uk.

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