



National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2006

Volume LXXXV

Number 3



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Winter	October/November

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
*Glynn
Alger*

The Council (Board of Trustees)

We are seeking to recruit a new Chairman and a new Trustee with financial skills

The National Rifle Association is a charity and, as such, must maintain the required skills on its Board of Trustees.

The duty of the Board of Trustees is the governance of the Association in the overall best interests of the charity (and not day to day management which is the responsibility of senior management). The principal tasks of the Council are, in practice, to set financial policy and monitor performance, to allocate resources, to safeguard the reputation of the Association and to ensure that the prime objective of the Royal Charter is achieved, namely to encourage people to take up target shooting.

The Council meets at Bisley some six or seven times each year to formal agendas with briefing papers.

We are actively seeking to recruit a new Chairman and, in addition, a new Trustee with experience and skills in finance and a good understanding of accounts, although not necessarily a Chartered Accountant.

The Chairmanship

The Chairmanship is an appointment of the General Council of the Association. The term of office is for up to three years with eligibility to stand for re-election for a further term so long as the total period in office does not exceed a maximum of six years in all. Upon appointment, the candidate would become the Chairman of the Council and of the Association.

We are seeking candidates from the membership, or introduced by the membership, for this important position. Experience of corporate Chairmanship, of Charity Trusteeship and a personal standing to front the Association's affairs publicly, whilst operating as part of the team which he leads are attributes which are desired. We hope that the next Chairman will be able to lead us into the amalgamation of national governing bodies forming what is provisionally called the National Association of Target Shooting Sports.

The Trustee with Financial Skills

The appointment will be by co-option to the Council. The term in office will be for up to three years with eligibility to be re-elected for a further term so long as the total period in office does not exceed a maximum of six years in all.

We are seeking candidates from the membership, or introduced by the membership, for this position. There is a Treasurer in office and, of course, the Chairman is a Chartered Accountant, but he is retiring next year.

Applications Please

If you believe that you could help us, please reply to me in confidence and let me have a brief CV to indicate the skills and experience which you could bring. Alternatively please encourage others to do so.

If you require further information or would like to have a chat, please contact me.

Finance and Reality

The crisis created by the storm when it washed all the sand off of the butts at Bisley was, in a way, a wake up call. It would not have been so critical had the National Rifle Association not been still in debt.

For those of you that are not aware, the current NRA Council inherited in excess of £2,000,000 of debt from their predecessors. By being prudent the current Trustees have managed to reduce the debt to £450,000 since 2001, the plan being to be debt free in three years. The storm damage has threatened this ambition and also gets in the way of the Association's ambitions to provide facilities and support in the regions.

The financial plan is to spend all surpluses from Membership subscriptions and profits from Bisley on the national needs of shooting rather than purely at Bisley as has been largely the case in the past. Being in debt and paying off loans and interest do not help this process but we are getting there. Incidentally during the period of paying off the debt the Association has maintained its support of Youth Shooting by investing in excess of £60,000 annually, we have freely given advice and support to those wishing to develop ranges of whatever type and we have continued to give interest free loans in appropriate cases. In addition we have become more politically active in support of shooting generally.

To move shooting forward, this Association needs a larger membership and for Bisley to be developed appropriately so that it creates the high level of profits necessary for investment in the regions.

At the moment we find ourselves in a 'chicken and egg' scenario, in relation to membership, where a lot of shooters are unwilling to invest in the future of shooting until the NRA has provided facilities, when at the same time we will find it difficult to deliver the necessary funding without additional members.

If you want to improve the long-term position of shooting in the UK it is essential that all shooters are

members of one of the national bodies. If you are a fullbore shooter the NRA loves you and needs you.

The Future for Bisley

Bisley traditionally used to swallow all the resources of the NRA. Since 2001 it has been the policy of the Association that the National Shooting Centre Ltd initially become self-sufficient and latterly profit making. The aim is that Bisley will generate sufficient funds to support shooting nationally.

However, if this is to be the case, we will have to rethink our position dramatically on how Bisley is developed and used.

Firstly, although we accept Bisley has a worldwide reputation as the home of shooting, we need to recognise that the ranges make a loss and it is the other activities that make money. At a policy level we need to acknowledge that, this being the case, whatever we do here needs to make a profit in support of shooting at Bisley and nationally.

To make the necessary profits we cannot continue in the same old way, providing an environment that by its very nature, age and state is quaint but impossible to run in a business context.

To maximise the potential of Bisley we need to look at it as a whole to modernise the facilities while maintaining the ambience. We need to create a state of the art venue for shooting while at the same time providing facilities and accommodation that can be used by non-shooters outside of our peak periods of use, to provide the necessary income.

Personally I should like to see the site developed in a campus style, providing accommodation to suit all pockets, with hotel, conference, leisure and retail facilities on site being used by the wider public, thus funding shooting.

Equally, if we make the site more attractive and user friendly, we might even see an up-turn in its use for shooting.

Pistols

The Association has written to Government, in the wider interest of the sport, on multiple occasions since August 2004.

Firstly, we included an argument for the return of pistols in our submission to the Home Office consultation last year. We also wrote to a number of MPs who had a stated interest in the firearms debate.

We have since bought advertising space in the Parliamentary 'House' and 'Monitor' magazines where we have stated the case for the return of pistols for sporting purposes.

Following the success of the Olympic bid we have written to the Home Office Minister Hazel Blears and Sports Minister Tessa Jowell, making proposals as to how pistols could initially be reintroduced in the interest of our international sportsmen and sportswomen.

Finally, we have bought space in a special Olympic edition of the 'House Magazine' promoting the same arguments.

John Leighton-Dyson, Performance Director of the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation, was recently featured on BBC Radio talking about the needs of our Olympic Pistol Team.

The NRA has been working with the GBTSF for some time to raise the level of debate about the need to allow both pistol shooters and officials to train and compete in the UK in preparation for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. I do not intend to rehearse all the arguments in this column, suffice it to say that basically our athletes are put at an unfair disadvantage compared with all other international pistol shooting competitors, which makes it difficult for them to achieve medal positions on the world stage.

The arguments we have put have been listened to by the Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, who has taken an objective and rational view of the situation and has recommended to the Home Office that a limited reintroduction of pistol shooting in support of the Olympics ought to be allowed.

Listening to John the other day, it appears that we are having serious talks with the Home Office, which will hopefully reach a positive conclusion sooner rather than later.

If the Home Office agrees to this development, albeit limited, we have to see this as a step forward, which allows the national bodies to work towards putting the necessary security conditions in place, to give all concerned more comfort with international pistol shooting taking place in the UK. Only if we can show we can run the sport safely in a controlled manner will there be any chance of introducing a wider audience to the sport.

The best of luck to John in his negotiations.

Criminal Use of Firearms

The police have recently admitted that they do not have a real handle on the criminal misuse of firearms. This should not come as any great surprise to the licensed community of shooters who have complained bitterly over the years that they are being held to blame for police failures to deal with firearms crime.

The police cite failures in co-ordinated intelligence building between all the agencies. At present they openly admit they cannot control the illegal import of weapons or the reactivation of deactivated firearms. They go further in that, at present, they are unable to assess how many firearms are being illegally held and they do not have the ability at present to examine forensically all seized firearms to connect them to crime scenes.

You will all be pleased to know that this is about to change with the introduction of a new database that will hold the details of those firearms used in crime so that they can be cross-matched to see the extent of any

criminal use. Excuse me for being slightly cynical but the police are going to have to improve their performance in examination of crime scenes where firearms are used or when illegally held weapons are seized to record all such occurrences, which is not the case at present. They then have to deliver on a new national database which, to be honest, is not their strongest forte.

It would be nice to think that at last the authorities are going to focus in on the real problems of illegal importation, possession and use of firearms, rather than focussing on mistakes made by the licensed user. If this is what the authorities intend then they must be applauded.

However, for now we must sit, wait and watch to see if all the agencies in the UK and abroad can work together to restrict the illegal movement of firearms for criminal use. Equally it will be interesting to see if any realistic national strategy focussing on firearms and organised crime will be developed to drive down current crime rates. I hope we do not see the police lumbered by another performance indicator from Government, which is likely to force them to look very hard at the licensed community to achieve technical detections to meet the success criteria rather than targeting real crime.

As we are all aware, the police, like most of us, have great difficulty in understanding the complexities of both the law and Home Office guidance. Due to layers of ambiguity it is understandable that the authorities often make mistakes to the detriment of a license holder. If anyone becomes a victim of 'good coppering' their first port of call should be to one of the national bodies for advice and support. More often than not a telephone call from one of the shooting organisations to the police force concerned clarifies and quickly resolves the issues to everyone's benefit.

Safety Certification of Ranges

As many may be aware the NSRA and NRA have been closely working together with the Home Office and the police to resolve how ranges are to be constructed, maintained and certified as safe, following the withdrawal of the military from this role.

Effectively, it has been agreed that civilian run ranges will, in future, be the responsibility in terms of safety of any person or organisation running a range. They will only receive approval from the police if they can show the range is appropriately insured and safety certified.

The Home Office tasked the NSRA and NRA with producing the necessary manuals covering construction, certification and management of civilian ranges. The expectation is that insurance will be conditional on a range being correctly constructed, certificated and run.

The manual produced by the Associations is currently with the Home Office awaiting approval. Letters to be sent to all police forces are currently being prepared outlining the new conditions and requirements for authorising a range.

Anyone awaiting certification or wishing to construct or develop a range should contact the NSRA or NRA as soon as possible. In the case of the NRA the contact will be Chris Webb telephone 01483 797777 ext 156 or e-mail regman@nra.org.uk.

Publicity and Politics

A joint article written by the NRA on behalf of GBTSF, CPSA and NSRA has been placed in the Public Service Review. This edition particularly looks at the performance of the Home Office as seen from the perspective of stakeholder bodies. We are adjudged to be a stakeholder.

Basically the article outlines the repositioning and re-branding of target sports focussing particularly on the potential merger. It then examines the difficulties licensed sport has in terms of legislation and guidance from the Home Office, offering a closer working relationship.

This document will have wide circulation in Government nationally and will be taken seriously, particularly when considering the Home Office's current problems.

MoD Range Use

A number of meetings and discussions have taken place in the last few months, both between the Association and the MoD and internally within Defence Estates, actively trying to finalise a position in relation to:

- MoD Licenses
- RCOs running MoD Ranges
- Regional Range Booking Arrangements

The position of the NRA is being pushed hard with Defence Estates by General Farquhar and there appear to be some positive noises.

Our position has been that we can oversee and issue range licenses as part of our club affiliation process far more efficiently centrally than the MoD currently do in the regions. The national standard block insurance arrangements are seen as evidence of our commitment.

Regarding RCOs running ranges, the functionaries within Defence Estates have proposed a number of conditions around training that we have said we will meet. Having again proved our commitment, Defence Estates are now considering the feasibility of giving the NRA preferential status, effectively classing affiliated clubs the same way as military units, thus incurring nil cost for Range Wardens.

We hope to have final answers on these matters by November.

MoD Ranges

The Association recently wrote to Defence Estates outlining our concerns about the future of ranges and closures, offering to run the less economic ones in the national interest for cadets, reserve forces and civilian shooting.

This approach was prompted by the information that at least one range in the North-East of England would probably be offered to the NRA to run.

The letter has helped to prompt Defence Estates to demand a complete review of its ranges and future training needs to assess which, if any, ranges it will release. The indications are that, following this review, the Association may be offered opportunities to take on some ranges.

It has been agreed that no ranges will be disposed of in the UK without prior notification to the NRA.

CLA Game Fair

The NRA was in attendance at the recent CLA Game Fair, held at Romsey in Hampshire, promoting Membership of the Association and opportunities at Bisley.

The stand was well received and a great deal of interest was expressed by potential new members.

It was also noticeable that a number of existing members visited the stall and made positive comments regarding our presence.

Discussions took place with the CPSA and others. It was agreed that for next year we should act in concert having a joint facility to promote target shooting generally as well as the wares of the various organisations.

Media Interest

As you are all aware the BBC came to Bisley during the Annual Meeting and gave us some very positive coverage on their website. As it turned out the article received one of the highest level of hits on the day and following. Since then they have been back in touch wanting to come and film during the Gallery Rifle Championships weekend.

While at the CLA Game Fair I did an interview for Sky TV. They are currently about to launch a new channel exclusively promoting Countryside Sports, excluding hunting. They have signed up a number of equestrian events and are looking to include target shooting. There is the potential not only for exposure for the sport but also increased opportunities for sponsorship

Altcar Open Day

The Altcar Open Day was held on 27 May 2006 and was successful in the following terms:

- The Home Office accepted that we can hold Open Days away from Bisley.
- Merseyside Police accepted that the event was well run and successful.
- The clubs worked well together and have found a means to attract new members.
- Those who attended had a good day.
- There was commitment from all parties to run a larger event next year.

Having said the event worked, it did so because relatively low numbers of visitors turned up, due to problems over:

- advertising the event
- the Phoenix at Bisley
- the weather

The benefit of the low turn-out was that the organisers were able to see where the gaps in provision lay. For next year we are planning to put in place the conditions and infrastructure to run a much larger event in support of shooting in the North West.

NRA Council and Committee Elections 2006

The 2006 Committee Election process is now complete and the following appointments announced.

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

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

Members of the Council (Board of Trustees) re-co-opted Charles Oliver-Bellasis and re-elected Julian Hartwell to be their Vice-Chairman.

Members of the General Council have elected Mik Maksimovic to the Council (Board of Trustees).

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees), General Council, their Committees and Sub-Committees are shown on pages 66 to 67 of this Journal.

Team Captaincies

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

GB Kolapore 2007

David Hossack

GB to South Africa 2008

Steven Thomas

Nominations

Nominations are required for Captains for the following teams. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 10 January 2006.

GB F Class Team World Championships Bisley 2009

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2008

Congratulations

Congratulations to Martin Townsend and his Great Britain Rifle Team on their amazing performance in Canada this year. The team won all the major team matches as well as nearly all the individual competitions. We all hope that next year brings them even more success.

Onwards and Upwards

THE STORM AT BISLEY

by Glynn Alger

On the afternoon of Sunday 13 August 2006 a freak storm struck Bisley Ranges. Between 4 and 6 inches of rain fell in just four hours. We have since learnt that this was a one in 50 to 100 years event.

The following morning the scale of the disaster became apparent. Hundreds of tons of sand had been washed from the butts, leaving the clay cores exposed.

On Century Range the debris had moved across the service road between the stop butt and the target frames, filling the trops and on into the markers area under the mantlet. The target frames were unusable.

On Stickledown Range the sand had been washed down but the clay core had also partially collapsed near the middle of the butts.

Short Siberia Range was the least damaged with the target mechanisms unaffected but requiring the sand to be put back on the stop butt.

Melville Range again had suffered from all the sand being washed down and clogging some of the moving target mechanisms.

On Cheylsmore Range the liquid sand had swept away the containing wall made of railway sleepers, washing them 12 feet forward, crushing and covering the turning target mechanisms.

Basically with the exception of the Clay Ranges all shooting at Bisley had to be stopped.

Later that day things got worse for shooting in the area in that we learnt that Pirbright, Ash and Longmore military ranges had suffered the same fate. So there was no possibility of moving some of our shooting to alternative sites.

The atmosphere was very 'sack cloth and ashes' at Bisley that morning, with people talking about a half a million pounds of damage and closure for months. Unfortunately that was the message that got out very early, before we had an opportunity to evaluate the

damage and estimate time scales to get ranges reopened.

By lunchtime that day things had started to become clearer. The Director of Shooting and his staff had worked tirelessly with an expert contractor to see what was possible in terms of reopening ranges. He informed the meeting of those trying to manage the crisis that we could get Short Siberia open for the next weekend if we got no heavy rain and started the work soonest.

The rest of the day and Tuesday were spent developing a plan to sequence work on all ranges and to estimate costs. It was essential that we had a balance between getting ranges open quickly and carrying out the work correctly in civil engineering terms.

On Wednesday the National Rifle Association Council met with the management of National Shooting Centre Ltd to agree a way forward in terms of reopening ranges as quickly as possible to ensure shooting could take place, bearing in mind a very full programme for September and October. It was agreed that an independent fully qualified engineer should be employed to examine and guarantee the integrity of the butt structure and the work that needed to be done by the agreed contractor.

A process of releasing money on the authority of the Trustees for agreed work to be done was approved. It was also agreed that an Appeal for donations to help finance the work should be progressed.

As a result, by the end of the first week Short Siberia was open.

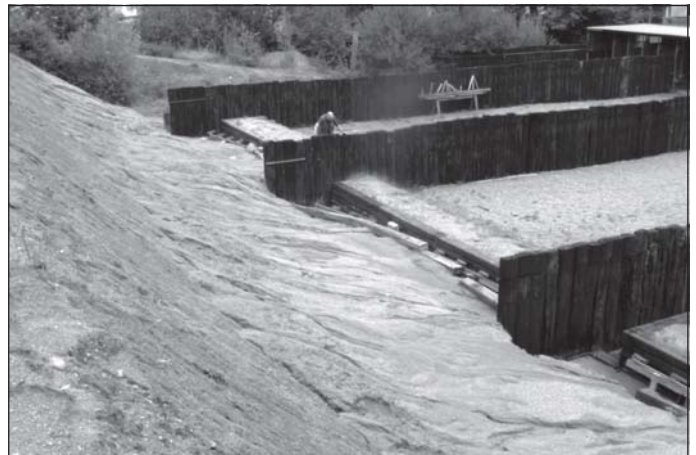
The second week saw Melville reopen for shooting.

On the third week Stickledown was repaired and three butts on Century reopened. In addition a group of volunteer members shovelled tons of sand back onto the butts on Cheylsmore.



The damage in Century Butts.

(Photos: John Gardener)



Les Pulling views the crushed target mechanisms.

On the fourth week work continued on Century opening three more butts.

All ranges were fully reopened for use by the end of the fifth week.

This massive task was accomplished in such a short time because of the hard work of Jeremy Staples and

his team from the National Shooting Centre Limited, the contractor Brian Brimfield, who pulled out all the stops to get the ranges open to the correct standards, the volunteers who moved tons of debris by hand and the Council of the Association who organised themselves to give timely authority to get the necessary work done.

THE BISLEY BUTTS APPEAL

As a result of everyone's generosity donating to the Bisley Butts Appeal I can say that to date the Appeal has raised over £23,000 including gift aid. This money has made an important contribution towards the costs of the repair work and has much reduced the financial burden. It has raised sufficient to enable us to take the advice of our consultant engineer to build a supporting shelf along the whole of Century butts this winter. We are advised that this shelf will stabilise the butts and reduce the chance of a re-occurrence as well as make annual maintenance less expensive.

The Association wishes to acknowledge those who made donations to the Bisley Butts Appeal.

37 Rifle Club	Dixon, Matt	Jones, David
Adams, Ian	Dobson, David	Jones, Peter
Aldridge, Ken	Downer, James	Kelly, Mick
Anderson, Donald and Guy	Duffield, Andy	Kelly, Stephen
Argent, David	Dyke, Digby	Kenchington, Richard
Aspin, Anton	Eagle Rifle & Pistol Club	Kidderminster Rifle Club
Baker, Robin	East London Small Arms	Kidner, Tim
Bampton, SJ	Association	King, GC
Bankhead, HJ	Elgar, Peter	Kingsland, Richard
Bassingbourne Rifle & Pistol Club	Elgood, Christopher	Knight, John
Bayford, Garry	Eling, Trevor	Kolenko, Andy
Bayliss, D	Farmer, Andrew	Laker, Robert
Beard, Robert	Faulkner, Garnett	Lam, SJS
Bibby, Francis	Fleming, Richard	Leatherhead Rifle Club
Bilton, F	Freeman, Andy	Lee, David
Bingley, Michael and Joan	Frohnwieser, Dave	Lee Enfield Rifle Association
Bird, Frederick	Galbraith, Robert	Levsen, Stephen
Bisley V Club	Geldart, Charles	Lewis, Allan
Black, Michael	Gillett, Peter	Lewis, Christopher
Bloomfield, PH	Gilpin, George	Lorica Research Ltd
Bodman, FTE	Giulian, Terence	Lothian, Andrew
Boreham, Ben	Glen, John	McBrearty, JR
Bradford, Raymond	Goodger, Timothy	McLuckie, Keith
Brassington, Rob	Gordon, Clive and Yvonne	McNeil, John
Briant, Andrew	Gott, Vedran	Mack, Timothy
British Sporting Rifle Club	Great Britain Rifle Team to South	Mackay, John
Brooks, Charles	Africa 2006	MacLennan, WR
Burnaby, Stephen	Gregory, Michael	Maksimovic, Mik
Cade, Richard	Guillaume, Jach-Taillandier	Maldar, Martin
Cahill, John	Haddington, John	Marples, Glyn
Carr, Richard	Halahan, John	Martin, BJ
Cartwright, S	Haley, Chris	Martin, Richard
City of Salford Shooting Club	Hamblen -Thomas, Tom	Meadows, Bob
Claes, Gert	Hamilton, David	Mehta, James
Coles, Rebecca	Harwell Target Shooting Club	Mitchard, M
Collins, Jonathan	Hayes, Colin	Mitten, Lee
Connell, Ian	Henderson, Keith	Morgan, Dennis
Crouch, Raymond	Holdstock, Paul	Morris, Phil
Cudby, Brian	Holt, John	Mortimer, Geoff
Curtis, William	Horrocks, Dick	Mullins, Jonathan
Custance-Baker, LBH	Hossack, David	Murphy, Steven
Czaja, Peter	HPS Limited	Muzzle Loaders Association of
Davies, David	Ian Edgar (Liverpool) Ltd	Great Britain (Surrey Branch)
Deane, Dr and Mrs JR	Isis Rifle & Pistol Club	Newport IoW District Rifle Club
Dickenson, Charles	Jackman, John	Nicholson, Howard
Dixon, Angie	Johnson, AO	Nisbet, Kevin



Jeremy Staples and John Gardener with the team of volunteers digging out Cheylesmore.

(Photos: Carol Painting)

Noyes, CM
O'Dair, W
Old Cranleigh Rifle Club
Olding, Brian
Osborne, Andrew
Oundle Rifle & Pistol Club
Owen, Mike
Oxfordshire Rifle Association
Page, Stephen
Painting, DA
Palmer, Angus
Pannell, Chris
Pattinson, Simon
Payn, Sydney
Peden, Lindsey
Penrose, Stephen
Perella, David
Photon Shooting Club
Pickett, Tony

Pool, RS
Quy, Roger
Reid, Chris
Remon, DE
Richards, David
Robertson, Iain and Karen
Robinson, Dave
Roll Pickering, JA
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Westlake-Guy, Sue
Whitehead, John
Winney, Richard
Winter, L
Wormald, M
Yates, Malcolm

We would also like to thank the many anonymous donors who generously contributed to the Appeal and all those who helped by digging out the butts at Cheylesmore. Further donors will be acknowledged in the next Journal.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by James Watson

Over the past year, the NRA has made known our aim to reduce membership subscriptions. This will be made possible as a result of two factors; an increase in members and more efficient processes to manage the Membership Department.

We are moving towards an era of a single full membership category – the National Rifle Association is a **National** governing body and as such the subscription rate should be the same for everyone across the country. Those who use the Bisley facility pay for it, the NRA does not subsidise the National Shooting Centre; the NSC contributes to the cost of running the NRA!

Many will have noticed the new features on the NRA and NSC websites. Last year, we tested online entries, this year over half of all the Imperial Meeting entries were made online. Additionally, many of the entries for the Gallery Rifle events as well as the Open Day registrations and Fireworks Display tickets were available online. As part of ongoing improvements, members will now be able to pay their subscriptions by credit card online. Our intention is to make as much as possible available to members on a self-serve basis (such as notifying address changes) online. This automation will free up time for the Membership Department to deal with the increasing number of members (we now have over 5000 full individual members) and allowing more time to be spent on enquiries that cannot be dealt with using automated systems.

As these new processes are introduced saving time and cost, we expect to be able to bring down membership subscriptions. Following the successful offer of reduced membership for new members' subscriptions, we will be continuing the offer into 2007. Please help by introducing your friends and club colleagues to the NRA.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



*by
Martin
Farnan*

General

Communication with the Shooting Division

We should appreciate it if you could communicate with the Shooting Division by e-mail where possible. Since secretarial support is not available five days a week it is likely that response times will be shorter if e-mail is used, rather than letter or fax format. The relevant e-mail addresses are:

martin.farnan@nra.org.uk
brian.thomas@nra.org.uk
shootsec@nra.org.uk

Marksman's Calendar

The Marksman's Calendar is currently being compiled on the NRA and NSC websites. As usual I ask Club Secretaries to check this calendar carefully and let Karen Robertson have their own Club Fixtures List and details of any other Club Championships or Meetings, whether to be held at Bisley or elsewhere, as quickly as possible, preferably by e-mail to karen@nra.org.uk. Please do not include minor events such as practice sessions. Details should be with Karen by the beginning of January.

The final version of the Marksman's Calendar will be published in the Spring Journal. Since the printed Marksman's Calendar is of fixed size (A3) we reserve the right to edit entries where necessary.

Please note that whilst contact e-mail addresses are hidden on the website-based calendar (to prevent spammers electronically harvesting your address), they will be visible on the printed and downloadable printed version. Please provide such contact details as you are happy to have made public.

Ranges

Markers

Again we remind you that markers are likely to remain in short supply, and that there is no guarantee that a

marker or markers can be supplied on any particular day. Individuals and, in particular, Club Secretaries are therefore again advised to make alternative arrangements where possible.

Please have consideration for the marker who is marking your target. Where possible stand him or her down if your target will not be used, eg during a team shoot. Use Message 10 or Message 12 where appropriate. Even a few minutes respite, as often as possible, will probably improve the standard of marking on your target.

Electronic Target Systems

The new electronic targets have been installed and are available for use. They have proved extremely popular (see reports elsewhere in this Journal) and we plan to make these targets available at 300, 500 and 600 yards on Century, and at 900 and 1000 yards on Stickledown, during low season. The hire charges are shown in the Range Hire Charges for 2007. Targets may be hired by clubs by the half day, and may also be hired, by full NRA members only, as a Range Office Target (ROT) by the hour.

Use of Stickledown during the Winter Months

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

- a only the line of flags between targets 36 and 37 will remain up;
- b manual targets to be used will be from target 37 onwards, ie Butts 3 and 4, plus the electronic targets on 17 and 30;
- c where booked, the required targets will be placed in the frames on Friday and covered as weather protection;
- d no target shed staff will be called in on Saturday or Sunday to repair or replace targets in the event of inclement weather.

Midweek bookings and shooting will continue as during the rest of the year. You must, of course, make bookings as usual.

We expect much greater use of the complex between 800 and 900 yards on butt zero during low season. This mini-complex comprises turning targets, moving targets, a simulated Converted Gallery Range (CGR) and a layout suitable for steels or falling plates. Enquiries about which matches may be shot on this mini-complex should be made to Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting.

Covered Firing Points

The marquees will shortly be erected on the 300 and 600 yards firing points (and possibly also at 500 yards) on Century range to accommodate all firers but particularly those using the electronic targets. It is hoped that these will encourage more shooters,

particularly from schools, to come to Bisley during the winter months.

Booking In at the Range Office

Clubs secretaries and individuals are reminded that they must be in possession of their club or individual membership card when booking in at the Range Office. This may well be particularly important in 2007. Failure to do so may entail a delay in processing your booking.

Range Closure Dates

To allow for proper setting up of the ranges, all ranges that will be used for the 2007 Phoenix Meeting (24 to 28 May 2007) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 23 May 2007. Please take note.

The 138th Imperial Meeting will be held one week later than this year (see below). The Service Skill at Arms Meetings will therefore start on Friday 29 June 2007. For this reason the annual de-leading of the butts, the Inter-Counties Meeting and the obligatory Services practice period will have to be held before this date. As a consequence there may be some disruption during this period, but we will do our best to minimise this.

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

Use of Benches on Short Siberia

All shooters are reminded that the benches on Short Siberia are for Bench Rest shooting only, and are not there for the use of anyone who has not booked them. All those who wish to use one or more benches at 100 yards must inform the Range Office accordingly when making the booking. One additional target to the

right hand side of the benches being used will then be kept clear as an obligatory safety space, since the normal firing point is forward of the benches.

If there are few bookings at 100 yards on the day concerned, and the safety target would not have been used, no additional charge will be made. If, however, the range is busy the shooters booking the benches will be required to pay for the additional safety target space in addition to the number of lanes used.

Range Safety

Despite repeated warnings, breaches of range safety continue to recur. You are reminded that the design of any particular range, and the associated Range Safety Certificate, are dependent on the type of shooting permitted on that range. Range users should take particular notice of the Range Regulations, published in the Range Office, which have been updated to take account of all recent changes. I emphasise paragraph 12 in particular, which explains the duties and the personal responsibilities of the Range Conducting Officer (RCO) who must sign in before shooting commences and sign out after shooting has finished. Any damage, breakages or poor firing points, together with the number of rounds fired, should be reported on the form when signing out.

Safety Boards

All range users are reminded that the safety boards are placed on the ranges to ensure that no firers or any ricochet-inducing objects are within the permitted 200 mil safety space from other range users. It has been reported that some range users have been observed parking their cars (particularly behind the 1000 yards firing point on Stickledown) beyond the safe space defined by the safety boards.

This is an extremely dangerous practice since the driver must have been in the car, and therefore in the danger area, when he parked the car or went to drive



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it away. Any firers found acting in this unsafe way, and thereby putting themselves and others at risk, will have their booking cancelled and will be asked to leave the range.

Safe 'Capping' of Muzzle Loading Firearms

A firer was recently reported capping his ML revolver behind the firing point. This was a very dangerous practice, particularly since he then pointed the revolver at other firers on the range. If I were able to identify the person concerned I would report him to the NRA Disciplinary Committee. Please take note of this particularly dangerous incident and, where appropriate, ensure that all capping of ML firearms is done only on the firing point.

Shooting Matters

Paramount Rifles

Owners of Paramount rifles may be aware of two accidents which took place last year in Australia. In one case a round detonated as it was being chambered, the eventual cause was found to be a problem with the two piece firing pin (which was made from Duralium/Aluminium). If you are a Paramount owner please take note of this and, if you consider it necessary, take appropriate action by speaking to your gunsmith and having both your bolt and your firing pin checked.

Use of other shooters' firearms

You are reminded that Section 15(1) of the Firearms Act allows full NRA members to use other shooters' firearms, but only of the types used by the NRA (target rifles, gallery rifles, muzzle loading pistols etc). This Section does not cover such firearms as Long Barrelled Revolvers (of any calibre), Section 1 Shotguns or Long Range Pistols. Such firearms are permitted to be used only by the owner, and may not legally be given to any other person to either handle or have a go.

The European Long Range Championships

These Championships were fired over the weekend 14 and 15 October and six teams competed. Results were as follows:

1	Channel Islands	8719.282
2	England	8711.278
3	Ireland	8707.296
4	Wales	8701.256
5	Scotland	8646.282
6	Germany	8492.211

In the Individual Championship, open to the top two scorers and one of the coaches from each country, shot at 1000 yards, the results were:

1	Sandy Walker	Scotland	145.3
2	Gareth Morris	Wales	144.5
3	Bruce Logan	Scotland	142.4

The Ages Match

This Match was fired over the weekend 28 and 29 October and seven teams competed. Results were as follows:

1	35s to 45s	5242.302
2	25s to 35s	5222.291
3	45s to 55s	5150.285
4	55s to 65s	5139.258
5	Under 25s	5105.286
6	Over 65s	5016.221
7	Under 25 Development	4946.234

In the Individual Championship, for the top scoring individual from each age group, the results were:

1	Jon Underwood	35-45	444.31
2	George Gilpin	25-35	443.28
3	Gary Alexander	45-55	441.31
4	Keith Pugh	55-65	441.24
5	Tom Hunter	Under 25	439.25
6	Tony Mitchell	Over 65	432.23
7	Helen Taylor	U 25 Dev	425.13

Open Days 2007

The Home Office have been asked to agree two NRA Open Days in 2007, on Saturday 5 May and Saturday 8 September. Please make a note of these dates which will be confirmed in the Spring Journal. We also plan to hold an Open Day at Altcar on Saturday 7 April 2007.

Change of County Eligibility

If any NRA member moves to a different county during a calendar year, please remember that it is not permitted, under NRA Rules, to shoot for two counties in the same year. In the event that a member may be considered a resident in two counties then he or she should arrange with the two county team captains concerned which county he or she should shoot for.

RCO Needed

A Range Conducting Officer is needed to help run the long range events at the Phoenix Meeting on Saturday 26 and the morning of Sunday 27 May 2007. Volunteers who help at the Meeting will get accommodation, breakfast, lunch, sponsorship goods and free entry to the tenth anniversary Phoenix Party where all food and drink is free. All enquires to Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting, at brian.thomas@nra.org.uk or by telephone on 01483 798808.

Imperial Meeting

Prize Lists

The Prize List has now been sent to the printers and should be ready for distribution, along with your medals, bars and prize money, in early December.

Dates for 2007

The 138th Imperial Meeting will be held from First Saturday 14 July to Final Saturday 28 July 2007. These events will be preceded by the Services and Cadets Meetings which will start on 29 June.

Programme

The programme of events for the 2007 Meeting will be broadly similar to that for 2006, with no radical changes proposed.

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2007. This will again be in the form of an A3 folded form. Page 1 will be full personal details, block entries and financial summary, page 2 will be for entries to individual matches and aggregates, and pages 3 and 4 will be notes. Only pages 1 and 2 need be returned, meaning that the competitor will retain the notes. All entry forms (other than Schools and Services which are sent to all those eligible) will again be posted on the NRA website. Entries and payment for TR and MR events may be made on the NRA website; we recommend entry by this means.

Service Rifle

There will be two main changes next year:

- a The Whitehead Inter-Services Pistol Match will now consist of all five practices of Match 11.
- b The Army Rifle Association will now be based on scores in Match 2, the Roupell Cup.

In the Services Meetings there will be a large number of changes, including:

- i a ten minute run prior to Match 3, the Henry Whitehead
- ii revised timings for Match 7, the Roberts
- iii the wearing of Combat Body Armour (CBA) as soon as enough sets of the same design can be made available for all competitors.

Full details will be available from the Army Rifle Association.

Schools Meeting

Any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2007 Bisley Bible.

Match Rifle

Any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2007 Bisley Bible.

Target Rifle

Any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2007 Bisley Bible.

F Class

As from 1 April 2007, F Class targets will have F Class V bulls, measuring three-quarters of a minute at each distance up to 600 yards, and 5" at long range, and scoring six points. The remainder of the TR V bull will then become the F Class bull 5, and all other scoring rings will effectively reduce by one scoring value. The TR bull 5 will become the F Class inner 4, the TR inner 4 will become the F Class magpie 3 etc. Scoring will be the same for all F Class competitors whether using their own or issued ammunition.

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

As planned we have reviewed the Gallery Rifle and Pistol events on offer during the Imperial Meeting. The plan for 2007 is to run a programme that offers the best of the more traditional events while also bringing on board some of the popular Gallery Rifle and Pistol events offered at, for example, the Phoenix Meeting. We will also be looking at the introduction of computerised squadding and scoring to improve the service we can offer to shooters.

Charles Murton, the Gallery Rifle and Pistol rep, has kindly agreed to take on the role of Match Director for the 2007 Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meeting. Over the next three months he will be working with Brian Thomas, the NSC Assistant Director of Shooting, to design a detailed range programme and build a team of volunteers to run the reception, squadding, range and stats. Further details will be published in the Spring Journal.

McQueen

The introduction of the 4" V bull was a great success this year, and allowed many more competitors to take part in this match. This will be repeated next year. All scores will be recorded in the same way as for TR. Only equal top scores (ie only those scoring 50.10, or those scoring 50.09 if no shooter scores 50.10 etc.) will then shoot-off on the afternoon of Second Thursday. If there is only one top score in any particular class then there will be no tie shoot in that class.

Trade Stands

If you plan to set up a Trade Stand during the Imperial Meeting please contact the Commercial Manager, Sarah Bunch, as soon as possible. A standard space (10m x 10m) will be £44 plus VAT per day, with larger sites in the region of £94 plus VAT. Space is limited, and early application is advisable. It is likely that these Trade Stands will revert to "Bazaar Lines", running from the Fultons Block down towards the 500 yards firing point.

Imperial Meeting 2008, 2009 and 2010

For information, the 2008 Imperial Meeting will run from First Saturday, 12 July, to Final Saturday, 26 July 2008. In 2009 the corresponding dates will be from 11 July to 25 July, and in 2010 from 10 July to 24 July.

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MATCH AIR RIFLES & PISTOLS (all pre-charged)

Anschutz	
8002-ALU, 7020 sights	£1395
8002 Junior, wood, 7020 sights	£835
2002-ALU, 7020 sights (one only)	£1099

Feinwerkbau	
P.700-ALU, silver	£1270
P.700 Junior	£930
P.700 Basic	£719
P.70 FT	£1240
P.40 pistol	£850
P.40 Basic	£735
P.55, 5-shot	£990

Gehmann	
AP.609 pistol	£535

Match Guns	
MG1E pistol, electronic, swivel grip	£789
GP-1 pistol	£599

Morini	
162.EA & Short pistol, electronic	£775
162.M & Short, mechanical	£689

Rohm	
Twinmaster 'Top' pistol	£395
Twinmaster 'Allrounder'	£350

Steyr	
LG-110, silver	£1195
LG-110 LIGHT, silver	£1165
LG-110 FT	£1090
LP10-P pistol	£889
LP-2 pistol	£725
LP-2 Compact	£725
LP50-P, 5-shot	£949

Walther	
LG.300 XT Carbon	£1590
LG.300 XT Alutec Evolution	£1190
LG.300 XT Alutec	£1130
LG.300 XT Alutec Junior	£1160
LG.300 XT wood	£945
LG.300 XT Junior, wood	£850
LG.300 Dominator FT	£1060
LP.300 XT pistol	£860

SHOOTING FRAMES (£19 Only off your prescription)

300 Gehmann	£99
320 Varga, with ISSF eyeshield	£69
332 Knobloch	£115
339 Neyeshield	£15
333 eyeshield with hinged sideshield	£19
337 yellow, light & dk. brown filters for 340	£53
345 matching frosted filters for the non-aiming eye	£30
340 iris, improves depth-of-field (accepts 337 above)	£45
344 centering device for correct alignment	£17
342 lens holders: 23mm, 37mm, 23mm stepped etc	£23
390 iris, clips to your normal glasses	£50
391 eyeshield for non-aiming eye (fits as above)	£17
393 mini stick-on iris for normal glasses	£44

SMALL-BORE RIFLES (all include sights)

Anschutz	
1913-ALU (can be Gehmann sights)	£1795
1907-ALU (as above)	£1735
1907 Club, wood	£1015
1903, wood	£795
1903 Junior Target, wood	£760
Feinwerkbau	
2700-ALU, silver: 24mm long barrel	£1485
Walther	
KK.300-ALU, silver	£1375
KK.300 Universal	£1085

GEHMANN SIGHT EQUIPMENT

595 lockable rearsight, very short	£215
518 'Clearview', wind-flag viewer	£380
780-N. ISSF eyeshield, push-fit	£10
781-N. ISSF eyeshield, fits on thread	£8
510 rearsight iris only	£45
550 iris & twin polarisers	£82
565 iris, 6 cols, twin polarisers	£110
566 iris & 6 colours	£85
530 iris & 1.5x diopter (+/- 4.5)	£109
551 iris, 1.5x, single polariser	£128
570 iris, 1.5x, 6 colours	£135
575 iris, 1.5x, 6 cols, twin pols	£159
545.MC iris, 1.5x, 48 cols, 5 col rings	£160
546.MC iris, 1.5x, 48 cols, twin pols	£188
577 adaptor, allows use less 1.5x	£9
597 crossover prism	£192
597 A/Bcradles to accommodate iris	
556 rearsight anti-glare tubes 25 / 35mm	£14
592 micro-adj spirit level for r's rail	£75
523 ISSF length f'sight for iris use	£32
520 foresight iris, seen as metal element	£59
522 as perspex element	£80
525 with fine crosshair	£72
528 crosshair switchable to level	£78
548 square iris	£129
521 FQ ring-thick level /crosshair tube	£109
521 Gring-thickening tube, perspex	£109
535 single side r-thick: as element	£125
536 single-side r-thick: as perspex	£125
537 single-side r-thick: crosshair	£125
581 spirit level, radially adjustable	£39
582 sp. level, micro adj. on ext rails	£97
583 sp. level, illuminated with filters	£79
591 spirit level, held by clamp ring	£37
558 foresight anti-glare tube, thread for iris	£14

SIGHTS & SIGHT EQUIPMENT

Anschutz	
6834 set	£269
6805 /10 rearsight only	£199
7020 set	£349
7002 /10 or /20 rearsight only	£299
7002L / 10 or / 20, LEFT-HAND	£299
6765 anti-glare tube	£20
6700-20 rubber eyecup	£10
6832 cantable foresight	£59
6522-9 metal element	£4
6835 anti-glare tube	£19
6586-20, clip-on element shade	£5
6817 high bases	£62
6713/1 high bases, M.54 - 18- series	£49
6822-12 perspex element grip collar	£10
6522 perspex elements	£6

Feinwerkbau	
3.2.007 rearsight, 601 & onward	£249
1780.120.2, foresight, 22mm	£49
1780.8, perspex elements, 22mm	£8
1746.902.2, high bases, 13mm, 602 on	£55
1752.915.2, 8.5mm, 601 on	£40
3.2.028.105, 13mm, 601 to P.70	£66

Steyr	
Adjustable rearsight	£199
height & windage adj, high bases	£65
high bases, LG-88 to LG-100	£55

Walther	
263 46 94, rearsight	£220
245 70 32, foresight	£45
270 42 00, high bases, 18mm	£45
243 63 70, 10mm	£45
269 84 71, 8mm	£49
265 98 59, 4mm	£35

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403 jacket: canvas, light / dark blue & white,	
..... left or right	£125
404 leather & canvas,	
..... matching style (404R) for ladies	£159
418 leather & canvas, black & white	
..... - a de luxe bargain!	£220
427 trousers: canvas, colours to match 404	£129
422 canvas, colours to match 418	
..... (m-to-measure option)	£289
428 trouser belt	£20

461 glove: leather, anthracite,	
..... left or right-hand shooter	£45
464 leather, blue / black & white	£29
466 half-cover, all fingers, leather, blue	£44
469 Gehmann's best cowhide,	
..... 'Top Grip' rubber, grey	£45

430 sling: leather (Junior version, shorter: 433)	£39
431 artificial material, universal	
..... micro-adjustable joint	£75
432 artificial - but otherwise as 430, black	£34
435 artificial - micro-adjustable for length, green	£55
436 as above, less micro-adjustment	£39
437 artificial, 3 no-slip sliders for	
..... speed & ease of use	£32
438 sling claw, attaches sling to swivel on rifle	£8
439 coat hook for sleeve to hold sling in position	£6

482 boots: velcro-closure & full lacing,	
..... black & blue	£149
483 shoes: lace-up, black	£99
489 shoe tree: maintains sole flat	£30

425 Mouche pullover, light padded elbow,	
..... rib-stitch	£70
475 Mouche underwear suit,	
..... vest light elbow padding	£56

490 kneeling roll, suede leather, with cork filler	£40
---	-----

281 'Top Grip' rubber sheet, nominal 90 x 40cms	£35
429 buttons, pierce-through, jackets or trousers	£2
AHG 'Buttoning Aid' - the best !!!	£15

444 headband & eyeshield:	
..... ISSF (various opacities)	£25
395 headband with 390 quality iris	£63
443 cap: red & blue or green & black,	
..... eyeshield & sides	£22

ON-RANGE EQUIPMENT

Rhino 20 - 60 x 60 angled scope, camera base	£139
274 alloy bi-pod stand for above universal mount	£79
2743 as above, for 3-P, all parts more robust	£129
278 vertical extension for both the above, 61cms	£16
SCS zip-up waterproof cover for 20 - 60 x 60 scope	£24
284 w/proof heavy-duty 4-fold mat, green or blue	£69
287 fluoro elasticated waterproof rifle cover	£12
710 Gehmann beech .22 cartridge box, for 80	£49
MTM moulded plastic .22 cartridge box, for 200	£19
900 G'mann rubber breech plug & flag: .177 to .308	£5
VFG cleaning felts & reed adaptors: .17 to 10.3mm	
Gunguard 13" double rifle case, IATA lockable	£89
Gunguard 11" single rifle	£85
Gunguard 9" single rifle without sights fitted	£79
Gunguard take-down, short, for carbine, FT etc	£75
958 Gehmann alloy, 122 x 33 x 10cms	£175
734 'Backpacker' slip, 10cms foam, ext. pouch	£59
739 slip: 6cms foam, black	£55
950 pistol case: alloy, two match air pistols	£49
980 pistol case: rollers & pull-out handle	£75
450 shooter's bag, wide rollers & pull-out handle	£59

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by
*Phyllis
Farnan*

NRA Training Courses

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

New Member Induction Day

An induction day is run for new members who do not need to complete the full Probationary course. This induction includes briefing on range safety, NRA booking procedures, a TR assessment on the range and a lesson on gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistols.

Probationary Member Course

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

Skills Courses

These weekend courses are open to full members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs and to adult and cadet members of the cadet forces. The course is designed to enhance individual knowledge and shooting skills. Courses are offered in spring and autumn each year at Bisley, but can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NRA.

Club Instructor Course

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

Club Coach Course

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

Wind Coaching Course

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

RCO Course

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

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

RCO Endorsement Courses

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

The British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) runs Club Instructor courses for sporting rifle and the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) runs the RCO Endorsement course for muzzle loading firearms.

RCO Assessor Course

There will be an RCO Assessor course in Spring 2007. NRA Range Conducting Officers who have at least five

years experience in running ranges for their clubs and have instructional or teaching skills who would like to become NRA RCO Assessors are invited to apply to the Director of Training for an application form. We are particularly keen to recruit candidates from Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall as a number of our Assessors from these areas have retired or are about to retire. NRA RCO Assessors should also be individual members of the NRA.

RCO Assessor Update Course

An update course for all current RCO Assessors will be held on Saturday 27 January 2007 at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley.

Bisley Course Dates for 2007 (Proposed)

Probationary courses

2007/1 begins 3 February

2007/2 begins 31 March

2007/3 begins 2 June

2007/4 begins 1 September

2007/5 begins 13 October

2007/6 begins 17 November

Cadet Coaching course (Schools and Open Units)

12 - 16 February

Skills and Club Instructor courses (two day course)

17 - 18 March

10 - 11 Nov

Wind Coaching courses

24 - 25 March

20 July (short half day course)

Club Coach Course (three days)

14 October and 20 - 21 October

RCO Courses at Bisley (one day course)

10, 11 March

19, 20 May

29, 30 September

4 November

Optional study days will be held on:

4 March, 13 May, 23 September, 28 October

RCO Assessor annual update

27 January

RCO Assessor course (two day course)

21 - 22 April

The programme for all NRA courses at Bisley for 2007 will be shown on the NRA website once all the dates have been finalised: www.nra.org.uk

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

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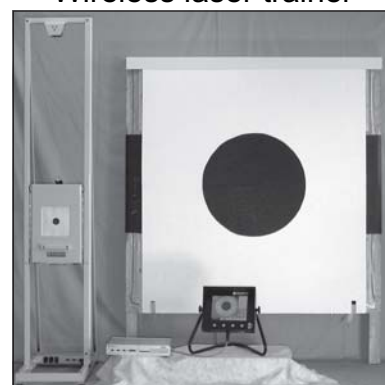
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NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by
*Jeremy
Staples*

August Storms

Elsewhere in the Journal you will find a report of the August storms which devastated the stop butts on all our ranges. I would like to thank members for all their support during this difficult time and the NSC staff for ensuring that the ranges re-opened at the earliest possible opportunity.

I should also like to pay a special tribute to Brian Brimfield, our contractor, who worked very long hours in extremely difficult circumstances to ensure that the refurbishment work was carried out to a high standard and within a very limited timescale. Many thanks Brian.

I should also like to pay tribute to the members of all disciplines who came out and helped hand dig the targetry from the sand at Cheylesmore, which reduced the cost for the refurbishment of this range by over £4000.

NRA Open Day

Due to the flood damage we had to reorganise the Autumn Open Day for Saturday 14 October. Once again we were very grateful to all the volunteers who helped us coaching and acted as support staff on the day. Over 800 attended the event and a good number have signed up for probationary courses and to join the NRA.

Electronic Targets

These targets were finally commissioned during September this year and after a number of teething troubles have proved to be very successful and popular with the members. These targets will be available by the hour or half day during the week over the winter period on particular firing points and I would urge you to come down and try them out if you have not already done so. Please contact the Range Office on 01483 797777 ext 152 if you wish to book a target.

Hog Rally

Over the first weekend in August we again hosted the Harley Davidson motorcycle rally at Bisley with numbers approaching 2000 people. These events take up all our accommodation and camping areas and prove to be very popular with both the participants and members and provide valuable income during a traditionally quiet period. HOG have again booked for next year and we are always on the lookout for similar events where we can fit these in around the main shooting season.

Staff

We are very sorry to lose Chris Bushell and Hannah Blondell from the Estate staff and Michael Lucking from the Range Office.

We are pleased to welcome Michael Batty and Jess Etherington onto the Estate staff. Steve Rubley is moving from the Estate staff into the Range Office. We also welcome Tyra Ferns as receptionist at the Clays.

Long Term Car Parking

There have been a number of incidents recently where members have left cars on the estate for long periods of time without informing anybody at the NSC. Some of these cars have been removed as scrap. In future if a member wishes to leave a vehicle here for a period in excess of two weeks they should inform the Range Office; there will be a nominal charge for a period in excess of thirty days.

CCTV

We are still investigating the installation of CCTV at the entrance to the estate and also on Site 7. The wireless system that had been recommended to us does not seem to be sufficiently powerful and we are continuing to investigate an approved system which will hopefully be installed within the next two or three months.

Recycling

After last year's Imperial Meeting it was suggested that we install recycling bins for glass during this year's Meeting. This was very expensive and cost in excess of £500. The bins were not well used and we will not be repeating this in 2007.

Suggestion Book Matters

Speeding on Camp

We were asked to ensure that all members and visitors to the estate comply with the 15mph speed limit. I believe this is a self-policing matter; members must take responsibility for the speed at which they drive.

Disabled Access to Ranges

It was mentioned that a number of shooters with medical dispensation were allowed to take cars to the firing points. A number of them travel at a speed which results in pedestrians being covered in dust. Please ensure that all shooters with access to the ranges drive at an appropriate speed to reduce this occurring.

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510



566



568MC



575

510 iris only	£45	568 iris, 48 cols, twin polys.	£149
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565 iris, 6 cols, twin polys.	£110	575 iris, 1.5x, 6 cols, twin polys.	£159



30



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468 Glove £53



464 Glove £29



432 Artificial £34



431 Micro-adjustable with universal joint £75

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Site 5 Ablutions being used by Markers

We note the concerns of the occupiers of Site 5 with the increased number of markers using the ablation blocks at the end of a busy day during the Imperial.

We are currently investigating the hiring in of mobile shower units for this period but obviously this will have an adverse effect on the cost of the Imperial Meeting.

Firing Points Maintenance

Once again the matter has been raised that there are a number of firing points that do not meet the necessary standard.

Numerous members have mentioned this to us; we have always asked them to let us know the location of these firing points so that we can address them in the future. We look forward to hearing members' comments together with details of where attention is required.

Real Estate

Former Sergeants Mess Dining Room

The NRA has been approached by a club interested in constructing a new clubhouse. Due to the nature of our charitable status we are required to advertise this approach to the membership and invite expressions of interest from other clubs interested in erecting a clubhouse at Bisley. Any other clubs interested in erecting a clubhouse on this site should contact Jeremy Staples in writing by noon on 31 January 2007.

Torpedo Shed

The NRA has been approached by a commercial operation interested in constructing a new industrial warehouse unit on the site of the existing Torpedo Shed. The unit could range between 2000 and 4500 square feet, subject to planning.

Due to the nature of our charitable status we are required to advertise this approach to the membership and invite expressions of interest from other interested commercial operations looking for facilities at Bisley. Any other interested party should contact Jeremy Staples in writing by noon on 31 January 2007.

Richardson Lodge

The NRA has recently taken back this property and now offers it to members on a full repairing and insuring lease for a term of up to 21 years. We are looking for expressions of interest from individuals at which time we will be in a position to let them have an information pack containing the proposed Heads of Terms together with a copy of the draft lease for the property.

The property comprises a two bedroom bungalow together with lounge, bathroom and kitchen.

Occupation will be from 1 March 2007. Any expressions of interest should be sent to Jeremy Staples in writing by noon on 31 January 2007.

FORTHCOMING TOURS

Great Britain Palma Team

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

Captain

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

Vice-Captain

Andy Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Adjutant

Nigel Ball GB, England and Norfolk

Armourer

Anton Aspin GB, England and Cheshire

Coaches

Matt Charlton GB, Scotland and London

Simon Cleveland GB, England and Surrey

Nick Hinchliffe GB, England and Cheshire

Jeremy Langley GB, England and Devon

Reg Roberts GB, England and Sussex

Shooters

David Armstrong GB, England and Surrey

Nick Brasier GB, England and London

David Calvert GB, Ireland and Ulster

Jon Cload GB, England and Sussex

Rupert Dix GB, England and Somerset

David Dyson GB, England and Yorkshire

Peter Holden GB, England and Norfolk

Richard Jeens GB, Wales and Gloucestershire

David Luckman GB, England and Somerset

Ross McQuillan GB, Ireland and Ulster

Jane Messer GB, England and Sussex

Gareth Morris GB, Wales and Cambridgeshire

Parag Patel GB, England and Surrey

Toby Raincock GB, England and Surrey

Rich Stewart GB, England and Norfolk

Jon Underwood GB, England and Surrey

James Watson GB, England and Northants, Leics & Rutland

Reserves

Rick Shouler GB, England and Nottinghamshire

Jon Sweet GB, Scotland and Hertfordshire

Michael Walton GB, England and London

Great Britain Under 25 Team to Canada 2007

The following have been selected as the Great Britain U25 team to compete in the World Championships in Canada 2007.

Captain

Ed Jeens GBU25, Wales, London

Vice-Captain

Ed Welford GBU25, England, Hampshire

Adjutant

James Lawrie Scotland, Lincolnshire

Shooters

Dan Blake	NRA, County of London
Jonny Borland	Scotland, GBU19, East of Scotland
Richard Heathcote	Hertfordshire
Alex Hoyle	GBU19, Yorkshire
Tom Hunter	Scotland, GBU19, London
Jon Kent	GBU25, Surrey
Phil Lucey	Scotland, West of Scotland
Graham Nelson	GBU25, Northumberland
Rob Nelson	GBU19, Lincolnshire
Peter Seeböhm	Hertfordshire
Alexander Walker	GBU25, Scotland, Suffolk

Reserves

Sam Adamson	Scotland, GBU19, West of Scotland
Sam Dash	GBU19, Sussex
Rachel Wenham	GBU25, Wales
Jonny Wallace	Ulster, Army

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2007

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands in 2007.

Captain

Gary Alexander	GB, Ireland and Tyrone
----------------	------------------------

Vice-Captain

Jon Underwood	GB, England and Surrey
---------------	------------------------

Adjutant

Tim Bedwell	Buckinghamshire
-------------	-----------------

Coaches

Colin Brook	GB, England and Wiltshire
Mary Boston	GB, England and Lincolnshire

Shooters

Charlotte Aldridge	Norfolk
Paul Charlton	GB, Ireland and Wiltshire
Reg Curtis	Buckinghamshire
Ian Davison	England and Yorkshire
Holly Foster	Norfolk
Peter Halford	Kent
David Rose	Surrey
Simon Shouler	Nottinghamshire
Stuart Young	England and Lancashire

Reserves

Jason Curd	Kent
Ben Stevens	Surrey

Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa 2008

NRA Council has honoured me with the Captaincy of the GBRT to South Africa in 2008. I am delighted that David Dyson has accepted the role of Vice-Captain and Martin Townsend that of Main Coach.

It is understood that no GB Team has ever won the prestigious Protea Match at Bloemfontein and I seek applications from team players who have the ambition to be part of a winning GB Team. Although I seek a core of well proven international coaches and shooters

I very much hope to have the opportunity to award some well-deserved new caps in my team of 20.

I do not yet have precise dates but I expect the South African Championships to be held in early April 2008. In order to attract as many high quality applicants as possible my objective is to limit the duration of the tour to two weeks. As well as saving people's time, a shorter tour than usual should result in lower costs. In addition I would expect to hold two team practice weekends, one after the Palma Match in early autumn 2007 and one before departure in March 2008.

Those who have competed in South Africa know what a challenging experience it is, timed perfectly for the start of the UK shooting season. Applicants are requested to contact me with the following information:

- Name, address, telephone contact numbers, e-mail address.
- If you are not known to me please provide the name of a referee who is known to me.

Once I hear from applicants I will issue an application form which should preferably be completed as a word document and returned to me by e-mail. I would welcome applications by 6 January 2007 and hope to announce the team early in February 2007. This will give the team at least a year to prepare for the Protea Match. Meanwhile any queries can be directed to me at the address below.

Steven A Thomas
The Folly, Church Road,
Llanblethian, Cowbridge CF71 7JF
E-mail: satlacre@hotmail.com

GB Veterans Rifle Team to Canada 2007



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SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Gallery Rifle and Pistol

by Charles Murton

Deluge 2006

All the planning for the Gallery Rifle and Pistol National Championships in August was well in hand – so much so that the Meeting Director, Brian Thomas, had gone away for a well earned holiday. While he was away, I naturally e-mailed him a whole stack of things to do so I wasn't surprised when he phoned me on his first day back. But he didn't want to talk about the to-do list. Instead it was "Do you know about the flood damage?". "What flood damage?" said I in all innocence. He explained what had happened – and then told me he'd had to cancel the Nationals. After all the work everyone had put in to make them happen, this was very disappointing, but given the state of the ranges it was the only sensible thing to do.

Over the next few days I managed to have a look at the damage first hand. By now you'll all have seen the photos but if you see it in person it's difficult to describe how much of an impact it made on those of us who did. Fortunately the repair estimates started to firm up fairly quickly and it became clear that some of the ranges we use for GR&P would be fixed by the Bank Holiday weekend. So Brian and I put our heads together to see if we could salvage a fun shoot from the wreckage of the Nationals for the benefit of all the range crew and shooters who had cleared their weekend and couldn't find anything better to do with the time! We had to think of a name rather quickly – so "Deluge 2006" came to be.



A rare sight – yours truly using a gun instead of a computer!

In the event, the NSC staff and the contractors doing the range repairs all surpassed themselves. We were able to use Stickledown butt zero and the whole of Melville. Turnout wasn't huge, but the meeting covered its costs. Those who did come along were able to shoot a few of our usual events plus several new courses of fire. It was the ideal opportunity to experiment, so that's what we did. Some changes to our usual competitions may appear next year as a result of what we've learned.



Sarah Franklin, Oxford University Pistol Club and Stats team member, shooting the falling plates.



Julian Fox, author of our Squadding software, also getting in some rare range time. In case you're wondering, RO Graham Trimmer is holding a shot timer to Julian's ear...

A few photos are shown so you have some idea of what we got up to. Not all of the highlights were captured by the camera, though. Some of the more memorable items included:

- John Robinson setting a new British record for Advancing Target (GR Smallbore) with a score of 297 out of 300 – smashing the previous record of 293.
- Mandy Welford beating John Robinson by a single point in Advancing Target (GR Centrefire).
- Brian Thomas actually entering his first Gallery Rifle event (whether he wanted to or not!) and putting in such a good score on Multi-Target (GR Smallbore) that he beat quite a few very experienced shots (including Mandy Welford, who really should have been concentrating harder!).

Everyone who attended had a good time in a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Apart from a few showers, the weather was good to us. Because the

events were shot for fun, we didn't award any prizes or medals, but it seemed only fair to offer a little glory by publishing the results on the NRA and NSC websites.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say to all those people (too numerous to list, but you know who you are) who gave up their time to do the admin, run the ranges, etc, and to all the NSC and contractor staff who repaired the ranges so quickly, a very, very big thank you for making this meeting possible.

All of the damaged ranges have now been repaired and (barring any further disasters!) the National Championships for the Bianchi and 1500 events will be incorporated into our Autumn meeting, to be held on 28 and 29 October. This has been re-titled as the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Autumn National Championships (which is a bit of a mouthful so we just call it GRANC). As you will be reading this article after the end of October, the results should be on the websites and we hope to see you at our Spring Action Weekend in March!

F Class

by Paul Monaghan

F Class League

The league continues to flourish and to bring new F Class shooters into competitive shooting. The penultimate league shoot was held at Altcar in August and was attended by 33 shooters. It was won by K Mounsey. The final event held at Bisley in October resulted in a win for Adriaan de Jong of Germany. The overall winner of the F Class League for 2006 was Peter Wilson; a fuller report of the league follows later in this Journal.

Imperial Meeting

Once again we had an increased entry for the F Class in the Imperial Meeting. We had entrants from the Republic of Ireland, Germany, France, the Netherlands and South Africa, as well as the Home Countries.

As ever, the standard of shooting was high and the small targets did their job in reducing the number of ties. For much of the Meeting, it looked as if Carel Taljaard from South Africa was going to make it three F Class Grand Aggregate wins in a row. Competition had been close for the top three places between Carel, Wolfgang Scholze of Germany and Paul Monaghan from GB, but Carel had held the lead from Monday through to Wednesday. On the final day, it was still close enough to go any way, but in the end the lead changed and Paul won the title. The F Class St George's Final was also a close run thing. It ended with a three way tie between, yes, Carel Taljaard, Paul Monaghan and Wolfgang Scholze. Carel won the event on count-back with Paul second and Wolfgang

third. Fortunately, for a bit of variety, Colin Shorthouse won the F Class Queen's Final.

Entries were also increased for the issued ammunition class and the Grand Aggregate was won by P King.

The meeting of the F Class shooters after the competition was over was a relatively uncontroversial affair, which probably reflected the overall success of the Meeting. There were a number of suggestions for consideration for next year. These include the squadding of F Class shooters on a single butt. This would have a number of advantages both from the point of view of the shooter and the administration.

There was some discussion over the scoring for the issued ammunition class. The system used this year, which in theory meant that the same targets could be used for open and issued ammunition classes, in practice only caused confusion. The view of the issued ammunition shooters was that they were happy for both classes to use the same targets and scoring systems. The proposal was that next year the issued ammunition shooters use the same targets and scoring system as the open F Class. The sigh of relief from the stats office will be heard several hundred yards away if this is agreed!

Although the World Championships (at Bisley) are not until 2009, we are determined that the GB team will be as well prepared as possible. To give the new captain as long as possible, there is a request for nominations for the GB F Class Team Captain elsewhere in this Journal.

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

As we go to print we will be at the end of our competitive season so we look back on the last few months, which gave us vandalism and floods (the latter closing Butt 10) which was not a good situation to be in with World Championships and European Cups to attend.

CZ Grand Prix

Due to work and financial constraints only one shooter and myself attended this competition in Pilzen during May. Conditions were very windy and Simon Aldhouse just managed to scrape into the second round with 583. In the final he improved upon his first score to finish with 590 and seventh place.

During mid-June (Inter-Counties weekend) we were visited by persons unknown on a Saturday evening and our data cables were cut! This was discovered at 08:30 on Sunday as we prepared to start a competition. We were, however, able to jury rig it for the Sunday afternoon for practice but some shooters who had travelled from Northern Ireland and Isle of Man had to leave to catch afternoon flights so it was a very disappointing day. We have now repaired and strengthened the cable routing.

This also meant a cancellation of our June Sunday BFRC Match, which was there to enhance the preparation for the World Championships at the end of July. With the help of the Range Office we were able to get a few hours in for the team going to Zagreb on the Sunday before we left

Swiss Grand Prix

A team of three men went to Thun in early July. This was to try out the best three men from trials and recorded scores, in readiness for the World Championships. Again the scores were middle of the road but it was a valuable exercise for our new team member Harry Creevy. Simon was top score with 593 and 17th place.



Harry Creevy, fifth in Denmark with 597, the highest GB score overseas this season.

World Championships Zagreb

A team of three men and two ladies shot in Zagreb. In the Ladies Prone we had an NRA 300m first in that a mother and daughter shot the same competition, Mary Pearse and Hannah Pugsley (Hannah being the youngest competitor in any 300m event) which understandably attracted some press before we left. Hannah was also a member of the smallbore team shooting 50m prone a few days earlier.

Results for the men were surprising in that only two made the final; Simon had a steady shoot with 596, finishing in the middle of the pack whilst our new team member Harry Creevy shot 591. In the second round Harry acquitted himself well with 593 and Simon 594 but at this level of competition you needed 599 or 598 to make the medals!

The ladies finished in the lower half of the results within two points of each other but needing at least another ten points to get near the medals. However this was the first full international for Hannah who at 14 years old has a long future ahead.

Danish Grand Prix

Two of our World Championship team went to Aarhus in early August and had good results both qualifying on 594 for the second round. In the final Harry had a personal best with 597 and finished fifth whilst Simon with 593 finished 14th.

NRA v Clermont/Creil

The return match at Bisley should have been held on 2 and 3 September but was cancelled due to the butt damage after the downpour. It was hoped to reschedule the match but unfortunately our French friends were not able to raise a team for the new date.

However we were soon able to shoot again on Butt 10 due to the speed of Brian Brimfield and his JCBs; the cancelled June BFRC Match was shot on 17 September, the winner being Andy Campbell with 593.



Hannah Pugsley, the youngest competitor in the 300 Metres World Championships.

Europa Cup Finals

We had one qualifier attend this event in Winterthur (the event's home for the next three years). The result of the Mens Prone was a win for the Danish shooter Carsten Brandt on 598; Simon had a steady 590 and 14th place. The highlight of the competition was a new European Ladies Prone record from Germany's Harriet Holzberger with 598.

Sunday TR League

The league has been well supported this year with some new teams and we are promised even more for next season.

General

We have been happy to welcome the Palma Squad twice to our weekends as well as a London team who have both obtained valuable data on loads and other

related training techniques - they have promised to come back next year!

I am pleased to say we have also recruited a few new shooters to the discipline so the future looks good.

Both Norma and Lapua have released two new rounds suitable for 300m. The Norma in 6mm is called XC, this is a commercial production of an experimental round developed by American shooter David Tubb. Lapua have introduced a 6.5 mm x 47 with up to a 139 grains bullet and both appear to be very accurate.

Range Improvements

Work continues on improving the inside of the building where the new suspended ceiling was finished in mid-September. Butt improvements will continue together with external rework to the end of the building at the season end.

Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

Having a tendency to the cynical side of life, I imagine a collective sigh of relief was heard as the realisation that my usual scribblings were absent from the last Journal took hold. Blame it on the day job, or the passing years, but yes, I missed the copy date.

Looking back to the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, the return to all matches being available on the Sunday afternoon seems to have been welcomed; whilst the numbers, give or take a few, were maybe a little up, there were several more matches shot.

During the Meeting the NRA Percussion Revolver Championship was held, but the competitors all remarked that as it took an entire morning, this greatly restricted the time they had for other matches. The possibility was then discussed of moving it to another date, preferably within, or close to, another event with less competition. So far no candidate has emerged, but any ideas would be welcomed.

Relaxing in the late August sunshine of Poitu Charente, it was not the best time to be telephoned with the news of the great downpour, as I had an event planned for the first Saturday in September. Yet by the time I was home, the ranges were already being reopened and by the day nearly all were back in use. Thank you, NRA and NSC staff, for the can do energy that got us back in business so soon.

Rules and Match Conditions continue to raise problems and queries. Some have immediate and definite answers; others reveal grey or even unknown areas. One hinged on the definition of "Issue" in relation to Service Rifles. This becomes more of a question as we move into the era of the 1970s, when Governments were more and more buying commercial and custom Arms, particularly for their Special Forces. So, if I turn up with my 1967 transitional 7.62mm USMC Quantico

super duper twenty power scoped heavy Douglas barrelled special, can I use it as an issue Service Rifle, and promptly wipe out all the opposition? After all the US Government paid for it and issued it to some lucky Marine!

The answer is "No"; "As Issued" means that it was an item of general use, on the General Stores Catalogue, and issued to a Class of Servicemen of some number, and was on the equipment Scale of Major Units. One offs do not count, which might include Trials Rifles, especially if the design was not accepted.

Another query concerned the use of a single point sling in the SR(b) Class. This had me rushing off to the 1955 Bisley Bible and there it was, very helpful, in black and white; "the sling may be attached . . . at not more than two points". Now if my English is OK, then a sling attached at single point is legal; but we also have "The Spirit of the Original"; were they actually used? I really do not know, so the current answer is, maybe!

To my recollection they came from the smallbore circuit, where their use with a substantial cuff became necessary when the increasing accuracy of rifles revealed that vibration from the pulse in the arm was a problem. If anyone has any information on this piece of history, please let me know.

Occasionally, when a matter arises where some Regulatory Service, be it Police, Health and Safety or whatever, seems to have acted unfairly, keep the NRA informed. Whether or not we can help in an individual case, we cannot monitor the impact of regulations if we do not know.

By the time you read this the Trafalgar Meeting will have passed, and Christmas will be just around the corner; so I hope I see you at one of the Christmas shoots (and lunches!) in December.

Sporting Rifle

by John Kynoch

The BSRC has been working to reinvigorate International Shooting at the Running Deer, being conscious that it was Britain who introduced the event to the international scene when it was first included in the 1908 London Olympics.

Walter Winans won the Doubles shooting for the USA and promptly gave the NRA the fine silver cup that we still shoot for. Thomas "Ted" Rankin won the silver medal in both Singles and Doubles. His name subsequently appeared 26 times on the two Running Deer trophies in the inter-war period.

The event was last shot at World level in Cairo in 1962 and at the Olympics in Melbourne in 1956. Since then it has been fostered by the Nordic Shooting Union but that too has now ceased.

We have been pleased to find clubs in Norway who share our zeal and, having held a postal match against them in June, have inspired them to come over to Bisley to shoot all our Moving Target matches against us in June next year. We hope other Nordic clubs might join us.

400 IS JERSEY'S MAGIC NUMBER

by Daniel Richardson

Cliff Mallett, President of the Jersey Rifle Association, copes well under pressure. But even he will admit to taking a few seconds longer on his final three shots at 300 yards to ensure that the Jersey VIII went clean at the distance for the second time in as many years. Shooting in their annual match against the London & Middlesex RA for the Tom Anstey Trophy, alongside a BUSA team who were firing for lot more than mere honours, Jersey looked a totally different outfit from the one that finished a disappointing fourth in the Kolapore this year.

Mother and son Mary and John Norman were first down, Mary finishing first with a 50.4, followed seconds later by John who fared slightly better for a 50.7. Graeme Harris, enjoying one of his best seasons ever, was next on the mound, alongside Wally Langley. Twenty shots later and it was 200 ex 200. The coaches sensed that the magic '400' was possible, but neither dared mention it over the headsets. 19 year-old Daniel Richardson was next on the left, fresh from a second place finish in the Grand Aggregate the day before, partnered on the right by Debbie Thompson. The wind continued to behave itself and both converted their ten rounds into possibles, Thompson finishing with seven V bulls and Richardson with six. At the back of the mound, whispers flew back and forth as the final pairing, Cliff Mallett on the right and the ever in-form and lightning quick Richard Benest on the left, took centre stage. If Benest realised what was going on, he showed no signs of nerves; a perfect 50.10 fired in record time left the onus on the veteran Mallett. "7th to count, V bull. 8th to count, bull 5. 9th to count, bull 5." Was he wobbling? Was he heck. "Last on, V bull". Cue raucous applause.

Matches are rarely won at 300 yards, but they can be lost. The four points that Jersey gained on the students accounted for four out of the five that eventually separated the two teams after all three distances had

been contested. With Canada having scored 400 the previous day in the Canada Match, and with Great Britain recording a superlative 600 ex 600 in the America Match only hours later, Jersey's 400 takes the total of 'clear' scores in international matches to four this year, Great Britain having achieved the other at 500 yards in the Kolapore. The fact that Jersey had a squad of only 12 to select from makes the achievement that much more impressive and demonstrates that, in an increasingly competitive era, the twice Kolapore champions remain a force to be reckoned with on the international scene.

Mrs MM Norman	50.04
JJ Norman	50.07
WA Langley	50.07
GH Harris	50.06
DA Richardson	50.06
DA Thompson	50.07
CC Mallett Jnr	50.06
RA Benest	50.10

Total 400.53



Jersey - a force to be reckoned with!

ELECTRONIC TARGETS - TRAINING IN THE 21ST CENTURY AT LAST

by Mik Maksimovic

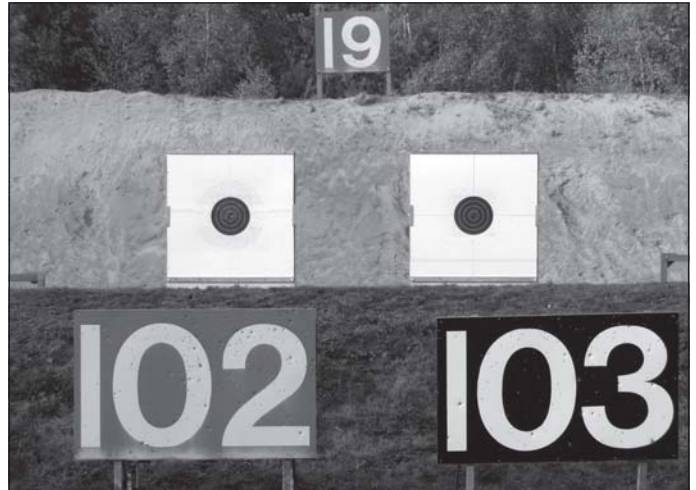
We now have Haring electronic wireless targets. After months of negotiations and background work, they are finally installed and working.

I am not too sure about all the technical details, or what they feed the fairies that operate them in the butts, but I do know that Iain Robertson has spent many a late hour doing his sums on his laptop to see whether they could work or not. There have been many trials and tests and meetings and more meetings, and a wireless system was chosen from Haring. From a shooter's point of view this means I do not have to plug in anything incorrectly on the firing point. Good start so far.

I have used them four times so far and have been more than satisfied with the speed of the marking! Being a bit of a doubting Thomas, I fired a five round group last week and plotted it at approx ½ moa at 600 yards. Rushing off to the butts with my ruler in hand I was pleasantly surprised to be able to measure a ½ moa group exactly as I had plotted it from my little screen on the firing point. On the other hand I had a terrible shoot as I was mesmerised by the monitor and took my eyes off the wind flags, with understandable results.

Doing a long range test, I tested target 50 all the way from 800 yards to 1200 yards with not one blip in the marking. I normally tip the marker for a good day's marking, but unfortunately the NRA have not put a slot in the monitor for tips - bit slow of them!

Joking aside, you can get a lot of shooting done in an hour and a group of shooters can club together and have a very enjoyable day's shooting whilst being able to guarantee the marking quality. I still get the urge to pass a message 10 to the butts when having a break, but I suppose old habits die hard. Printouts are available from the Range Office, just a radio call away, so you can keep those really super shoots we all talk about but which are never believed. I feel the phrase



of "show me your printout" becoming a new Bisley catchphrase.

There are two monitors available for each electronic target of which there are ten available, three on Stickledown and seven on Century at varying distances. Shooting in pairs with your own monitor is extremely easy, you just press the button to swap targets from shooter one to two. You can even delete and start again if your shoots have not been too good. Seriously though, it could not be easier, pick up the phone and book one through the Range Office, turn up, collect monitors and radio, go to the firing point, switch on, select distance and type of target, shoot rifle and plot score card. Now what could be easier?

The idea is to have Range Office Targets at each distance every day, so that NRA members can book for an hour (cost £10, max two shooters an hour). Much cheaper per shot than with manual marking and three per target as the old ROT used to be. This will mean that you can take the odd half day off and have a shoot at Bisley at very short notice. You could even book at very short notice (depending on availability) a half or whole day, in guaranteed glorious sunshine! Why not make a day of it with friends?

The benefits to members and clubs alike go on and on. We can check the weather forecast and book at shorter notice than ever before, almost guaranteeing the weather.

There are going to be glitches in any new system and gremlins that will appear, but our Range Office staff seem to be getting to grips with it and deal with any problems reported by radio in an instant, with the flick of a switch, so to speak.

I do not believe that we are quite ready for competitive use yet, but I am sure that the day will come when the Chief Range Officers on Century and Stickledown issue the words of command "When your monitors have been enabled, you may carry on".

REPORT OF THE OPTICAL SIGHTS WORKING GROUP

by Paul Monaghan

Background

Some time ago, NRA GB received a request from ICFRA (International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations - the governing body for the World Long Range Championships (including Palma, Veterans, Under 25 and Under 21 matches) and the Australia Match), to support their proposals:

- 1 That Eagle Eye lenses on the front sight AND a lens in the rear sight should be allowed on target rifles for ICFRA events, and
- 2 To consider changing our rules in GB to come into line with this change.

After much discussion, both requests were turned down. However, the Shooting Committee felt that the question of just what help these additional lenses might provide was an open one.

The original reason for allowing the use of the Eagle Eye was to allow older shooters, whose eyes deteriorate in a number of ways, to be able to continue shooting at a reasonably competitive level. The downside is said to be the possibility that younger shooters with first class eyesight could gain an unfair advantage over other younger shooters by using an Eagle Eye. Eagle Eyes have been legal in GB for some years but their use remains somewhat controversial. ICFRA now propose to allow a rear sight lens as well. There has been considerable discussion over whether a telescope could be made out of such a combination, and the ICFRA position was that it probably could not: "enquiries . . . seem to indicate that this fear is groundless." There seemed to be much speculation but very few facts.

At the request of the Shooting Committee, a working group consisting of Dick Horrocks, Iain Robertson, Gary Alexander, Martin Farnan, David Calvert and Paul Monaghan was established. The first meeting discussed all aspects of the use of optics in TR but in particular the role played by Eagle Eye lenses. There was agreement that any optical device fixed to iron sights should compensate for a disadvantage (eg age-related vision deterioration) without creating an advantage to the normal shooter. There was also concern that a continued move down the optical aids path could change the fundamental nature of TR and that in fact MR and F class were possibilities for the 'optically challenged'. It was felt that the original reason for allowing Eagle Eyes – to enable those with deteriorating vision to continue in the sport when otherwise they would be unable to do so – had been, to some extent, abused and that the use of such magnifying aids could be considered contrary to the principles and ethos of the TR discipline. It was decided to conduct tests to determine exactly what advantage could be gained by adding a lens to the rear sight of a rifle fitted with an Eagle Eye as proposed by ICFRA.

The Test

On the afternoon of 4 August 2006 Gary Alexander, David Calvert, Martin Farnan and Paul Monaghan set up four rifles on the 1000 yards benches on Stickledown and established a sight picture of the target. One rifle had basic iron sights, one had a Galilean front sight as used for match rifle (a +0.75 dioptre) with a 'clearing lens' in the rear sight and two had Eagle Eye +0.5 dioptre front sights. These latter two rifles were used for testing various lens combinations – either single, fixed power lenses or a variable dioptre. Here we were indebted to Gary Alexander (BSc [Hons] MCOptom - so he knows what he is talking about) whose loan of a series of lenses and his professional understanding of the optical characteristics of these lenses made the tests actually work. Without this invaluable help we would have not been able to come to the clear conclusions that we did.

The Results

1 The MR Galilean sights.

All agreed that this combination provides an enlarged and sharp image of the target with a clear image of the front sight.

2 The Eagle Eye.

Taking the varying visual perception caused by different eyeballs into account, an Eagle Eye gives a larger and slightly blurred image.

3 Eagle Eye with a lens in the rear sight.

A +0.5 dioptre Eagle Eye on the foresight with a -0.25 or -0.5 dioptre lens in the rear sight (it depended on the eyesight of the shooter) gave a magnified, clear image. There was no question that it was possible to see the target numbers clearly and a sharp aiming mark whilst still having a sharp image of the front sight ring.

4 Eagle Eye and variable dioptre in the rear sight.

A variable dioptre is just a convenient way to have a choice of lenses in the rear sight. For these experiments it was useful as it allowed a number of shooters to refine their sight picture with an Eagle Eye in the foresight. With this combination it was possible rapidly to adjust the lens to provide a clear image of the target and also a clear image of the front sight. This experiment showed that with patience, an Eagle Eye and rear lens combination could be selected to provide an enlarged and clear sight picture.

Conclusions

- 1 The ICFRA request to allow an Eagle Eye in the front sight and a lens in the rear sight can result in a telescope sight system. That is to say it can provide a clear and enlarged image of both front sight and the target.
- 2 Whilst the ICFRA proposal at present offers some restoration of clarity for those with impaired vision it also provides a possible advantage to the normal shooter.

Proposal

Given the above discussions and findings, the proposal is that we return to the concept behind the Eagle Eye introduction, namely that only shooters over a specified age should be permitted to use an Eagle Eye, or an Eagle Eye and rear sight lens combination. In addition, shooters of less than the specified age, but who have significantly impaired vision should also be permitted to use an Eagle Eye, or an Eagle Eye and rear sight lens combination. This proposal would effectively return TR shooting to its recent roots as a discipline using iron sights (without magnifying optics), a move that would also bring us in line with other target shooting disciplines. The proposed concession for the elderly or significantly visually impaired would allow some of those who would otherwise have to cease target rifle shooting to continue with their sport.

In making this proposal, we realise that, of course, that there are counter arguments of which the following two are particularly significant.

- Firstly, any arbitrary age limit could be argued to be unfair. However if the original aims of the Eagle Eye introduction (allowing older shooters to continue shooting) are to be met, then some form of restriction to those who need it seems logical.
- Secondly, how will shooters who currently use an Eagle Eye, but could in the future be prevented from doing so, view this rule change?

This is clearly an important issue for target rifle and any decision must be made with as much information as possible. Please join the debate and pass your comments and opinions to the Optical Sights Working Group; either e-mail Sally Philcox at shootsec@nra.org.uk or via the website (Eagle Eye debate).

Question 1

Do you think the current rules allowing optical magnifying aids (Eagle Eye) should remain unchanged?

Question 2

If you think there should be a change, do you support the concept outlined in this document? If not, what changes would you like to see? Other options might include:

Allowing for all an additional lens in the rear sight, which, in addition to an Eagle Eye, would provide a simple telescope (ie as proposed by ICFRA).

Prohibiting the use of Eagle Eyes, or other magnifying optical aids, for all in the discipline of TR shooting.

Question 3

If you support the change proposed, where do you think the limits should be?

Age limit: the current age for Veterans is over 60. Is this a fair age for the Eagle Eye age limit?

Visual acuity: the proposal is visual acuity less than 6/9 with glasses.



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Andrew Tucker Target Sports

PO Box 28896, London, SW13 0YD

Telephone and Fax: 02088 762 131

F CLASS LEAGUE 2006

by Les Holgate

Are you sitting comfortably, then I'll begin . . .

The first round of the F Class League was held at Bisley in November 2005; further rounds followed at Diggle in May, Barry Buddon in June and Altcar in August. Unfortunately Journal space doesn't permit full reports from all rounds; for full reports please see our new website at www.f-class.org.uk.

October brought Round Five, the final round of the F Class League, which fittingly was to be held at Bisley, the place the league was created 12 months earlier. This was to be one of the largest fields of F Class shooters ever assembled in the UK with competitors from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany.

The competition took place on Saturday 21 October. There was a practice the previous day and it was followed on the Sunday by an international team shoot.

Approximately two thirds of the field turned out on a cool October morning for the Friday practice. The day started with light rain but that soon faded to leave a reasonable day. Competitors used this session just to check their settings for 800, 900 and 1000 yards. In some cases it was to establish a zero as some people had not shot at Bisley before; fortunately with a fairly steady left to right wind of between 3 to 5 minutes this wasn't too difficult. With this complete it left plenty of time to look around the Trafalgar Meeting which was also taking place at Bisley that weekend. As the exhibitors were just starting to set up for the weekend exhibition it meant people could take advantage of the stalls before the crowds arrived the following day.

Friday evening was an informal AGM for the League, with the London and Middlesex kindly donating a room. The main topic of conversation was the following year's events which would consist of six shoots; Tullamore (Republic of Ireland), Blair Atholl (Scotland), Bisley, Diggle, Altcar then back to Bisley for the final round once again. Those present thought it was unrealistic to expect

competitors to attend all the venues (some have a life outside shooting – strange people!) so we agreed that only the best four should count. Therefore if you can only make four shoots you will not be any worse off than someone who can attend all six. The advantage of attending all the shoots is that the best four scores count towards the final positions. Other topics included looking into establishing an F Class Association, which would be affiliated to the NRA. The now growing sport would have its own association, thus becoming less dependent on other organisations, which many F Class shooters felt did not represent their interests. Finally the Irish lads got a plug by reminding all present that they wanted to see as many as possible cross the waters in May to their second F Class competition which would again play host to many foreign teams, including some of the best American F Class shooters. If anyone wants to shoot against the Americans, going to Tullamore would be a lot cheaper than flying to the USA.

Saturday morning at 08:30 saw 58 competitors on Stickledown with the promise of traditional British weather - rain!

As the first detail settled down to shoot at 800 yards it started to rain slightly, but fortunately the wind was also only light with your scribe only needing about 1½ minutes of wind. Detail 2 started the same way but about two-thirds of the way through the wind suddenly picked up to about 4 minutes which caught most out. This was to be a sign of things to come. The problem was not just the strength but also the fact that it was fish-tailing. This was something I couldn't get the hang of all weekend, it being only the second time I had shot at Bisley . . . and there is my first excuse!

On a standard target this would be difficult enough but the League shoot was using the official F Class long range target, which has a 5" V bull and a 10" bull. Holding a ½ minute group proved impossible with only seven competitors keeping a clean sheet of 5s or V bulls. First place was won by Daniel Brough, of Border Barrels, with



an excellent 75.10 (for this competition the organisers had returned to the $V = 5.1$ system rather than $V = 6$ as this was the official ICFRA scoring system).

It was at 900 yards that the wheels fell off! The wind picked up which meant the fish-tailing increased considerably, suddenly high 60s were good scores with 4s becoming commonplace and 2s or 3s not unusual. Only one competitor, Mik Maksimovic, broke the 70 barrier with an extremely good score considering the conditions. It was only later that night as we made up excuses over a few glasses of beer that we realised some of the lower scores may still have been a 5 on the old target. So it looked like this target really would sort the men from the boys.

After the 900 yards shoot we broke for lunch, in some cases to lick our wounds. I decided against trading my 6.5 improved custom rifle for a black powder rifle at one of the Trafalgar exhibitor's stalls and again dragged myself back to the 1000 yards firing point.

As we started to set up the gear we noticed that the wind had picked up even more, (I later found out some had put as much as 10 minutes of wind on at times). This strong wind combined with switching direction changes proved to be fatal for some, particularly with elevation changes that appeared to come out of nowhere. Again 3s and 2s became the order of the day and 4s would be the main score for most shots. Fortunately for me this was my best distance (obviously there had been something wrong with my rifle at 900!) with an 11th overall. Not what I had hoped but it would have to do; in a field with as many quality shooters as this I shouldn't complain. The eventual winner of the 1000 yards stage was Adriaan de Jong of Germany with an amazing 91.7. The next nearest competitor finished five points behind showing how remarkable this score was. This score made Adriaan the winner of the F Class Autumn Challenge with 230.17.

So with the individual shoot over it was now down to the team event, a three way international between Great Britain, Germany and Republic of Ireland. The GB team captain, Des Parr, had announced earlier that day he was going to pick the squad purely on Saturday's results, which meant the team was Peter Wilson, Peter Hobson, Lee Tomlinson, Daniel Brough, David Kent, Les Bacon, Darren Stewart and finally your scribe. Unfortunately some such as Gregg Thompson who had finished an excellent fourth overall couldn't stay for Sunday.

This shoot was a coached shoot with the GB wind coaches being Pete Medhurst and Jo Wright. Paul Crosbie and Dennis Groom were the official record keepers.

At 900 yards the conditions were better than the previous day but the wind was still fish-tailing; by the end of the 900 yards stage team GB was 15 points behind Germany, a lead that proved to be unassailable.

At 1000 yards we pulled back some of the points, but not enough, which left Germany first, Great Britain second and Republic of Ireland third. These were very

difficult wind conditions for the normal Palma long range target, but on our target with smaller dimensions these scores were remarkable. Those who weren't involved in the main team match shot their own minor teams match. The winners of this were "Not the GB Team" on 537.27 against the "Odds and Sods" on 519.23. Those that did not get involved in the team matches spent the morning playing with the new electronic targets on Stickledown, "How does it know I'm shooting at it? It must be witchcraft" was the comment from one old and experienced shooter. The electronic targets impressed everyone who used them and calls of "Can't we use these in next year's competition" were heard all around the milling F Classers on Target 50.

With the shooting over it just left the presentation of prizes and announcing the winner of the F Class League 2006. Everything had come down to the final stage; the main two contenders had been Paul Crosbie who was leading and Peter Wilson who had been in second place. By the end of the day those places had reversed and Peter Wilson had won; well done to Peter and commiserations to Paul.

For those of you interested in the equipment used, Peter Wilson shoots a 7mm Boo Boo built by Pete Walker of Walker Custom Rifles.

One final point, none of this would have been possible without those that gave up their time to help run the show. Many thanks to John Gardener and his excellent Butts Crew, Jacko for his sympathetic and efficient Range Officering, Tina Maksimovic and Darren Stewart for doing the stats and, last but not least, Paul Crosbie, Des Parr, Les Holgate and Mik Maksimovic for their sterling efforts over the past year in organising the League. I should like to thank them all on behalf of my fellow competitors.



Barbara Hobson presents the League winner, Peter Wilson, with his trophy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16 JUNE 2006

Speech by John Jackman, Chairman

Good evening and thank you for coming. I do apologise that the second reminder notice in the Journal gave a different time to that of the first and valid announcement in the Spring Journal.

I have given leave of absence to the Secretary General, Glynn Alger who is away on a family commitment today. I am most grateful to Charles Brooks who has agreed to stand in as Secretary to the meeting. He is supported by Elaine Buttle and Heather Webb who will keep the record of the meeting for Glynn upon his return.

I am pleased to introduce for the first time my two new Vice-Chairmen, Julian Hartwell who is Vice-Chairman of the Council and Richard Horrocks who is Vice-Chairman of the General Council. I am also pleased to introduce and welcome in attendance Rob Hamlin from Baker Tilly, our Auditors.

On this occasion, rather than ask for the notice to be taken as read I shall ask the Acting Secretary to read it out.

"The following notice was given on page 9 of the Spring Journal 2006:

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

Thank you.

The first item is the re-election of the President. It is my honour and pleasure to propose the re-election of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. I readily make known my appreciation to his Royal Highness and his staff for their support of our affairs. May I have your agreement?

Agreed. Thank you.

I turn now to our Vice-Presidents. It is with much sadness that I have to announce the death of three of our distinguished Vice-Presidents since our last General Meeting, namely George Bramley of South Africa, Brian Hawkins of Kenya and Don Whiteman of New Zealand. Their obituaries appear in the Summer Journal. They will be greatly missed by the shooting fraternity. Would you please stand for a moment in their memory.

Agreed. Thank you.

On behalf of the Council it is my pleasure to propose the re-election of the current Vice-Presidents as listed on the reverse of the Agenda plus Mr JF Hallam, a longstanding Vice-President whose name was left off in error, together with John Kynoch and Ian Shirra-Gibb.

Both John Kynoch and Ian Shirra-Gibb have given sterling support to the Association for very many years in their chosen shooting disciplines which include, incidentally, the only two, of three - the other being centrefire pistol - of our shooting disciplines recognised by the ISSF. John was one of our sport's very few

Olympic medallists, winning bronze in 1972. As Deputy President and Chairman of the British Sporting Rifle Club, he has built up and modernised the Running Target facilities at Bisley and leads a thriving target shooting discipline. Ian took on the task of developing our 300 metres squad over 20 years ago, it having been put on the map with many successes in world target shooting sport by the late Malcolm Cooper. Although it is a minority sport in our terms, his squad members have been very successful in European and World Games and have enhanced the Association's international reputation far above their weight. Much is due to Ian's enthusiasm, focussing on training and leadership and he, too, has led modernisation with electronic targets on the 300 metres range at Bisley.

May I have your agreement?

Objections were raised to the re-election of Lt Col John Hoare.

It is the long-standing tradition of the NRA to re-elect Vice-Presidents. Vice-Presidents will have been put forward at some point in the past and elected in recognition of singular service to the NRA.

John Hoare is in dispute with the NSRA and various allegations have been made by the NSRA in relation to his conduct whilst employed by the NSRA. These are allegations and not proven. They are matters which do not concern the NRA. Accordingly, the Council, knowing of these allegations, found no reason to break tradition and refuse to put forward John Hoare for re-election. Does my response answer your concerns?

No? Then may I please first take a vote on all other proposals excluding Lt Col John Hoare?

Agreed. Thank you.

May I please now ask you to vote for John Hoare?

Lt Col JD Hoare was not re-elected, nem con.

Thank you, that is decided.

Next I turn to our Auditors. The re-appointment of Baker Tilly has been proposed and seconded by Mrs Iris Bennett and Mrs Karen Robertson, respectively.

May I have your agreement?

Agreed. Thank you.

I now turn to the Special Business of the Meeting. On behalf of the Council I propose some amendments to the Rules. A full explanation is given in the letter attached which I hope I may take as read? Before I put the Resolutions to you, I report that I have received one question, namely exactly why the existing Rule 1 is being deleted. I have given an explanation already to those who have approached us with this question.

In summary, I refer you to the foot of page 9 of the Special Resolutions document and my explanation which I gave on behalf of the Council. I emphasise that the Objects of the NRA cannot be changed without the

consent of the Members, the Privy Council and the Charity Commission. What the Council is required to do by the Charity Commission is to keep the current interpretation of the Objects up to date and state its strategy and objectives to enable this to be done. The latter is reflected in the Trustees' Annual Report - this year on page 4 of the Financial Statements which we shall be reviewing shortly during this meeting. It is no more complicated, nor of greater implication than this.

Are there any other questions?

In response to further concerns expressed about the removal of Clause 1 there were queries about the original purposes. The Chairman reminded the Members present that the 'Objects' "in defence of the Realm" as stated in the 1890 Royal Charter read: "... we, being desirous of promoting and encouraging rifle shooting throughout our dominions ... " with an original intent from 1859 that the purpose was for "giving permanence to Volunteer Corps, Naval and Military". The Chairman stated that he would arrange for the first public statement of the Chairman, Lord Elcho, in 1859, to be posted on the website.

Objections were raised that the Special Resolutions, enclosed with the Summer Journal, had arrived late and had thus invalidated the taking of the Resolutions at the AGM. The Chairman regretted that the Journal had not been sent out earlier, but, upon advice, declared that the notice was valid as it had been posted within time, according to the Rules, on 1 June. Those present concurred - two Members dissenting.

There were concerns expressed about the possible inadequate number of extra places on the General Council for all Shooting Discipline, Regional and Ex Officio members. There were concerns expressed about a Member being able to vote for only one of each Shooting Discipline or Region and a suggestion made that a charge be made for each Shooting Discipline chosen.

The Chairman said that the small increase in each category would give the Council, advised by the General Council, some flexibility as the Association is developed and, he said, it would be quite simple to revert with a Special Resolution to increase any number in a future year, if seen to be required.

It was observed that in Rule 7 (c) (iv) and (v) reference should have been made to 7 (c) (i) and not 7 (a) (i).

Subject to the amendment, may I now have your agreement to the Special Resolutions?

Agreed. Thank you.

The Accounts

The audited Financial Statements for the 15 month period ended 31 December 2005 have been circulated with the Agenda. I did produce an Interim Review which was published in the Spring Journal. I do not propose to say more as I have nothing to add at this time, but take questions. I do mention, however, that the Council reviewed the points made at the Spring General Meeting last year.

I propose to take questions on the accounts, first, followed by the Report of the Trustees and last my Chairman's Statement which provided an update to my

Interim Review. Following this I shall review a number of matters taking some forward from my Statement and take questions in an Open Forum.

First, therefore, questions on pages 8 to 16, the Accounts.

I have been given advance notice of one question, namely, "Why do the 2004 items of expense for the Imperial Meeting on page 5 differ from the figure of expense in the audited accounts on page 12, note 2?"

I want everyone to be quite clear on this. When I gave my interim report in the Spring Journal and the management account figures to 30 September I mentioned that some 2004 figures had been restated to be in line with internal analyses being used for 2005. This is also referred to towards the top of page 6 of the Financial Statements. The figures on page 5 of the Financial Statements are largely taken from the management accounts although the bottom line does agree, of course, with the formal audited SORP accounts. For example, you will see that the net deficit of £32,158 concurs with the figure towards the bottom right of page 8. In order to provide as informative an account as possible, figures for the management accounts for the prior year are restated. Ordinarily, the comparative figures of the formal audited SORP accounts (ie 2004 in this case) cannot be changed.

The main adjustment last year related to grossing up £100,894 of ammunition used in the Imperial Meeting and crediting it to Range Income where it better reflects the arrangements rather than netting it off in the Imperial Meeting figures as for many years past. This is one reason why Shooting Income is so much larger than 2004 - for those who spotted it.

I can now take further questions? *None.*

The Report of the Trustees? *None.*

The Statement of the Chairman? *None.*

Thank you.

I do hope that I can also take my Interim Review in the Spring Journal as read and there are just a few developments which I should like to touch upon.

Governing Body

Glynn Alger joined us in April 2004 and embarked on a massive task on a broad front to establish and develop what we call our Membership Services. This includes most importantly our public relations with the Parliaments at Westminster and Edinburgh (so far), the Police, Media and the enhancement of our presence UK wide. With him we have made progress on all these fronts. I commend you to his articles in the Journal. He also writes articles for Target Sports on our behalf which reach many fullbore shooters who are not currently members.

Membership of the Association is a vital commitment for shooters to the National Governing Body to support the development of target shooting. It is appreciated that it calls for confidence that the subscriptions, life or annual, will be well spent. It is appreciated that

members make this investment with little direct personal benefit, but this reflects that we are a Charity and, as a Charity, our subscriptions and donations carry the very important Gift Aid benefit in tax. Nevertheless, members, numerically, and subscription income are vital to ensure that we have the resource to provide our target shooting sport with a viable and successful future.

On the membership front and with various initiatives we have been increasing our individual membership and I give you a summary of the latest statistics:

As of 12 June we had 4,840 paid up members with more due to be recorded which compares with a total of 4,704 at the end of 2005. For the second year we shall increase our membership, net.

Less members appear to be lapsing their membership and new members are increasing. Including 56 Probationary members, there were 467 new members as at 12 June of whom some 60% come from outside the Greater London and South East Region - a good trend.

In terms of primary shooting disciplines, Target Rifle remains at about 50% overall, followed by Sporting Rifle (9%) and Gallery Rifle (8%), but new TR members are just 42% with other shooting disciplines individually little changed. Secondary shooting disciplines, where provided to us, are fairly well spread with Gallery Rifle predominant at 10% overall and 14% new members this year.

Remembering that every applicant for membership has to be checked out this has been a considerable task and achievement. I give especial thanks to Heather Webb who has also had to contend with a new database, an office move, new insurance arrangements and difficulties with the launch of the new club arrangements to which I referred first in the Spring Journal. With dire lack of financial resources it should be noted that for a long period since 2001 she was Membership Secretary managing on her own with limited and irregular part-time support. With a leading role under Glynn and the initiatives he has introduced with the Membership Committee, she is now operating within a team to take us forward, and much of the recent success in recruitment of members is down to her.

As for clubs, the standardised capitation fee has been largely welcomed and we are pleased that we have been able to establish an enhanced and less expensive insurance package coupled with a Range Pass certificate. The disappointment has been progress over the licensing of clubs in the booking of MoD ranges. However, Glynn Alger is increasing his contact with the designated structures of the Ministry of Defence - Defence Estates and Landmarc - through the headquarters at Warminster and we have only recently received a restatement of commitment from the Commander in Chief to take matters forward as and when his staff and MoD arrangements permit. In turn the General has asked for help on certain ranges and for seeking to establish a more co-ordinated approach from clubs working together with us. We are being

offered the opportunity to take over some of the ranges on a lease or similar basis, particularly where, through our membership, we can offer support to cadets, for example - very much in our interest in any event.

We have long relied on a club structure. Increasingly, clubs find it difficult to recruit members and to recruit volunteers to run them. This applies everywhere and yet there are plenty of young people and others taking an interest in target shooting sport. Personally, I envisage that there will be a change of approach as the years go on. We are not unique as a sport or organisation in the above respects. Increasingly I believe that people see their sport in individual terms - a concept of 'turn up and shoot' at a venue run as an entity, maybe privately owned or leased, eg by a consortium of members. The CPSA have a network of regional range facilities accredited, but not run by the CPSA. I can see this possibility for us in due time especially with increasing use of electronic targetry. In the meantime, there is a lot to be done.

Although lapsed for a few years until 2003, the Association has long had a facility for financial support to club development. The Council has now formulated that policy and the policy statement is available to any club with development plans and requiring help, upon application to the Secretary General

Open Day at Altcar

At Bisley, we are reaping the problems arising from success. Our April Open Day was the most successful on record with some 1,435 visitors registered. It relies enormously on volunteer support. It is cheering that over 220 volunteer members helped and, of course, they have received our personal thanks individually.

Undoubtedly, Altcar is one of the most important national ranges for target shooters. The concept of an Open Day at Altcar was a completely new risk venture for us. Led by David Young and supported by Glynn Alger there was a major breakthrough in achieving Home Office and Police support which not so long ago I was told might never happen. I attended myself and most interesting for me was to meet not only many club members, but also the county Firearms Officer and two police officers who came to witness the event. With Liverpool as a high gun and knife crime area there was obvious underlying concern, but the occasion clearly did much to improve our own knowledge and experience and allay police fears, we hope. With poor weather a disadvantage, there were only some 120 registered visitors and mostly from contacts through clubs, but the response in interest was relatively good for the 18 clubs, including clay target and small-bore. The most important outcomes were that there is enthusiasm to build on it and that the 18 clubs and the some 70 volunteers came together in a way which was special and of the co-operation which we look for in the future and to which I have referred above. We thank David Young, in particular, for launching this event. We have received letters which confirm a determination to develop this event.

Commonwealth Games

The tremendous success of target shooting athletes in Melbourne has done us good and raised our profile with the media and public. There was interest in Parliament and new contacts have been made by MPs. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Glyn Barnet and Parag Patel on their gold medal success. Of course, the star of the Games was a target shooting athlete, Mick Gault with his now record 15 medals for an English athlete in the Commonwealth Games. He has clearly put target shooting sport 'in the frame'.

Following a recent visit to Bisley by the Managing Editor of the Daily Mail for a private and first ever shoot at 500 yards, he wrote to me with much enthusiasm. He also suggested that the time is ripe to employ a 'Max Clifford'. Seriously, he volunteered that an organisation in our position cannot afford professional help, but has prompted us, at his suggestion, to see whether there is potential for help from a member with PR skill to help us develop in house as a first step.

Bisley, the National Shooting Centre

It is now just over a year since the formal arrangements were finalised for the management of Bisley under the framework of the National Shooting Centre Limited (commonly known as NSC). In many ways, this exercise could not be completed until we could adequately resource our Governing Body, itself managed by Glynn Alger as Secretary General responsible to the Council, the Board of Trustees. The Company manages all the Association Charity (such as competitive events and property) and commercial activities at Bisley under the control of the Board of Directors of NSC - ie not the Council. Sometimes I refer to it as NSC/Bisley or Bisley/NSC. Essentially it is everything that is operated at Bisley, bar the Membership Services and the training unit.

We must always remember that Bisley is a significant asset of the Association worth conservatively £5m even with the shooting objective restriction and we look to its commercial and increasing shooting activity success in providing a profit return for the development of the whole NRA organisation.

Recently I had an informal meeting with the executive directors and senior staff to review the workings of the Agreement. I was very aware that the new concept of management represented change and especially cultural change. I sought to deal with all the concerns put to me frankly and fairly.

This is not least because for over 100 years Bisley has been seen as almost one and the same as the NRA itself, whereas the NRA's role is really UK wide. So often I have heard that the NRA has been Bisley-centric. This was probably less important many years ago when there were a large number of ranges around the country at which shooters could practice with little formality and little input from the Governing Body was required. All this has had to change.

It was pointed out to me that there are still many members who do not understand the change and need

for change. It is only with time and greater visibility of what the Governing Body achieves that this will be fully understood. It is however, very important that increasingly Governing Body matters are addressed to Glynn Alger and his staff to deal with rather than to the staff of NSC to minimise distraction and maximise efficiency of service in due course. At last we have a new telephone system and I hope that this helps.

Nevertheless, there are capital expenditure improvement plans for Bisley/NSC this year of some £100,000 including the investment in electronic targetry out of monies generated by Bisley/NSC.

At long last we are installing some electronic targets on Century and Stickledown. Our Running Target and 300m colleagues are already using electronic targets and the Huddersfield Rifle Club has had them installed for a couple of years with considerable success after ironing out initial teething problems. The potential benefits are enormous and I am sure that we should all wish the project success.

Once again, we should thank the Directors and Non-Executive Directors of NSC for all they have been doing to develop Bisley/NSC.

One National Governing Body for Target Shooting Sport

In conclusion I refer you to the announcement in the Secretary General's Report in the Journal and say that the three bodies are meeting again on 27 June following which an informal meeting and reception has been arranged for our staffs. Our staffs have been given an assurance that we do not envisage any loss of employment opportunities and, of course, our staff at Bisley/NSC would have a larger direct membership/customer base. I should be able to say more at the Bisley General Meeting.

Thank you.

Questions

Robert Aitken

Expressed great concern about the inability to book, problems with the booking of ranges in Scotland, problems with Landmarc and communications between/with the various authorities.

Roger Mason

Reported on the formation of the Bisley Residents' Group to represent views and contribute to future policy considerations for the development and use of the Camp. Tony Benham, as a caravaner with a club at Bisley, expressed concern about the formation of this body and said that he hoped that the NRA would look after its members. Roger Mason confirmed that there would be no subscription at this stage, but that he is looking for donations for setting up costs.

Chairman

Whilst confirming that the NRA does have a common interest with its members, welcomed the initiative as

being in line with Jeremy Staples' existing intent to have forums for meeting residents.

Stephen Lakin

Was concerned that insurance policy documents had not yet been received following the new Range Pass scheme which he welcomed. The Chairman affirmed that he had looked into the issues and that matters are in order - documents should be issued shortly.

Jim Hallam

Wished that the new post of Regional Manager had been advertised with members, that there should be regional championships in all major shooting disciplines and that there should be a co-ordinating calendar of major events to avoid unnecessary clashes. He also drew attention to the acronym of the proposed new single Governing Body (National Association of Target Shooting Sports.)

Paul Charlton

Asked if Minutes of Meetings could be posted on the website rather than reviewed in the office as heretofore.

Arthur Clarke

Made a plea for donations (of £5 and more) to help provide new barrels for 15 young shooters - "cadets are vital to the future".

Carol Painting

Made a plea for other than RG ammunition at the end of the current contract for supply.

Chairman

Explained that the "Package Deal" with the MoD comes to an end after the Bisley Meeting 2007 and that it is hoped that Heads of Terms will be reached by the end of this year for new arrangements. The quality of ammunition will be a key factor.

Chris Law

Expressed thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and the Council for their unpaid time, the considerable reduction in borrowings and direction for the successful future of the NRA.

Applause.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LONG RANGE RIFLE CLUB

by Keith Haskell

Founded in 1864, the CULRRC is one of the oldest rifle clubs in the country. It is devoted exclusively to Match Rifle shooting, and almost all the famous names of the past (Humphry, Hopton, Halford, Cottesloe, Edge, FW Jones etc) were members. Though many of its members are Cambridge alumni, other distinguished MR shots have been invited to join (because of the limited capacity of the Cambridge range, membership is by invitation only).

The CULRRC originally shot on a range in Grange Road, roughly where the University Rugby ground now stands, but shooting moved to Barton Road, a mile or so out of town, in the 1930s for safety reasons. Because the CULRRC paid part of the cost of acquiring the Barton Road range for the War Office (now MoD), it has the right to three days' shooting annually free of all charges.

The Club's only activity is a shoot at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards over two days for the Cambridge Cup: this usually takes place on the last Friday and Saturday in June, with practice on Thursday. Until 1939 the Cup became the permanent possession of the winner, and a rule was introduced limiting members to four wins. It is now a Challenge Cup, with a silver medal for the winner to retain, but the four-win condition remains.

Barton Road has twelve targets back to 600 yards but only four at longer ranges. The club tradition that all participants are squadded simultaneously means that there are often six or even seven firers per target, so that one may experience a wait of up to five minutes between consecutive shots. This, and the total lack of wind flags, offset the fact that with a thick belt of trees on each side of the range, strong lateral winds are rare.

The CULRRC has a number of other traditions, which aim to commemorate and perpetuate the old style of shooting. Dinner jackets are worn each evening (including Thursday). Scores are kept not by fellow competitors but by dedicated scorers, who call out each competitor's name and the value of his last shot.

However, the club has been and still is innovative in technical matters. Many of the improvements in Match Rifle technology in the 19th and 20th centuries were first trialled at Cambridge before being introduced at Wimbledon and Bisley. This year the club experimented with a new design of spotting disc which promises to be more easily visible at the longest ranges. It is no surprise that the world's first triple possible was achieved at the Cambridge Cup in 2006 when David Calvert scored 225.32 ex 225.45.

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CULRRC Narrowly Defeat the Australian Match Rifle Team

As with their match against Scotland at Blair Atholl on 2 July, the visiting Australians suffered another reverse on the second leg of their UK tour in Cambridge on 5 July. Because of the limited capacity of the Barton Road range, only two distances could be managed. It was decided to have an individual competition of 15 shots at 1000 yards in the morning and a match for teams of eight firing 20 shots each at 1200 yards after lunch.

Four competitors made possibles in the morning, and Stuart Collings came top with 75.15, although Lew Horwood for Australia made 75.14, with the only blemish on his last shot.

In still, sultry conditions after lunch, scoring in the team match was high. Four participants made 99, and Collings again led the way with 99.19. Although two 20 shot possibles have recently been recorded, at Bisley and Corryong (Australia) this is the highest number of V bulls ever made in a single 1200 yards shoot. Overall only six of the 32 firers failed to make 90 or above. It is worth noting that the CULRRC Swansea team contained six CURA and OURC undergraduates, three of whom made 95s (Carys Dee adding hers to a possible at 1000 yards in the morning).

After six firers on each side had finished, CULRRC Cottesloe and Bill Freebairn's Australian team were dead level, but 98s by Jim McAllister and Julian Peck saw CULRRC home by two points.

1000 Yards Individual Competition

1	JS Collings (CULRRC)	75.15
2	L Horwood (Australia)	75.14
3	Miss C Dee (CULRRC)	75.10
4	J Kielly (Australia)	75.10
5	W Freebairn (Australia)	74.11
6	J McAllister (CULRRC)	74.09
7	C Hayes (CULRRC)	74.08
8	D Freebairn (Australia)	74.08
9	P Bain (Australia)	74.07
10	A Campbell-Smith (CULRRC)	74.07
11	G Walker (Australia)	73.11
12	T Smith (CULRRC)	73.10
13	Mrs L Brister (CULRRC)	73.10
14	A Abbott (Australia)	73.10
15	J Clifford (Australia)	73.08
16	H Hunter (CULRRC)	73.07
17	A Blain (Australia)	73.06
18	R Atherton (Australia)	73.06
19	Miss R Furniss (CULRRC)	72.09
20	K Haskell (CULRRC)	72.09
21	W Wright (Australia)	72.09
22	N Fyfe (CULRRC)	72.07
23	S Courtney (Australia)	72.06
24	M Spencer (CULRRC)	72.05
25	M Davis (CULRRC)	71.09
26	Ms J Hausler (Australia)	71.08
27	J Peck (CULRRC)	71.07
28	R Rowlands (Australia)	71.05
29	P Seebohm (CULRRC)	70.07
30	R Halloran (Australia)	70.05
31	G Stewart (CULRRC)	69.07
32	P Hill (Australia)	69.05
33	J Oddy (Australia)	68.05
34	P Kelly (CULRRC)	65.01

CULRRC v Australia Team Match - 1200 Yards

1	CULRRC Cottesloe (Capt JS Collings)		3	CULRRC Swansea (Capt N Fyfe)	
	JS Collings	99.19		K Haskell	95.09
	Mrs L Brister	99.10		Miss R Furniss	95.08
	J McAllister	98.10		Miss C Dee	95.07
	J Peck	98.10		M Spencer	95.05
	A Campbell-Smith	97.08		N Fyfe	94.07
	H Hunter	94.09		P Kelly	88.04
	C Hayes	93.08		P Seebohm	88.04
	M Davies	88.02		G Stewart	87.03
	Total	766.76		Total	737.47
2	Australia - Bill Freebairn's VIII		4	Australia - John Kielly's VIII	
	S Courtney	99.08		P Bain	99.13
	W Freebairn	97.09		J Clifford	96.07
	P Hill	97.09		R Halloran	95.05
	L Horwood	97.07		J Kielly	93.06
	G Walker	96.11		A Abbott	92.01
	R Atherton	95.05		J Oddy	90.07
	A Blain	92.12		W Wright	89.07
	D Freebairn	91.01		R Rowlands	83.00
	Total	764.62		Total	737.46

CENTRAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 2006

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

Her Majesty's Armed Forces have continued to be deployed in an increasing number of theatres and operations over the past year, but despite this all three Services were able to conduct very full and comprehensive skill-at-arms meetings. The Regular Army meeting again ran at capacity with 205 UK competitors and 59 internationals representing Australia, the Irish Republic, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman and South Africa, with no room for those international reservist teams that also compete in TASAM. It was particularly welcoming to see the South African National Team back after a considerable absence. 104 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) from South Wales provided the Command Team for this year's MILFORCE support task with most of the manpower coming from individual reinforcements from a number of TA units from 160 (Welsh) Bde, as well as from other parts of 5 Division

The three Services conducted their own meetings between 23 and 29 June, coming together on Friday 30 June to compete alongside each other in the Tri-Service finale to the Queen's Medal. This final match, fired on Century Range, decides the winners of the three Queen's Medals for Shooting Excellence for 2006. It is worth repeating here that Her Majesty The Queen's Medal¹ is the only shooting award that can be worn by Service personnel on their uniforms.

The Regular Army Championship ran at full capacity and attracted an entry of 32 five-man Unit teams, of which four were B teams, and some 45 individuals. The Unit Team Championship was again fiercely contested between Royal Signals, Gurkha and Royal Irish units, who filled the top six places, with 30 Signal Regiment finishing well ahead of 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles with 380 match points to 339; match points are awarded for each team beaten in the five matches which make up the Championship. 2 Signal Regiment, last year's winners, were close behind in third with 335 points, 3rd Bn R IRISH (331) fourth and Northern Ireland Training Regiment & Depot R IRISH (326) fifth. The Inter Command/Division Team Match for the Western Command Cup was once again retained by 4th Division, with an aggregate score of 5120 from Northern Ireland (5079) and 5th Division (4941).

The individual events were also dominated by Gurkha and R IRISH firers; of the top 15 firers in the Army Championship four were RGR, four were Queen's Gurkha Signals and three were from the R IRISH. After a fiercely contested individual championship, Warrant Officer Class 2 Lalitbahadur Gurung QM RGR from Gurkha Company Mandalay, Infantry Battle School won his third Queen's Medal (1992 & 2000) by a narrow two point margin with 1151 from Staff Sergeant Bharat Shrestha 2 Signal Regiment. Corporal Jim Slater AGC (MPGS), was third with 1135 points whilst last year's

medallist, Rifleman Hira Pun 1 RGR, with 1128 was fourth. The International Class was dominated by UK firers taking the top five placings with WO2 Lalit Sen taking the International title and the Fattorini Bowl. Of the 205 UK firers 110 were competing at Bisley for the first time, 107 had less than five years' service, only 72 had qualified for the top Army 100 before and there were 37 newly qualified Army 100 shots on the final day.

The Army Service Pistol Championship was again held outside the CENTSAM period at the beginning of June. It was won by Lance Corporal Willy Kennedy 3 R IRISH, for the sixth time, after a close contest with the 2003 and 2004 winner, Private Cameron Carson 4 R IRISH, by just three points. Sergeant Mick Brown AGC (MPGS) came through strongly to finish third, some 18 points adrift. The Champion Gunner in the LMG/LSW Match was Staff Sergeant Bharat Shrestha with Corporal Devprakash Gurung 30 Sig Regt second and Lance Corporal Shiva Gurung 30 Sig Regt, third. The Champion-at-Arms, based upon the aggregate score in the first stages of the Rifle and Pistol Championships, along with the LMG/LSW match, was won by Staff Sergeant Morgan Cook Intelligence Corps with 1280 points, only one point ahead of Corporal Slater (1279) and Staff Sergeant Bharat (1240). The Sniper Team matches, with a Closed Class for established and badged snipers, attracted a reduced entry of 19 Sniper Pairs from five Infantry Battalions plus an Australian Army pair. Top honours in the Closed competition were shared between 2 RGJ, 1 WFR and 1 RGR, and between 3 R IRISH and 4 R IRISH in the Open competition. The overall Champions were the A Pair from 2 RGJ, whilst 4 R IRISH took the Team Aggregate for their three teams. The Short Range Match (600, 500, 300 and 200 yards) was won with an improved score of 275 (266 in 2004 and 2005) (91.6% of HPS score), whilst the Long Range Match (800, 900 and 1000 yards) was also won with an improved score of 173 (168 in 2005) (86.5% of HPS).

In the International team events, honours were spread across the nations with the British Army Combat Shooting Team winning the concurrent Service Rifle Team match for the Connaught Cup, ahead of the Sultan of Oman Armed Forces and the South Africans, as well as the Fire Team match. The Omanis won the Parachute Regiment Cup, with its testing two mile approach march, and the Falling Plates match whilst the New Zealanders took the Combat Snap and also took the individual LSW title. The South African National Defence Force's Lieutenant Look won the Roupell match, whilst the Omanis took all the other individual titles; WO1 Al Aghbary, the Whitehead; SSgt Al Khatri, the Association; 2Lt Arabeh, the Whittaker; SSgt Ja Aboob, the Roberts; WO2 Al Hatali, the Graham; and Maj Al Balushi, the Army 100.

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



SCENES FROM THE CENTRAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 2006



This year's Champion Shot of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines was Warrant Officer Dave O'Connor QM RM for the second time, who is currently serving with the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. The Royal Air Force's Champion Shot (for the twelfth time!) was Chief Technician John Prictor from 5131 Bomb Disposal Squadron, RAF Wittering.

The three Queen's Medallists were presented with their medals by Air Vice Marshal David Walker, Air Officer Commanding 1 Group RAF, on behalf of Her Majesty, before being chaired off Century behind the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth.

During the NRA part of the Meeting the various Inter-Services events were again hotly contested. The Regular Army won the United Services for Service Rifle from the Royal Air Force and were run close by the Territorial Army to take the FIBUA rifle team title. In an exceedingly tight contest for the Whitehead (Service Pistol) the Royal Navy ran out winners by one point from the Royal Air Force and the Regular Army who tied on gun score for the runners-up position; the RAF had the advantage on count-back. Once the results of the Short and Long Range Target Rifle events were added to those for Service Weapons the overall Burdwan Cup was won by the Regular Army by 27 points to the RAF's 23, the TA's 15 and the Navy's 10.

The overall Unit Champions were the Adjutant General's Corps counting out the R IRISH on the Canada. AGC also took the Canada, whilst the R IRISH A team took the Brinsmead, Hythe and Mappin. Corporal Jim Slater AGC (MPGS) was the top UK competitor in the individual Service Rifle Championships, in overall third place behind Maj Al Balushi and 2Lt Binee Arabeh.

In this year's International Service Weapon matches, Oman retained the ten man Service Rifle Team Match from Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands, whilst Great Britain retained the eight man Service Pistol Team Match against the Allcomers and the New Zealanders.

The Methuen Cup, a six man Rifle Team Match between Army Infantry Divisional and Other Arms & Services Corps teams, as well as RN and RAF Command teams, was once again closely contested. Top honours in the International Class went to Oman with a score of 1401 ex 1500 with the South African Protea National Team beating the New Zealand, Australian, Royal Dutch Army and Irish Permanent Defence Force teams. The Sultan's team were the overall highest team beating the top three UK teams by a considerable margin. In third place was the Royal Corps of Signals with 1309, who also took the top Other Arms and Services honours. Runners up were the Royal Irish Regiment with 1331, and this year's Champions, by a margin of 19 points with 1350, were the Royal Gurkha Rifles for the second year running. The trophy was presented by Lord Methuen.

Next year's CENTSAM will be the responsibility of my successor, Lieutenant Colonel Lester Holley MBE RGR, who takes over before Christmas. Apart from some minor changes to match conditions, the programme will remain the same as this year.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the National Rifle Association and in the other Service Shooting Associations for all their support and efforts over the past five years. I am looking forward to retirement in Cyprus, where I hope to continue shooting, and to returning to the National Shooting Centre, Bisley in the future.

ARMY TARGET SHOOTING CLUB

PISTOL OPEN

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National Squad Nominated Meeting

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Entry forms from your Club Secretary or
The Meeting Secretary, ATSC (TP) Open Meeting, ATSC Clubhouse,
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TERRITORIAL ARMY SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

In sweltering temperatures of over 30°C, more than 200 of the top shots in the Territorial Army gathered at Bisley and Pirbright Ranges from 30 June to 2 July to battle it out at the annual Territorial Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting (TASAM).

The shooting teams, comprising eight members with at least half having less than five years' service including one new soldier with less than two years' service, took part in up to 13 different shoots with rifles, pistols and machine-guns over the three days of competition. With over 40 trophies up for contention, competition was fierce.

The major trophy, the Hong Kong Silver Dragon, awarded to the overall Champion Unit, went to 51 Highland 7th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland (7 Scots) who beat last year's winners, 3rd Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, by just one point. In third place was 151 Logistic Support Regiment, with Southampton University Officer Training Corps coming fourth, the highest ever place in the TASAM by a UOTC unit.

Her Majesty The Queen's Medal, awarded to the top Territorial Army shot, was presented on behalf of The Queen by the TA's most senior soldier, Major General The Duke of Westminster. This year it was won by Sergeant Dave Fenwick, from the 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Sgt Fenwick, a plumber from Crook, near Durham, is just the eleventh TA soldier to have won the Territorial Army's Queen's Medal more than once since the Medal was first presented in 1935. Sergeant Fenwick won convincingly with a 26 point lead over second placed Lance Corporal Adam Chapman of F Company, Royal Rifle Volunteers, who beat WO2 Alan Ross, from 7 Scots, into third place by seven points.

"It is 13 years since I last won The Queen's Medal and I can't quite believe I've done it again. I felt really confident coming into the competition today and was shooting well but the heat made it much harder than last time. I'm absolutely thrilled to have won." Sgt Fenwick, who

also won six individual trophies en route to The Queen's Medal, was chaired off the ranges in traditional style behind the Band of the Royal Yeomanry and carried on the shoulders of his team mates around the Bisley range complex as people poured out of the club houses to cheer him on his way.

Major General Westminster was on hand to present prizes to all 42 trophy and medal winners. "I thoroughly enjoy supporting the TASAM," he said. "Shooting is a core skill every soldier must have and every year I come back here, I'm impressed how the standard has improved on the previous year."

The TA50, the top 50 shots in the Territorial Army, were announced on the Saturday evening. After the final individual shoot on Sunday morning, the soldiers receiving the honour for the first time were presented with a decorative medal by the Chairman of the Territorial Army Rifle Association (TARA), Colonel Bill O'Leary, and those who had been in the TA50 in previous years, received a date bar to their original medal.

There was also an international element to the competition with nine soldiers from the South African National Defence Force (Reserve), the country's equivalent of the TA, taking part in the Meeting. Led by Major Braam Korff, the soldiers were drawn from five Units across the country: the Kimberley Regiment, the Natal Carbineers, the Regiment President's Steyn, the Army Gymnasium and the Lindley Commando.

And finally, for the newly formed Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, it was a memorable weekend. The team, who received their new cap badge and insignia on 1 July under the recent FAS changes, took home the Hamilton Leigh Trophy, awarded to the winners of the Falling Plates competition. "To say we are delighted is an understatement," said Captain Andrew Metcalfe, a farmer from Lancaster. "This trophy will take pride of place in our cabinet as the first piece of silverware won by the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. We feel honoured that it is the shooting team taking the trophy back home."



7 Scots, winners of the Hong Kong Silver Dragon for the Champion Unit.



The South African National Defence Force (Reserve) Team.



Major General The Duke of Westminster chats with soldiers at TASAM.



Major General Westminster with Sergeant Dave Fenwick, winner of the Queen's Medal.



Private Dolly Mncwabe from South Africa cools down.



The team from the Duke of Lancaster's won its first trophy for the newly formed Regiment.



Sgt Dave Fenwick is chaired from the range.



Grub up!

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Last year's winners Dollar Academy.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Epsom College in more formal pose . . .



. . . and how they really felt about winning! *(Photo: James Postle)*

SCHOOLS MEETING 2006

Cadet shooting remains the major feeder to the adult world of target rifle competition and NRA membership. The traditional School Master coach is sometimes the unsung hero without whose influence and work, many club, county and international shots would not be continuing the great traditions of our sport in the 21st century. Two long serving Masters i/c retired this year from schools who have provided countless Athelings, GB U19, GB U25 and full GB caps over a combined period spanning nearly 60 years.

Hylton Adcroft has run the shooting at Wellington College since the late 1970s and in that time he has inspired numerous Wellingtonians to give of their best and strive for high standards through his own meticulous planning, attention to detail, good humour and sense of fun. Hylton has that wonderful ability to get alongside a boy and coax the best from him - you could see his charges grow in confidence as a direct result from his care and encouragement. I know many grateful mothers have seen their sons flourish under his charge at the wonderful retreat which is the Inns of Court - a place Hylton has single handedly saved from a derelict state and made into a lasting legacy for Wellingtonian shooters. For many cadets, from Wellington, UK teams, Athelings and teams from Canada, he has been a hugely positive influence upon their experiences at Bisley.

Simon Cox has competed in over 30 Imperial Meetings and has coached Cheltenham College in as many Schools Meetings. Cheltenham VIIIs have always been strong and that is credit to Simon's hard work and inspiration. Simon has that infectious enthusiasm and sense of humour which is so essential to inspire school boys and girls to perform at their best but always see the bigger picture. Simon took delight in victory but always was gracious in defeat and his teams followed his lead. As the Chairman of the Schools Committee he navigated those sometimes tricky meetings with the skill of an experienced schoolmaster teaching that rather awkward fifth form set. This was because at heart he identifies with and understands the practical difficulties of running a team of school boys and girls and perhaps has sympathy for some of the more robust views that tend to be expressed on occasion by fellow coaches. He produced many fine GB shots and the strength of Cheltenham shooting despite the oh-so-long drive home is a credit to his years of dedication.

The 2006 Meeting, now settled into its new format, was an enjoyable affair for the 800 plus cadets and their coaches. The Monday saw the GP Snap competition take place with victory for Ampleforth in the Schools Snap, 13 points ahead of Campbell College. Ampleforth continued to show their prowess in this discipline by winning the Marling on countback after tying with Oratory for first place. WO2 McCurly from Campbell exacted some revenge winning the Marlborough Trophy whilst CSgt Buffoni from perennial GP experts Sedbergh won the Financial Times.

On the Tuesday and Wednesday the competitions with the Cadet Target Rifle were underway in earnest. Epsom College made its intentions clear by winning both team competitions on these days – the ABRO Trophy and the Victoria Challenge Trophy. Epsom also won the Devon six points ahead of Greshams. In the individual competitions Cpl Ridley Marlborough won the Wellington, Sgt D Williams of Greshams won the Victoria Tankard with 35.5 and in a thrilling tie shoot which went to sudden death, WO2 Hyslop of Wellingborough School beat LCpl Stewart and CSgt Millar of Epsom for the Iveagh.

Ashburton day was dry but overcast with sufficient breeze to test the cadet coaches. The Cadet Fours was closely fought with Dollar putting in a strong showing beating Epsom by three points to take the trophy and renewing rivalry from 2005. A similar battle was fought between the Cadet Pairs with Dollar again triumphing by a single V bull to take the trophy, albeit somewhat belatedly due to an incorrect score being accepted as the winning one on the day. Was this to be the prelude to another Scottish triumph at the senior end of things with Dollar repeating their historic win of 2005?

At 300 yards Epsom established the pace with an excellent 265 winning the Kinder, seven points ahead of Marlborough. At 600 Marlborough rallied winning the Epsom Trophy by two points from the team who donated it last year and showing great resilience under pressure and in tricky conditions. With the gap now closed to five points between these two teams it was an uneasy lunch break for both. At 500 yards it was all to play for and it was a test of nerve for all the top schools. Greshams rallied strongly at this distance as did Oratory who had been very steady throughout. However after the first four shooters, Marlborough had fallen behind and Epsom had a nine point lead into the final straight. The final four Epsom firers ended with a flourish with LCpl Hunter and Sgt Sherville both putting in 35s, whilst the Captain, Matthew Millar, finished with a 33 to win the Green Howards Country Life and the Ashburton Shield for Epsom with a record score of 788.59. Epsom were 13 ahead of Marlborough who ended with 775.46 in second after a great tussle, who in turn were one V bull ahead of the Oratory in third, whilst 2005 champions Dollar finished a creditable fourth. This was the tenth victory for Epsom in the Ashburton in the past 17 years, and their fifth victory in the last ten years. In the past nine years they have not been out of the top two places in this match.

Sgt Mortimer of Exeter School convincingly won the Spencer-Mellish with a 50.8, Sgt Foster of Greshams won the Cadet Rifle Aggregate and the Schools Hundred – a tremendous individual performance. Cpl Dickson of Marlborough won the Cadet Grand Aggregate to avenge his second place by three Vs in the Schools Hundred.

The Oratory deservedly won the Schools Aggregate for both GP and TR matches whilst the Lucas Trophy went



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to Epsom College as did the Rutland, the Cheltenham Cup, the splendid Schools Four Trophy (in its inaugural year) and the Garry. In the Imperial Meeting Epsom completed its sweep of the TR matches by winning the Gary Jones and the Anstey - matching the dominant

Dollar performance of 2005. Many cadets stayed on for the second week and enjoyed their taste of adult competition; hopefully they will continue for many years competing on the ranges at Bisley which their coaches introduced them to whilst they were at school.

MATCH RIFLE 2006

by Keith Haskell

This year was notable for the second-ever visit of an Australian Match Rifle team, though their impact on events was rather less than they would have hoped. Their pre-meeting preparations took them to both the other 1200 yards ranges in the country: Blair Atholl, where they lost by six points to Scotland, and Cambridge, where they lost by two points to the Cambridge University Long Range Rifle Club (CULRRC). Scoring in the latter match was notably high: firing 1 and 20 at 1200 yards only, the average score among the 32 participants was fractionally under 94 and there were four scores of 99, headed by Stuart Collings' 99.19. (Ten days earlier, on the same range, David Calvert had recorded the first ever 225 ex 225 at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards.)

Down at Bisley, in the Any Rifle shoots on Pre-Friday, Jenni Hausler defied the rain to make top score at 1000 yards, with 50.9, and finished second at both 1100 and 1200 yards, thus winning the Aggregate with 172.24. This gave the Australians their first success of the week. Unfortunately, it also proved to be their last . . . In a portent of things to come, Mike Baillie-Hamilton made the top score of 73.10 at 1200 yards and was only a single V bull behind Jenni overall.

Saturday was dry but mainly cloudy, with a stiff breeze from 9 to 10 o'clock. Variations in direction caught many people out, and except in the 1000 yards shoot in the Whitehead, scores of over 70 were as rare as hen's teeth (only two, for example, at 1200 yards in the Halford). John Knight won the Whitehead with 148.21, pipping Mike Baillie-Hamilton with 148.20 and Will Meldrum with 148.19. In the Halford, Ted Hobbs was victorious with 142.13, followed by Alex Cargill-Thompson with 142.12 and Stuart Collings with 142.11. Baillie-Hamilton took the Saturday Aggregate with 287.31, a point ahead of Guy Blakeney with 286.30 and Cargill-Thompson with 286.29.

Sunday began with drizzle, but this soon cleared and was replaced by sunshine: the wind continued to blow strongly, and a little more consistently, from the left. Gary Alexander won the Cottesloe with 100.15; Guy Blakeney recorded the only other possible to come second with 100.10. The usual suspects were well to the fore in the Wimbledon, with Stuart Collings (100.12) making the sole possible and Mike Baillie-Hamilton counting out Will Meldrum for second place, both making 99.12.

Will Meldrum got his revenge in the Armourers, winning by two clear points with 95.9. He also won the Martin

Parr (Sunday) Aggregate with 292.35, with Baillie-Hamilton second on 291.27 and Stuart Collings third on 290.33. Baillie-Hamilton however reversed the order in the Weekend Aggregate with 578.58, followed by Meldrum with 577.65 and Collings with 576.60. The RG Aggregate was again won by Jeremy Langley with 387.27, and Gary Alexander took the Weekend Selection Aggregate with 150.18.

Monday was cloudy, with a much lighter wind; the rain which set in during the afternoon made shooting in the FW Jones team match a chore rather than a pleasure. Jim McAllister won the Edge with 195.16, followed by George Barnard with 194.22 and Wilf Wright of Australia with 194.21. The Old Etonians won the FW Jones with 575.46, three points ahead of the NRC of Scotland.

The weather on Tuesday was sunny and warm, with an extremely tricky left wind which frequently died away to nothing; corrections of up to 6 minutes between shots were common. These were perfect conditions for deciding the outcome of the Hopton, which was still in the balance as the Albert began. However, Mike Baillie-Hamilton's decisive victory in the Albert (216.25, ahead of David Calvert's 213.18 and Guy Blakeney's 212.18) cemented the narrow lead which he had held at the start of the day. His 987.105 in the Hopton gave him a six point advantage over Will Meldrum (981.104), with Stuart Collings third on 976.96. The top Australian was Wilf Wright with 952.83 and the top Tyro Andrew Burgess with 949.73.

Mike Baillie-Hamilton's admirable consistency during the week gave him the Saturday, Weekend, 1000 yards, 1200 yards and Victoria Aggregates as well as the Hopton. But whereas in 2004 and 2005 Nick Tremlett had won both the Edge and the Albert, and a couple of other individual competitions as well, on his way to winning the Hopton, in 2006 each of the seven individual competitions had a different winner. This ought to be grounds for hope among the many shooters who are capable of producing the occasional good score, but can't maintain the consistency needed to challenge for the Hopton (some of us, of course, can't even manage the occasional good score . . .).

The other notable feature of these four days' shooting was the exceptional consistency of the best Scottish marksmen. Will Meldrum won most of the aggregates that Mike Baillie-Hamilton missed, and Guy Blakeney was always there or thereabouts. Was this to be a pointer to the destination of the Elcho Shield?

Yes, came the answer.

Conditions on Wednesday were similar to those of the day before, with a tricky wind requiring anything from 10 minutes to zero. At 1000 yards, Scotland began well with 586 to England's 581, but they lost the advantage and more at 1100, where England's 569 gave them a five point overall lead over Scotland (1150 to 1145), with Ireland a further 11 points back in third place. So far, so normal. But surprising things happened at 1200 yards. Both Scotland and Ireland made 550, but England could only manage 529. The Elcho thus went to Scotland with 1695, 11 ahead of Ireland, with England on 1679 no higher than third. Subject to correction, this is said to be the first time England have failed to finish first or second since Ireland's last win before 2005, in 1907.



Silke Lohmann and Rosemary Meldrum - happy with the Elcho result!
(Photo: Alan Keating)

The detailed scores were:

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Scotland	586.57	559.50	550.37	1695.144
Ireland	574.60	560.44	550.44	1684.148
England	581.63	569.55	529.30	1679.148
Wales	568.54	537.27	525.22	1630.103
Australia	566.56	545.37	500.24	1611.117

Top scorers

Guy Blakeney	218.19
Gary Alexander	218.26
Julian Peck	215.23
Ted Hobbs	212.17
Gil Walker	211.22

(shooting alongside)

In the rest of the competitions Ireland won the Five Nations Match with 562.52, and the Jobsons again won the Match Rifle Pairs with 194.20. Julian Peck and Tom Smith each made 96.12 to give second place to "£32?? How Much??" Does one detect a certain resentment at the level of entry fees . . . ?

On Thursday there was a close match for the Humphry. After 1000 yards Cambridge were leading by three; after 1100 yards Oxford had the advantage by eight; but a fine shoot at 1200 yards gave Cambridge victory by four points - exactly the same margin as in 2005. The scores were:

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Cambridge	286.26	263.17	278.16	827.59
Oxford	283.24	274.17	266.19	823.60



The two Woomera Match Captains Stuart Collings and Bill Fairbairn.
(Photo: Jim McAllister)

Top scorers

Peter Seebohm	215.20
Jean Marshall	214.17

Meanwhile Australia were taking on Great Britain in the Woomera Match. Conditions were considerably easier than for the Elcho the previous day, but this only served to emphasise the British superiority. With every one of the eight firers making between 218 and 223, the overall score was highly impressive:

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Great Britain	597.90	584.65	581.68	1762.223
Australia	585.60	569.57	568.49	1722.166

Top scorers

George Barnard	223.29
Adrian Abbott	218.27
and Philip Bain	218.25

Now all we have to do is retain the Ashes this winter!



The Great Britain and Australia Woomera Teams - happy after a great match!



(Photos: John Knight)



Range Officer in repose.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Julian Peck and his apparatus.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Pictured together for the first time - the "five" Elcho teams!

(Photo: Jim McAllister)



The winning scoreboard in the Elcho.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Scotland pictured with the Elcho Shield.

(Photo: Jim McAllister)



The Woomera Match.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



The Woomera Match.

(Photo: Alan Keating)

TARGET RIFLE 2006

by Tony de Launay

Prelude

In the week or so leading up to the Match and Target Rifle events the weather turned hot, reaching dizzying heights (to us delicate flowers that wilt in the heat). Our servicemen and women sweated around the ranges at the double, doing their run-downs and FIBUAs and other mad-cap charges in full battle kit. What, we wondered, would be the climate by the time of the civilian activities? Would the ice age have returned? Read on and the diary will tell you.

Friday 14 July - Begin as You Mean to Go On, Jon

Blue skies, bright sun and – had there not been such a brisk wind from the right – top temperatures. What this all meant was that when the wind blew the dust rose from the roads and verges to blanket anything that was rash enough to stand around.

Moving on, this Friday was a bit of a mixed bag. The competition for county rifle clubs, the Astor Trophy, was won by the Old Greshams Rifle Establishment, or OGRE to the understanding.

The remainder of the day was taken up by the Friday warm-up matches. The Century, shot backwards in the order 600 and 500 yards to fit with range rigging requirements, introduced Jon Underwood to the first of his many successes with an outright victory. Over on Stickledown Hill the Admiral Hutton produced another outright winner in the lanky form of Danny Coleman with the only 50.9, two centrals ahead of both Parag Patel and Jim Paton.

Choices

It seems that one shooter suddenly found himself with a magpie at 3 o'clock, something that he had cause to doubt because he had been well in the centre throughout. He invested a small sum by way of a challenge and eventually message 14 – look for another shot-hole. He was right: up came a hit at 8 o'clock. He apparently opted for the bird.

Saturday 15 July - Telegraph Nip & Tuck

It was a cloudless day, bright summer sun, hot and windy. The wind was stiff and variable, both in direction and strength, roughly from 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning swinging finer over the right shoulder as the day wore on. Horror stories abounded over on Stickledown Hill liberally sprinkled with smug tales from those annoying people who manage to weld their sights at 7 right and just put one or two underneath of their own accord.

It was partly a day for the relatively unknown to upset the grandees of experience. Starting at the shortest distance Adrian Smith of Club 25 headed the all-stars home in the Donegall, but he had Andrew Wilde of LMRA and Jim Paton tied with him on 50.9. Paton produced a definitive 25.5 to win the tie from the others, both on 24.4.

In the opening event of the Grand Aggregate, the Daily Telegraph, it was Jeremy Tuck of the Royal Navy TRC

who snatched the Challenge Cup with a score of 75.13 just ahead of a group on 75.12 including Ant Ringer. Tuck, 47, a project manager with BAe Systems, was in hospital eight weeks before having a troublesome disc seen to, and had not been certain of shooting the Meeting. Over the hill the Lovell was won by City of Newcastle's favourite son, Keith Pugh, with the only maximum 50, with 4 centrals.

Aggregates abound in our sport: Saturday went to bearded wiz Bill Richards of Gunroom Lizards, in between bouts of statistical repair work without which you would not get all your results posted faster than I can type this ramble. The Tucker Agg went to Kentish sheep farmer Peter Bromley of Old Sedberghians.

All that glisters . . .

A shooter from the first detail of the Lovell was seen in a degree of minor stress to be hunting for something across Stickledown range 3. He approached a young lady competitor at the start of the second detail and asked to borrow her shooting mat for a second, onto which he then tipped the contents of the spent rounds sack at the range officer table. He then plunged into the glittering pile sieving the cases though his hands until, with a cry of delight, he held aloft an object. It was his car keys.

Sunday 16 July - 128 Go Clean in Alex

Not a reference to some sort of hygiene test for shooters, but the remarkable scoring in the Alexandra. At 08:00 or so the signs were that it might be far from simple, with a stiff looking breeze from over the right shoulder doing the sort of angling and swerving tricks that you would expect from winds that approach from behind. And then there was the heat.

At this point it must be said that we were warned that even warmer weather was forecast. They got it right. A learned Canadian with a moustache informed me that it was 38°C at home. How did he know? He had phoned mom and she told him. He also told me that he, or someone, had measured the temperature in the middle of Century Range and it topped out at 35°C. Rather a lot of us were prepared to believe him.

Back to the Alex: early details avoided the worst of the heat. The proportion of possibles to entries was just over 10%, just below the sort of ratio that was found in the Times (300 yards) a couple or so years ago. Anyway, all that meant was that the ammunition was reaching the spots it should reach (I heard no whines at all) and there were eight souls with 50.9 in the resultant tie shoot. Simon Belither (Uppingham Vets) snatched it, with 25.5 ahead of Peter Jory of Guernsey on 25.4, thus depriving us of the thrill of a shot for shot finale.

The Daily Mail resulted in another tie. Having wilted in the 14:00 detail I was unsurprised that the scores were not quite comparable with the Alex, not the least because of 15 rounds to count but mainly because it was hotter

and laced with an evil breeze. Pat Vamplew of Canada won the resulting tie shoot beating Nigel Cole-Hawkins of NLRC.

Again, earlier details of the Duke of Cambridge probably had an easier ride on the airs and a cooler reception. That match too had its horror stories and tales of hopes decimated. Such lines as "had a cracking elevation but shots spread like a string of washing", abound. Kip Morton (RAFTRC) took the tie shoot, after three had each scored 50.8.

Monday July 17 - Rylands Wimbledon Set & Match

The Times at 300 yards, the Wimbledon at 600 yards, the Corporation at 1000 yards, and the Farnborough Air Show at 2000 feet or so. It was a noisy addition with several strange looking bits of equipment passing over to keep all the RAFTRC competitors, and all us other little boys, happy. The last time this happened, a few years ago, the USAF B52 flew all the way from the USA, passed over Century Range at Bisley, turned right instead of left at the celestial traffic lights, gave a low pass over Blackbushe airfield car boot sale - and then trundled home.

The day dawned bright and sunny again. No wind at 06:00; it would get even hotter than Sunday. The latest fashion accessory on the ranges was the personal plastic bottle of water without which shooters look a touch dowdy - and thirsty. First the Times: the 1152 competitors faced sweltering heat and a gentle but mischievous breeze. A firm hold and quick shooting, before the aim picture dissolved in the heat haze and sweat stung the eyeballs, was essential. The subtle changes in the breeze were enough to take shots out of the central ring or even out of the bullseye for a four for the unwary.

However with the exceptional Royal Ordnance ammunition this year it was not surprising that no less than 145 competitors made maximum scores of 50. Jonathan Holmes of the City of Newcastle Rifle Club, a barrister, and Audrey Gagne who is a student at Quebec University, with the only 50.10s, shot five more shots, shoulder to shoulder, the tie going in Holmes' favour. Gagne faced up to the challenge of discarding a 5 sighter in favour of going for centrals. She did not have the necessary luck in her final shots, which hung in the five ring.



Jonathan Holmes - man of the Times.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)

The Wimbledon (600 yards), when I went to shoot at 14:45, recorded a temperature of 34 degrees on the thingy in the binnacle on the dashboard of the car. It is the display next to the thing that tells you if the tank has fallen over. It is hot and bad temper inducing. My Canadian source with the thermometer told me that he had read 39°C.

Tom Rylands of Manchester RC showed the rest a clean pair of heels, taking victory by the massive margin of 2 centrals with a perfect 50.10. And so, dearly beloved, to the Corporation. As usual wind conditions ebbed and flowed with each detail. Clever people told me that "it" (whatever "it" may be) was there for the taking. Rather more honest people lamented their own shortcomings. Henry Sanders (Northants) and Colin Sherrat (Club 25) tied on 50.9. Nevertheless when tie came to shove Sanders took the trophy with 25.3.

Tuesday 18 July - Surrey Do the Double

Another very hot day, warming up quickly from 07:00 onwards, and the prospect of 15 rounds to count at 300 yards in the first stage of the St Georges. Overhead the skies were blue, with the occasional burbling of flying egg-whisks or the rumbling of the aviation machines from nearby Farnborough. From the right came the gentle but persistently varying breeze.

There was enough of said breeze to catch the unwary even at 300 yards. In fact it changed very quickly, normally when you were in the aim on that final piece of concentration known as trigger squeeze. And when you looked up through the spotting scope all you could say was "oops", or similar.

But of course nothing stops that Surrey surgeon Parag Patel who slotted 75.14 much to the chagrin of those who were confidently set on 75.13. Only Mike Wong-Shui of the Canadian team was equal to the challenge. He and Parag fought it out in the tie shoot with victory going to the cutter by 25.4 to the Canadian's 24.3.

Onwards to County Short Range where the fully back in form Surrey VIII again showed the opposition a clean pair of heels. In the County Long, with a change of coach and Matt Ensor in the chair, their team of six did it again, stunning the opposition with a 591 ex 600 over 900 and 1000 yards. You cannot argue with that.

Communication

Website messages received during the Meeting included the following:

"My son is there with the national shooting team (Canada) Do the kids have access to pay phones there? Yes this means he has not called home yet."

Wednesday 19 July - Underwood Part I

It promised a day of heat and wind, rather like the Houses of Parliament I suppose, but even as I spoke (to myself at about 05:30) there was the gentle tinkle of rain on the caravan roof. It was light rain, possibly only just enough to kiss the dust on its way past. Nevertheless it has the effect of cooling things down from the 41°C recorded on the automobile device of my gadget adviser, Mad Jack.



Grand Aggregate winner Rich Stewart.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Mick Barr doing his bit for England in the Mackinnon.
(Photo: Graeme Clarke)



Plenty of French support.



Stuart Collings considers an alternative career on the catwalk.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



A competitor in the Duke of Cambridge.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Lots of hot competitors.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



"Up a quarter and one right - ah just there"
Ant hits the spot.
(Photo: Graeme Clarke)



Jeremy Tuck - winner of the...



Ahhh shade! The McQueen tent proved popular with the RCOs.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



port here.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Holly Foster of Greshams - top lady and top cadet in the Queen's Prize.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Well he can write but can he add up? Tony de Launay checks his Mackinnon cards.
(Photo: Graeme Clarke)



Farnborough Air Show provided some spectacular displays.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Kolapore captain John Webster - either keeping a careful eye on his team or watching the Arrows.
(Photo: Graeme Clarke)



of the Daily Telegraph.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"I could do that!" Flt Lt Kip Morton, winner of the Duke of Cambridge.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Alex Henderson coaches for Scotland in the National.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Front Counter was often busy - wonder why?
(Photo: Alan Keating)

Of course Wednesday is Queen's Prize Stage I with the usual mad scramble to guess the cut-off score before it is published. It is also the day on which those in contention for the Grand Aggregate take a final deep breath and plunge into the combination of short and long (the Conan Doyle at 900 yards and Queen's I) in a prelude to the Prince of Wales on Thursday, which can make and break dreams.

Down on Century Queen's I proceeded in the now usual heat, made almost acceptable by a fickle breeze from over the right shoulder, moving as the day progressed to the left shoulder, and back and forth: an interesting challenge to alertness and judgement. In fact QI was not that straightforward. Shots were lost through the ranges from heat, light, general exhaustion and the wind. Estimates of a cut of 103 were quickly revised downwards towards 101.

At the end of a long, hot and dusty day Jon Underwood (Old Guildfordians) emerged with 105.16 ahead of Bert Bowden of Australia and Tom Hunter of London University on 105.14, to win the Bronze Medal and Badge. And the cut was 101.11.

Up on Stickledown, in the Conan Doyle, 50s abounded down to 77th place. The five way tie on 50.9 went to ex-sailor Nigel Ball with the only 25 tie, ahead of Jon Underwood. A galaxy of aggregates reach fruition on Second Wednesday, but one undecided one was of immediate interest - the Grand. On Tuesday night Parag Patel had a one point lead, but dropped two points in each of QI and the Conan Doyle, letting Rich Stewart leapfrog past by virtue of dropping just one point. Jon Underwood produced a maximum effort to go clean on the day, lying just one point behind but with three more centrals. Pat Vamplew of Canada was third - twelve centrals behind Underwood - and Patel fourth a further point adrift but ahead of Kip Morton and David Calvert of RAFTRC and John Warburton of Huddersfield on centrals. (I thought it made sense when I wrote it!)

By my reckoning Stewart had to go clean in the 15 round Prince of Wales at 600 yards to be sure of victory. Otherwise if Underwood could make up the point and maintain his centrals advantage the title would be his. A funny old sport.

Conundrum

A reputable young shot scored 47.6 ex 50 in the Conan Doyle. Only one shot was out of the bullseye. You guessed it: a magpie shot out of turn. Nice one son.

Thursday 20 July - Rich Pickings on Grand Day Out

In the end it boiled down to this. Could Jon Underwood score 75.6 in the Prince of Wales to claw his way past Rich Stewart and take his second successive Grand? The squadding details had a say, with Stewart in an early detail and Underwood in the late morning, faced by some turbulent winds. Stewart had a 74; Underwood needed the maximum for the win.

Alas for Underwood it was simply too great a demand and his third shot slipped into the inner to give Stewart



A rather happy Rich Stewart GC.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)

his first Grand. Pat Vamplew moved up the list to finish second, Parag Patel third and David Luckman fourth. Underwood suffered horribly with a 71 and dropped to ninth. Firing point pundits were free with a variety of views, suggesting perhaps that, for that last and critical shoot of the Grand, the top 100 or so should be squadded together. Views on a post-card please . . . None of this should take anything away from Stewart's achievement, on the eve of his 25th birthday.

In the home National Match, England under David Friend produced a 12 point win over Scotland.

Oil in the bedding

It is said that young shooter X was having trouble with his groups, all of which were like that famous centreless mint. A more experienced fellow opened up the rifle and found lots of cleaning fluid in the bedding. Another young shooter Y, had identical symptoms. The more experienced fellow performed the same operation under local anaesthetic, to find the same causation. Y was asked where he had got the gun; you guessed it, borrowed from his friend X. Moral: never take the bedding habits of your friends for granted.

Friday 21 July - Kolapore Goes to GB & Underwood Part II

It was again, at first, cloudless and blue, feeling a lot fresher but with no wind. It remained like that for the first distance of the Kolapore, conditions that invited a full house of 50s at that level. Except that three points were lost at 300 yards by GB and slightly more than that by Canada and the others. So to make up for that GB went clean at 500 yards. They then lost six points at 600, by which time the wind was back and behaving in an unfriendly way. The GB total of 1191 was too good for the rest, Canada finishing 12 points in arrears.

The afternoon was a double bill: St George's II and HM the Queen's Prize II. The St George's Second Stage Silver Cross was won by John Taylor of Windsor on 150.20 by the comparatively large margin of four centrals ahead of Ian Davison of Somerset also on 150. The cut for the final was 146.17 and there were no tie shoots.

Queen's II again had but two 150s, and it was Jon Underwood with 23 centrals to Alistair Haley on 19, adding the second stage to his win in the first, all done

in hot and breezy conditions. Twelve on 146.17 were required to tie shoot for four places.

Saturday 22 July - Underwood's Record Treble

In the morning's events Ross McQuillan of Ireland had taken the St George's Vase with a 149, to shine in the early morning light.

In the Mackinnon the England team found themselves under pressure from the Scots from the word go at 900 yards. The margin at 900 was seven points in England's favour. But at 1000 Jeremy Langley and his three coaches stepped up a gear as the winds disrupted the other teams, pulling away to a 30 point winning margin overall.

The Queen's Prize

Old Guildfordians and members of Surrey RA carried Jon Underwood around the roads of the National Shooting Centre, from clubhouse to clubhouse, to test the inspiration of amateur cocktail makers. He set a new standard and record for target rifle shooting, winning all three stages of HM The Queen's Prize at the same Bisley Meeting. His trophy cabinet, already full to bursting with the medals and badges of other years and competitions will now have to house the Queen's I Bronze Badge and Medal, Queen's II Silver Badge and Medal and the Queen's Prize Gold Badge and Medal.

He went clean in each of the first two stages and added a 147 in the Final, in tricky conditions that were never

really appropriate for an assault on the Bennison/Paton record. These conditions really tested the competitors at 1000 yards when, as if ordered as a special extra side dish, the wind suddenly came to life exactly as the final distance was due to start. For a while Underwood, Bert Bowden of Australia, Paul Kent and David Calvert were neck and neck. Underwood had gone clean at 900, but early in his final shoot as the rain began to fall, briefly and without real impact, dropped one and then two and three points.

Calvert's response was to score a remarkable pair of 75s, to be added to his qualifying score of 147, at the lower end of the 100 list. It was a determined effort from the man who has been second in the Prize three times.

Bowden fell away as the rain also died, but Kent held on at two off before both falling to three off late in his shoot. Calvert, Kent and Underwood were tied on points but Underwood had more centrals with 42 to Kent 40 and Calvert 39. It was Underwood first - and first - and first, a feat never before managed by any other contestant in the history of the Prize. It was a signal triumph for the unassuming man from Old Guildfordians, and a very popular victory.

And as the old cartridge of time discharges its verbal load into the shooting box of antiquity there is just time for some basic statistics for your consideration:

Grand Aggregate Competitions - Entries, Possibles and Winning (or Tie Shoot) Scores

Competition	Entries	Distance	HPS	Possibles	Tie	No tied	Score
Alexandra	1183	600	50.10	128	Yes	8	50.9
Conan Doyle	1121	900	50.10	77	Yes	5	50.9
Corporation	1136	1000	50.10	18	Yes	2	50.9
Daily Mail	1173	500	75.15	38	Yes	2	75.13
Daily Telegraph	1175	500	75.15	39	No	-	75.13
Duke of Cambridge	1165	900	50.10	40	Yes	3	50.8
Prince of Wales	1128	600	75.15	39	Yes	3	75.12
Queen's I	1160	3, 5, 600	105.21	13	No	-	105.16
St Georges I	1135	300	75.15	68	Yes	2	75.14
Times	1152	300	50.10	146	Yes	2	50.10
Wimbledon	1152	600	50.10	81	No	-	50.10

Extra Time

Full details of every competition and all the aggregates can be found on the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk just by clicking the blue type where it says view results lists. For those of you who have never looked at the results it is a quick and easy way to find the details, ably devised and administered by James Watson and his team.

In finality for this year, my thanks to Bill Richards and the stats team led so well by Sharon who number-crunched to their full powers and put up with the usual idiotic demands on their time by yours truly and others. They make it all a lot of fun.

CRO Tony Clayton had it spot on: given the heat it was a time of remarkable tolerance and good humour all round, from markers through to shooters, from staff through to all those who perform small tasks here and there.

Thank you one and all. Here's looking forward to next year.



Erica McMullan loses interest in Alwyn McLean's shooting.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



John Jackman with General Stephen Njoroge of Kenya who presented the prizes.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"Are you sure this jacket conforms to Rule 233?"
(Photo: John Knight)



To the victor the spoils!
(Photo: John Knight)

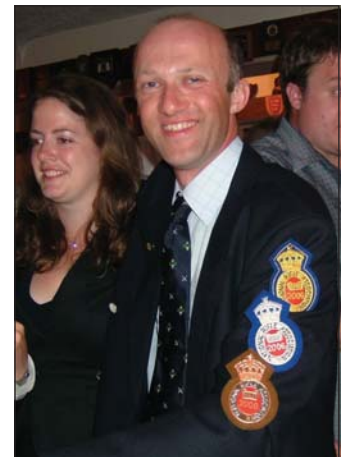


Time stood still.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Don't drop the tuba!

(Photo: Alan Keating)



"So what can I win next?"
(Photo: Mike Gregory)



"Now all I need for my cover shot is a blue feather boa!"
(Photo: Mike Gregory)



Jon goes for the big bang!
(Photo: Alan Keating)

F CLASS - MY WEEK AT THE IMPERIAL

by Darren Stewart

With the World Cup now over, but still reeling in the Peter Crouch "Hand of Hair" incident it was time to concentrate on more important matters like the 137th Imperial Meeting - after all this was going to be my year!

Camaraderie and competitiveness in F Class are two of the main reasons why I took up the discipline. Everyone I have shot with over the years has been friendly and helpful, sometimes offering advice when needed. I have tried to continue that same helpful nature through to every shoot I have attended, and have made some great friends along the way; after all, if you are relaxed and friendly before and when entering the firing point and setting up your kit, you are bound to be calmer and more collected when the detail begins.

This year competition was going to be fierce as we had new targets with 0.75moa solid white V bulls at short range and Palma targets with a 0.5moa solid white aiming mark at long range. This is perhaps why the decision was made to score the shoots as V=6 as these were going to be the most challenging targets we had shot at in the Imperial Meeting.

Kit preparation had started a little while back and, thanks to the Range Office Target in the preceding weeks, I also had elevation settings for each range; the only thing left to do was to check ammunition. I had made a batch of ammo for the "practice shoots" (pre-Grand Aggregate), and decided to load each evening for the following day's shoot, a mixture of family, work and the odd football match to watch having eaten into my reloading time. With temperatures expected to reach the mid to high 30s during the week, it would also give me the opportunity to check and adjust my ammunition should I have need, a good enough excuse I convinced myself.

First Friday saw me shoot a 53 and a 43 in the Century and a 53 in the Admiral Hutton, which placed me 25th and 14th respectively, these were won with scores of 110 and 57, by George Barnard and Liam Jennings.

Saturday started with a good conditioned Lovell; 55 was my score which placed me second, two points behind Harmut Kruger of the BDMP; this was unfortunately my only medal of the meeting. My Donegall score was 56; the highest score was 59 ex 60 by Paul Hill, yet those three points meant I was placed 19th.

The Grand Aggregate started with the Daily Telegraph and everything was going great. I was about to take my twelfth shot and had amassed a respectable 62 ex 66 but then I hit inner after inner. It was only when clearing the firing point that I noticed the coarse adjustment screw on my rest had worked loose; needless to say a change in technique now ensues when I have an unexpected shot. I was placed 23rd with a score of 78; Laurie Ingram won it with a very good 88.

The Alexandra was my first shoot on Sunday, and after having got caught with a magpie on my first to count by a gust of wind and subsequently overcompensating the

adjustment for the second, I settled down to a 53 and placed 18th, the winning score was 59 by Ted Hobbs. I got a matching score of 53 in the Duke of Cambridge but placed 23rd, this was won by George Barnard with a 58. My last shoot of the day was the Daily Mail; the wind was calm and I scored 83, which gained me seventh place, three points behind the winner Dave Morgan.

A late start at 11:45 for me in the Times and by the looks of it, I should have stayed in bed! At 300 yards I scored 47, the Wimbledon and Corporation shoots fared a little better with scores of 53 and 54, and placings of 38th, 19th and 12th. A little embarrassing, especially as Des Parr and Wolfgang Scholze both managed to shoot clean in the Times, Wolfgang dropped one point to win the Wimbledon, and Des dropped two to win the Corporation; this was definitely their day, both for shooting and dare I say for squadding!

One shoot on Tuesday: St George's Stage I - it was hot, bright and sunny and I was shooting the midday detail. It did not go how I had planned it; the way I started shooting I knew I wasn't going to qualify and lost concentration resulting in a disappointing score of 73 and 38th place. The St George's was won by Carel Taljaard on countback, pipping Paul Monaghan on his 13th shot.

The Queen's saw me with 40, 40 and 36, at 300, 500 and 600 yards and if memory serves me correctly the cut-off was 117; just out, but at least that's 36 rounds less to load.

The Conan Doyle was tricky with a fish-tailing wind. I noted that it was 37°C when we shot at 15:15, however, it was the most thought provoking and probably my most enjoyable shoot of the week even though I scored 51 and was placed 29th. This was won by Lee Tomlinson, who dropped a single point on his third to count.

The Queen's F Class Final, was won by Colin Shorthouse after an excellent series of shoots culminating in a score of 167. Very well done Colin!

My last shoot of the meeting was the Prince of Wales and although my group was within half a minute of elevation, I spanned two minutes for wind; 32nd place with a score of 72. The competition was won by Manfred Knackstedt of the BDMP with a score of 87.

Paul Monaghan won the Grand Aggregate, beating Carel Taljaard by six points, and Wolfgang Scholze by ten, my overall placement was 25th out of the complement of 41. There is definitely room for improvement for next year's competition, especially if I want to stand any chance for team selections in the upcoming World Championships in 2009.

Most important is what I have learned from this Meeting: that when I fire a bad shot, I should take the time to re-check my equipment; to remain focused on the detail I am shooting even if it is not going too well; that I need a lot more practice reading wind and mirage changes and, above all, to continue to enjoy it!

PROPOSALS FOR CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NRA

by Richard Horrocks, Vice-Chairman, General Council

At the General Council Meeting in September 2005, I was asked to form and chair a small group to study the feasibility and produce an outline plan for celebrating the 150th anniversary of the National Rifle Association during 2009/2010 recognising that it was formed on 16 November 1859 and the first Annual Meeting took place during the summer of 1860.

The terms of reference of the group were:

- 1 To consider the feasibility of holding one or a series of celebrations during 2009 with initial ideas as to their form, location and timetable.
- 2 To produce a plan for its implementation.
- 3 To outline the resources required and identify possible sponsorships.
- 4 To propose the structure and membership of the Anniversary Implementation Group.

The group comprised me as Vice-Chairman General Council, James Watson as Chairman of the Membership Committee, Paul Monaghan as Chairman of the Shooting Committee, Sarah Bunch representing NSC and Karen Robertson.

The General Council agreed in principle to the group's proposals regarding items (1) and (2) at their June meeting and the next stage is to commence implementation according to (3) and particularly (4). This last stage is where we need your assistance, hence this article and request outlined at the end.

The outline proposed programme accepted by the General Council on 15 September 2006

The celebrations are planned to start towards the end of 2009 (and coincide with the NRA founding anniversary on 16 November 2009) and proceed with nationwide events via the 2010 Annual Meeting (to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the original Meeting) to the Grand Finale at the Trafalgar Meeting 2010.

The current Marksman's Calendar is proposed as a template to plan phased events, which will coincide with the major regional and discipline-related competitions. With the present calendar, an outline programme could be based on the following scheme which suggests at least 20 or so special or "badged" events. These cover most disciplines and regions and, with the Annual Meeting, fullbore shooting nations. Please note that this list is by

Initial Suggested Timetable of Events (based on previous years' events)

Month/year	Event	Region/discipline	Range
November 2009	Event to initiate a year of celebration	All Disciplines	Bisley
April 2010	Bisley Clubs Easter Meeting	London & SE	Bisley
	Norfolk RA	Eastern	Thetford
May	Northumberland RA	Northern	Ponteland
	English VIII Spring Meeting	Match Rifle	Bisley
	British 300m Championships	ISSF 300m	Bisley
	Irish Open	Northern Ireland	Ballykinler
	Phoenix Meeting	Various disciplines	Bisley
	MLAGB Schutzenfest	Muzzle loading	Bisley
	English XX Meeting	TR	Bisley
June	Hereford & Worcester Meeting	W Midlands	Tyddesley Wood
	Midlands RA Birmingham Bisley	E Midlands	Kingsbury
	Oxfordshire Meeting	Southern	Otmoor
	Inter-Counties	All regions	Bisley
	British Pistol Championships	ISSF Pistol	Bisley
	Scottish RA Champs	Scotland	Barry Buddon
	Yorkshire RA Champs	Yorks & Humberside	Strensall?
July	Annual Bisley Meeting	Most disciplines	Bisley
	Australia Match	Overseas Teams	Bisley
August	County of Lancaster Open	North-West	Altcar
	Cornwall Open	South-West	Bodmin
	HBSA LR Championships	Historical	Bisley
	Bianchi & 1500 Championships	Gallery Rifle	Bisley
September	BSRC Champs	Sporting Rifle	Bisley
October	F Class League Final	F Class	Bisley
	Trafalgar Meeting	Historical	Bisley
	Grand Finale	All disciplines	Bisley
To be added	Event in Wales	Wales	?
	Practical Rifle event	Practical Rifle	?

no means exclusive and may be expanded or modified as dictated by interest.

In addition, a number of proposals have been made by General Council members which include:

- Invite the presence of one or more members of the Royal Family.
- Hold an event on Wimbledon Common with possible re-enactment of volunteer participation.
- Additional inscriptions on overseas GB touring team badges with '150th anniversary' or similar wording.
- Use the anniversary to promote the NRA's plans to badge or brand ranges away from Bisley.
- Expand the Ages Match to include regions, counties or both.
- Involve other shooting disciplines and organisations outside the NRA's immediate sphere of interest.
- Upgrade the blue Bisley Book and seek sponsorship for this.
- Organise an immediate post Inter-counties weekend event.

Management

The implementation will be overseen and managed by the NRA 150th Anniversary Implementation Group which should start its work in 2007.

Bisley-centred events will be co-ordinated through NSC and Bisley Clubs working both individually and together.

Events away from Bisley will require regional leaders to drive these forward.

Discipline-related events will also require leaders recruited from the NRA Shooting Committee or other interested organisations (eg MLAGB, the British Sporting Rifle Club etc).

Benefits and sponsorship

Badging or branding events as 150th Anniversary celebrations should be recognised in appropriate ways and suggestions currently include:

- NRA branding of events that also will hopefully invite increased participation
- The issuing of a brief history of NRA to all competitors with reduced membership fees for first-time, new members. This offers the opportunity for rewriting the blue Bisley Book using sponsorship, if available.
- The issuing of appropriate badges or medals to overseas GB team members, competitors or winners. Here the possible need to distinguish regional from Bisley events may be appropriate in some cases.

Sponsorship will be an essential factor here if all these suggestions are to be followed up; help from members in identifying and approaching possible sponsors will be crucial to achieving success.

Proposed timescales

By the end of 2006 we expect that initial agreement of a general strategy and identification of the NRA 150th Anniversary Implementation Group will have been achieved.

2007: Production of a financially-underpinned plan accepted by the Trustees and General Council with possible sponsors identified.

2008: Full plan agreed, liaison and planning across regions completed and plans announced nationwide. Main sponsorships will have been identified or secured.

2009: Full publicity underway with regional and Bisley plans ready for implementation starting November 2009; sourcing of commemorative media complete by the end of September 2009.

2010: Full implementation with a Grand Finale at the end of October.

Composition of the NRA 150th Anniversary Implementation Group

The next stage of the process is to constitute the implementation group and invite interest from you, the members.

If the group is to function efficiently and effectively and according to plan, the composition must reflect representation from across the NRA shooting spectrum, either directly or indirectly while remaining quite small (say no more than ten members) although working sub-groups might be formed to address defined (eg discipline) or composite (eg regional) issues. Thus the membership should be representative of:

- NSC
- Bisley Clubs
- Regional shooting
- Shooting disciplines

and comprise enthusiastic members who are willing to take responsibility for delivering defined and agreed tasks.

I should, therefore, like to invite expressions of interest in joining the group. Each expression should be accompanied by a short CV and a statement regarding that individual's special interest, skills and relevant experience that he or she will bring to the work of the group. The group will probably conduct the majority of its business via e-mail with the need for meetings only two or three times a year.

All expressions of interest should be sent to Professor Richard Horrocks, 10 Easedale Road, Bolton, BL1 5LL or via e-mail to arichardhorrocks@hotmail.com for receipt by 22 December 2006.

The selection of names will involve the present Working Group members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Trustees). We hope that the final membership of the group can be decided in January 2007.

BUSA RIFLE TEAM TOUR TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AUGUST 2006

by Mark Westmoquette

Tuesday 15 August, the day before departure to the Channel Islands, was set aside for team training. This was to be our only training session before the competitions began. However, just as the team was arriving at Bisley on Monday night, the Range Office informed us that the storms and torrential rain over the weekend had rendered all the ranges unusable, and that they would be out of action until further notice. Undeterred by this, we decided that we should instead spend Tuesday morning indoors, using two sets of computerised laser training aids (SCATT machines). Not ideal, as we could not practise team drills, but at least the time was not wasted. Emma Nuttall provided useful insight to enhance the technique of some team members.

Our team of twelve departed Bisley at the horrendous hour of 05:30 on Wednesday morning. Being students, we were not entirely sure that such a time existed, but we did successfully manage to catch the 09:00 ferry from Portsmouth to Guernsey. Living up to its slow-boat reputation, the ferry arrived in St Peter Port seven hours later, leaving us just enough time to get to Elizabeth College, where we were to store our rifles during our stay on Guernsey. The hostel we had booked in Les Maingys was more than adequate for our needs, with a large industrial kitchen and much appreciated hot showers. We set up camp in the main activity room, which proved very comfortable for our four day stay.

Shooting began on Thursday at the leisurely time of 13:30 at the Fort Le Marchant rifle range, located in the far north-east of the island. Having slept well, we all felt ready for the challenge. The Guernsey Championships, spread over two and a half days, consist of a series of individual competitions which all add up to a Grand Aggregate of the whole meeting. Concurrent with Friday afternoon's matches, we participated in a team competition against the Guernsey national team, which we won by a comfortable 12 points. The Grand Aggregate finishing positions were published at the end of shooting on Saturday, and listed eight of our team in the top thirteen places (of a total of 40 entries). The outstanding performance was from Tom Hunter (Adjutant) who came third in the Grand after winning two individual competitions and coming either second or third in many of the others.

Sunday morning consisted of a rather rhythmical, but luckily rapid, ferry crossing to Jersey and another unloading of the rifles, this time into a locker at the Jersey Crabbé ranges. The remainder of Sunday was spent relaxing in our spacious and very well equipped hostel in Trinity, with the aid of a pool table and a very large TV. Monday and Tuesday were free days and were mostly spent preparing for the next week's shooting. On Monday afternoon, the boys journeyed all the way over (well 8 miles!) to the west coast of the island to learn how to 'Blokart'. This is a fast, almost dangerous, extreme sport involving a large expanse of beach, some wind, a three-wheeled buggy, and a sail. Once we had

each built our own kart, we were taught how to tack, jibe and maintain safe control of our vehicles. We spent the two-hour session speeding along the shore, executing over-zealous and reckless cornering, and frequently tipping over. The girls went to the cinema.

After a very pleasant cocktail evening at the Jersey Rifle Association on Tuesday evening, shooting commenced at the Crabbé ranges at 08:00 sharp on Wednesday. The Jersey Open Championship achieves a better attendance than the Guernsey meeting (there were over seventy entrants), so the competition was proportionately stiffer. However, that did not seem to faze the team – in fact they responded by raising their game. On the first day, Pete Law scored equal highest in one of the competitions, earning him a place in a tie shoot with three others. A quick finish resulted in him winning the tie with a maximum score, which is a remarkable achievement in itself. Thursday saw Ed Welford (Vice-Captain) in a 300 yards tie shoot for the Seymour, in which he came second, and Jen Charlton winning the Mourant at 500 yards outright (a match that saw three of our team occupying the top three places). Susie Kent, not wanting to be left out of the action, also contested a tie shoot for the Pool at 600 yards and came third.

On Friday we got to shoot at distances of 900 and 1000 yards on the Les Landes range, situated splendidly on the edge of a cliff with amazing views of the Jersey coastline. This was particularly special since Les Landes is only opened four times annually, as permission has to be granted by the council to shut the common on which it is situated. The early morning detail at 900 yards (starting at 07:30) for the Sirrett saw some very high scores, as competitors took advantage of the still wind conditions. Over 15 shots to count four of our team scored the maximum of 75, and Isao Matsumoto (scoring 75.13 – his first 75 ever) found himself contesting a tie shoot with a UK cadet, which he won. On later details, when the wind had returned, a score of 68 was considered good, so when we moved back to 1000 yards for the Cotillard, a lone 74 comfortably won the competition with scores spreading down as low as 59! The afternoon saw us back at the Crabbé range, firing at 200 yards for the Jesse Boot – quite a different kettle of fish. Again, the BUSA team managed to storm the competition, with two of our team finding themselves in a tie shoot for top place (Tom and Jen finishing third and fourth, respectively).

At the beginning of the final day, Ed held equal first place in the Jersey Grand Aggregate and was sure that after the first shoot he would have relinquished his spot at the top. However at lunchtime (150 points later), Ed had dropped three and somehow only fell into second place by V bulls. Susie now found herself occupying the top position. The final competition of the meeting, the McCartney, was to be held at 600 yards and with such outstanding performances from various members of the team so far, Emma was keen to show she could



Fort Le Marchant range in Guernsey.



Pete's tie shoot at Crabbé Range in Jersey.

keep up. With a maximum score of 75.12 she won the competition outright and earned herself a place on the prize list. Ed, after sweating and shaking for England, managed a superb score of 75.10 (giving him second place in this competition) and ensuring that he climbed back into first place in the Grand Aggregate – a truly outstanding achievement. Susie finished in third place and Tom in fourth.

The Championships were concluded with prize giving followed by a barbecue at the clubhouse. The prize list was dominated by BUSA Rifle Team members, with a collective tally of eight trophies between us (the smallest, perversely, being the Grand Aggregate cup).

The final day in Jersey was the day of the team match. Shot over 300, 500 and 600 yards with a team of eight firers and two wind coaches, and with the stiff opposition of the Jersey national team and the London & Middlesex RA touring team, it was to be a gruelling day's shooting. The Jersey team rose superbly to the challenge of 300 yards, not dropping a point out of a total of 400. However, aiding our cause, there were stunning performances from Isao and Susie (both scoring a perfect 50.10 – a once-in-a-year score even for a seasoned

shooter). We felt the pressure as we moved back to 500 yards. The coaches, Mark Westmoquette and Pete, did a brilliant job, only losing three of the 400 possible points, and at 600 yards, we managed to beat the Jersey team by four V bulls. The final score of 1188.169v revealed that we managed a total only three points below the range all-time record! As Captain, Mark could not have been happier. However the Jersey team achieved a score two points above the record so clinched the match. The London & Middlesex team was a full 27 points below us, putting them in third place. After some farewell speeches, we bid our Jersey hosts goodbye and had only a ferry trip to Poole to look forward to the next day.

It was unanimously agreed that the first BUSA Rifle Team tour of the Channel Islands was a resounding success – both on and off the range. When we selected the team, we could not have imagined that we would do so well, nor have such a great time together, more so since we had met each other only once before leaving England. For a full list of results, photos, and more information about the tour, please see our website:

www.busarifle.org.uk/ci2006/



"This Range Officering is such hard work!" Emma Nuttall sleeps it off.



The BUSA Team to the Channel Islands 2006.



Tom Hunter had a successful time in Guernsey.

SNIPERS WORLD CUP 2006

Hunters Lodge Rifle Club Represents Great Britain In Hungary

by Steve Lakin

Introduction

The Military and Police Sniper World Cup is an annual competition bringing together a brotherhood of specialists. Although the competitors are separated or divided by different flags and nations, (this year 22 nations and 118 competitors), they are still doing the same job, with the same training restrictions and difficulties, thousands of miles apart.

Aim

The aim of this competition is to shoot together and against each other in various situations, at complex ranges, at extremely difficult targets, showing experience and training and becoming closer as informal, integrated international specialists.

Background

Some years ago a number of nations got together for some training and shooting competitions but the snipers of these nations were left out, although they were used as instructors. It was decided that they should have a similar competition in each nation, and after a few years, each telling each other what they did best and how well they did it, they got together to compete against each other. Firstly it was held in Austria and then Czechoslovakia and since then more and more teams have joined in. Five years ago the Hungarian Police hosted the first Military and Police Snipers World Cup and it has grown year on year.



Future

Hunters Lodge Rifle Club intends to send a team of four to six competitors to the World Cup in 2007. Initial discussions have taken place and subject to negotiations with the NRA and main organisers, it is intended that the competition be held here at Bisley in 2008.

Course of Fire

The course of fire varies each year. When the organisers visit us in November of this year we can agree a course of fire that will be suitable for Bisley. I believe that we could make it a unique event for 2008, given the length of ranges available.

Training

It has been decided our team for 2007 will need at least four to six training days and further information will follow with respect to the course of fire and the dates that could be available to us. Our German affiliates have agreed to make their facilities available for a few days additional training, prior to moving onto Hungary.

Funding

The cost of representing Great Britain in Hungary this year was approximately £2,500.00. Had it not been for the most generous help of Birmingham University Officer Training Corps it would not have been possible. Hunters Lodge intends to hold some fund raising events in order to help finance our team for next year. We welcome your support in this endeavour or any other help you may be able to give us.



ENGLISH XX F CLASS TOUR TO CANADA 2006

by Mik Maksimovic

Captain and Coach:

Peter Medhurst

Vice-Captain and Chief Bottle Washer:

Mik Maksimovic

Adjutant and Grumpy Person in the Morning:

Peter Hobson

Shooters:

David Kent

Peter Wilson

Jo Wright

Colin Shorthouse

Darren Stewart

Les Bacon

Gary Costello

Roger Wood

Team Helpers:

Stephanie Kent (*Baggage Assistant to Mr Kent*)

Caroline Bacon

Claire Bunny

The team first got together at Bisley on Wednesday 23 August expecting to have a day of long range practice and team selection. Unfortunately Stickledown was still out of use due to the recent storms and damage to the butts, so we had a day of form filling, repacking ammo, checking equipment and getting ready. Following several hours of discussion over unknown quantities of coffee, we were ready for our first team function - a barbecue at Mik's Shed. This went very well apart from the fact it rained (poured) and we all managed to get wet inside and out!

The coaches came to pick us up at 08:00 the following day from outside the Pavilion; surprisingly everyone was there on time. We were met at Heathrow by the ever-efficient Donna from Sportsworld, who had organised three check-in desks just for us and Air Canada baggage handlers for our rifles. We all agreed that this was the slickest and most efficient team check-in that we had ever seen. We were all through with rifles checked by Customs in well under an hour and with no excess baggage problems. We also managed to exit Ottawa Airport and Canadian Customs with no problems at all, so we were ensconced in Barons Hotel by 20:30 and in the bar by 20:35.

For the Vice-Captain the following day was for administration, booking in with DCRA at Connaught and collecting squadding cards. For the rest of the team it was a nice leisurely day when we unpacked, filled sandbags and collected mats (thanks to the Connaught armourer who is a long time friend of Captain Peter Medhurst.)

On the second day, Saturday, we shot the SJ Perry which was at 700, 800 and 900 metres. We put up a very creditable performance with Les Bacon from Border

Barrels in second place and Peter Wilson from Diggle in third and we had all 11 of our shooters in the top 20. English teams took first, second and third places in the SJ Perry Team match, a great start to the tour for all of us.

On Sunday we shot the America Match against the USA, Canada and Germany in the rain. This was at 300 and 600 yards followed by 800 and 900 metres. Here we had some technical problems and issues, which we finally managed to resolve, but we finished in third place behind the USA and Germany by a slim margin of five V bulls. Colin Shorthouse found himself Captain of the team (his face was a picture with a "what do I do next?" look) but he managed with help from Darren and others to make a very good job of it.

During the final stages of the America Match Peter Wilson locked the keys to his bright yellow Mustang convertible in the boot with his ammo! Luckily more ammunition was fetched by Gary Costello so Peter could finish the match. The rain had stopped shooting for several hours so we had retired to our vehicles to stay dry but everyone was soaked to the skin at some point that day. After sorting ourselves out and drying off our equipment, we felt ready for the F Class Championships which began the next morning. Bring it on!

Day one of the F Class Championships dawned. After shooting the individual competitions, 2 and 15 at 900 metres three times, we were ready for the first team match - two four-man teams ably coached by Pete Medhurst and Jo Wright. After a gruelling hour of difficult shooting in terrible wind conditions the results of the first team match were USA, England White, England Red (only one point between the England teams) and then Germany, Canada and the Republic of Ireland. Then the fun started as England White were supposed to be the weaker team and they had beaten our so called big guns!

This first day of competition also saw much English success with the Vice-Captain finishing in third place in the day's aggregate and at least five other England shooters in the top ten. All we had to do was keep shooting as we were and pray for no equipment failures.

Day two was an identical format with 2 and 15 again being shot three times. We had another third place with Pete Hobson and his 7mm WSM, and the team match results were again USA, England White and England Red. This time England White beat England Red by five points. We were now getting slightly worried as one of the England Red team was starting to suffer from barrel failure and the England White team coached by Jo Wright seemed to be on fire in the team matches. England Red now had a six point deficit behind the White team and 12 points behind the USA Team but were well ahead of the other teams. These results were very pleasing indeed for the English F Class shooters as we have struggled in

the past to keep up with the Americans and their very well-organised and well-funded F Class shooting teams.

Now an aside. I had bet the GB Palma Team that if any of them beat me with their target rifles, I would cut my 7mm barrel in half! This seemed to instil even further determination in them even to the point that they bought a new hacksaw. Things were going well for me and my barrel was safe until the second shoot on day two when David Luckman beat me by one point at 900 metres using the F Class scoring system with our 5 inch V bull. Well done David! I have unscrewed my barrel and I await a date to have it ceremoniously chopped in two at Bisley. There was a great atmosphere on and off the range between Target Rifle and F Class shooters and many new friendships were forged. Well done guys it was great fun and we were proud to be there with you!

Going into the final day we had six England shooters in the top 12 of the overall aggregate, but wind conditions were worse than ever so it was anybody's competition for the taking. We shot two more details at 900 which finished the individual competitions; this resulted in six shooters in the top 22 of the Grand Aggregate, the highest being Pete Hobson in sixth place. We all felt we had done well in a field of 90 of the best and most experienced F Class shooters in the world.

Our final team match was in extreme fishtailing wind conditions where England Red managed to beat both USA and England White, by a wide margin finishing in first place. This was mainly due to Pete Medhurst's superb wind coaching and us holding tight groups. Phew - it was finally over and after five days of shooting and receptions (averaging 14 hour days on the ranges) to say we were all very tired was a bit of an understatement. We were presented with some wonderful medals for our efforts by DCRA, and the beers shared with our fellow competitors after the prizegiving were very welcome. It was sad to say goodbye to everyone.

We should like to thank DCRA for their wonderfully organised International F Class Meeting and all the help that we received on and off the ranges. It was a pleasure to compete in such a well-run competition so ably organised by Jim Thompson and the girls in the DCRA Office.

All in all, it was an extremely successful tour with many team and individual medals won; everyone had a wonderful time; the team atmosphere and bonding were superb. As Vice-Captain and Chief Bottle Washer, on behalf of the team officers, I should like to thank all members for their good humour, good shooting and most of all their camaraderie. I think we all learnt something about our shooting and how to improve on our equipment. Finally, I should like to thank all those others who have been involved with this tour, from the Range Office at Bisley to our brochure sponsors, and team members wives for their assistance during the tour.

We look forward to competing on our home ground in the future.



The English XX F Class Team to Canada 2006.



A brief respite from bottle-washing duties.



Girls, guns and fast cars - what more could Roger Wood want?



Medal time for the team.

THIRD WIN IN A ROW FOR THE ANCIENT BRITS

by John Evans

The 17th annual pistol competition between the British Army and the Ancient Brits took place at Bisley on 6 May 2006. It resulted in a third successive win for the Ancient Brits.

Before the match, Skippers Major Dave Whitelegg and John Evans decided that the top three firers would count as team scores.

In the morning, the busy Melville 25m range was used for Sport/Centrefire pistol (30 shots precision + 30 shots duel). Despite the MLAGB firing on the neighbouring bay and producing some pretty fearsome noises and dense smoke, both teams achieved very impressive scores. Sgt Alan Kerr (574) and Major Dave Whitelegg (572) overall first and second were closely followed by Iain Candlish (569), Nick Harvey (568) and Nigel Hodgson (567). Nonetheless the Army led by three points at the end of the morning match due mainly to their slightly better duelling scores. Deserving of special mention in the duel were Alan Kerr's two splendid 50s which were equalled by the two 50s shot by Iain Candlish (who never shoots the duel!). Nick Harvey also shot one 50. In the Precision part of the match, 50s were also shot by Lt Col Richard Hoole and Steve Archer.

The 60 shot ISSF Precision match started promptly at 14:00 on the Lord Roberts range. Dave Whitelegg led the Army team with a first class (557) but both Iain Candlish (566) and Steve Archer (562) overtook him. Nigel Hodgson finished one point ahead of Nick Harvey who had to shoot with a borrowed pistol. And so the Ancient Brits (1674) led the Army (1646) in the ISSF Precision match by 28 points and thus became overall winners on the day by 25 points.

Iain Candlish was Man of the Match (1135) six points ahead of runner-up Dave Whitelegg (1129).

The Ancient Brits provided tea in the ATSC Clubhouse during which the two skippers spoke briefly. Nigel Hodgson was especially welcomed as a new Ancient Brit having left the Army in 2005 (Mick Gault wasn't able to



LCpl Willie Kennedy in action.

take part this year as he and his wife were on a well deserved holiday abroad after Mick's resounding success in his fourth Commonwealth Games). During the two matches Chalky White, ex Army pistol team, carried out most excellently the burdensome task of Range Office, Target Changer, Marker and Stats all rolled into one.

Champagne prizes and engraved glass tumblers were presented by the Ancient Brits skipper to the teams and to Edward Harris who gallantly took photographs on the ranges and in the ATSC Clubhouse. Sadly, his fellow photographer and ex-international pistoleer, Dennis Kelly, had died at the end of last year after a long battle with cancer.

Major Dave Whitelegg presented the team trophy once again to John Evans.

Footnote

During the meeting, Lt Col Richard Hoole researched the archives which showed that the annual British Army v Ancient Brits Pistol Match started only in 1990 (two years after John Evans and Wilfrid Ward had founded the Ancient Brits). Thus the re-audited tally stands at nine matches to eight to the British Army.



Sgt Alan Kerr with one of his duelling scores.

(All photos: Edward Harris)



Iain Candlish, Man of the Match, receives a magnum of champagne from John Evans.

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING 2006 WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2006

Speech by the Chairman John Jackman

Good evening and thank you for coming.

I welcome all our Vice-Presidents who are attending or who have visited Bisley this year and particularly those from overseas: General Njoroge from Kenya, Mr Jim Cantlay from Zimbabwe, M Robert Chombart, who visited briefly, and M Philippe Ginestet from France, Mr Norris Gomez from Trinidad, Mr Peter Sirett and Mr Alan le Page from Guernsey, Mr Cliff Mallett from Jersey and Mr Stan Frost from Canada. We miss our regular visitor Mrs Stewart from Canada this year and I am sending her our best wishes.

I also congratulate and welcome for the first time John Kynoch and Ian Shirra-Gibb who were elected Vice-Presidents at the Annual General Meeting. Welcome to you all.

The notice of the Bisley General Meeting was published on page 5 of the Summer Journal. May I take it as read?

The Agenda for the Meeting has been posted on the Secretary General's Notice Board.

Our first Annual General Meeting was held only recently and so I shall not repeat what I said on that occasion. A copy of the proceedings is on our website and the minutes are available from the office upon request to the Secretary General, and there is a copy in the Front Office reception.

After my short speech I shall take questions, as is customary. I will close by announcing the result of the First Stage of Her Majesty, the Queen's Prize.

The Association's Affairs

There are a just a few new matters to report.

Ministry of Defence

Recently, it became very clear that our plan to assist clubs with Licences to access MoD ranges was not going to take place this season. This was a major disappointment, particularly as we had committed considerable resource to the project which will dent our results this year in the absence of income. I appreciate that it has also inconvenienced many of our clubs. Glynn Alger and I have had the opportunity to discuss the issues with the Commander in Chief, Sir Richard Dannatt, who was here a couple of weeks ago. He is very keen to press home the several arrangements involved, but it does mean that the MoD and its agencies have to be persuaded and this is clearly no mean task.

On the regional ranges front the Council have now launched an initially modest loan policy package which we want to build upon. Glynn Alger is already in negotiation over several ranges and, recently, we have provided a facility to the Thorpe Cloud Range in Derbyshire which will be NRA accredited. In due time it is essential that we have Governing Body accredited ranges throughout the country. Enquiries should always be addressed to Glynn.

We have also commenced talks regarding the renewal of the Bisley Meeting arrangements with the MoD, sometimes called the Package Deal. The current Agreement expires at the end of next season. Several aspects are being revisited and I think it quite possible that it will have important differences from the present deal.

Charity Bill

The National Rifle Association is a Charity. The new Charities Bill has just had its Second Reading and has been going through the Standing Committee stage. For reasons of improving our public image and reputation; attraction of our sport to the young; sponsorship opportunities; and the other financial benefits of being charitable we hope that Target Shooting Sport also will become recognised as a Charity activity under the Act, when passed. To this end, we have been in touch with Ministers and MPs as well as the Charity Commission to seek to take this project forward for the benefit of our future. There is no guarantee of success, but it will be a bonus if we can.

Electronic Targets at Bisley

We have said much on this subject. The targets have arrived, but intentions to have trial targets at the Meeting have been thwarted. There has been so much testing that when they do become operational at the end of this month I hope that they will work satisfactorily. I sincerely hope so because part of our budgeted income this year has depended on them and the delay is going to dent that return. As I have mentioned before, the introduction of electronic targets up to 500 yards has helped the Huddersfield Rifle Club immensely with increased activity as a result.

The National Association of Target Shooting Sports

I promised to give an update on this. First I shall read our the latest joint Press release:

"The Steering Group of the three Governing Bodies of Target Shooting Sports, the CPSA, NRA and NSRA met again on 27 June with the primary purpose of interviewing and selecting a Facilitator who would provide guidance and assistance towards the proposed amalgamation.

Afterwards the staff of the three governing bodies were invited to an informal meeting at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, to give them assurances for the future and to provide an opportunity for those present to ask questions of the three Chairmen.

It was emphasised that there will not be a reduction in staff. It is intended that the amalgamated organisation, (which would be considered as a uniting of three equal associations), will grow larger and faster, benefiting the current and future membership and will be in the best interests of the sport of target shooting.

There are still a number of issues to be resolved before the Steering Group is able to make a recommendation to their respective Boards of Directors/Governing Councils. They in turn would need to be satisfied before making a recommendation to the membership of each organisation, who ultimately will make the final decision. The process is likely to take up to two to three years to conclude. Meanwhile opportunities for interim co-operation will be identified as we seek to develop closer working relationships.

It continues to be the opinion of the Steering Group that the amalgamation makes good sense. Feedback to date from Members, Legislators and the Media is very positive."

I believe that our joint staffs meeting went well and clarified a number of points at this stage. It will take some time, but we hope that it will provide improved political influence; influence in world sport; service to target shooters; media interest; and a better focus for sponsorship and grants. We hope that the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation, the GBTSF, will be part of it and it is noteworthy that the GBTSF is also re-branding itself to prepare for Government money being injected into Target Shooting Sport as we approach the Olympics 2012. I might just add that there is no intention for it to micromanage the activities of the many target shooting disciplines and one of the challenges will be to set up a structure which continues to allow freedom to our specific requirements within the new overarching framework. One logical outcome is that we shall all become members of the new body. Following the same logic we must plan on the basis that target rifle and pistol shooters will expect or need to become individual members, in due time.

The Bisley Meeting

Some of you may have noticed that there are no longer copies of the Times made available to us, free, in the office each morning. The Telegraph is now making a small charge. We are very grateful to the Daily Mail for its continued support with 'free' newspapers - a great convenience to those resident at Bisley - as proceeds go to the Young Shooters Fund as an investment in our future. However, all three newspapers as well as the City of London have withdrawn cash sponsorship from the competitions in their names. They have done the same to other national organisations as economics, finances and marketing practices are reappraised. Less are sponsoring pro bono.

Sponsorship is going through another phase where it is difficult to obtain. The common theme when turned down is that companies expect a return in terms of sales and profits from their sponsorship.

A very warm letter from the managing editor of the Daily Mail made it quite clear that the Daily Mail is a happy supporter for reporting on target shooting as a sport, (and indeed, has done so this week) particularly if we have a good story, but otherwise we do not sell enough newspapers for him!

At the Spring General Meeting last year I remarked that the Annual Prize Meeting takes up a large part of our resources - too large a part in view of our other aspirations, that is that it runs at a substantial deficit after all costs and overheads. However, since 1860 the Prize Meeting has been the Association's flagship and principal activity in the pursuit of encouraging people to take up target shooting marksmanship and promoting target shooting as a public skill. It was recognised, then, that it would be costly and much effort was made to raise funds.

Some months ago the Council set up a working party to consider all aspects of running the Meeting and their cost effectiveness. For 2006, the age limit for discounted entries was lowered for students from maximum age 28 to age 25. All students now pay 75% instead of 50% of marker fees. These are just two detailed steps. The rationale is that the considerable resources put into discounted shooting for introducing the young has to stop at some point. However, we are seeking to give guidance to other sources of finance for example through local Councils and Regional Sports Council support for sport to help shooters develop their competitive skills. Discounts to over 65s will also have to be examined together with many other detailed considerations.

For further example, members may not realise that, owing to the reduction of sponsorship cash, we are now paying out some £6,000 pa in unfunded cash prizes, not including the sweepstake which is self-financing and gives a small contribution to the costs of running the Meeting. Perhaps, and I say only, "perhaps", we should only pay cash prizes where the competition is sponsored including cash hypothecated for cash prizes. Perhaps, an effect of this will not only be a saving but a focussing of the mind to raise more sponsorship, even if modest, but knowing that it will be more visible and attributed. Many things will be examined, including the formal name of the Meeting, and any suggestions of Members in the Suggestions Book or to the Secretary General will be taken into account in the exercise. None of us like changes, but we do have to be realistic - please do not hesitate to express your views.

In saying this, please see the list of Sponsors on the Noticeboard and we all thank them for their support to our Annual Prize Meeting.

2006

A total of 264 competitors shot in CENTSAM, to be renamed the Army Combat Shooting Championships as from next year. A total of six overseas teams competed, from Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, the Republic of Ireland and South Africa. A second team of South African Reservists also competed in the Territorial Army Meeting.

The winners of HM The Queen's Medals, the only non-military service medals which can be worn on the uniform, were Warrant Officer Class 2 Lalit Gurung for the third time for the Army, Warrant Officer Class 2 O'Connor for the third time for the Navy/Royal Marines

and, once again the 12 times winner for the Royal Air Force, Chief Technician John Prictor.

There is still an emphasis that target rifle shooting marksmanship is a high priority and just as important as combat rifle practice. This is good for us.

Despite ever increasing overseas commitments 236 military competitors competed in the NRA Service Rifle Championships compared to 184 last year, a 28% increase. The winner of the NRA Service Rifle Championship was Major Al Balushi from Oman. The Sultanate of Oman also won 18 other individual and team trophies, including the International Service Rifle Team Trophy.

The Methuen Trophy Inter-Services teams shoot was won by the Royal Gurkha Rifles and eight NRA Civilian Service Rifle teams shot alongside. The winners of the Mauser Trophy were the London Practical Shooting Club, beating the Highpower Rifle Association for the first time.

The Territorial Army Queen's Medal shoot suffered again from absentees abroad. Sgt D Fenwick of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers won HM The Queen's Medal for the second time after a gap of several years. The prizes were presented by Major General The Duke of Westminster who is Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff, Reserves and Cadets. The Duke is a great supporter of target shooting and has been to Bisley regularly over the last few years.

The Services cadets, however, were here again in force with nearly 700 competing cadets, some 1,000 in all including cadets from Canada and Australia, and enormously enthusiastic. Air Marshal Barry Thornton presented the prizes. We must again thank Andy Chown, Arthur Clarke and Mick Barr and the Bisley V Club members for holding their annual long range shoot for 25 cadet teams. Unfortunately some were turned away. The winners were 2 (Ireland) Battalion, ACF. Cadet N Kernaghan with a score of 92.4 was the top individual

Fifty school teams, a team from Canada, and a team from Australia - altogether 618 cadets - were represented this year in the Schools Cadet Meeting which is a further improvement over the numbers who have entered during the last three years. We welcome four schools who are entering the Schools Meeting for the first time, Birkenhead, King Edwards Bath, Kings School Chester and Royal Grammar School High Wycombe, as well as Lancing College which is returning to the fold after their recent absence. Birkenhead tied for the Cadet Pairs on a gun score with Dollar Academy and Epsom, but were placed third on V bulls. This was a remarkable achievement for a school shooting for the first time.

I am pleased that the prizes were presented by Brigadier Robbie Scott-Bowden, Director of Infantry, on his first visit to Bisley, and I think he was impressed.

The Ashburton was won by Epsom College with 788.59 points over Marlborough College with 775.46. This score was 26 points better than last year, and is a new record

under the new match conditions for the Ashburton. The Royal Canadian and the Australian Defence Force Army Cadets shot alongside British teams for the Garry Trophy, which was won by Epsom College. Campbell College Belfast won the ever popular Devon and Dorset Light Infantry Falling Plates, for the second year in succession.

The Historic Arms weekend was again organised by Rae Wills and David Mumford and staffed by volunteers to whom we are all grateful. Entries were about the same as last year at some 209, shooting 82 matches. This year, however, they shot nearly fifty extra match cards, clearly enjoying the good weather and excellent results.

A full capacity 50 competitors competed and 27 teams shot in the Pistol and Gallery Rifle newly organised squadded events, but with a much larger number of entries in the unlimited events totalling some 850 overall. Our thanks go to Fred Parker and Doug Glaister for their special work on these events.

The Match Rifle meeting had 178 entries which is 28 more than last year. We were delighted to welcome a team of 20 competitors from Australia to compete for the Woomera Trophy. A total of 138 competitors - last year 114 - fired the full Hopton course which was won by Mike Baillie-Hamilton by a margin of 6 points with a score of 987.105. The Hopton was followed by the Elcho won by Scotland by just 11 points from Ireland with England third. The Australians shot alongside for the new trophy donated by Martin Townsend which was won by Scotland. The Woomera Match itself was won by Great Britain.

The entries for the Grand Aggregate are 1,081 compared to 1,031 in 2005 and in the Queen's Prize we have 1,159 compared to 1,170 last year.

Once again, I am very pleased to see so many younger shooters taking part this week. There are 154 students and under 21s receiving the special discount and we also welcome 16 competitors awarded a free Grand Aggregate entry by their Counties under our scheme for encouragement of new entrants. Our youngest competitor is Cadet MJ Purdy from Greshams School at the age of 13 years and 11 months.

I also welcome the teams from Canada, Germany, Guernsey, Jersey, Kenya and Malaysia as well as individuals from a further 13 countries.

I take this opportunity to wish John Webster success in the Kolapore which takes place on Friday and Susie Kent with her Under 25 team. I also send best wishes to Martin Townsend and his team to Canada in August and to David Hossack and his NRA Goodwill Team to the West Indies this Autumn and especially for the championship match to be held in Barbados in October.

Royal Ordnance, Radway Green have produced another vintage batch of 155 grain ammunition; I hope everyone will agree.

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

Firstly, we welcome, most importantly, the support of Milforce provided this year by 104 Battery Royal Artillery under the command of Major Mike Gaze. Milforce is a vital part of the organisation of the Bisley Meeting. Many of you will not have appreciated that over this four weeks as many as some 4,200 competitors will have used our ranges from the Services, Cadets and civilians like most of us here this evening. The main task for Milforce in the NRA part of the Imperial Meeting is to manage the ammunition supply and distribution as well as the range rigging for the Services in which they were supported by Lt Col Hall and his team from the Small Arms School Corps, Warminster, who ran the ranges.

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

There are the Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century and Doug Watt on Stickledown, together with the Chief Butt Officers, Michael Batty and Peter Alliss, and the Range Officers, stats staff and particularly all the volunteers who have worked so hard to support this year's meeting.

Finally, special thanks. Bisley, generally, and the Bisley Meeting is managed by our staff at the National Shooting Centre. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all they do throughout the year and for the efficient running of the 2006 Bisley Meeting.

Applause

I can now take questions.

There were no questions.

The Chairman remarked that, as of lunchtime this day, there were just three entries in the Suggestions Book. One he could not remember, another which highlighted, once again, that non-observance of the 15 mph speed limit at Bisley is still a problem (which he said he would address, again, for 2007) and the other that the list of overseas visitors was not available in the Front Office - it has been, but not in the customary place! He remarked that the lack of issues received was, once again, a credit to the management of Bisley, National Shooting Centre.

Applause

The First Stage of Her Majesty The Queen's Prize was won outright by Jon Underwood with a score of 105 and 16 V bulls.

Applause

The lowest score qualifying for the Second Stage is 101 with 11 V bulls, finishing 31 with 2 V bulls at 600 yards.

There are 46 firers with a score of 101 who are in and no ties.

The Chairman closed the meeting

60 YEARS OF FULLBORE OR THE MEMOIRS OF A RIFLEMAN



To assist the NRA in raising funds to help the young into the sport, John Hissey has written this account of his experiences covering the years from 1938 right up to today complete with many photographs of past times.

As the Chairman says in his Foreword "Memoirs of members are rare" and "add to the recorded history of our Association".

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.

Please support the Fund by purchasing this booklet which is available from the NRA for £5 or from John himself who will be happy to sign your copy.

e-mail john@hissey.net

NRA COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council (Board of Trustees)

Mr JF Jackman	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JEM Hartwell	<i>Vice-Chairman (Co-opted)</i>
Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Dr P Monaghan	<i>Chairman Shooting Committee</i>
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Elected</i>
Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Chairman Membership Committee</i>
	<i>Elected</i>
Mr DG Young	
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>Secretary</i>

Audit Committee

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

Remuneration Committee

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

Investment Committee

Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JEM Hartwell	
Mr MJ Blythe	<i>(in attendance)</i>

National Shooting Centre Limited

Board of Directors

Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JE Staples	<i>Managing Director</i>
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The General Council

Mr JF Jackman	<i>Chairman</i>
Prof AR Horrocks	<i>Vice-Chairman Elected</i>
Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr HRM Bailie	<i>Regional - Northern Ireland</i>
Mr GV Barnard	<i>Regional - East Midlands</i>
Mrs ID Bennett	<i>Regional - West Midlands</i>
Mr MJM Black	<i>Regional - Northern</i>
Mr JPS Bloomfield	<i>Discipline - Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Miss MZJ Boston	<i>Elected</i>
Col (Ret'd) WGC Bowles	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>
Mr CM Brooks	<i>Elected</i>
Flt Lt DP Calvert	<i>Elected</i>
Dr A Cargill Thompson	<i>Discipline - Match Rifle</i>
Mr JH Carmichael	<i>Elected</i>
Lt Col ARK Clayton	<i>Elected</i>
Mr PR Coley	<i>Regional - South Western</i>
Cdr IG Danbury	<i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i>
Mr SJ East	<i>Regional - Southern</i>
Mr C Farr	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr C Higginbottom	<i>Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain</i>

Wg Cdr CJ Hockley
Lt Col RT Hoole
Mr P Hunter
Mr MD Jones MP
Mr TLW Kidner
Mr JM Kynoch
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Miss J Rankin
Flt Lt IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr AJD Saunders

Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Brig JR Smales

Wg Cdr M Symonds

Mr DE Spittles
Mr MWT Walton
Dr JD Warburton
Mr JA Watson
Mr DD Watt
Mr RHF Wills
Mr DG Young
<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Vacant</i>

Vacant

Welsh Target Shooting Federation
Army Rifle Association
Discipline - Practical Rifle
Co-opted
Regional - Scotland
Discipline - Sporting Rifle
Royal Naval Reserve Rifle Association
Scottish Target Shooting Federation
Elected
Co-opted
Discipline - F Class
Discipline - Gallery Rifle & Pistol
Royal Air Force Small Arms Association
Territorial Army Rifle Association
Elected
Elected
Elected
English Target Shooting Federation
Discipline - 300 Metres
Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting
Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee
Discipline - Muzzle Loading
Elected
Regional - Yorks/Humberside
Elected
Regional - Eastern
Discipline - Classic Arms
Regional - North Western
Regional - London & SE
Regional - Wales
Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
National Small-bore Rifle Association

Committees of the General Council

Shooting Committee

Dr P Monaghan	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>F Class</i>
Mr GV Barnard		
Flt Lt DP Calvert		
Mr JH Carmichael		
Maj SH Cox		
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley		
Lt Col AR Hoole		
Prof AR Horrocks		
Mr P Quilliam	<i>Co-opted</i>	
Flt Lt IW Robertson		
Mr JPS Bloomfield	<i>Target Rifle</i>	
Dr A Cargill Thompson	<i>Match Rifle</i>	
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>	
Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Sporting Rifle</i>	
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Muzzle Loading</i>	
Mr P Hunter	<i>Practical Rifle</i>	
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>300 Metres</i>	
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Classic Arms</i>	

In attendance
Maj MG Farnan *NSC Director of Shooting*
Mr GWJ Alger *NRA Secretary General*

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

Mr JPS Bloomfield *Chairman*

Lt NJ Ball
Mr ME Barr
Lt Col ARK Clayton
Maj MG Farnan
Mr JDI Hossack
Dr JDS Langley
Mr WCP Richards

In attendance

Mr GWJ Alger *Secretary*

Match Rifle and Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee

Dr A Cargill Thompson *Chairman*

Mrs LJ Brister
Mr JS Collings
Mr C Hayes
Mr MK Townsend
Mr JM Kynoch

In attendance

Maj MG Farnan *NSC Director of Shooting*
Mr GWJ Alger *NRA Secretary General*

F Class Sub-Committee

Mr M Maksimovic *Chairman*

Mr C Cuthbert
Mr D Kent
Dr P Monaghan
Mr D Parr
Mr D Stewart

Pistol and Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee

Mr CJ Murton *Chairman*

Mr C Farr
Mr N Jones
Mr J Robinson
Mr S Smoothery
Mr B Thomas
Mr P Watts
Miss A Welford

Classics Sub-Committee

Mr RHF Wills *Chairman*

Mr DK Mumford *Secretary*

Representatives invited from:

Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association
Vintage Arms Association
Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain
Arms and Armour Society

Match Officials from:

Imperial Historic Arms Meeting
Trafalgar Meeting

Other Co-opted members by invitation

Any Member of the NRA with an interest is invited to request an invitation to attend.

Schools Sub-Committee

Maj S Cox *Chairman*

Lt Col ARK Clayton *Co-opted*
Maj MG Farnan *Co-opted*
Capt PJ Farnan *Co-opted*
Mr JP Hakim *St Johns*
WO1 J Jones *Sedbergh*

Lt Col VF McLean *Ampleforth*
Maj SJ Pattinson *Co-opted*
Maj AR Penfold *Tonbridge*
Lt JWR Postle *Epsom*
Mr O Shepherd *CCF Association*
Capt CA Stewart *Dollar Academy*
Brig JR Smales *Chairman CCRS*
Lt Col NS Suffield-Jones *Athelings*
Capt NE Topham *Oratory*
In attendance
Maj SB Fraser *Secretary*

Teams Finance Sub-Committee

Wg Cdr CJ Hockley *Chairman*

Mr PN Hinchliffe
Mr RM Hodgins
Mr JDI Hossack
Mr RCT Jeens
Mr DN Kent
Mr JWE Lewis
Miss J Rankin
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Mr RWH Stafford
Mr MK Townsend

Secretary

Mr CN Tremlett

Mr JA Watson

Miss A Welford

Mr CP Weeden

In attendance

Mr GWJ Alger

Maj MG Farnan

NRA Secretary General

NSC Director of Shooting

Membership Committee

Mr JA Watson *Chairman*

Mr M Maksimovic
Mr CJ Murton
Miss J Rankin
Mrs KD Robertson

In attendance

Mrs HL Webb

Mr GWJ Alger

Membership Secretary

Secretary

Disciplinary Committee

Mr JM Holmes *Chairman*

Mr DGF Evans
Miss MF Gooden
Mr HRM Bailie
Flt Lt DP Calvert
Mr RHF Wills

Appeals Committee

Mr PN Hinchliffe *Chairman*

Mr CTS Belk
Mr RM Mott
Flt Lt IW Robertson

Bisley Facilities Advisory Group

Mr RHF Wills *Chairman*

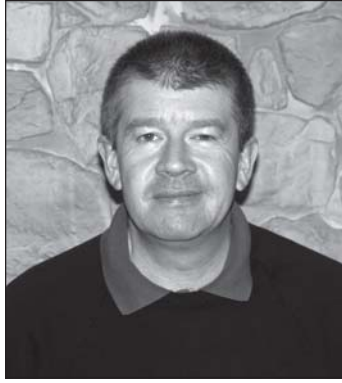
Mr HRM Bailie
Mrs ID Bennett
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Mr ND Anderson

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

NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Charles Murton

My working career to date has been in the scientific civil service. I have been lucky enough to work very closely with the Armed Forces throughout most of that career - which means I have been able to gain experience of a very wide range of both military and civilian shooting. My original RCO training was given by the military; recently I have updated my qualification through the NRA course.



Over the 20 plus years I have been shooting, I have run a shooting club (as "officer i/c" a military club) and held many different positions on many committees as well as being a frequent range officer and coach. I shot a wide variety of different disciplines (including small-bore and fullbore target rifle, clays and pistols) at club, county and/or national level but my preference had settled to centrefire pistol by the time the ban was imposed. I immediately invested my compensation money in gallery rifles and kept right on shooting!

Since 2000, I have been active in the management and promotion of Gallery Rifle and Pistol through the Phoenix Meeting and the Gallery Rifle Action Weekends. I have developed much of the software which we use to support these meetings and have also had a strong hand

in the writing of the NRA's GR&P rules. In 2005 I was asked to stand for the post of GR&P discipline rep on General Council, to which I was elected. Since then, I seem to have managed to say "yes" to plenty of additional committee positions, culminating in my election to Council earlier this year.

I still occasionally find time to shoot among all the committee work. In addition to UK competitions, I occasionally shoot in Germany and Ireland, taking advantage of the excellent relationships which the GR&P community have established with the BDMP and SSAI over the past few years – and of the fact that I can shoot "normal" pistols in both of these countries!

Although the committee work I have taken on is a significant drain on my time – and does not always sit well with the commitments of the day job – I am doing it all because I believe I am in a position to make a difference, both to GR&P and to the development of target shooting as a whole. The NRA has come a very long way from the inward-looking, highly conservative organisation of years ago, but there is still a need for us to develop and progress. To be blunt, if we don't push forward we will die. Our sport needs a strong governing body which acts in the best interests of the shooters, both in providing them with facilities and competitions and in looking after their interests nationally and internationally. We have made, and are continuing to make, many moves in the right direction. I hope I can help keep up the momentum – and that all of you reading this will pitch in and do your bit too.

Mik Maksimovic

I started shooting at Northampton Grammar school in the 1970s and enjoyed my early trips to Bisley with the CCF so much that I decided to help out at my local school, Stamford.



I enjoyed 12 years as the voluntary unpaid Master in charge of Shooting with many successes and memorable Imperial Meetings - I have since handed this role over to the capable hands of the new SSI Mark Jackson. I still assist and help out with fullbore training and assist during the Imperial Meeting by being an NRA uncle to the young Cadet shooters from Stamford. I am also the secretary of the Stamford Rifle Club which assists its young shooters upon leaving school by lending them surplus equipment and giving them a Home Office club to belong to in the initial years after leaving school. I assist them in becoming NRA members on the three year free membership scheme and encourage them to join

clubs at Bisley; we also invite them along to train with the school team. I am very aware of the issues facing young shooters when they leave school and am always very happy and proud to see some of the young cadets whom I helped coach become Under 25 team members and progress to greater things.

My primary discipline is now F Class where I now run the National League which has over 100 members. I have had the honour of being involved with all of the touring F Class teams since 2002 including being the Captain of the 2005 GB F Class team to South Africa. I am also Chairman of the F Class Sub-Committee

I now run a reasonably successful (according to the Inland Revenue) Property and Development company specialising in Licensed Property, Hotels and Listed Conversions of very old buildings. I believe that I can bring something to Council for the future, as unless we start to look to the future and the welfare of our membership, we won't have one. There needs to be a long term look to the future and the facilities we have and need, and I believe that I will be able to assist in this.

I feel greatly honoured to have been voted onto the Council and will do my utmost to justify my position.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2005/2006

**by Elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council
From 1 September 2005 to 30 June 2006**

No of meetings	General Council 3	Shooting 2	Membership 5	
Bailie HRM	3	x	x	(R)
Barnard GV	2	2	4	(R)
Belither S	0	x	x	(O)
Bennett ID	3	x	4	(O)
Black MJ	1	x	x	(R)
Bloomfield JPS	1	1	x	(O)
Boston MZJ	1	x	x	(O)
Brooks CM*	3	x	x	(O)
Calvert DP	3	1	x	(O)
Cargill Thompson AMW	2	0	x	(D)
Carmichael JH	0	2	x	(O)
Clayton ARK	3	x	x	(O)
Coley PR	2	x	x	(R)
East SJ	1	x	x	(R)
Horrocks AR	2	1	0	(O)
Hunter P	1	0	x	(D)
James S	0	x	x	(O)
Kidner TLW	0	x	x	(R)
Kynoch JM	1	2	4	(D)
Law CD	3	x	5	(R)
Maksimovic M	3	x	x	(O)
Monaghan P*	3	2	x	(D)
Murton CJ*	2	2	5	(D)
Rankin J	1	x	3	(O)
Robertson IW	3	2	x	(O)
Robertson KD	3	x	4	(O)
Shirra-Gibb I	3	2	x	(D)
Spittles D	0	2	x	(D)
Walton MWT	0	x	x	(O)
Warburton JD	3	x	x	(R)
Watson JA*	3	x	5	(O)
Watt DD	1	x	x	(R)
Wills RHF	2	1	x	(D)
Young DG*	1	x	x	(R)

* = Members of the Council (Board of Trustees). The Council meet at least 7 to 8 times per annum and its members are expected to attend all or most of such meetings. In addition, Trustees give attendance at other times for formal decisions

x = not a member of that committee

(O) = Ordinary Member

(R) = Regional Member

(D) = Shooting Discipline Member

THE RANGE TRAMWAYS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

PART TWO - BISLEY

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.

Part One was printed in the Summer 2006 NRA Journal.

The Bisley Range Tramway

The 1888 Spring Meeting Report of the NRA referred to the necessity for railway communication in the search for a new site. Pirbright, in Surrey, was mentioned as a possibility partially because it was already the site of extensive military ranges. It was also stated that Managers of leading Railway Companies were becoming involved in the discussions.

A letter, dated 8 November 1888 from Charles Scotter, General Manager of the London and South Western Railway, to Lord Wemyss of the NRA reveals just how early the L&SWR had become involved in their efforts to secure the NRA business.

L&SWR General Manager's Office

My Lord,

With reference to your Lordship's call here the other day.

I think I may now state that provided the National Rifle Association select the site near Brookwood as their future encamping ground we should be prepared to carry the Volunteers in uniform at a fare of 1/6 each from London to Brookwood and back.

I have the honour etc.

Chas Scotter

On 3 December 1888 Lord Wemyss signed the following statement:

Till within the last few days I was led to believe, from unofficial but apparently reliable information, that exceptionally favourable terms would be granted to Volunteers by several of the great railway lines, in competition among themselves to obtain the advantage resulting from traffic incidental to a 'New Wimbledon' etc.

... but the place which seemed specially to be desired was the tract of Government land adjoining the Brookwood Station on the London and South Western Railway.

The Earl of Wemyss and March, formerly Lord Elcho, had been the driving force behind the founding of the NRA and was its first Chairman. He served for many years on the Committee thereafter and died just short of his 96th birthday in 1914.

Early in 1889 the L&SWR's efforts paid off when the final decision was taken to move to the Bisley site. Little time was now lost and the NRA Report for 1889 was able to publish the following statement:

By the favour of the War Office, the military authorities have been permitted to assist the Association, and the work has been energetically advanced by Lieut-General Sir Evelyn Wood, commanding the troops at Aldershot. A company of Royal Engineers and working parties from regiments quartered at Aldershot have been, and are, engaged in raising the butts, and in making the tramway line. Major JF Brown in charge of works.

The London and South Western Railway, who are constructing a portion of the tramway, and providing permanent way material for the remainder, are making important enlargements at their Brookwood Station, and have promised to contribute £1,000 to the general expenses of the Association.

The tramway referred to above is, of course, the branch between Brookwood and Bisley Camp. The Plant Account for the year refers to 'making tramways'. The 'tramways' at Bisley have been a considerable source of confusion over the years; the Bisley Branch, although constructed under 'The Tramway Act' would have been classified as a 'light railway' if its construction date had post dated the Light Railway Act of 1896. Contemporary accounts also questioned the 'tramway' status. Indeed the reference to 'tramways' provoked a comment in the Gazette of 12 July 1890.

... the branch from Brookwood to the Camp is called, we observe, a "tramway", but to the untechnical eye it appears to be a carefully constructed single-line railway of the ordinary type.

A letter from the NRA Secretary to Messrs John Aird and Son, dated 9 June 1890, confirms that the latter were requested to move the Range Tramway materials from Wimbledon to Bisley and re-lay the track, on the same terms as at Wimbledon, in time for the opening Meeting in July.

In May 1889 Merryweather offered to move "Wharncliffe" to Bisley. This was accepted and the locomotive was available for the opening season in 1890. Also in the same year the NRA responded to the L&SWR's generous contributions by offering honorary life memberships to members of the L&SWR board. The Report for the year included the following statement:

Mr Scotter, General Manager London and South Western Railway, has been elected an honorary life member of the Association.

It also specifically mentioned the subscriptions made by the L&SWR.

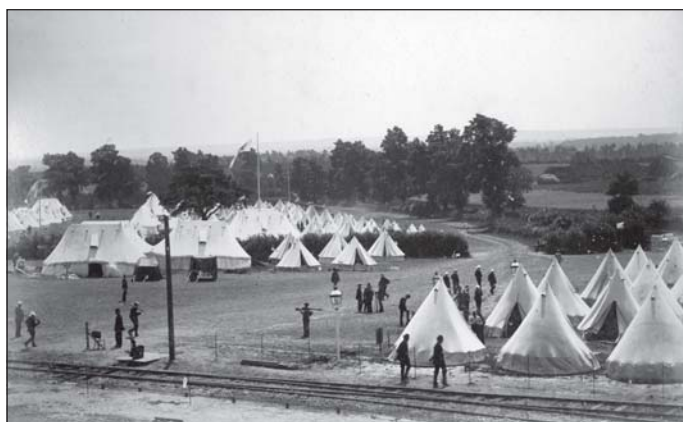
The 1890 map shows that, on opening, the Range Tramway ran from near the main entrance of the Camp to the 200 yards firing point of the Permanent Ranges, Butts 15 and 16 (which later became the Short Siberia Range) via the 600 yards firing point of the Mid-Ranges

(also known as the Queens and later the Century Range). The furthest range of the Permanent Ranges (Butts 17 and 18) eventually became the Long Siberia Range.

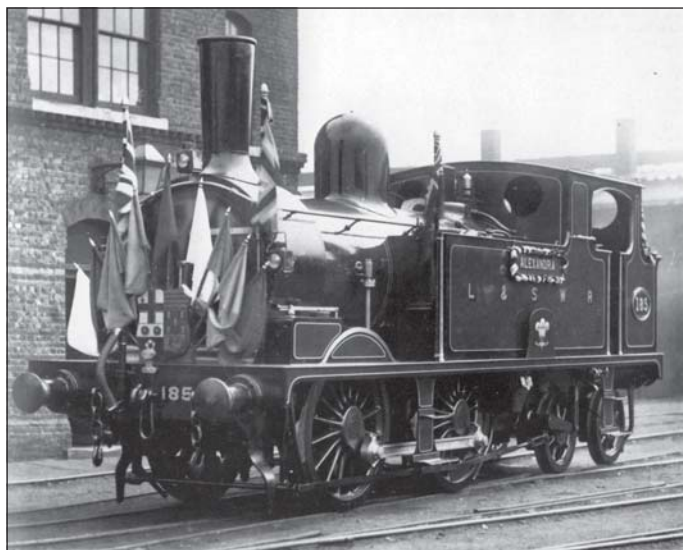
The original Bisley Camp station was constructed at a point west of the main Camp road level crossing. Another station was opened adjacent to the main (Cowshot) gate and it was here that the Range Tramway initially terminated. The 1890 map shows the original Camp station quite clearly but not the station constructed at the entrance to the Camp. However this was referred to in Major-General Henderson's Board of Trade Report on the new 'Bisley Common Tramway'.

A small station has been put at the Camp terminus and another one a short distance from it close to an occupation crossing.

The 'occupation crossing' referred to was the Cowshot crossing.

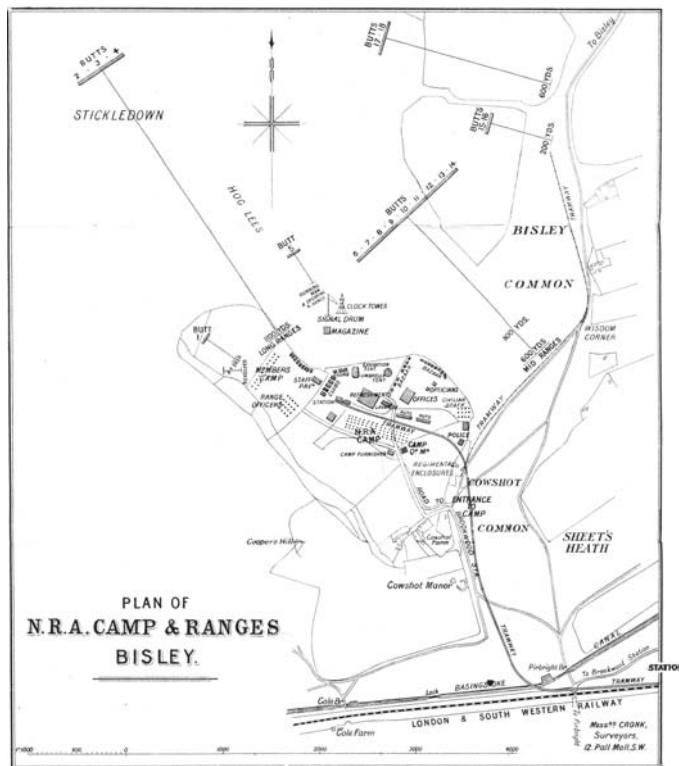


This picture was taken towards the south west shortly after the Bisley opening. It shows the 'throat' of the original Camp station (which lasted for the 1890 season only) with the then unmade main Camp Road in the centre and the level crossing on the left. The embankment of the L&SWR main line, at this time double track, can just be discerned in the middle distance.



Adams 02 class 0-4-4T No.185 at Nine Elms specially decorated and named 'Alexandra', after the then Princess of Wales, for the opening of Bisley Camp and the branch line from Brookwood.

SWC Archive. D L Bradley Collection



Bisley Camp in 1890 showing the Range Tramway terminating near the Cowshot entrance and the original Camp station located west of the main Camp road.

The Gazette of 28 June 1890 contained an article on the new Camp and the Ranges. The new 'tramways' were described in some detail.

A branch railway from Brookwood Station will run right up to the middle of the camp enclosure, close to the Pavilion, and one is here close to everything except the Queen's ranges and the "permanent ranges", which during the NRA meeting, will only be used for the Mullens' and other "field firing" competitions. And to these (the Queen's and permanent ranges) the old Wimbledon Tramway will take the competitors and visitors from the entrance to the camp in a very few minutes.

... but we must now go back to the entrance of the enclosure. Leaving the branch railway here, we find the old Wimbledon tramway with its blue and white cars, and its little engine, the "Wharncliffe". This tramway runs away first to the north east, where it brings us opposite to the great butt, nearly 500 yards long . . . after leaving the firing points for the 600 yd range, the tramway turns northwards, even a little to the west, till it approaches the firing points for the "permanent" ranges, which are laid out at an entirely different angle from the other ranges.

This article indicates that the Range Tramway was ready for service at least a month before the standard gauge Bisley tramway which officially opened to the public on 14 July. The Prince and Princess of Wales travelled over the latter on 12 July when they paid their official visit to open Bisley Camp.

The Gazette in its 'Notes of the Week' for Saturday 2 August 1890 commented on the necessity for the Range Tramway to be extended to the Long Range (later Stickledown) at the earliest opportunity. However this never took place.

... The entire separation of the long range firing points from those for the Queen's ranges is undoubtedly an evil which, we think with Mr Gratwicke, will only be obviated, or rather mitigated, when it becomes possible to extend the narrow-gauge tramway, so that a competitor may travel from the Ninety Bull firing points to those for the long range.

Mr Gratwicke (a member of the NRA Council) wrote a letter at the same period containing similar sentiments but with rather more ambitious proposals. He was also not enamoured with the riding of the ex-Wimbledon tramcars!

... For financial, if for no other reason, some step need be taken to bring the firing points into closer connexion than at present. The only plan that occurs to me would be to extend the tramway from the present starting point to the entrance gateway to the range. Instead of one set of rails there should be two, so that two trams might be constantly running, instead of one. The tramway would have earned double the amount taken this year if the tram had only been running more frequently. I venture to suggest, too, that any new cars should be placed on springs ...

Signed GG Gratwicke

Exeter, July 30th, 1890

In November 1890 the NRA Council received a proposal to abandon the two existing railway platforms and build a new one more centrally. Agreement was finally reached by the following April on the condition that the L&SWR would build the new station for £300. It seems the L&SWR was willing and the terminus was re-sited to its

final location on the other (east) side of the main Camp road level crossing, the platform at the Cowshot entrance being abolished. The Gazette of 18 July 1891 confirmed the changes:

The Bisley Meeting 1891

Saturday, July 11

... The station of the branch railway (or "steam tramway"), at the entrance of the Camp, has been done away with, and the Bisley terminus is this year immediately opposite to the Council Building ...

... We have already mentioned the change in the locality of the Bisley terminus of the steam tramway. The trams on this tramway now run from each end at half hour intervals during the day.

The 1891 map shows the new terminus but also confirms that the Range Tramway had been shortened at its southern end.

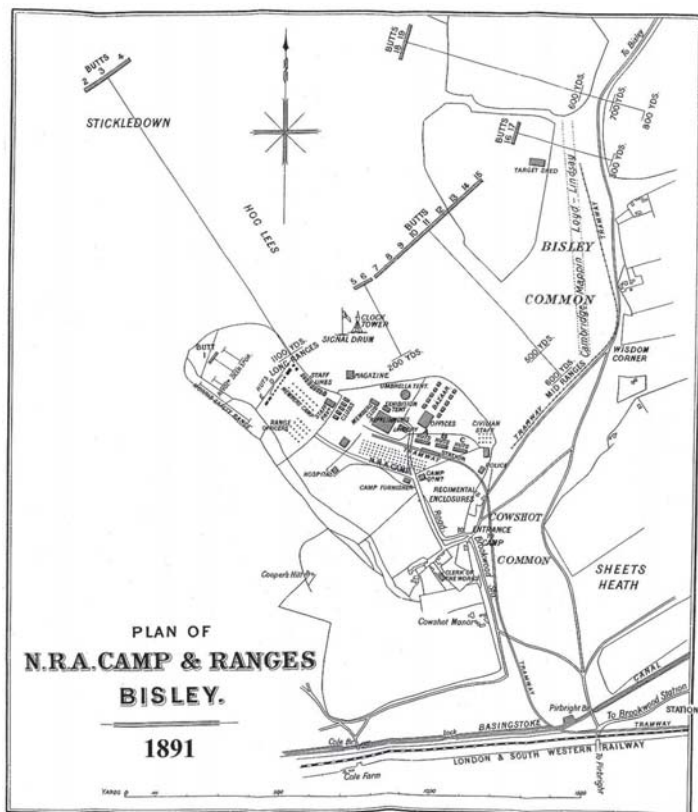
The Range Tramway seemed to have quickly settled down into a satisfactory routine, the various NRA Reports of this period tending to concentrate on the latest negotiations with the L&SWR regarding improvements in train services and fare reductions.

On 8 June 1893, however, Merryweather reported that "Wharncliffe" needed extensive repairs requiring the locomotive to be completely dismantled, something that could not be carried out at Bisley. Merryweather had ceased constructing tram engines the previous year but had made a bid for operating the tramway in 1893. However Scotter, the L&SWR General Manager, had already made an offer to the NRA for the Railway Company to take over Merryweather's role, including repairs to "Wharncliffe". This was accepted by the NRA and the engine was moved to the L&SWR's Nine Elms Works after the July Meeting. In August, the Railway Company sent a detailed report to the NRA listing the repairs needed. Subsequently the work at Nine Elms appear to have progressed slowly; no doubt a small tram engine was something unusual enough to cause the workforce some difficulties!

In the NRA Council minutes for 7 February 1894 the NRA Secretary reported that:

... the "Wharncliffe" has been put into thorough repair at the L&SWR Co's works and that a Policy of Insurance has been granted by the Boiler Insurance Company

Wear and tear on the Range Tramway was also beginning to become acute in 1893 and this was significant enough to appear in the NRA Report for the year. It must be remembered that the twelve or so years that "Wharncliffe" had spent at Wimbledon had probably amounted to a total of less than a half years work for the locomotive. The permanent site at Bisley was a different matter as the ranges were in regular use so the Camp transport system had to respond. Although the original Wimbledon portable track was still in use it was obviously nearing the end of its life. The winter 1894 NRA Report reflected this.



The 1891 map of Bisley Camp shows the new Camp station but also confirms that the Range Tramway had been shortened to terminate near the 600 yards firing point of Butt 7 (Century Range)

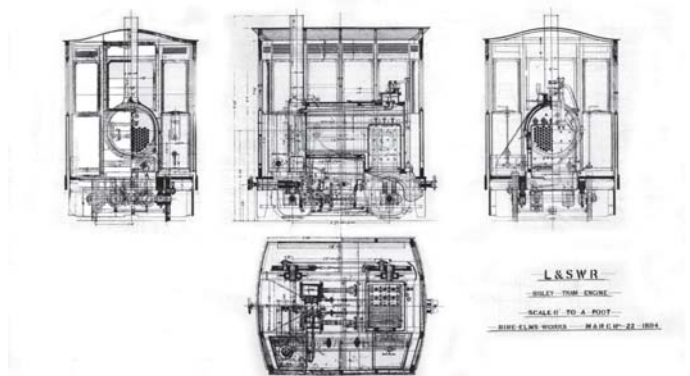
... also that the Council had decided to extend the gravelled road to the Offices and the Army Service Corps Stables; to have the tramway re-laid and extended towards butts 16-17, and to have the "Wharncliffe" thoroughly repaired, as the latter works, though costly, could no longer, as measures of safety, be postponed.

The Revenue Account also refers to 'Repairs to "Wharncliffe".'

Extensions to the tramway were not proceeded with until 1898, however.

In January 1894 Nine Elms reported that they had raised the safety valve pressure to 80psi (the pressure quoted in later years was 120psi, probably that of the new boiler which was fitted in 1900). This may have been connected with questions as to whether the engine was sufficiently powerful for the work. On 31 March, Nine Elms wrote asking for details of the tramway, and again on 19 April requesting the weight "Wharncliffe" was capable of drawing. On 27 April, Nine Elms reported that they would return the engine to Bisley on 3 May.

No other details are given but Nine Elms produced a drawing for a 'Bisley Tram Engine' dated 22 March 1894. This drawing, except for minor detail differences, represents "Wharncliffe" as it appeared in later years.



This represents Wharncliffe as it appeared latterly with minor detail differences. It is possible that this was produced to incorporate some of Adams's approved changes to the original Merryweather Type 1 Tram Engine design. William Adams was the London and South Western Railway's Locomotive Superintendent at the time, responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the Railway Company's motive power.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BISLEY,

Every Week-day, from 10th to 21st July inclusive.

SPECIAL CHEAP RETURN TICKETS, including Tramway and Admission

TO THE CAMP

Will be issued by all Trains from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Queen's Road, Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison Road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Wimbledon and Rayne's Park. Return Fares: First Class, 6s.; Third Class, 3s.; available to return on the day of issue only.

CHEAP TICKETS will also be issued to BROOKWOOD or BISLEY to Volunteers in Uniform or bearing arms, also Competitors from the Regular Troops, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Militia, on production of their Competition Cards and Passes signed by their Commanding Officer; also Members of the National Rifle Association upon production of their Badges from all Stations on this Company's system, available from 4th to 22nd July, but for one journey only in each direction.

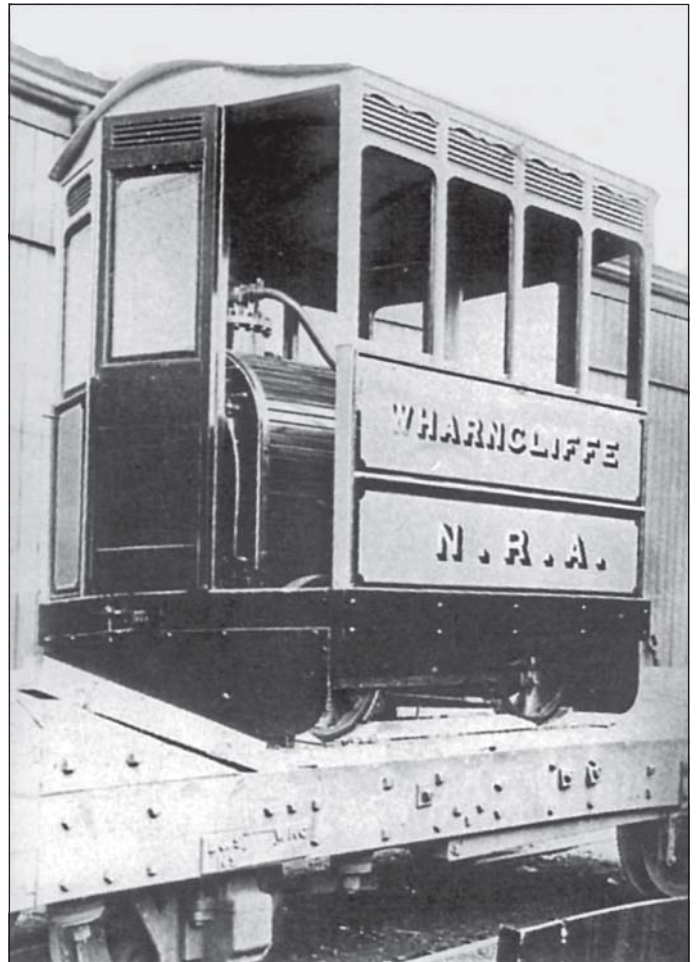
THROUGH TRAINS TO THE CAMP will leave WATERLOO at 1.5 and 1.50 p.m.

On SUNDAYS 15th and 22nd July, Cheap Return Tickets, 4s. First Class, and 2s. Third Class, will be issued to BROOKWOOD from Waterloo, &c.

The CAMP TRAMWAY runs in connexion with Ordinary and Special Trains to and from Brookwood.

Any further particulars can be obtained on application to Mr. Sam. Fay, Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station, S.E. CHAS. J. OWENS, General Manager.

L&SWR Timetable for July 6th 1900



This is believed to be an official photograph taken on the occasion of "Wharncliffe"s return to Bisley in 1894 after its major repair at Nine Elms. Adams may have had a guiding hand in the 'repair' especially the car body.

The return of "Wharncliffe" to Bisley in 1894 heralded a period of satisfactory service on the range tramway that lasted up until the turn of the century. Commencing with the 1893 season the L&SWR provided a crew for each annual meeting and also fitters when repairs were required.

The archives contain a typical letter from the NRA Secretary to the L&SWR, dated 2 June 1899:

To General Manager

Waterloo Station

Sir,

I am directed by the Council to ask you to kindly sanction the same assistance as afforded to us as last year.

1. Executing any repairs to our small tramline locomotive the "Wharncliffe". (Should be much obliged if your artificer could be sent down at once.)

2. Allowing a driver and stoker for our tram engine "Wharncliffe" from Thursday 13 July to Saturday 22 July inclusive, the Association paying the expenses.

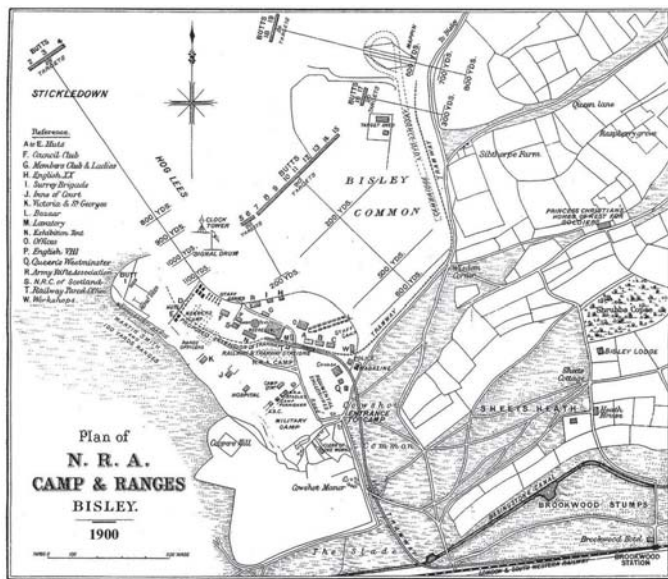
Yours, etc

CR Crosse, Lt Col

Sec NRA

It was not until 1897 that serious consideration was given to extending the tramway to the Long Siberia Range. In October of that year the NRA Works Committee approached the L&SWR for a quote. This was supplied in early 1898 and by April the Works Committee was able to recommend an extension to the 600 yards firing point of Butt 18 (which later became Butt 23 of the Long Siberia Range). On 22 April the L&SWR agreed to extend the line using their own labour. The extension was completed in time for the 1898 July Meeting and became the ultimate northern terminus of the tramway.

At the same time the southern end was altered to terminate close to the Bazaar Lines, however in 1900 this was finally changed to the Camp Station. From time to time an extension to Stickledown Range was mooted, as typically shown in the 1900 map, but was never implemented.



The Bazaar Lines are the double row of tents shown just above huts A, B and C. The 1898 terminus of the Tramway was at the eastern end. This map shows the final route of the Tramway

For the new tramway at Bisley, the NRA had the two MC&W Co tramcars of 1877 and the modified older cars dating from the opening of the Wimbledon line. All these seem to have been in poor condition by 1894. On 7 February 1894 the NRA Council considered a report from the L&SWR's 'Engineer'. This stated that:

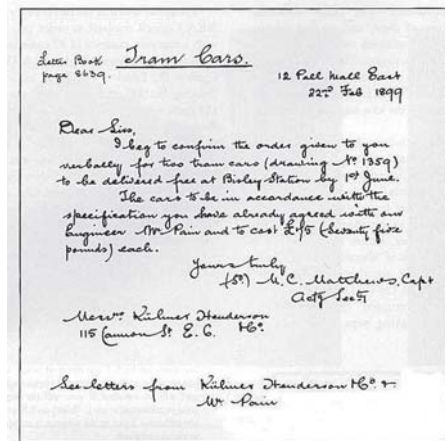
... The present condition of the 3ft 8in [sic] gauge is far from satisfactory ... the present rolling stock much worn but will last another year or two ...

The NRA sought further assistance from the L&SWR and the latter responded by supplying addresses where carriages could be purchased. The NRA contacted some of these, and on 3 August 1894 the Council minutes recorded that they were considering buying cars from the Glasgow Tramway. However nothing further seems to have been done until the matter was revived in 1898.

In July of that year William Panter, the L&SWR Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, submitted a report on the tramcars and, although it does not survive, it must have

clearly stated that new tramcars were needed as a matter of urgency. Immediate steps were now taken to purchase new vehicles. In November Panter provided drawings of carriages and details of 'alterations to cars', and at the same time Nine Elms were investigating what load "Wharncliffe" could pull. On 7 December 1898 the NRA Council minutes recorded that the Works Committee were taking steps to ascertain the cost of new vehicles.

On 1 February 1899 the NRA Council agreed to order two tramcars with a carrying capacity of 42 passengers each, from Messrs Kuhner Henderson and Co of 115, Canon St, London E6 (the latter were probably agents rather than carriage manufacturers). A letter confirming the order was sent on 22 February.



National Rifle Association

Some of the progress of the order is in the records.

On 8 June 1899 the NRA (Lt Col Crosse again) wrote to KH:

In reply to your letter enclosing paint of colour for our tramcars [sic]. I am directed to say that we do not want to go to any extra expense in the matter and will be satisfied if you will (as suggested by your representative on [...]) pick the cars out in Vermilion or Lake so the scheme is complementary to the present one.

Please advise me when this is done and I shall be prepared to accept delivery as arranged last Monday.

Yours, etc.

On 13 June:

In reply to your letter re cars, we are prepared to receive one as soon as you please. Kindly inform when we may expect it.

Yours etc.

On 14 June:

... this morning received your letter ... with reference to the extra charge for picking out in Black. Mr Howard your representative told me that they intended picking out the tramcars in Black and I quite understood there was to be no extra charge of this [sic] so I do not wish it to be done.

Yours, etc.

In early July 1899 the L&SWR arranged a trial run for "Wharncliffe" with the new tramcars, for on 7 July Lt Colonel Crosse had to write to Drummond (the

Locomotive Superintendent of the L&SWR who had succeeded Adams in 1895) as follows:

Dear Sir,

You were good enough to send a driver for our engine the other day, but as we had not got the proper coal the result was not quite satisfactory. I would be extremely obliged if you could again send him down on Saturday or Monday to see if the "Wharncliffe" is capable with steam coal of drawing the two new cars with ease.

Yours, etc.

Drummond had already written to the NRA in November 1898 asking if "Wharncliffe" could fulfil its duties. It seems, however, that the engine was just not up to the job of hauling these much heavier cars for by January 1900 Merryweather were tendering to supply a new boiler, working at a pressure of 120psi which, they confirmed, would be adequate for the task. This was a considerable increase on the 80psi recorded when "Wharncliffe" was repaired at Nine Elms back in 1894. The engine was moved to Merryweather's Works at Greenwich for the new boiler to be installed.

Dugald Drummond was himself a Major in the Volunteers as a member of the "Engineer and Railway Volunteer Staff Corps" and so he may already have had some involvement with the NRA in this capacity other than through a directive from the L&SWR Board. Drummond had a notoriously irascible temperament but

this military connection may help to explain his direct interest in such a small and unusual locomotive as "Wharncliffe", completely outside his prime responsibilities for the L&SWR's motive power.

The tramcars were a big improvement on those brought from Wimbledon. They were equipped with bogies that must have improved the riding considerably. The old MC&W cars were sold and one presented by the NRA for use as a cabman's shelter at Brookwood. A picture of an MC&W car either in use on the tramway or as a shelter has yet to be found however.

(Part Three of this article will appear in the next Journal)

References

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Acknowledgements

I would like to record my thanks to all those who assisted in compiling this article, especially Ted Molyneux, Hon 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.

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GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA 2006

by Matt Charlton

Captain:	Martin Townsend
Vice-Captain:	Andy Luckman
Adjutant:	Nigel Ball
Coaches:	David Calvert Matt Charlton Nick Hinchliffe Jane Messer Reg Roberts
Shooters:	David Armstrong Mary Boston Nick Brasier Danny Coleman Ed Compton Rupert Dix David Dyson Kitty Jack Henry Jeens James Lewis Ross McQuillan Gareth Morris Toby Raincock Rick Shouler Jon Sweet Michael Walton James Watson
Travelling Reserves:	David Luckman John Pugsley Jon Underwood

The 2006 Great Britain Team to Canada, led by Captain Martin Townsend, together with Vice-Captain Andy Luckman and Adjutant Nigel Ball, consisted of members of the squad for next year's Palma Match which will be held on the same ranges. The tour had two principal purposes: (i) to offer shooters and coaches the opportunity to make a case for their inclusion in the final Palma team, as well as to continue the bonding process; and (ii) to win the Canada, Commonwealth and America Matches.

The immediate prelude to the tour was a bit busier than usual, as luggage weight restrictions were much more severe than previous years and were exacerbated by stringent new hand baggage rules in the aftermath of the foiled terrorist plot to bomb ten transatlantic planes. Jon Sweet, baggage master, certainly earned his corn with all the weighing, repacking and reweighing of everyone's luggage. That, and James Watson's efforts with Air Canada, meant that progress through Heathrow was, despite (former) Assistant Baggage Master Coleman's best efforts, mostly smooth. The airline assisted our revenge by not giving him a seat with extra leg-room and then, after someone eventually caved in on that front, by not giving him wine.

On arrival there was no time to waste. Stores were unpacked and Jane Messer, Mary Boston and Kitty Jack bought and prepared the first of many sumptuous

lunchtime spreads, while our first full day in Canada, a warm, sunny day, also saw us straight into competition. Ed Compton tied for the Ottawa Regiment with 75.10, before coming second with 25.3 to American JJ Jackson's 25.4 in the following day's tie shoot.

Saturday was overcast, cooler but muggy, and saw Ross McQuillan overcome Outer and Hit sighters to make our first of several 50.10s on the small Canadian V bull. On what turned out to be "D" day (or Davids + Danny day) Danny Coleman followed that by winning the Gooderham with 100.17, with David Armstrong third. David Calvert then won the Army and Navy Veterans with 100.17 from David Luckman and David Dyson before getting lost while shopping - John Pugsley made it back faster running than the others did in the van. The day finished with the Canadians' Meet and Greet party at which one Nick unwittingly won the auction for a box of cigars despite having submitted none of the four bids entered in his name, while another Nick was "nicked" for speeding!

Sunday saw some wet morning details but still good scoring, with Nigel Ball winning the Tilton with 100.18, a V bull ahead of Rick Shouler and Davids Calvert and Armstrong. That left Danny Coleman as the winner of the Champlain Aggregate of all the pre-Grand shoots by 2 Vs from Jon Underwood on 374.52. Jon's good form continued as the Grand started, by winning the MacDougall from David Dyson with a superb 100.19. Encouragingly, no fewer than eight team members scored 200 out of 200 over the day. Clearly rain and a breeze didn't trouble them.

Monday opened brighter, while two of the coaches enjoyed contrasting fortunes: Matt suffered foresight damage and had to run back for his replacement rifle and ammo during the time limit, while Nick Hinchliffe scored 50.2 and was rewarded with his framed register card at a presentation later on. Finally, the wind also started to pose a few problems, becoming trickier with sharp angle changes just in time for 800 metres in the afternoon. Some managed to avoid or defeat it and David Luckman and James Lewis tied for the Norman Beckett with 100.18. Henry Jeens won the Col John Brick with 100.15, while David Luckman also scored 100 to remain clean in the Grand, one V bull behind Norm Anderson of the USA. David was also second in the day's Dick Hampton Agg, one V behind Canadian Mike Wong Shui on 200.27.

Tuesday and the sun was out for the start of the Governor General's Prize, as Jon Underwood won the Letson by a single V from Danny on 105.15. Was this to be another Stage 1, 2 and 3 combo for Jon like this year's Queen's? Surely not . . . During the afternoon, two factors started to complicate proceedings: shooters started to be warned for odd things like closing the bolt before the target was back up or for taking slightly too little time (!); while a fresher, trickier wind picked up (as is traditional) just in



"Did someone say lunch?!"



The Captain made another inspiring speech.



Mary shows the boys how to do it.



"Martin, I really don't think you and Nick should shoot the America Match."



Jon keeps Danny away from the controls.



"Hi ho! Hi Ho! It's off to work we go!"



Rick enjoyed the food!



Even after rigging the Stats, David is still in front.



Congratulations to Nick on his 50.2. His response was unprintable.

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time for the Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres. That was a rare single range competition, won by Michael Walton 50.7 by one V from David Luckman; Ross McQuillan (50.3), Kitty Jack (49.4) and Mary Boston (48.3) also fared well, with Ross and Mary's scores impressively achieved on the trickiest detail. David Luckman won the Klondike Aggregate (453.60) at this point and led the Grand by four V bulls from Ross McQuillan. That was some consolation for a day on which David dropped his first two points on A Range (500 and 600 yards) since 1998! Ross and David were second and third in the day's Jack Gorrie Aggregate, with Ross three Vs behind American winner Ray Gross. There was further consolation to come, as, in an evening tie-shoot, David beat James Lewis to the Norm Beckett (with neither dropping a point) before the team went to enjoy the NCRRA Corn Boil reception.

Wednesday saw the President's (Queen's 2 equivalent) and the 800 metres range of the Gibson, in which the team's possibles ranged from Matt Charlton and David Dyson's cheeky 50.1 and 50.2, respectively, to Henry Jeens' rather more impressive 50.9. In the main business of the day, though, Jane Messer won the President's by two V bulls with 150.25. That said, the day's most impressive performance may well have been Rick Shouler's 49.7 with his jacket gaffer-taped together by team-mates after the zip failed; either that, or Andy Luckman finally nabbing some silver with a shotgun! That evening, Michael Walton helped Rick get his jacket fixed at a late night cobbler's, while the rest of the team co-hosted a reception for the Canadians with the American and German teams. As predicted by Jon Sweet, the cut-off for the Governor General's Final was a couple of V bulls above his own total on 251.26, meaning 17 Brits had qualified with a relieved Matt the last man in. David Luckman still led the Grand, on two off, with Jane Messer two points behind and Alain Marion hot on her heels.

Thursday dawned windless, which aided high scoring in the Gibson, best of which were Mary Boston, David Armstrong and Jon Underwood's 50.10s. David Calvert won the Gibson overall (at 300 metres, 600 yards and 800 metres) from Henry Jeens on 150.25. Three aggregates finished at this stage. Jane Messer came third

in the Maple Leaf Agg behind Canadian Jim Paton, while David Calvert was third in the All-Comers Agg behind American Norm Anderson. The consolation for two competitions having escaped the GB team's grasp was that team members occupied the leading three Grand positions: David Luckman on two off, Jane Messer four off and Ross McQuillan five off, with just the Gatineau to go. Meanwhile, Jon Underwood headed a list of 19 people clean at 300 metres to win the Short Range Agg from Davids Calvert and Luckman, having dropped only seven Vs in five shoots.

The team shooting started that afternoon, with the short and long range Outlander Match. The wind was not too testing at 600 yards, leaving the GB Vice-Captain's team and the USA tied for the lead on three off, with the Captain's and Adjutant's teams on six off - five of the Captain's team's dropped points came from a single cross-shot. After a substantial break, the wind was rather more interesting at 900 metres but it was still manageable if the right tactics were applied. At that range, the GB Vice team dropped another eight points, the Captain's team another 13 and the Adjutant's team another 12 but five of those 12 were a mysterious disappearing shot that had been sighted on its way to the target. No matter; a Great Britain team with 240 marked shots won the Outlander outright by six points on 1189.114, with the Adjutant's and Captain's teams just one and two points behind the USA Palma team in third and fourth places on 1182.124 and 1181.134 respectively. Top scorers were David Luckman (150.25), Jon Underwood (150.24), Nigel Ball (150.22) and Andy Luckman (150.15), with ten others scoring 149. The match was followed by a fine team dinner at Al's Steak House, to get us all into the swing of what was now the meat of the tour: the team shooting.

On Friday the Grand concluded with the Gatineau at 900 metres, squadded according to overall position. In the first detail, Martin Townsend pulled back the one V deficit in his personal tussle with Nick Hinchliffe to beat him by a single point out of 830. Later, David Luckman held his nerve to score 75.9 to win the Grand by three from Ross McQuillan, who also scored 75. Nigel Ball caused some mirth with his discussion of this with the Americans and the good-humoured Norm ("who?") Anderson in particular.



"Look I've got top score on Grand Theft Auto so I don't know why you won't let me drive the minibus!"



Toby - still trying to solve the Rubik's Cube he got for Christmas 1980.



The Canada Match Trophy presented by Stan Frost.



The team receive the Commonwealth Match Trophy.



THE AMERICA MATCH



Despite this success, the Gatineau was the first podium devoid of Britons, as Ty Cooper (USA) won with 75.10. A couple of other aggregates finished at this point. David Luckman and Ross McQuillan were first and second in the Gzowski (long range) Agg and first and third in the Polar Bear Agg. Meanwhile, an impressive 20 Brits were placed in the top 50 in the Grand.

One of the key team matches followed in the afternoon: the Commonwealth Match at 800 and 900 metres. Canada would be a force to be reckoned with after thrashing the opposition with an excellent 1185 last year. Martin Townsend was main coach and Nick Hinchliffe, Matt Charlton and Reg Roberts were on the targets. Some very good shooting, with all performing well and James Watson making top score on 100.10, resulted in a three point win for Great Britain by 1175.95 to Canada's 1172.104, USA's 1159.104 and 1136.86 by Germany, for whom Rolf Knapstein was the overall top scorer on the range. Ross McQuillan, Ed Compton and Jon Sweet all scored 99.

The Commonwealth Match

Coach	Firers	800m	900m	Total
Charlton	Armstrong	50.4	48.4	98.08
	Dix	50.3	48.4	98.07
	Shouler	49.5	49.4	98.09
	Sweet	50.5	49.2	99.07
Hinchliffe	Boston	49.5	45.1	94.06
	Lewis	48.4	50.2	98.06
	McQuillan	50.5	49.5	99.10
	Watson	50.6	50.4	100.10
Roberts	Compton	50.4	49.4	99.08
	Dyson	50.5	48.2	98.07
	Jeens	48.5	48.6	96.11
	Morris	49.2	49.4	98.06
		593.53	582.42	1175.095
2	Canada			1172.104
3	USA			1159.104
4	Germany			1136.086

Next up was another major match: the Canada Match at 300, 500 and 600 yards on Saturday morning. At 300, Great Britain dropped one point. Not too bad, one might think, yet that left us a point behind Canada! At 500 yards, all went well apart from one hitch: a spotting disc fell out just before Nick Brasier fired and, although the shot was believed to be seen flying centrally, the target came up (after a prolonged wait) with a very low magpie. Very odd. After much discussion, and after being allowed, then disallowed, an extra shot, we proceeded with the magpie standing. The remaining firers' cool was admirable, leading to Great Britain overtaking Canada by one point despite the mishap. A further two points were dropped at 600 yards meaning that Great Britain had managed, despite everything, an excellent 1195.157 to win, again by three points from Canada (1192.135) and nine from the USA (1186.129), with Germany further adrift on 1153.89. David Calvert, James Watson, Danny Coleman, Jane Messer and Toby Raincock all scored 150, with Calvert and Watson top on 21 Vs.

The Canada Match

Coach	Firers	300x	500x	600x	Total
Charlton	Armstrong	49.6	50.9	50.8	149.23
	Brasier	50.6	48.6	49.6	147.18
	McQuillan	50.8	50.7	49.6	149.21
	Raincock	50.6	50.6	50.5	150.17
Roberts	Calvert	50.9	50.7	50.5	150.21
	Coleman	50.7	50.5	50.6	150.18
	Messer	50.7	50.7	50.4	150.18
	Watson	50.9	50.8	50.4	150.21
		399.58	398.55	398.44	1195.157
2	Canada				1192.135
3	United States of America				1186.129
4	Germany				1153.089

The afternoon saw a return to individual shooting with the Governor General's Final. The morning's fresh wind continued and was nearly as steady, leading to a glut of possibles at 800 metres. At 900 metres, all but one of those who had gone clean gradually dropped points, leaving David Calvert to win the Patron's (ie the stand-alone Final) on 150.20 from James Watson and Ross McQuillan and, with it, the Governor General's Prize itself on 300.42. This was the second time David Calvert had won it in three years, while David Luckman was the still-on-form recipient of the CSM for second place on 299.44 - CGC CSM is not a bad haul for one week!

Other major competitions based on the Grand Aggregate and Governor General's saw British success: David Luckman first and Ross McQuillan second in the Canadian Open TR Champs, the same two first and third respectively in the Aggregate For The 21st Century and an amazing first, second, third, fourth, fifth finish by Brits in the Champion Pairs, led by "The Irish" (David Calvert and Ross McQuillan).

One of the main purposes of the tour occupied the whole of Sunday: the America Match (2ss + 15 at 300, 600 yards and 800, 900 metres). As in the Canada Match, Nick Hinchliffe was main coach with Martin Townsend at his shoulder looking at angle on the flags behind, while Matt Charlton and Reg Roberts coached a target each. At 300, where it was drizzly with light wind, Great Britain dropped an edgy four points to trail the USA by one. As the teams were setting up on the 600 yards firing point, the heavens opened with sleet. This looked like it was



David Calvert wins the Governor General's Prize again.

going to continue for a while so, after some time relaxing in the buses, an early lunch was eventually declared by jovial CRO Keith Bornn. That meant a long afternoon, with three full ranges of 15 round shoots: a real test of endurance. The one point deficit didn't last long, as GB dropped only one more point at 600, effectively equalling the 1195 out of 1200 total from the Canada Match. And yet there was more in the tank . . .

With Iain and Karen Robertson relaying the scores to the world via a radio and internet link as each firer came off the point, 800 metres unfolded with Luckman A 75, Calvert 75, Dix 75, Dyson 75, Morris 75, Watson 75, Coleman 75 and finally Messer 75 for an excellent 600 out of 600 at the first of the long ranges. The opposition were shooting well, yet Great Britain had ten points to play with at 900 metres. It seemed that the cushion might come in very handy, as Danny's cornea had been scratched and he was struggling to see. Fortunately, the opposing team captains allowed him to retire injured

and he was replaced by Michael Walton, who held his nerve well to score a 75 at 900 metres. Several others joined him, leaving Great Britain with a superb 1197 out of 1200 over the two long ranges, in winds varying from 2 to 7 minutes left but with surprisingly readable flags considering the earlier precipitation.

While the USA and Canada had beaten the previous record handsomely with scores of 2375.292 and 2373.292 out of 2400, Great Britain's total was an excellent 2392.317, only eight points off the maximum possible, to win the America Match trophy. Andy Luckman (45 Vs), Gaz Morris and David Calvert (both 43 Vs) all scored 300 and the team averaged 299 out of 300, with Rupert Dix and David Dyson both recovering brilliantly from dropped points at 300 to go clean at the other ranges. As well as for some very good shooting, this match will forever be remembered for the future quiz question "Who made the bottom score for Great Britain in a major international match without dropping a point?"

The America Match

Coach	Firer	300x	600x	800m	900m	Total
Roberts	Calvert	75.12	75.13	75.10	75.08	300.43
	Watson	75.12	75.11	75.09	74.05	299.37
	Dyson	74.07	75.11	75.09	75.08	299.35
	Messer	75.12	75.12	75.11	73.10	298.45
Charlton	Dix	73.06	75.11	75.11	75.09	298.37
	Luckman A	75.12	75.12	75.12	75.09	300.45
	Morris	75.11	75.12	75.10	75.10	300.43
	Coleman	74.09	74.11	75.05	Retired	223.25
	Walton	-	-	-	75.07	75.07
		596.81	599.93	600.77	597.66	2392.317
2	United States of America					2375.292
3	Canada					2373.292
4	Germany					2294.196

After the end of the TR competitions, the Great Britain team stayed on for more 900 metres training by shooting in the Canadian 900 metres F Class championship with their target rifles. Full results can be found on our website at www.gbpalma.co.uk.

The last "business" of the tour was a fine team dinner in a revolving restaurant at the top of one of the Marriott hotels (but not the one that any of the taxis took us to), with champagne generously provided by John Webster who had unfortunately had to withdraw from the tour. Heads of entertainment, Messrs McQuillan and Dix, did us proud that night. People spent the following afternoon (finally!) at their leisure before a smooth check-in and a sleepy flight home, where we were greeted by balloons and banners courtesy of Pearl Townsend.

The 2006 Great Britain Team to Canada enjoyed excellent competition and wonderful hospitality in Canada. Most importantly, it won the team matches in which it took part and team management had the opportunity to learn more about the skills and nerve of a lot of the squad. The team managed to combine great shooting with an excellent team atmosphere to which everyone contributed. We hope that will be the lasting impression

with which we leave the Canadians, just as their friendly welcome is always appreciated by visitors from these shores. This tour has given the Palma team a great foundation on which to build when it returns to face some very strong opposition next year.

Captain's Thanks

I wish to express my most grateful thanks to Berger Bullets, especially Eric Stecker, for their most generous support and sponsorship of our team by supplying us with bullets which helped us produce the results necessary for our successful visit to Canada.

My personal goals for our team were not only to win the matches but also to give as many team members as possible the opportunity to shoot in at least one of the matches; these were successfully achieved.

Having delegated tasks to various team members, both at home and in Canada, I was impressed and very pleased to witness the dedication to those duties.

I have every reason to be proud of my team, not only in the way that they performed but also in the manner in which they represented Great Britain: they were, and are, great ambassadors for our sport and I thank them all.



BOOSTING THE COVERAGE

by Bruce Parker and Tony de Launay



Two pundits, burnished by a week and more of gasping British sunshine on the sandy heath land, are sitting on a wooden veranda sipping cool pints of bitter.

“Tearing around in this heat for nearly ten days in pursuit of that elusive Pulitzer-winning story hasn’t exactly paid off, has it? Perhaps we’d better review what we’ve achieved”, says Bruce.

“Good idea”, agrees Tony. “I had forgotten that we decided on our embryo plan only three weeks before this jamboree started and I am beginning to think that, if I had the idea again, more time and more legs might have made a difference”. With that they commence a mild post-mortem of what had been going on in the murky world of the media during the 2006 Bisley Meeting.

Tony: Let me into the confessional first. When I started my annual ritual about two weeks ago I reckoned that it would be reasonably straight-forward to deal with my national dailies’ requirements and to list the interesting follow-ups for spinning off to the locals at the end of the Meeting. What I had forgotten about is the Bisley Rule.

Bruce: The Bisley Rule? That everything takes twice as long as you thought it would?

Tony: Sort of. However much time you think you have it is never enough to allow you to work normally and play sufficiently. The fact that you have only three shoots a day, and what seems like an acre of space between, will never permit you to do all that you want to do, however well you plan it.

To illustrate the point, what seems like a simple matter of visiting stats, translating the results into an acceptable typed format for the papers, contacting editors for space and arguing your point why it is a more important function than the last knockings of a World Cup, a Test Match or the Open Golf, dashing off to shoot a detail, and then ensuring that it gets sent by deadline time, seems to eat at the clock. Chuck in the odd tie shoot or two in the dusk, add on the production and posting of the daily diary for the NRA website, squeeze in a formal function, something to eat and a good old natter with visiting friends, and the day and most of the night are gone.

Bruce: Well, you, me, and the NRA had the bright idea of putting that note in competitors’ envelopes asking them to contact us with any “stories”. I don’t know how you got on, but I had just one call – and that was an old friend from the Surrey offering a drink! Having said that, I did manage five interviews for local radio during the week, and BBC Regional TV did carry a brief report on the Queen’s Prize Final with a picture I took.

Tony: When you add in coverage in the two main papers on almost every day, plus a tiny bit in the Daily Mail about their Cup, we probably achieved more than for a number of years. I also managed a personal first in that my somewhat hurried photo of Jeremy Tuck, winner of the Daily Telegraph Cup, actually made that paper.

Bruce: So, we bit off more than we could chew by ourselves, do you think?

Tony: What I would like to see is a network of Bisley stringers, shooters who are not afraid to write a bit, who will take on the task of contacting their regional newspapers. It could be done during the Meeting, but for the local papers it is not perhaps as time critical as for the nationals. If there are a couple of significant winners, or achievements from a particular area, they can be approached during the Meeting for their details and a short report made to their local paper on return home. The local paper can then make contact direct with the star.

Bruce: I reckon that our shooting colleagues suffer from too much self-deprecation - both camera and microphone shy. You know how it goes after a shoot. “How did you get on?” “Oh, reasonably okay.”

Which probably means 50 with 9 Vs. People don’t need to hide their light under a bushel or their 150s on Century. Neither are we wanting to highlight anything utterly dreadful that goes beyond the shooting pale, are we?

Bruce & Tony (both): So what do we need? We need some Bisley sleuths who will work with us next year to help us cover the bits that will form the bread and butter of the local sports pages and their local radio. Do we have any volunteers out there? We reckon that there are a few who would love a chance to influence the way in which their community views this sport.

If you think that you have something to offer our two pundits contact Bruce or Tony by e-mail: bruceparker@tiscali.co.uk or guv.bastille@ntlworld.com

What they are looking for is a network of shooters, or non-shooters (including shooters’ partners), who know about the sport and are prepared to take their reward from a warm glow when they see or hear their efforts reported in the many varieties of local media.

THE 2006 BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY COMPETITION

by Tony Di Domenico

On 7 and 8 May 2005 2006, Bisley saw the annual BAE SYSTEMS Inter-Factory Target Rifle Competition, an event which has been running each year since the early 1970s. Four trophies were being competed for - two team trophies and two individual trophies. The first of these is the Weybridge Memorial Trophy (commemorating the factory in Surrey, now closed, in which Concorde was made), which is for teams of four, each competitor shooting two sighting shots and ten scoring shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. The second is the Warton Challenge Shield (named after the factory in Lancashire that makes the RAF's latest fighter; the Typhoon), which is shot under similar conditions at 300, 500 and 600 yards. The Summerfield Challenge Trophy (named after the factory that makes advanced rocket motors) is awarded to the class X or A competitor who achieves the highest combined score in the long and short range competitions and the Glascoed Challenge Trophy (named after the Welsh factory that manufactures, amongst other things, advanced ammunition) is awarded to the highest class O or T competitor.

The Company provides significant support for the competition not only through the presence of a senior director to present the prizes but also in the form of Royal Ordnance's world class 155 grain target ammunition, and this support is much appreciated by the competitors. During the director's brief visit we have the opportunity to introduce Bisley and explain the pleasures of target rifle shooting. The visitors are always pleasantly surprised with the diversity of backgrounds amongst the shooters, which of course reflects our sport as a whole. This year our guest was Mike Maiden, Director of Government Relations at our Farnborough Headquarters who, despite living only a few miles away, was visiting Bisley for the first time. In fact both he and his wife were so taken with their experience of Bisley that we had to stop by at the NRA Office to get Open Day leaflets for them!

Teams, although slightly fewer than normal, had come from across the country to compete, reflecting the company's broad footprint in many business areas. This year we welcomed: Warton (Air Systems), Glascoed (Land Systems), Stevenage (Missiles), Radway Green (Land Systems), Capability Green (Sensors), Summerfield and Leicester (Land Systems), plus a number of individuals from other sites.

This year's competition began with the Weybridge Memorial Trophy on Stickledown. As always the greatest challenge at long range is reading the wind; the opening day of the competition saw a very challenging wind which flicked from left to right in an instant and changed in intensity by the second. A little daunted, we got cracking and everyone did their best. At 800 yards Charles Dickenson (usually part of the Frimley team, but shooting as an individual) scored the only 50 with Martin Watkins and Paul Waldron (Glascoed) and Colin Skellett

(Capability Green) all scoring 49. In the team scores Glascoed took a six point lead ahead of Capability Green with 192 out of 200, with Warton and Leicester a further 14 points behind.

At 900 yards the wind has more time to make its mark and this was reflected in the scores returned. There were no 50s or 49s but there were three competitors who scored 48.3, these being Paul Waldron, Tony Nokes (Glascoed) and Alistair Bullen (Capability Green). Again Glascoed produced the best score of 187, 12 points ahead of Capability Green, who in turn were four points ahead of Radway Green. This put Glascoed a full 18 points in the lead with just 1000 yards left to shoot. At 1000 yards the scores were slightly down compared to those at 900 yards, which you would expect. The highest individual score was 46 out of 50, achieved by Dave Love (Glascoed), just a point ahead of GB shot Jeremy Langley (Capability Green). In the team scores Capability Green managed to close the gap by 12 points with a score of 169, 22 points ahead of Radway Green. However, this was not enough and meant that Glascoed had won the Weybridge Memorial Trophy by six points with a score of 536 out of 600. Capability Green were a very respectable second and Radway Green came in a close third.

In the individual competitions in X class, Martin Watkins took an early lead with a 137.9, just one point ahead of Alistair Bullen, with Mark Roberts (Summerfield) just four points behind him. Clearly, this was going to be a very close run competition. In M class Colin Skellett scored a very impressive 140.9, just one point ahead of Dave Love who was in turn just two points ahead of Mark Royall (Summerfield).

On Saturday we shot the Warton Challenge Shield competition on Century range. The weather was again typically English, with the ever present threat of rain. The wind never seemed kind to anyone at 300 yards and this was shown in the scores, with just John Deane (Stevenage) and Liz Verduyn (Capability Green) scoring 49s and only Adam Leech (Summerfield) scoring 48. In the team scores it was very close with Glascoed taking a two point lead ahead of Capability Green with a score of 183 ex 200 and Radway Green nine points behind



The long range competition on Stickledown.

them. At 500 yards there was an improvement in the scoring, unlike the weather, which had now started to rain. Adam Leach scored the only 50 and no less than five people scored 49. In the team scores there was no change in the rankings with Glascoed scoring a very impressive 195 ex 200 with Capability Green on 185 and Radway Green on 177. In the rankings this placed Glascoed 12 points ahead of Capability Green with Radway Green holding third place.

Shortly after we decamped to the 600 yards firing point the weather had improved, which was just as well, as our guest of honour had arrived. He spent the next hour or so being shown around Bisley and meeting the competitors in between shooting details. The scores were similar if not better to those at 500 yards with both Dave Robinson (Radway Green) and Alastair Bullen both scoring 50 with 8 and 5 Vs respectively. Tony Nokes (Glascoed) scored the only 49. In the team scores Glascoed again produced the highest score of 188 ex 200, only just ahead of Capability Green with 185, the same as they shot at 500 yards, and again Radway Green in third place with 177. Thus, the Glascoed team won the Warton Challenge Shield convincingly with a score of 566, 15 points ahead of Capability Green, with Radway Green in third place.

In the individual competitions the scores were even closer. In X class Alistair Bullen, as last year, produced the highest score of 146 ex 150, with Martin Watkins and Adam Leech just three points behind him. Combining these with the long range scores Alistair Bullen retained the Summerfield Challenge Trophy with a combined score of 282.28, one point better than last year, with Martin Watkins on 280.22 and Mark Roberts on 273.23. In M class both Dave Robinson and Paul Waldron shot



The Glascoed team receiving the Weybridge Memorial Trophy.

144 with 14 and 13Vs respectively and Tony Nokes just one point behind. However, it would do them no good, as combining the scores together Colin Skellett won the Glascoed Challenge Trophy with a score of 279.22, just three points ahead of Paul Waldron on 276.21, with team mate Dave Love in third place on 275.18.

With the competitions done and dusted it was back to the Army Target Shooting Club for the prize giving and refreshments. This also gave the guest of honour an opportunity to meet the competitors in drier circumstances. Special thanks are due to: Mike Maiden and Maj Gen John Russell Jones at Farnborough head office for their support, Ian Clay at Radway Green for the supply of 155 grain ammunition and the Army Target Shooting Club for their catering and support, without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to 2007.

NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME - IMPERIAL MEETING 2006

This has been a bumper year for the scheme in every respect. I had more people than ever seeking help and was, thanks to firers' generosity, able to meet this demand with one-on-one assistance (with one exception).

As ever, I am most grateful to all who stepped forward.

My only slight sadness - and this has not changed since my article of this time last year - is that very few of the open units take up the offer of support during the Meeting.

On the plus side, I have not (yet) heard of anyone not meeting up with an Aunt or Uncle. Thank you to all concerned.

It seems that the Guides for First Timers (or others, for that matter) have been widely downloaded from the website (go to www.nra.org.uk and click on **Competitions** then **Imperial Meeting 2006** then **Imperial Meeting Information** and scroll down to select). I remind you that these guides are updated annually in the Spring, once the new Bisley Bible comes out.

Finally, and as I wrote last year, this scheme is quite exceptional in sport generally; it is so highly rated in the shooting world that attempts are made to emulate it everywhere that fullbore firing takes place. Do make use of it. Anyone may apply, whether novice or experienced, and it is free.

Tim Elliott

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OBITUARIES

Lieutenant Commander John Willcox RN

John Frederick Oscar Willcox, known as 'Cobber' because of his Australian sounding twang over the RT, was born on 29 August 1921 in Wolverhampton. He grew up in Northfield, Birmingham and left school to work for the Austin Motor Company. The Austin supported the Royal Observer Corps during the war years and from his involvement in this organization came his consuming wish to fly and a life long interest in aviation.



In 1943 he commenced his initial aircrew training with the RAF, first in Aberystwyth and Brough and then to America where he earned his wings in April 1944. He returned to the UK as a Sergeant Pilot to continue his flying training. However his career in the RAF was short lived and in March 1945, when the Fleet Air Arm was seeking pilots, he transferred services joining No 1 NAFS at RNAS Yeovilton flying Corsairs and Harvards. After the war he took extended active service as a rating pilot and was subsequently promoted Sub Lieutenant (A).

His Naval flying career began somewhat inauspiciously when, undertaking his first deck landing on HMS Battler, he took the barrier and hit the bridge. His first front-line squadron was 805 flying Seafires. He continued to fly Seafires in 807 Squadron, 17th CAG; serving with the squadron for over two years. The squadron were equipped with Sea Fury aircraft in September 1947 and his admiration of this aircraft continued in retirement with support for the Royal Naval Historic Flight.

In February 1950 Lt Willcox was placed on the reserve list and returned home to Wolverhampton to become a flying instructor for Don Everall Aviation. However he was recalled six months later due to the Korean War and was sent to RNAS Brawdy for a twin-engine conversion course flying Mosquitos. His next appointment was with 827 Squadron flying Firebrands, which he described as the worst aircraft he ever flew and in which he had a series of hydraulic failures resulting in a number of emergency landings.

Jet conversion course followed in January 1953 from where he was to be sent to 728 Squadron at RNAS Hal Far in Malta, a job he was to enjoy immensely. Whilst in Malta he was able to develop and participate in his chosen sports of football and rifle shooting and became the Captain to CINC Mediterranean's rifle team leading them to victory in many events. On return to the UK he transferred to a permanent commission in the Navy and obtained his watch-keeping certificate in HMS Portchester Castle. Following night fighter training in

1955 with 2 Squadron RAF in North Luffenham he was appointed to 893 Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton flying Sea Venoms.

Following the declaration of war by Sir Anthony Eden in October 1956 the squadron embarked in HMS Eagle and set sail for Suez. On 2 November eight aircraft were despatched to attack Almaza. During the attack Lt Willcox's aircraft was hit by Egyptian flak, which penetrated the cockpit destroying the aircraft's hydraulic system and injuring his navigator. With no wheels, flaps or powered controls and a seriously injured but conscious navigator Lt Willcox was able to ascertain that despite the damage the aircraft was capable of normal flight. Due to the fact that he was unable to slow the aircraft sufficiently in order not to place too great a strain on the arrester hook, he took the aircraft around for a second slower approach, the arrester hook dropped due to gravity and caught No 1 wire, successfully achieving a perfectly executed wheels up landing onto the deck of HMS Eagle. This action assuredly saved the life of his navigator.

Following Suez he was promoted to Lt Cdr and went on to serve in further squadrons, but before leaving 893 Squadron he made the 1,000th deck landing onboard HMS Ark Royal and was presented with a cake made in the shape of the aircraft carrier, which was cut by HRH Prince Philip. His last appointment was as Senior Pilot to 750 Squadron at RNAS Culdrose, Cornwall. Lt Cdr Willcox had his last RN flight on 31 March 1960 in a Sea Devon. During his flying career he flew over 25 different aircraft types in which he amassed almost 4000 hours of flying. He spent his last months of service participating in Naval and Inter-Service rifle shooting competitions, captaining the Royal Navy team to victory at the annual Bisley Inter-Service Meeting from where he retired in July 1960. He became a founder member of the Royal Navy Target Rifle Association.

On leaving the Navy he went to work for Revo Electric, but when offered the job of Assistant Proof Master to the Birmingham Gun Barrel Company he had utopia in that his hobby and sporting interest had become his second career and he was to enjoy it almost as much as flying.

Target rifle shooting was a hobby which was to give him much pleasure for the rest of his life. His ability at and understanding of the sport, his enjoyment of its challenge and his commitment to its organization made him a well-known and respected figure in both the Services and National meetings and earned him a seat on the National Rifle Association Council. He shared his love of this sport with his two sons and coached them in its art, winning both of them places in England teams whilst they were teenagers. For approximately 30 years he ran the Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Midland Counties Rifle Clubs, only relinquishing the task in the last few years of his life. He first represented England in the

National Match in 1963 and in 1976 captained them to victory. He went on to captain a successful Mackinnon team in 1980. He represented Great Britain in competitions both at home and abroad in Canada and Australia and served as Coach and Adjutant on many occasions in competitions such as the National, the Kolapore, the Mackinnon and the Palma. He achieved many personal victories in local and national rifle meetings. The accolade which eluded him was the Queen's Prize, his highest achievement being third place.

As well as being an extremely capable pilot and gifted marksman John Willcox had numerous other interests. A keen sailor, ornithologist, naturalist, collector of clocks and die cast models, jazz fanatic, football devotee, life long Wolves supporter and a computer enthusiast. He kept himself in 'flying practice' well into his 80s spending hours on Flight Simulators 'flying' the length and breadth of the UK and across Europe even practising deck landings.

He married in 1946 his pilot's mate Wren Air Mechanic (Electrical) Hilda Bennett who survives him together with his daughter and two sons.

Ian Cummings

Horsham friends and Sussex target shooters were saddened to learn of the death on 17 May at the age of 74 of Ian Cummings, one of Sussex and Horsham's most respected rifle shots.

Ian was educated at Hurstpierpoint College, where he learned the sport of target rifle shooting and was a member of their Ashburton



VIII. After National Service, during which he was an inspector for ammunition, he pursued a life-long career in banking, serving for over thirty years in a variety of positions at the Bank of England. On retirement he became a member of the Shelley Probus Club of Horsham where he will be remembered with affection.

Ian's leisure time was devoted in major part to his activities as a target shooting competitor and administrator, becoming a leading figure in the Sussex County Rifle Association, being their President at the time of his death. After an early spell with Sussex, Ian moved house and then shot for Surrey, representing them in the King George V Cup between 1964 and 1966. A second move of house saw his return to Sussex and he became an established member of the County rifle team and the county's administrative team, as Honorary Secretary from 1988 to 1991 and then as Captain for a three year term from 1994 to 1996.

Among his achievements he reached the final of HM The Queen's Prize in 1965 and 1969 and was in the top 50 of the Bisley Grand Aggregate from 1963 to 1969 inclusive. He gained an England cap in the National Match in 1968. In 1969 he toured to Canada with the GB Rifle Team that

contested the World Long Range Rifle Championship for the Palma Trophy, finishing second to the United States.

In 2000 Ian captained England to victory over the other home nations in the National Match. In recent years he turned to Match Rifle events to continue his competitive involvement on the ranges.

He was a long time member of the Horsham Rifle and Pistol Club, where he was held in great esteem. Among the Bisley rifle clubs to which he also belonged were the English VIII and the North London. With Bisley as his home range after the demise of the many local Sussex firing ranges, he was a well respected and sociable figure always having time for a friendly word on the veranda of the North London. He will be missed not only by Sussex shots but also by fellow shooters from across the world.

He is survived by his wife June, their son and daughter Simon and Jonquil.

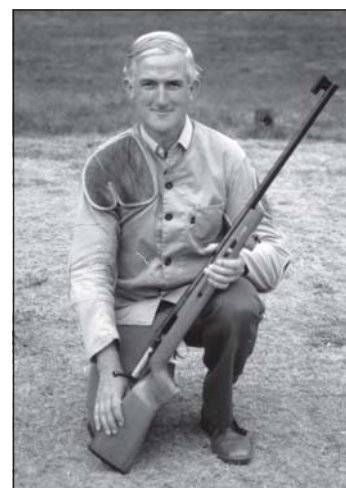
Major (Retd) Richard Ellis RE

Richard died peacefully aged 69 years in Andover Hospice in July having lost a four year battle against cancer.

Born in Wiltshire and educated at Dean Close Boarding School, Cheltenham, for the first part of his formal education, Dick entered Sandhurst in 1956, the Army being his preferred career. On completion of the course he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers and informally invited to read for a degree in Science at the Military College of Science, Shrivenham. This he did and in 1961 obtained his degree thus completing his formal education.

Dick retired from the Army in 1993 having served in the Far East, Near East and Germany. His shooting career started at school when he competed in individual and team competitions both at Bisley and elsewhere, winning several trophies. Whilst at Sandhurst, he entered the Army Championships 'B' for the first time in 1958 as a senior cadet and achieved second place. In 1960, Dick entered the Army Championship again and won the Young Officers Cup and the overall Championship. In 1988, he again won the Army Championship.

Alongside all his Army activities, Dick entered the NRA Imperial Meeting whenever possible and in 1980 and 1990 he won the Foster Cup. He regularly appeared high up in most of the prize lists and made the HM the Queen's Final on four occasions in 1979, 1983, 1991 and 1993 and the St George's top 25 in 1978. He also achieved 28th place in the Grand Aggregate in 1980. Dick was



selected as Reserve for England in the National Match in 1953 and 1964.

From 1978 to 1992 Dick was appointed Captain of the Regular Army TR Teams and competed in the Inter-Service matches and many others at Corps level.

By 1995, Dick had become one of the unpaid volunteers involved in the establishment of a proper NRA Museum. The old Stats office had been vacated, becoming redundant by the computerisation of the Imperial Meeting squadding system, and so was declared as the future site of the Museum.

He was particularly interested in archival records and leaves a huge legacy of record compilations, on computer discs and in print-outs, which are absolutely invaluable. The man hours which he spent on them was colossal. He took the Library under his wing and generally contributed enormously to the Museum, as it is today, which is an acknowledged success.

Dick leaves his wife, Jackie, daughter and son and grandson. His ashes will be scattered at the Clock Tower during the 2007 Army TR Open Meeting.

His dedication and dry humour will be greatly missed by all his non-shooting and shooting friends.

Derek Hodson and Ted Molyneux

Jack Buchanan

Jack, Jackamo, Buck, African Jack - these were all affectionate terms given to John Malcolm Buchanan - a veteran of New Guinea, a veteran of the NSW Police, a veteran of the Rifle Shooting movement and a regular visitor to the Imperial Meeting.



Born in Scone NSW on 4 June 1924, Jack was the eldest of six children. Jack was married in 1950 to the late Patricia Mary Mackintosh of Hurstville and leaves behind eldest son John, married to Lorraine, and grandchildren Nicole and Grant and younger son Mark, married to Susan, and grandson Stewart.

Jack enlisted in the AIF in April 1942 underage at 17 years 10 months. He undertook military training at Alice Springs, Darwin and served in Lae, Papua New Guinea with the 2nd Army Troops Company RAE as a Sapper.

Discharged in 1946, a bout of malaria delayed plans to enter the NSW Police Force until late 1947 where he rose through the ranks to Detective Sergeant in the late 1960s and 70s. Jack retired in 1982 as a Senior Inspector after 35 years of dedicated service just like his father - John James Glendhu Buchanan who also served in the NSW Police Force for many years.

During his early police years, Jack commenced rifle shooting, representing the NSW Police in the Dunlop Shield Teams competing around Australia. After the devastating loss of his beloved Patti in 1974, the support

of his RSL and rifle shooting mates made life a little more bearable.

He absorbed himself in his sport, rifle shooting, competing interstate and in overseas matches, either as part of a team or as an individual. His first overseas shooting trip was to New Zealand in January 1975, followed by Bisley, Canada and America in July 1976, accompanying the Australian Team as a Goodwill member. Thereafter for 30 years he made a yearly pilgrimage to Trentham and Bisley. He became a bit of a feature, part of the furniture in his Tilley hat, moleskins and riding boots, relaxing with a cleansing ale at the London & Middlesex RA or the RAF clubhouses, wondering why or how that 'Inner Four' or 'Miss' came about. Known for his gruff voice and no nonsense attitude, he developed friendships far and wide. Many an anecdote will be remembered in the butts at Bisley, in the bar at Upper Hutt, Connaught or Bloemfontein. Mateship was the core of Jack's personality; he was a great ambassador for Australia.

It was inevitable that his two sons developed a passion for shooting, shortly followed by his daughter-in-law, Sue. So during the 80s there were four Buchanans shooting competitively. Over the last couple of years he guided his youngest grandson Stewart in skilled marksmanship and the art of reading the wind.

A former member of the Police RC and Sydney Rifle Club at Liverpool, Maroubra RSL Rifle Club and Mosman-Neutral Bay RC at Malabar, Jack was urged by his younger son to move to Hornsby. Consequently Jack joined Roseville Rifle Club, Mark's club, and enjoyed his last seven years with an eclectic mix of young and old vibrant club members who knew how to party and play pool!

During one of his many trips to England, and during a competition lull, he would embark on cultural missions, to a musical or a play. But a foray to the Scottish play was interrupted by an elbow, when after a poignant scene, cast and audience were slightly ruffled by the sound of snoring from the second row, namely Jack.

Unpretentious, Jack showed little concern for the finer things in life, unless it was a good wine, steak or a mud crab. An example of this was when a Bisley mate gave him a lift to Stickledown Range. Jack banged his head on the roof as he got into the car declaring "what kind of Datsun is this?" to be informed that that it wasn't a Datsun but an Aston Martin.

He had his eccentricities, driving all over Sydney to find the cheapest petrol, or liking total peace and quiet when reading the paper and doing the crossword puzzle.

He will always be remembered for his very apt yet witty remarks, for example, when offered a slab of beer at Bisley, he said he had nowhere to keep it cool: whisky, on the other hand, was fine at any temperature. He will be remembered for his generosity, his wisdom, and, towards the end, his noble and courageous spirit.

Jack fired his last shot on Saturday 29 April 2006 in A Grade at the Hornsby range. He was a rare breed, an

Aussie digger, epitomizing what was once the real Australian culture.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Mark Buchanan

Wulf Schattenberg

Wulf Schattenberg passed away just days before he was due to come to Bisley to shoot the Imperial Meeting this year. It would have been his 27th Imperial Meeting.

In 1978 his local rifle club sent the first German team to Bisley and since then he had only missed the Meeting a couple of times due to ill health. Whether he was shooting for RK Senne, BDMP or ERA, he was a well-known face on Camp and for years the official interpreter for the German team.

During the 1960s, Wulf had spent five years in Australia working in a variety of careers ranging from sheep shearer to security guard for GM Holden (using an Enfield No 4) and he even got a gold digging licence - as a result he was fluent in English (way ahead of the rest of the team) and he got his nick-name "Aussie".

Once back in Germany, he qualified as a foundry technician and started working as the technical director for a foundry, and also took up shooting as a sport. First, he shot military rifle, but soon changed to sporting rifle. In those days that meant 300 metres ranges, UIT-style shooting in Germany and he travelled with his team as far as Denmark and Norway, competing against the likes of Malcolm Cooper.

But once he set foot onto Bisley ground he was hooked and absorbed all the information he could find on target rifle shooting. Again, he was way ahead of the rest of the team, but happily passed on his knowledge to his team members. Combined with the fact that he was clearly technically minded, he was also a lot more experimental when it came to buying new rifles (even helping to design new actions) and if there was a new barrel on the market, Wulf would be the first in Germany to order it!

His target rifle career took him not only to Bisley, but also to Altcar and Wales. On the Continent, he regularly shot on his home range in Sennelager, but also other smaller ranges around the country. He never tired of travelling abroad for competitions and he was a regular at shooting competitions in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France and even the Czech Republic. Wulf was part of the first German tour to Canada in 1981 (and toured Canada several more times); he was part of the first German tour to Kenya in 1988 and one to Namibia in 1994. He also shot in the first German Palma team in Bisley in 1985 and the first European Palma Team in the USA in 1992. In fact there is hardly a team tour he missed since, visiting New Zealand and Australia among others.



He always proved a vital part of the team and established himself as an excellent wind coach. Apart from many individual successes, highlights were winning the Junior Kolapore with his team in 1982 and the Junior Mackinnon in 1983 and 1985. He also helped organise many competitions in Germany and on the Continent, including the European Long Range Target Rifle Championships in 1998.

Wulf lived for shooting and was always happy to encourage beginners. He played an active role in his shooting clubs and associations (he was a founding member of both the BDMP and the ERA) and his knowledge of the sport was unbeatable. He died suddenly, after a short illness, at the age of 68. "Aussie" will be very much missed by his fellow shooters in Germany and abroad.

Silke Lohmann

Michael A Budd

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Michael Budd, who has passed away following a short but extremely courageous battle against cancer.

Michael was an avid supporter of all shooting sports for about 35 years, having started as a member of Ickenham Shooting Club.

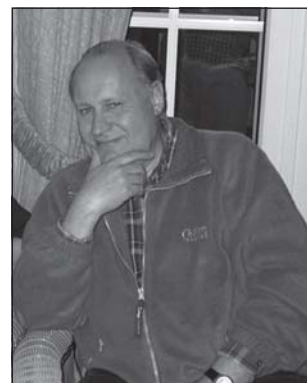
He later joined Staines Rifle and Pistol Club, where he remained a member, and participated in numerous smallbore rifle and pistol competitions. Michael also was a great enthusiast for fullbore shooting and black powder disciplines. He served as club secretary at Staines for many years and was also, more recently, a member of Chobham and District Rifle Club. Michael passionately supported and ran a local 'summer safe' scheme in the Staines area, which introduced many young people to the shooting disciplines.

We first met a long time along at Staines Rifle and Pistol Club when at that time he was the club secretary. Those of you that have been in that position will know that it can be a daunting job. He put a lot of time and effort into running the club and I have many happy memories there, especially the Christmas parties.

As an NRA member, qualified RCO, and regular visitor to Bisley, he often assisted with running the Section 7.3 shoots, as Range Officer.

It came as a real shock to me when Michael told me that the pain that he had in his back had been diagnosed as cancer but as usual Michael was more worried about letting me down. Michael was always there for me when I needed help; he was that kind of friend. So I was there to help him in anyway that I could.

Michael and I joked about his final resting place, about a week before he left us. I did not realise that he would



be gone so soon. He liked the idea of being scattered over Stickledown by firing his ashes through the cannon. As the cannon can be only fired to start or finish a shooting event, Angela, Michael's wife, decided that the firing would take place at 17:30 on the Sunday afternoon to mark the closing of the Trafalgar Meeting - an event that Michael, being an all rounder, liked to take part in. The rest of his ashes were sprinkled in the Clock Tower Remembrance garden and a plaque will be placed on the inside wall.

He will be missed by all that knew him.

Fred James

Wrexford Windsor Tarr

Wrex Tarr, who died suddenly in South Africa on 11 June 2006, took up rifle shooting when he joined the cadets in school in 1951. From then on he always had a passion for the sport.

In 1974 and 1977 he won the Police Reserve Service Rifle Championship. He also won the President Medal in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe in 1977, 1979 and 1981.

In 1978 he won the Canadian Rapid and Snap Shooting Championships. He then took up pistol shooting as well, travelling with a team to two World Pistol Championships, one in Norway and the other in Roodepoort, South Africa.

In 1963 he took up target rifle shooting and represented Zimbabwe, at Bisley in 1970, 76 and 80 then right through until a few years ago when he moved to South Africa. He won two Queen's Final badges and appeared in a number of Palma Matches. He just loved being at and



competing at Bisley, in both service rifle and target rifle events as well as occasional pistol competitions.

He married Merry in 1979 and then took up archery to keep her company. They both competed in numerous World Championships in Italy, America, Australia and Poland and were both chosen to represent Zimbabwe in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

Wrex was also renowned as a television presenter on Zimbabwe and South African television, being a newsreader and presenting several programmes. He became well-known for his ability to entertain people with his 'Chilapalapa' stories which eventually became well-known all over the world. He could tell a wonderful joke and was always in great demand to entertain wherever he went (especially at the Canadian parties at Bisley).

Having moved with Merry to St Francis Bay in South Africa, a terrible mistake occurred when he had a cataract operation which left him totally blind in his left eye. Whilst giving shooting a break, he pushed himself to try and overcome the impediment and took up golf on a regular basis and the new sport of bowls in which he excelled. In just two and a half years he was representing St Francis Bay in many National and Club Championships, winning the single Club Men's Championships and many Fours competitions. He died after playing in the All Cape Tournament having skippered his team that day and won both games. In the evening he was in fact entertaining a whole club of bowlers with his jokes when he left us.

He was not only a good sportsman but had a great passion for the environment and became a Game Ranger, which he did in his spare time, and was also on many conservancy committees in the area he lived in.

A great void will be left in many lives since his passing.

Merry Tarr and Michael Riches

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

LETTERS

NATSS?

From Jim Hallam

I am a vigorous proponent of the concept of "One National (Unified) Target Shooting Organisation", even to the extent of believing that, should such a body be properly constituted, every person who shoots at artificial targets should be required to be a member - but the Secretary General's Notes in the current issue prompt me to voice concerns.

Once again reference is made to "... the three Governing Bodies ..." - which totally ignores the main concerns of the majority of those who hold firearms for other than quarry shooting. Any genuine unified body must recognise and accommodate the interests of those who shoot other than purist courses. At present "... the three Governing Bodies ..." represent a mere fraction of individual Members and even counting all who are "members" by virtue of being members of affiliated clubs the percentage of active target shooters is very small. Why should "... the three Governing Bodies ..." be more aware of the other ones?

The current situation is ample evidence.

History shows us that the NRA and NSRA ignored the needs of many who shot pistol. Initially that led to the formation of the BPC which was focussed on international courses of fire - much as in the same way the Councils of the NRA and NSRA were increasingly concerned with the small percentage of X class shots and their rulebooks were driven by the needs of the last stage of the Queen's or the Roberts. Development of excellence is no bad thing in itself but the bodies seemed to be unable to comprehend the basic fact that to become a tall pyramid requires the base to be wider. Should we not be trying to attract the club shooter who will never aspire to the heights of the glitterati, but who is the backbone of the sport? To do this we need to ensure that the core of our target shooting can be done with basic equipment, and then to overlay this with a pyramid of more specialised equipment, ammunition and targets: even F Class has made the same error as the UKPSA made in the 1990s in that it is seen to be Formula 1 and thus is not attracting the wide range of shooters that it could.

Looking back to the 1980s, how many club shooters shot Club Pistol? What percentage shot Free Pistol? And what percentage shot neither? The lesson was not learned. Apart from a few courses at the Imperial Meeting the NRA had studiously ignored the burgeoning interest in pistols, which led directly to the formation of the NPA. That organisation recognised that the majority of club shooters were not really enthusiastic about the precision courses on offer at the time. The development of specialist organisations such as the BSRC, MLAGB, HBSA, VAA, UKPSA and many others showed that many people wanted to do more than select from the NRA and NSRA menu, and also that the majority did not want to use the increasingly specialised (for which read expensive?) target rifles or pistols required for

success. The NPA saw this and involved the other governing bodies upon its Council and in running Pistol AD.

The demise of the NPA after Dunblane could have been an opportunity for unification but the NRA and NSRA did precious little to attract those NPA members who still remained in the sport, which became smaller and more fragmented. For a number of years the NRA Shooting Committee even allowed the Pistol Sub-Committee to lapse! Now we have an umbrella term - Pistol and Gallery Rifle - which is very unsatisfactory, as the two are very different. GR is no longer the Cinderella activity which replicates the old pistol courses, but if we are not careful it - like F Class - will concentrate on Formula 1 and ignore the majority with the basic outfit. There is also a clear need for the NRA to attract into its fold the many percussion revolver shooters in the clubs who are not catered for by the precision courses of the MLAGB.

It is true that some years ago the NRA took very welcome steps to allow some selected disciplines to be represented on Council and if this had been developed so that eventually the specialist organisations were taken on board actually to run the disciplines, then we would by now have had a *de facto* unified body - at least for rifled arms! Regrettably all that happened was that things ran in parallel - leading to the formation of even more organisations such as LERA. Am I alone in thinking that this latter vibrant and excellent organisation should have been what the Service Rifle Discipline of the NRA once was? In that particular case it seems that the perceived needs of the Service Rifle (& Pistol) competitors at the Imperial Meeting - ie Competitors in the NRA Service Meeting instead of NRA members - was the driving force behind the NRA Rules - and still is. Hence those civilians who were marginalised moved elsewhere. (Please note that I am not decrying the efforts of the current General Council Member for the SR discipline - who is developing the sport within the NRA aegis in a way that allows NRA Members to duplicate what LERA Members already do.) In like manner we see the Classic discipline which appears to have different rules for different Meetings - all of which differ from HBSA Rules - and .303 matches appearing in NRA Action Weekends with rules which are also different! There are effective postal matches for Historic Smallbore Rifle - initially developed by the seemingly defunct NRA Historic Arms Resource Centre - which could (should?) be taken on board by the NSRA to keep active the many who cannot justify the price of a modern rifle ... and there are many other similar *non sequiturs*.

Even within the aegis of Historic Arms we cannot agree to compile a National Shooting Calendar where clashes can be minimised or even where major National Championships do not occur on consecutive weekends, let alone simultaneously. What hope is there for unification? Even the NRA gives out the wrong message when it organises an Open Day which clashes with the Phoenix Meeting. As Charlie Brown would say ... "good grief!"

Reply from Glynn Alger, Secretary General

In answer to Jim's letter, firstly that the aim of the proposed new Governing Body NATSS is to be able to represent all forms of target shooting with a single voice so that the sport as a whole can be better protected than in previous eras.

I am bemused that there is still a perception that the Association only seeks to promote target rifle when in the recent past we have stated openly that we support all forms of target shooting and have invited unrepresented disciplines to submit proposals to us so that we can offer them a home and more opportunity to protect their interests. We have recently changed the rules of the Association to allow this to happen.

As for pistol shooting, the NRA may well have got it's stance wrong in the past. However, looking at the way the sport has developed over the years, there has always been this propensity to create small interest groups, which rather than being outside and an entity in their own right should have been cosseted, forming part of the wider family of shooting.

As for post-Dunblane I have publicly stated on a number of occasions how the Association has been blamed for things beyond it's control. In addition we get no credit for actually getting the Home Office to allow the sport of Gallery Rifle to be created as a means of partially satisfying the needs of those who had lost their pistols.

The NRA has for the last few years been trying to do everything it can to accommodate and offer opportunities for all target shooting at Bisley and elsewhere. It is not about this Association's willingness to oblige all disciplines, it is about whether people want to join.

Finally, the Altcar Open Day. It was unfortunate that the Open Day occurred on the Phoenix weekend. We were obliged to take the one and only date offered by Altcar. As far as we were concerned it was crucial that the event ran, having for the first time got Home Office approval and the support of Merseyside Police, which was no mean feat. We are now in a position, having shown we can run such events away from Bisley, to apply to run further events around the UK. The Altcar Open Day was a case of doing the right thing, however inconvenient, for the future wellbeing of shooting interests.

Political Correctness

From Alex Hamilton

Living in a democracy means that everyone is entitled to their opinion and that means that whatever one does there will be people who do not approve.

Political Correctness can be described as an attempt to please all and that, like perpetual motion, is simply not possible. Pandering to the anti-shooting lobby is a complete waste of time and any concession made as a result of their pressure will be taken as just another small step towards their ultimate goal - the ban of all shooting.

So, I read Maurice Kanareck's letter in the Spring Issue with amazement and disbelief. At the time of the last

review of the use of "humanoid" targets, the MoD's Fig 11 was replaced with the NRA's DP1 and that decision was both wrong and ineffective, as Fig 11 continues in use on military ranges by the military and civilian shooters.

If I were an anti-shooting activist and I was facing a choice between Fig 11 and DP1, I would object to both without hesitation. After all what is the difference between "Advancing Enemy" and a "Coffin in Cammo gear"? But if I wanted to be effective, I would know that attacking MoD for using Fig 11 would get me nowhere, I would opt for a soft target - the NRA and its creation - the DP1.

I know that it is easy to be wise after the event, yet the NRA seems not to be able to learn from its past mistakes. I would recommend that we now abandon the DP1 and revert to Fig 11, provided that there exists a justifiable reason for a change.

What the NRA should accept is that it is not a controlling body for either Service Rifle or Historic Events, so its decision to review anything outside the Imperial Meeting, for which it is the national ruling body, is highly questionable!

We do need a national shooting body that embraces all disciplines, but the path to that is most certainly not through review meetings held *in camera* in some musty office at Bisley, but through better understanding and more tolerance of all shooting disciplines and above all more **consultation**.

The creation of a single National Shooting Organization might take decades to achieve and, in the meantime, the NRA should concentrate on protecting the interests of all shooters and not acting as an enforcer of political correctness! The Home Office is doing that well and it needs no assistance!

NRA Clubhouse

From Robert Turvey

I am happy to note that the NRA Shooting Club, which was first mooted by me in these columns and also in discussions and letters with John Jackman, is now up and running. The casual feedback suggests that the Club has been well received and is well run. I have not yet had an opportunity to take advantage myself but hope to do so in the near future

I feel that it is now opportune to go to the next stage - a Clubhouse. Clearly this is probably over-ambitious at this stage but I consider that the NRA Club should combine with another club initially and the English Twenty Club immediately springs to mind.

Since the English Twenty Club barely pays its way and is only open twice a year if we are lucky, this would appear to be the obvious choice. The armoury where I had a locker for many years, is now classed as insecure, this, at a club which should be the premier club on the common.

If the NRA and English Twenty Clubs combined for the purposes of serving their members social needs the English Twenty clubhouse could be open most weekends

and generate income for both. Each club could keep its own individual identity. I envisage a volunteer group of stewards who would, in turn, run the club and who could be accommodated in a caravan on a rented NRA site - there are number of good caravans for sale very cheaply from time to time.

It would only take a bit of goodwill on both sides to get this up and running. What about it NRA and English Twenty ?

Reply from Heather Webb, Membership Secretary

I'm sure that at some point you may have mentioned the idea however when I suggested it neither I, nor the Secretary General was aware of your correspondence. I understand that it has been tried before but was not well received and did not continue. However the NRA Shooting Club is now thriving with over 250 people registered, many of whom attend on a regular basis.

We have looked at the problem of a clubhouse and the English Twenty was considered. However, the clubhouse does not have central heating nor does it provide food and drink outside its main opening times. As we are having difficulty getting members to help with the various events we already run, I think it highly unlikely that we would get a pool of members willing to help as stewards when they could be shooting.

I have not abandoned the idea altogether and will keep an eye out for suitable accommodation. Having said that, those who attend at the moment do seem to be happy with the likes of Jenny's and the LMRA.

Ammunition

From Maurice Ayling

At the AGM on 16 June, it was suggested that RG should no longer be the supplier to the NRA and that another be sought. There was no discussion of this point, the Chairman stating that it would soon be time to review the supply.

In the days of SR(a) and SR(b) shooting, everyone used one of the Service types of rifle available, ie the SMLE, P14, or No 4 all .303", and it was not inappropriate that all used the same ammunition. With the introduction of the 7.62mm SLR, SR(b) became impractical and special to type target rifles were permitted with the proviso that the rifle used must be generally available to the TR specification. Thus it transpires that one may see many makes of rifle in use with a wide selection of characteristics, eg barrels of differing lengths, twist, and materials and a wide selection of bedding methods, all of which gives any one make of rifle its unique characteristics, including reaction to different makes of ammunition, thus indicating that not all rifles are suited to all brands.

Although some competitors have more than one rifle and can ring the changes at will, many more have only one which they may have discovered reacts better to one make of ammunition than others.

Is it therefore not time to provide, as now, a make of ammunition, such as RG, for the Imperial Meeting, with the proviso that competitors may choose to provide

themselves with a make of ammunition they know suits their rifle better than that provided by the NRA? Not only would this counter the discouragement to enter the Imperial Meeting, which is especially notable among those who travel vast distances to attend, but it would induce an element of competition which might encourage a more consistent product.

A year or so ago, I frightened myself to death by costing my shooting at approximately £4 to £10 every time I pulled the trigger. I have enough geriatric problems, without compounding them with ammunition of uncertain performance to overcome, to justify expenditure of that order. I know that my old Musgrave with its 30" 1 in 13, barrel goes well with a certain type of ammunition as demonstrated recently in a Sussex long range shoot, and I would dearly like to use that ammunition in the Imperial Meeting. Not being able to do so leaves a feeling of being 'seen off' on occasions. Perhaps I should elicit the assistance of Help The Aged!

60 Years of Fullbore

From John Hissey

Many members will know that earlier this year I wrote my shooting memoirs entitled *60 Years of Fullbore* with the profits to go to the NRA's Young Shooter's Fund. May I thank those of you who have purchased a copy as the costs have already been covered and the fund is now benefiting. The booklet is available at £5 from the Range Office. If you are not at Bisley in the near future or would prefer a signed copy, please e-mail me at john@hissey.net giving your name and address so that I can use the post.

NRA Policy for Goodwill Teams

From Carol Painting

Goodwill teams are great. They provide an opportunity to experience a shooting tour without the stress of an official team. They also strengthen the bonds of the shooting community around the world. I believe we should encourage goodwill teams to take up invitations from around the world.

However, I feel strongly that any team that bears the name of the NRA must be advertised for members to apply. This should not apply only to official teams but to NRA goodwill teams as well. I am sure the old Council policy was just that, but it seems Council has changed its mind, because the recent goodwill team to the West Indies was not advertised, although I understand that the captain sought advice and clarification.

I can see no reason for the Council's change of policy and consider it most undesirable.

Where a goodwill team is not being advertised with a request for applications, it could travel under the auspices of a shooting club or association; it could also be called British, which is not a term used for official teams.

One Degree Under

from Barry Cairns

This year the temperature was higher than my Queen's I score. Oh come on! In Fahrenheit!

The London Olympics - Shooting

From Peter Underhill, Director of Shooting

The Olympic Games will soon be upon us. Although 2012 may be six years in the future, those six years will soon pass and there is a lot to do. We shall need people to run the Games and we have a problem in some of the shooting disciplines. Not to put too fine a point on it we are short of suitably qualified and experienced range officers in the pistol disciplines, especially 25m.

When pistol shooting bit the dust in the 1990s we actually had a well trained and experienced team of individuals who ran our major meetings. They have nearly all gone and there are few replacements around. We currently have a very small band of experienced officials who have remained active on the international scene.

Training takes time and experience takes longer. We have decided that we will look for officials who are, as a minimum, qualified to GBTSF level. We will take these officials and train them up to Olympic standards. Later, at a date closer to the Olympics, we intend to send them abroad to work at world cup matches and major pistol meetings in foreign countries to gain the experience.

To start with we need GBTSF qualified officials and we are looking for volunteers to start now. We are organising a number of training courses, to be held at Bisley, to bring people up to GBTSF standard. These courses will also act as refreshers for those who already hold a licence. These courses will not be free but a level of subsidy has been arranged to reduce the costs as much as possible.

In due course, in 2008, we will contact all holders of GBTSF or ISSF licences and ask those who are interested to attend Olympic recruiting days. At these days we will test and select the best to take part in this prestigious event.

If you would like to attend these courses or be part of the Olympics, please contact:

Course Organiser, GBTSF, Edmonton House,
Bisley Camp, Brookwood, GU24 0NP

Or e-mail your details to

courseorganiser@btinternet.com

Please provide name, address, e-mail address and licence number if you have one.

Is Your Range Safe?

from Mike Evans Secretary Monmouth & District Rifle Club

At long last a decision has been made regarding the inspection and certification procedure for civilian rifle ranges. The Home Office finally issued guidance to police in the form of circular 031/2006 on 23 October, and at the same time wrote to all Home Office approved clubs. The onus of responsibility for ensuring that the ranges that a club used was safe, was placed squarely and firmly on the shoulders of the club or individual concerned.

However, how many club officials or range operators are aware of the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which came into effect on 1 October 2006. This law places a clear and absolute

legal responsibility on any person who has some level of control over a premises to "reduce the risk from fire and to make sure people can safely escape if there is a fire". The order applies to virtually all premises and covers nearly every type of building structure and open space, and it doesn't matter whether anyone is employed or not. A very similar order came into effect in Scotland at the same time but I will not try to differentiate between the legislation, I believe that guidance as pertains to Scotland is available from the Scottish parliament website. As with all Health and Safety legislation, failure to comply can be a criminal offence, the penalties for which are extreme even to the point of imprisonment. I suppose that could make life a little more interesting when it comes time to renew your FAC.

So what should a club do? Firstly obtain a copy of *A Short Guide to Making Your Premises Safe from Fire* - this useful pamphlet should be available from your local Fire and Rescue Service or it can be downloaded online from www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk. This pamphlet gives basic guidance and explains the legal situation. The same website directs you to the appropriate full guide which is probably *Number 6, Small and Medium Places of Assembly*, though if more than 300 persons are concerned it would be *Large Places of Assembly*, highly unlikely for most clubs. There is a lot of information in these guides but persevere as they are written in fairly simple terms and they could save your club a fortune in professional consultants fees. One of your primary duties is to undertake a fire risk assessment. In the majority of cases, you can complete this yourself. Only in the more complex premises is it necessary or advisable to employ someone. The websites of both Hampshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services have in the past provided helpful information in this respect, where it is possible to complete online assessments free of charge. Be warned, there are online companies offering risk assessments for a couple of hundred pounds which the unwary pay only to discover that they are completing a similar format to that available from those fire services free of charge.

The design of indoor ranges often presents certain problems with regard to means of escape, with usually only one direction of travel or dead end conditions being quite common. While the inspection of rifle club premises probably comes fairly close to the bottom of the list of priorities for most fire services, clubs must recognise and accept their responsibilities to manage their premises with regard to all safety matters. Avoidance of responsibilities normally scores very low when considering levels of compliance by enforcing officers, which could lead to the loss of your range due to prohibition of use or prosecution of responsible persons.

So wake up clubs, assume responsibility and do not blame anyone else when we have lost another range or club due to your unwillingness to manage safety properly on your premises. Also do not assume that because you share premises with someone else, or only rent or hire the range, that this does not apply to you, it does!

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FREE MONEY!

by Karen Robertson

Yes you really did read that right - Free Money! Well, free money for the National Rifle Association at no cost to you and no cost to the Association.

The NRA is now listed on everyclick.com a search engine that gives 50% of its revenue to charity (ie the NRA!). Using everyclick.com as your search engine does not cost you or us any money, but every time you use it you raise money for the NRA. Please start raising money for us whenever you search the web. Over the past year the average Everyclick user has raised £16 for his or her chosen charity; just imagine what a difference that could make if we all signed up today! Imagine how great it would be to see the NRA at the top of the highest earners list and let's face it, if all supporters of target shooting signed up to Everyclick and used it regularly we would be way out in front at the top!

What is Everyclick?

Everyclick is a search engine website which began in June 2005 and has grown considerably since then. On 3 October 2006 they reached the 10 million searches mark; within five weeks they had reached 13 million. Last year search engines generated close to £3.2 billion; Everyclick is now growing exponentially - just imagine how the NRA could benefit if we all used Everyclick whenever we searched the web.

How Everyclick allocates money to charities

Everyclick allocates 50% of its gross revenue to charity each month. Each active charity receives a proportion of that sum equivalent to the proportion in which its supporters use the website relative to the supporters of other active charities. The activity of Everyclick website users who do not select a specific charity will benefit all active charities on a pro rata basis, so we even get money from people who don't support us.

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- 1 Go to www.everyclick.com
- 2 In the upper part of the Everyclick homepage, click on the white text "Select the charity you would like to support" located above the Search box. Do not type anything into the Search box on this page.
- 3 The following page should say "Select the charity you would like to support as you search the web". In the Search box in the middle of this screen, type "National Rifle Association" and click on "Search Charities".
- 4 Find the entry for the National Rifle Association (at the time of writing we could be found on the second line down below the NSRA for some obscure reason). Click on the green arrow "Select this Charity" at the left hand end of the entry.
- 5 This should produce a registration form. Check that the National Rifle Association is the named Charity, then fill in the form and click on "Sign Up". You

only have to provide your name, an e-mail address, country of residence and password.

- 6 You are now in business to use Everyclick to contribute to the NRA!

So what next?

Use Everyclick as your preferred search engine

Everyclick uses the Ask search engine and provides full search, image and multimedia results. After using Everyclick for several weeks I would say that, whilst it may not come up with as many results as more famous search engines, I have found that I am getting more relevant answers. For instance if you type in "NRA" we are number one in the search results on Everyclick whereas we are further down the results using other search engines. I now use this method to access the NRA website instead of using a bookmark.

Make it your home page

You can make it your home page by clicking on the house icon in the top right corner of the website. Make sure you are logged in when you do this so you do not have to log in every time you open your internet browser.

Shopping

Ah my favourite part of the site! If you look at the left hand side of the site you will see a Shopping button. Click here and you will see a list of over 200 shops and services. By buying from these links a percentage of your purchases will go to the NRA. Shops and services signed up to this include major names such as Amazon, the AA, BT Broadband, John Lewis, Laura Ashley, Littlewoods, Marks and Spencers, Mothercare, Oddbins, the RAC, Staples, Thorntons and Virgin Wines as well as the usual mobile phone, financial services and various travel and holiday companies including Condor Ferries (of particular note for anyone intending to shoot in the Channel Islands), Expedia, Easy Car, Hertz, etc. If you shop online this is where you can really help raise funds.

Ebay

If, like myself, you're an avid Ebay user, then use the Ebay link in the Shopping section. For every bid you make via this link Ebay will donate between 5p and 6p to the NRA. Again an easy way to raise funds for the NRA whilst doing something you enjoy.

Corporate Supporters

If you have a business and would like to advertise on Everyclick, you can join as a corporate supporter and raise even more money for us. See the Everyclick website for further details on advertising.

How will the money be used?

All money raised from Everyclick will be used to support the NRA's charitable objective of promoting target shooting throughout the United Kingdom.

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