



National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2007

Volume LXXXVI

Number 3



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Great Britain World Champions



Great Britain - World Veterans Team Champions



Great Britain - World Under 25 Team Champions

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Britain Veterans Team, the Great Britain
Under 25 Team and David Luckman.
Photos by the teams and Peter Hornsby.

Why two covers? Because they all deserve the front cover!

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
*Glynn
Alger*

World Long Range Rifle Championships, Ottawa

Great Britain had an excellent result at the World Championships in Canada when the Palma, Veterans and Under 25 teams all won their titles. In addition David Luckman won the Individual World Long Range Championship. During the course of the events the GB teams routinely broke existing world records establishing, in the words of a South African competitor, "a new standard for everyone to aim at".

The National Rifle Association is proud of the accomplishments of its teams and in particular wishes to congratulate its successful captains Martin Townsend, Mick Barr and Ed Jeens.

The achievement of the teams is all the more remarkable when you take into account that they were self-funded, with members working hard to raise money through sponsorship and corporate events, because centralised sports funding from Government is now purely focussed upon Olympic disciplines and charity rules do not permit the Association to donate money in support of elite shooting.

It's Not Always Who You Know But What You Know

The other day I received a note from my Membership Department asking if I could intervene with the Police on behalf of a shooter who is a member of an affiliated club.

Basically the facts were that the affiliated member had witnessed a road traffic accident. When the young woman police officer attended his house he was in the garage cleaning his firearms. The officer asked why he had the rifles. As a joke he said something inappropriate in our Politically Correct obsessed world.

There was no reaction from the police officer. What followed was a relaxed two hour interview and

statement taking relating to the accident our member had witnessed, accompanied by tea and biscuits.

Six weeks later the doorbell rings. Our member finds the police outside with a warrant for his firearms, ammunition and Firearms Certificate. He is informed that his flippant comment has been adjudged to amount to 'threats to kill', hence the seizure.

Our member, who incidentally is elderly, writes to the Firearms Licensing Department concerned, admitting he had made a stupid comment, apologising for any offence caused.

Weeks and months go by without any form of reply.

At the same time he keeps contacting the officer in charge of the case, only to be told the matter is under serious consideration for prosecution by a 'superior' officer.

Finally after missing half of the shooting season having got nowhere he contacts the NRA and gets me on the case, for my sins.

My initial port of call was to telephone the Firearms Liaison Department dealing with the matter. I told them who I was, that I was from the NRA and that I was speaking on behalf of a member. The first reaction was "We cannot talk to you about the detail of a case and reveal personal information". I stated that I only wanted to speak to the case officer concerned and give a view about the case not discuss the detail because I had all that in front of me. I was told "You will have to write in then." A discussion ensued about how long our client had been kept waiting to date with no answers. It soon became evident that I was going to get nowhere.

Next ploy. I asked who was in overall charge of the Firearms Liaison Department. I was told the name of the Departmental Manager. I asked again for the person in overall charge and got the same reply. I then said "To avoid any doubt, usually Firearms Liaison Departments will be under the control of either the Assistant Chief Constable Crime or Operations, who is in charge." There followed a pregnant pause. Eventually I was told it was ACC Operations I needed to speak to.

I telephoned the ACC's staff officer. A pleasant young lady answered the phone and took my details. I explained the details of the case to her, in particular pointing out that the person in question at the time of the alleged incident was doing his civic duty, was in the privacy of his own home, was relaxed at the time, was elderly and thus was not fully conversant with the modern rules of interaction. I admitted he had said something inappropriate but he had made a formal apology.

At this stage I pointed out that the chances of our member being a real threat to public safety was stretching things a bit, particularly as it had taken

six weeks to seize his firearms. I then went on to question the fact that no one would engage with him or tell him what was going on. I further pointed out the unwillingness to talk to me when I was trying to help the process, effectively getting blanked at which stage the staff officer said "Mr Alger I am sure that did not happen." I replied "As a recently retired Police Superintendent I think I can tell when I am being stonewalled". She replied "Glynn, I am sure we can sort this out. Is it alright if I ring you tomorrow to let you know what is happening?"

An hour later the telephone rang. A Superintendent in charge of the Firearms Licensing Department informed me that our member would be reunited with his rifles within the following two days.

The moral of this story is that had the member rung earlier he would have had his firearms back sooner, probably in time for the beginning of the season.

Fortunately a large number of cases can be dealt with successfully in this way. Others may require legal opinion and action. Shooters must be mindful that this service level is only largely available if you have joined a national body as a full member, benefiting from insurance cover, an element of which is legal protection. Some clubs will have taken out additional cover to provide protection but this is usually the exception rather than the norm.

NRA/MoD Agreement

A series of meetings have taken place over the summer between the NRA and the MoD to decide whether military range use at Bisley will be paid for in ammunition or cash. A report, which is due to be decided by senior commanders, has been supplied to the Association that indicates range hire will be a money transaction from 2008.

We had a meeting with Land Command and Defence Estates on 28 September 2007 which confirmed that we would be paid conventionally going forward. Our discussions were about the level of range usage the MoD will need at Bisley in the future so that we can agree a package that is beneficial to both parties. We hope to reach agreement very shortly. Early indications are that this deal will last for three years before we need to renegotiate.

Civilian Use of MoD Ranges

Discussions with Defence Estates have been ongoing in relation to administration of MoD ranges when used by civilians. We are fast approaching a situation where we will reach agreement on the centralisation of licensing to use ranges and the regionalisation of booking arrangements for ranges with responsibility moving to the NRA. Current estimates suggest that the NRA will have responsibility for these issues and will need to have systems and structures in place for 1 January 2009.

This may seem some way off but now we know there is serious intent on behalf of the MoD we will have much work to do between now and then to ensure we get everything right first time.

At the same time the NRA has been instrumental in assisting clubs deal with a number of issues this year enabling the reopening of ranges to civilians for the most part in the North and Midlands. In addition we have expressed interest in a number of ranges that might potentially be mothballed or closed to try and keep them open for civilian and cadet use.

NATSS

You will be pleased to know that if our merger negotiations with the CPSA and NSRA are successful it is unlikely that we will retain the name of the National Association of Target Shooting Sports (NATSS). The organisation will seek to be called something more user friendly.

Following the allocation of funding from UK Sport for the modernisation and merger process the working group has been introduced to the team of facilitators.

We were recently informed that the facilitators intend to hold a series of workshops both at Bisley and nationally involving interested parties from all of the organisations to seek out their views on how best to structure and organise the new national body as we progress.

The staffs of the three bodies have now met on three occasions to be updated about developments to ensure they are well informed and on board.

John Perry, who is on secondment from the CPSA and working out of the NSRA office, is acting as the NATSS administrator and working with the facilitators to ensure that the arrangements progress smoothly to the point at which there is a definite proposal, which can be put to the membership of the three organisations for approval. He is also assisting with interim cooperation in areas such as insurance.

Insurance

It has been agreed between the CPSA, NSRA and ourselves that we ought to seek a single insurance to give best value and service for all our members.

We have been tasked with evaluating the various insurance options. To date we have met with seven insurance brokers who have been invited to submit their bid for our business.

The aim is to evaluate the bids and put three companies forward to present to NATSS to identify our preferred provider. Having done so, we will look at providing not only insurance but a number of financial products for the future.

This will mean we will need to look carefully at the training requirement for our staff and our relationship

with our provider to ensure we comply with the Financial Services Authority's rules.

Bisley Development

The Trustees have put a great deal of effort into understanding what is necessary for a successful development of Bisley. It has been a voyage of discovery, with many twists and turns. Confusingly, whichever expert one asks, one gets a different view of what is needed.

The Council, being conscious of their obligations to the Association and shooting in general, have necessarily been cautious to ensure, whatever they do, they get it right for everyone's benefit. Initially, the Trustees were persuaded that they should negotiate with a developer so that any financial risks were borne by the preferred provider.

However, over time the Council has come to realise that the focus of a developer is different from their own in that the main aim of any development from an NRA perspective should be to create World Class shooting facilities, funded by the correct level of development, which also creates enough income to enable support of shooting elsewhere within the UK.

To this end the Trustees are to employ a consultant to help them identify their vision of what Bisley needs to look like in the future to achieve these aims. Having gone through this process we will then look to employ planning consultants to take us forward to achieve planning permission. At this stage the Association can decide upon which developer to use for the phased development of Bisley.

The planning process involves bringing together a number of experts in different fields and a structured conversation with the planning department at Guildford Borough Council. It also involves direct consultation with other interested parties such as the NSRA and the CPSA. It is appreciated that there will be considerable interest in the outcome and all interested parties will be kept informed at all material stages.

Training and National Standards

As previously announced the NRA intends to issue course notes and content to clubs for them to consider using when introducing new shooters to the sport to form the basis of their probationary qualification. At the same time the Association is promoting skills courses and shooting log books for cadets to make it easier for them to qualify in probationary terms.

Recently I was introduced to the concept of the CPSA Academy, where they are trying to introduce a phased approach to training taking individuals from the basics for a learner to the pinnacle as an Olympic Athlete, which allows anyone to try for the top or get off the escalator at whatever level they choose. In this way

the CPSA are trying, similar to ourselves, to encourage people to enter the sport while ensuring standards in safety and competence.

The most interesting innovation was that the CPSA have nearly reached agreement with one GCSE examining board on a course for Clay Target Shooting that would form part of a sports GCSE. They are currently working on an A Level, hoping to take it all the way to Degree standard.

In my discussions with the CPSA they were not averse to assisting both the NSRA and ourselves to achieve the same status with rifle shooting. If we were able to introduce rifle shooting as an element of a GCSE not only would we achieve an entry level into the sport but in political terms we would make it more acceptable to the public and politicians.

Handloading Courses

As some of you may be aware, the Association is intending to run handloading courses starting in the Spring of 2008. This is designed to help newcomers to the activity or those who are uncertain to learn how to handload appropriately.

To run courses for a number of learners simultaneously we will need quite a bit of kit. If you have stopped handloading or have changed to the latest model please consider donating any equipment you no longer need to the NRA so that others can learn.

Discipline Reports

The National Rifle Association has recently introduced a new incident/discipline reporting procedure that obliges our staff at Bisley to make a formal record. This has been necessary because of issues arising on a more frequent basis relating to handloading, ignorance of range regulations, breaches of security and safety infringements.

Investigations have revealed in all instances that those involved have not blatantly disregarded precautions. They have either been forgetful, neglectful or mistaken in their actions. As a result those found in breach of range regulations or camp standing orders have been dealt with appropriately taking account of the circumstances of the incident, its severity and the effect of any penalty on the individual concerned (taking into account personal circumstances such as ability to pay a fine for instance).

The following have been dealt with for discipline issues through the Association's discipline process:

Mr HA Parry

Attending the firing point with a loaded firearm - Mr Parry has been suspended from shooting at Bisley until 31 December 2007 for breach of Regulation 2(a) "Firearms and Ammunition" of the Bisley Range Safety Regulations as published 1 February 2007.

Mr N Cousens

Unattended Firearm - Mr Cousens has been fined £250 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

Mr R Milner

Unattended Firearm - Mr Milner has been fined £250 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

Mr GM Yannaghas

Unattended Firearm - Mr Yannaghas has been fined £250 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

Mr M East

Mr East has been suspended from shooting at Bisley until 31 April 2008 for breach of Regulation 12 "Range Conducting Officer (RCO)" of the Bisley Range Safety Regulations as published 1 February 2007.

Mr M Jordan

Unattended Firearm - Mr Jordan has been fined £100 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

Mr L Jurd

Exploding Rifle (hand-loaded ammunition) - Mr L Jurd has been suspended from shooting at Bisley until 31 December 2007 for breach of Regulation 2(a) "Firearms and Ammunition" of the Bisley Range Safety Regulations as published 1 February 2007.

Mr J Hocknell

Shooting during the lunch break - Mr J Hocknell has been suspended from shooting at Bisley until 31 December 2007 for breach of Regulation 8(c) "Range Use" of the Bisley Range Safety Regulations as published 1 February 2007.

Mr TS Sweetnam

Ammunition left insecure - Mr Sweetnam has been suspended from shooting at Bisley until 31 December 2007 for breach of Regulation 20 "Safe Custody" of the Bisley Range Safety Regulations as published 1 February 2007.

Mr P Stead

Unattended Firearm - Mr Stead has been fined £250 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

Mr J Winter

Unattended Firearm - Mr Winter has been fined £250 for breach of Rule No 4 of the Camp Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1 of the Bisley Bible.

NRA Council and Committee Elections 2007

The 2007 Committee Election process is now complete and the following appointments announced.

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

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

Members of the General Council approved the co-option of James Ragg to the Council (Board of Trustees).

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees), General Council, their Committees and Sub-Committees are shown on pages 64 and 65 of this Journal.

Chairmanship

At the recent General Council Meeting held on 12 October 2007 the meeting was informed that there was a problem with progressing the election process due to the fact that one of the nominated internal candidates was unavailable. In addition the Council, supported by the General Council had approached various bodies to identify potential outside candidates. As a result of this work HRH The Prince of Wales, our President, had offered the assistance of his Charities Office. The Council had spent some time reviewing in excess of 30 potential candidates, arriving at a shortlist of three qualified and interested participants. The process of evaluating these individuals for potential nomination was incomplete.

As a result after having reviewed the rules of the NRA it was decided by the General Council that Professor Richard Horrocks should hold the position of the Acting Chairman of the Association and Julian Hartwell should hold the position of the Acting Chairman of the Council in the interim until a Chairman is elected. It was further decided that the election should take place at the next General Council Meeting to be held 23 February 2008.

Team Captaincies

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

GB Kolapore 2008

Steven Thomas

Nominations

Nominations are required for Captains for the following teams. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 15 January 2008.

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2009**GB Team to New Zealand 2010****GB Team to Canada 2010****GB Palma Team to Australia 2011**

Onwards and upwards.

RETIREMENT OF NRA CHAIRMAN JOHN JACKMAN

As you all know our Chairman John Jackman retired at the General Council Meeting held on 12 October 2007.

Vice-Chairman Richard Horrocks said a few words whilst presenting John with his retirement gifts:

"Before I close the meeting I have a very pleasant duty now and that is to recognise the six years that John has been Chairman of the Association and all the work he has done. John when you arrived in here six years ago although "baggaged" with many years servicing the NRA in various capacities we were in dire need of a miracle. We were almost £2m in debt with not a lot of hope of how to get out of that debt and concerns from the membership generally whether we would actually be around much into the new millennium? Over the last six years, especially the first three years of that, you have worked as if you were paid a generous salary, but you were not paid anything at all! You worked with zeal, unlimited zeal almost, to get us out of what was a "hole in the ground", not just a financial hole but a strategic hole. And here we are six years later in a state of financial health on the road to recovery and with a strategic vision, which hopefully will take us into the future in an expansive mode with our fellow target shooting organisations. I don't think that anyone around this table would have imagined way back in 2001 that we would be here today, and it is largely through your leadership and unstinting efforts that we have got to where we are - I am hoping that the momentum that you have created will carry us on into the future because of that which you have already put into the Association. Unbeknownst to you, over the summer months, we have been inviting members across the Association to recognise the contribution that you have made. When asking Jackie what you would like to spend your next years doing, possibly so that you would not get too much in her hair, she did refer to this "Logie Baird-type" television, which you have and while you do enjoy watching the

"big screen", this is not possible on your "little screen". I know you watch your racehorse not very clearly on your present "little screen", so with the contributions which were made and waiting at home now, there is the latest high definition, high technology TV and all the gadgets (unlike your rifle which has none!). There was no use bringing it here for you to take it home, so we have here a picture of it and with the real picture being set up at home at this moment, your wife will be happy for the next ten years because she knows you will be tucked away minding your own business and having a very rewarding retirement from NRA duties! I must thank Julian, because I was in Canada whilst he was managing this effort so that we could be here today presenting you with this gift. So, on behalf of the Association, well done and congratulations and thank you very much for your work and all the best for the future."

John replied:

"It is very kind of all those who subscribed to this and I must say that I really had not the slightest hint, in fact I was actually wondering why I was needed to be here today, but because I was told I was needed to give a bit of support! Indeed my wife hasn't even dropped a hint, although extraordinarily the television did break down the other day when I wanted to watch my horse win at Plumpton and I said "Come on Jackie it is actually time we replaced this thing, it is over twenty years old." She said "No John we have got to wait until you come back from holiday." I said "All right, all right." Anyway, it is very kind of all those that have presented this and thank you very much for the warm reception and I know that all of you are determined to see the Association have a future. The efforts made by so many people to make this work, it is really the gathering round of people that has moved things ahead; some things of course have been controversial, but hopefully at the end of the day with debate and friendship all these get ironed out. Thank you very much indeed."



To the Members of the Association

It came to me as a complete surprise (notwithstanding that my wife had been consulted) to receive a present from the Vice-Chairman, Richard Horrocks, on behalf of a number of Members of the Association, at a recent General Council meeting, upon my retirement from the office of Chairman.

Truthfully, it has been a most interesting last six years, but as I said to the General Council, it has been a Team effort to effect recovery and to develop the ways to provide the opportunities for a successful future. I do hope that the Association will continue to progress from strength to strength within the, hopefully united, national sport of target shooting.

I offer my sincerest thanks to all those of you who subscribed to my leaving present.

John Jackman

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by James Watson, Chairman of the Membership Committee

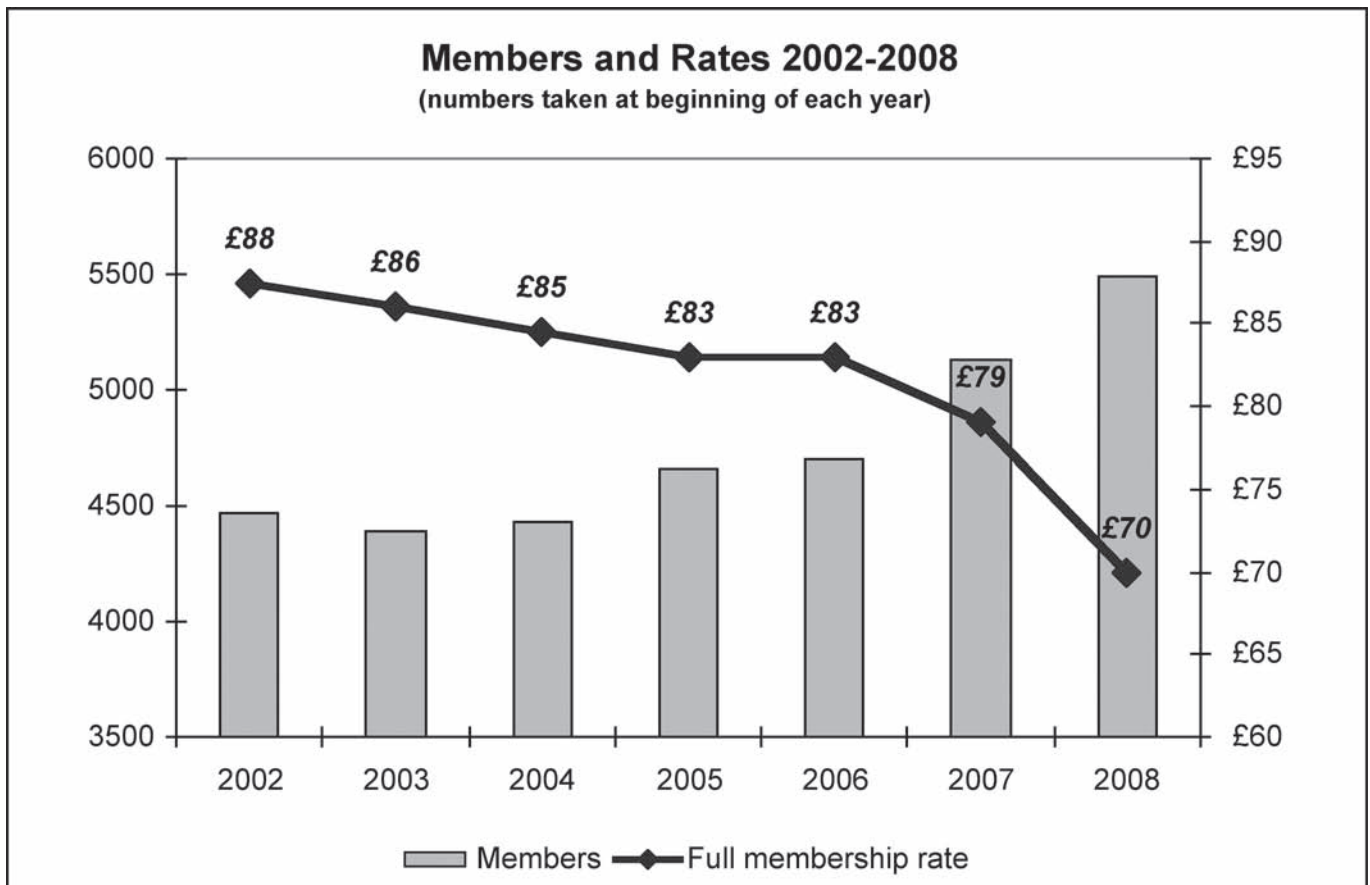
Now the season in the UK is drawing to a close, we are looking ahead to 2008. The membership numbers continue to grow with close to a 10% increase again this year; membership of our national governing body now stands at approximately 5,500. The cost of full annual membership will be reduced by 11% for 2008 – more on that later. We also continue the progression of turning the NRA from a Bisley-centric organisation to one that is truly a national governing body. In 2008 we are combining the Annual Reduced and Annual Country membership categories into a single category in a move to simplify membership.

From a regional perspective, we have again run Open Days to introduce the public to the sport at venues outside Bisley, and had stands at various game fairs. This year, the NRA has been able to offer grants and loans to a number of clubs to expand and enhance their facilities on their own ranges.

Since 2002, the price of full annual membership has reduced from £87.50 to £70 in 2008 (or £65 if you pay by direct debit). If we had followed the rate of inflation, it would be close to £106 now! We have been able to do this partly by improved efficiencies within the Membership Department but also because of the growing number of members. As I have said before, and make no apologies for doing so again, the future of the sport is in your hands – if you encourage your friends and fellow club members to join as individual members we will build a larger united organisation which will have more ability (not just financially) to promote and expand the shooting sports throughout the UK. I would like to see a time (soon) when we have over 10,000 members. We should be proud of our sport – don't keep quiet about your participation, help stimulate the public interest by being an evangelist!

We are keeping the introductory offer for new members at £35 in 2008 and we need your help to continue to bolster our numbers. Membership of the NRA offers a number of benefits; perhaps most importantly there is the individual insurance package that covers you as an individual for public liability as well as all of your shooting kit even when travelling on tours throughout most of the world. Additionally we can support members with FAC applications and issues including legal advice. Of most importance though is that you are part of the national governing body and can partake in the events and competitions that the NRA organises.

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



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



by
*Martin
Farnan*

General

Communication with the Shooting Division

It would be appreciated if the main means of communication with the Shooting Division were 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. Once your fixtures are listed on the website, please check all details are correct and that the e-mail link is directed to the correct person.

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.

Targets and Markers

Markers

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

Please have consideration for the marker who is marking your target. Where possible stand him down if your target will not be used, eg towards the end of 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.

Range Office Target and Marker Bookings

Markers are now booked on Monday for weekend bookings. Please ensure that any changes for weekend bookings are given to the Range Office on Monday and not on Wednesdays as was previously done. The Range Office is open on Mondays for administration queries between 09:00 and 16:00.

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.

Electronic Target Systems

There have been a number of problems with these targets, particularly in their reliability. They are like 'the little girl with a curl in the middle of her forehead' in that when they are working they are very, very good, but when they're not they're horrid! The suppliers who installed them have been working on them recently and believe that they have identified and rectified all potential problems. They have said that their reliability should now be in the order of 99%.

Shooting on Bisley Ranges

The Council (Board of Trustees) has decided that, as from 1 January 2008, only the following may shoot on Bisley Ranges:

- full members of the NRA

- members of clubs affiliated to the NRA who are shooting on official 'club bookings' (*)
- those who have paid Meeting Membership
- those taking part in Guest or Corporate Days

(*) *'Club bookings' are bookings made by an affiliated club which have been advertised to and are open to all members of that club.*

This policy will be implemented by the Range Office as from 1 January 2008, so please be aware that it will no longer be possible to shoot unless one of the above four conditions has been met.

Booking In at the Range Office

Club 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 will be particularly important in 2008 for the reasons given above. Failure to do so may entail a delay in processing your booking.

Safety

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. It will be the personal responsibility of the RCO to ensure that each member of his party is eligible to shoot under the new regulations above. 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 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. It is also highly likely that disciplinary action will be taken.

Use of Stickledown Butt Zero in Low Season

It is anticipated that much greater use of the complex between 800 and 900 yards on Butt Zero will be made during Low Season. This mini-complex comprises turning targets, moving targets, a simulated Electric Target Range (ETR), a simulated Converted Gallery Range (CGR) and a layout suitable for steels/falling plates. The use of one or more of these options may preclude the use of others. Enquiries about which matches may be shot on this mini-complex should be made to Brian Thomas, the Assistant Director of Shooting, or myself.

Range Closure Dates

To allow for proper setting up of the ranges, all ranges which will be used for the 2008 Phoenix Meeting (22 to 24 May 2008) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 21 May 2008. Please take note.

The 139th Imperial Meeting will be held from Pre-Friday 11 July to Final Saturday 26 July 2008 (see below) preceded by CENTSAM. 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 in previous years, 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.

Shooting Matters

Ammunition Prices

You may be aware that the price of metal has increased, worldwide, by some 80%. This has affected the cost price of ammunition by a significant amount, and is likely to be reflected in the selling price in due course. For the time being the prices in the armoury will be held at their present levels while all possible alternatives are explored. It is likely, however, that the price of ammunition will have to be increased in the New Year.

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 Ages Match

This Match was fired over the weekend 27 and 28 October and seven teams competed. Results were as follows:

1	25 to 35	5192.317
2	45 to 55	5137.279
3	35 to 45	5099.288
4	Under 25s	5024.243
5	55 to 65	5013.258
6	Under 25 Development	4949.221
7	Over 65s	4910.214

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

1	Parag Patel	25 - 35	441.29
2	Jon Underwood	35 - 45	439.34
3	Sandy Walker	Under 25s	439.24
4	Dave Dyson	45 - 55	438.22
5	Jeremy Thompson	55 - 65	433.27
6	Simon Hayton	Under 25 Dev	433.22
7	Jim Dunn	Over 65	428.27

Open Days 2008

The Home Office have been asked to agree two NRA Open Days at Bisley in 2008, on Saturday 3 May and Saturday 13 September. Please make a note of these dates which will be confirmed in the Spring Journal. It is also planned that an Open Day will be held at Altcar on Saturday 5 April 2008.

Change of County eligibility

If any NRA member moves to a different county during a shooting 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 should arrange with the two county team captains concerned which county he wishes to shoot for.

Imperial Meeting

Prize Lists

The Prize List CD has now been sent for duplication and should be ready in November for distribution, along with medals, bars and prize money, to those who requested them.

Dates for 2008

The 139th Imperial Meeting will be held from First Saturday 12 July to Final Saturday 26 July 2008. The Central Skill at Arms Meeting (CENTSAM) will be held under new conditions in 2008, starting with the TA Skill-at-Arms Meeting (TASAM) on Friday 4 July. This will be followed by the Army Operational

Shooting Competition (AOSC) starting on Monday 7 July, then followed by the Inter-Service and Schools Meetings from 11 July.

Programme

The programme of events for the 2008 Imperial Meeting will be broadly similar to that for 2007, with no radical changes proposed.

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2008. 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 may 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, F Class and MR events may be made on the NRA website; we recommend entry by this means.

Service Rifle

There will be a number of radical changes next year, many of which are still to be finalised:

- the traditional Monday and Tuesday format of the NRA SR Meeting will cease due to the new CENTSAM programme (see previous paragraphs),
- it may not be possible to hold the Queen Mary/Civilian Rundown as a stand alone competition,
- the normal Monday matches may have to be held over a two day period,
- Civilian SR competitions may have to be spread over a four or five day period,
- the International Service Rifle and Service Pistol matches may have to be discontinued,
- civilian teams will probably not be able to shoot alongside the Methuen Match.

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

- the Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC) will be held a week later than hitherto,
- the matches to be shot by all three Services will be revised,
- the AOSC will be open to unit teams, rather than to individual firers,
- the RN and RAF Skill-at-Arms Meetings will have to be re-programmed though it is hoped still to have a Tri-Service Queen's Medal Final.

Full details will be available in due course from the Army Rifle Association.

Target Rifle

Any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2008 Bisley Bible.

Schools Meeting

No major changes are anticipated but any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2008 Bisley Bible.

Match Rifle

No major changes are anticipated but any changes will be reported in the Spring Journal and full details will be contained in the 2008 Bisley Bible.

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

The new programme of matches trialled this year, modelled on the Phoenix Meeting, was not well received by those competitors who traditionally attended. In addition, and unfortunately, not many new Gallery Rifle competitors attended either. A meeting will shortly be held to see if a better compromise programme can be found which will attract more competitors. If this meeting continues not to be supported then its future is in the balance.

McQueen

The introduction of the 4" V bull again held the number of possibles to manageable levels, and allowed many more competitors to take part in this match. This will be continued next year. All scores will be recorded

in the same way as for TR. Only equal top scores (ie only those scoring 50.10v, or those scoring 50.09v if no shooter scores 50.10v 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.

Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

There is a continuing annual requirement to augment our Imperial Meeting RCOs, particularly next year. The Imperial Meeting cannot be run without competent RCOs, and I invite those of you who would like to be considered for this important position to contact me as soon as possible. We particularly need more RCOs during the Schools Meeting so any TR or F Class competitors who would like to help out before the TR Meeting starts are encouraged to apply.

Trade Stands

If you plan to set up a Trade Stand during the Imperial Meeting please contact Libby Gendall, PA to the Managing Director NSC, 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.

Imperial Meeting 2009 and 2010

For advance information the 2009 Imperial Meeting will run from 11 July to 25 July, and in 2010 from 10 July to 24 July.

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NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME - IMPERIAL MEETING 2007

We used the Entry Form this year for firers to seek an Aunt or an Uncle and, by and large, it was very successful and is to be repeated.

Once again, I am most grateful to all those who were so kind as to offer to help with this much respected scheme. I hope that they did not mind all those emails I sent!

However, my post-Bisley survey suggests that two matters need to be aired:

1 A few young firers are dragooned into requesting help without really wanting it.

This would not normally be a problem and, however regrettable, has been a recurring theme over the years. But what happened this year (and for the first time) was that there were occasional consequent instances of discourtesy which more than tested the patience and goodwill of one or two of my very capable and experienced volunteers.

2 A few young firers step or are put forward for help who are really very able, well instructed and experienced shots and who are not convinced that they need help.

They are usually wrong, of course, and can give an Aunt or an Uncle great pleasure as well as quite a challenge . . . I would never discourage this. But it would be helpful if this situation could be made clear to me at the outset. As things stand and in order to make the appropriate choices, I have to cross-refer to previous years or to guess.

It would be good if, in 2008, these matters could be borne in mind by or on behalf of those who apply.

The two Guides for first timers and others are available from the website (go to www.nra.org.uk and click on **Competitions** then **Imperial Meeting 2007/8** then **Imperial Meeting Information** and scroll down to select) and are widely used. They are routinely updated in March or April and contain useful information about all matters which contribute to a pleasant as well as a successful Bisley.

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

Telephone and Fax: 01234 740334

Mobile: 07932 706171

E-mail: tje@easynet.co.uk

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BISLEY



by
Jeremy
Staples

Imperial Meeting

Firstly I should like to thank all markers who stayed the course during the torrential rain at the early part of the Imperial Meeting. Many of those who were camping were completely flooded out but most stayed on and without these markers there would have been no Imperial Meeting. In addition I should like to thank many of the NSC staff for their assistance in putting the ranges and targets back together again following the flooding and once again Brian Brimfield for his immediate response to repair Century butts.

Open Day

We hosted the second of this year's NRA Open Days at Bisley on Saturday 8 September when over 1000 people registered to shoot. Slightly lower numbers

meant that each individual could actually do more shooting. We understand that a number have already signed up for probationary courses and to join the NRA.

HOG Rally/Hot Rod Rally

Again we hosted the Harley Davidson Rally in early August with over 2000 bikers visiting Bisley and filling all accommodation and the areas available. As always they left the estate in immaculate condition.

We then had the Hot Rod Rally during the NSRA meeting. This obviously meant the site being almost full to capacity but again proved to be a tremendous success.

Property Insurances

We have had the NRA property valued for insurance purposes and substantially increased the insured value of a number of the properties. We also now have individual valuations so that where appropriate we will be in a position to recharge the cost of the insurance back to the tenants.

Staff

We were sorry to lose Sarah Bunch after many years at Bisley, starting on the front counter at the Imperial Meeting and ending up as the Commercial Director of the NSC. I should personally like to thank Sarah for all her help and support over the past four years. We have also lost Rob Batty from the Range Office and wish him well in his new career, and Charlie Hancock from the Clays who has gone on to University.

We welcome James Scade into the Range Office, Ray Tebenham to the Estate crew and Sally Philcox and Karl Stone re-joining after some time away from Bisley.

NSC Director of Marketing

The NSC Board are in the early stages of seeking a full time Marketing Director. Before advertising the position to the general public we are asking the membership to see if we have a marketing specialist with the necessary experience. If you believe you have the skills and the energy to meet the forthcoming challenges, then Jeremy Staples would like to hear from you.

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing usage of the various shooting ranges at Bisley as well as increasing the number of non-shooting events that take place on the estate.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should include a full CV indicating your current salary to:

Jeremy Staples, Managing Director,

The National Shooting Centre, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by
*Phyllis
Farnan*

New NRA Training Courses

A number of new training opportunities are being developed. Following the recent survey of members, a basic level Handloading Course will be held at Bisley in March 2008. An advertisement giving full details of this course appears elsewhere in this Journal. The course will only be open to individual NRA members. Course numbers will be limited so early application is essential. Additional courses may be offered if the demand for places is high.

Instructor Workshop

A new one day training workshop will be introduced in Spring 2008 for those wishing to become either NRA RCO Assessors or Club Coaches in the future. This workshop will cover methods of instruction and is designed for candidates who do not have previous teaching or instructor qualifications or experience.

Probationary Training Courses

A generic probationary programme will shortly be available to all affiliated clubs to assist with the training of new members. Details of this training pack will be sent to clubs with their renewal information early in the New Year. This programme is based on the successful Probationary Members Course that has been running at Bisley for several years. The new training pack will include teaching notes, CD, assessment guides and course manual.

As a Home Office approved club, the NRA runs probationary training courses in the safe handling of firearms. On successful completion of the course, probationers may then be offered full NRA membership. Six probationary courses are run each year at Bisley. Lessons are normally held on Saturdays, though individual mid-week training can also sometimes be arranged.

TR Skills Courses

TR Skills Courses are open to full members of the NRA, its affiliated clubs and to cadets. The course is designed to enhance individual knowledge and shooting skills. Courses are run twice a year (Spring and Autumn) at Bisley, but can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NRA.

Club Instructor Course

The Club Instructor Course is open to members of the NRA, its affiliated clubs and to adults from the cadet forces. This course is designed for those who wish to assist with the training of new shooters at their club or unit. Candidates, who should have previously completed a NRA TR Skills Course, will be assessed during the course. Courses are run twice a year (Spring and Autumn) at Bisley, but can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NRA.

Club Coach Course

The Club Coach Course is only open to individual NRA members; it is held in the Autumn each year at Bisley but may also be run regionally. Candidates should have good instructional skills and should have previously completed the Club Instructor Course. Candidates without a teaching or instructor qualification should attend the Instructor Workshop before applying for the course. From 2008, in line with government legislation concerning the protection of children and vulnerable adults, a CRB check must be completed before an NRA Club Coach can be licensed.

RCO Manual

The NRA RCO Manual has now been updated and reprinted as Edition 3 dated August 2007. On renewal RCOs will automatically receive a copy of this new manual. The manual is also available for purchase from the NRA at a cost of £5.00 plus postage.

RCO Courses

The NRA Range Conducting Officer Course qualifies civilians to conduct live firing practices on military ranges. Clubs wishing to book military ranges must have members who are qualified as NRA RCOs.

The RCO Course is run four times a year at Bisley and is also run regionally by arrangement with the NRA. The course consists of a standard series of lectures, followed by individual oral, practical and written assessments. All candidates receive a copy of the RCO manual for pre-course study.

The RCO Course covers the management of ranges for fullbore rifle shooting, and gallery rifle. (By agreement with the NSRA the NRA course also includes small-bore ranges).

Any individual who holds a current military range management qualification may apply directly for

an NRA RCO qualification. Contact the NRA for an application form and further details.

RCO Renewals

The RCO qualification is valid for six years but may be renewed on application to the NRA. A renewal form, which must be endorsed by the RCO's club secretary, is available from the NRA.

RCO Endorsement Courses

Additional courses are available for individuals who wish to qualify to conduct live firing on ranges for sporting rifles and muzzle loading firearms. The British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) runs an Instructor Course for sporting rifle; the Muzzle Loading Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) runs the RCO Endorsement course for muzzle loading firearms.

RCO Assessor's Course

An RCO Assessor's Course will be held at the National Shooting Centre in Spring 2008. The course is open to NRA Range Conducting Officers who have good instructional or teaching skills and at least five years experience as RCOs for their club. NRA RCO Assessors should also be individual members of the NRA. Assessor candidates who do not have a formal teaching or instructor qualification should attend the Instructor Workshop before applying for the Assessor's Course.

RCO Assessor Update Seminar

The annual update seminar for all current RCO Assessors will be held on Saturday 2 February 2008 at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley.

Bisley Course Dates for 2008 (Proposed)

Probationary Courses

- 2008/1 begins 9 February
- 2008/2 begins 5 April
- 2008/3 begins 31 May
- 2008/4 begins 6 September
- 2008/5 begins 13 October
- 2008/6 begins 17 November

Cadet Coaching Course (Schools and Open Units only)

11 - 15 February

TR Skills and Club Instructor Courses

15 - 16 March
11 - 12 October

Wind Coaching Courses

Long course tba
18 July (Imperial Meeting short course)

Club Coach Course

15 - 16 November

RCO Courses at Bisley

16 - 17 February

17 - 18 May

4 - 5 October

8 - 9 November

Instructor Workshop (Methods of Instruction)

29 March

RCO Assessor's Course

21 - 22 April

RCO Assessors' Update Seminar

2 February

The programme for all NRA training courses at Bisley in 2008 will be shown on the NRA website once the dates have been finalised.

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

For information concerning RCO courses or renewals contact Maureen Peach, (RCO Support) email: maureen.peach@nra.org.uk or tel 01483 797777 ext 149.

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FORTHCOMING TOURS

REGIONAL NEWS

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2008

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands in 2008.

Captain

Matthew Charlton London, Scotland & GB

Vice-Captain

Glyn Barnett Norfolk, England & GB

Adjutant

Martin Whicher Berkshire

Shooters

James Anderson Oxfordshire & Scotland

Tim Green London & England

John Halahan London

Chris Haley Cambs, England & GB

Tom Hunter London & Scotland

Reg Roberts Sussex, England & GB

Natalie Sarafilovic East of Scotland

Peter Seebohm Hertfordshire & Scotland

Ben Stevens London

Stephanie Ward Gloucestershire & Wales

Bruce Winney Hertfordshire

Reserves

Charles Dickenson Berkshire, England & GB

Olivia Newhouse Gloucestershire

Alex Williams Cambridgeshire

Alexander Woodward London, Wales & GB

National Match Returns to Scotland in 2008

The Council of the Scottish Rifle Association has accepted the proposal from the National Match Council to hold the event at Barry Buddon, by Carnoustie, Scotland in 2008 with the help and support of the NRA and others.

The event will be incorporated into the Scottish Championships over the weekend of Saturday 7 to Monday 9 June 2008. The National Match will take place after the Championship Finals on the Monday.

We intend shooting on both Barry South and Barry North Ranges on the Saturday and Sunday and the final programme will be advertised in the next Journal.

At present there is no accommodation on camp but there is plenty in the surrounding area. Details of local accommodation will be sent out to team captains in due course.

The SRA Council is working hard to make the event a success and discussions are in hand with Landmark to ensure that this is the case.

More information will be published in the next NRA Journal

Bob Aitken, Chairman of the SRA

South-West Region Champion of Champions

Could all club secretaries of clubs in the South-West region please forward the names of their club champions for 2007 to the South-West Regional Representative, Peter Coley, for entry in the heat for the Champion of Champions. Closing date for nominations is 29 February 2008. Peter can be contacted by e-mail at southwest@nra.org.uk or by post c/o the NRA.

SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Sporting Rifle

by Bob Maddison

The Running Deer Championship was closely fought - John Maddison won the Singles and the Doubles, and John Kynoch took the aggregate of the first series of singles and doubles. In the Running Deer Unlimiteds, the first NRA Gold Medal was won by Steve Wallis and the second by Alan Harvey.

The Running Deer Unlimiteds saw the introduction of a new competition: the Dewar Cup. This is awarded for the best ten shot series in either the Running Deer Unlimiteds or the Championship. The rules follow the original format for this competition in 1911 when the cup was won outright by FSH Forshall, and re-presented by his family as a Challenge Trophy. Steve Wallis won from Alan Harvey; although both scored 48, Steve won because his worst shot (4.5) had a higher decimal score than Alan's (4.4).

The Standing Boar Unlimiteds had a good entry; many accomplished hunters saw this as an "easy" target. However, with only four seconds to fire each shot (from a standing position with no shooting aids) it proved too difficult for most. Although only a "fun" competition, Paul Grannell recorded the best score of 92.

Classic Arms

by Rae Wills

As I write this in the early days of October, I have a terrible frustration, as there is much I should like to tell you about, yet by the time you read this the Trafalgar Meeting will have passed, all the many ideas now buzzing about as to how we can improve will have been discussed, and the plans for next year will have been made, so it will all be yesterday's news.

So a chance to look round at other goings on and reflect on all things Historic. I have just come back from the biannual visit to our friends in Luxembourg in the grandly titled International Congress of Historic Arms, in fact a bunch of enthusiastic collectors and shooters mostly from the Principality and nearby countries, with one coming from Austria, visiting Museums and collections, and doing a bit of shooting.

Once again, this trip rubbed home just how much our firearms bans have cost us, for the effects go far beyond the actual loss of our pistols and rifles. As I was able to fire in turn an M14, (selective fire; legal in Luxembourg but only to fire single shot!) an AK 47, an M16, and then a Gallil in .223, I began to be painfully aware that as the years pass and firearms current at the time of the bans fade into history, how much my knowledge too is slipping away; and sorrow too for those younger than me who never got that chance, and never will, except by going abroad. Surely you cannot really appreciate how the Garand evolved into the M14, or the AK47 gave birth to the Gallil unless you take them to the range.

Looking at a match for historic arms on the Echternach Club notice board I looked almost in vain for our usual offerings, eclipsed by classes for self-loading rifles and other exotic equipment. Then today I received an e-mail inviting me to a competition, run by the Luxembourg Grand Duchy Police, using their F N FAL rifles, better known to a generation of soldiers as the SLR. Five "warmers" and three ten round timed stages at 100m all for £15 including ammo! Things are really very different over there.

Being of a pessimistic frame of mind I ponder whether the next programme should start with an apology "Due to circumstances beyond our control, the following matches will not take place . . ."

But what matches might they have been? Self loading classics are probably too rare museum pieces but then what about a single shot restricted BAR? Vintage class for certain, with a clutch of Garands and Johnsons, and a few Tokarev M40s (did I really shoot mine those Sundays long ago in the last century?) and just the thing for the recently advertised repro MP44

Sturmgewehr - yes they really exist! And the post historic for SLR and FALS, and the M16 is nearly fifty years old too. And the same for the pistols but we had them, remember?

The final supreme idiocy was, as I had a French machine carbine in my hand in the Luxembourg Museum, discussing its merits and deficiencies, I reflected if I did that at the Imperial War Museum I might very well go to jail for five years; surely this National Service Subaltern made a gentleman by Act of Parliament becomes the criminal by the same route.

But it goes so much deeper, as I am of the firm opinion that as the number of people who have lifetime hands-on experience of these firearms gets fewer and fewer, those designers and experts that remain become an ever-contracting, inward-looking group. The phenomenon arises (well known in the outsourcing world) where the prospective user, be it the Military, Police or whatever, no longer has the expertise to specify his own requirements. This can only be to our detriment as is the stifling of the development of relevant shooting techniques which so often came from the civilian.

So what can we do? The present legislation is, for the most part, here to stay for the foreseeable future and any direct appeal falls on not deaf but closed ears. However all is not lost, gradually bit by bit we are gaining support and this has only been achieved by patiently explaining what we do and how we do it to friends, acquaintances and the public wherever we meet them, so keep up the good work.

So which party can be persuaded to put the provision of an Olympic Pistol Squad on its manifesto?



M14 with burst fire: the selection lever is below the backsight.

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BLACK
POWDER



F Class

by Paul Monaghan

Imperial Meeting

Full details of the F Class competition results from the Imperial Meeting will appear in a separate report in the Journal. A brief review of the highlights shows that David Kent won the Open Grand Aggregate in a very convincing way (20 points!) from Paul Eggerman with Des Parr a couple of points behind. The Issued Ammunition F Class winner of the Dunsfold Cup was Jim Scobie followed by Mike Lunnon in second place and Nick Hinchliffe in third place. Darren Stewart won the St George's Final from Paul Monaghan and Des Parr, and Peter Hobson won the Queen's Prize Final from Jo Wright and Liam Jennings.

Changes to the format this year were well received and it is good to see things settling down. So for next year the targets will be the same, and the F Class shooters will be squadded onto one butt. This latter move gave a better chance for the markers to get the scoring right - which they did very well - and allowed F Class shooters to meet other competitors. There was some concern that the 'issued ammunition' competitors would find shooting on the same targets as the 'open' F Class shooters a step too far, but the really impressive standard of shooting perhaps helped by the quality of the RG this year meant there were no complaints.

The weather did its best to wreck the Imperial Meeting and thanks must go to all the staff who worked tirelessly to get the event back on track. This year was a truly awful year to be a butt marker - we cooked them last year and swamped them this year, but they stayed. Thanks!

Those of you who follow the boring stuff like election results and Committee lists will have noted that I have taken over from John Bloomfield as TR Representative on General Council. John has kindly agreed to continue as a member of the TR sub-committee. I envisage the sub-committee more as a working group, researching and clarifying issues for consideration by the Shooting Committee. Accordingly, I have asked three other respected and hardworking TR shooters to join the permanent element of the sub-committee. These are Jeremy Langley, Guy Larcombe and Ross McQuillan. We will enhance that small group with experts on specific issues.

There are several serious issues for consideration right now. The sudden change in permitted muzzle energy affects several disciplines. The impending change to the ammunition supply for the Imperial Meeting is another. These are to a degree interlinked and are

International News

The NRA GB has recognised the NRAI as the governing body for F Class shooting in the Republic of Ireland, and this means that next year they will be able to enter an official Republic of Ireland team for the F Class International match at the end of the Imperial Meeting. This year, despite our best efforts, there were some bad feelings and unwarranted accusations flying around. Let us hope these can now be put behind us.

World Championships 2009

By the time this is published, ICFRA Council will have met and (presumably) approved the rules for F Class in ICFRA competitions. They will also hopefully have accepted the addition of an F restricted class. Many countries have an F/TR class of F Class which is restricted to either .223 or .308Win calibre rifles. Specific rules vary in each country, but they tend to be restricted to bipods rather than front rests and have a lower rifle weight limit than F Class 'open'. The name F Restricted rather than F/TR was chosen as it was thought that shooters might see F/TR competition and assume they knew the rules - and they might be wrong!

F/TR in GB

The F Class league has an F/TR class and the rules for this class allow handloads (unlimited bullet weight) but restricts the front rest to a bipod. For next year this class has been very generously sponsored by Savage Arms and they are giving an F/TR rifle as the first prize.

Target Rifle

by Iain Robertson

being handled by the Association's professional staff. The meeting of the ICFRA Council and committees in August during the World Championships ratified significant changes to the ICFRA definition of a Target Rifle. We need a considered response. I have already had proposals put to me for changing the rules on competitions shot in stages. Basically it has been suggested that a proportion of competitors from each detail should go forward to the next stage, thereby negating to some extent the unfairness of drastic weather changes during the day.

On these and other issues I would be glad to receive considered opinions in writing, preferably as Word attachments to an e-mail. I don't guarantee to accept all (or any) opinions, but I will consider them all carefully. I look forward to hearing from you.

E-mail: iain@bang.eclipse.co.uk

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

As we go to print the 300 metres season is drawing to a close. 2007 had been at times interesting, educational and certainly frustrating to several of our team members at overseas events, who for one reason or another did not reach their full potential but, as you will read further in the text, several personal bests and new British and Bisley range records were recorded.

The year started with our now well established match in France during March against the Clermont and Creil clubs; this gives us an opportunity to test rifle and ammo set ups for the coming season as the range is quiet with very little wind. Several high scores were shot by NRA members and the NRA A team won both days' team competitions retaining the Danik Bowl; overall high aggregate score winner was Simon Aldhouse with 1188, tying with Mary Pearse but winning on count back.

The international circuit events began in May with a visit to Pilzen in the Czech Republic, this gave us mixed results with one shooter Harry Creevy making the Mens Final with 593 finishing with a 591 and seventh place. Our two ladies had to experience unusually fierce south westerly winds to finish creditably in the middle of the pack.

During a training weekend in May at Bisley, Simon Aldhouse set a new Bisley range record of 599 ex 600, this equals the same score that Malcolm Cooper set as a new British record in Sweden at the World Championships in 1986.

We then moved on to Italy in June to Tolmezzo near the Dolomites with this time a two-man team. The elimination relays were hard and despite putting up scores in the 590s neither made the cut by a point or so, however the final was outstanding spectator stuff in that the first three all made a perfect 600; it was a shared gold as ISSF tied perfect scores cannot be broken.

Early in July a team of three men and two ladies went to Granada (Spain) to the full European Championships. The range was newly built and had only been open a month before our visit - it, together with the 50 and 25m ranges, was built on the side of a hill with our targets 200m away on another hill! The firing point was enclosed for the first 100m and shooters were made to shoot through a door-size aperture at their target, as that was all you were supposed to see. However the range was not to full ISSF specifications - the fixed firing plinths did not all align with the targets and there was a lot of activity during the night to correct this as far as was possible but it did not favour a shooter whose position was not straight!

Our team had mixed fortunes with the best men's score coming from Tony Lincoln with 591 whilst best

lady was Hannah Pugsley with 589. Both events were won with very high scores for the conditions, 599 for the men and 597 for the ladies (an equal world record) so someone knew how to do it!

In early August two men shot at the Danish European Cup in Aarhus; Harry Creevy was on form and shot an equal match best of 597 coming second on his relay to make the Men's Final finishing tenth, the winner Karsten Brandt (DEN) shot another perfect 600.

There was now another short break of six weeks whilst we waited to see who had qualified for the Final in Switzerland. During this time the French National 300m Championship Finals were held in St Jean De Marsacq; we have several members who also shoot for French clubs and for those that qualified to shoot, their report follows.

New British Women's Record!

On 17 August 2007, at the St Jean de Marsacq range in France, 15-year old Hannah Pugsley shot a score of 598 ex 600 in the Junior Competition of the French National Championships.

As well as being the highest score in the match - beating her nearest rival and Creil clubmate, Romain Demey, by 11 points - Hannah's score beat the previous British Women's record of 597 (set by her Mum at Bisley in 2000).

To set this in an international perspective, Hannah's score is one point higher than the current World Record - set by Marie Enquist in 2003 and equalled by Solveig Bibard this year at the European Championships. It is equal to the current European Record, set by Harriet Holtzenberger at last year's Europa Cup Final in Winterthur.

Hannah only fired her first shots at 300m less than two years ago - just five days after her 14th birthday at the end of the 2005 season. She fired her first full 60 shot match at Clermont, France, in April 2006 - scoring 578. Just one year later, in March this year, she shot 593 on the first and 592 on the second day of the match against Clermont to make the second-highest aggregate score of the weekend, 1185, serving notice that she is a force to be reckoned with. The following month Hannah won the BFRC Spring Open Competition with another 593.

Hannah shoots a Keppeler rifle, in 6mmBR calibre, with ammunition loaded by Andy Pearse, her stepfather. She uses the same stock and set-up for 50m shooting, and so enjoys high-value training with the smaller calibre. As well as being a member of the GB 300m Squad, Hannah is currently a member of the English Shooting Academy (ESSU) and has represented England and GB at Junior International



level in the last 15 months. She began shooting 3x20 at 50m this year, and hopes to transfer these skills to 300m next season, so we may have an international level 300m 3x20 lady for the first time since Sarah Cooper was competing in the early 1980s.

Meanwhile, many congratulations on progress so far Hannah!

Hannah is sponsored by equipment supplier Intershoot.co.uk and Green Leopard hearing protection.

On the first weekend of September we welcomed back our French friends for the second half of our match. Again NRA A won both team matches, the highest individual aggregate came from Simon Aldhouse but Saturday's individual best was Graham Hawath with a splendid 598, having had a few months off.

Following the receipt of the final points listing it was good to see three shooters able to make the EC Final in Winterthur, Switzerland - Harry Creevy for the men and Mary Pearse and Hannah Pugsley representing the ladies. Harry went there in 14th place and came back in 14th place with a steady 591 but having a difficult time on the middle strings. The two girls were suffering from a very sloping firing point which made the normal setup feel very awkward, they struggled on to finish the match with scores best forgotten about but with valuable experience gained for next year. This year's circuit had been heavily sponsored by Lapua who gave a Euro prize distribution through the ESC to the event winners plus extra prizes in the super final.



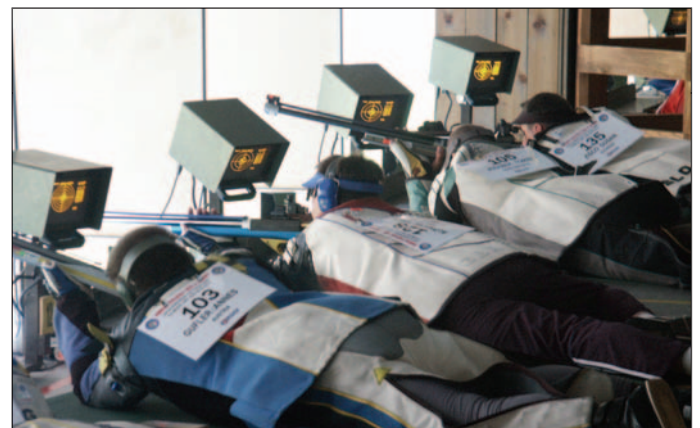
I should again like to thank A & A Insurance for their kind sponsorship this year which has been a great help towards team expenses at various European Cup events.

Having had a request passed to me in May, regarding the possibility of a Swiss team visiting Bisley, and having completed all the formalities, we entertained the Laufen Club on 29 and 30 September to a double English Match. This was a special year for them in that they were celebrating 75 years of their local area shooting association and wanted to do something different in 2007; a trip to London was discussed so where would shooters go? Bisley of course!

This for me became a four day event with collection from the airport, tours of Bisley and trips to the London sights etc. Their first enquiry told me that their normal course of club fire was 30 prone and 30 kneeling with a Sig 90, there was some disappointment when I told them that we could no longer have Section 5 rifles in GB, so they buckled down to a month's training at home with their Standard rifles (similar to TR) and gave us a match. The national calibre for them is 7.5 x 55mm and they shot over 2000 rounds during the weekend - to say the least it did rattle the windows on the range once or twice as well as, I am told, some of the NRA team's fillings. Our club team won both team matches; the best guest score came from Peter Stahli with a pair of 584s; our best score was Simon with 596 on the Saturday. At the Saturday evening dinner I was presented with a large cowbell (now residing in the City RC), which their whole team had signed on the halter, plus of course the obligatory chocolate. A most enjoyable time was had by all with an invitation to visit them in Laufen next year.

On the 20 and 21 of October we held the last event of the year, the GB 300 Metres Clubs Confined Championship and the last scores from our Sunday afternoon TR league before putting the shutters up till next March. During the winter we will be continuing to improve the facility for all NRA members who are always welcome to come and have a go, it really does improve your V count at 300 yards!

Look for next year's dates or any other information for 300m on our website www.GB300M.com



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15 JUNE 2007

Speech by John Jackman, Chairman

Good evening and thank you for coming.

I am joined by my Vice-Chairman of the General Council, Richard Horrocks and, of course, by the Secretary General, Glynn Alger.

I am also pleased to welcome in attendance Rob Hamlin from Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP, our Auditors.

May I take the Notice of the Meeting which appeared on page 4 of the Spring Journal as read?

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 am very pleased to take this opportunity to inform you that His Royal Highness has told me that it is his intention to visit us in 2009 to share in the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the National Rifle Association.

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 Humfrey Malins CBE, MP.

Humfrey Malins has been a Member of Parliament most of the time since 1983. A solicitor and part time Recorder, he is Joint Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party Legal Affairs Committee and also has had involvement with the Home Office as a junior minister and, for a while until recently, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs. Following election as the Member for Woking in 1997 he has supported the NRA, is a member of our General Council and has given practical support for us in Parliament. Moreover, he is committed to continuing membership of Parliament and to continuing to provide support for us when needed.

May I have your agreement?

Agreed. Thank you.

Next I turn to our Auditors. I am pleased to propose the re-appointment of Baker Tilly in their new name of Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP.

May I have your agreement?

Agreed. Thank you.

The Accounts

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 have been circulated with the Agenda.

I want to express our particular thanks to our Treasurer, Mark Haszlkiewicz, for the time and skill which he has applied to ensure that our Financial Statements have achieved a high standard in this first year of the new

reporting regulations. Part of these new regulations require that a Charity's Strategic Plans are disclosed together with statements of what has been achieved.

The Council, that is the Board of Trustees, has been preparing for these developments for some time with a gradual programme of policy making and review and I should also like to thank on your behalf the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Julian Hartwell, who took over the leading role of this office on the Council some 18 months ago.

I do not propose to say more about the Financial Statements themselves as I have nothing to add at this time, but take questions.

I propose to take questions on the accounts, first, followed by the Report of the Trustees and then my Chairman's Statement. Following this I shall refer to my Review in the Summer Journal, make a short statement and then take questions in an Open Forum.

First, therefore, questions on pages 10 to 20 - the Accounts.

I have been given advance notice of one question, namely:

In fact the question relates to the whole Financial Statements. We have been asked how the profit of National Shooting Centre Limited of £176,000, as referred to in the second paragraph of page 8 referring, in turn, to the summary account in note 1 on page 14, reconciles with the Chairman's Statement towards the bottom of page 2 which states that the management achieved a break even result at Bisley, the National Shooting Centre.

The reason is that the Association operates and manages Bisley, the National Shooting Centre, as an entity within the company, National Shooting Centre Limited. As a large part of the Charity activities of the Association are carried out at Bisley, in particular the Annual Prize Meeting, as well as the Commercial activities, much of the commercial income and profit is spent on the Association's charitable activities which take place at Bisley, reducing the profit, last year, to almost breakeven, not least because of the need to repair the Butts at Bisley.

Are there further questions on the accounts section, please? *None.*

The Report of the Trustees? *None.*

The Statement of the Chairman? *None.*

Thank you.

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

Our Future

Recently, I was asked by a leading international target rifle shooter if I really do believe that we "have a future

for regeneration, particularly outside of Bisley?" I do, there is much to go for:

- i A large number of cadets and of members of the public appear to have a latent interest in, or desire to try, target shooting.
- ii NRA/NATSS governed target shooting sport is being increasingly seen by Government as a force for good in encouraging healthy sporting pursuit with respect for firearms. Only three weeks ago the Sunday Telegraph carried an encouraging article by the Minister of Sport, to this effect, advocating target shooting to be promoted for the school curriculum.

However, having said this, I do believe that we are not alone in facing a considerable period of change. NRA traditional target rifle shooting sportsmen are inherently conservative and traditional, but society is changing faster. If our traditional target shooting is to be maintained and flourish anew there must be some acceptance of adjustment to the ways it is managed and progressed.

Reliance on traditional ways of management by hard working volunteers will need to adjust. We are not alone in this – volunteer organisers are increasingly difficult to recruit in all voluntary organisations. Increasingly, as I have said before, society looks to employed management. Participants increasingly want to pay and play.

We must also consider cost. Target shooting needs to be open to all. We must revisit the idea of a lower cost standard target rifle, for example.

In the case of NRA/Bisley we must increasingly rely on our employed, professional management led by our Secretary General in the case of the NRA and our Managing Director in the case of Bisley. Your Council has been working towards a satisfactory achievement of this goal, whilst maintaining governance and overall control through the Council – itself re-constituted in 2003 to ensure that it has the right skills and experience.

Away from Bisley we have a new challenge and one which we should work on with our, hopefully, future partners, the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and the National Small-Bore Rifle Association, NATSS.

Today, I want to focus on what I believe are the important issues for our future:

My constant theme over the last six years has been the importance of control of finance, improvement of reputation and the pursuit of membership, ie the encouragement of more people to take up or try the sport. These remain the important considerations of your Council.

Of vital importance now, to achieve our aims, are the three main projects upon which your Council is concentrating and which feature in the briefing to recruit a new Chairman of the Association (possibly, if not probably from outside our current membership) in September, when I retire in accordance with our Rules:

- expansion of activities throughout the United Kingdom.
- merger with the two other UK Governing Bodies of Target Shooting Sport (clay target and small-bore).
- development of the Association's freehold at Bisley through the National Shooting Centre Ltd under its own and separate Board.

All these ambitions are interrelated in reality. From a merger with the CPSA and NSRA will come much greater overall strength and influence. The funds which will be derived from a successful income earning development of Bisley will further help our UK expansion and provision of ranges (in which small-bore and clay target could well be and will hope to be involved and share with us, as is being discussed by the NATSS Steering Group).

I am very pleased, therefore, that NATSS has achieved Government funding to facilitate a merger, that our President and Patron have indicated their support and interest and that the survey of NRA members by the Secretary General in the Spring Journal has, thus far, indicated support of 307 members to just 17 opposed. The numbers responding were a little disappointing, but based on those who did, there were remarkably some 70 different names suggested although "National Association of Target Shooting Sport" just predominated with 161 votes for and 134 against!

Elsewhere the Secretary General has again highlighted the practical Public Relations disadvantages of our present and historic name. Recently the Council determined that we should change our name. The majority of the General Council supported this and positive responses were received from our President and the Charity Commission, for example. It was suggested at an earlier General Council meeting that National Target Shooting Association should be adopted and this received 35 'votes' in the recent survey coming second among the additional suggestions.

However, the Council is not currently taking a change of name forward as it is considered that it will be part of the consideration in negotiating the terms of our proposed merger. In passing, just 11 members responded in favour of our current name, National Rifle Association.

Informed opinion expressed to us is that both "target" and "shooting" should feature in our future name, when determined. However, the future name is not the major consideration at this point while the Council will keep it under review.

The Butts Appeal

Finally, on a more detailed matter I want to draw attention to the Butts Appeal. The Council was very encouraged at the response of members and others in donating to the cost of repairing the Butts at Bisley following the exceptional storm of 13 August 2006. Altogether, with Charity Gift Aid, some £25,000 has been collected to date. We intended to do the work on shoring up the Century Range Butts with a shelf to reduce the chances

of recurrence and to reduce future maintenance costs in future in February this year, but the weather was far too wet to do it then. The work is now scheduled for the Autumn to minimise disruption. At the same time, a widening of the 1,200 yards firing point on Stickle-down is planned.

The Appeal will be closed on 31 July. If any members have not yet subscribed to the Appeal, which will help NRA funds greatly, I invite members to do so before 31 July. Donations can be made by cheque or electronically via the website. All donors will be recognised.

Thanks

As I close I want to take the opportunity to thank Michael Blythe, our Financial Manager, who has just retired. Michael was employed initially part time in 1990 to help put matters in order following a period of loss of financial control. A short profile is in the Summer Journal and I refer you to it, but I want to add that Michael's steady hand in keeping the actual accounts in good order during the difficult years of the late 1990s and his ready support to our new approach and constitution since 2002 have benefited the Association enormously. I am pleased that Michael will retain an interest in our affairs and announce, today, that the Council has accorded him honorary life membership. *Applause.*

In April we welcomed Bruce Pollard, also a Chartered Accountant, to take over.

Thank you.

I now open the meeting for questions and shall be happy to take questions on my Review in the Summer Journal and on my comments today.

Questions

Arthur Clarke

Asked if it was intended to repair the clock tower.

Managing Director NSC

Stated that quotes had been received to repair the clock and to re-clad the building. Funding was in the NSC budget for this purpose and the work would be carried out as soon as possible.

Arthur Clarke

Asked for permission on behalf of the Bisley V Club to ask for donations so that the garden around the clock tower could be rebuilt and maintained.

Chairman

Stated that he would have the support of the National Rifle Association.

John Woodard

Questioned the requirement to wear eye protection when taking part in gallery rifle shoots.

Paul Monaghan – Chairman Shooting Committee

Stated that this issue was currently under review with the Shooting Committee.

David Mumford

Expressed concern at the intention to rename the Imperial Meeting as the British Open Fullbore Rifle

Championships as not all firearms in use during the Meeting were in effect fullbore.

Chairman

Stated that the Imperial was being renamed to promote the event not just internally, but externally to the public, politicians and potential sponsors. The current title of the event meant nothing to those outside the Association thus causing a problem in marketing terms because it does not describe what the Imperial Meeting is all about. Internally the Chairman accepted that the event is likely to be referred to colloquially for generations as the Imperial Meeting.

David Hossack

Disagreed with renaming the Imperial Meeting on the basis of tradition.

Robin Pizer

Stated that the introduction of the Real Estate Policy, the requirement to achieve 'Market Rents' and regular rent reviews could make it difficult for the clubs at Bisley to meet potentially increasing rents. He further made the point that the introduction of break clauses in leases, permitting the Association to end a club's lease with six months notice could be counter-productive, not encouraging clubs to invest in their properties.

Chairman

Stated the objective of the new policy was to be open about how leases and rents were handled. In relation to clubs they have and will continue to be treated differently to individual lets to a private tenant, because it is an objective of the Association to support and promote shooting. Supporting clubs was a way of achieving this. Commenting on the break clause in leases it was made clear that this requirement in a lease had been long-standing and was not new. He stated that in the unlikely event that this clause was ever instituted clubs and individuals would be compensated.

Maurice Ayling

Questioned the quality of ammunition, particularly relating to the MoD/NRA Agreement.

Chairman

Stated the quality of the ammunition was checked each year to ensure it meets required standards.

Paul Monaghan – Chairman Shooting Committee

Explained that we were tied into the agreement with the MoD who supplied RG as standard under the package deal. If this changed in 2008 when the deal ends the NRA were already examining alternative suppliers to ensure quality ammunition.

John Woodward

Asked if the AGM could be held on a more convenient time and date.

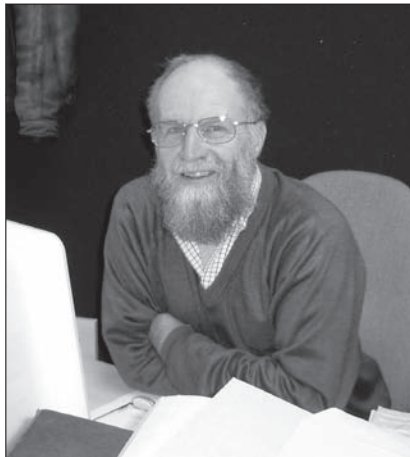
Chairman

Reminded everyone that they had a second opportunity to give their views at the Umbrella Tent Meeting during the Imperial Meeting.

The meeting ended.

NOTES FROM THE NRA FIREARMS LIAISON OFFICER

by
Roger
Speak



Home Office Approval of Rifle and Muzzle-Loading Pistol Clubs

These notes are aimed mainly at club secretaries and other committee members of your club.

It is apparent that there are some misunderstandings among club committees regarding the requirements of your Home Office approval documents and the contents of your club constitutions.

The Home Office leaflet "Firearms: approval of rifle and muzzle-loading pistol clubs", of which copies are available from Firearms Liaison at NRA, either in hard copy or in downloadable PDF format, list the 22 criteria which must be adhered to when applying for and renewing Home Office approval. These criteria must be adhered to at all times during the life of the approval.

The items which it appears are not always being adhered to by clubs are as follows:

- 1 The club must appoint a Police Liaison Officer (normally the Secretary) who will liaise at regular intervals with the local county Firearms Licensing Manager or his deputy (Article 5 of the criteria). Verbal liaison between the club and the Firearms Licensing Manager often sorts out problems before they turn into major issues between members and the police.
- 2 All potential members and guests of a club must sign a declaration that they are not prohibited from possessing firearms under Section 21 of the 1968 Act. This means anybody, not just those who wish to shoot firearms that come under the provisions of Firearms Certificates. Even if someone only wishes to shoot air rifles or pistols while at the club, they must sign the declaration as they are on Home Office approved premises. A number of clubs think that the requirement is only for those who are applying to shoot firearms

covered by a Firearms Certificate. (Article 11 of the criteria). See also the requirements of Article 10.

- 3 The new requirement that clubs must have adequate insurance cover which must be proved. Such insurance is normally obtained by virtue of NRA or NSRA affiliation and this must cover every club member, not just those who for instance only shoot on NRA ranges. Without adequate, current insurance, you are not allowed to let members shoot on any ranges, whether they be your private range, an MoD range or at Bisley. If in doubt whether your club is adequately insured, please contact the NRA Membership Department for help and advice.
- 4 Before potential new members can be allowed to shoot with your club as probationers, you must send full details of the applicant to the Police Firearms Licensing Office where your club is registered and wait for their positive response before they can be accepted as probationary members (Articles 9 and 10 of the criteria).

The 22 criteria are there to safeguard the club committee and its members against undesirables attempting to obtain access to firearms, as well as protecting the public.

It is my personal belief that every Home Office approved club secretary should be required to hold a copy of "Firearms Law, Guidance to the Police 2002" in which full details of the criteria are laid out in Chapter 18, Section 18.13. This book is available from the Stationery Office (www.tsoshop.co.uk) via their website or by phone at £9.95 + £3.75 postage (ISBN 011 341273 8), or may be downloaded from the Home Office website, free of charge (212 pages). For full details on contacting both the Stationery Office and the Home Office, please contact Firearms Liaison at NRA.

Signing in at NRA Bisley

As always, may I remind members that they should sign on at the Range Office computer each time they shoot at Bisley. Many people are still ignoring the legal requirement that they must sign in each time they shoot using the facilities provided by their club. Completing the booking in/out sheets on the Range Office desk IS NOT signing on using the computer and the data from these sheets is NOT transferred onto the computer. The booking in/out sheets are signed as your acknowledgement that you certify that you are abiding by the NRA Range Safety Regulations and that you and your club members are covered by the necessary insurance. If you do not sign in using the Range Office computer, your shooting record cannot be verified by the NRA when your Firearms Certificate is up for renewal. Consequently, if you have no verifiable shooting record, you may have your

Firearms Certificate revoked for non-usage. Don't forget: **sign in, use it or lose it!**

Problems with FAC Renewals and FLIMSY

All the English and Welsh Police Firearms Licensing Departments repeat their request that you bear with them over the continuing problems with delays caused by the introduction of the National Firearms Licensing Management System, or FLIMSY for short. The delays are not expected to be cleared until early in 2008 when the peak of certificate renewals has passed. The fault lies with the Home Office, NOT with the Firearms Licensing Departments.

Firearms Liaison Service

Don't forget that the NRA Firearms Liaison Service is there to help you when you have any problems or difficulties with the police regarding your firearms

and FAC. Most problems can be sorted out amicably and easily if we are contacted soon enough: let the problem fester on and it can become a much larger problem for you.

Long-Barrelled Revolvers and Section 1 Shotguns

We are still working on the long-barrelled revolver and Section 1 shotgun situation regarding Home Office Approved clubs holding them as club-owned firearms. Once we have a definitive answer, we will let you know via the NRA Journal.

Contact Details

Telephone: 01483 797777 ext 154
E-mail: firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk
Available: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only (08:30 – 16:30)

HOME RELOADING - THE PRACTICALITIES AND LEGALITIES

Do you reload your own ammunition? Do you let other people use the ammunition which you have reloaded? Are you aware of the legalities and your insurance position?

For many years, shooters have reloaded their own centre-fire ammunition using either new cases or previously fired cases, primers, powder and bullets. Reasons for reloading are various, including cost and finding a round that suits the shooter's particular requirements as closely as possible. Provided that you shoot the ammunition that you have made yourself, there is no problem. You are covered under the NRA individual or club insurance scheme.

Consider the commercial manufacturer of ammunition: the process is carefully quality-controlled at the factory, each stage of the process being checked for accuracy and measurements. Most importantly, the manufacturer has adequate insurance to cover him if a round of ammunition fails during use and damages a firearm or causes injury to the user or people close by. At regular intervals, sample batches are sent to the Proof House and tested to ensure consistency and that they are safe, not overloaded and are of the correct dimensions. If a round causes an accident, there is a full paper-trail to show that adequate precautions have been taken by the manufacturer to make the rounds as safe as possible and they are covered by adequate insurance if there is a failure. The manufacturer is normally a Registered Firearms Dealer (RFD), which allows him legally to sell the ammunition to users.

It has come to the NRA's notice recently that a number of members are reloading not only for their own use, but also for their partner's use or for a group of members in a club. Therefore, we are obliged to respond to the questions raised with us.

Let us consider the situation where a club member sets up either at home or in the clubhouse to reload ammunition for a number of club members. Does the reloader have adequate insurance cover for doing this? If another member fires a reloaded round which fails and causes an accident, is he or she covered by the loader's or the club's insurance? If not, and in court it is proved that the loader was at fault, who pays the compensation and fees for the injured party? In order for a member to pass reloaded ammunition to another member, he should normally be an RFD to allow him to sell that ammunition on to other members. Take advice from your Firearms Licensing Manager. We have been advised that where someone has the correct insurance in place and is an RFD, they should then have batches of their reloaded rounds checked at the Proof House so that the quality of their ammunition can be proved.

So, if you reload for other club members

- a) Attend and pass an approved reloading course: this will show your insurance company that you are proficient and thus acceptable as an insurance risk.
- b) Take out adequate insurance, in addition to the normal NRA or NRSA club or individual insurance, to cover you for the extra risks involved.
- c) Become an RFD with the sole purpose of reloading and selling ammunition to other members and/or shooting friends. Ensure that all rounds are accounted for and entered on your FAC and transferred to members' FACs as you hand them on.
- d) Contact the Proof House and have regular batches of your ammunition proof-tested to ensure that

the quality of your ammunition is consistent and reliable.

- e) Ensure that you have a full paper-trail for all components that you use: each batch should be clearly labelled so that there is a complete trail including:
- i) Receipt of the empty cases, the cleaning done, sizing, etc.
 - ii) Details of primers used, when they were bought and manufacturer or supplier part numbers.
 - iii) Details of powder used, when bought, part number, weight of load.
 - iv) Details of bullet: when bought, manufacturer and type number, weight, lubricant, etc.
 - v) Details of Proof House test results for each batch.

As can be seen, in the unfortunate case of an accident, every process can then be traced back all the way to the manufacturer so that you can clearly show that

best endeavours were taken to ensure safety and consistency of your batches and loads.

Reloading for your partner

You are not currently covered to reload even just for your partner or friend under standard NRA individual or club insurance. However, if you pass an approved reloading course, proving your competence, then you will be covered.

To summarise:

- a) Unless you are covered by adequate insurance, do not load for your club or friends.
- b) If you load for a number of people, become an RFD.
- c) Take and pass an approved reloading course.
- d) Keep a full paper-trail of all stages of your reloading.

Queries should be addressed to Roger Speak, NRA Firearms Liaison Officer (contact details opposite) or Chris Webb, NRA Regional Manager telephone 01483 797777 ext 156 or e-mail regman@nra.org.uk.

NRA BASIC HANDLOADING COURSE

The course is aimed at shooters with little or no previous knowledge or experience of assembling rifle ammunition. This is an official NRA course staffed by experienced instructors. It will consist of both theory and practical sessions, which will include loading and test firing ammunition. At the end of the course, the novice handloader will have the knowledge and confidence to assemble ammunition in a safe manner.

Please note that this course is only open to those who are full individual members of the NRA. Places will be limited so early application is advised. If there is a big demand, additional courses may be run later in the year.

The objectives of the course are:

- a) Understanding the basic theory underpinning handloading practices.
- b) Developing a systematic and safe approach to handloading practices and record keeping.
- c) Assessing a firearm's properties, (eg calibre, vintage, tubular magazine, proof marks etc).
- d) Practical experience in preparing and firing a pressure series of handloaded rounds.
- e) Compiling and costing a shopping list of suitable equipment and components.
- f) Conforming to legal requirements when handloading.

The course will be held on 8 and 9 March 2008; it will start at midday on Saturday and finish on Sunday afternoon.

The course fees are expected to be in the region of £75 per person.

To apply please contact: training@nra.org.uk and quote "Hand Loading Course Application" in the subject line and provide your name and your NRA membership number.

Applications may also be made by post to the NRA Director of Training but telephone applications will not be accepted.

The closing date for applications for this course is Friday 23 November.

Places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Once a place has been offered, the course fee must be paid to secure the place.

Details of all NRA courses are given on the NRA website www.nra.org.uk

SIMON DIXON – THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE NSC

As he approaches his first full year as Chairman of the NSC, we asked Simon to tell us a bit about himself and his thoughts on the future for the National Shooting Centre.

Simon shot in his school Cadet Pair and the Ashburton but he remembers that there were not the same opportunities for young shooters as there are today. *“The older generation tended to keep their secrets to themselves, so, very much by trial and error, it was some time before I was proficient enough to shoot for the Club.”* He joined the NLRC in 1974; on the death of David Horton-Smith, Simon was co-opted onto the Committee of the North in 1984 by then Chairman, David Goodall. When he stood down, Simon was elected Chairman 1989 – 1994 and has remained a Committee member ever since.

With a mortgage, young family and busy workload his available shooting time was limited but he hasn't missed a Queen's First Stage since 1975. *“I've never been a first class shot (although I did manage my first ever possible at 1000 yards in 2005; fortunately it was in the BCRC Open Meeting, so my 75.09 won the New Zealand to everyone's amazement). As we all know you don't have to be a GB shot to enjoy the sport. What changed my shooting abilities was the introduction of the Eagle Eye. It took a couple of years of trial and error but with coaching advice from both Colin Cheshire and Martin Townsend, I eventually managed to put in some respectable team scores.”*

Simon's 40 year business career in advertising and marketing, included 10 years in the City involved in complex take-over battles and raising capital for newly listed plcs. Before deciding to take semi-retirement he ran his own small marketing, advertising and design company helping food and drink manufacturers to sell their products to supermarkets. In 2003 he was asked to stand in as Acting Secretary of the NRA. *“It was shortly afterwards that Jeremy Staples asked me if I would like to put my name forward as a Non-Executive Director of the NSC which I did in 2005. I felt it was time to start putting something back into the sport I enjoy so much.”* When then Chairman, Charles Oliver-Bellasis stood down in January this year, the Board elected Simon Chairman in his place.

Now fully retired, when not at Bisley, Simon enjoys sailing off the coast of Brittany and the West coast of France as a crew member on a friend's Dufort 44. He is also a qualified Technical Scuba Diver and enjoys exploring sunken wrecks in the Red Sea and further afield in places such as Truk in the Pacific Ocean. Simon also spends a great deal of time pursuing his Masonic charitable interests.

His thoughts for the future; *“After the challenges of repaying the huge inherited debt, I am hoping that the possibility of developing the National Shooting Centre into a world class, more broadly focussed facility will enable us to generate income from the NON-shooter. We can then not only improve the facilities at Bisley but also allow the NRA to develop ranges around the country. However, we will all need to accept that change is essential and as the Secretary General has*

stated on a number of occasions “Bisley is no longer fit for purpose”, the infrastructure is crumbling away around us. At a recent Board meeting we were told that £100,000 needs to be spent next year on “Must Do and Should Do” projects just to keep the facilities working. Looking ahead we will need something like £¾ million over the next three to four years to enable us to bring the facilities more up to date. So you will appreciate that we face a major challenge and I would prefer to look elsewhere for the cash to do the essential work rather than again have to ask the membership for the money. The creation of NATSS is in my view a vital evolution of the governing bodies if we are to secure the long-term future of our sport. No doubt NSC will have its role to play in this as well. To misquote Confucius “We have an interesting time ahead of us all”.”



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HIGH PERFORMANCE PROJECTILES – SO WHAT?

by Charles Young

Now and then, when engaged in any activity that involves risks, and especially when those risks mean potentially lethal danger to perfectly uninvolved persons, it is wise to take stock of the situation, and assess the risks and dangers and, of course, to take whatever steps are necessary to eliminate them. It looks as if 'right now' might be one of those times for the NRA of Great Britain.

The NRA organised its first shooting events on properly set out rifle ranges created on Wimbledon Common in 1860, before cartridge firing rifles were in general use, and decades before smokeless nitro-powders were invented. It was muzzle-loading all the way, with black powder, and great big lead bullets about five-eighths inch calibre, weighing over 600 grains, at lumbering velocities. There were bigger calibres and smaller, but all shared the theme of low velocities, usually well under 1,000 feet per second, and very high trajectories at long ranges. Typically, those bullets were dropping out of the sky at very steep angles when they hit the ground or target, so much so that the long range targets at 800, 900 and 1000 yards were tilted back to make for a squarer hit. Oh yes, and the targets were thick iron plates propped up in a sort of pit, surrounded by a bank of soft earth and sand with a marker sitting in a little dug-out close in front of each target. It was all very interesting because no-one had really set out such a rifle range officially before then, but it worked. It was apparently quite safe too. Basically, it was more or less impossible for a ball or bullet to leave the range if it was fired generally towards the targets. That was the general idea.

That was, until progress began to be made - and progress involved (surprise, surprise!) smaller calibres, higher velocities, flatter trajectories, bringing with them the inevitable lengthening of the distances those bullets would travel. The first problem was the improved version of the .577 inch calibre rifles, which had progressed from the muzzle loading Enfields to cartridge breech loading Sniders and Martinis. This new-fangled small-bore British Army .450-577 Martini-Henry was loaded with a 0.45" calibre 480-grain lead bullet propelled by 85 grains of black powder for a supersonic muzzle velocity of an astounding 1,250 feet per second. It was about this time when the 'down-range' residents of Wimbledon began to have certain 'reservations'. And then in 1888/89, all of a flurry, came the .303, a tiny little calibre, small-bore for sure, with an amazing cupro-nickel covered bullet only 215 grains in weight driven by a compressed pellet of black powder to the incredible velocity of over 1,800 feet per second. This bullet displayed an alarming ability to travel huge distances, maybe as much as 3,000 yards (almost two miles!) and it was quite clear that shooting at Wimbledon was no longer appropriate. In a word, it wasn't safe for people living at the other end of the ranges, so much so that the NRA had to find somewhere new in a hurry. Bisley was that place, and the NRA had its first Imperial Meeting at Bisley in 1890. There were

no cars on the dirt-track roads around the area, and no population of significance other than a few tiny hamlets and it was all but inconceivable for a bullet to reach the far end of the danger area anyway. It was perfect. Then the inevitable happened – more progress.

The .303" went smokeless, better bullets came along and a lot of un-military people began experimenting with fancy bullets and calibres. Match rifle shooting was one source of experimentation, and in 1907, a great revolution took place in match rifle shooting. For some time the .303" cartridge with a 'Palma' 225 grain bullet had been almost ubiquitous along the firing point. (In those days, any 'military' cartridge was allowed.) Despite its great weight, the bullet had the Metford shape, which was very blunt, and this resulted in a ballistic coefficient of only 0.44 which, combined with a leisurely muzzle velocity of 2350 ft/sec made for very poor performance beyond 1000 yards.

Meanwhile, the Germans had been experimenting with pointed bullets of the sort which we are familiar with today, and discovered that they had a great deal less drag than the blunt bullets used hitherto. Today, it is difficult to imagine the shock wave that went around the world as the results of these experiments became known. A certain Captain Hardcastle (whose name was to become quite familiar in the shooting world) had access to bullet making plant at the Chilworth Gunpowder Company and, on reading an account of the German results, went straight out and . . . "took the heaviest bullet used in .303" and put onto it the best point that I could hear of."

The result was the 'Swift' bullet. This bullet had a 14 caliber tangent ogive nose whose point had a radius of .020". It was flat based, (the advantages of boat-tails were not discovered until much later), and weighed in at 225 grains. Its ballistic coefficient was 0.67, giving it only two thirds the drag of its 'Palma' counterpart.

History relates that on 29 May 1907, Hardcastle shot the English Eight Meeting at Bisley as a Tyro, using the 'Swift' bullet. In a strong right hand wind he won the match with 135 out of 150 points - second place scoring 129. In the Scottish Meeting, a new world record of 223 out of 225 was scored using the new bullet, though not by Captain Hardcastle. The Cambridge Match was won without a point being dropped and when the Bisley Meeting opened on 8 July, everybody had changed over to ammunition with the 'Swift' bullet!

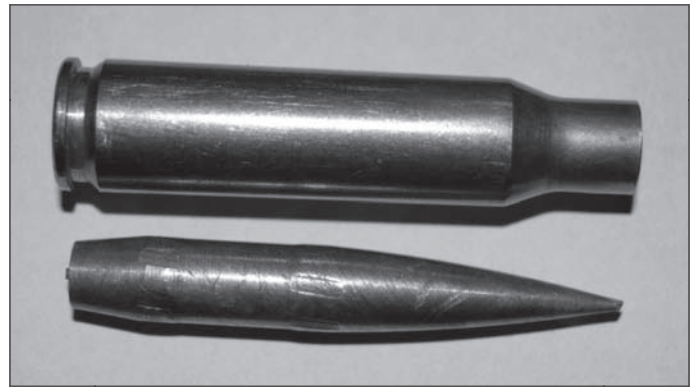
Basically, the race was on, but as match rifle shooting was a small affair almost completely separate from mainstream service rifle shooting, little or no official thought was given to the effects of the use of curious non-issued bullets. And then for years and years it all went into the doldrums, and there were a couple of nasty wars and the next thing we knew we were all shooting the 7.62 NATO calibre. As a matter of interest, 7.62 NATO bullets fired from target (or match) rifles would be expected to have a maximum range of a bit more than 5,000 yards

if fired at about 36° elevation, which is not much short of twice the extreme range of the .303" Mk 2 bullets around which the Bisley Ranges were conceived some 90 years earlier. At this stage a glance at the Ordnance Map is revealing. Everyone who wants to shoot at Bisley should first look at the map. It concentrates the mind wonderfully, does that.

The furthest back firing points at Bisley are 600 yards on Century Ranges. These are about 4,200 yards from the other end of the danger area. The 1,000 yards of Stickledown is about 500 yards closer, say 3,700 yards or so from the end of the danger area. Let's now keep these figures in mind; we have about 4,000 yards (metres if you prefer – it matters not) in front of us when we are shooting. The problem is, you see, this is a fixed dimension so long as we stay at Bisley, but the abilities of our potential bullets are not fixed – very far from it. And now, in view of the latest innovation, the time may have come to take stock. At the very least, the time has come for every member to be made aware of what has been fired down our ranges in recent times. It is quite possible we may not be entirely happy to let this continue unsupervised.

So, what is this latest innovation? It's only a bullet, and a conventional (for match rifle) 220 grains weight; but it isn't made up of a thin copper jacket filled with lead – it is a solid copper-zinc alloy like bronze. Now the effects of this are several. First, lead has a specific gravity of about 11.3, whereas the bronze alloys are around 8.0; and so because both bullets have the same diameter and mass, a 220 grain bronze bullet will be longer than a conventional one if their end shapes are much the same. Second, the point shapes of jacketed lead cored bullets are restricted to shapes which can be mass-produced, which eliminates extremely long tapered noses and fine sharp points. Such shapes stick in the forming dies, and cannot be ejected intact. However, as the French found out over 100 years ago, bullets can be machined from solid metal rods, and more or less any shape can be achieved. Modern computer-controlled machines can be programmed to churn them out in useful numbers, but at a price. The sleek shapes greatly reduce drag. And third, weight for weight, if they are made to shape, the solid ones can be discharged at higher velocities than lead cored bullets. So, we can have a combination of higher velocity and reduced drag.

It is therefore possible to make bullets with long bodies, extremely sleek noses with sharp points, and boat-tailed bases. The long body is a problem because if it is parallel it will all need to be engraved by the rifling, and this causes (don't worry why) a problem with high initial chamber pressures. However, by machining a slight "waist" in most of the centre section of the bullet, two narrow bands can be left around the bullet which engrave into the rifling with less engraving resistance than that of a normal bullet. It is quite involved but the outcome is that these solid bullets can be set off significantly faster than normal bullets of the same mass. However, the main advantage is the shape. The bullet in the picture (it has been fired, by the way) is a .308" calibre bullet of



220 grains. The bullet alone is almost exactly as long as a 7.62 case. From its mass, dimensions and shape it is possible to calculate its probable ballistic co-efficient, and the calculations suggest a BC of at least 0.85. We shall work on that, and a muzzle velocity of around 2,600 feet per second. Both figures may be erring on the low side. On the same basis as the previous examples above, the expected maximum distance such a bullet might travel is around 8,000 yards fired at any angle from 30 to over 40 degrees. At as little as 10 degrees, expect this bullet to go over 5,000 yards. And don't let anyone say it's impossible a bullet will be set off at such angles at Bisley – it happened right in front of my eyes at 1,100 yards in a match rifle event, a 190 Sierra at 30 degrees plus. So we have a problem – basically, making sure these bullets **all** stop inside our patch.

There are in fact two "bullet escapes range" problems, 'direct' and 'indirect', and to the 'indirect' we must add the possible dangers to markers and range staff that **may** occur by virtue of the nature of these bullets.

The 'direct' escape route is clear - when the elevation is raised, the bullet goes further, and a point is reached when 'further' exceeds the space we have. It looks like an elevation of as little as 6 or 7 degrees could take these bullets to the limit. That is about half the angle needed to send a 155 RG the same distance. The RG 155 would retain perhaps 450 feet per second and 70 foot-pounds of energy, against perhaps 750 feet per second and 260 foot-pounds, a serious difference indeed.

The 'indirect' escape means the bullet has touched something inside the danger area and then escaped the range, basically a ricochet. Lead-cored bullets ricochet, as we all know. However, they have a merit in that they are easily damaged on impact. The shorter the distance to impact, the more they are likely to be disrupted (or even destroyed) and the more they are damaged the less far they can travel thereafter. In fact, range danger areas are assessed in such a way as to be deemed enough to contain ricochets, based on the ballistics of the 7.62 NATO round and the nature of the range floor, and gallery features. But the tougher a bullet is, the more intact it will remain after touching something. Ideally, a lead-cored bullet will be destroyed on impacting the sand of the bullet-catcher. By and large this is so, especially at short ranges. At longer ranges the likelihood of bullet destruction is less, but as the velocity is so much less, so too are the ricochet distances less. But, with solid bronze bullets,

bullet destruction in the sand is definitely not going to occur, and the question then becomes “what happens to these bullets?” It appears that the answer is “not a lot”. Solid bullets seem to have a very unhappy knack of leaving the bullet catcher more or less intact, with little loss of mass, and relatively little damage. Dozens have been found on the ground far from the bullet-catcher areas more or less straight and whole. Then we must ask ourselves, what happens to one of these if it just skiffs the mantlet or the top edge of a target, and lifts by eight or nine degrees? In a word, we don’t know, but we can surmise from what we do know that these bullets may touch, rise, remain almost undamaged, remain stable, and travel a very long way. From the moment a bullet first touches anything, it is out of control, a point worth bearing in mind, always. And the markers and range staff may be facing a greater risk than usual, if the evidence is to be believed. The trouble is we just don’t have the information yet, the experience, and the problem is how to get it without taking risks.

So far, we have contemplated bullets in .308” calibre – basically for match rifle. There’s even worse in the offing. It is believed (just for one example) that rifles designed for shooting solid bullets of 8mm calibre (for example the 8 x 68 round) are in course of construction, with ballistics capabilities that would be quite astounding, and utterly beyond anything for which most gallery ranges were designed to cater. It has to be asked – “Is it reasonable that a member should think to discharge such a rifle without first making the Association aware of the intention?” After all, the party involved will admit to being a competent person. Ergo, he **must** know the ballistics potential of his intended bullet-cartridge combination. Indeed, it is inevitable that he is going to all this trouble and expense **because** of the ballistics potential. For the rest of us, we have to ponder this – can we afford to run the risk of losing the Bisley Ranges (for that is certainly what is at stake) by allowing a few individuals to shoot projectiles which are so far removed from “the norm” in every sense? And please note – it is a **risk**.

Now during the run-up to this article, it has been put to me by members, that they believe they have the absolute right to send whatever bullets they choose down the ranges provided the range velocity and energy limits are not exceeded. In my opinion such a belief is not only naive in the extreme, it demonstrates ignorance of the subject at best, and utter recklessness otherwise, because there can be **no** excuse for anyone to believe it acceptable on a closed danger area range to shoot an extremely high ballistic co-efficient bullet at a velocity near the range maximum, usually 3,275 feet per second. It is absurd that anyone should consider that, or anything like it, acceptable especially on a range such as Bisley.

No gallery range known to me has a template that was dimensioned with the thought in mind of any projectiles other than the .303”, the 7.62 and the 5.56, and really, from the certifying person’s point of view, all else is only “allowed” only because it’s unfamiliar, but fits under two

arbitrary limits, 1,000 metres/second (3,275fps) velocity and 7,000 Joules (5,160 ft-lbs) energy. The potentials within these two limits together are far in excess of what is acceptable on most ranges, even if a round is within both. That is why the NRA and MoD have both recently seen fit to have banned the use on most small arms ranges of the Army’s 338 Lapua Magnum sniper rifle.

A 155 gr RG L42A2 round would have about 2,850 fps and 2,800 foot-pounds at the muzzle of a target rifle.

The 220 grain solid bullet would lie well inside both limits (perhaps 2,700 fps and 3,500 ft-lbs) - that has never been in any doubt - but the dangers on ranges don’t occur at the firing point end; they start when the bullet first hits the planet somewhere else. With ordinary bullets almost all first hit the planet in the sand of the bullet-catcher, and stay there. Any other hit before the butts results in damage to the bullet, a probable ricochet, a big loss of velocity and energy, and the bullet then dropping to hit the planet a second time still within the range danger area (RDA). If an ordinary bullet clears the stop butt at even a fair angle, it should land in, and stay in, the RDA because its angle of descent will be quite steep, reducing its ricochet capability.

I’m hoping you can already see what’s coming next. A hyper bullet launched at that same “over the butts” angle will be crossing the butts far higher, and at up to **twice** the velocity of the 155s, and at a much flatter trajectory, and might travel around 8,000 yards compared to about 5,000 yards for the typical 155.

And what happens when the next **two** foreseeable potential quantum leaps are introduced, and we have 220 grains (or more) bullets launched at 3,200 feet per second with a ballistic co-efficient in excess of 1.0? It is conceivable. Indeed, I believe work towards “more” is in course of preparation, right now.

It is simply too much to allow casually. If it is to be allowed at all, the NRA must be given time to gather the facts, consider it all, and take time to make good decisions. The NRA must be given that opportunity, so that we can be sure not a single bullet leaves the RDA. There is a definite limit to what common sense says should be allowed, and I think that the present limits (which are far beyond the original 1890 design cartridge parameters) are inappropriate when applied to bullets other than coppery-jacketed lead cored bullets of conventional shape and construction.

For what it is worth, in my opinion, this may be the moment for the NRA to call a halt to the ballistics free-for-all that is sweeping match rifle and F Class, on Bisley ranges at least. There may be ranges in UK where “anything goes” rules are appropriate, but the likes of Bisley, Ponteland, Altcar and so on are probably not included. We **must** take stock of this situation, and properly assess the risks posed, both now and in the future. These bullets are by no means “the ultimate” – worse is following, and sooner or later one of two things will occur – we rein in or we have an escape. It’s our range, and it’s our decision.

T REX - UTTERANCES FROM HIS ARK

Greetings from No 10

The hand-written fax (Daily Telegraph Sport 30 August) sent by the Prime Minister to Christine Ohuruogu after her 400m gold medal in Osaka was, according to a spokesman at the press office at Number 10 on Friday 31 August after a day thinking about it, a "private message that UK Athletics chose to publicise and as such we do not comment on such private messages".

This nugget was panned by an intrepid newshound asking whether the Prime Minister intended to write a similar message to David Luckman of Somerset who also took a World Title at another championships. The press office added "We shall be talking to him (*the Prime Minister*) tonight". One can almost picture the scene with the chief spin-meister: "Now look Gordon old chap . . ."

At the time that the jury went out the question was whether or not the 'talking to' was a promising sign for David (or for the whole of the Palma, Veterans or Under 25 teams). David may not be quite such a household name – save perhaps down Puriton way – and his sport is shooting. We were not, at that point, holding our breath.

What a pleasure now to be able to report that on their return from a well-deserved holiday our hero's parents found waiting on the door-mat a letter addressed to David, redirected from the NRA offices, with the tell-tale mark of a blue and red ink rubber stamp "10 Downing Street" upon the obverse. Dated 29 October, it was from the 'senior policy adviser' offering "the Prime Minister's warm congratulations for your recent success at the World Long Range Championships in Ottawa". The letter continued, "This was a superb achievement, and is a just reward for all your hard work and dedication to the sport . . . another outstanding accomplishment for British Shooting. You should be justly proud of what you have achieved."

Credit where credit is due: well done our intrepid World Champion(s) and well done Downing Street. The parental assessment is that post the missive "the lad is feeling a bit chuffed". My gasts have never been so flabbered. It just shows how important it is that good news is shared. I wonder if the one for the team is in the post?

BBC Sports' Personality of the Year

In the Spring issue I applied my addled mind to the modus operandi behind this illustrious competition. You will recall, dear reader, the mechanism adopted by the Beeb in 2006 was to aggregate votes based on a number of "electoral colleges" drawn from a range of publications. Each publication produced a short list of ten nominees. All was done, quite rightly, to stop



the sort of specious campaign that might attempt to vote one of the Wombles into first place.

Nominees then got a point for each time that they appeared in a list, with the top ten going through to a final telephone and text public vote on the night of the glittering show. Included among the "colleges" was a BBC viewers' preference list on which the name of Mick Gault appeared. Sadly although the public knew the name, none of the other colleges had spotted him on their campus.

Latest news (7 November) from the BBC Sport website is that the Beeb is adopting the same approach to this year's voting: go to www.bbc.co.uk/sports and click 'Other Stories & Features' in the left hand border column, then go to the extreme bottom right and click on 'Sports Personality TV Show' in red, and then click on 'TV Personality Voting Details' for the official rules.

If you have the energy after this treasure trail, it could be your opportunity to influence the list of personalities on the crucial final shortlist. It seems to me that this year there are arguments why both David Luckman and the Palma team should be worthy candidates for individual and team recognition – indeed, include the Veterans and Under 25s as well.

I can do no more. Throw away your natural apathy and make your preference known to your favourite organ's sports editor. You have until 23 November. Then, if you feel so inclined, on the night of the show register a vote for your favourite sports person - whoever and whatever the sport. The show is on 9 December. (I feel obliged at this point to issue a T Rex health warning in the manner of all TV voting shows - remember that calls made outside the voting times will not be counted but you may still be charged for making the call).

Enough! Time to think about overwintering. Have a good hibernation.

NRA TOUR TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2007

by Gary Alexander

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

Although I was very honoured to be selected as Captain, I was somewhat nervous about the prospect and with little or no guidance from the NRA, I set about putting a management team together, so I could offload some of the work - ergo Tim Bedwell as Adjutant. Now for Vice-Captain I needed someone to help with my primary goal of creating a development team, in which everyone from the Captain down, would return the better and wiser from the trip and when Jon Underwood accepted the post he was unaware he was about to join the Chief Coach (Colin Brook) in achieving SM, GM in the same year!

Next was the finance, the team selection, the brochure, team training, corporate fund raising days, uniform, travel and accommodation etc etc. When the tour eventually came round a lot of time and effort had been expended; now we were going to enjoy it!

We started with the traditional warm up match against the L&MRA, but knowing that Jersey, in particular, were capable of shooting 400 ex 400 at 300 yards, I wanted some stiff competition so I asked Martin Townsend to captain the LMRA team against us. This proved rather foolhardy as we lost! However it turned out to be one of the best day's warm up we could have had, as the weather gods prevented almost all of the pre-match shoots in the islands and it certainly set the standard for us. So thank you Martin and well done in your subsequent efforts!

Wednesday 23 May

Travelling (but I won't bore you with the details).

Thursday 24 May

Team bonding was order of the day with ten pin bowling (top score Ian), go karting (Reg) and air

hockey, an excellent meal and preparation for the start of shooting the following day.

Friday 25 May

An early start was required as we had an individual shoot at Guernsey's Fort Le Marchant range a few kilometres east of the hotel. The day dawned bright and sunny again, and the team gathered at 07:00 in the dining room for breakfast, bright eyed, bushy tailed, and looking forward to our first away shoot of the tour. We all found the range after only a few wrong turnings and soon we were exploring the most attractive location of the Martello Tower and Fort Le Marchant. David Jory arrived with our rifles and by 08:45 the whole team was ready for the 09:00 start. However a slight delay was announced, so we all relaxed and chatted, waiting to start at 09:30. However, meteorology took a hand at this point and at 09:15 we saw a bank of fog rolling in from the sea. Within five minutes things started to disappear - the Fort, the butts, the sun and it started to feel chilly. Eventually, after many optimistic observations of the fog clearing, the morning shoot was abandoned. At 13:30 the fog remained and it was reluctantly decided to abandon the shoot for the day. Groups went different ways exploring the island, shopping or visiting the museum, and reconvened at 17:00 for a team briefing back at the hotel bar.

At 18:00 we left the hotel and headed for Castle Cornet at St Peter Port for a formal reception and dinner with members of the Guernsey Rifle Club and Dame Mary Perkins and Doug Perkins from Specsavers. A pleasant Vin d'Honneur was followed by an excellent dinner eaten in the historic setting of the castle overlooking the harbour.

Saturday 26 May

The day dawned sunny with a stiff northerly wind coming straight in off the sea - a pleasant surprise after yesterday's fog and forecast. Following the cancellation of Friday's shoot, we shot 2 & 15 rather than 2 & 10 at 300 and 600 yards, making two individual range shoots for the competitions. Having heard big 300 yards wind numbers mentioned it became obvious that everyone had actually listened when the first sighters came up as wide inners or magpies - Jon putting his on the wrong target! Although very strong, the wind was actually surprisingly consistent. Jon Underwood won the 300 yards Parker Tankard with a tidy 75.11. Back to 600 yards for the Guernsey Can and Paul Charlton scored 75.7 - unfortunately that wasn't enough as Peter Jory won with two more V bulls.

A lovely lunch was provided by GRC and then it was back out to the range for the match. The Captain continued his trend of wrongly predicting the start



The very picturesque Fort le Marchant range in Guernsey.



Wonder why the Captain chose green team kit?



Paul Charlton found out the hard way that it was not a day to be wearing shorts!



"Has anyone seen the car keys?" Holly volunteers to drive the team home.



A happy captain receives the trophy.



A happy team celebrates!



Paul Charlton models the eye-catching team tie.



Maz considers a new career as a hairdresser.



Maz considers a new career as a wind flag!

time by half an hour, but luckily this was discovered in time.

One thing which had been drummed into the team with great persistence was the fact that matches are won and lost at 300 yards. Today was perfect proof of this with Guernsey having a disappointing start, which the NRA team was able to capitalise on; this proved to be absolutely vital given that we lost the other ranges on V bulls. Having said this, the team score improved at every range, with Ian top scoring with 148.22 and the Reserves winning their match comfortably with an impressive and thought-provoking 295 ex 300. The final team scores were NRA 1176.139, Guernsey 1164.143

We had won our first match in a very close contest and after the customary exchange of gifts and prizes we said our farewells and took the fast boat to Jersey, to be warmly welcomed by Cliff Mallett acting as guide to our hotel and custodian of our rifles.

Sunday 27 May

Bright and breezy we started out at 06:30 for the range at Les Landes to help assemble the range in what were very close to hurricane conditions. As it got blacker and blacker all hope was abandoned and again it looked like a shooting tour with very little shooting. Colin did devise a new 'Extreme Sport' of target number kiting whilst trying to place number boards on top of the stop butts.

We adjourned to the JRA Club House at Crabbe for a proper breakfast and the hope of some short range shooting was going well until a dramatic ten degree drop in temperature and a hailstorm with giant chunks of hail stinging our bare legs. Again the weather was dictating our day so there was nothing for it but to head out for lobster and champagne at the Salty Dog - perfect preparation for an early night and the match tomorrow.

Monday 28 May

Match day and an early start for the team at 06:30 with concentrated minds, light breakfasts and clear from any alcoholic self-induced illnesses. The team was in tip top condition, psyched up and ready to defeat Jersey: only one problem, we had experienced the wrath of the Fog and Rain Gods on Guernsey and now we were subject to the Wind God at Crabbe. As a consequence it was decided that the wind conditions were too strong to safely operate the targets in the butts. This resulted in the individual shoots being cancelled (again!) with the possible cancellation of the match. Due to the wet and windy weather outside, the team decided to carry out extreme wet weather drills and sight checking in preparation for the match. After much deliberation and constant checking of the wind and how this was affecting the targets, Cliff Mallett announced that if the conditions did not improve by 15:00 the match would have to be

cancelled but fortunately, the wind did calm down enough to go ahead. Team selection was difficult as we were expecting to have a few more scores in order to pick the team. However, the teams were picked and we were off to 300 yards. The match had started off with a very windy and extremely buffeting start. However the buffeting queen, Maz Boston, punched through the wind to score a 50.5 being only one of two shooters to achieve this score on the entire range! The wind was slightly trickier for others and shots were let off at the Wind God's mercy. Amazingly though the NRA Team and Jersey were almost neck and neck with 385.36 from the NRA and 385.43 from Jersey. The Reserves Match was also affected by the difficult wind conditions with NRA scoring 95 to Jersey's 97 - two points down but recoverable.

The wind had calmed down tremendously at 500 yards and Jersey were knocking in the 50s but there were very few 50s from our team; a 50.8 for Simon Shoulder, 50.6 from Paul Charlton and the same from Reggie. The team finished two points down from Jersey's score of 395.51. The Reserves fought back scoring a fantastic 99 at 500 but Jersey had also scored 99. So the reserves were in the same predicament as the full team. All left with one range to go!

With the wind calming down it was down to straight shooting at 600 yards. A team huddle and a quick (but to the point) encouraging speech from the Captain "This is what we have trained for. If we shoot straight we will win. So concentrate and enjoy yourself." It seemed to work with 50s coming in thick and fast from Maz, Reggie, Paul, Holly and Ian with one 47, one 48 and one 49 making a score of NRA 394. Jersey, however, clearly did not have an encouragement speech and Jersey started to leak points; by the fourth firer we were seven ahead. Only a few of the Jersey crew went clean and after our last firer we finished six points clear of Jersey with a score of 388. We had done it! NRA scored 1172.138 to Jersey's 1168.151. All the training and drills had paid off. The Reserves shot a respectable 97 to Jersey's 95 which levelled Jersey on points and were only pipped by V bulls. With many happy faces from the team and an extremely happy Captain we had just enough time to put the rifles away and get back to the hotel for a scrub up and change for the evening reception, held at Bistro Roque. A very pleasant meal ensued with a few celebratory drinks followed by prizes and pressies and a spot of clubbing.

Tuesday 29 May

After Monday night's celebrations, the team had arranged to go Blo Karting to blow away the hangovers. At St Ouen's Bay and Five Mile Beach we were introduced to Blo Karts. Sand yachts to you and me, these are over-sized tricycles powered by a sail a bit larger than a windsurfer's. We set off up and down the sand enjoying this exhilarating sport.

However, true to form the weather took a hand once more and the wind, so bracing yesterday, quickly died to a cough and the team were becalmed under brilliant blue skies. The one day we wanted wind . . . you just can't please rifle shooters!

In the afternoon the team split up, the girls doing a spot of retail therapy whilst the blokes returned to Crabbe to play with 'big boys toys' at the Jersey Pistol Club. Great fun was had by all and we were very grateful to Derek Bernard and John Sawyer for hosting us. A variety of pistols were available for our use including, 9mm, .45ACP, .38 Special, and the biggest of all, .44 Magnum which did the headaches from the previous evening's frivolities no favours at all. After familiarization and practice we lined up with our pistols of choice for the competition, consisting of 15 rounds deliberate and 15 rounds snap shooting at four second exposures. Leading the way was Ian, closely followed by Colin, David and Reg.

A swift shopping visit to St Helier was followed by a champagne reception in the girls' room, then on to sample some final culinary delights at the excellent Boat House restaurant. Fine food, fine wines and fine company all topped off by a session of the Kangaroo Court. What goes on tour stays on tour, although it

may be recorded that 'Judge Jefferies' Charlton was obliged to don the Black Cap on several occasions. He also acquired the heaviest fines, and the team drinking fund was well supplemented. We then found ourselves back at La Cala for more Guinness for the Captain, and many variations of dancing from Colin, Peter and Jon, ably accompanied by Maz, Charlie and Holly. Simon treated us to a fine display of falling over on Maz.

Wednesday 30 May

The journey home went well (good idea to upgrade on the ferry) with time to reflect on the success of the tour. It was very close to being a non-tour as the fog, rain, wind and hail prevented the majority of the shooting but in the end it will be remembered for two very exciting matches in extreme conditions won by the strength of team spirit, and for the warmth of the welcome by our hosts.

As a Captain I feel we achieved our goals, the organisation (largely thanks to Tim) worked perfectly, it was financially successful (we expect to return the OTF Grant and donate to the Palma and Under 19 teams) and personally I believe everyone on the team benefited and developed as a shooter or coach and the bonds of friendship formed will be lifelong.



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SCENES FROM THE SCHOOLS MEETING 2007

(All photos: David Pollard)



SCHOOLS MEETING 2007

by Phyllis Farnan

This year 52 schools and two overseas teams, from the Royal Canadian Army Cadets and South Africa Junior squad, took part in the four day meeting. Two new schools, Wells Cathedral School and Merchant Taylor's Crosby attended the Schools Meeting for the first time, and we were pleased to welcome back Llandovery College who had been absent for a number of years.

On the first day of the meeting, the main Cadet GP rifle matches the Marlborough Cup, Marling and Schools Snap competitions took place. Cpl Noble of Ampleforth College won the Marlborough Cup, the Oratory School won the Schools Snap and Sutton Valence won the Marling. Schools who did not compete in the GP matches were meanwhile able to fire cadet target rifle individual shoots at 300, 500 and 600 yards on Century.

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Wellington, Iveagh and Victoria Tankard individual competitions were shot with the L81A2 cadet target rifle. The Wellington (300 yards) was won by Cdt P Slater from Epsom College; the Iveagh (500 yards) was won by CSgt A Stewart of Fettes College and the Victoria Tankard (600 yards) was won by Cpl Sutton of Victoria College. The Schools Hundred, which is determined by the aggregate of the 300, 500 and 600 yards shoots on Tuesday and Wednesday, was won by Cpl S Harley of Epsom College. The Cadet Champion at Arms (GP and CTR) was Cpl E Noble of Ampleforth College.

The Cadet Falling Plates competition, sponsored this year by The Rifles, took place as usual on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings on Stickledown range. The event is always hotly contested and this year was won by Wycliffe College A team. Brigadier Jolyon Jackson, the Commander 43 Brigade, presented the cup and medals to the teams on the range.

During the Schools Meeting, cadets competed in a number of additional shooting events, which took place on Century, Melville and the Clay Ranges. The special prize for the top score by a cadet in the

McQueen competition was won this year by Cdt CD Pocock from St John's School with a score of 50.9 tie 50.6 – a score which led the field against all the adult competitors until the last day of the competition. Cdt Shord of Bradfield College won the Cadet Air Pistol individual event and Exeter School won the team match. Gallery Rifle competitions have become increasingly popular at the Schools Meeting, St John's School won the GRSB Team Match and Winchester College won the GRCF Team Match. Also popular, with 182 cadets taking part, was the clay target competition which was held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; the winner was Cdt J Longworth from St John's School.

Ashburton Day is always the highlight of the Schools Meeting. This year 38 schools entered teams for the Ashburton Shield competition; 35 teams entered the Cadet Pairs competition (for under 16 year olds); 17 Schools entered the Cadet Fours competition (under 16 year olds) and 15 teams entered the Schools Fours competition. The matches' conditions are two sighters and seven to count at 300 yards, 600 yards and 500 yards. The 300 and 600 yards practices are fired in the morning and the final range, 500 yards, is fired after lunch. This year, Epsom College were once again the winners of the Ashburton Shield with a score of 794.63. Epsom also won the Cadet Pairs and the Schools Fours while Dollar Academy won the Cadet Fours.

The Spencer Mellish was won by Cdt Lidgift of Clifton College. The Cadet Grand Aggregate was won by Cpl SHJ Harley of Epsom College and the Schools Aggregate (GP and CTR) was won by the Oratory School.

The presentation of badges to the 2007 Schools Hundred and the leading overseas cadets took place on the Century Range at the conclusion of the Spencer Mellish. Major-General Hamish Rollo, Commander Theatre Troops, presented prizes to the winners at the traditional Schools Prizegiving.



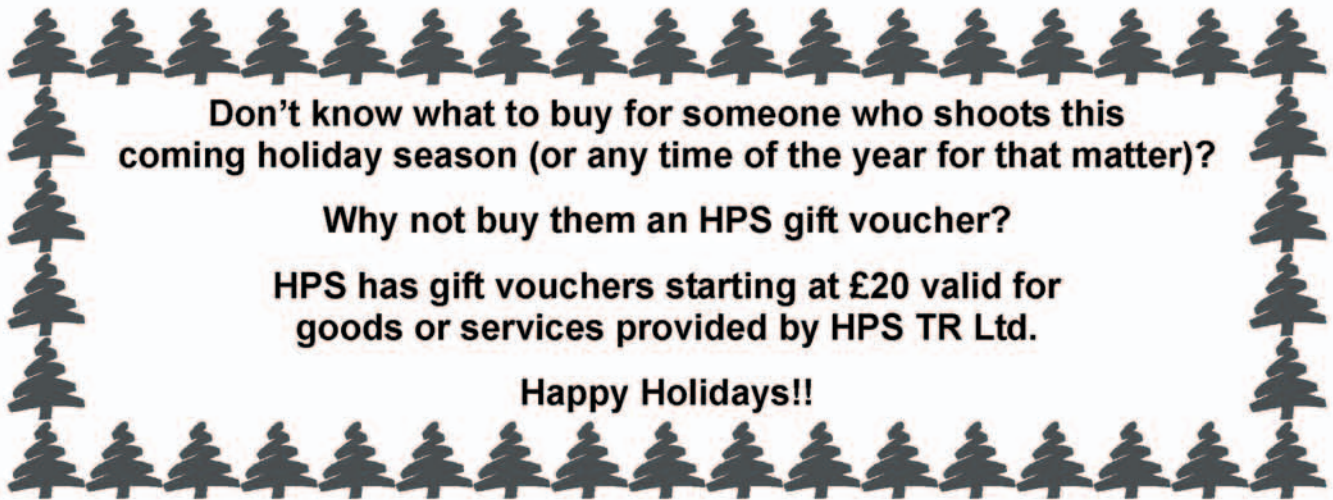


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MATCH RIFLE 2007

by Keith Haskell

No visiting Australian (or any other) team this year, so entries were inevitably a little down on 2006. Even so, over 120 entries for the Hopton were enough to give the lie to the squadding committee's confident promise that all of them would be accommodated in the same detail at 1000 and 1100 yards on the first two days. Inevitably there were mutterings from some who lost out in the separation of sheep from goats, but most treated it as a useful addition to their portfolio of excuses.

The weather, in the wettest early summer ever recorded, seemed likely to provide another excuse, but in the event it was less intimidating than everyone feared. Changeable conditions threw up everything from flat calm to gales, but virtually all the shooting on the first three days was dry. Only at 1000 yards in the Albert did the heavens open.

On Friday, the Any Rifle Extras gave a chance of practice to both the dedicated and the disorganized (ie those who had failed to practice for several weeks). All the winners came from the first group: David Friend with 75.12 at 1000 yards, Angus McLeod with 75.9 at 1100 yards and David Calvert with 73.6 at 1200. Jim McAllister took the Aggregate with 221.20.

Scoring on Saturday was very similar to that in 2006. A stiff breeze from the left weakened somewhat during the day; changes were frequent, if seldom dramatic, and it was easy to stray out of the bull. In consequence there were few possibles to be seen. Gary Alexander won the Whitehead with 149.19 (done the hard way, with the possible at 1100); Julian Peck was second with 148.19 and Angus McLeod third with 148.18. Alex Henderson also had a clear victory in the Halford with 142.12 ahead of Guy Blakeney and David Calvert, both with 141.13, but Guy registering an extra V at the longer range. John Knight won the day's aggregate with 289.30; Alex Cargill-Thompson and David Calvert both had 287.31, but David lost on count-back for the second time that day.

Wind conditions on Sunday were completely different: a light breeze from the right, which died away to nothing by mid-afternoon, and then a return to a left wind by the end of the Armourers. Seven firers made an HPS in the Cottosloe (among them Keith Pilcher, who is now very selective about the competitions in which he actually shoots); John Bridger was the best with 100.17, followed by Nick Tremlett with 100.15 and Ted Hobbs with 100.13. Nick Tremlett then made another HPS (100.14) to win the Wimbledon, with Allan Campbell-Smith finishing second on 99.12 and Jeremy Langley (using RG and a target rifle) third on 99.11. Scoring in the Armourers was high: LouLou Brister won with 99.13, followed by Julian Peck on 98.12 and Alex Cargill-Thompson on 98.11.

Nick Tremlett's outstandingly consistent weekend was rewarded with wins in the Martin Parr (Sunday) Aggregate (a highly impressive 298.40 ex 300), the Weekend Aggregate (584.70) and the Weekend Selection Aggregate (150.20). Alex Cargill-Thompson was second in both the Sunday and Weekend Aggregates, but trailed Tremlett by five and four points respectively. Allan Campbell-Smith was a further point back in the Sunday Aggregate and John Knight likewise in the Weekend Aggregate. Richard Jeens won the RG Aggregate with 399.32.

But although the first two days of the meeting had been dominated by Tremlett, George Barnard was equally impressive on the Monday and Tuesday. The Edge was won by Derek Lowe with 196.19 (including a possible at 1100); Franklin de Castro was second with 195.26 and Barnard third with 195.17. Unpleasant weather conditions brought low scores in the Albert, but Barnard took the honours with 213.22: David Calvert was second with 212.17 and Jim McAllister third with 211.18. Before the Albert, Nick Tremlett had a commanding lead in the Hopton, but his 203.20 almost wiped it out. In the end he was victorious by a single point over George Barnard: 980.114 to 979.99. Julian Peck, whose shooting all week had been very consistent, finished third with 975.92.

Not surprisingly, Tremlett and Barnard shared most of the other aggregates between them. Tremlett won the Tribe Memorial (1100 yards) and Match Rifle Aggregates, Barnard the 1200 Yards Aggregate and inevitably the Victoria Aggregate (for the Edge and the Albert combined). However John Knight won the Councillors (1000 yards) Aggregate.

Despite the dominance of Tremlett and Barnard it is pleasant to report that in 2007, as in 2006, each of the seven individual competitions had a different winner. Not only that, but Gary Alexander's is the only name to appear on both years' lists. At least among the leaders of the pack, competition is clearly keen and very level.

Of the various ancillary competitions Jim McAllister won the Ranken with 75.09 and David Calvert the Any Rifle with 99.17. Rob Lygoe and Julian Peck won the MR Pairs with 194.18 (each getting 97). The Five Nations Match (concurrent with the Edge) was won by England with 741.50, a point ahead of Scotland: Ireland were third and Wales fourth. Sadly Normandy could not raise a team this year. The NRC of Scotland won the FW Jones with 569.36, seven points ahead of a Sussex team containing a whole stable of dark horses.

And so to the main team matches. Last year, the success of Scottish shooters in the individual competitions

foreshadowed their win in the Elcho. This year the advantage reverted to England, with the top three, and six of the top ten, in the Hopton being English. But to start with, any superiority England might have was not obvious. Only four points separated the teams at 1000 yards; Scotland led with 581 but England were actually last with 577. A further 581 at 1100 yards gave Scotland an 11 point advantage over England, who were now beginning to show their mettle, with Ireland and Wales dropping back.

The contest at 1200 yards was one of the most exciting for years. Pair by pair England steadily cut back the Scottish lead. From eleven points it dropped to six and then to four; with two firers to go on each team, England led by two, and the final result was an England win by five. Meanwhile Ireland and Wales were having a fine scrap of their own, which resulted in Wales finishing third by a single point; the first occasion on which they had beaten any of the other home countries in the Elcho. Lou Lou Brister's victory celebrations were a delight to watch. The detailed scores were:

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
England	577.59	574.57	556.41	1707.157
Scotland	581.69	581.60	540.31	1702.160
Wales	580.66	562.41	522.21	1664.128
Ireland	579.60	569.45	515.28	1663.133

The top scorers were:

England	Law 217.19, Peck 216.20, Monaghan 216.18
Scotland	Barlow 215.27, Kidner 215.22, McLeod 215.22
Wales	James 211.18, O'Leary 211.17
Ireland	Calvert 213.25, Carson 213.22

Finally, there was another close match for the Humphry, with Oxford leading by two after 1000 yards and Cambridge by the same margin at 1100. However, a steady shoot at 1200 saw Cambridge home by eight points.

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Cambridge	288.31	285.22	281.23	854.76
Oxford	290.29	281.21	275.18	846.68

Top Scorers:

Cambridge	Spencer 216.22,
Oxford	Kendrick 216.19 Kelly 216.18

Altogether, a very enjoyable week with good shooting and some tight finishes. But after the wettest early summer since records began, some traditional Bisley sunshine in 2008 would be nice . . .

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Rosanne Furniss of CURA shooting in the Wimbledon.
 (Photo: David Pollard)



John Hissey shares his years of experience with Jane Messer.
 (Photo: David Pollard)



John Knight - winner of the Saturday and Councillors Aggregates.
 (Photo: David Pollard)



Nick Tremlett - winner of trophies too numerous to fit in a caption.
 (Photo: David Pollard)



Gary Alexander prepares to shoot for Ireland in the Elcho.
 (Photo: John Knight)



LouLou Brister coaches Wales to third place in the Elcho.
 (Photo: John Knight)



Cambridge won the Humphry.
 (Photo: Alan Keating)



So who owns this pair of lovely legs?
 (Photo: Alan Keating)

TARGET RIFLE 2007

by Tony de Launay

Friday 20 July

At 07:30 teams began to congregate for the Astor; some found that they were missing members due to the bad weather, some found they were missing their entire team as Captains made the decision not to bother. The teams started shooting - cue thunder, lightning and the cease fire hooter. The message was that all shooting was terminated until 4pm. In nearly 40 years of coming here I have never seen such persistent torrential rain during the Meeting, with rivers rushing down the roadways. A grizzled Bisley sage had summed it up the previous day: "You see those clouds up there" he said "I know what they are called, cumulo ominous".

At a few minutes after 12 noon, the rains lightened and ceased. The bottom end of Century (butts 17-19) was a lake from the firing points down to the targets, with the waters lapping over the 600 yards point. As a result all shooting was suspended for the day to allow things (and people) a chance to dry out – as much as they could.

Saturday 21 July

Well the watersports finished. We had folks paddling and boating on Century, and markers swimming and mudwrestling at the entrance to the camp yesterday as the torrents turned into a beautiful sunny afternoon and evening.

Friday's Astor team shoot was declared on the single 300 yards distance completed, with Scotland East on 200.23 beating the OGREs (Old Greshams Rifle Establishment – I have to record it or they get upset) by one central bullseye. The Cadet National met the same fate, Ireland making 239.8, too strong for both England and the Channel Islands. The Athelings shooting alongside made 268.17.

Back to Saturday: the morning dawned with a hazy overcast that quickly turned into a pleasant sunny morning with a stiffish breeze from the south and southwest. Very pleasant too, with plenty to watch out for in the Lovell at 1000 yards, and a need to be alert in the Donegall at 300. About 10 left in the former at the top of Stickledown hill, and 1 to 2 left in the latter (usual caveats about wind zeros, when you shot and where you shot, apply to all such technical data). As I departed Sainsbury's in Brookwood just after 12:30 the first shower arrived. The Donegall must just have got through in the dry, which leads neatly into the first result of the day. The Donegall was won with the only 50.10 on the range by David Nuthall of the British Cadet Rifle Team (the Athelings), fresh from successful duty with the Epsom College VIII. He was pursued by 14 others with scores of 50.9, the best of them by the RAF's Stuart Williamson. Looking down

the list, the 50s ceased at 127th place ex 1015 entrants, some 12.5% of the entries.

The afternoon certainly dampened some hopes. Showers of considerable force passed through managing to wet the majority of the details. However some escaped by the skin of their teeth, including a shooting lawyer or two. Life is so unfair. The Telegraph produced two scores of 75.14 from Andrew Le Cheminant of Jersey and Peter Holden of OGRE. Holden won the tie with 23.2. There were 82 scores of 75.

In the Lovell we had an outright winner in the form of Nigel Cole-Hawkins of the North London RC with the only 50 (with three centrals), Ross McQuillan of Ulster being second with 49.8 in a list of 23 scores of 49. Points win prizes. Jon Taylor of Windsor (24 centrals) won the Saturday Aggregate ahead of Peter Bromley (22) and Nigel Ball (17), all three on 174s.

Sunday 22 July

In the early hours of the morning I thought that I was woken by the machine gun rattle of another torrential hour or so of rain. I must have been because someone had thoughtfully closed the roof vents, but not before the frying pan had half filled with water. Outside, the result had filled one set of target pits with the wet stuff but with a dint of juggling the organisers did well to provide a full day of sport.

A flirtatious little breeze from the left persisted all day. It was quite enough to make it difficult for the inattentive, and enough to allow the possible makers to think to themselves that they had done rather well. Over on Stickledown hill it ran in the morning from 5 or so left to 8 or 9 in the mid-morning. Usual caveats apply.

After a short period when it looked as though the Alexandra would provide a four way tie on 50.9 another card spiked the hopefuls' guns. Paul Kent had a perfect 50.10, relegating M Zain of Malaysia and West Atholl's Tim Kidner into second and third places. There were 77 scores of 50. Iain Robertson of the RAF knocked in another perfect 50.10 to take the Duke of Cambridge (900 yards) with Bruce Logan and Jane Messer in an unbreakable tie on 50.9 followed by three 50.8s including one from Cadet Robert Waters of the Athelings.

Back down on Century on the afternoon shift Zummerz's David Luckman pipped naval Charles Dickenson 75.14 to 75.13 for the Daily Mail (500 yards) with five other 75.13s in pursuit. There were 97 scores of 75. The Sunday Aggregate went to Gaz Morris of Uppingham Vets with the only maximum 175 (and 21), with Messer and Luckman plus five others

chasing on 174. The Weekend Agg was annexed by Mr Dependable, Peter Bromley of Old Sedberghians, dropping three points for 347.46 with another Mr Dependable, Jon Underwood, one point behind but with two more centrals.

Monday 23 July - Times for a Change

The forecast rain held off until after lunch and then it turned from light and irritating to heavier and penetrating as the afternoon turned into evening.

The Times at 300 yards started the day, in a virtual dead flat calm at the right hand end of the range with just the hint of a drift from the Eastern right rear – from whence came the rain later. The light was a perfect dull shooters light; there were 204 maximum 50s, the most stylish being the 50.01 from Iain Robertson (RAF Air Cmd). In the four way tie between Mike Perez of Trinidad, Colin Mallett of Jersey, George Gilpin of Ireland and Ken Cooke of New South Wales, Perez took the Cup despite being warned for lengthy deliberation over one of his shots.

The Wimbledon (600 yards) produced an eleven way tie all on 50.9 – one of them, Nick Brasier, visiting the ordinary bullseye with his last. There were 159 maximum 50s. The entertaining tie was won by Peter Bromley with 25.4.

The Corporation was “easy at the start of the day and miserable at the end”, or so all the late details will tell you. There were 40 maximum 50s but only one 50.9 from Alastair Bullen of Blackfriars, an O class shooter. Former winner Dave Dyson was the best 50.8.

James Watson of Uppingham Veterans took the Monday Aggregate as the best 150 with 19 centrals, followed by Adam Jory of Guernsey and Tim Kidner of West Atholl with 17 and 15 respectively.

With seven of the eleven Grand events completed the studious Gaz Morris (another Uppingham Vet) led by one point on 398.49, having shed points in both the Times and Corporation. Nick Brasier led six 397s: Jon Underwood, Ed Wood, David Luckman, Paul Kent and Tim Kidner, who were in turn followed by six scores of 396.

Tuesday 24 July - Haley's 14 Central Comet

On Monday I had heard the sound of wood being hammered and broken up. I made the assumption that someone must have been starting the construction of an Ark, but later found that it was an attempt to make improvised duckboards. This morning the few clouds were high and the sky was blue. The sun was bright and a cooling breeze was blowing strongly for the first stage of the St Georges.

Tuesday is one of those funny days where your morning consists of just one shoot at 300 yards and then you either have a long relaxing afternoon doing not a lot, or you find yourself doing an afternoon short range shoot followed by the late evening shift

on Counties Long. That is the shoot where all car owners are asked to park facing down the range so that headlights can be turned on if it gets too dark.

In fact it was a glorious day but too much water remained in the ground for any real drying out to have started. Overnight the construction team did some work on butt 13 to repair some slippage in the sand bank and the pumps emptied butt 17 marker pits of water. Stickedown butts also had some attention during the day, and a full day of shooting on the original squaddings was possible. We owe thanks to all those who worked so hard in foul conditions, and especially to the markers who worked in the mud and wet for us.

The St George's First Stage was won by Dr Chris Haley of Oxford and Cambridge RA with the only 75.14, followed by Steve East (RAFTRC) and Nigel Ball (the ex sailor) on 75.13 and seven scores of 75.12. There were 69 scores of 75 in some breezy conditions.

The County matches followed, short range being won by Norfolk with a vast (relatively) margin of nine points. At long range, as the soft evening light transmogrified into stygian gloom, it was London that came good. I am afraid that I missed the details of the other podium places (a ludicrous expression in the complete absence of a podium of any sort).

All of which means that, with eight matches gone, the Grand now had a slightly different look. Ed Wood, 26, a teacher from Norfolk (and an OGRE to boot) led Jon Underwood (Old Guildfordians and thoroughly good egg) by the princely margin of two central bullseyes. Lurking in third place was Old Epsomian Paul Kent, a further four centrals adrift. The younger Luckie, David Luckman, had a meaningful look about him one point behind those three and six centrals ahead of Chris Haley, while five more were one point behind those two. It was boiling up nicely.

Wednesday 25 July - Two Balls at the Top

The morning offered sunny patches among the high cloud. The stiffish breeze was from the West and South West, chopping and changing in strength and direction, with the cloud cover gradually thickening and dropping as the day went on (back to cumulo ominous again).

The Queen's and the Conan Doyle started in the clear but the winds were either difficult or steady depending upon whom you asked, the answer no doubt having something to do with the amount they scored. By early afternoon wafts of fine rain blew in on the wind, followed by heavier patches and then more consistent wet stuff.

There is no doubt that the conditions were generally not very easy but no less than 26 scores of 105 resulted in Queen's I. At the top of the list were two Balls, Mike of Horsham and Sussex, and Barnacle Ball the sailor,



We're not quite sure why James Lewis brought his canoe to Bisley . . . *(Photo: Chris Watson)*



Those who had forgotten their personal canoes improvised with the RCO tables and chairs. *(Photo: John Knight)*



Glyn Barnett prepares to use an umbrella be classified as



Mud glorious mud! *(Photo: Alan Keating)*



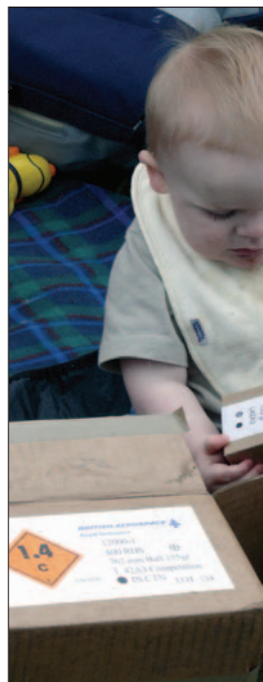
David Luckman - winner of the Grand Aggregate. *(Photo: Tony de Launay)*



Tim Webster models the latest waterproof hat - available now at Sainsbury's, one size, one colour (orange). *(Photo: John Knight)*



Kolapore Captain David Hossack chills! *(Photo: John Knight)*



The Pass-the-Parcel game little disappointing.



"Look I've got the T shirt so why can't I coach?" Ireland's Adam McCullough plots in the Mackinnon. *(Photo: John Knight)*



o shoot - could that
a personal wind flag?
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Forget 50.10 in the Duke of Cambridge, Iain
Robertson's personal highlight of the Meeting
- mudwrestling markers! (Photo: Iain Robertson)



Queen's II - the Richards brothers await their fate.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Shooters in the Corporation. (Photo: Alan Keating)



"Just wait till next year David!" Gaz Morris led the Grand
Aggregate for the first half of the Meeting.
(Photo: John Knight)



"What do you mean clear target?!" England in the Mackinnon.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



he turned out to be a
(Photo: Peter Hornsby)



The South African Cadets.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



David Calvert - another year, another tin of silver polish!
(Photo: Mike Gregory)

otherwise known as Nigel (well, he keeps calling me Dulally). Mike had an amazing 18 centrals in the muck and murk, and Nigel 17. Nick Brasier was third with 16.

Over the hill the Conan Doyle at 900 yards produced a three way tie between Reg (pronounced Ridge) Roberts also of Horsham and Sussex, Peter Chance (Club 25) and the evergreen John Payne, yet again of Sussex, all on 50.8. Ridge took the tie with a masterly 25.5.

At which point T Rex wishes to interject a little story. Two venerable international shots were awaiting their turn to zap the Conan Doyle. They agreed that the wind looked to be between six and eight minutes. One, a Scot, observed that he would probably crank on seven and a half and leave it. They met up again later. The Scot offered that his plan had brought him 50.6. The Englishman offered that with a bit of twiddling of the knobs his shots totalled 47.5, but in the filthy blown rain he had confused target 25 with target 28, real score 42.4.

At the top of the Grand Ed Wood still led. However David Luckman had jumped up into second place and Andrew Wilde up to third. The separations were one and three centrals respectively. Nick Brasier, Nigel Ball and Glyn Barnett followed in close order one point behind. There was nothing in it. Only the Prince of Wales remained.

Thursday 26 July - Luckman Fells Wood in Winds

The morning was overcast and threatening, with a very stiff wind from over the left shoulder, gradually straightening across the range during the morning shoot, with gusts and holes, moving through 7 to 9 o'clock. In a nutshell, it was challenging.

That is what faced the leading Grand candidates with the top group separated by very little and the scope for major points dumping if you got it wrong. Poor Ed Wood had one of those nightmares. His 70 ex 75 dropped him from the lead to an eventual ninth place. He was not the only one to slide down the lists. On the positive side others did pretty well to overcome the conditions and the pressure. Parag Patel went clean to charge up into third on 698.94, and Nigel Ball made 74 to cement himself into second place just three centrals ahead of Parag.

Andrew Wilde's 72 put him down a touch into fourth while Paul Kent's 74 thrust him up into fifth, ahead of Nick Brasier who managed 72. There was a lot of shuffling as the wind took its toll. However, I refer you back to the name of David Luckman. The boy done well, really well, to put in a 74 in the 08:55 detail. It did him no harm, turning a slim second overnight into a sound first place on 699.93. True he had fewer centrals than Nigel Ball, but as I have said before, points win prizes.

He becomes the second Luckman to win the Grand. The Prince of Wales Prize, which caused all this reshuffling, ended in a three way tie with Cdt Lulu Watson of Cheltenham College, Peter Chance of Club 25 and Toby Raincock of Old Epsomians all on 75.12. Peter took his Chance to win the tie with 25.3.

In the afternoon the National Match and Junior Overseas started in persistent rain that at 500 yards turned into another monsoon. The Scots were just one point behind the English as 600 yards started with the Irish only four points behind them. England at this point had a couple of clear targets on their board, shots that never arrived or were not found on the sodden paper. With the rain giving way to some much needed sunshine, the match went the full distance. Despite almost running out of time because of a stop while the wind decided what to do, and considerable numbers of message four, England managed to paddle a few more points ahead for a final four point victory. Scotland were second and Ireland third. It was a close call.

Friday 27 July - Luckman Sets Up Possibility of Historic Double

David Hossack and his team had a good morning for the Kolapore, in that it was not actually raining, but the wind was blowing strong from the left, and continued that way all day. A trio of 150s from Glyn Barnett, Toby Raincock and Paul Kent helped GB to 1190.165, a very creditable score in the circumstances. Guernsey were second 29 points behind with Canada third. New South Wales took the Junior Kolapore Trophy ahead of Germany.

The Second Stage of the St George's produced eight scores of 150, the top at first being Paul Kent on 23 centrals, with Barnett and Steve East of RAFTRC both on 22 centrals. The cut off score was 147.16 where seven had to shoot for six places. It then transpired that somehow there had been an error in Kent's card, unattributable to the shooter, giving him one central too many. Never mind: Paul won the three way tie shoot anyway for the Silver Cross.

Queen's II also had the blasting winds from the left. Unperturbed David Luckman set about demolishing the opposition with a remarkable 150.23, adding this achievement to his Grand Aggregate. Only Lt Col Angus Bell from NSW Australia could get anywhere near, some eight centrals behind.

A special note here for John Marshall of Canada who, at 76 years young and on the 50th anniversary of his first visit to Bisley, made 146.17 to qualify for the Final. I do not know for sure if he is the oldest man or woman to do so, but in some ways really does not matter. What it does show is that you can enjoy and succeed in this sport at almost any age. Congratulations.

Saturday 28 July - A Jumbo Size Surprise

And so to Final Saturday. The day dawned overcast and with just a gentle breeze for the St George's Final.

In recent years this has become a graveyard for those that drop a single point in the final stage, and so it proved again. You must have a pair of 75s to be in the top places and the more centrals the better. There were five 150s as the breezes grew in strength from 08:30 onwards, but the best of them was that man again, Jon Underwood. His 24 centrals won him the Vase against Parag Patel's 23.

The Mackinnon produced a slender win for England, who started their shoot in the middle of the range and found themselves moving to targets 1, 2 and 3 for 1000 yards. It is somewhat baffling why the match was squadded at the bottom of the hill when the whole of the middle of the range was available to even out any advantage bestowed by the alleged shelter on the left. Mind you, with the wind from the left the shelter prevents you from seeing what is coming, so perhaps the advantage is marginal.

The Scots led by one point after 900, with England second and Wales third one point behind. In one of the closest matches for some time, gun and sight problems for one Englishman provided a moment or two of concern. The Irish were starting to claw back their six point gap, all in ever-increasing winds from the left. England held on to win by just five points from Ireland with Wales third after the Scots faded on the highest point of the butt.

All of which presaged an enthralling Queen's Prize Final in the strongest winds for many years. After 900 yards, when Lt Col Angus Bell from New South Wales had led the field, the lead changed hands many, many times as the shots were counted down. We had wondered if David Luckman could manage the double of Grand and Queen's for the first time since 1929 when Lt Col Blair of the Canadian Seaforth

Highlanders had achieved the feat. We wondered too whether the Australian Colonel could hang on for an overseas win. We wondered if David Calvert might at long last win the Prize that has seen him second on three occasions.

We had not reckoned with the charge of the Queen's Lodge Infantry in the form of James Lewis who had come through on 148, scoring 73 at 900 on butt 3 up the hill, and now down on butt 1. Bell, Calvert, Luckman, Jeremy Langley and Parag Patel all yo-yoed up and down the top places as shots drifted on the wind. Nigel Ball suddenly hove to on the board finished on 291. Calvert finished on 290, and then Luckman on 292 with Lewis on 293. Bell still soldiered on agonisingly slowly when, with one shot to go he could either equal Lewis for a tie shoot if it was a five or, if it was a central, win. It was an inner.

So James "Jumbo" Lewis, took the Prize with a score of 293 and 26 centrals. Luckman was second, within a whisker of an historic double, and Bell third. Ball and Calvert followed.

There were 870 possibles in the Grand this year compared to 687 last year, an increase of about 30%. The Times is my yardstick and this year the conditions were as good as you can get for that match. Otherwise, arguably, the weather this year was worse than last year. A possible conclusion is that the ammunition was even better this year than last year. I heard no moans at all, even from the chief whingers. Well done RG: what we need is the consistency year on year.

So, as the crossfire of fortune speeds towards the target of destiny and the blunt pencil of fate marks the soggy diagram of time with a central counting zero, that brings us to the end of another year.

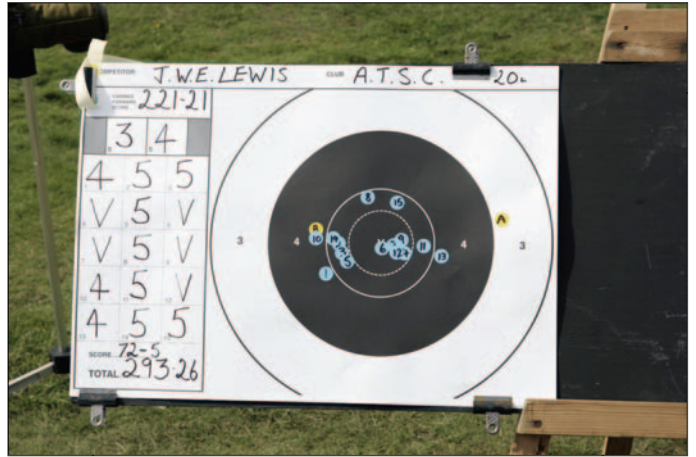
Grand Aggregate Competitions

Possibles and Winning (and Tie Shoot) Scores, HPSs & % of Entries

Competition	Yards	HPS	Entries	Score	No	Tie	HPSs	%
Alexandra	600	50.10	1079	50.10	1	-	77	7.1
Conan Doyle Corporation	900	50.10	1059	50.8	3	25.5	43	4.1
Daily Mail	500	75.15	1076	75.14	1	-	97	9.0
Daily Telegraph	500	75.15	1082	75.14	2	23.2	83	7.6
Duke of Cambridge	900	50.10	1078	50.10	1	-	41	3.8
Prince of Wales	600	75.15	1069	75.12	3	25.3	31	2.9
Queen's I	3, 5, 600	105.21	1080	105.18	1	-	26	2.4
St Georges I	300	75.15	1075	74.14	1	-	69	6.4
Times	300	50.10	1072	50.10	4	23.3	204	19.0
Wimbledon	600	50.10	1075	50.9	11	25.4	159	14.8

JAMES LEWIS - WINNER OF THE QUEEN'S PRIZE 2007

FINAL SCORES		TOTAL POINTS DROPPED EX 300	FINAL AFTER SHOT:-
		5	7
		9	11
		13	14
		15	SCORE
293	LEWIS 23		
292	LUCKMAN D34		
291	BELL A26		
290	BOWDEN CALVERT		
289	PATEL MESSER MILLAR HUNTER		BELLINGER WILDE
288	LANGLEY DYSON BROMLEY COLLINGS COOKE		WOODWARD CHARLTON



(Photos by Peter Hornsby, John Knight and Tony de Launay)

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING –WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2007

Speech by the Chairman, John Jackman

Good evening and thank you for coming.

Before starting, on your behalf, I thank Geoff Hooton, the Secretary of the Surrey Rifle Association, for organising a traditional Beating of Retreat, this evening the state of the ground prevented marching, but I hope everyone enjoyed it?

I should also like to thank, publicly, the efforts made by our ground staff at Bisley, always against tight budgets, for the work they have done and their personal effort and pride in their job to ensure that the grounds were in as good order as possible for our Annual Prize Meeting.

It is so disappointing for the staff, as well as for us as competitors, that we have had such exceptional rainfall to spoil much of their work and to give them additional maintenance burdens. Not only have they risen to the task, but I also thank our main earthwork contractor, Brian Brimfield, for coming in on Sunday to provide support. I am sure you will join me in thanking them all. *Applause.*

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

The notice of the Bisley General Meeting was published on page 7 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 Annual General Meeting was held only recently. A copy of the proceedings is on our website. The minutes are available from the office upon request to the Secretary General and there is a copy in the front office reception for reference.

This evening, I shall say a few words about the Bisley Meeting, then I shall ask our Secretary General who is, in effect, our Chief Executive, to say a few words about recent developments and about matters of interest to our future. Lastly, we shall take questions and I shall close by announcing the result of the First Stage of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize in the traditional way.

The Bisley Meeting

We thank all those organisations which sponsor our events and also the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph who provide daily newspapers to us at specially discounted prices for the benefit of our Young Shooters' Fund. Please see on the Noticeboard the list of Sponsors who give their support to our Annual Prize Meeting.

We are very aware that sponsorship is lacking compared with times gone by. In reviewing the Bisley Meeting,

which will be called, formally, the British Open Fullbore Rifle Championships from 2008, further attention will be paid to seeking greater sponsorship. I will reiterate, for those who like me, treasure our traditions, it is accepted that the colloquial name of "Imperial Meeting", used by many of us for many decades, will likely be part of our tradition for many years to come and no-one is seeking to ban it, in spite of rumours. We must look forward to better marketing what we do to a public and media who find our current formal title to be quaint, if not backward looking. Many have forgotten that the original style for our Annual Prize Meeting was "Wimbledon Meeting", followed by "Bisley Meeting" from our move to Bisley in 1890. It has also been pointed out that the shooting during these four weeks is not entirely fullbore, for example some Gallery Rifle shooting is small-bore, but fullbore is what mainly we do.

Further, we are considering how we can incorporate 300 metres shooting, which is our only remaining recognised international fullbore target shooting activity (other than fullbore pistol which remains banned for civilians) under the auspices of the International Shooting Sports Federation.

2007

As is sometimes overlooked, the annual match events at Bisley start with Services competitions in June about which the Secretary General will say a few words later in relation to their long term future. These are followed by traditional service rifle competitions sponsored by the NRA and leading up to the final fortnight of, predominantly, civilian competitions, but including the Combined Cadet Forces of the national Schools.

In spite of overseas commitments the Regular and Reserve Forces events were again well supported, not least thanks to the leadership of the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Dannatt, the President of the Army Rifle Association and a Vice-President of the NRA. In spite of other commitments, Sir Richard has made time to visit Bisley twice this last couple of weeks to reinforce his commitment to rifle marksmanship. Directly and indirectly, we are very fortunate to have his leadership, supported by the Chiefs of the Air Force and Navy where the message is that marksmanship with the rifle is an important element for operational effectiveness.

The events were supported by a number of service rifle and pistol overseas teams, namely from Australia, Canada, Oman, the Republic of Ireland, the Falklands and South Africa.

The winners of HM the Queen's Medals, the only non-military service medals which may be worn on the uniform, were Corporal Phil White of the re-formed Rifles for the Army, Lance Corporal Adam Chapman of the Rifles for the Territorial Army, Colour Sergeant Neil Gibbett of the Royal Marines for the Royal Navy / Royal Marines and Chief Technician John Prictor won for the Royal Air Force – his remarkable thirteenth win.

The Methuen Trophy Inter-Services teams shoot was won by the Royal Air Force for the first time since 1956 and eight NRA Civilian Service Rifle teams shot alongside. The winners of the Mauser Trophy were, again this year, the Highpower Association.

The Services cadets were here again in force including cadets from Canada and South Africa. Vice-Admiral Sir Tom Blackburn presented the prizes. We must again thank Arthur Clarke and Mick Barr and the Bisley V Club members for holding their annual long range shoot. This is an increasingly popular event causing difficulties in providing range space which must be examined for 2008. This year there were 142 cadets from 32 teams. The winners were a unit from Gloucester Army Cadet Force and Cadet Corporal C Mandella from that unit won the individual event.

There were 53 schools competing in the Schools' CCF meeting of which 43 took part in the Ashburton Shield. Numbers have been gradually increasing year on year since 2002, but, apart from the usual reasons of holidays and other commitments, a limiting factor has been for schools to find staff to coach target shooting, whether full-time or part-time. There is still room for old boys and girls to offer to help their old schools.

I am pleased that the prizes were presented by Major General Hamish Rollo, Commander, Theatre Troops.

The Ashburton was won by Epsom College with 794 points over Marlborough College with 782. The Royal Canadian and the Australian Defence Force army cadets shot alongside British Teams for the Garry Trophy, which was also won by Epsom College.

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 slightly down, but, as Rae Wills told me, their entry numbers tend to vary, year on year in any event.

Further changes were made to the Gallery Rifle and Pistol programme with the aim of increasing participation in these events and their involvement in the Bisley Meeting. With so many competing demands among potential competitors it is taking time to achieve the best formula.

The Hopton (Match Rifle) was won by Nick Tremlett by one point, finishing on an outer – a close run result! This was followed by the Elcho won by Stuart Collings' England Eight with a score of 1,707 by just five points from Scotland having caught up 16 points at 1,200 yards. The veteran Match Rifleman, Canon David Copeland, who we are very pleased to see again this year, presented the badges.

Total entries in the Target and Match Rifle events are 1290 with 204 from overseas compared with 1350 and 201 last year. We have been much assisted by the new online entry form which is proving increasingly popular. The entries for the Grand Aggregate are 1017 compared to 1034 in 2006. This is against a background that, in August, there will be the World Long Range Rifle Championships in Canada as well as their normal annual events and many

teams and individuals are concentrating on that. For example, we have had fewer competitors from Malaysia, this year, and the Kenyan Team is concentrating its efforts on Canada and has not been here at Bisley for the first time for very many years.

However, we are very pleased to see full teams from Canada, Guernsey and Jersey. We welcome, in particular, the large Goodwill Team from New South Wales and supporters from Australia who have already paid a visit to Scotland as part of their tour. They are captained by John Fitzgerald who was, last year, appointed Chairman of the NRA of Australia. I have asked John to be our Principal Prize Giver this year.

We also welcome individuals from a further eleven countries.

Once again, I am very pleased to see so many younger shooters taking part this week. In fact there are 306 students and under 21s receiving the special discount, a further increase year on year, and we also welcome 11 competitors awarded a free Grand Aggregate entry by their Counties under our scheme for encouragement of new entrants.

I take this opportunity to wish David Hossack success in the Kolapore which takes place on Friday and Graham Nelson with his Under 25 team.

On all our behalf, I especially wish good luck and good shooting to the Captains and Teams to the World Championships and Palma Match in Canada in August, namely Martin Townsend with the British GB Team, Ed Jeens and the Under 25s, and Mick Barr and the Veterans. I also send best wishes to Steve Thomas and the GB Team to South Africa, next Spring.

Royal Ordnance, Radway Green have produced another vintage batch of 155 grain ammunition as witnessed by the number of possibles at each range. There were, for example, 203 possibles in the Times, one fifth of all entries in that match, and 179 in the Donegall.

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

Firstly, we welcome, most importantly, the support of Milforce provided this year by the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, TA, under the command of Captain Stuart Robinson, and his Adjutant Captain Richard Jones. Milforce is a vital part of the organisation of the Bisley Meeting and, as the Secretary General will comment, new arrangements may need to be made for future years. The main task for Milforce in the NRA part of the Imperial Meeting has been to manage the ammunition supply and distribution as well as the range rigging for the Services Meeting in which they were supported by Lt Col Chris Hood, Chief Instructor, 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.

We thank the Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century, Doug Watt on Stickle-down and Charles Murton,

a member of the Council, on Melville, together with the Chief Butt Officers, Peter Alliss on Century Range and our good friend and Brit living in Australia, Ron Matthews, on Stickledown, and the range officers, staff and particularly all the volunteers who have worked so hard to support this year's meeting. *Applause.*

Finally, special thanks go to Jeremy Staples and his permanent staff at Bisley for all they have done during the past year and in preparation for this Meeting.

I have been asked more than once, recently, how it is that we now have net cash at bank rather than an overdraft of over £2m that we had in 2001 without having sold any freehold property or other assets. The simple answer is "Cash Flow". However, it is more than financial control.

The answer lies in how we are now organised – our new constitution. The NRA is not a big organisation, but it is complex. In the world as it is, we could no longer afford to manage our affairs with a Council, that is a Board of Trustees, of over 50 people supported by four, partly empowered, Principal Committees which were re-constituted each September six weeks after elections to the Council took place.

The Council, Board of Trustees, is currently 10 members strong and draws in people with special skills in Trusteeship, not always well known, but who have the right qualifications to govern and who devote their time freely. Equally of importance, but special importance, has been the separation of the management of Bisley from that of the governance and management of the UK wide Governing Body that we are.

Bisley, the National Shooting Centre, is essentially, a business. A business needs to be run by an empowered Board of Directors. The Council remains responsible for NRA policy, but within a planned budgetary framework worked out with the Board. The staff at Bisley, under their own Managing Director, Jeremy Staples, manage Bisley led by its Board of Directors and day to day decisions are more easily achieved and acted upon in that way. As my predecessor has told me, in his opinion, it would have been better to have taken these steps some years ago as new demands came upon the NRA.

We should thank the unpaid non-executive directors, all based at Bisley, who bring both professional as well as business management skills to the Board.

Bisley, for very many years, was run at a loss, subsidised by members' subscriptions, many of whom, we must remember, hardly visit or do not visit Bisley for their shooting or at all. No wonder that recruitment has been slow outside the Bisley catchment area when such members felt that their interests in the rest of the UK have not been served. For the past few years, the Board and Jeremy have brought Bisley into surplus – a very modest surplus to date, but a surplus nevertheless. An estate the size of Bisley, the freehold and the leasehold, brings with it enormous burdens of maintenance where work has to be prioritised if financial control is not to be lost again.

My message now is that there is a severe limit to what can be done with underinvestment.

Thus we are now turning to our present projects which have been published and which are:

the development and upgrading of Bisley to improve our facilities at Bisley and our profitability for UK wide development and support to our clubs.

achievement of better access to ranges UK wide.

the merger of the three main governing bodies of UK target shooting sport into one for greater strength and influence. This, in turn, will have the effect of consolidating the future of Bisley as the National Shooting Centre and protect its fullbore target shooting ranges.

The above are all inter-related and the Secretary General will update us in a moment.

We have much to look forward to if we keep our heads.

Thank you. *Applause.*

The Association's Affairs

I now ask the Secretary General, Glynn Alger, to speak.

The Secretary General

Mr Chairman, members and guests, this evening I should like to speak about both the past and the future of the National Rifle Association.

First the past, more particularly the recent past. As you are all aware the Association was in desperate circumstances in 2001, with extensive debts. On the basis of recent investigation into our archives I have become aware that Barclays Bank were seriously considering foreclosing on the NRA in 2001.

Following the direct intervention of the Chairman, agreement was reached to re-structure the debt and enter into a loan agreement. As a result of the work of the Trustees, generosity of you, as members, and efforts of staff things have been turned around, in that we expect to have paid off the debt within the next two years. Basically the Association will have gone from near bankruptcy in 2001 to solvency in 2009.

This turn around has not just been due to the prudence of the Trustees. In the background the Association's recovery has been assisted and monitored by the Charity Commissioners after much interaction and persuasion by the Council.

Many members' complaints in relation to the running of the Association has been dictated by this relationship. Implementation of real conditions of governance, financial management and rules around how we deal with leases are designed to meet the requirements of the Commissioners and would be necessary for any well run organisation, let alone a charity.

If we had failed to convince the bank and the Charity Commissioners, a potential legal outcome would have been that the Bisley ranges under lease from the MoD

would have been returned to them and the freehold land held in trust by the Association could have been reallocated by the Charity Commissioners to another charity.

Some members have questioned the value of being a charity. The value of being a charity in my view is that we have a framework and standards to work to that guarantee we act appropriately in relation to our members and our charity objectives.

Evidence of that is we have never been more open in what we do or better organised than at present. In addition if we were not a charity we would lose benefits in the region of approximately £130,000 year on year.

MoD and Bisley

I should now like to move onto long-term relationships with outside bodies, particularly the military.

The Association has had a long and fruitful relationship with the military since its inception. Today the services use our ranges at Bisley and our members nationwide use military ranges under agreements with the NRA.

Unfortunately the modern MoD is now run on different lines from the past. Effectively, civil servants run much of the administration. They are now asking questions about relationships with organisations such as ourselves and whether these are appropriate and whether they are getting good value for money out of such relationships.

To highlight how things have changed, the military recently looked at whether they should continue to use Bisley for both their national competitions and generally for training. In the papers we saw the emphasis was on not using Bisley and taking their shooting elsewhere.

If it had not been for the intervention of friends in the military we could have lost the military part of our Imperial Meeting as of next year. Fortunately, we have reached agreement, still to be ratified, that service competitions will continue at Bisley for at least three years.

“Why has this happened?” you are probably asking. The civil servants in the MoD are uncomfortable with the military paying for using our ranges with ammunition. In addition with military shooting, including competitions, needing to be more operationally appropriate, they are questioning the value of using our old fashioned gallery ranges, when on the lead up to the national finals the competitions are held on modern military ranges with high tech targetry.

What does all this mean to us? It means if the military withdrew their shooting from Bisley currently we would have a large hole in our budget, which would take us immediately back into the red. It means if we wish to keep the Services shooting at Bisley we must look to provide better and more testing competitive shooting here by providing the latest targetry. We must also come to an agreement with the MoD which is based on conventional payment for ranges. In this way we will, I hope, maintain our long relationship with the Services.

Additionally of course this allows the Association to buy the best generally available ammunition for the Imperial Meeting. New targets could also mean a more challenging environment for some civilian shooting disciplines and could improve our income from the ranges.

The Merger

As most of you are aware we have been in formal talks with the CPSA and NSRA regarding a possible merger for over a year now. As far as the Association is concerned there would be several benefits to the NRA, the major ones being:

- A single voice for target shooting, when representing and protecting our sport.
- Making access to new shooters easier, thus broadening the sport and its appeal.

Government and sporting bodies are fully behind this project because they see the value in being able to talk to one body rather than a multitude, most of which have little authority in representation terms.

To this end, UK Sport has invested £150,000, to provide the expertise to assist with the merger.

During the course of our current talks the encouraging thing is we have found little difference in the aims and objectives of the three bodies, giving us considerably more reason to be together than apart.

If any such merger is to be successful we must of course ensure that our interest in Bisley is safeguarded and that we retain authority over fullbore shooting.

Bisley Development

You are probably all aware that there has been a proposal to develop parts of the estate here at Bisley. The reason for this move is many fold:

- 1 The state of the buildings and infrastructure is getting increasingly poor
- 2 The ranges need modernisation to attract more shooters
- 3 We are just making a surplus on all our activities at Bisley with little hope of improving our results without new investment, while our costs continue to rise.
- 4 As previously stated we cannot rely on the continued support of the military in using Bisley.
- 5 Due to the 2012 effect we have a temporary opportunity to achieve planning permissions that we could not get previously.

If we are able to develop appropriately we will look to provide a modern world class shooting facility with nice accommodation and other leisure facilities on site to attract not just shooters but the non-shooting pound.

The Council is very mindful of the interests of those that lease or rent facilities here at Bisley and will do its best to ensure that these are accommodated to suit all pockets within the larger plans.

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Any development to be feasible must deliver to the needs of shooters, create enough capital to cover the re-development and produce the ability to make a good income year on year to support shooting here and elsewhere in the UK.

Good News

Looking forward target shooting has much to be positive about if we do the right things.

- 1 In recent times we have begun to make positive headway with politicians of all persuasions, getting recognition that our sport is quite separate from their concerns about crime as per the recent public comments from the former Sports Minister, Richard Caborn.
- 2 On pistols for Olympic Training we have been speaking to the Government and opposition to develop a way forward that would allow our athletes to train in the UK.
- 3 We have received funding for our merger project from UK Sport.
- 4 Our relationship with the Home Office has progressed to the point where they are confident enough to nominate us and the NSRA as the lead agencies to oversee safety certification on civilian ranges.
- 5 The media are beginning to publish our views on firearms ownership and gun crime without negative comment.
- 6 We have a Sky TV channel that wishes to publicise and promote target shooting sports.
- 7 The Olympics has given us a five year window of opportunity to publicise and widen the appeal of shooting. If Glasgow gets the 2014 Commonwealth Games that will extend that potential even further
- 8 We are beginning to develop quite a close relationship and understanding with our partner bodies the CPSA and NSRA on the basis of our common interest.
- 9 We have seen an increase year on year since 2004 in the individual membership of this Association.
- 10 Despite financial difficulties we have continued to support new and young shooters by means of grants, interest free loans and discounts on entry fees.
- 11 This year a record number of clubs and associations have been offered loans or grants to help promote the sport away from Bisley in the regions.
- 12 We have managed to get ranges reopened over the last three years.
- 13 In addition we interacted as never before on behalf of clubs and regions with the MoD to deal with access to ranges or excess charging.

14 In all but a few cases we have managed to persuade the police licensing departments to act to the benefit of our members.

15 We run Open Days here and at Altcar which are growing in popularity, to the extent that we now have to limit numbers attending these events.

There is so much to be positive about going forward as long as we do the right things.

Chairman

As many of you will know John Jackman's term of office as Chairman is drawing to a close. He has taken a personal lead in many of the initiatives I have described and has been the greatest support to me since I took on the job of Secretary General. He has had the vision and perseverance to lead the Association through a very difficult period. His successor, whoever that may be, will inherit an organisation which can face the world with confidence and can look forward to an exciting future. *Applause.*

Thank you.

I can now take questions.

First, I shall take questions for which we have been given advance notice:

AP Benham - London & Middlesex Rifle Association

Asked why the Secretary General had published a piece in the Summer 2007 Journal called "A Little Knowledge is a Dangerous Thing" on handloading. He additionally asked if there was any consideration to be given to re-introducing handloading courses.

Secretary General

Replied that there had been six instances of exploding rifles on firing points at Bisley in the past year which had drawn attention to the problem. As a result discussions had taken place with Discipline Committee and the Shooting Committee on a way forward. To safeguard both the Association and shooters who correctly handload it had been decided to publish advice on handloading by Dr Monaghan and an article by the Secretary General to identify the perils if instances continued to occur. The Secretary General went on to assure the meeting that serious consideration was being given to reintroducing handloading courses.

Jonathan Holmes - Chairman NRA Disciplinary Body

Advised the meeting that there were very real concerns regarding handloading which were resulting in action being taken on the discipline front. He stated this was necessary due to increased frequency of incidents and the very real dangers associated with a rifle exploding due to inappropriate handloading procedures.

The meeting was then advised that due to recent retirements three new members had been nominated for election to the Disciplinary Body. They were Colin McEachran, Queen's Counsel, Charles Brooks, a solicitor and former Trustee and Flt Lt Iain Robertson. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Body asked for others to

apply if they thought they had the correct qualities or experience.

Chairman

Raised the issue of the need to repair the Clock Tower. He pointed out that it was an iconic feature of Bisley and as such needed to be preserved. The meeting was informed that the clock movement was worn out, the weather vane needed replacing as well as extensive repair to the basic structure being needed. It was disclosed that all the work would amount to approximately £20,000 in total. All present were informed that some individuals had already volunteered to donate money for the repairs. The meeting was informed that once comprehensive costings were available that the Secretary General would be asked to seek out sponsorship or set up an appeal for this specific purpose to ensure it is repaired and maintained ongoing.

I do remind all competitors that we keep a Suggestion Book in the NRA Front Office. Please do use it if you have points to make.

We shall now take questions from the floor and I ask any of you who have a matter to raise to speak, but ask you to be brief and avoid speeches, please. There is a roving microphone and so, please put up your hand and I will try to ensure that you can put your question. To assist our tape recording of proceedings and the record, I ask you to state your name, clearly and, preferably, state the name of your principal club. Thank you.

Alex Hunter - HAC

Asked whether it was possible to get one of the mobile phone companies to use the clock tower as a telephone mast.

Managing Director NSC

The meeting was informed that there was an existing telephone mast adjacent to it.

Chris Law

Commented upon the slippage of sand on the butts and suggested an investigation into using marron grass to stabilise the sand. He also asked that the development plans at Bisley should look to address the problems of parking at Bisley.

Ian Brown - Wandsworth Rifle Club

Made the point that the Association was missing the opportunity to attract young people into the sport because we were not giving them the opportunity to shoot early enough. The meeting applauded Mr Brown's point.

Secretary General

Replied that the merger with the NSRA and CPSA was in some terms designed to address this need by allowing youngsters to join the sport at whatever age and be able to shoot, progressing through the various disciplines when able. In addition the point was made that the Association was developing a strategic initiative through the Membership Committee to solve the disconnection between cadet shooting and club shooting. This would be delivered by offering cadet instructors courses which qualified the individual for their probation if they pass

or in the longer term by completing a shooting log supplied by the NRA which when signed off by the relevant shooting master or officer would again qualify them for probationary qualifications. Having completed this phase the NRA would then offer free membership at a national level and find a club for the individual at a local level. In this way it was hoped to keep cadets and young people in the sport.

John Hissey- North London Rifle Club and English VIII Club

Stated "The funny thing about Bisley is that it never changes. It is extraordinary how we come here year after year and something new appears and we never know about it. Somebody said to me only the other day thank you very much for doing the stats, now I haven't done the stats since the end of the last century so it would not surprise me if at least half of you are totally unaware that I have written a book. The idea of the book is to raise money for the Young Shooters' Fund and this in fact has been quite successful. I am very, very surprised because I had 750 copies printed and I only have as of last night 180 left so may I thank all of you who have purchased the book for a fiver and the total amount that the NRA have made to date which includes the cheque that I am just about to give to the Chairman is £1,360. (*Applause*) and that is on top of writing off the original cost of £1,400. Most of you who have seen me around the Camp I would have said to you "Have you read my book?" and, if you say no and I am presumably carrying a copy I would say thank you very much for buying one and not chasing me away. Just in case any of you have not yet bought a book it just so happens that I have a few copies here now. I am not going to suggest that you have to show me the book you have purchased before you leave but there is an interesting point there is an alternative because one member has actually given me £10 not to read my book."

Chairman

I now have some information which may be of interest to you.

In Her Majesty the Queen's Prize Mr MR Ball of Horsham Rifle Club won the Bronze Badge with a remarkable score in the conditions of 105 and 18 V bulls.

The lowest qualifying score for the Second Stage is 102 with five V bulls, finishing 33 with two V bulls at 600 yards.

There are three firers with this score who are in.

The Chairman then asked if anyone had been aware of the result. Upon confirmation that it was a surprise he stated that he hoped the long tradition of the announcement would be maintained in the future.

Steve Thomas

Thanked the Chairman for all he had done to ensure the survival of the Association. He then asked the meeting to show their appreciation. *Applause.*

The meeting closed.

F CLASS 2007

by Mik Maksimovic



Jim Scobie - winner of the FRG Grand Aggregate.
(Photo: John Knight)



Horst Mitera of Germany.
(Photo: John Knight)



Nick Tremlett coaches the England team.
(Photo: John Knight)



Hopefully Wolfgang Scholze is indicating he had a good shoot?
(Photo: John Knight)

Well, back to writing the report for the Imperial Meeting 2007. Apart from the wet weather which I am sure kept many an F Classer cleaning and drying his expensive kit for many hours, what else occurred?

To start with let's go to the personal tournament between Roly Greenwood, Des Parr and Mik Maksimovic during the Hopton. Seeing as only three of us entered the Match Rifle events to shoot F Class alongside, this became somewhat a personal struggle over four days of very challenging long range shooting, made all the more interesting as we were on F Class long range targets for the first time in the Hopton. A 5 inch V bull in extreme wind conditions and lashing rain on some details really sorted the men from the boys, and people were very happy to get a four. But it really was a lot of fun and I recommend the long range matches held during the MR events as extremely challenging to both our rifles and our wind reading abilities. After four days of what could only be called interesting conditions, Des Parr managed to win the contest with Mik second and Roly in a very respectable third place. It would be nice to see more F Class shooters entering the Hopton, as I promise you a 5 inch V bull at 1200 yards is a very small and difficult target to hit.

This year we seemed to have a smaller field than normal with the F Class entrants in the Grand. The total entry for the Grand Aggregate was only 27; I didn't enter the Grand, but I did have a broken foot and would have struggled on the waterlogged ranges. Out of our 27 entrants nine were our foreign friends from Germany, Holland and France. There were however over 20 entrants for individual competitions over the middle weekend and Queen's I, but the numbers were a little bit disappointing. It was the first year that we have seen a downward trend since F Class was introduced to the Imperial Meeting. However we



Mik didn't seem too concerned that his ballet dancing career appeared to be over!
(Photo: Alan Keating)

did have eight FRG (issued ammo) F Class shooters also compete for their own trophies and prizes. The major difference that the FRG shooters had to face this year was that they were competing on the same tighter F Class Open target as everyone else. This was the first time that this was done and some very respectable scores were produced with RG ammunition, albeit that this years batch was apparently very good in the TR rifles. The long range targetry was also changed to the World Championship F Class long range target which consists of a Palma target with a white 5 inch V bull - this makes the bull only 10 inches (1 MOA) at 1000 yards which definitely produced some interesting results in the long range competitions.

The Stickledown Aggregate was won by David Kent of Old Epsomian's RC with 202 from Mik Maksimovic of Stamford School Rifle Club (feels like the Schools Meeting all over again!) by only one V bull. Both Mik and David were using 7mm WSM chambered rifles with 175 gr Sierras which seemed to go very well at the longer distances. Colin Shorthouse with his new 300 WSM came in third place with 194; had he not taken the wrong rifle to shoot the Duke of Cambridge, Peter Hobson, with a 193 in fourth place, might have won this aggregate (a 45 ex 60 on the first detail in the morning with very little wind in the Duke of Cambridge is not what we would expect Peter to achieve - still I got a medal out of it, so cheers Peter!) The FRG winner of the Stickledown Aggregate was MJ Walsh, whose score of 127 with issued ammo on a 5 inch V Bull was exceptionally good.

The Century Aggregate was won by David Kent with 676 from Des Parr on 672 and Peter Hobson on 661. The short range matches produced several funny stories and tales, not least from Dr Paul Monaghan, who sharing a firing point with a well known smoking F Class shooter, who drives a golf buggy (no not me, the other one). This well known and loved F Class shooter (the road to Short Siberia is named after him) announced that he could see the drift of cigarette smoke from the butt marker through his high powered scope! So he adjusted and swiftly shot a magnificent magpie. Needless to say this method of wind reading, albeit unorthodox, will not be universally used in the future. Very few possible scores were produced at either long range or short range, in fact there were only two, both of which were shot in the Times by David Kent and Manfred Knackstedt from the BDMP. The winner of the FRG Century Aggregate was expoliceman and all round shooter Andy Duffy. Well done Andy in your first year competing in F Class in the Imperial Meeting.

The St George's Final, which in F Class is shot at 600 yards, was won by Darren Stewart beating Paul Monaghan by one V bull. F Class has become a sport of very tight targets and margins; sadly for Des Parr

he came third on exactly the same score as Paul but was counted out into third place.

Now onto the Queen's F Class Final shot alongside Queen's II. Peter Hobson had obviously changed his wind reading technique to win with a three point margin over the venerable grandfather of F Class Jo Wright, who at 84 still shoots a mean competition. Liam Jennings from the Republic of Ireland came third on countback with 163.

The F Class Open Grand Aggregate was this year won by David Kent, who seemed to have dominated the Imperial Meeting this year, followed by Paul Eggemann from BDMP in second and Des Parr in third. The FRG Grand Aggregate was won by Scotsman Jim Scobie, followed by Mike Lunn and FRG newcomer Nick Hinchliffe in third place.

The F Class International Team match was held on the second Friday and was won by David Kent's England team on 559 followed by Scotland on 550, BDMP Germany on 545, Wales on 514 and Ireland on 492. The Republic of Ireland shot alongside and scored a magnificent 555 which would have placed them second. The Republic of Ireland will be competing in the match as from next year as their National Governing Body status for F Class has now been decided upon. This match was held on the new F Class long range targets at 900 and 1000 yards and was extremely enjoyable to shoot in. England decided to follow Scotland's example of the past few years and got a prominent match rifle shooter to be their main wind coach. Many thanks to Nick Tremlett for coaching England to our sixth win out of eight in the International Teams event.

All in all we F Classers enjoyed ourselves - it would have been nice to see more of you F Class shooters out there attend the Imperial Meeting but maybe next year.

The F Class AGM, which was attended by nearly all F Class competitors, was held in the Umbrella Tent and many interesting points were raised including that hopefully next year our F Class St George's and Queen's Finals will be shot at long range and include FRG shooters as well. F Class is thriving in the UK, you only need to walk along Century range at a weekend to see how many club shooters have a scope attached to their rifles. Please feel free to make suggestions on what needs to be done to persuade them to enter the largest and most prestigious shooting event in the world. I will finish with wishing you all a successful shooting season next year and hope to see you all at next years Imperial.

Also just a gentle reminder that the F Class World Championships will be held at Bisley in 2009, so if you would like to pit yourselves and your kit against the best in the world, start getting ready now.

NEVER GIVE IN

By Richard Munday

“Never give in”, Churchill once insisted to a younger generation, “never give in, never, never, never; never give in except to the dictates of honour and good sense”. In the 1997 Firearms Acts and the pistol ban which they introduced there was neither honour nor good sense; and not all of Britain’s pistol shooters were willing to surrender their guns and their sport. When the prohibition was announced, some shipped their arms abroad: to France, to Belgium, to Germany, to Norway; even to America. But as the implementation date of the pistol ban ten years ago approached, a number of British pistoleers were still in possession of their weapons, doggedly shooting competitively to the last. What did this portend? There was a germ of unease about what these die-hards might do, it emerged later, in some constabulary areas. Then, with just days to go, the imagined spectre of trouble melted away: the last legal pistols in Great Britain were exported, to reappear swiftly on the firing line of target ranges in Switzerland. On a pistol range above the Lake of Thun in the Bernese Oberland, on the bright, clear morning of 22 September 1997, the first championship meeting of the British Alpine Rifles began.

Authorization of the importation of the weapons and the establishment of BAR went all the way up to the final approval of the President of Switzerland. What sort of characters were these, banned from their own country, who wanted to shoot here? A Swiss General Staff officer informed the President of Switzerland that BAR’s members were people rather in the mould of Sir Arnold Lunn, the father of the skiing sports. Like the pioneer skiers, or like the men of the original Alpine Club launched in London in 1857, who of necessity travelled to Switzerland to pursue their interest, the members of the British Alpine Rifles acknowledged simply that theirs was now another sport that demanded travel to the Alps.

It was a demand that proved no hardship, for the British Alpine Rifles were warmly welcomed by the Swiss, and generously entertained and assisted. They were invited to shoot on delightful and well-appointed ranges, the like of which they had not enjoyed at home, set amid some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. And though Switzerland had the reputation of being expensive, it turned out that BAR’s members could lodge in charming mountain chalets that worked out cheaper per night than Bisley huts.

But the Swiss shook their heads in disbelief at what had happened to the British. In Switzerland shooting is not yet a taboo sport, whose practitioners are regarded with suspicion; shooters are, on the contrary, still seen as the solid backbone of the country. In just one rural parish where BAR meets, there are ten active rifle and pistol ranges; and the people still cycle down the road to shoot, with assault rifles slung over their shoulders. How could Britain, that once also had such a strong shooting tradition, have changed so much? And what had happened to the democratic process, the Swiss asked, in a country that now exiled respectable citizens? It seemed all the more bizarre when BAR counted eight Peers of the realm and a former Attorney General among its members, and had the Duke of Edinburgh as its Patron.

The Swiss came to BAR’s ranges in the Bernese Oberland with cakes and wine and guns as gifts, and joined in the shooting. The exiles had something special to offer in the rich diversity of Britain’s marksmanship heritage; for BAR was determined to maintain the full breadth of our sport. Whereas some of the other overseas schemes set up to meet the ban had been primarily concerned with preserving guns as property, BAR from the outset was geared to run competitive shooting. There were some forty events in BAR’s inaugural meeting in Switzerland in September 1997; today, the programme numbers one hundred.



The view from the range: Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, above the Lake of Thun.



In the face of the ban, September 1997: the opening day of BAR’s inaugural championships in Switzerland.



BAR competitor with Sturmgewehr 57, shooting on falling targets at unknown distances between 500 and 700 yards in the Steingletscher military exercise area. Twenty years ago, when the Stgw 57 could still be purchased in Britain, it retailed for over £1,000. Today BAR members can get good second-hand ones for as little as £200.

BAR offers the full gamut of ISSF cartridge pistol events, a spectrum of police and service competitions, old Bisley favourites like Advancing Men and Running Burglar (BAR's members do not especially esteem modern political correctness), and quirky confections of its own like the fullbore ambidextrous rapid fire Tracy match, and an idiosyncratic Practical Pistol match named the Churchill. Scenarios for the Churchill have ranged from a match shot in black tie, cigar and brandy in hand (imagine that in Britain now, on either count), to Omdurman, the Dardanelles, and a new course for BAR's tenth anniversary entitled "Their Finest Hour". Many courses of fire are further segregated to provide separate competitive opportunities for a wide range of different weaponry, from Classic service revolvers to vest pocket pistols.



Guided by her father, a thirteen year old learns revolver shooting in Switzerland with BAR.



Under the direction of a personal RO, a lady competitor shoots the match named for the father of British practical pistol shooting, Captain Tracy. The Tracy demands strings of five shots on five targets in 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 seconds, fired alternately with the right and left hand unsupported. Only the best marksmen achieve five hits in the fastest series.

Aside from its pistol programme, BAR runs a spectrum of rifle events. Swiss rifle competition is still based on the service weapon, and BAR marksmen, enabled once again to purchase and use rifles banned in Britain by the previous Firearms Act of 1988, have been happy to follow suit. At BAR's jubilee championships this autumn, they are shooting a new match based on the Swiss service Feldschiessen course, named after a winner both of the Victoria Cross and an Olympic gold in rifle shooting, who also climbed in the Bernese Oberland in the 1920s, Lt General Sir Philip Neame. Another BAR combined rifle and pistol match is named for Colonel Mark Beaufoy, who in 1787 was the first Englishman to climb Mont Blanc, and then went on in 1809 to write a treatise on rifle shooting, and recommended the formation of rifle clubs throughout Britain - an aim realized half a century later, with the foundation in 1859 of the National Rifle Association. Today's members of the British Alpine Rifles are heirs to a long tradition, in which they take great pride. At their formal dinners, when they meet back in this country, their toast is "The Queen; but not her government".



High-tech Advancing Man, shot on an underground range in Interlaken. The BAR variant of the course includes a low-light series, verifying sight picture in muzzle flash.

MATCH RIFLE TOUR OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA 2007

by Colin McEachran

Colin McEachran led a team of seven National Rifle Club of Scotland MR shooters to the Antipodes during late February and early March this year. The aim was, as always, to promote match rifle shooting where possible, and, in this case, to participate in the Victoria MR Championships at Corryong, to shoot in club competitions at Stawell and, finally, to shoot on the famous Campbeltown range in Tasmania.

The team consisted of David Brechin, Martin Brown, Michael Davis, Jeremy Gaywood (an ex Hopton winner from the last century), Hamish Hunter, Tim Kidner and Colin McEachran. In addition to the shooters, were the all important ladies, Charlotte McEachran, Liz Kidner and Frances Brechin, because after all it was a holiday!

Corryong

We were very well received wherever we went. It is clearly important to the small band of MR shooters in Australia that small teams should continue to visit. Greg Phelan is the Chairman of the Victorian MR Association and he worked very hard for a successful meeting. He is 110% Aussie, has been described as looking like "the better side of a crumpled oil drum" but he has a heart of gold. Nothing was too much for him. When Jeremy Gaywood could not get rounds to chamber in his new rifle, he was on the phone to NSW.

Scores are somewhat superfluous on these occasions. Suffice to say that NRC of S shooters found the heat and winds of Corryong difficult to handle. The Victorian MR championship was won by Shane Courtney by eight points from Jenny Hausler. Highest NRC of S Team members were Martin Brown and Hamish Hunter at sixth and seventh.

After the weekend scores, the Aussies were pretty confident of retaining the McEachran Trophy, presented in 2003 for competition between the NRC of S and Aussie State teams. However it was not to be and some skilful coaching and a fine 71 at 1200 yards by Tim Kidner helped the mainly Scottish team to win at the final range by three points from Victoria (with a little help from Queensland). The NRC of S was three down after 1000 yards and a further two after 1100. Tim top scored for the NRC of S with 216 in the match, a score only beaten by John Kielly of Queensland with 217.

At the prize giving dinner we were entertained by an impromptu band comprising an accordion and a remarkable instrument made out of beer bottle tops. We were also regaled by local poetry readings.

Jenny Hausler was MC (at short notice) and worked brilliantly to produce her team of entertainers, while

at the same time, managing to produce a great torrent of repartee, quite stealing everyone's thunder.

Apart from the McEachran Trophy, the team won no prizes at Corryong, unless one counts the Chuckie Trophy for the best crop of daily magpies (won by Jeremy Gaywood)

Stawell

Thereafter followed some holidaying, with visits to wineries and properties and gold mines. The next destination was Stawell, close to Hall's Gap and the Grampian mountains in western Victoria. This is a wonderful range with eight targets back to 1200 yards. It is set in trees; it owns the land including the danger area and has a spacious clubhouse with ample parking. It is all the work of Lew Horwood; he and his wife Kay with some other ladies laid on the most excellent weekend club shoot with a barbecue on the range on the Saturday. Because of the tree protection we did not experience the violent wind changes that occur at Corryong and Campbeltown.

The shoot consisted of 2 sighters and 15 shots at 1000, 1100 and 1200 on the Saturday and 20 shots at 1100 and 1200 on the Sunday. After some very competitive shooting it was very appropriate that Lew Horwood should lead the field with 400.25 followed by Hamish Hunter on 397.22, Shane Courtney the Victorian Champion with 397.19 and Tim Kidner on 395.26.

Phil Bain, who, with his lovely wife Susan, was such a help and supporter of the team, produced a splendid trophy for a pairs competition - the Coolabah Trophy. A draw was made with one name from the NRC of S team and one from the Aussies. It seemed entirely fair that Tim Kidner and Phil Bain were drawn as a pair and won the trophy.

Tasmania

Campbeltown is situated in the centre of Tasmania; various members of the team had toured substantial areas of the island before arriving at the Foxhunter's Inn.

This is a splendid Victorian Coaching Inn, untouched by time, and situated on the edge of the town, not far from the rifle range.

Because of a clash of fixtures there were few Tasmanian shooters out for the weekend's shooting, but Gil and Dawn Walker made us very welcome. In fact the weekend provided the most spectacular match rifle shooting of the entire tour. The Campbeltown range, which faces south (away from the Antarctic Sun), is exposed on the right to an empty plain of dry pasture, across which winds can blow in almost desert conditions.

On the Sunday the wind was about 8 minutes from the right at 1100 yards before lunch. After lunch it was a different picture. We returned to find a veritable gale of wind blowing across the exposed plain to our right. At 1200 yards, the wind was now up to 16 to 18 minutes and continued to strengthen, giving on occasion some 23 minutes.

It would be fair to say that some disarray set in, at this stage. It proved virtually impossible to escape without at least one miss, and most had two. Between the misses, there was some creditable and very enjoyable shooting. Mike Davis was triumphant here, with a

strong 57.2, just ahead of Hamish with 57.1, followed by Jeremy with 51.3.

This closing shoot proved to be a climactic struggle with the elements which highlighted the fundamental differences between match rifle shooting and any other form of target rifle shooting. The sight of flags streaming out horizontally across a sun baked dusty range is a formidable sight. As we learned later, the markers, bless them, were clinging to their targets to prevent them blowing away.

So ended our holiday with the match rifle 2007.

GREAT BRITAIN HISTORICAL RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2006

In 2006, the Great Britain Historical Rifle Team travelled to South Africa to take part in the World Long Range Historical Rifle Championships at the Good Hope Military Range, thirty miles north of Cape Town. The team returned with four individual medals, with Colin Buck taking gold in the Individual Long Range Championship.

Background

The current series of Historical Rifle Championships started in 1997 at Bloemfontein, RSA. Subsequent events were held in 1999 at Quantico in USA and in 2003 at Bisley. The governing body is the World Long Range Historical Rifle Shooting Association, with directors from USA, GB, RSA and Germany.

Historical Precedent

The Championships recreate match rifle shooting, 800 to 1000 yards, of the late Victorian period, mid-1860s to mid-1890s, such as was practised at Wimbledon, Creedmoor and Dollymount. The direct precedent is the series of International Matches in the 1870s and 1880s, starting with the Irish Rifle Team visit to Creedmoor in USA in 1874. The Irish Team used Rigby muzzleloading rifles, while the US Team used newly developed Sharps and Remington breechloaders to win by three points, 934 vs 931 (Milner of the Irish team putting a bull on the wrong target!)

Rifles and Ammunition

The current matches require the use of a muzzleloading or breechloading single-shot rifle of pre-1900 pattern, either original or replica, weighing under 13 pounds, using blackpowder alone as a propellant, with a lead or lead alloy bullet (lubricated cannellured or paper-patched). The number of muzzleloading rifles used in these Championships has significantly declined since 1997 as the additional physical stress makes them less competitive.

The calibre is generally 0.45" with a bullet of about 560 grains propelled by 85 grains of BP, giving a muzzle velocity of 1200 to 1300 fps. The elevations and wind

allowances are noticeably greater than with current 7.62mm ammunition. The rise from 200 to 1000 yards is typically 120 minutes compared to 40 for 7.62mm. Wind allowances are one-and-a-half to twice as much, with the need to compensate for head and tailwinds as well.

Team Selection

Following appointment of Mark Hodgins as Team Captain by the NRA Council, invitations to be considered for the team were broadcast and a series of practice, team selection and subsequently team training shoots took place at Bisley.

The team consisted of:

Mark Hodgins (Captain),
George Yannaghass (Vice-Captain)
Alison Buck (Adjutant: non-shooting)
Larry Brown
Michael Haselgrove
Colin Buck
Clive Taylor
Alan Berlin
John Gilpin

Three of the team were old hands, having competed in all three of the previous events and two were new caps.

Logistics

Much management time was expended in ensuring that the team and more problematically its firearms and personal kit and very problematically its ammunition got to Cape Town. This involved visits to a Notary Public to get certified copies of passports and FACs for the South African Police firearms permits and to specialist freight packers to pack the ammunition. The team and firearms travelled with South African Airways in two parties, the advance party having a week's sightseeing before the others arrived. The ammunition and personal kit travelled by Virgin air freight. Amazingly, everything and everyone arrived on time and intact in Cape Town,

but the cost accounted for a very significant part of the team budget.

Accommodation

The team stayed in an excellent B&B, Plovers Rest, about halfway between the centre of Cape Town and the Groot Vlieh (Good Hope) range, about twenty minutes drive north (up the coast past the nuclear power station).

Shooting Programme

After a couple of days' acclimatisation and kit sorting (longer for the advance party), shooting started with practice shoots. The range is a military range, set up about fifteen years ago and extended by civilian users to 900 metres. The most notable feature is that Table Mountain is visible just over the backstop.

After two days of practice, competition started with the individual matches: short range at 300, 500 and 600 metres and long range at 700, 800 and 900 metres.

At short range, Mark Hodgins was the highest placed GB shooter, with sixth place in the Short Range Aggregate. At long range, we had much greater success. Larry Brown won Bronze at 800 metres. Colin Buck won Gold at 900 metres and in the Long Range Aggregate, becoming the Long Range Historical Rifle World Champion and won Bronze in the Grand Aggregate.

After the individual matches, the main event, the team match took place. This is for national teams of

eight shooters, firing fifteen rounds at 700, 800 and 900 metres, the top six scores at each distance counting.

At 700 metres and 800 metres, the GB team was in third place, behind USA and Germany and ahead of South Africa and the Multi-National Team. At 900 metres in poor light and occasional very light rain, South Africa had a stunning shoot with some very lucky marking, many shots being observed by firers as hitting the mantlet but being scored as bulls and V bulls. They finished over sixty points ahead of the USA in the 900 metres scores pulling up to second in the aggregate.

The final places for the team match were:

Gold: United States of America
Silver: South Africa
Bronze: Germany
Fourth: Great Britain

Social Programme

The South African organisers laid on an excellent social programme, including a braai (barbecue) on the range at the end of one of the practice days, Beating the Retreat by the Cape Town Highlanders, drink reception at Cape Town Castle and finally prizegiving dinner at the Royal Cape Town Yachting Club.

Return Journey

The day after the prizegiving, we packed and flew back to England. Unfortunately, we got stung for some excess baggage charges, but managed to negotiate a substantial discount!

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

TERRITORIALS TAKE TRIPLE CROWN

In a stunning display of accurate combat shooting, the Territorial Army's Combat Shooting Team (TACST), under the Captaincy of Captain Peter Cottrell from 3 PWRR, stormed the recent Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting (AFSAM) in Little Rock, Arkansas, winning all three major international awards plus an impressive number of other team and individual matches.

The team of 15, selected from the top 50 marksmen and women at this year's Territorial Army Skill-At-Arms Meeting (TASAM), included five newcomers to the squad. This made the achievement all the more satisfying, especially since the forces represented included regular and reserve shooting teams from the US Army Reserves, US Marine Corps, National Guard, RAF, and Royal Navy and Royal Marines, in addition to other European forces teams.

On the final day, the TA team won the coveted International Match for the first time in a close and compelling competition. Fired from 100 yards out to 500 yards it was neck and neck between the TA, National Guard and the RAF, with the TA eventually winning by a narrow margin.

This was immediately followed by a new Combat Match for the Conaway Cup that included a rigorous physical element of carrying two 150lb 'casualties' 300 yards, magazine loading and then returning 300 yards with eight full ammo boxes. With points awarded for the time taken there was no holding back. The combat shoot followed immediately, with the TA team out-shooting all others. The combined scores for the International and Conaway decided the overall winner for the Lexington Green Trophy, which the TA duly won for the third successive year.

The matches fired during five days of competition, required skills in all three small-arms disciplines – rifle, pistol and machine gun. With very limited preparation and little or no match practice, AFSAM is a true test of a soldier's ability to be combat effective in a wide range of situations, and is seen by all National and International teams as an ideal competition to improve marksmanship in readiness for future operations.

Rifle matches included a 25m Close Quarter Battle, at one point firing six rounds in four seconds on three different targets, to distances as far as 650 metres – a range rarely if ever fired by most soldiers with SA80-A2. The skills and knowledge developed by the TA team during the competition were very noticeable and of great benefit.

The Fallen Comrades Match involved a run down from 300 metres to 200 metres via obstacles, engagement of eight targets, followed by the immediate recovery of a 'fallen comrade', (a 150lb dummy) back to the 300



metres point, all as a timed event. Even the ETR was significantly different from those used in the UK, with eight three-dimensional targets, affectionately known as 'Teletubbies', per firing lane, making for more demanding target acquisition and decisive shooting techniques.

Two individual awards capped off the tremendous team success: the champion rifle shot was Sgt Gary Wells from 151 (Tpt) log Regt RLC, and L/Cpl Adam Chapman from 7 Rifles won the combined rifle / pistol championship.

The Territorial Army Rifle Association (TARA) Chairman, Colonel Bill O'Leary was able to witness at first hand the success of the team, and in a number of meetings with the Assistant Adjutant General of Arkansas and other senior officers from the National Guard and US Army Reserves, was left in no doubt that the continued success of AFSAM depends on the ongoing participation of the TA and other UK teams.

Colonel O'Leary stated, "winning all three international team awards was a proud achievement, and with two top individual awards this was the most successful AFSAM yet. The whole team, led superbly by Captain Peter Cottrell, were tremendous ambassadors for the Territorial Army, and their success in such demanding conditions was applauded by all the international participants".



NRA COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council (Board of Trustees)

<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JEM Hartwell	<i>Vice-Chairman (Co-opted)</i>
Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz	<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 JC Ragg	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Chairman Membership Committee</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Elected</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>Secretary</i>

Audit Committee

Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz	<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 Haszlkiewicz	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JEM Hartwell	
Mr B Pollard	<i>(in attendance)</i>

National Shooting Centre Limited

Board of Directors

Mr SCW Dixon	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JE Staples	<i>Managing Director</i>
Maj MG Farnan	<i>Director of Shooting</i>
Mr DT Argent	
Mr M Maksimovic	
Mr B Pollard	<i>Secretary</i>

The General Council

<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	
Prof AR Horrocks	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz	<i>Treasurer</i>	
Mr GK Alexander	<i>Elected</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>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 AMW 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 CN Farr	<i>Co-opted</i>	
Mr EJ Gardener	<i>Elected</i>	

Mr C Higginbottom	<i>Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain</i>
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	<i>Welsh Target Shooting Federation</i>
Lt Col L Holley	<i>Army Rifle Association</i>
Mr P Hunter	<i>Discipline - Practical Rifle</i>
Mr MD Jones MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr J Kapoor	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr TLW Kidner	<i>Regional - Scotland</i>
Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Discipline - Sporting Rifle</i>
Lt Cdr T Lapage-Norris	<i>Royal Naval Reserve Rifle Association</i>
Mr CN McEachran	<i>Scottish Target Shooting Federation</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mr HJ Malins MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr CC Mallett (Jnr)	<i>Jersey Rifle Association</i>
Mr MF Martel	<i>Guernsey Rifle Association</i>
Dr P Monaghan	<i>Discipline - F Class</i>
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Discipline - Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>
Sqn Ldr RE Nott	<i>Royal Air Force Small Arms Association</i>
Miss JM Rankin	<i>Elected</i>
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Discipline - Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Mrs KD Robertson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr AJD Saunders	<i>English Target Shooting Federation</i>
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>Discipline - 300 Metres</i>
Brig JR Smales	<i>Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting</i>
Wg Cdr M Symonds	<i>Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee</i>
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Discipline - Muzzle Loading</i>
Dr JD Warburton	<i>Regional - Yorks/Humberside</i>
Mr MP Watkins	<i>Regional - Wales</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr DD Watt	<i>Regional - Eastern</i>
Miss AJ Welford	<i>Elected</i>
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Discipline - Classic Arms</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Regional - North Western</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Regional - London & SE</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>National Small-bore Rifle Association</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Territorial Army Rifle Association</i>

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		
Mr JDI Hossack		
Lt Col L Holley		
Prof AR Horrocks		
Mr P Quilliam	<i>Co-opted</i>	
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Target Rifle/Elected</i>	
Dr AMW 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 *Practical Rifle*
Mr I Shirra-Gibb *300 Metres*
Mr RHF Wills *Classic Arms*
In attendance
Maj MG Farnan *NSC Director of Shooting*
Mr GWJ Alger *NRA Secretary General*

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

Flt Lt IW Robertson *Chairman*
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Dr JDS Langley
Mr GAE Larcombe
Mr RJ McQuillan

Match Rifle and Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson *Chairman*
Mrs LJ Brister
Mr CJF Hayes
Mr MK Townsend
Mr CN Tremlett
Mr AR Campbell-Smith
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 GV Barnard
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 A Dagger
Mr C Farr
Mr N Jones
Mr J Robinson
Mr S Smoothy
Mr B Thomas
Mr P Watts
Miss AJ 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

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*
Capt 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

Mr JDI Hossack *Chairman*
Miss SG Adamson
Mr PN Hinchliffe
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley
Mr RM Hodgins
Mr RCT Jeens
Mr JWE Lewis
Mrs MJ Pearse
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Mr RWH Stafford *Secretary*
Mr MK Townsend
Mr CN Tremlett
Mr JA Watson
Mr CP Weeden
Miss AJ Welford
In attendance
Mr GWJ Alger *NRA Secretary General*
Maj MG Farnan *NSC Director of Shooting*

Membership Committee

Mr JA Watson *Chairman*
Mr M Maksimovic
Mr CJ Murton
Miss JM Rankin
Mrs KD Robertson
In attendance
Mrs HL Webb *Membership Secretary*
Mr GWJ Alger *Secretary*

Disciplinary Committee

Mr JM Holmes *Chairman*
Mr HRM Bailie
Flt Lt DP Calvert
Mr DGF Evans
Miss MF Gooden
Mr RHF Wills

Appeals Committee

Mr CN McEachran *Chairman*
Mr CM Brooks
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.

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND
PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2006/2007**
by Elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council
From 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007

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

NEW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL



Gary Alexander

Gary 47, Optometrist and company director, father of three and NRA member for 36 years. Born and bred in Dungannon, Northern Ireland but now resident in Wiltshire.

My shooting interests include TR and MR for Great Britain as well as running an ACF detachment and their shooting team in Wiltshire. I also enjoy game shooting in all its varieties and some clay shooting when I can find the time.

I believe we are in exciting times for shooting and the NRA in particular. The future development of Bisley Camp is the biggest threat and the biggest opportunity for the future security of our sports since the move from Wimbledon Common. The purchase of privately owned ranges in the provinces is the only way to secure shooting in the face of a contracting military. The need to encourage all rifle shooters across the UK to reap the expanding benefits of

membership of the NRA is fundamental to our success and is already increasing. It must be carefully assessed how the planned amalgamation with the NSRA and CPSA will affect this.

It is my hope that my experience in a world beating company and enthusiasm for the future of youth in shooting will have them saying "you should have gone shooting".

John Gardener

The year 2007 marks thirty years for me at Bisley having only missed two years during that time.

From 1977 until 2005 I shot for and captained Service teams. Since leaving the Royal Navy I have attended all but one Imperial Meeting and, for sixteen years was Chief Butts Officer in Stickle-down. During that time I was Honorary Secretary of Tavistock Drake Rifle Club for over ten years and Chairman of a local pistol club for five years.

I have never declared a primary discipline, and although I have never won a major competition, I am a keen competitor in a number of disciplines. I have recently become involved in black powder shooting and in August ran the first Black Powder F Class shoot.

I am aware that we need to progress and improve and am excited by the changes currently mooted. Having now made Bisley my profession and my home, I want to make a positive contribution to turning it into a better place for any activity which increases usage and helps shooting of whatever hue as long as it's safe.



Amanda Welford

I began my shooting career as an Army Cadet in 1999, shooting target rifle and representing Devon for the ACF. Since then I have shot many disciplines in varying amounts including Practical Shotgun, Muzzle-Loading Pistol and Air Pistol, but have settled into Gallery Rifle as my main discipline. I soon became involved in the organisational side of shooting at the Phoenix and GR Action Weekends working in stats, reception and on the ranges, and now sit on the GR&P Sub-Committee, Phoenix Committee and Teams Finance Committee.

My qualifications and positions of responsibility include:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1999 - 2002 | Representing Devon ACF in Target Rifle |
| 2004 - 2007 | 1st Team member for Oxford University Pistol Blues Match |
| 2006 | NSRA Youth Coach Qualification |
| 2006 - 2007 | Oxford University Pistol Club Captain (previously Secretary) |
| 2006 - present | NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Sub-Committee Member |
| 2006 - present | Representing GR&P at TFC meetings |
| 2007 | NRA qualified RCO |

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA 2007

by Matt Charlton

<i>Captain</i>	Martin Townsend
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	Andy Luckman
<i>Adjutant</i>	Nigel Ball
<i>Armourer</i>	Anton Aspin
<i>Coaches</i>	Matt Charlton Matt Ensor Nick Hinchliffe Jeremy Langley Reg Roberts
<i>Shooters</i>	David Armstrong Nick Brasier David Calvert Jon Cload Rupert Dix David Dyson Peter Holden Richard Jeens David Luckman Ross McQuillan Jane Messer Gareth Morris Parag Patel Toby Raincock Rich Stewart Jon Underwood James Watson

The Palma Match is the premier match in world target rifle shooting and determines the World Long Range Rifle Champions for the subsequent four years. For the Great Britain team, it also represented the culmination of two and a half years of training as a squad. The team certainly looked "together" as they departed Heathrow: Vice-Captain, armourer, five coaches, seventeen firers and physio (the Captain and Adj having departed a week earlier for important "team preparation"), resplendent in their white (and in one case pink) polo shirts. They were travelling to familiar territory, as confirmed by the sign that greeted them at the Barons Hotel: "Welcome Great Britain Rifle Team and Toby".

British weather kicked off the shooting on Thursday and there was a bit of role reversal as, during the early stages of the 900 metres practice, GB chose to sit in the vans throughout a heavy downpour, watching the intrepid Australians test their wet weather gear to the full. The Aussies, with team shirts for every day of the week, were already looking like a well organised force. Practice was followed by the first individual shoot, the Ottawa Regiment, which was won at 800 metres, amid vicious angle changes, by Rupert Dix with the only 75 of the day.

The team's individual success continued on Friday, with David Calvert first winning the Gooderham with 100.12 at 500 yards and 900 metres, then the Army and Navy

Veterans, with 100.16 at 300 metres and 900 metres with his spare rifle! He showed the value of fast shooting in that those who completed the same 900 metres detail more slowly than he did for a 50.9 had to cope with additional 9+ minutes of wind changes, leading some of them to score in the 30s.

On Saturday, Toby Raincock was the highest placed GB team member at fifth (100.13) in the Tilton, while Paul Charlton made the tie shoot on 100.14. Toby continued well as the Grand Aggregate started with the Macdougall, tying for it with 100.13 before coming second to Emil Praslick III in the shoot-off.

Sunday was Pete Holden's day on the range: he won the Norm Beckett on 100.16, the Sunday Aggregate on 100.28 by five clear V bulls, and was in a six-way tie on 100.15 for the Col John Brick, in which Andy Luckman came second to former World Long Range Champion Darren Enslin. 300 points had now been contested in the Grand Aggregate and the only man clean was John Pugsley; Toby Raincock was third, on one off.

Monday brought calmer conditions and a straightforward Letson (Queen's I equivalent). The quality of the field at these championships was evident in an astonishing 77 scores of 105, including most of the GB team, along with 42 possibles in the Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres. David Luckman and Parag Patel tied for the Letson with Tom Whitaker (USA) on 105.18, while Gillian Webb-Enslin won the Tunis on 50.7. David edged Parag into second place in the sudden death part of the subsequent tie-shoot. David Luckman won the Jack Gorrie Aggregate on 155.25, while Toby now led the Grand on 454 ex 455, three V bulls ahead of reigning World Long Range Champion Sherri Hurd.

David Luckman and Jon Underwood tied with Mark Buchanan (Aus) for the President's, whose latter 600 yards details proved tricky and brought the cut-off for the Final down to a lower level than anticipated, albeit still high in absolute terms at 253.31. Fifteen GBRT members achieved that mark to make them the largest contingent in the Final, while Jon won the tie-shoot from David, with Buchanan third. David Luckman won the Governor Generals's Qualifier by three Vs from David Armstrong on 255.41.

Toby now led the Grand by a clear point and a V bull, still from Sherri Hurd, on two off (653.79). Wednesday brought yet another 50.10 from David Calvert, this time to win the three-range Gibson from David Luckman by a V bull.

The afternoon brought the Outlander – the first of the team matches. While all the team matches at the DCRA Meeting were, in effect, preparation for the all-important Palma, this was the only one that could truly be deemed a warm-up and we entered quite evenly matched teams, along Palma target team lines. GB ended up a close third, one point behind Australia and USA.



The team find some extremely interesting material on James Watson's laptop!



The Management - either picking a team or playing Sudoku.



As an Antenna Engineer you would think that Jeremy Langley would know where to stick his jack plug!



Nick Hinchliffe decides it's far more comfortable to coach from the buggy.



Anton receives the Teddy-Out-Of-The-Pram award.



"No of course we weren't trying to chat up Sherri!"



The moment Toby realised he'd won the Grand Aggregate . . .



. . . and a free dinner at the Chateau Laurier!

Evening brought the overseas teams' reception to which each country brought its own tippie to foist on the guests. The reception was followed by a very rare night out for the troops, taking advantage of the "rain/rescue day" scheduled for Thursday. As it turned out, Thursday was indeed a rainy day and the team did virtually nothing but rest.

The Gatineau on Friday morning, the final shoot in the Grand, was squadded according to Grand Aggregate position. By the time the leaders shot, the wind was running at some 9 to 11 minutes left, with leader Toby Raincock shooting on the furthest target to the right on the range – not ideal conditions in which to preserve a small lead, but at least (as a left-hander) he could see all of the upwind flags. If he was nervous, it didn't show, as he shot brilliantly to score 75.7 and win the Grand by three clear points from Sherri Hurd. David Luckman's 75.10 tied for the Gatineau. Toby also won the Polar Bear and Klondike Aggregates, while Ross McQuillan won the Gzowski

The early afternoon of Friday was spent in careful preparation for the Commonwealth Match. Moving out on to the range after a team briefing for a 13:30 start, the humidity and heat were even more oppressive, although the brisk breeze did help. Averaging out at 8 minutes at 800 metres, the wind was relatively steady and GB made a good start with only three points dropped for a score of 597 ex 600, four ahead of the USA and South African teams. GB shot briskly and were first off the range, just as the wind started to freshen and square up to nearly nine o'clock.

Back at 900 metres, the sun had started to come out, but there was still broken cloud which gave rise to occasional sight picture problems. Avoiding firing during the change in weather seemed to help the shooters maintain a good elevation. Ready to go on time, the Captain and Main Coach made the decision not to start for about ten minutes to see if the wind would settle. When a smoother patch of wind arrived, the first firers duly led off at a good pace. The wind went through a number of turbulent patches, which some teams elected to shoot through, but GB tried a strategy of waiting for smoother phases and then getting shots down in short order, which seemed to enable us to avoid the lower scoring shots that one or two other teams had. The final result mirrored the order after 900 yards, with GB four points ahead of the Americans and a further two points ahead

of the South Africans. The team also had some thirty one V bulls more than the USA, indicating the quality both of the ammunition that was prepared for us and of the firers' shooting.

At the end of a great day's shooting, the Captain, Vice-Captain, victuallers and Grand winner Toby Raincock all attended the MacDonald Stewart dinner in Ottawa, along with Toby's date and coach, Matt Ensor.

Saturday morning was overcast, yet humid. Great Britain had selected a different wind coaching team for the Canada Match to ensure range time for everyone and the set of firers chosen was a very strong one.

Great Britain started quite well at 300 yards, with only one point dropped out of 400. However, as we have experienced before, that was not enough to lead. Canada went clean with a score of 400, Australia were also on 399 and the USA on 397. South Africa suffered one or two misfortunes and were further adrift, while New Zealand hadn't turned up.

Apologies to those of you who may have been following the scores live as firers from each team finished if it seemed like there was an interruption to service - there was! Unfortunately, one of the opposing team captains complained to the range officer about GB "officials" sending scores by walkie-talkie to a colleague on the DCRA terrace who was uploading them to the website for all around the world to see. So the public service was suspended and had to be replaced by feverish text messaging at the end of each range.

At the end of an excellent 500 yards range in which Great Britain went clean, we found that Australia and the USA had done so as well, while Canada had dropped a single point to share the lead with GB and Australia.

If that should have led to tension at 600 yards, it didn't show in the Great Britain team. The wind had gradually been building and did not look particularly benign at 600 yards but, one by one, all eight shooters came off the mound with 50s. David Luckman scored his second 50.10 of the match to finish top on an amazing (considering how small the V bull is in Canada) 150.28, while James Watson scored his fifth 150 in as many Canada Matches. The USA only dropped one more point and overtook Canada, who lost four at 600 yards. But the mystery was whether Australia, the only team anywhere near our V bull count, had managed to match us on points as we went clean again. They hadn't. Two of their firers were

Commonwealth Match

1	Great Britain	1175.142
2	USA	1171.110
3	South Africa	1169.97
4	Australia	1166.105
5	New Zealand	1155.94
6	Canada	1145.96
7	Germany	1137.77
8	Channel Islands	1132.78
9	West Indies	1112.61
10	Kenya	1083.76

Canada Match

1	Great Britain	1199.183
2	USA	1196.143
3	Canada	1195.146
4	Australia	1191.178
5	Ireland	1188.129
6	Channel Islands	1185.146
7	South Africa	1185.133
8	Germany	1175.125
9	West Indies	1161.098
10	Kenya	1154.093

unfortunate to score 49.9, while another had cross-shot for a 45.7. In the end they finished fourth, while Ireland and the Channel Islands both managed to edge out South Africa. Final score for Great Britain: an outstanding record knock of 1199.183 out of 1200. USA were second on 1196 and Canada third on 1195.

The afternoon saw the Final of the Governor General's Prize with, surprisingly, five times as many Brits as Canadians involved. David Armstrong was the only Brit who went into the 900 metres range clean and he shot well there but suffered from a poor start, with four early shots dropped on the furthest right target – the most exposed to the long fetch of wind from the left. Nearby, Bruce Scott of Australia finished quickly and looked to have done very well, as did Toby Raincock further up the range. However, Toby was left to rue a shot over the top as two firers finished a point ahead of him, albeit on lower Vs, Hennie Jacobs of South Africa and the winner 60-year-old American dentist, Tom Whitaker.

Although Sunday was a rest day for the main Palma team, the GB Under 21, GB Under 25 and GB Veterans teams had their World Long Range Championship matches throughout the day and the team went out to support them all in the very exciting closing stages that afternoon.

And so to the Individual World Long Range Championship, starting on Monday 27 August. With only a single 700 metres shoot in the afternoon, the team had a lazy morning before heading out to the range for zeroing.

All three of the details at 700 metres in the first shoot experienced further interesting winds, with many shooters reporting needing left wind despite a right-hand prevailing mirage. For once, a conservative hand on the wind arm seemed to be the order of the day and Parag Patel made the highest of the 150s on the team with 13 shots in the 10 inch X ring; however Kent Reeve and Tom Whitaker, both of the US Palma Team, made perfect 150s with 15 Xs.

In the evening there was the official opening of the World Individual Long Range Championships and a(nother) meet 'n' greet ceremony. This time, following the speeches the teams' representatives presented their nations' flags and the Central Canadian Military Band marched onto the range and played for the assembled teams and dignitaries. There was also an exhibition of native Canadian dancing, including "jingle dress" and intricate hoop dances, with appropriate drum and chant accompaniment.

And so to Tuesday, and the first of the days on which we would shoot at all the long ranges: 800 metres first, 900 metres second and 700 metres last. It was also the first day on which we were re-introduced to the concept of high scoring being rather difficult, now that we were onto the Palma targets, and to the severe volatility in score that depends on an individual's squadding times. John Webster, Palma Match referee, excelled to lead after the first three ranges on 448 and prove to the competitors that he was a fully qualified official. On the 900 metres

detail after his it was a bit trickier and the range of scores seen was 110 to 143 . . .

On Wednesday, Squad B seemed from the scores to be having the best time of it, where Squad C had on the first day. That said, Parag's lunchtime lead in the World Championship disappeared in the afternoon, to the benefit of his partner, a Canadian cadet, and John Webster also tumbled down the list, leaving David Luckman to take the baton, finishing 150.13. Star of the day, though, was armourer Anton Aspin for his nine minute change through zero for consecutive Xs and a 150.

The lightning that ensued, as the storm came towards the range, only served to confirm the existence of "The Curse of Squad A". Squad A suffered the "Man's Detail" at 900 metres on Tuesday – the ones with scores, from competent firers, as low as 110. It then suffered a few more "Men's Details", as the scores of our recent Canadian Grand winner and a double Bisley Grand winner will both testify. And then it was Squad A that went out to shoot as the lightning was coming down and was told to go home after getting everything ready. That meant that Squad A would have to shoot 700 metres and 800 metres consecutively on Thursday morning, which some would find a tiring task. It also meant that, unlike the other squads, Squad A would have to shoot three times on Thursday (indeed three times before lunch).

Composition of the Final was a very exclusive affair with only ten firers involved. There were scoreboards behind the firers so it was possible to keep track of progress which was very exciting and David Luckman became our new Individual World Champion!

Final scores (score in Final, followed by Grand Total)

1	David Luckman (GB)	145.9	1479.96
2	Mike Collings (New Zealand)	147.5	1478.70
3	Noma Zinsmaster-Mayo (USA)	145.3	1476.61
4	Fazal Mohideen (Canada)	145.4	1472.71
5	Andrew Sims (Australia)	142.2	1470.61
6	Sherri Hurd (USA)	140.4	1469.74
7	Mirko Teglassi (Canada)	135.4	1468.69
8	Richard Jeens (GB)	140.2	1468.61
9	Johannes Bruwer (South Africa)	141.6	1467.72
10	Jan Jonck (South Africa)	139.4	1466.60

Well done David . . . but as he said himself, winning the Individual World Long Range Championship would still leave him disappointed if Great Britain failed to win the Palma Match.

The Palma Match

After a long pre-match process, Great Britain cracked on at 700 metres at a brisk pace in a slightly fickle left-handed wind, firing fast to great effect. Some fine shooting followed, with Parag Patel's 150.15 being worthy of particular note; however Davids Armstrong and Luckman were only a single X behind, with the latter's cooking bull first sighter having been converted. Finishing some 35 minutes before the allotted time, the team had managed a perfect 2400 with 189 shots in the



David Luckman - World Individual Long Range Champion.



The Chiring Off procession.



Champagne at DCRA Headquarters.



Three Champions - Sherri Hurd, David Luckman and Darren Enslin.



"There's loads of wear left in these shoes - I just need to find a pair in my size!"



We won!



We won!



We won!



We won! We won! We won!

ten inch X ring, which is the first time that any team had cleaned a range in the Palma Match. The South Africans were not far behind on two off, being chased by the Canadians a point behind.

Moving back to 800 metres, the wind became significantly trickier, with several waits required while it shifted through zero or entered an unsettled period. With an overall bracket of two left to just over four right, it was clearly important to pick when not to fire. At the end of the range, GB had dropped a total of 21 points to retain the lead, 14 points ahead of the Aussies and a further six points ahead of the South Africans.

All of the teams headed off the range for a rather tense lunch and team talks. Certainly our Main Coach and Team Captain took the opportunity to remind everyone, rightly, that none of the other teams was going to let the lead stand if they could do anything about it.

The wind at 900 metres was again a tricky fishtail from the front, with the flags and mirage disagreeing in many cases. This led to a number of prolonged periods of waiting for the wind to return to a more amenable value, and a number of shooters had to sacrifice scoring shots for the team to bring others back into the centre. After a couple of false starts with 8s and even a 7, smoother operation resumed, the team rattled their shots down and the range was brought to a close. Ross had sacrificed both of his sighters during the tricky period, before going on to score 150, unsighted, with his fifteen to count later on. His was the first of three 150s on our team and seven 150s on the range, after a week where nobody had succeeded in 1200 attempts in the individual shoots.

GB had extended their lead over their opponents and ended up thirty points up on the South African team, who had put in a strong showing at the final range. What was impressive was the way the team, although taking things seriously, seemed to be treating the day just like any other on the range – no fuss, just calm shooting and coaching in the manner to which they had been accustomed in their long period of training.

It had been a day of records: the first ever time that a range had even been shot clean, the first time (apparently) that one team has won all three ranges in a day, in addition to Jon Cload's remarkable perfect 450, the first ever fired in the Palma Match. Bring on Day 2 . . .

At 700 metres on Sunday, things went our way. The wind was light, from the right, with very readable mirage and the coaches had their firers get shots away quickly before it had a chance to change substantially. Great Britain finished with more than an hour remaining of the 100 minutes allowed, and as the team retired from the firing point, the flags suddenly picked up, indicating a few minutes of left wind. A good sight to see, with all the other teams still firing.

The team had set a record for the distance for the second time, scoring nine more Xs than the previous day to record another perfect 2400 out of 2400. Ross McQuillan and Parag Patel both excelled with 150.15. No other team went clean but the South Africans only lost one point,

the Australians two and, impressively, the Americans were beaten by the oft-underestimated European Long Range Champions, the Channel Islands.

By the time the team got out onto the range for the 800 metres shoot, the wind had changed substantially. We were now looking at 8 to 10 minutes left at the start of the shoot, with both angle and strength changing noticeably, if not always calculable.

There were steady periods where we fired as many shots as we could before halting and re-thinking, there were angle changes that did affect the wind needed and others that didn't. All in all, it was quite a stop-start range and a much trickier affair than at 700 metres or even the previous day, with an eventual wind spread of 10 left down to 5½ left towards the end of the shoot.

That told in the scores. Australia had finished well ahead of us and had dropped eight points fewer than our 34. South Africa only just finished within the time limit but still took a point off Great Britain, having been over by the left hand end of the range near the berm.

Andy Luckman shot brilliantly, and quickly, to record a 150.10, our only possible of the range. There were no scores below 146, so no disasters, but Great Britain had lost a range for the first time in the match. The 30 point insurance policy was still intact but we were bruised.

What you don't want to see at the start of the last range of the Palma Match, when you have a lead to preserve, is strong, squarish, changeable wind with angle flicks and no upwind flags with which to judge that angle. So that's what we were confronted with, to make it all an even more interesting challenge.

Great Britain waited for a good dozen minutes at the start of the range to see how difficult it was proving for the other teams, whether their initial estimates were upwind or downwind, etc and it looked like it was proving tricky for most. Scores of 8, 7 and even 6 were commonplace. So the decision was taken that we would gratefully convert 10, 9 sighters if presented with them – only once, as it turned out – and try and pick some steady patches in which to get as many shots down the range as possible without sacrificing too much by way of shot quality. We also hoped that being on the left hand end of the range, closer to the new berm, might favour Great Britain by way of limiting the difference in minutes between square and fine wind at our end of the range.

However, once we got going, that didn't prove to be the way it worked – far from it. And, unlike those further to our right who had all the DCRA-based national flags to use for angle, we had none, and our flag was taken down after it was required to be moved from its original position. There was a weather vane though, and we found ourselves having to make use of slightly downwind flags for angle – not ideal, but still something.

But everyone kept their concentration up. Caution reigned, for a while. And at the times that it seemed that we had an idea of a wind bracket that might pertain for a few minutes, firers were told to unleash and to get as many shots down the range as quickly as they could.

The three seasons' training told, and the firers let off a lot of very good shots very quickly. When one, two or sometimes three wide shots came up, there was a stop – sometimes short, sometimes not – followed by a pilot and, if all was well, another burst of fury.

Australia, who had shot quickly – a tactic that had enabled them to win the previous range – were already finishing while Great Britain's second firers were still on the point. That other teams were finishing, and appearing to have dealt well with the difficult conditions, was a concern, but it also meant that Great Britain had an idea of what, by way of scores, they needed to achieve. While the aim is always to score as highly as possible, it was clear that a mix of 10s and 9s would work, so containment to a 2 to 3 minute bracket (admittedly plus the occasional surprise) ought to be enough. Nick Hinchliffe was masterful in charge as Main Coach, while the energy between all the other coaches via the headsets, and the urgency of the whole team's actions, were quite something.

A measure of the difficulty of the final range was that the 103 points dropped by Great Britain at 900 metres were six more than they had lost at all the other five

ranges combined. South Africa won that last 900 metres range, by five points, making it the second range that Great Britain had conceded. Australia, with one point fewer and a very organised looking force, won the day, having taken ten points off Great Britain and five off South Africa.

But, to our great relief and joy, overall winners of the Palma Match (and World Long Range Rifle Champions) were Great Britain. Martin Townsend and his management team deserve great credit for the long, hard slog over two and a half years, that went into producing the desired result. Moreover, with the wind conditions having ranged from negligible at 700 metres on Sunday to nightmarish at several ranges, every member of the team had clearly made a strong contribution to an excellent result.

The Captain and his Team would like to thank all those who have supported and encouraged us over the last three years and for the help and advice in many areas. We would also like to thank Steven Thomas who assisted in the difficult task of raising finance and in particular the NRA Overseas Teams Fund.

The Palma Match

Final scores

		700	800	900	700	800	900	Total
1	Great Britain	2400.189	2379.105	2358.097	2400.198	2366.104	2297.073	14200.766
2	South Africa	2398.165	2361.113	2348.080	2399.177	2367.101	2302.073	14175.709
3	Australia	2396.162	2369.104	2334.096	2398.187	2374.116	2301.062	14172.727
4	USA	2393.177	2360.094	2340.087	2397.182	2351.105	2274.079	14115.724
5	Canada	2397.151	2337.089	2317.069	2397.168	2357.093	2250.059	14055.629
6	New Zealand	2394.142	2352.080	2301.080	2392.160	2365.103	2226.049	14030.614
7	Channel Islands	2387.123	2309.087	2251.057	2398.158	2314.088	2176.043	13835.556
8	Germany	2367.107	2259.052	2242.051	2376.102	2308.077	2139.028	13691.417
9	Kenya	2364.112	2249.052	2176.038	2369.116	2308.065	2126.034	13592.417
10	West Indies	2345.086	2220.054	2152.035	2357.093	2272.051	2121.036	13467.355

GB scorers

	700	800	900	700	800	900	Total
Jon Underwood	150.13	149.07	150.07	150.13	149.06	146.05	894.52
Ross McQuillan	150.12	149.08	150.11	150.15	146.05	147.06	892.57
Andy Luckman	150.11	146.05	148.05	150.13	150.10	148.08	892.52
Parag Patel	150.15	150.07	149.05	150.15	148.09	144.06	891.57
Jon Cloud	150.10	150.07	150.06	150.10	149.08	141.02	890.43
David Armstrong	150.14	150.09	148.09	150.13	149.08	142.06	889.59
David Luckman	150.14	150.08	149.07	150.13	149.07	141.08	889.53
Peter Holden	150.12	149.08	148.06	150.11	147.06	145.06	889.50
Toby Raincock	150.13	150.05	149.07	150.14	149.07	141.02	889.48
Nick Brasier	150.11	150.07	146.03	150.11	147.04	146.05	889.41
James Watson	150.11	150.04	143.04	150.14	149.06	145.06	887.45
David Calvert	150.10	145.08	148.04	150.15	146.08	146.05	885.50
Jane Messer	150.12	150.05	146.08	150.12	147.03	140.03	883.43
Richard Jeens	150.10	146.04	144.03	150.12	148.06	144.02	882.37
Rupert Dix	150.09	146.04	145.06	150.05	147.09	143.04	881.37
David Dyson	150.12	149.08	145.06	150.12	146.02	138.02	878.42

WORLD VETERANS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - CANADA 2007

by Mike Fugeman

Captain	Mick Barr
Vice-Captain	Andy Chown
Adjutant	John Saunders
Coaches	Robin Baker Dick Winney
Shooters	Michael Black George Cann Brian Cambray John Carmichael Colin Cheshire Peter Coley David Davies Garnett Faulkner Mike Fugeman Dick Horrocks David Hossack Carol Painting Keith Pugh Ken Willingale Mike Wood

Sunday 26 August and the day dawned fine and dry for the Great Britain Veterans Team to defend the world title previously won at Bisley in 2003. The match is similar to an Australia Match being teams of 10 shooting 2 and 10 to count at 300 and 600 yards and then at 800 and 900 metres. (Canadian ranges are military and do not have 900 and 1000 yards.) Teams were issued with the same ammunition - Hornady, as used successfully by us the preceding week during the Canadian Championships. Using electronic scales, Pete Coley and Ken Willingale quickly batched the rounds to ensure each team member

only used rounds weighing within one grain of each other to avoid flyers, whilst John Carmichael remained on hand for any last minute rifle emergencies.

Mick Barr then gave a brief "let's go and do it" address to his team and the match started. Such matches cannot be won at 300 yards, but they can be lost. However all rose magnificently to the occasion, brushing off any nerves to score 496.50 ex 500 with seven possibles. Not bad you may think, but the standard all the previous week had been very high and we only had a lead of one point over USA, South Africa and Canada; a little worryingly we were low on our V count in comparison. Australia had dropped 12 points for a 488.50.

Time for the 600 yards shoot and again a reasonably solid performance for a 491.45 total, but with South Africa posting a score of 494.56, we were down to second place by two points, with USA, Canada and Australia only seven, eight and seventeen points respectively behind us.

Lunchtime and the winds as ever started to show their now familiar signs of movement, both in strength and direction. The real challenge was about to begin with all teams still firmly in contention. Following experimentation in the previous week in three warm-up matches, (the Veterans Outlander, the Veterans Commonwealth and the Veterans Canada), Mick Barr and his coaches, (Robin Baker and Dick Winney), had opted to have a further main coach, David Davies, who would watch other targets and flags behind us for changes which might otherwise escape the notice of the wind coaches.

Back to 800 metres and the GB team shot slowly and deliberately, trying to avoid the sudden and not always



noticeable changes. The ploy didn't work and points just bled away, ending with a range total of 476.33. At this point our dreams of gold medals had been rudely shattered for we were now lying in third place, 12 points behind South Africa and five behind USA with Canada breathing down our necks only two points behind us. We were also down on all three of these teams on V count, so the possibility of no medals at all loomed high. Australia were also still in contention having narrowed the gap with us to 12 points.

Time for some inspired leadership from our Captain, Mick Barr. In the warm-up matches, it was apparent that the Americans favoured very fast shooting - in the Veterans Canada match they had finished their 300 metres shoot with the other teams only half way through and yet they only dropped one point. Mick gave the order "shoot as fast as possible when the wind steadies". It should be noted that the marking was very quick and hence such a tactic was possible. And so history was about to be made. Everyone shot immediately on the command "go on"; in my own case I was told "reload immediately and shoot as soon as the target appears, and I will stop you if necessary". We finished before the other teams having only dropped 32 points at 900 metres for a total of 1931.158, so we now had time to concentrate on what the other teams were doing. South Africa was alongside us and gradually we saw them lose points as the wind made sudden and not always noticeable changes. Canada too were struggling, so our dreams turned a silvery shade of bronze. But what about the USA shooting on the far side of the range from us and who having been posting good scores at 900 metres, had overtaken South Africa - surely they wouldn't let their lead slip. Uncharacteristically, they were shooting slowly and with only two men left to shoot (20 shots)

they had a lead of about ten points. We spotted a magpie on their target and joked, "gosh, we only need to see another four and we might win". Last man down for the USA and he needed a 42 to win the match. Whether it was divine intervention, bad wind calls or just nerves we will never know, but he scored 40 to give us a win by just two points.

A member of the GB Palma team, many of whom had come to the range on their day off to support us, came over from the USA targets with thumbs raised - we had won. Mick's expression was total bewilderment which gradually turned to relief and joy as his sole ambition for the whole trip had been achieved.

Postscript: The match had been recorded live on the internet with Iain Robertson and Peter Smith radioing scores back from the team score boards to Karen Robertson on the verandah of the offices typing into a wireless laptop and uploading scores to the NRA website. Now you might think that in such an important match, the Canadian officials would check all the score sheets which had been submitted and signed by the team captains. Not so. Unfortunately the match director took the results from the NRA website which showed South Africa ahead of USA (due to an error on the American score board), whereas the truth was the other way around. It also didn't help that the USA score sheet had been added up incorrectly as well. An hour and a half after the match, the medal ceremony began, with South Africa being awarded the silver medals. Next day, someone had the thankless task of going to the South Africa team, composed mainly of Afrikaans speaking burly Boer types, to say "please can I have your silver medal back and I will swap it for a bronze one"!

Veterans World Team Championship held at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa on 26 August 2007

1 Great Britain

Team Captain:	Mick Barr	Adjutant:	John Saunders
Main Coach:	Dave Davies	Coaches:	Dick Winney, Robin Baker
Reserves/Plotters:	Keith Pugh, David Hossack		

Shooters	300y	600y	800m	900m	Total
Brian Cambray	50.04	50.04	49.03	47.03	196.14
Carol Painting	50.03	49.03	48.04	49.02	196.12
Andy Chown	50.08	49.06	47.02	49.04	195.20
George Cann	49.06	49.05	48.03	48.06	194.20
Colin Cheshire	50.03	50.05	48.03	45.03	193.14
Garnett Faulkner	49.05	50.02	48.02	46.02	193.11
Michael Black	50.07	47.06	48.05	47.03	192.21
Mike Fugeman	50.05	48.05	46.03	48.05	192.18
Dick Horrocks	48.03	50.05	47.05	46.01	191.14
Mike Wood	50.06	49.04	47.03	43.01	189.14
Totals	496.50	491.45	476.33	468.30	1931.158

2	USA	495.54	485.38	488.44	461.29	1929.165
3	South Africa	495.48	494.56	486.38	453.22	1928.164
4	Canada	495.68	484.40	482.38	456.33	1917.179
5	Australia	488.50	482.35	481.33	461.16	1912.134

WORLD UNDER 25 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP – CANADA 2007

by James Lawrie and Ed Welford

<i>Captain</i>	Ed Jeens
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	Ed Welford
<i>Adjutant</i>	James Lawrie
<i>Shooters</i>	Samantha Adamson
	Dan Blake
	Jonny Borland
	Alex Hoyle
	Tom Hunter
	Jon Kent
	Phil Lucey
	Graham Nelson
	Rob Nelson
	Peter Seebohm
	Alexander Walker

The build up to the World Championships started back in 2005 when Ed Jeens was selected as Captain. The jockeying for places then ensued - shooters submitted their applications and bribes and a squad of twenty was drawn up. The final selection was made taking into account performance at a number of training weekends, Imperial Meeting placings and ability under team match conditions. Unfortunately, our treasurer, Richard Heathcote could not travel due to a shoulder operation, and Sam Adamson stepped in. The fourteen who made it out to Canada were already tightly knit but the shared sense of purpose strengthened us into a talented, professional, quick-witted and, above all, handsome team (for the most part anyway).

The first shooting we did at Connaught was the DCRA Meeting and there were reasonable results as people found their feet; many of the team had visited Connaught before but still needed a few shoots to re-acquaint themselves with the ranges' idiosyncrasies. With such an array of excellent international opponents assembled, competition was fierce. The DCRA Meeting went well, and of particular note was Peter Seebohm who performed consistently well and won the World Under 25 Individual Title – a fantastic achievement! Positive results in the warm-up team matches spurred us on for the World Under 25 Championships team match – the main reason for the tour.

The Captain was understandably wearing his stressed face on the morning of the match, having been up late weighing and measuring the ammunition. The rest of the team seemed in good spirits and were relatively confident but not complacent.

Ed gave a moving motivational speech (no doubt worthy of a BAFTA) which seemed to work as the team dropped only three points at 300 yards. Although Australia and America dropped only two, it was

important to remain within reach. After all, a match can only be lost at 300 yards, never won. This was an improvement on the DCRA Short Range U25 Match so it seemed that we were on form. With the wind picking up to blow choppily from the left we felt we could make up ground at 600 yards. Some great firing and cunning use of waiting by the coaches saw us only drop three while other teams fired through the changes with some interesting adventures into the inner as a result. Going into lunch we held a six point advantage over the USA Young Eagles and spirits were high.

Shooting at 800m and 900m after lunch was to be a challenge indeed. The wind had not become any stronger but was not settling into any one direction or strength for any length of time. Feeling that we would have to fire on both directions of wind, the coaching team combined long waits with 'ploughing on' to mixed results. Phil Lucey and Dan Blake battled with the worst of the wind, resulting in very disjointed shoots in changeable conditions. Graham's target was a firer behind after delays and a preference to pilot on Ed's target. As a result Jon Kent (Graham's last firer) was coached by Ed whilst Graham finished off with his third firer. Having coached four firers already, including Sandy Walker, who scored an admirable 50, Ed continued through a switching wind with Jon Kent. Jon's steady shooting resulted in a score of 50.8, a real confidence booster for the team going into 900m. America had made better use of the wind in the harder sections and pulled three points back from us, though the Captain felt it best not to pressure the firers with this information.

It was very close at 900m between the Brits and Americans, our scores following a pattern firer for firer as the conditions changed. GB suffered some heavy point losses as the coaches were foxed by the wind, though we got shots off quickly when we were happy and finished well before the Americans.



The Outlander Match.

Having dropped 24 points across the eight firers, Ed hung his head low as he left the point, certain that the other teams would have shot better scores than us. The Canadian and Australian teams finished in good time, but seemed to have suffered badly as well. They did however show good form with some excellent top scores (a 197 from Canada's Greg Perron and the top range score of 198.21 from Australia's Dean Smith). The Americans were still firing for some time after we had finished as the GB Palma team gathered to see the results.

With the last two American firers down (including Sherri Gallagher-Hurd, who had also been coaching the team in the match) the USA could afford just a point or two to take the match. No one was entirely certain of the results because team boards were constantly being corrected as scores were checked against registers – GB were pleased to find two extra points on their board when addition was checked. All eyes were on the USA board as the shots went down. The wind was still switching about but there were no other targets on the range for their coaches to refer to. Sadly for the USA team, they dropped too many points, and the GBU25 score of 1558.150 was good enough to beat their score of 1556.147. Australia and Canada had fallen behind with 1542.123 and 1537.116 respectively.

The result was a huge relief to the entire team, the culmination of two years' work towards the tour. Some of the younger GB Palma shots had competed for the match in 2003 and were pleased to see the title of World Champions retained by the U25s. Celebratory scones were provided courtesy of Mr and Mrs Nelson



The successful Great Britain Under 25 Team.

(who had kindly supported all of the team matches) and three cheers went up for all of our opponents as the results were announced by the loudspeaker.

The evening's celebrations were helped along by the Aussies, who invited us to their hotel for dinner, and with whom we had shared great camaraderie throughout the tour. We all had a great time and the Aussies were intrigued by our tuneful renditions of some 'Dewdrop classics'!

The World Long Range Individual Championships came next and provided challenging conditions to say the least. After all that shooting we headed to Algonquin Park to relax for a few days, whilst camping in its beautiful surroundings. We thoroughly enjoyed the tour and even though we had Sam with us, thankfully no one was eaten by bears!

Under 25 World Team Championship held at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa on 26 August 2007

1 Great Britain

Captain: Ed Jeens
 Adjutant: James Lawrie
 Coaches: Ed Jeens and Graham Nelson
 Plotters: Jonny Borland and Sam Adamson
 Reserve: Rob Nelson

Shooters	300y	600y	800m	900m	Total
Jon Kent	50.05	49.04	50.08	49.02	198.19
Peter Seebohm	50.05	50.04	50.03	48.02	198.14
Sandy Walker	50.04	49.05	50.06	48.05	197.20
Tom Hunter	50.09	49.04	49.05	47.05	195.23
Alex Hoyle	50.08	50.05	48.04	47.05	195.22
Ed Welford	48.05	50.06	49.03	46.01	193.15
Dan Blake	49.07	50.06	46.04	47.01	192.18
Phil Lucey	50.08	50.06	46.02	44.03	190.19
	397.51	397.40	388.35	376.24	1558.150

2	USA	398.48	391.39	391.39	376.21	1556.147
3	Australia	398.41	389.35	387.21	368.26	1542.123
4	Canada	396.46	386.32	377.22	378.16	1537.116

CHIEF TECHNICIAN JOHN PRICTOR

Talking with Tony de Launay



As I drove away from the outskirts of Horsham up to Bisley I dutifully moved over to allow a large seven tonne lorry, with headlights ablaze and blue lights flashing, some additional road room as it thundered towards me. The legend on the front said, somewhat prophetically, "Bomb Disposal Unit". When I mentioned this to John Pricor he simply asked whether it had the panels on the side displayed – apparently the difference between an active event or something else.

That was just one of the nuggets that fell from our discussion behind the firing point on a blustery and showery day during the RAFSAM meeting in July. Fortunately we were able to borrow the duty Toyota Hilux for our talk.

For a serviceman of some thirty years standing, and a few years this side of 50 years young, John is the epitome of the dependable. That he has spent most of his working life in a trade that would turn an insurance salesman grey is perhaps a testament to the precision and care required in his working life.

You read about them in the newspapers, all too much of late, but you would rather that someone else did

their job than yourself. So how on earth did he take up this profession – and, for that matter, collect thirteen RAF Queen's Medals for rifle shooting along the way?

"My father was in the Army. He started with National Service and was later in the Light Infantry where I managed to find myself up at the ranges and helping with various chores. That is where I learned about shooting. My father shot; my mother shot; and my sister shot. We went through .22 pistol, No 4 rifle, and various pistols graduating up to 7.62mm target rifle."

"I shot at Yeovil and up on the Mendips at Yoxter, being a Somerset lad, and learned about target rifle before I joined the RAF back in 1977. I wanted to be an armourer, and I trained as an Air Technician – Weapons".

In the RAF vernacular this is interpreted as dealing with any sort of weapon or munition carried or dropped and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. It is a role that has developed to include MACP – Military Aid to Civil Powers – involving all three of the Services in making the UK mainland safe from old explosive items. "One of the aspects of the job that makes it enjoyable, and gives us a sense of contribution, is the way in which we can simply instil confidence and a sense of order by being there at the crisis point", he says.

Service postings over the years included small arms at RAF Locking, Coltishall working on Jaguar aircraft and then Tornados at Honington in 1981. This led to the longest ever posting of any airman to Bruggen in Germany for nearly 13 years with Tornados on 9 Squadron. Kinloss followed, and then one of the most interesting of all to the Director of Air Staff on "special projects" at the MoD until 2002. "It is round about now that I am seeing the results of what we were doing back then". From that point he has been involved with explosive disposal at Cottesmore and now 5131(BD)Sqn.

He has spent much time training on live ordnance in the USA, cleaning up the duds in the desert after the bombers have been practising from Nellis Air Force base. He has been shot at in Iraq, although he only realised it when he found the bullet hole in the wagon later. "Full body armour, rifle and pistol make it hot work", is the understated description. It would also not be fair to omit the fact that he spent a period in the Falkland Islands in 1983/4 disposing of unexploded ordnance.

Back to the shooting: his first Service Bisley was in 1979 when he won the RAF Target Rifle Championship. "As an other-ranker (target rifle being renowned

as an event for Commissioned Officers at the time) this was a strange feeling. If anything it spurred me down the service rifle route. My first Queen's Medal was in 1984; there were 300 other RAF hopefuls and I never thought that I could do it". He did. And since then there have been 11 other successes – until, that is, Friday 6 July 2007.

All of which leads to the hilarious (to a civilian) issue of what to do with the ribbons on his uniform. By Royal Warrant, and much deliberation, the powers that be considered that ten medals were as many as anyone might ever achieve, so they decreed that a silver bar should be worn every time a competitor won the title to a total of "ten". The fact is that all medal ribbons must be worn the same length, so the uniform depth is insufficient in the right quarters! So what to do with 11 and 12? Apparently the MoD has just decreed again: we await the results with interest.

It may have been a tale that he told me, the gullible listener, but if it is true it was a stroke of gamesmanship genius to send an e-mail to his fellow competitors prior to this year's Queen's Medal events. The gist was "I'm here to enjoy my last contest – not necessarily to win".

It backfired to some extent because he found himself arguing the toss on two occasions over scores – a challenge to a score under-stated by ten points and another over interpretation of scribble on a marker's card. He would agree that however long you have been competing there are always rules that are not entirely clear, from which everyone, including the rule makers, can learn.

The Final this year looked to be a foregone conclusion, that Sqn Ldr Lawson Smith was set for his fourth victory thanks to a four point leading margin. The separate practices making up the Final varied the margin, but always in Smith's favour with John four down, then six, then two, then four until Prictor's



The very happy Prictor family.

(Photos: Tony de Launay)

only hope lay with the final ten shot snap. He had to recover five points for an outright win, not something that was likely in a 50 point shoot.

Smith was on the extreme left, target 49: Prictor on the extreme right, target 58. Ten rounds on one figure target rattled down the Century range. Scores were called back on the radio, each firer having to listen to their crackling tinny fate. The range officer's face said it all: Smith one bull (five) and nine inners (four points), and Prictor six bulls and four inners!

Forget the studied concerns and superstitions over a thirteenth win, he really wanted it by the smile of relief and the family hug and huddle with wife Sue and younger daughter Kathryn. Can he make it fourteen? That is in the hands of the MoD gods. He is due to retire in May 2008 and is waiting on news of whether a one year extension will be granted.

It is unlikely that this record will be challenged for some considerable time – if ever. All we have to worry about now is that he turns to target rifle in his dotage and starts to clean up there. He would be a very welcome addition.



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BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA (THE ATHELINGS) – 2007

by Frank Harriss

Commandant

Maj FO Harriss (GM) Malvern College CCF

Adjutant

Maj SE Lawrence Malvern College CCF

Armourer

WO1 (SSI) JT Jones Sedburgh School CCF

Cadets

CWO HC Ball Epsom College CCF
CSgt HC Born Sedburgh School CCF
Cox'n NJ Branch Elizabeth College CCF
FSgt GW Corfield 2236 (Stanmore) Sqn ATC
WO2 SA Creedy Yorkshire (N&W) ACF
Cox'n AW Davies Oratory School CCF
Sgt HA Day Cambridge ACF
Sgt EC Dickson Marlborough College CCF
WO2 BR Ebbetts Wellington College CCF
FSgt JP Fitzsimons 2390 (Belfast RA) Sqn ATC
Sgt SG Hunter Tonbridge School CCF
SUO HCG Ives Uppingham School CCF
Sgt AC Lean Dollar Academy CCF
Sgt RB Morgan Dollar Academy CCF
Sgt DE Nuthall Epsom College CCF
WO1 TEW Ward Wellington College CCF
Cox'n RJ Waters Elizabeth College CCF
Sgt TP Wharram Epsom College CCF

Non-travelling Reserves

Sgt BG Bailey Cheltenham College CCF
LCdt G Wigmore Bristol Adventure SCC

This August I was privileged to take the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings) to Canada. They were very pleasant company, behaved well and shot well. In all this, I was helped tremendously by Sarah Lawrence from Malvern and John Jones from Sedbergh.

We started with a tour taking in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Niagara. The main theme of this seemed

to be water. From violent thunderstorms in Montreal (reminiscent of "that Friday" at Bisley) to the massive grandeur of Niagara Falls, taking in also white water rafting and jet boating. Someone had told the Commandant that white water rafting was reasonably safe and he had just begun to even enjoy it when the raft flipped and tipped him into the water. Coming up under the boat he wondered if his last hour had come, however, he was soon unceremoniously hauled in and lay there coughing and spluttering. In the jet boat it was the Athelings in the front who got the almost continuous drenching in spray as we went down the rapids on the Ottawa River. Then there was the log flume in the theme park 'Wonderland', together with many other scary rides! Other more gentle moments included an ascent of the CN Tower in Toronto, a Canadian football match and several shopping trips.

Thus prepared for shooting we returned to Connaught. Our first appearance was in the Cadet Meeting, shooting with the Canadian Cadet C12 rifle (RPA Quadlock). We were pleased to gain the first six places in the Cadet Aggregate and also ninth and tenth. The winner was Tom Wharram (Epsom) on 292.27, closely followed by Alanna Lean (Dollar) with 292.21, Rob Waters (Elizabeth) 290.28 and Alex Davies (Oratory) 290.24.

We went into the second stage of the Rex Goddard with seventeen points in hand from Bisley but managed to win the second stage and increase our lead to thirty seven points. The top scorer over both stages was Scott Creedy (Durham ACF) 136.14, while the top scorer in Stage 2 was David Nuthall (Epsom) with 70.6. At the Prizegiving we enjoyed chairing Tom Wharram around the building – he looked most apprehensive much of the time but he was not dropped!

After the prizegiving we had a rush to prepare our private rifles for the Ottawa Regiment match, the first warm-up match of the DCRA Meeting. We made it, and scores were reasonable, even though sights had been refitted and we had had no practice since the end of the



The team being presented with the Rex Goddard trophy.



Chairing Tom.

Imperial Meeting. Scoring was good throughout the DCRA Meeting, though individuals came and went. Of particular mention are two-range possibles from Henry Ives (Uppingham) in the Norman Beckett and Harry Ball (Epsom) in the John Brick, with a stunning 105 from Hannah Born (Sedbergh) in the Letson. The presence of all the Palma teams made it unlikely that any team members would get through to the Governor General's Final and this proved to be the case, since 253 out of 255 was required. There was some steady shooting, though, and ten out of eighteen Athelings won bronze medallions in the Sharpshooter class of the Macdonald Stewart. Top of these was Henry Day (Cambridge ACF) who is to be warmly congratulated on coming 149th overall and winning the Strachan Cup for the top Sharpshooter

Our next match was the Michael Faraday, a Queen's I shoot against the Canadian cadets. Neither side shot particularly well at 300 yards and, at the end of the first range, we were one point adrift. We managed to gird up our loins at 500 and only drop eight points between the twelve, only to discover that the Canadians had dropped four – a wonderful shoot. By now the wind had died completely and the agonised Commandant watched the targets of both teams at 600 for the occasional inner. Neither side gave ground and we dropped nine points to their eight. A loss, then, against the team we had beaten in the Rex Goddard – they had certainly “upped their game”. Needless to say they smashed the previous record of 1229 with their 1238. Our high scorers all made 104: Harry Ball, Henry Day, Gareth Corfield (Middlesex ATC), Jonny Fitzsimons (Belfast ATC) and Tom Ward (Wellington), with Harry just winning out on 14 Vs!

This year, we had been asked by the NRA to form the Great Britain Under 21 team in the DCRA matches and the World Championship, which was a great honour, and a challenge as the whole team were under 19. The DCRA also ran Under 21 matches for teams of eight alongside the usual Under 25 matches at the same time as the Commonwealth and Canada matches. In the first of these, the Long Range, we met the American Young Eagles for the first time. For some reason the Canadians did not have a team, so it was a straight fight. They began uncompromisingly with two possibles at 800 metres but a few slight cracks did show later; we finished just three points down. We were just about level halfway through 900 metres, but we ended up eleven down against this strong team. There were two scores of 96, Ed Dickson (Marlborough) and Tom Ward, Tom getting the higher V count of 11.

The next morning we went out against the Young Eagles again at short range, full of rugged determination and this time we did it! The Commandant's subtle coaching advice, based on all his years of experience, was “don't get inners” and the team responded. Again there was no Canadian team but we took two points, four points and eleven points off the Americans at 300, 500 and 600 respectively, handloads against RG notwithstanding. Tom Ward was top with a fine 150.18, then Harry Ball with 149.15, three 148s, a 147, a 146 and a 144. We



The Athelings after the Under 21 Match.

discovered later that we had beaten the Canadians' and the Australians' scores in the Under 25 match and only conceded four points (for reasons of tact and diplomacy) to the GB Under 25s.

Into the World Championship we went, then, with at least the possibility of success. At last we had a Canadian Under 21 team as competitors well as the Americans. A shaky start at 300 yards left us three points behind the Canadians and six behind the Young Eagles (on teams of six). However, the wheels really came off at 600 yards when we had three poor scores in the second half of the shoot. This put us another 13 points down on the Americans and 11 down on the Canadians. We rallied after lunch at 800 metres, picking up nine points on the Canadians, though the Americans were still steaming away. However 900 metres was again tricky and we ended up thirty down on the Americans and eight down on the Canadians. Still there were medals for coming third and we were third in the world! High scorers were Henry Day with 194 and Scott Creedy with 191.

Henry (and his coach Alex Davies, a nice touch) received commemorative plates from the Young Eagles at the prizegiving. Also the Athelings benefited from the Commandant's love of reading his “Bible” at bedtime. They won all but one of the World Championship Under 21 individual medals shot concurrently with the Grand. Apparently certain others had not realised that a separate entry had to be made for this competition! We were also delighted to be able to cheer the Veterans team and the Under 25 team for winning their competitions.

After a couple of days R&R we left Connaught, leaving behind two Athelings who became part of the Channel Islands squad. Quietly back in England, following it all on the Internet and cheering on Martin Townsend's team, I was delighted to see that both had made the Channel Islands team and that Nick Branch (Elizabeth College) had come out with top score, very much to his credit!

A great group and a great tour with some matches won and some lost – but the memory of beating the Young Eagles, soon to become Under 21 World Champions, with a dream shoot will stay with me for a long time.

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Great Britain Historical Rifle Team – South Africa April 2006

Captain – Mark Hodgins

In April 2006 a team of eight travelled to South Africa to take part in the World Long Range Historical Rifle Championships at the Good Hope Military Range, thirty miles north of Cape Town. A full account of the tour is given in this issue of the Journal on pages 61 to 62.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Air Fares	7,486	OTF Grant	3,500
Accommodation	2,280	NRA Training Grant	963
Vehicle Hire & Fuel	1,356	Donations & Fundraising	870
Entry Fees	2,256		
Training	1,051	Team Members' Contributions	14,175
Ammunition for Tour	880		
Air Freight	1,438		
Team Uniform	553		
Subsistence	1,241		
Travel Insurance	720		
Team Protocol: Gifts	120		
Administration	127		
Total Expenditure	19,508	Total Income	19,508

NRA Target Rifle Team, Channel Islands, May 2007

Captain – Gary Alexander

A full account of the tour is given in this issue of the Journal on pages 32 to 35. The team of 14 shot against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges, and in spite of the weather curtailing the individual competitions on both islands won their team matches. Due to the success of their fund raising efforts the team generously returned their grant from the OTF through donations to the Palma team, GB U19 team and to the OTF itself.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Training Days	1,837	Team Member Contributions	1,402
Travel & Accommodation	6,925	NRA Training Grant	0
Kit & Uniforms	1,683	Donation (<i>GBRT 06 for young shooters</i>)	250
Gifts	591	OTF Grant	2,600
Tour Shooting Costs	1,860	Team Corporate Days & Fund Raising	12,932
Reception	100	Donations & Sponsorship	3,036
Team Events & Dinners	4,823	Team Brochure	950
Donation to GB Palma Team Funds	1,000		
Donation to GBU19 Team to South Africa	500		
Donations to OTF	1,750		
Reserve	101		
Total Income	21,170	Total Expenditure	21,170

Note: Total expenditure paid to NSC for Targets, Markers, Corporate Days & Gifts was £3,553.70

Note: Reserve held against any unexpected liabilities - any remainder will be paid to OTF.

LETTERS

Handloading

from Maurice Ayling

Glynn Alger's item in the Summer edition evoked some discussion of the subject of handloading in the subsequent Umbrella Tent meeting. I was tempted to participate, but could not muster my thoughts in time.

My father gave me an air gun for my tenth Christmas in 1935 together with safety lessons. He gave me my first lessons in the potential hazards of handloading when he taught me the use of a single barrelled, muzzle loading, 12 bore shotgun two years later. In 1940, I embarked on a 32 year Fleet Air Arm armament engineering career in which, with increasing degrees of responsibility, I dealt with every explosive device fired, or dropped, from FAA aeroplanes ranging from Gladiators, Walrus, and Swordfish, to Sea Vixens, Buccaneers, and Phantoms, including nuclear, with personal and ground defence weapons and ejection seats chucked in for good measure. I learned my profession, practised it, was engaged in the further development of it, taught it to others, and examined others in their competence to engage in it. As a civilian, I was deeply involved in the development and trials of underwater guided weapons, again with increasing degrees of responsibility, and the procedures I wrote for the allocation to use, storage, transportation, repair, and modification of every item on the drawing lists, some of which included explosive, or similarly hazardous, elements, were accepted by my company, the Ministry of Defence, and the United States Dept of Defense. Since 1946, I have participated in competitions with a variety of rifled weapons, both Service and civilian.

With that 72 years of experience to guide me, I strongly disapprove of the use of any explosive device which has not been subjected to an accredited inspection procedure, defined by Quality Assurance and implemented by Quality Control.

There is obviously some merit in eliminating the discrepancies in performance of ammunition arising from the permitted tolerances in mass production provided that it is within the approved specification of the ammunition type. However, as Glynn has intimated, there are those who, either deliberately, or unwittingly, intrude into the safety margin ensured by the proof testing of weapons, which is both irresponsible and dangerous. As there is, as yet, no independent inspection for handloaded ammunition, the culprits are not identifiable with the unfortunate, but inevitable, tarring of all handloaders with the same brush.

During my Service career, enemy action apart, I had to deal with many 'dodgy' explosives events, from failed armament returning to the deck, to fossicking about for it in holes in the ground in which it had been deposited by unpremeditated and violent landings, from which I emerged unscathed. I therefore view with extreme displeasure, the prospect of being clobbered on a

competition firing point by the bits of a disintegrating weapon in the hands of a cowboy handloader, incidents of which have been previously identified by Glynn.

There would therefore appear to be a case for the introduction of a form of independent inspection of handloaded ammunition before its users are let loose among the remainder of us.

The opening remark of my first lesson in my armament training was "Explosives are safe until they are abused", and I have never forgotten it. The fact that some of the abuse in handloading is from well intentioned ignorance, makes that remark the more potent.

The foregoing may upset some, but I am sticking with it with pachydermic characteristics.

Bellies on The Gravel

from John Gardener

Having escaped from my years of exile in Stickle-down Butts I have had time to observe the view from the firing point. Is it me, or does TR shooting seem to be declining? I remember when the Easter Meeting filled the ranges. Nowadays on a 'normal' weekend TR matches seem few and far between.

Given that there are more non-TR shooters, more .303" number four and SMLE, Mosin Nagants and the like surely we should be concentrating more on these shooters and their needs? The NRA and NSC have started to organise Service Rifle events and entries for these are increasing. We have also begun to run less serious, close range 'Service' competitions, which I hope will do the same. F Class competitors are on the increase although it has to be said that you need a fairly deep pocket and some pretty expensive kit to compete at the top level. In the London and Middlesex bar one evening (where else?) during some heavy discussion about calibres and ballistics, to bring the conversation down to my level I suggested black powder F Class. I have recently bought a Sharps 45/70; which deserves to be stoked by the black stuff. At the Shot Show in Orlando in January, I managed to pick up a William Malcolm 6 powered scope, which really makes it look the business.

I won't tell you what Mik Maksimovic called me, but a few days later I thought, why not? So, is anyone out there interested in black powder F Class, and while we're at it, what about some long range black powder silhouette shooting? Please get in touch, you can write or e-mail me at the Range Office and I shall be pleased to hear from you.

I have no intention of encroaching on any other disciplines, courses of fire and perish the thought that I be hijacking another club's courses of fire.

There must be at least a dozen more unusual "perhaps but why not?" ideas out there. Start your own new discipline, and, if it's safe and it works why not do it?

After all, we don't want the shooting sports to decline, and, gun rhymes with fun, and that's why we shoot.

Keeping the Ranges Clean

from Paul Yeomans

I came up from Cornwall to shoot at Bisley on 16 June for the Inter-Counties weekend. On arrival at Stickle-down Range on the Saturday afternoon, I was rather saddened to see vast quantities of empty beer cans, bottles and litter strewn around behind the 1000 yards firing point. This was duly collected by several of us shooters. Wouldn't it be nice if all shooters using the ranges could have a bag in the back of their car and just pick up any litter lying around after they have finished their shoot.

We must thank all those who help to keep the ranges looking good but I am sure that any help we can give them would be much appreciated.

The Rangoon Shield

from Hazel Mackintosh

The Ulster Rifle Association are looking for help in tracing a trophy which disappeared some years ago.

It is a very large trophy called the Rangoon Shield. Unfortunately, those directly involved with organising the competition at that time are either no longer with us or not in a position to help.

In the early 1990s, teams from Scotland and Wales were regular visitors to the Irish Open Championship, held at Ballykinler at the end of May each year. As far as it is remembered, one year, in the early 1990s, the Rangoon Shield was won by a visiting team, was taken home with them and not returned. Does anyone out there remember anything about it? It may be sitting in a club store room, hanging on a wall or even hiding in a roof space.

Could readers please have a look around and see if they can find out anything about it.

Camp Regulations

from Carol Painting

It appears that few people know the camp regulations regarding dogs, generators, and so on. If I mention, for example, that a dog should be on a lead or that a generator should only be used during shooting hours, I usually get a "didn't know" response.

Anyone booking temporary accommodation should be given a copy of the regulations. Those with annual lets or longer leases should be sent a copy with renewal information. All camp users should be **required** to observe the regulations, which at present are not enforced.

For Open Days we need much more publicity of the rules, particularly about dogs being on leads, because we cannot expect the visitors to know. A large notice by the gate, near the camp map might help.

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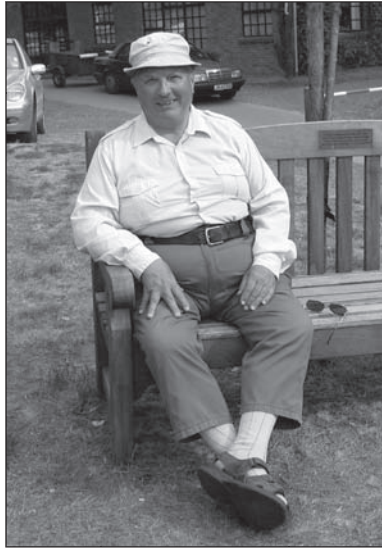
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OBITUARIES

Alan Bishop

Alan was an Essex man - and proud of it - and spent all his shooting life shooting for and coaching Essex. He first came to Bisley as a teenager in the early 1960s, his mentor being Ted Hayes (SM) who later emigrated to New Zealand, and who introduced him to the London & Middlesex. At his first Bisley Meeting, Alan was billeted with an old



farmer called Nigel Bullock who introduced him to the City RC; Nigel and Alan made an incongruous pair, one gnarled old boy, in his 60s and one cherubic-faced young boy, but the arrangement suited them, with Nigel cooking Alan's breakfast each morning on a stove outside the hut; this arrangement continuing until Nigel retired from shooting at the end of the .303" era. Alan developed into a keen and supportive member of the City RC and quickly became a Council Member. He also became an Adjutant to Keith Pilcher whom he had met in the City Armoury introducing himself as Corporal Alan Bishop (ATC) - forever after to some, he was always known as the Young Corporal!

Having joined the NLRC, Alan then decided to have a cubicle at this Club and was, from that point on, to enjoy and indulge with a group of friends in many a long, loud and bibulous dinner at the Club. Again, he soon became a supportive club member and served on the Committee for many years, remaining so until his death.

He was also a member of the British Commonwealth Club; he was a member of the 1975, 1979 and 1986 Great Britain teams to Canada and also toured on teams to Australia, South Africa and the Channel Islands. With respect to the Channel Islands, Alan and his friends spent many a Jersey Open Meeting together.

Alan enjoyed all aspects of shooting, representing England in the National as reserve in 1967 and shooting in 1969 and 1974. He was in the top 25 of the St George's in 1971 and 80, the top 50 in the Grand in 1974 and 77 and in the Queen's Final in 1984. However, his finest achievements were in match rifle where, in his words, "to cock a snook" at the aristocrats and senior officers who, at that time, he felt made up the ranks of match rifle, he entered as Corporal Bishop

(late ATC)! Under this title he won the Albert in 1971, being second in the Hopton, and shooting in the Elcho. He shot in the Elcho again in 1972 having been twelfth in the Hopton and all this with his target rifle. What would he have done with the said match rifle!

In his professional life he started as a draughtsman but, as a free spirit, he did not find this fulfilling; he then flirted with becoming a farmer but during this time met an elderly lady who interested him in graphology. These were heady days and it took great courage to set up a business and strive out on his own but he was soon successful and gave advice not only to employers, but later on to courts all over the UK in the form of an Expert Witness, for which he became very highly regarded. His business allowed him to be with his "mistress" at weekends, ie Bisley! As for many of us, it became his second home and indeed his second family. Alan was a dear friend of ours although we only knew him for approximately 30 years. We met in the North London Rifle Club and built up a friendship based on understanding and respect not only for our hobby but also of our self-employed and independent status together with our love of good food and wine. It was in this latter respect that Alan would join us at our home each new year for a gourmet weekend; we are not sure which of us would enjoy it most but we are sure that we all felt a lot richer for the experience and our home felt empty after he had left. It was clear from the outset of our friendship that he was a bon viveur and that, as a result, we were very well matched! He was a great stalwart to shooting, loyal to his clubs, loyal to his friends and just a lovely, cheery, funny and fair man to have around. He was rich in friends and was one of the characters of Bisley.

In writing this obituary, we must acknowledge the information given by Keith Pilcher who was a long-time shooting friend.

We send our deepest condolences to his family but please be assured that Alan touched the lives of many at Bisley and he will be remembered always.

Martin and Pearl Townsend

William J Floyd

Bill Floyd died in September at the age of 68. A cheerful cheeky cockney cabbie, who could be found by his cab on the range or was often to be found in the bar of the City Rifle Club.

Bill was a life member of the NRA, the founder and for many years the Secretary of the Parthians Fullbore Rifle Club. Although he started as a small-bore shooter, Bill graduated to target rifle and represented Wales in the National Match six times and in the Mackinnon three times between 1981 and 1988. He

shot in the 1984 National Team when Wales had the unusual distinction of coming in second place. He represented Wales in the Mini-Games in Scotland but the weekend was one of the wettest on record and he vowed never to return to Scotland. He was an excellent coach and many prominent shots, including some of our top ladies, passed up through the ranks of the Parthians Rifle Club in the Surrey and Middlesex League teams.

On the death of George Swenson, Bill inherited the remaining bits and the rights to Swing rifles and during this period the final Swing rifles were produced engraved with the signature of George Swenson. These rare collectables are probably Bill's most durable legacy. Sadly this period did not last long and the rights passed out of his hands and by this time the Paramount and then RPA rifles replaced the old Swings.

Bill never got over the long term decline and early death of his partner Jean Wells who gave him so much encouragement during his best years of shooting in the early 80s.

As Secretary of the Parthians he was a thorn in the side of the NRA and often sent severe and even abusive letters, which may well have helped us towards the new and efficient management we now enjoy.

Crawford Alexander

Mick Ambrose

Rifle shooting lost a great friend and administrator with the death of Ronald (Mick) Ambrose who died suddenly in July.

Mick was first introduced to shooting whilst doing his National Service in the Royal Artillery where he rose to the rank of Sergeant - no mean achievement for a National Service man. His first club was the Foresters but in 1954 he joined Watford Old Comrades Association Club, which shot both fullbore and small-bore. At this stage Mick favoured fullbore and as Bisley was the club's home range he quickly became bitten by the shooting bug. He entered the Imperial Meeting in 1959 and always looked forward to his trips to Bisley, but he will be remembered for his contribution to the administration of the sport as much as for his shooting ability. He served on the Watford OCA Club committee from 1959 until he moved to Northamptonshire in 1974. He was club captain and official scorer at many open events. Starting in 1965,



he was a leading light in the project to create a new club 50 yards range.

After his move to Northamptonshire Mick continued his shooting with the county fullbore club who used the Brington range, winning several cups at their annual events. After the range closed, largely as a result of the Hungerford tragedy, he concentrated on the small-bore side joining both Nene Valley and Harrowden Rifle Clubs. Shortly after this he also introduced his son Ronnie to the sport. Once again his administrative skills were put to good use and he served on both club committees in various capacities as well as the County Association, where right up to the time of his death he was President and one of the trustees.

He will probably be best remembered for his small-bore scoring skills. He was extremely accurate and always carried a measure giving the displacement at 50 metres and 100 yards for cross shots at the particular range where he was scoring. For many years from the 1980s to the current century he was one of the backroom boys at the NSRA small-bore meetings. This was no mean task, as at peak periods a scorer had to deal with in excess of 10,000 shot holes a day! He was just as active at the Sywell open meetings and Pershing trials where competitors always thought twice before challenging a score as he was seldom wrong.

Our sympathies are extended to his family. He will be sadly missed.

Chris Boucher

Kevin Taylor

Kevin died suddenly in the early hours of Sunday 13 May 2007 aged 46 years. He had been shooting at the British Open Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships held at Doveridge the day before, and registered a very respectable score of 83 ex 100.

Kevin from an early age was a talented shot with rifle and shotgun. He represented his county of Hampshire in clay pigeon shooting and was respected by many of his fellow sportsmen, not only in competition but also in the field. Kevin was a true sportsman and was a member of the BASC, CPSA, NRA and several clay pigeon shooting clubs. He will be a great loss to our sport.

Outside shooting Kevin was a keen angler and he ran his own company Capital Lift Trucks Ltd.

He leaves behind his fiancée Jane, his sons Russell, Charlie and Jack, along with his parents Bernard and Madeline and his brothers Gary and Keith.

The funeral was held on 20 May at St Mary's Church, Upton Grey, Hampshire. If anyone wishes to make a donation we would appreciate this being made to the RNLI. Thank you.

Jane Hughes

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