



National Rifle Association Journal

Summer 2008

Volume LXXXVII

Number 2



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Cover photo: Mel Beard shooting long barrelled revolver on the barricade at Butt Zero. Photo by Steve Foskett.

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
Glynn
Alger

Muzzle Energy – A Reason to Join the NRA

After much hard work we have eventually reached agreement with the MoD about the new conditions for civilians to continue using military ranges. The Association appreciates that to many of you this is yet another inconvenience that you as a lawful shooter has to put up with. However, the priority for the NRA was to reach a workable agreement that ensured everyone could continue to shoot as now.

To enable this to happen, the Association has had to agree to take on additional work on behalf of you all. The Probationary Training Manual and Course, which was completely rewritten last year, has been recognised by the MoD as the standard for all probationary courses. The NRA has also produced training material to enable courses to be delivered by clubs ensuring new shooters can comply with the new requirements as from 1 July 2008. In the future there will be courses provided by the NRA to train the trainers and assess shooters for certification.

Membership Services have had to take on new staff to administer the certification process, ensuring we can assess the needs of each club and ensure they are issued with their new certification cards in time for 1 January 2009 and every year thereafter.

The work with the MoD and the follow-up requirements have cost the NRA a considerable amount of money in existing staff time, employment of new staff, improved IT and administration. In the first year this amounts to a substantial cost in the tens of thousands of pounds. The Association has chosen not to pass this cost onto those shooting on MoD ranges at this stage. The only additional cost the clubs will have to cover at this point in time will be for the training packs (£10) and manuals (£5) which are being supplied at a low price in support of clubs to help them get through the introductory period.

The National Rifle Association has worked hard to keep everyone shooting and to minimise the impact

of the new requirements where it can. Let there be no misunderstanding - without all this work shooting as we know it would not be taking place on MoD ranges and many of you would have to give up your sport or change it radically.

Over the past few years the NRA has demonstrated repeatedly that it is a different organisation from the one many of you learnt to dislike. The Association seeks to represent a broad church of shooters by driving a modernisation agenda for the whole sport. In our negotiations with the MoD we were not representing the interests of Target Rifle, we were standing up for all civilian shooters who use military ranges. The National Rifle Association has given you every reason to be a full member because we have protected your sport in the most fundamental way possible. Join the NRA today because you have good reason to!

National Standards

The sport of target shooting has an enviable reputation for safety over the years. This has occurred not by luck but by design. However, whenever anyone mutters about introducing national standards of training there is great uproar on the basis that this is some attack on the current standards. Far from it, the introduction of national standards recognises our heritage by formalising what is good about the sport.

By introducing national standards we gain a number of advantages. At present if one wishes to enter the sport one is surrounded by complexity. If there is only one national standard training course this makes the new shooter's life and the clubs much simpler. The current NRA course is modular: someone new to the sport is initially taught about safe firearms handling, then they can select to focus upon their chosen discipline with modules written specific to their needs. In this way we can make it much easier for the new shooter to get into the sport.

By ensuring everyone is trained and assessed to a given competency and safety standard we are taking control of the sport in a way that will achieve recognition from Government and the authorities. We can be seen as the reasonable face of the sport, to be trusted and be consulted routinely.

An ambition that has come to the fore recently voiced by those taking part in the NATSS survey is that the National Bodies involve themselves in education. At the same time the Government is promoting the introduction of cadet units to schools, while others have supported the introduction of shooting into schools as a sporting activity. If we can deliver an accredited course for shooting that forms part of a national standard, there is a chance that air rifle and pistol shooting could be introduced into schools as a sport and as a crime prevention initiative. If shooting achieved this we would become part of the solution not part of the problem.

At a more basic level, anyone who enters shooting from 1 July 2008 and wishes to shoot on a MoD range at any time in the future will have had to have taken the NRA Probationary Course or a course approved by the NRA. Even if a club does not shoot on a MoD range individual members may well want to do so in the future. For simplicity and in the interest of all new shooters I recommend you all start to introduce the NRA Probationary Course.

A Single Portal

During the past two years I have been involved with the NATSS steering group. The recent online survey and regional forums have all indicated that there is an overwhelming will to see shooting evolve into a single national body representing all target shooting in the UK.

This would effectively join up the sport not just in a political and management context but at a practical level. As I have expressed many times before the artificial barriers to joining shooting are ones created in my view by the sport itself. How confusing it must be for someone who wants to start shooting. Where do you start? Do you talk to a National Body or a club? What do you want to shoot? How do you get into the sport?

We all know in reality that there are more similarities than differences in the various elements of our sport. In rifle shooting the natural route for most is air - .22 - fullbore. With a single national body we have a chance to create a situation where by joining one body you can try it all and make a decision to specialise or take part in the sport in the widest context.

If NATSS does the right thing it could make life very simple for the new shooters by offering a single portal approach to the sport. When you open the door to shooting you should be informed what is available, how you can access it and what the national training requirements are. We can take away the mystery of the sport and make it easy to access.

Imagine? Welcome, you have entered the world of target shooting. We can help you learn to shoot shotgun, rifles or pistols in their various forms. You can learn these skills by joining this organisation. We will provide you with national training delivered either at a centre of excellence or at your local shooting club. When you pass your initial course we will help you obtain a firearms certificate. From that point on you can shoot with your club or aspire to be an Olympic athlete. Whatever journey you embark upon we will look to provide you with the appropriate qualifications and support.

Congratulations

The NRA would like to congratulate Major Simon Fraser on his recent MBE for his involvement in cadet shooting which was announced in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

NRA Bisley General Meeting

The 2008 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 21:00 on Wednesday 23 July 2008.

Beating of Retreat

All members are invited to attend the traditional ceremony of the Beating of Retreat by the Royal Gurkha Rifles. This will be held on the evening of Thursday 10 July on the Exhibition Lawn.

Team Captaincies

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

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2009

James Bennett

GB Team to New Zealand 2010

Gary Alexander

GB Team to Canada 2010

Jane Messer

We also congratulate Matt Charlton and his NRA Team to the Channel Islands on winning both their matches in May.

We send our best wishes for success to:

Steve Thomas Kolapore, Bisley

Ed Welford Under 25 Team, Bisley

Nominations for Team Captaincies

Nominations are required for Captains for the following teams. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 31 August 2008:

2011 GB Under 25 Team to the World Championships in Australia

2011 GB Veterans Team to the World Championships in Australia

2010 GB Australia Match at Bisley

2010 GB MR Woomera Team to Australia

2009 GB Kolapore Team - Friday 24 July

2009 GB Under 25 Team Match - Friday 24 July

Imperial Meeting Prize Givers

The prize givers at this year's Imperial Meeting are as follows:

ISCRM Gen Sir Jack Deverell
(*President ACFA*)

TASAM Lt Gen Nick Parker CBE
(*IGTA & Comd Regional Forces*)

Ashburton Brig John Smales
(*Vice-President CCRS*)

Imperial Brig Gen Raymond Romses
(*Deputy President DCRA*)

NRA Elections

The following Shooting Discipline and Regional Members were elected unopposed to the General Council to serve until 2011:

Regional Members

Northern Ireland	Richard Bailie
Scotland	Tim Kidner
East Midlands	George Barnard

Shooting Discipline Members

Match Rifle	Alex Cargill Thompson
Gallery Rifle & Pistol	Charles Murton
Classics	Rae Wills
300 Metres	Ian Shirra-Gibb

The results of the election for Ordinary Members of General Council will be published in the next Journal.

MUZZLE ENERGY

by James Watson, Chairman of Membership Committee and ME Working Group

As I am sure you will know, the position we faced at the beginning of the year was that the muzzle energy of firearm and ammunition use on MoD ranges was going to be restricted to 3800J which would have excluded most civilian shooting.

The NRA has successfully negotiated with the MoD who have raised this limit to 4500J which means the vast majority of shooting can continue. This raise in the limit was subject to us formalising practices that are generally in place already.

The formal procedures cover three separate requirements:

- The first is the certification of shooters as being safe and competent by their club chairman. The club chairmen are not taking on anything more than they were already responsible for (although they may not have realised it) and the NRA has improved the insurance package available to affiliated clubs to include insurance for club officers. This requirement comes into effect on 1 Jan 2009.
- The training requirements for new shooters have also been formalised, and the MoD has approved the probationary course that the NRA had already started developing before the ME issue arose. This requirement as part of the NRA Safe Shooting System comes into effect from 1 July 2008.
- For those shooters using firearms with ammunition that produces an ME in excess of 4500J (but below the top limit of 7000J) there is an additional requirement to zero their firearms at 200m before moving back to further distances. This must be done each day they visit the range unless they are taking part in a competition running on consecutive days. At Bisley we have negotiated to allow shooters to use the zero range. We have already put this into effect and will monitor it to ensure improvements are made where necessary. Match Rifle and F Class shooters in the Imperial Meeting must complete these zeroing procedures before they pick up their squadding cards.

The NRA has already written to every member to explain how these new requirements will affect them

and we have already had in excess of 500 requests from our individual members for certification.

At the same time, we wrote to all the affiliated clubs providing them with a comprehensive pack containing as much information as we could and providing advice on how to implement these requirements. Responses from clubs have also started coming in.

We have now recruited a new member of staff to cope with the increased workload and the Council has set a budget to pay for this as well as the database and infrastructure required.

Whilst we believe we have covered most expected questions, there have been and will continue to be questions raised that may need us to tweak the advice and indeed our own procedures. These procedures will be subject to an ongoing review and the FAQs document will be regularly updated on the website and in the NRA Journals. This is available at <http://mod.nra.org.uk> along with all the other documentation we can provide. There will be ongoing communication through the Journal but as you will appreciate the Journal is only published three times a year, so the website provides us with the most efficient way of keeping members and clubs up to date.

Whilst I realise most will appreciate the important role the NRA has played in this matter, it has been incredibly difficult to communicate this message to our members without criticism for "allowing it to happen in the first place". The requirements came about as a result of reviews that the MoD undertook from a Health and Safety position and associated liability for range users. The NRA has done a considerable amount of work to save civilian shooting on MoD ranges for not only our individual members, but also the members of the clubs that affiliate to us.

Perhaps those of you who are reading this as members of affiliated clubs might like to support the NRA in its work by joining as full individual members - at a first year fee of £35 it provides benefits to the individual including insurance which covers you when you are not shooting with your club (and includes all shooting activities be it game shooting, target shooting or clays) as well as becoming part of your National Governing Body who are protecting your sport.

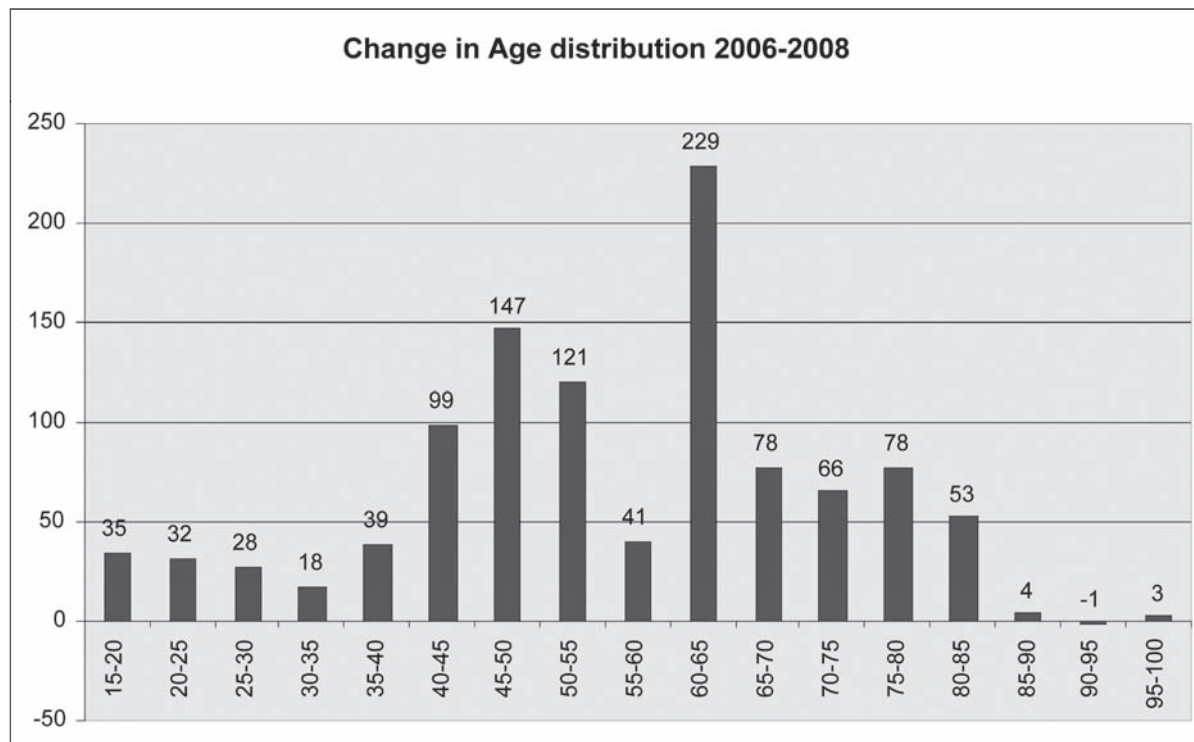
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by James Watson, Chairman of the Membership Committee

This year has started well in the Membership Department with over 400 new member applications since 1 January. Of these, 75% have already been processed and are now enjoying the benefits of individual membership and being part of their National Governing Body. It was only at the end of 2006 that I was reporting that we had passed the 5000 membership mark; today I can report that the membership numbers are in excess of 5800 which represents an increase of over 30% in the past five years.

Let me place a thought with you: if every member of the NRA recruited just one member from their club to join as an individual member over the next year, we would reach 10,000 members very quickly!

Where do our new members come from? The chart below shows how the number of members within the organisation has changed over the past two years. It shows that we have been generally successful in recruiting members across all age bands but in particular, those who are perhaps entering retirement and those in their 40s and 50s. To me it highlights that perhaps we are not doing as well as we would like in the under 25 age group.



There are a great many cadet units and schools out there with a large number of youngsters taking part in the sport. We are fortunate that in a world where many countries are struggling to keep youngsters in the sport and are facing a situation where the average age of participants is increasing, we still have a great many youngsters taking part in the Imperial Meeting every year. My challenge, as Chairman of the Membership Committee is to bring together ideas to encourage them to join our Association and remain in the sport once they have left their schools or units.

The Membership Committee has, as you would expect, given this a great deal of thought. The Millennium Scholarship Fund was set up a number of years ago to help those younger shooters to remain in the sport. This fund has transformed over time to become the Young Shooters Fund and the new terms of reference are in the final stages of being approved (full details will be in the Winter Journal). The fund will allow those who need financial help with the purchase of shooting equipment to apply for assistance which will help them in the transition from having all their equipment being provided by schools and clubs to a position where they have their own.

This year we hope to complete another initiative; a Cadet Handbook that will allow cadets and school pupils to record their progress and skills which, when followed by an assessment, will provide an alternative to the NRA Probationary Course and enable school leavers to join the NRA under the School Leaver three years free membership programme. We had hoped to complete this in time for this year's shooting season but unfortunately the Muzzle Energy situation resulted in a necessary delay. The Cadet Handbook will also contain useful information about continuing shooting after leaving school or cadets, as well as information about various clubs and National bodies. Any Cadet instructor or schoolmaster reading this can obtain more information about this scheme from the Training Department, e-mail: training@nra.org.uk.

As usual, I encourage members 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*

Imperial Meeting

Ammunition Issuers

As explained in the Spring Journal, with the ending of the MoD/NRA Agreement we also lose the services of the MILFORCE personnel who previously issued the ammunition to competitors behind the firing point. The previous requirement for them to do so was based on it being 'military ammunition' until actually handed to a civilian competitor. Now that we have to buy our own ammunition this arrangement has ceased. It has been decided that the easiest, quickest and most efficient way of issuing ammunition for TR matches will be from the RCOs' tables.

The NRA RCO will be issued with enough ammunition (plus some spare) for the match concerned and will reconcile and return the remainder at the end of the match. One competitor will be appointed to each range, wearing a green fluorescent jacket, as a 'Special Duty' to issue this ammunition to competitors during the two or three squaddled details making up his Duty, and to stamp the reverse of the squadding cards concerned. He or she will not be required to take back converted sighters.

Once he or she has issued ammunition for the final detail of his stint he or she will, having checked with the RCO, be free to leave. Some competitors may therefore have one additional Special Duty but this will not be an arduous duty in any way. Full written instructions will be included in all competitors' envelopes.

Free Grand Aggregate Entries

County Secretaries are reminded about the free entry to the Grand Aggregate. There is a requirement that the County is affiliated to the NRA, and County Secretaries must apply to the NRA Secretary General in advance for this free entry, giving their reasons for the request on behalf of their nominated member.

Shooting Mentors (Aunts and Uncles) Scheme

All those attending their first Imperial Meeting may request the assistance of an experienced shooter who will be happy to assist them. This may take the form of discussing the day's shooting, or how to complete your score sheet or wind graph. Any competitor who would like such assistance should complete the relevant request box on the main Individual TR & MR Entry Form, and Tim Elliott or Bruce Roth, who administer the scheme, will then allocate the competitor concerned a Mentor.

Early Entry Draw

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

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Miss Katy Simpson | Comp No 136
(100% refund of entry fees) |
| 2 | Nigel Penn | Comp No 81
(50% refund of entry fees) |
| 3 | Roy Pool | Comp No 304
(25% refund of entry fees) |

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

Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

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

Changes

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

Service Rifle (SR)

All individual squaddled SR matches will be shot concurrently this year, as follows:

Matches concurrent with Match 8, The Army 100 Cup

Kinnaird	concurrent with Match 8 Prac 1
Stephens	concurrent with Match 8 Prac 2
Standing	concurrent with Match 8 Prac 3
Sitting	concurrent with Match 8 Prac 4
Wantage	concurrent with Match 8 Prac 5
Bisley Bullet	concurrent with Match 8 Total

Matches concurrent with Match 4, Association Cup

BSA	concurrent with Match 4 Prac 1
Sec of State	concurrent with Match 4 Prac 2
Queen Mary	concurrent with Match 4 Total

Individual aggregates and nominated team competitions will generally remain the same as in previous years. The United Service match will be held on the afternoon of Friday 11 July, and the remaining SR team matches (the Inter-Services FIBUA Match, International SR Team Match, Whitehead and Bargrave Deane) will be held on Saturday 12 July.

All service competitors should note that the match conditions of Practice 3 of Match 17, the Urban Contact (FIBUA) Match, have been changed from those shown in Pamphlet 20. This practice will now consist of a one second flash followed eight seconds later by five exposures of six seconds, during which one shot must be fired standing followed by one shot kneeling. Firers must return to the standing alert position after each exposure.

Since it is unlikely that a permanent range team will be available to run these team matches all competing teams must be prepared to assist in the running of the ranges by providing qualified Range Staff. All Team Captains are reminded of the requirement to provide the required number of butt markers (equal to the number of targets per team). Failure to do so by any team will mean that that team will not be allowed to shoot.

Civilian Service Rifle (Civ SR)

The programme for Civ SR has had to be completely revised this year. The provisional programme is as follows:

Sat 5 July	pm	Civilian 100x Match
		Civilian 200x Match
		Civilian 300x Match
	eve	Falling Plates (teams of 4)
Sun 6 July	am	Civ Moving Target Match
	pm	Civ Rundown Match
Mon 7 July	am	PR Short Range Match 8
		(Civ Methuen Cup concurrent for nominated teams of six)

Target Rifle (TR)

The Parting Shot and Howard Wilkinson matches will now be shot consecutively on the morning of Final Saturday.

The Band of the Royal Gurkha Rifles will be playing the Queen's Prize winner down from the range after the Queen's Prize Final. They will also be performing the highly entertaining "Gurkha Kukri Dance" at lunch time on Exhibition Lawn, and all those on Camp are invited.

F Class Rifle (F Class)

Peter Hobson has very kindly donated four silver cups to be awarded for the 'Any Ammunition' F Class St George's, Queen's Prize, Stickledown Range Aggregate and Grand Aggregate. In addition

Peter and David Kent have also jointly donated a Challenge Trophy, to be known as the "Hobson/ Kent Cup", which will be awarded to the top scorer in the aggregate of the F Class Queen's Prize Final and the F Class Grand Aggregate, won by Messrs Hobson and Kent respectively last year.

Schools (School)

The Cadet International Match, held on the morning of First Friday, will now be open on an equal basis to all cadet teams attending the Meeting. In addition the team for which a competitor is eligible will now be based on either the location of his or her school or country of birth. In addition the Cadet Falling Plates competition will now be completed on the evening of First Tuesday only, and the ABRO competition has been renamed the DSG (Defence Support Group) Trophy.

Ammunition for the Schools Meeting will be supplied under military sponsorship, but the actual issuing of this ammunition to competitors will now be the responsibility of the NRA, not MILFORCE. All Schools which have more than one 'serving' adult may be required to assist in issuing ammunition to all competitors on a particular range for either a morning or an afternoon. Special Duty cards will be included in Schools' envelopes where appropriate. Based on entries made to date it appears that each spare adult may be required to do only one Special Duty.

Match Rifle (MR)

Efforts are continuing to have the Sierra sponsorship (the award of 500 bullets to the ten top scorers in MR Classes O and T in the Hopton MR Championship) continued this year, and possibly extended to future years.

Please remember that, in all MR competitions including those competitors using RG ammunition (in the RG Aggregate) all competitors must supply their own ammunition. No ammunition will be available on the firing point but will be available from the Range Office.

High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearms

All Match Rifle, Sporting Rifle and F Class competitors are reminded of the information in the Spring Journal concerning HME firearms. If the rifle and ammunition combination produce a muzzle energy (ME) exceeding 4,500 Joules (3,319 ft lbs) then a special zeroing procedure will be necessary before your squadding cards will be issued. Please refer to the NRA website or the Director of Training for full instructions on this zeroing procedure. The rifle must be zeroed on each day it is used unless this is part of a continuous period of training or competition, such as the Imperial Meeting. Zeroing may be done either at 200 yards or metres under the supervision of a specially trained RCO (HME) or on the Bisley Zero Range.

McQueen (Snip)

To encourage membership of the British Sporting Rifle Club, and to commemorate the Centenary of the award of the Entente Cordiale Trophy in 1908, Mr M Deakin has very kindly sponsored a new competition this year, concurrent with the McQueen. It will be titled the McQueen Centenary Prize, and will be a prize of £100, donated by Mr Deakin, and an NRA Gold Medal. The prize will be awarded to a scorer of a double 50.10 in each of Classes A, D and F. If not won in any particular year this cash prize will be rolled over up to a maximum of five years.

Imperial Meeting Dates 2009 – 2010

Advance notification is given that the dates of the Imperial Target Rifle Meetings in 2009 and 2010 are planned to be as follows:

2009 First Friday 17 to Final Saturday 25 July

2010 First Friday 16 to Final Saturday 24 July

It is planned that all other meetings, eg Service Rifle, Match Rifle, Schools etc will be on the same relative days as at present subject to any changes in dates for CENTSAM.

F Class World Championships 2009

The F Class World Championships will be held immediately following the 2009 Imperial Meeting, the programme being as follows:

Sun 26 July	Individual and Team Practice
Mon 27 July	Individual Championship starts
Tue 28 July	Individual Championship ends
Wed 29 July	Team Championships start
Thur 30 July	Team Championships end

Entry forms are now available on the NRA website. These and further details are also available from Mik Maksimovic or the Director of Shooting.

The NRA 150th Anniversary Meeting 2010

2010 is the 150th Anniversary of the first Imperial Meeting in 1860. The programme for this meeting is not yet finalised but it is likely that an Australia Match will be held, possibly on Second Tuesday. In addition it is planned to hold a 'mini-Palma' match on Sunday 25 July immediately after Final Saturday. More details will be published as the programme for this Anniversary Meeting develops.

Ranges

Eye Protection

All muzzle loading pistol firers, and gallery rifle firers, are reminded of para 30 in the Bisley Range Safety Regulations (Issue 3 2008) which state that the wearing of eye protection by firers and spectators on gallery rifle and pistol ranges is highly recommended at all times, and is obligatory when shooting at hard targets or where the competition rules require it.

Mounting of Targets in the Butts

The targets on Century range are retained in the wooden frame by three fixtures:

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

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

Detailed instructions are available in the form of two leaflets available from the Range Office, one for NRA paid markers, the other for competitor markers. All competitor markers must obtain a copy.

Movement on to and off the Firing Point

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

Snail Bullet Trap

If you intend to use the Snail Bullet Trap, which is on the right hand side of the Zero Range, you are reminded to read and comply with the printed instructions which are displayed alongside the Trap. Large or expensive foresights should be removed to prevent damage and the rifle must be firmly controlled when firing to ensure that the barrel does not recoil excessively upwards.

Insurance of Club Officials and Club markers

If clubs are supplying their own markers or range officials, they should check that they are covered by the club insurance policy taken out by the club concerned. They are not covered by the NRA insurance policy (since they are not acting on behalf of the NRA).

Weekday Markers

Club Secretaries and individuals making bookings for targets on weekdays are reminded that markers can only be supplied if they are available. Most of our markers are school children and are therefore generally not available on weekdays (school holidays excepted, of course). All those making weekday bookings should therefore be aware that the NRA will

probably only be able to provide a limited number of markers on weekdays, and club secretaries should be prepared to arrange their own markers, particularly if a large number of targets has been booked.

Payment of Markers

For the avoidance of doubt I must confirm that if shooting has to be curtailed or cancelled for any reason outside the NSC's control (eg wind or other extreme weather, or fire in the Danger Area) all markers which have been booked by the NSC on behalf of any club or individual must still be paid for by the club for the duty for which they were booked. Not to do so would be effectively breaking a contract with the marker(s) concerned.

Ammunition Sales

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

The 2008 European Long Range Championships

It is again intended to run a European Long Range Championships over the weekend 15 -16 October 2008 on Palma targets. The match conditions will be similar to the Palma course of fire, ie 2 sighters and 15 to count per firer at each distance on both days. Team Captains are asked to contact the Director of Shooting for further information.

The 2008 Ages Match

As already announced in the Spring Journal another Ages Match will be held over the weekend 25 - 26 October 2008. Teams will be of 12 firers, and the match conditions will be a Queen's II on Saturday afternoon followed by a reduced Palma course (900 and 1000 yards only) on the Sunday morning. The age brackets will again be:

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

Those who wish to be considered for the appropriate team, dependent on age, should write to the Director of Shooting as soon as possible giving their full name, contact details, date of birth and whether you would be prepared to shoot, coach or be an officer of the appropriate Ages team.

Captains will be appointed by the NRA (unless already appointed within their own age group) and will then contact all those whom they wish to invite to join their team. This has become an extremely popular end of

season event and you are encouraged to attend. There will be dinners on the Saturday evening (one for the 'oldies' and one for the 'youngsters') preceded by the now traditional fantastic Dragon Fireworks Display on Stickledown range.

RCO Renewals

All NRA qualified RCOs are reminded that this NRA qualification is valid for six years from the date of issue of the certificate and is applicable on any range throughout the UK. You may apply to renew your certificate on or before the sixth anniversary of the passing of your course, and full details are available from the Director of Training on ext 150. After this date it may be necessary to attend another course to re-qualify.

In the case of those who hold a military range management qualification up to the equivalent of Stage 3 (which has been validated by the SASC) they may apply for a straight transfer to the NRA RCO Qualification. This also applies for a period of up to two years after leaving the forces. Please note that this also applies to Cadet Force Officers who hold the CRCQ qualification. Again full details are available from the Director of Training on ext 150.

Range Office

Opening hours

Please note that the Range Office is closed for business on Mondays, and staff are not on duty to take range bookings.

VAT payable by Associations

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

Members' Enquiries

Booking In

It is obligatory that all Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) sign in at the Range Office before going to the range. Please read the certificate at the top of the sheet if you are the RCO concerned: it defines your duties and responsibilities. If any RCO signs in but does not then comply with the Bisley Range Safety Regulations he, and possibly his club, may be banned from the ranges for a period of time.

Signing In to record Use of Firearms

Home Office Approval for Clubs states the following within its Criteria for Approval: "The club will maintain a register of the attendance of all members together with details, for each visit, of the firearms

which they used and the competitions, if any, in which they took part.”

The NRA implements this regulation by use of a computerised database, the terminal being situated in the Range Office. This contains your details and those of your firearms. The system is menu based and is available when the Range Office is open.

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

2008” which should be used. This will then keep our records up-to-date and will be of help to you in recording the use of your firearms. It is important that you use each of your firearms at least once each year, otherwise the police may take an adverse view on your continued requirement for any firearm which has not been used.

NRA Open Days

The next NRA Open Day will be Saturday 13 September 2008. The online booking facility at www.nra.org.uk is now open and there will be a limit on tickets so please register early to avoid disappointment.

I’M HAVING IT OFF . . .

I’m having it off in the meeting
The Missus has told me so
She’s never been keen on me having it
And something’s got to go

I might have it off in the clubhouse
Or I might have it off in the street
I can’t have it off in the bedroom
She says, ‘cause it tickles her feet

I could have it off on six hundred
Or on Stickledown, under the trees
Or maybe up by the Clock Tower
Sheltered, and out of the breeze.

It’s been more than a year since I did it
I can’t quite remember the day
She says we should get some spectators
Put a man on the door, make them pay

So I’m having it off in the Meeting
Just when we’ll both let you know
And if you want a piece of the action
You’ll be welcome, at ten quid a go.

. . . AND NOW AN EXPLANATION

by John Gardener

Since coming to Bisley I have made lots of new friends. Amongst these are the Metropolitan Police Shooting Team. They led me into contact with the Disabled Police Officer’s Association of Northern Ireland. This is a non-sectarian charity which supports, as the title suggests, disabled Police Officers.

Some of us, like minded shooters who meet occasionally in the bar of the London and Middlesex clubhouse, decided to form the Precision Individual Serious Target Shooter’s Club. Joining fee was, and remains at five pounds; this includes your year’s membership. Annual membership is five pounds for which you

presently get nothing. Nothing that is, except the knowledge that one hundred per cent of your fees are forwarded to the DPOA. We sent about three hundred quid last year.

As any records kept of meetings, membership details etc were cleared away with the empty glasses, all past, present and aspiring members are invited to attend a Special General Meeting to be held during the Imperial Meeting in July. This year’s membership fees are now due, and, as a special treat, your 2008 dues get you admission to this meeting. At this meeting I shall be inviting (members only) to have a go at removing my head and facial hair. Some other form of sponsorship will be required, (I have three hundred pounds pledged already) and the funds raised will be sent to the DPOA. Liquid refreshments will be available as a bar is sure to be nearby! Keep an eye out in your squadding envelopes for more details.

I was fortunate to be able to visit Northern Ireland last year and had a marvellous time. In their latest newsletter, the DPOA highlighted the fact that, when a carer reaches pensionable age the carer’s allowance is stopped. I wasn’t aware of this injustice and decided that ‘something must be done’. I’m inviting you to help.



If you can give a home to the family of voles currently nesting in John’s facial fuzz, please contact the Range Office urgently!

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



by
*Jeremy
Staples*

NRA Open Day

The NRA Open Day took place on Saturday 3 May when a total of 1196 guests registered to shoot on our ranges. In general we have had some very positive feedback both from members who had volunteered to help coach and visitors, all of whom seemed to enjoy the day at Bisley. We understand that a number of the visitors have already joined the NRA and that numerous NRA probationary packs were also taken home to be completed in the next few weeks.

I should like to express my thanks to all the members that helped make the day such a success. Without your help and assistance we would not be in a position to run these Open Days, which do so much to promote the sport of Target Shooting.

The next Open Day will be on Saturday 13 September and we will again be asking members to help volunteer to coach and co-ordinate the day. If you are able to help please contact Brigitte Rushmore either by telephone on 01483 798816 or by e-mail brigitte@nra.org.uk.

Electronic Targets

The ongoing problems seem now to be for the most part resolved and we are now getting a much improved reliability from the electronic targets due to the installation of a new aerial and further modification to the software.

Targets are available at short notice either by the hour or by the day or by the half day. Please contact the Range Office on 01483 797777 ext 152 if you wish to make a booking.

1200 Yards Firing Point

The widening work on the 1200 yards firing point has now been completed and the top of the firing point itself has been turfed, with the banks being sown with quick growing grass seed. We hope that this will be in operation very shortly.

Short Siberia Road

We have received numerous complaints in respect of the condition of Short Siberia road (Hobson's Way)

One of the conditions of the original planning consent was that the road surface had to be inert and approved by the Local Council. Fittleworth stone was recommended. Clearly this is not up to the required standard and ongoing discussions are taking place with Natural England to agree a revised and more appropriate road surface. There will however be a major financial cost to resurface this road.

Imperial Meeting

Following the success of the site security at last year's Imperial Meeting we are going to be employing two night staff together with a security dog in the hope that this will again reduce the number of problems experienced by the members, competitors and markers.

Staff

I am very pleased to welcome Brigitte Rushmore who has taken over as the Marketing Manager for the NSC and is looking at both corporate hospitality and sponsorship issues; she can be contacted on 01483 798816 or by e-mail brigitte@nra.org.uk should you wish to discuss either of the above.

We also welcome Ruth Smith as the new receptionist for the Clay ranges.

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



*by
Phyllis
Farnan*

The Easter holiday period was a popular time for target rifle training courses with seven regional and two Bisley courses taking place. Thirty-three candidates attended Skills Courses, and thirty-seven completed NRA Club Instructor Courses.

New Training Arrangements

The new arrangements for clubs who use MOD ranges will come into effect from 1 July and not 2 April as was reported in the Spring Journal. All affiliated clubs will shortly receive an information pack explaining how the new procedures are to be implemented.

Clubs will be able to order individual copies of the training manual for their Probationary members (price £5) and will also be able to order a training pack for their instructors (price £10). The pack contains a training manual, a CD containing PowerPoint presentations of the different course units, assessment materials and lesson plans. Clubs must either follow the NRA training course for their probationers or submit a copy of their own training scheme to the NRA for accreditation.

RCO Courses

Regional RCO Courses continue to be very popular and they can be run throughout the year. Any club wishing to book a regional RCO Course for their members is asked to contact Maureen Peach on ext 149 to make the necessary arrangements.

We experienced difficulties with the production of the photo ID cards during April which has caused delays for those waiting for renewals, for new RCOs and for those waiting for their RCO (HME) replacement cards. The card machine has now been replaced and the backlog has been cleared. Please accept our apologies for the unfortunate hold up.

The next RCO Course at Bisley will be held on 4 - 5 October but is currently full. The next available course will be held on 8 - 9 November. RCO Course fees for 2008 are: Bisley Course: £100, Regional Course: £50.

RCO (HME) Courses

Two regional and four Bisley RCO (HME) Courses have now been run for RCOs who require the new HME qualification. The next course at Bisley will take place on 28 September. Course fees are £30 for Bisley courses and £15 for regional courses. Successful candidates will receive a replacement photo ID card.

Renewal of RCO Qualifications

RCOs who qualified in 2002 are due to renew their qualification this year. A renewal form is available.

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

The renewal fee is £25. All documentation together with the renewal fee should be sent to the NRA marked for the attention of Maureen Peach. Please allow four weeks for renewals to be processed.

Probationary Members' Courses

Course 2008/4 at Bisley will start on 6 September. No courses are held during the busy summer competition period but three further courses will be run in the autumn. It may be possible to provide individual tuition mid-week (Tuesday - Friday) but at least one week's notice is required for a lesson to be arranged.

Skills Courses

These are designed to improve individual knowledge and skills for new shooters. NRA Club and Regional Coaches can run Skills Courses by arrangement with the NRA. A TR Skills Course will be held at Bisley on the 11 - 12 October. The course fee is £120 for NRA members and £140 for non-members. Regional fees are: £20 per person (£15 for cadets). In addition the coach's subsistence and travelling expenses must also be paid, as these are not included in the regional course fee.

Club Instructors Course

A course for NRA members and members of affiliated clubs will take place at Bisley on 11 - 12 October. The course fee is £120 for NRA members and £140 for non-members. Regional courses can also be run by arrangement with the NRA.

NRA Club Coach Course

A Club Coach Course will be held on the 15 - 16 November. This course is only open to NRA members who have completed the Club Instructor Course or hold an equivalent qualification. Candidates must also attend the Instructor's Workshop on 2 November unless they have a teaching qualification. The Club Coach Course fee is £120. The club coach qualification is valid for five years.

The next Instructor's Workshop will be held on Sunday 2 November. The fee for the Instructors Workshop is £25.

Wind Coaching Course

The usual short wind course will be held on Friday 18 July for the benefit of those attending the Imperial Meeting. Course fee: £5 for Class O and T and £10 for class A and X. Proceeds from the short course will go to the OTF and further details will be given in competitor's envelopes.

Timetable for Courses at Bisley for the Remainder of 2008

Wind Coaching Courses

18 July (short course)

RCO Courses (weekend course)

4 - 5 October

8 - 9 November

RCO (HME) Courses

28 September

23 November

Probationary Courses

Probationary Course 2008/4 begins 6 September

Probationary Course 2008/5 begins 18 October

Probationary Course 2008/6 begins 22 November

TR Skills & Club Instructor Courses (weekend)

11 - 12 October

Instructor's Workshop

2 November

Club Coach Course (weekend)

15 - 16 November

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

INSIDE IRAQ

MONDAY 21 JULY - UMBRELLA TENT AT 20:30

David Cooper, who returned from two years in Iraq last summer, will give an illustrated talk in the Umbrella Tent starting at 20:30 on the evening of Monday 21 July on the strategic significance of Iraq to western security together with an outline of the situation within Iraq itself.

As Director of Civil Affairs, working for the US Corps of Engineers, under the overall umbrella of the US Department of Defense, he travelled the length and breadth of the country and met Iraqis and US personnel at all levels of authority.

His job was to provide humanitarian aid and work to ensure that reconstruction progressed as quickly as possible. He also reported, to a very high level, on the 'ground truth' of the civilian situation in Iraq as well as on 'ground atmospherics'.

Entry is open to all and a charge of £10.00 will be raised in aid of the England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales teams visiting South Africa in 2009.



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BISLEY DEVELOPEMENT

by Jeremy Staples, Managing Director of NSC

A great deal of work has been undertaken over the past 18 months on the possible development at Bisley. The aim of any development has to include:

- 1 The improvement of facilities at Bisley for the membership.
- 2 Generation of additional revenue to allow further investment in target shooting in the regions.
- 3 Securing the future of Bisley.

Following the announcement that Bisley had been awarded Olympic Training Venue Status, detailed preliminary discussions took place with Guildford Borough Council (GBC) planning department to explain the need for a development to ensure the future of target shooting both at Bisley and throughout the UK. We were advised by HML Architects and Master Planners and Strutt & Parker Planning Consultants.

The Olympic Training Venue Status has given the NRA a real opportunity to obtain a benefit from the possible relaxation of planning restrictions. The facilities required for a training venue include not only shooting facilities but also additional accommodation, leisure, medical and classroom facilities.

At the meeting with GBC it was clear that any planning application relating to shooting requirements would be sympathically treated. Non-shooting applications would require detailed justification.

At this stage it is possible to split the possible development into two sections although GBC have made it clear that phase 1 cannot take place in isolation and must form part of the whole-site master plan.

- A Phase 1 - Back of Century
- B The Remainder

A Back of Century

The back of Century has been identified as a possible location for a shooting lodges development for members. The area is part of the leased land from the MoD and extends as far as Queens Road. It totals approximately 14.25 acres. The security fence will have to be repositioned along Queens Road.

The benefits would be:

- Utilisation of this redundant area for high quality lodge accommodation for members.
- Re-location of a number of existing caravan occupiers to the new development to free up space on outlying sites for non-shooting development.
- Increase the stock of quality accommodation for members currently on both hut and caravan waiting lists.

- Increase the ground rent income from the estate.

The proposed location is currently designated a SSSI and discussions have taken place with Natural England. Their consent and agreement is vital so as to permit the mitigating circumstances and agree a recommendation to de-zone this area and to re-designate the area beyond Short Siberia as a SSSI instead. Any development is dependent on obtaining planning consent.

In order to obtain consent we have commissioned an ecological survey which will include: a botanical and habitat survey, invertebrate, bird and herptile surveys. This survey work should be completed by late September this year.

The Trustees have requested that a business plan be drawn up for their approval. This has been completed and is now subject to external validation.

Current Position – Phase 1

A possible supplier of shooting lodges has been identified and indicative costs of a number of different sized units have been obtained. In addition a preliminary layout has been prepared to give an idea of the likely number that could be constructed on the site.

The development of phase 1 is not viable unless there is a good take up of the lodges from members.

The proposal is that:

- 1 Members will be offered a choice of three or four different lodge designs ranging in size from a single room with bathroom facilities up to three bedroom lodges.
- 2 It is hoped that there will be a range of leasing options available. Members' views will be sought on the terms of the leases being considered.
- 3 An example of a shooting lodge will be erected on site just prior to the Imperial Meeting so that members can physically inspect it and we can gain a view on the likely demand. We would arrange for an appropriately briefed 'show house' person to be available at certain times of the day to carry out this survey.
- 4 If there proves to be sufficient demand to justify the project and subject to planning consent we would anticipate marketing the lodges during the autumn with hopefully the first lodges being available in the spring of 2009.

B The Remainder

No firm decisions have yet been made on the possible remainder of the development. Clearly the

requirements for the Olympic Training Venue status may influence what is considered but any proposal will need to fit in with Bisley character and enhance the facilities. Ideas will come out of the Master Plan but may include non-shooting activities on the periphery of the estate to attract the non-shooting pound to help subsidise target shooting throughout the UK.

The photos on this page are examples of the types of lodges we are looking at. If you would like to register your interest in a shooting lodge please contact Jeremy Staples either in person during the Imperial Meeting, by e-mail to jeremy.staples@nra.org.uk or in writing by the end of August.



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FORTHCOMING TOURS

Great Britain Team to New Zealand 2010

It is with great honour and some trepidation that I accept the nomination for captaincy of the Great Britain Rifle Team to New Zealand in 2009/2010.

Martin Townsend and Jon Underwood have agreed to bring their experience as Chief Coach and Vice-Captain to the management team and we will be looking to select the team after the Imperial Meeting this year from as broad a base as possible, hopefully representing all home countries and including young shooters and new caps.

New Zealand can be one of the most difficult places in the world to shoot and GB has not won the New Zealand match for many years, (even the Palma team lost) so if you feel you have the will and ability to help change that please make yourself available by e-mail to: garykalexander@aol.com including a brief CV (and photo if I do not know you already).

The tour will last for the first three weeks of January and will visit both islands for regional shoots and sightseeing.

Gary Alexander

Great Britain Team to Canada 2010

I am delighted to have been asked to captain the Great Britain Target Rifle Team to Canada in August 2010 and to report that Nigel Ball has accepted my invitation to be Vice-Captain.

I aspire to follow in the footsteps of Arthur Clarke, who captained my first full GB team, in leading a successful but also a happy and enjoyable tour. An America Match is scheduled to be held, so we expect to take a strong team, but we will look to include some promising new caps.

Details of the tour have not yet been sorted out but I would hope to include a provincial meeting and a few days holiday before the main DCRA Meeting in Ottawa. Therefore tour length is likely to be around three weeks. We intend that the team will raise significant funds towards the tour and help may be available for young shooters who have not toured with Great Britain previously, so please do not be put off from registering interest at this stage by assumptions about cost!

I should be grateful if anyone who wishes to register interest in a place on the team could e-mail jane.hm@btinternet.com or write to me c/o the North London Rifle Club, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NY, by Easter 2009 at the latest.

Jane Messer

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2009

The Council of the NRA has honoured me with the Captaincy of the NRA Team to the Channel Islands in 2009. I am delighted that Paul Johnson has accepted the role of Adjutant.

The tour will take place over the Whitsun period in May 2009 incorporating team and individual matches in both Guernsey and Jersey. I invite applications from NRA members who have not toured overseas with the official Great Britain Rifle Team.

If you wish to be considered for selection please apply in writing, with short range (300, 500 and 600 yards) experience only to the address below by 1 September. The team will be selected in September 2008 and all applicants will be notified by post.

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SPORTS MINISTER BACKS SHOOTING WEEK

The second National Shooting Week took place in May to good effect. The aim of this exciting initiative was to make people of all ages across the UK aware of the importance of target shooting as a sport and to provide opportunities to try it out for themselves. It was organised and funded by the Countryside Alliance on behalf of the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC). As a key member of the BSSC, the NRA has given this event its full backing and began the week in style with its own unique Open Day - the biggest in the country.

Media coverage of the growth in gun crime and illegal guns has sometimes overshadowed the fact that shooting is an Olympic sport at which the UK excels: at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, shooting accounted for 23 of the UK's 116 medals; a crack team will travel to Beijing this summer. Before and during the week, millions learned through the media that shooting is one of the most inclusive Olympic and Paralympic sports, where gender, age and disability are no barriers to success.

Over the course of National Shooting Week some 200 guest days took place at shooting clubs and grounds in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, giving newcomers to the sport the chance to try shooting for the first time in a safe and friendly environment. Several thousand participants tried shooting for the first time whilst media monitoring demonstrates that at least 30 million people learned that the shooting community is friendly and accessible.

National Shooting Week received good coverage through a number of regional TV outlets including BBC Points West and ITV West, plus Radio 4's Today programme which goes out to seven million listeners, Radio 5 Live Breakfast, BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio Cymru, LBC, Independent Radio News (distributed to the majority of the UK's independent local radio stations all over the UK) and a number of live interviews on local radio.

Pre-recorded footage was distributed to Reuters News Agency and through British Satellite News, which goes to 500 broadcasters in the UK and around the world. BBC News and Sky requested library film for archive to provide reference footage for stories related to shooting

and the 2008 Olympic Games. There will also be further opportunities for the recorded footage to be used in the run up to the 2008 Olympics as preparations for the shooting competitions progress.

The Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe MP attended a launch event for National Shooting Week at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. The local MP, Humfrey Malins, journalists, police and Home Office officials were also present. At the launch, the minister met shooters heading to Beijing for the Olympic Games and representatives from the disabled shooting community and the Paralympic coaching team. Speaking at Bisley, he said: "I think National Shooting Week is a great testament to the sport because of what it does in Olympic year and as we run up to London Olympics 2012. It is an opportunity for the sport to show itself to the wider community in the UK, about how good it is for everybody to take part. With the UK teams doing so well winning medals in so many competitions right across the world shooting is high on our list of sports we want to support."

"So National Shooting Week gives an opportunity for all the misconceptions about shooting to be put to one side but it also gives people an opportunity to understand that this really is a sport that can be for everybody," he continued.

Claire Stirling, sport performance manager, Paralympics GB said: "It's excellent that the minister has shown his support for the sport of shooting today and highlighted how accessible it is for people of all backgrounds including people with disabilities and that there's a wide range of different events."

Chris Cloke, British Shooting's operations and talent identification director said: "We've got a very strong Olympic team this year, we've coached them a great deal, we've spent a great deal of money investing in them, and we're very hopeful we might get some medals in Beijing; that's the plan."

The week, which also attracted support from the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, looks set to take place again 2009.



The Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe MP meets the shooters.



(Photos: Charles Sainsbury-Plaice)

SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

F Class Report

by Paul Monaghan

Open Day May 2008

Yet again this was an extremely well-organised event and everything ran smoothly – or it did so as far as we were concerned. Once again, the F Class community really did its bit as well. Set up on the 1,000 yards firing point, nine targets were manned all day with 17 helpers who really showed the public what fun shooting at long range can be. Even with all this support there were queues but they remained at a manageable length.

One limiting factor is the number of telescope sighted rifles available. This is a really worthwhile cause and if anyone has a telescope sight or even a .308 rifle they are willing to offer for use in these events which help keep our sport alive by bringing in new shooters, then please let us know.

Whilst most managed a creditable performance, a small number of shooters showed a clear talent for rifle shooting and we can only hope that they will be sufficiently encouraged by the day to think about taking rifle shooting as a sport more seriously.

FCWC 2009

The information package for this is now complete and has been sent out to all interested parties. This is the most comprehensive set of information available to entrants to an F Class World Championships, and thanks are due to Mik Maksimovic and Martin Farnan for their hard work on this. There is every reason to believe that this will be the largest FCWC ever and Bisley will host individuals and teams from all over the world. Entry forms and loads of supporting information can be found on the NRA website.



Open Day - the F Class firing points (with two more just out of sight). Picture courtesy of June Barden and Kelvin Phillips. Note the strange coaching position of Roger Wood in the foreground.

F/TR or whatever it is called!

In the ICFRA F Class World Championships rules, the conditions for the class restricted to .308 or .223 (unsurprisingly called 'F Restricted') went through a number of variations but have now been settled. The rules allow the rifle to be rested only on a bipod at the front (no heavy rests) and with the calibre restricted to .308 Win or .223 SAAMI or CIP chambering. Handloads are allowed with no restriction on bullet weight. There is a rapidly growing interest in this category and there will even be a Savage rifle as a prize for the winner of this class in the F Class League in 2008.

This does, however, give a potential problem for the Imperial Meeting in 2009, as 'F Restricted' shooters coming to the FCWC may well wish to familiarise themselves with the ranges by entering some or all of the TR part of the Imperial Meeting. Our current rules only allow for 'issued ammunition F Class', and consideration is being given to opening this class up to handloads for the 2009 season. Comments either for or against this proposal would be welcome.

F Class Association

This currently has over 130 members from all over the UK and in 2008 will run six of its own very well supported shoots. Two shoots will be held at Bisley, one of which is the European F Class Championships. This is currently generating approx 10 new NRA members per year, from all over Europe.

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

Our season opened as usual with training in mid-March, and then on to the first recorded shoot in April.

It was a later start this year for our visit to our French friends in Clermont over the weekend 11 and 12 April for the first leg of the biannual match. This year's French team proved to be strong, and after Saturday's team match we found ourselves trailing by five points - top individual score came from Simon Aldhouse with 596. Sunday's match went more our way having had a change of French team members. Top score came from French teenager Olivia Goberville with a personal best of 598.

The final aggregate of the two day team matches gave the NRA A team a win by 36 points to retain the Danik Bowl. We will welcome our friends back to Bisley at the end of August for the return match.

Being Olympic year there are four European cups to compete in, plus the final if we qualify. The first event in Pilzen at the end of May saw a men's team of three

compete, with not a huge amount of success, on a very windy range. Only one shooter made the cut for the final finishing in the middle of the list.

In mid-May the NRA Championships were held; the entry level for events other than free rifle was, to say the least, disappointing. The winner of the free rifle event was Graham Hawarth with 593, and the TR event was won by David Tracey on 587, one point fewer than his free rifle score.

A return to Italy in early June at Tomezzo gave us better fortune. Making the final with a 593, Simon Aldhouse went on to shoot his highest match score for some time of 597 for a very solid fourth place. Scores were extremely high with the winner, German shooter Richard Dietzch, scoring the maximum of 600.

The circuit now moves on to a new venue in Elverum in Norway in early July, then Aarhus in Denmark in mid-August, before a final in September in Winterthur, Switzerland.

Training and competition will stop for a while due to the main championship meetings and will restart in August, going on into September and mid-October.

We welcome any NRA members who would like to sharpen up their short range shooting to train or compete to visit our website where dates and details can be found at www.gb300m.com.

Classics Report

by Rae Wills

During the last days of April there was a certain gloom about, mostly because of heavy April showers, and the forecast for the next two weeks gave only three fine days. The Spring NRA Open Day arrived, forecast sun and showers; however the fates were kind and it was mostly fine and not a soaking every hour on the hour as the previous week. Yet rain or shine I do enjoy them immensely, as it is a fantastic showcase for our Historic Arms, and the small exhibition LERA and the HBSA puts on attracts much interest from the public. Attendance seemed well up to the mark, and after the usual slow start we were full until the last few trickled through late in the afternoon.

Far from the need, often expressed, that matters need "dumbing down" to make them more "accessible", many are fascinated to hear the history of firearms, and more than one parent told me he had brought the children as it was the only place they could really see them, as they are never told about them at school, or if so only in a negative context. I have heard many similar comments at the famous military War and Peace Show, known better to its fans as Beltring.

There is no doubt that the public view of shooting has changed and is now far more positive. Recently a party of, and they will surely forgive me for saying so, not so young ladies from the local Women's Institute had a go at the clays, which would have been almost

unbelievable in the months after Dunblane. The closed door is now open, and we must exploit it.

So if you have never helped at an Open Day, please do so. It needs over 30 or more to staff the ten or so Historic Arms firing points and general stewarding, and if you have an interesting Historic Firearm to show off, all the better. The next one is set for Saturday 13 September, so mark it in your diary now.

Another component for my gloom is wondering just how the finances are going to work out; I have just set a fill up record of £61 for a full tank of diesel for the car (and it's no gas guzzler either!) and the household heating and food bills are all shooting up. But a few economies on less important things will probably allow me to carry on shooting mostly as usual at least for this year. One economy I started a few years ago is using cast lead bullets which are as accurate as any up to 500 yards. The cost per round is about half the jacketed variety or even less and they are kind on the rifle too. Also cases last almost forever as if used in the same rifle they need little re-sizing.

I am very conscious that many with mortgages and young families will be feeling the pinch even harder, and we must keep shooting costs, and particularly competition entry fees, as low as possible. Yet we must cover ever-rising costs too, but must avoid the trap of fewer participants covering increased costs leading to raised prices, thus driving more out of the game, in a self defeating downward and terminal spiral.

So rest assured despite what you read on the Internet, we really do our best. If you do have a problem, or even better a good idea, do let us know - seek out the person to talk to at the NRA. Only when that fails have your rant!

Enough of gloom and doom; cheer up, we have been there before, so keep going, and summer of some sort is coming.

Now to look forward to the Imperial Meeting; with a sigh of relief that could be heard all over Surrey I got the programme, typos and all, off to the printers some time ago. By the time you read this it will be published and on the website; it looks a bit different from recent items and is I hope a bit simpler, with all the details you need of the matches in one place. There are some new competitions too, mostly for Sniper and Sporting rifles with optic sights.

And we must never forget all the others who keep the show on the road. We are all getting older and creakier, including myself, so my thanks again to all and especially get well soon to my rock at the NRA, David Mumford, recently suffering from a bad back. Phil Wikeley, the Staff Officer, without whom the whole lot would collapse, is also on the sick list - gall stones or some weak excuse. With Phil and myself I always thought it was just the heart attack specials grub we consume during the Meeting taking the rest of the year to digest! See you all at the Imperial Meeting.

FROM THE RANGE OFFICE – YOU DO NEED TO ZERO

by John Gardener

As I write this the NRA are about to announce that the MoD have accepted, with some minor changes, the proposed zeroing procedure for high muzzle energy (HME) firearms. It means, in effect, that some match and many F Class shooters will need to prove their zero each time before they shoot. I have never been too worried about the majority of these, what we call HME shooters, because they handload and they all have chronographs, extensive test data and proven zeros. I am more worried about the new, experimental and often not so inexperienced shooter who comes to Bisley for the first shoot each year and does not think it necessary to zero. After finishing the season the previous year, he religiously cleans his gun, takes off the sights to prevent damage and puts everything away. Come the spring, out comes the gun, he dries it and books a target. There was just such an occasion in February this year when a fairly new member of the NRA, judging from his membership number, asked to book a target with a marker at 900 yards. My first question was not the normal, "And when, Sir?" but, "What is the furthest distance you have fired so far this year, Sir?" His response, 200 yards, prompted me to say that I would be asking him, on the day, to prove his zero before I would allow him to shoot.

His indignation made my ear hot. What right had I to demand such a thing? He knew his settings at 200 and had calculated the rise from data he had gleaned from the Internet. I explained that my position as a Ranges Supervisor gave me that right and more so, the responsibility of that job demanded that I take the stance I had. He was in transmitting mode only, receiver switched off. I listened to his speech about jumped up little Hitlers in stupid hats (Good, he knows it's me then) and his finishing salvo - jobsworth! On about the fourth attempt I managed to get in my two pence worth, I pointed out that, if he were at all sensible he would willingly, without prompt, have gone to the zero range first: that it was his, as well as my, responsibility to see that he shot safely to protect life, property and the future of our sport. I reminded him that shooting has a bad enough press and that we at Bisley have already had the 'Gypsies Warning' with regard to rounds escaping. One more bullet in a garage roof will close us down. No second chance, look for another job John.

He was right in one respect, I am a jobsworth and I'll tell you another couple of reasons why. In January, some seasoned shooters had booked an electronic target at 1000 yards. After almost half an hour, no shots had been recorded. We occasionally watch the monitor in the office in order to check for the mistakes

outlined here. In due course along came the call on the radio reporting that the target was not recording his hits (he had been shooting for over twenty minutes by now) and because the Stickledown electronic targets had behaved almost faultlessly up to the day before, my colleague in the office asked, twice, if he was sure of his zero. The indignant response was "I'm a Palma shooter and I don't miss!" My colleague suggested that he just check his sight settings. After a few seconds a shot appeared, about two and a half minutes low and almost four minutes downwind!

So where had all those earlier shots been going? Nowhere near the target, that's for sure! His explanation later that there was more wind than he first thought was no excuse. What happens, in competition, when we miss four times? The rules are no different for practice shooting. I have no doubt that his sight settings were wrong and that he should have known better.

So, when we, in the office, ask you to check your zero we do it for a good reason, not just to make your life awkward. On a similar occasion shortly after the events outlined above, I physically had to stop two shooters, once again missing because their zero was out, and instructed them to go to the zero range. Reluctantly, they went. Be sure that if you don't act responsibly we will take the appropriate action. As for Mister Indignant saying that I can't force a shooter to prove a zero? Actually I can and I do.

Enjoy your shooting, and remember, the Internet can't shoot for you; you do need to know your settings for the current year, and a zero card is only three quid. That has to be worth more than a wasted journey and the possible loss, for countless others, of the privilege and pleasure of shooting at Bisley.

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ICFRA - THE SAGA CONTINUES

An Open Letter to the Secretary General regarding his ICFRA comments in the last Journal

from Richard van Lingen

As an annual (overseas) member of the NRA and an ICFRA Councillor, I must take exception to your comments regarding the ICFRA Rules in your "Notes" published in the Spring 2008 edition of the NRA Journal. I have the highest regard for your integrity but I believe that, as a non-shooter, you have unfortunately been seriously misled. What really worries me is the effect that your comments will have on UK shooters, particularly younger ones, who are not aware of the true facts.

Your opening sentence states:

"The latest threat to TR shooting in the UK is posed by the International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA) and the determination to fundamentally change the sport by making shooting increasingly technical, thus expensive."

This is grossly unfair in every way! Firstly, ICFRA is no threat to UK shooting as these rules are only compulsory for World Championships and the Australia Match – events directly run by ICFRA. However, it is hoped that many NRAs will adopt the ICFRA TR Technical Rules (some have already done so!), in whole or in part, in the interests of worldwide standardisation; but there is no compulsion whatsoever for member countries to do so! Secondly, one of our determinations is to keep elderly shooters, or those with visual disabilities, in the game – surely an objective equally as important as youth encouragement? Thirdly, these are not fundamental changes, nor are they "increasingly technical" and they will certainly not make the sport more expensive than it already is – looking in particular at equipment marketed in the UK!

Let me elaborate on the three changes you criticise:

The Eagle Eye: The use of a limited-power foresight lens was accepted internationally more than a decade ago and adopted by the GB NRA in 2001 / 2002, **before the establishment of ICFRA!** So your claim "In recent times we have seen ICFRA approve the introduction of eagle-eye sights" is patently untrue. What ICFRA **has** recently done is to allow the use of an unrestricted rearsight lens in conjunction with an eagle-eye. Expert opinion and a knowledge of basic physics has satisfied the ICFRA Council that the combination of a maximum 0.5 diopetre foresight lens (focal length: 2 metres), with the limited 1.2 metre sight radius, makes a telescopic effect impossible no matter what lens is used in / on the rearsight! Your reference to the NRA Sight Optics Survey is, I am afraid, a real red rag

to me. I am a retired Consumer Goods Marketing Executive and at one stage ran the largest in-house market research group in South Africa. If I were still lecturing, I would cite your survey as a classic example of how **not** to construct a survey questionnaire. It was guaranteed to achieve the results wanted by the Optic Sights Working Group! Then from the biased findings your Association took a momentous decision, contrary to the considered judgement of the rest of the fullbore world, based on nothing more than unenlightened perceptions. Not a single shot was fired in field trials!

Reduction in trigger weight: You make a valid case for the retention of the 1.5kg trigger for general TR shooting specifically in the UK. This is your prerogative - safety must be the paramount concern. However the ICFRA Rules are primarily for matches involving top-echelon shooters, who will certainly have rifles with triggers that can be safely set down to the ICFRA 500g limit. As it happens, many shooters in the UK are now using RPA or similar match triggers on which the first-pull can be set at 1kg or thereabouts, achieving the same effect on final release. Regarding the safety aspect, New Zealand has used the 500g trigger weight for the last ten years without incident and the USA has, I believe, no limit, provided the trigger is considered "safe", in that it cannot release unintentionally!

Removal of the overall rifle weight restriction: In essence this is self-governing. A shooter will only use a rifle that he can comfortably hold for the duration of a match. The ICFRA Council is satisfied that any increase over 6.5kg will not give any unfair accuracy advantage. There is ample proof of this in the prone performance of the ISSF Standard Rifle compared with the much-heavier Free Rifle. Based on the reaction of GB shooters in Ottawa in 2007, this issue was referred back to the ICFRA TR Committee, chaired by Iain Robertson, a member of your NRA General Council. After extensive debate, this committee reconfirmed the ICFRA Council decision. What brought about the change was primarily the frustration of shooters owning heavy wooden stocks, who wished to modify them by adding permitted adjustable butt plates and cheek pieces, necessitating the drilling of multiple holes in the wood and the metal fittings to get the rifle down to 6.5kg. It is a fact that one can take standard TR rifle components off the shelf, bolt them together and find the resultant rifle over the previous 6.5kg limit.

Finally, let's examine the fallacy of your expense argument. Proprietary Eagle Eye lenses and holders are not expensive at all and one can even save by ordering an appropriate lens cut to size by one's local optician. Most UK competitive TR shooters, including the younger ones who have progressed beyond Tyro

class, already have triggers that can be set down to 500g, so there would be no additional expense involved. Many shooters actually prefer to shoot with a 1.5kg trigger and will continue to do so, fully satisfied that they are at no disadvantage against shooters using lighter triggers. You talk of level playing fields and deride ICFRA for allegedly turning the sport into a high-tech one. Please examine the three ICFRA rule changes and tell me which of them really meets that description. Then turn a few Journal pages from your column to the HPS advertisement on page 11. Look at the picture of the System Gemini stock and read the description, then phone and find out the price. The fact is that GB and Germany have taken the lead in high-tech TR equipment, at a price that is well beyond the means of shooters in most other countries! If you go out onto Century or Stickledown ranges I think you will be surprised at the number of young British shooters who have been able to afford these elaborate pieces of advanced machinery. Getting back to optical aids, are you aware that your Association permitted the use of the magnifying variable diopetre eyepiece before 1990? This device was originally exclusive to German veteran air rifle shooters and yours was the first NRA to allow them for TR - the rest only followed after a decision at the 1995 Palma Match Meeting in New Zealand. A variable diopetre is infinitely more expensive than an Eagle Eye lens plus holder.

I really believe that you owe ICFRA an apology! Your Association may not agree with some of the decisions taken, but that is democracy. Your emotional reaction to these three changes has been, in my opinion, way over the top! I am sure that you will fully appreciate that the GB NRA will be required to follow the ICFRA Rules for the 2010 Australia Match that you requested to host. Otherwise, of course, the GB NRA is quite at liberty to decide on its own domestic rules realising, as you have, that overseas entries to the Imperial Meeting will inevitably suffer - not because of these three ICFRA rule changes, but as a result of the higher entry fee and a realisation that one cannot be truly competitive at Bisley with a rifle that is not set up for your currently issued ammunition. Many of us cannot afford to have a special additional "Bisley rifle"!

Then I must question the conclusion you have drawn by relating the move to handloaded ammunition to "*the adverse effect this has had on youth shooting in other countries.*" Certainly this is not true in my country and it is probably untrue in others too.

With the end of the MoD ammunition contract and the inevitable price increases on purchased commercial ammunition, which could certainly deter younger shooters, I hope that the NRA will examine the alternative of allowing handloads with a fully open mind. There is no gainsaying the fact that a handloader can produce superior ammunition at a significant cost saving!

Personally, once I regain my health, I intend to start again with my annual July pilgrimage to Uncle Tom's Cabin, my caravan at Bisley. This will not be in the expectation of winning any prizes but rather to see my friends, enjoy the camaraderie at the various clubs and drink litres of good British bitters!

Response to Open Letter

from Glynn Alger Secretary General

The tradition in the UK is to maintain a "standard" target rifle to ensure everyone competes on a level playing field. By sticking with this basic principle, ensuring that a target rifle is not too technical in design, thus price, we have managed to maintain the sport. To prove the point target rifle shooting is increasing in popularity in Britain, with youngsters making up 25% of the Imperial Meeting entry for instance.

The concern in the UK is that where ICFRA is taking target rifle is from a position of "standard rifle" to "open rifle", where anything goes and is not in the original spirit of the sport. What has been agreed by ICFRA necessarily means there will be a disconnection between domestic and international shooting, in relation to target rifle in the UK.

At another level the original ICFRA target rifle rules were used as the model for the competitions in the Commonwealth Games. With such fundamental technical changes in the sport that may well reduce the breadth of entry from around the globe to a few nations, thus we are likely to see the Commonwealth Games Committee reassess whether fullbore should be in the Games at all, another potential 'own-goal'.

Shooters in the UK ask why ICFRA has taken this route, when under the standard conditions we have seen scores improve year on year with world records being broken. The motive has to be either the drive for technical excellence for its own sake or that changes are necessary to help a shooter shoot better. In both cases the outcome is likely to be the same. Those who can afford the latest technical support will have an unfair advantage over those who cannot, which in reality is against the spirit of the sport.

F Class was originally created to satisfy these needs. It gave the 'techie' an outlet to experiment and it allowed those who were no longer competitive using open sights the chance to continue to compete. It seems to many in the NRA that ICFRA are on the verge of destroying target rifle and turning it into an overly exclusive sport for the few.

Dealing with specifics:

Eagle Eyes

The NRA ran trials with an unrestricted rear sight and an eagle eye. The results analysed by an expert and supplied to ICFRA showed that both together acted as

an open telescope. We did not rely on opinion. Unlike other bodies we did do a survey. Young shooters registered concerns relating to the cost of increasing technology and they highlighted that it would be increasingly difficult to share rifles.

Trigger Weight

In the UK we are currently being directed to comply with an increasingly stringent safety regime set by the Ministry of Defence. The reason for this is that most fullbore shooting in the UK takes place on military ranges (including Bisley). It would have been imprudent of the NRA to agree to a condition that was potentially in breach of national range safety conditions. If it proves to be the case, which is likely, that the MoD will not allow 0.5kg trigger weights, the NRA will no longer be in a position to host ICFRA championship events going forward unless the technical conditions are adjusted by ICFRA to suit.

On the key issue of expense the writer belittles the plight of young shooters in the UK, pointing out they own some expensive rifles. True some do, most do not, they are reliant upon the NRA, clubs, cadet units

etc. The key here though is the NRA feels it is duty bound to keep as many kids in the sport as it can and encourage them by giving them an equal chance to compete. If they have a good eye, good technique, a steady hand and standard equipment while shooting on equal terms with everyone else they can win if they are good enough.

As for the arguments that those wishing to come to Bisley will need a 'Bisley' rifle in future, effectively the same goes for those going on tour from the UK.

The UK finds itself in the unhappy position that in the interests of its healthy domestic sport we may well find it difficult in future to compete overseas, there will be a reduction in the number of overseas competitors coming to the UK and we will possibly not be able to host international events.

Some in the UK are asking what is the point of being a member of ICFRA, should we the NRA start to look to introduce a standard target rifle World Championships?

What a sorry state we have got ourselves into in the interest of a few.

THE CONCEPT OF A "STANDARD" TARGET RIFLE

by Dick Horrocks

Introduction

This paper represents my own personal views which are independent of my ICFRA role as Vice-President or my GB NRA role as Vice-Chairman of General Council. They are offered as a consequence of the recently proposed changes to ICFRA TR Technical Rules which in my view moves the definition of a TR rifle for use in world competition away from that held by GB NRA of a rifle having a "standard" and well-defined specification. These proposed changes affect the TR rifle specifications such that allowable trigger weight minimum pulls will be 0.5kg irrespective of host country regulations, any combination of single lenses in the foresight and rearsight will be allowed subject to a maximum foresight lens power of 0.5D and the overall weight of the rifle will no longer be specified. In essence, the ICFRA TR rifle specification is moving towards one similar to the "free" prone rifle used in ISSF prone .22LR competitions.

Personally, I subscribe to the "standard rifle" concept as it ensures that while the allowable equipment creates a more "even playing field" condition, the costs of a competitive TR rifle remain affordable and so younger shooters will continue to be attracted into the sport. It is notable that within the ICFRA full membership, GB NRA probably has the greatest numbers of younger shooters competing in its national meeting each year.

Background

I was privileged to be a member of Stan Wheeler's GB team to Canada in 1966 and take part in the NRA trials of a number of 7.62mm prototype rifles in anticipation of the calibre change from .303" to 7.62 mm. It was a priority of the time to ensure that the costs of conversion would be acceptably affordable and not deter the then current community of SRb .303 shooters from converting. It had already been accepted that only No 4 Enfield and P14 rifle actions could withstand the increased pressures of the 7.62mm round and that a heavy barrel would also be required. In order to maintain acceptable cost levels, the specification included the need to allow only mass-produced actions (or those available in quantity) with military actions like the various types of Mauser action being major candidates.

During this same period the "standard rifle" had been defined within the ISSF rifle disciplines with the .22LR Standard Rifle becoming available from most European manufacturers during the mid-1960s. This concept was an attempt by the small-bore and 300m communities to provide a rifle which would have a number of restrictions including a maximum weight of 5kg when compared with the Free Rifle disciplines. In this way costs of rifles would be minimised.

It was around this concept that the NRA planned its new 7.62mm rifle and a maximum weight of 5 kg was adopted along with trigger weight minimum

weight of 1.5 kg and a generally simple stock design. This general pattern remained largely unchanged for the next 20 years or so and allowed the newly developed stiff actions like the Swing, Grunig, etc, to be accommodated within the overall specification from the mid-1970s onwards.

During this period also, the concept of “iron sights” was maintained with the proviso that single corrective lenses could be inserted in rearsight eyepieces, if required, although this has never been allowed in ISSF rifle disciplines.

Changes in TR specifications since 1990

General specifications

It is evident that changes were relatively limited during the 1990-2000 period with the desire to increase overall rifle weight from the 5 kg to the current 6.5 kg level being driven by developments in stiff action designs and increased lengths of barrels.

It is interesting that during the 30 year period from 1970 - 2000, within these still quite severe limits, the accuracy of rifles increased significantly and so the sport was not “frozen” within a 30 year old concept but enabled innovations to occur.

It is interesting also to note that the current ISSF specification for the “standard rifle” has changed very little in terms of the 300m rifle. For the 300m rifle, trigger weight minimum is still 1.5 kg and total rifle weight must not exceed 5.5 kg. Sadly the .22LR Standard Rifle never caught on generally and so is only used by juniors and ladies. Its current specification allows a free (unset) trigger and a maximum weight of 6.5 kg while that for the centrefire 300m Standard Rifle retains its original 5.5 kg weight.

Optical aids for sights

While ISSF disciplines still forbid the use of any lenses in front or rearsights, NSRA .22 rifle and NRA target rifles may now include the use of a dioptré rearsight or an Eagle Eye single lens (0.5D max); the use of a single prescription lens in the rearsight is also allowed in combination with an Eagle Eye lens. Many shooters consider that the use of either of these has blurred the concept of “iron sights”. It is without doubt that the use of strictly defined lens systems has allowed many shooters to extend their competitive shooting lives with both .22 and fullbore rifles at club, county and national levels while preserving a significant element of the “iron sights” concept and practice.

Forces for change since 2003 and the formation of ICFRA

ICFRA was formally established in 2003 with the following aims (extracted from the Constitution):

12 The primary aims of the ICFRA are:

12.1 to contribute to safe and responsible firearms ownership;

12.2 to encourage and promote the interests of the sport world-wide;

12.3 to standardise and formulate the arrangements and rules for major international fullbore rifle competitions

12.4 act as the overarching controlling authority for designated international matches, or the advisory (rules) authority for the fullbore rifle shooting events of multi-discipline competitions;

12.5 act as a cohesive international body to ensure the continuation of the sport is not adversely affected by firearms legislation worldwide and any form of attack on the sport; and

12.6 enhance the contributions this sport makes to the enjoyment and quality of life of its participants.

The NRA was a prime mover in its formation with the aims 12.1, 12.2 and 12.4 above being of principal importance. Recognition of ICFRA by the Commonwealth Games Federation, CSF, followed with their adoption of ICFRA Technical Rules for TR; previously, CSF had adopted the NRA’s rules for TR.

During the 2003 World Championships at Bisley in 2003, not only was the ICFRA Constitution agreed but the TR technical rules were drafted and subsequently agreed during the following three year period. The issue of a 0.5 kg trigger weight was raised during this period with the following rule being agreed and in force for the 2007 World Championships:

Trigger Pull: Pending resolution of this matter, the minimum trigger pull will be according to the host nation’s rules. Set, electrical/electronic and “release” triggers are not allowed.

This would allow a 0.5 kg trigger pull for World Championships held in New Zealand for instance, while 1.5 kg remained the minimum trigger weight during the recent Ottawa championships. The NRA, after receiving expert advice from UK gunsmiths regarding the potential safety of converting 1.5 kg assemblies, voted against any change to 0.5kg. Hence the above rule was unacceptable.

However, during 2005 the proposal to allow any combination of single lenses in both foresight (subject to the 0.5D max) and rearsight was mooted. The NRA undertook its own trials during 2006 and consultation among its members during the late 2006 period. As a result of these activities, we initially voted against the proposal during the ICFRA Council meeting in Ottawa in Summer, 2007. It is notable that GB NRA is probably the only full ICFRA member that has undergone such a procedure on this issue.

At this same meeting and as a surprise to GB Council members present, the TR Committee voted to accept

the 0.5 kg trigger pull and, following a proposal from the USA, to consider lifting the 6.5 kg total rifle weight limit to “any weight”. The former was accepted and the latter referred to the TR Committee for consideration under its new chairman, Iain Robertson. The TR Committee subsequently agreed during late 2007 to accept the unlimited rifle weight criterion and the final TR Technical Rules were circulated to ICFRA Council members during February 2008 for a vote to accept them. Needless to say, GB NRA has voted against adopting them on the three counts of any single lens combination, the reduced trigger weight and the unlimited rifle weight criteria.

In voting in this way, GB NRA may well be in the minority and so for the next World Championships, GB teams will be subject to these new TR Technical Rules. The outcome of the ICFRA vote will not be known until June.

As a consequence of these ICFRA proposals and their most likely adoption, it is evident that since 2003, the original idea of a “standard” rifle for TR, which has remained little changed for over 30 years, has now been seriously challenged and indeed, discarded by ICFRA. In fact, ICFRA has gone beyond the 8 kg weight limits imposed by ISSF on both small-bore and 300m non-standard rifles used in prone and 3-position events. While GB NRA has not had an official policy to maintain the “standard TR rifle” concept, it has, I believe followed this idea in spirit since the 1970 period, allowing relatively few changes since.

It is my view that during the next four years, other changes will be mooted such as “any bullet weight” and eventually “any calibre”.

Consequences for GB TR Shooting

World Championships

It is evident that as soon as the next World Championships, the GB Palma, Veterans and junior teams may be seriously disadvantaged (real or perceived) when travelling to Australia in 2011 if competing with a GB NRA-specification TR rifle. This may cause team members to consider that the purchase of a second rifle is necessary with a consequent additional financial burden on junior and veteran team members especially.

It is possible that a captain, especially that of the GB Palma team, may consider it a necessity that all team (and squad?) members possess a second “ICFRA TR” rifle if they are to be eligible for selection.

GB touring teams

GB teams travelling to other ICFRA member countries who have adopted ICFRA TR Technical Rules as their national rules may also consider that they will be disadvantaged from 2009 onwards, since once agreed, these rules will become immediately effective.

Overseas teams to Bisley

A further consequence of GB NRA TR specifications being different from those of ICFRA could restrict numbers of overseas teams attending Bisley, unless team members possess a second rifle conforming to GB NRA rules or can convert their rifles to fit our technical rules. In addition, when overseas teams at some future date travel to Bisley to shoot in the Imperial Meeting prior to participating in a Bisley-based ICFRA TR championship, members will have to have available rifles that meet both sets of technical rules. This could seriously affect the number of teams attending.

Consequences for Commonwealth Games TR Shooting

There could be serious implications for Commonwealth Games beyond those in 2010 which will be fired under the current (pre-Ottawa 2007) TR Technical Rules. The adoption by CSF of the ICFRA TR Technical Rules in 2003 was a major coup in that it gave ICFRA a degree of world-wide acceptance and credibility within six months of its formal establishment.

The popularity of fullbore TR is well known among the majority of countries in the Commonwealth and, as the 2002 Games demonstrated, many team members from the smaller competing countries had equipment of dubious quality when they arrived in Bisley and the gunsmiths present worked hard to rectify problems. It is possible that if CSF adopts the proposed post-2007 ICFRA TR Rules for the 2014 Games, many smaller countries will not enter. Alternatively, CSF may wish to cease adopting ICFRA TR Technical Rules or continue to adopt the pre-2007 version. This again has consequences for CG team members having to have available rifles that may not be eligible in their own countries!

A final and more important issue is the possibility that the adoption of the new TR Rules by CSF may dissuade a number of smaller CG nations from competing and this could seriously influence the continued inclusion of TR in future Commonwealth Games. The present policy within the Commonwealth Games Federation is to focus on Olympic disciplines more and more; at the present time TR is to be included in 2010 and 2014 because of its popularity and numbers of countries entering.

Possible Questions for the Immediate Future

Given the current thinking within the majority of full ICFRA members, it is unlikely that the proposed amended TR Technical Rules, once adopted, will ever revert to the pre-2007 version. GB NRA must therefore consider the implications that these changes pose for its own position regarding TR competition within the UK and teams travelling to and from the UK including those taking part in future ICFRA World TR Championships.

While not being intended to be inclusive, certain possibilities arise:

- GB NRA continues to be fully in control of its own definition of TR technical rules, which are valid in UK-based competition, while attempting to accommodate the likelihood that GB touring team members may have to possess a second "ICFRA TR rifle" if they are to be chosen. With regard to accommodating overseas teams, GB NRA will have to consider how it may accommodate overseas team members travelling from countries which have adopted ICFRA TR Technical Rules as their own national rules; host future World TR Championships at long or short range and how to accommodate overseas team members who will be travelling to Bisley with only a single "ICFRA TR" rifle.
- GB NRA proposes to ICFRA that two TR rifle classes are defined with that currently being proposed within the proposed TR Technical Rules being named an "ICFRA TR" or "Palma rifle". The second TR rifle class would be a "Standard Rifle" based on the definition in the pre-2007 ICFRA TR Technical Rules. Furthermore, all junior teams would be restricted to the "Standard Rifle".

Dual classification now exists within F Class via the recent adoption of the F Class (restricted) discipline and so the precedent within ICFRA has already been established.

- GB NRA takes a more proactive stance regarding its maintenance of a standard rifle principle and consults with and even lobbies other NRA members of ICFRA highlighting their concerns regarding the broadening of a TR rifle definition and especially the fears that the future of the sport will be seriously jeopardised should the "ICFRA TR" specification become the norm throughout the world

There may of course be other options, but by fielding the three above, I hope to stimulate debate within GB NRA, both at Shooting Committee / Trustee / General Council and possibly membership levels. It is true to say that the present thinking of the GB NRA Shooting Committee following its recent May meeting was the third option. If this pathway is to be pursued then it is crucial that members respond favourably thereby assuring the Association of your full support in its attempts to secure the future of the sport in terms of its affordability and attractiveness to the young in particular.

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GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2008

by Matt Charlton

<i>Captain</i>	Steven Thomas
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	David Dyson
<i>Main Coach</i>	Martin Townsend
<i>Adjutant</i>	James Lewis
<i>Shooters</i>	Gary Alexander
	Nigel Ball
	Matt Charlton
	Ed Compton
	Ian Davison
	Matt Ensor
	George Gilpin
	Ed Jeens
	Adam McCullough
	Jane Messer
	Marcus O'Leary
	Parag Patel
	Toby Raincock
	Rick Shouler
	Paul Sykes
	Jon Underwood
	Chris Watson

Although the Great Britain Rifle Team left for South Africa on 22 March, the tour effectively started much earlier. Team Captain Steven Thomas selected his team a year ahead of time and set each member to work on different aspects of the preparation. The goal of the team was simple: to go to Bloemfontein and win the Protea Match for Great Britain for the first time in at least a decade.

To that end, team members could not afford to allow rust to creep in during the cold months while the South Africans were busy shooting their way through the southern summer. They gathered at Bisley on several occasions for training weekends in the autumn and winter to preclude that, and most of the team trained in their own ways separately during the off-season. Meanwhile planning, logistics, fundraising etc also needed to be dealt with and the captain delegated all possible roles such that everyone took responsibility for the success of the tour. Fundraising (co-ordinated by Marcus O'Leary) went very well, particularly through brochure advertising.

While some of the team had assembled to weigh baggage ahead of departure on Good Friday evening, the majority got together over breakfast on Saturday morning before proving to the team of baggage masters that they could make the miserly 20kg (pre-ammunition) limit. That helped to smooth transit through check-in, customs and security despite all the rifles, even if it was punctuated by several fairly lengthy waits. After a fair, if hot, night's sleep for many on the plane, the team arrived in Johannesburg, where onto Avis and the vehicles secured by the good offices of Avis employee and GB wind coach

Matt Ensor in return, it seems, for a little money and a photograph of the staff with the "famous" Great Britain Rifle Team.

After arrival, we learned that Gary Alexander had been promoted to the status of full team member, having contributed very fully as a reserve. Monday saw re-measuring of chambers, team photo (with sinking Townsend) and a range walk to get the lie of the land and quick-changing mirage.

The next day saw everyone up early (ish - little did we know that 06:45 breakfast would later prove to be a long lie-in) for team practice and acclimatisation. The Adjutant introduced a team bonding exercise by requiring everyone to help push his van out of a large, muddy puddle.

Our programme (from 07:30 to 18:00) was ambitious and, in such heat, was energy sapping for all firers and doubly so for the coaches who were ever-present on the firing point. All were too tired to help Toby Raincock celebrate his birthday in style, preferring to retire early ahead of a Wednesday containing 600 and 900m shoots in the morning and a full Protea Match practice (300, 600, 900m) after lunch. That saw the team complete the course of fire in 60-70% of the allotted hour – not bad considering the targets had five, five and six people as opposed to the four there would be in the match itself.

Following Thursday morning's practice, our one in-transit rifle breakage (a cracked stock) was taken, kindly, by South African coach Alex Coetzee to a Bloemfontein armourer for repair. Amazingly, it was back by the end of the Free State Pairs that afternoon, in which our top two combinations scored 196 in fairly challenging wind to be placed behind local David Dodds and partner, who shot 197.24 in the second, relatively windless, detail.

Friday's individual shoots were the Free State Championships at 3, 6, 8 and 900m, with subtle mirage changes reflected in unsubtle changes in score. After a hard 800m Jon Underwood was the only one still clean. Moving to 900m, Nigel Ball reminded us that he was the only foreigner to have won the Championships. Parag Patel made best work of the conditions with a 54.3 (out of 55) but Rick Shouler's consistency throughout the day gave him our highest total and the Free State title, with Underwood in third place. Ed Compton was second in the long range match and Jon Underwood, Paul Sykes and Rick Shouler were first, second and third in the short range. Prize giving concluded with an auction in aid of future teams to Bisley with Brits to the fore in the bidding despite the difficulty of transporting their new possessions home.



The intrepid trophy hunters prepare for battle.



Rick gets his hands on a cute pair of puppies!



It's not all hard work!



Hope Adam McCullough has insured his trigger finger!



The team in action.



Captains have to make a lot of hard decisions - pizza or pasta?



We won!



Fame at the airport.

Saturday saw individual and team warm-up shoots. Some shots prepared by practising their 05:45 breakfast starts while others started to perfect the art of wolfing something down at 06:20 to gain valuable sleeping time. Adjutant James Lewis opened his account with a 100.7 in the Scottish Sword competition at 300 and 900m in the morning for second place, followed by another 100 in the afternoon when the GB team transmogrified into the BCRC to enter the Dewar Match (six-man teams at 300 and 600m). These were not the usual target teams but evenly matched combinations that would allow the opportunity for all firers to shoot with each of the coaches over three days, in case of the need for change in the Protea Match.

The match record was 595 out of 600. BCRC started well at 300m, with Blue holding a six V bull lead from Red on 299 and White on 297. After a similar pattern at 600m, despite interesting wind, the BCRC teams finished first, second and third with scores of 598.76 (Blue, coach Matt Ensor), 598.69 (Red, Matt Charlton) and 595.71 (White, Martin Townsend), with White finishing seven points clear of the top South African team – a confidence builder for the following week. Then the wind strengthened from either side of 12 o'clock, blowing up a dust storm to hamper the South African clubs still shooting.

Team dinner and viewing of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race followed, with the awful conditions making everyone appreciate African weather all the more, before the sole opportunity on tour to bond in traditional fashion with there being a rest day the next day. After a constructive first week, the team was in positive frame of mind and had cemented further the great camaraderie that had been building thus far.

Sunday saw a contrast between the indolence of those who took a long-awaited and much-needed lie-in, and the industry of those (led by Ian Davison) who pushed back ammunition for all the individual shoots. Later, some relaxed at hotel, mall and Waterfront, while most went to a private game reserve for lunch (and

in Jumbo's case, a snooze; in Martin's, some time on the children's swing) and then a game drive.

With Adam McCullough perched on a seat on the bonnet and ten fellow team members behind, Jacques of the game ranch drove and offered interesting commentary on all manner of game, from oryx to gembock, warthog to giraffe, eland to zebra, lynx to African wild dog and more. A highlight for all was the opportunity to interact with cheetah who were very docile. They nevertheless delivered the occasional playful bite and a wee scratch for the fearless Adam, apparently giving him super-powers. On returning, most retired well before 21:00 – behaving like professionals ahead of the serious shooting.

Monday at 07:00 saw the opening ceremony and an entertaining speech from "Uncle" Bill Bramley. The flags of the attending countries and provinces were raised as the South African national anthem was played. Scotland's flag won.

On the range, we learned that it was General Mac Alexander's 61st birthday; five GB shots celebrated with 105s in the Orange Free State competition at 300, 500 and 600m - Lewis, Shouler, Patel, Chris Watson and Jane Messer.

After a rather brief lunch and another briefing, we again became BCRC for the Hamilton Cup (Queen's I, six-man teams). A few ropey shots and the heat and high levels of sweat contributed to a weakish showing from BCRC Red at 300m, with four points dropped to the Blue and White teams' two. Mirage and flags had almost never tallied, with the former more consistent but neither one a reliable guide. The mirage became more truthful at 500m, changing rapidly with all teams on the ball: Red went clean and the others dropped one point each. It was similar at 600m with changes sometimes larger and harder to detect as the light dimmed and, with it, the mirage. Fortunes here were mixed: White dropped eight, Blue three and Red only one point to complete the turn-around and finish a point off the record. Final tallies out of 630: BCRC Red (coached by Matt Charlton) 625.69, BCRC Blue (Matt Ensor) 624.71, BCRC White (Martin Townsend) 619.70, finishing first, second and fourth.

After shooting came the team's reception at the Lettie Fouche School for which it had raised some money, in part by means of an Ebay auction of items donated by the team. The school, a charitable institution that helps families with disabled children, was an excellent venue and was grateful for the 25,000 Rand donation (aided by Under 19 team member Georgie Ogden's collection in a GB hat) and gifts hand-made by pupils at Byfleet Primary School.

The next day, once everyone had finished laughing at Jumbo being listed on the prize lists as an Under 19, we headed to the range, where one coach had prepared a surprise for the captain. Before General Alexander



Wheweeeee! Martin Townsend relives his childhood.

led the range in prayers, he announced "Could the GB team Captain Steven Thomas please come to see me?" before complaining of post-reception indigestion over the tannoy and asking Steven to take over his duties. April Fool!

There was little challenge in Tuesday's 300m shoot, with many of the team going clean, but 600m proved harder with many dropping points in the 2 & 11 shoot. Nigel was the exception with 55.8, while Jumbo dropped his very first points with Bergers, having cleaned the last 92 shots over 11 ranges. After 105 points fired, the morning still held the Dave Smith Cup in store at 900m - South Africa's answer to the Corporation, with most falling foul of the switching wind. The afternoon's team match was held in a mixture of shifting and static winds and searing heat and light. Be it through fatigue after the reception, dehydration, light or simple nerves, several points were dropped by each of the BCRC teams at each range. The day was won by a South African team on 593 ex 600 vs our best of 587 (White, under Martin Townsend, with Blue 584 and Red 583), leading to soul-searching before the team for Wednesday's RSA International Match was announced.

Four Brits led the Grand at that stage (Patel, Watson, Ball, Messer) but only one was due to shoot in the RSA International Match against South Africa, giving an indication as to the thinking behind team selection. Like the America Match in Canada in 2006, it was designed to help determine selection for the Protea Match, with big names omitted in favour of those on the cusp of selection for the big one.

Wednesday brought the State President's First Stage. A lot of 35s came at 300m and 500m as low sun and a cooling breeze gave way to warmer and trickier conditions, which worsened at 600m to leave only five of the GB team on scores of 105 out of 105: Ball, Patel, Raincock, Compton and Matt Charlton. Some meetings would see your whole day over by the end of a Queen's I course but not Bloemfontein, where there was still another shoot to come before lunchtime! The Municipal was fired in tricky wind conditions after Chris jinxed it by saying "looks like it's a steady right wind at last now!" Steven Thomas's 49.5 was our leading total.

Match of the day, though, was the RSA International - the first of two opportunities to take on the might of the World Championship silver medallists on their home range. A sweltering start saw the wind change quickly and frequently enough to cause a lot of stopping and disjointed shooting. The wind coaches were seeing it well and the shooters largely coped with the stop-start rhythm and heat to drop 15 points out of 900 at 800m and sit two points ahead of a South African team that was shooting very well. All took as much shelter, shade, liquid and rest as possible between ranges although the break allowed was shorter than

we'd hoped and much shorter than we were used to, largely because we'd (unusually) used most of the time allowance after having shot in bursts and avoided some of the less certain wind conditions.

At 900m the pattern continued, although one or two of the steadier periods were slightly more sustained and the heat was less oppressive. The firers produced better performances and matched or improved their scores at the longer range. So did the South Africans and the match came down to the very last shot, fired by Underwood with the other two targets having finished a few minutes earlier.

South Africa managed to record a higher score at 900m than at 800m and beat the match record by 16 points: a huge margin, given that they had only dropped 30 for a score of 1770. Great Britain, who had led after 800m by two, were behind by two by the halfway stage of 900m, despite Compton's brilliant 75.12 for a match-leading 150.21. Strong knocks by the last four British firers, though, brought the result we wanted as GB took the 900m range by a single point and the match by three, with a new record (by 19 points) of 1773.

Great Britain scores

Captain: Steven Thomas
Adjutant: Gary Alexander
Main Coach: Martin Townsend
Reserves: Nigel Ball, David Dyson, Parag Patel

Left target (coach Matt Charlton)

Adam McCullough	74.08	74.08	148.16
Ed Compton	75.09	75.12	150.21
James Lewis	74.07	74.07	148.14
Chris Watson	74.10	74.05	148.15

Middle target (coach Jane Messer)

Ed Jeens	74.05	73.06	147.11
Marcus O'Leary	73.06	73.04	146.10
Rick Shouler	74.06	75.08	149.14
Jon Underwood	74.05	75.04	149.09

Right target (coach Matt Ensor)

Paul Sykes	73.06	74.06	146.12
Ian Davison	72.04	72.08	144.12
George Gilpin	73.09	75.10	148.19
Toby Raincock	75.09	74.11	149.20

Great Britain	885.84	888.89	1773.173
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South Africa			1770.170
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The match was followed by the first of two prize-giving receptions, where the South African Team Championship saw the three BCRC teams (coached respectively by Ensor, Charlton and Townsend) finish first, second and third. BCRC Captain Jane Messer was very pleased!

Thursday was to be a long day, starting with the Jack Mitchley at 300m. Jane Messer capitalised on first detail conditions with 50.10; Nigel was close behind,

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on 50.9, before joining Ed Compton's case counting party to prepare our brass for sale. In consecutive shoots at 600m (Kings Norton and the first half of the President's), a light fishtailing wind caught a few out but mostly saw good 49s and 50s, although one person re-learned that it was hard to shoot well if too many muscles were being used (after consumption of too much water, by contrast with the U19 shot admitted to hospital with dehydration the previous day).

By lunch, Parag and Nigel had both achieved strong 150s, with a couple of other full houses following them up. There was heavy pressure for some to perform in the last two Grand shoots during the afternoon prior to Protea Match selection. Chris scored our only possible at 800m in the President's - a 50.6. Theoretically under most pressure should have been Parag in the Col R Bodley at 900m that afternoon - he was leading the Grand. As he got down with a few friends/team-mates watching, he thought all his birthdays had come at once: he was squadded in a pair, with his partner both quick and competent, and unlike the first detail's wind bracket of 0.5 to 5.5 right, the second was shot on a steady 0.5 to 1 (perhaps 1.5) minutes. Parag made the most of it with a 50.8 and a three point win in the Grand from Nigel, who had also beaten David Calvert's record. Celebration would have to wait until after the Protea Match the next day though . . .

After a rare couple of hours off, the team went to the SABU function at which teams for the following day would be announced, amid much shaking of hands (and lots of kisses for Jane).

Friday brought the shoot we had come for - the Protea Match - but first the State President's Second Stage. The first detail again seemed to enjoy better conditions, not just at 300 but also 600m. Still people on both details managed 50.10s: Watson, Alexander, Compton, Patel and Ball. Parag achieved the best of a slew of GB 150s with 150.25 to take a commanding lead in the South African TR Championship. Lewis, Paul Sykes and Vice-Captain David Dyson were among the others.

Among the 149s was Adam McCullough, despite his initial withdrawal on 15.2 at 600m after his trigger failed. He was persuaded by team mates to go back into battle with a rifle borrowed from Chris while an attempt was made to fix his - he would need to use one of them in the Protea Match in the afternoon. The CRO allowed him a re-shoot, and by the end of it David had fixed Adam's sear and a few shots on the zero range reassured him that it still felt about right.

Thankfully shooting ended earlier than on prior mornings, such that

even the second detail had a couple of hours free before the start of the Protea Match. Everyone took rest and shade after a swift early lunch, with all focused on the job at hand.

The Protea Match - the big one - was shot under different conditions than we had experienced so far in South Africa. At 300m, for the first time, the flags were to be trusted and the mirage not. At 600m, it was virtually the same, although one coach tried in vain to favour the mirage that had previously been such a good friend. Then at 900m, the wind suddenly became a different beast altogether half way through: instead of a tricky, fickle, fast-shifting fishtail, it became a square, raging animal of 8 to 9 minutes right. As it picked up, it was underestimated by most on the coaching team but turned out to be fairly steady for those who were able to shoot tightly enough to take advantage of it.

The Protea was hard fought. It looked like it might not be after 300m, when GB dropped three points and South Africa thirteen. Then at 600m, GB dropped nine and South Africa twelve. So we took a lead of thirteen into the 900m shoot. There, South Africa coped slightly better with the changed conditions than we did but, in defensive mode, GB simply chose to shoot when South Africa did, to eliminate the possibility of losing by dint of having experienced different conditions than our hosts. South Africa shot well at 900m and could be proud of gaining seven points, to lose by a mere six. Not as close as Wednesday, but a lot closer than the Palma and uncomfortably so: 1765 points to 1759.

Adam, whose trigger had malfunctioned earlier, caused further concern with two very high bulls to start at 300m, prompting the elevation change that resulted in the award of a low inner, subsequently challenged and changed to a bull five. Only later did he admit to his coach that he had loosened his sling to

shoot with Chris's rifle earlier in the day but failed to re-tighten it. The result: a top-scoring 150.21!

Job done, but "phew!" It had been an excellent match between (currently) the world's two premier target rifle nations. Both sides had relished and enjoyed the close competition and we look forward to future iterations.

At the Protea dinner, various speeches of varying quality were given by all the captains, with the outstanding one that from Scottish U19 captain Tarni Duhre, whose team (on 834 ex 900) had for a second time beaten the South Africans (827) to finish a close second to the UK U19s (842).



James Lewis models the latest hi-tech shooting hat.

Scores from the Protea Match

Captain: Steven Thomas
 Adjutant: Gary Alexander
 Main Coach: Martin Townsend
 Coaches: Matt Charlton, Jane Messer,
 Matt Ensor

Firers	300m	600m	900m	Total
Adam McCullough	50.6	50.7	50.8	150.21
Parag Patel	50.7	50.7	50.4	150.18
Rick Shouler	50.7	50.6	50.4	150.17
Jon Underwood	50.7	50.6	50.3	150.16
Nigel Ball	50.10	50.7	49.5	149.22
Paul Sykes	49.8	50.4	50.5	149.17
Ed Compton	50.7	48.3	49.3	147.13
George Gilpin	50.5	49.6	48.2	147.13
Toby Raincock	49.4	48.4	48.2	145.10
David Dyson	50.7	49.5	45.3	144.15
James Lewis	49.6	49.4	44.3	142.13
Chris Watson	50.6	48.2	44.2	142.10
Great Britain	597.80	591.61	577.44	1765.185
South Africa	587.61	588.57	584.42	1759.160

Shouler tie-shot for the Orange Free State match on Saturday morning, with the handicap of a borrowed jacket after he left his at the guesthouse. Willem du Plooy (GC) had finished his sighter and three to count by the time Rick, inimitably, turned to his watching team mates to request a different jacket to try. With Willem having dropped three points, Rick was encouraged to stop faffing and fired 5 V 4 to win the tie.

At lunch, twenty of the team prepared for the State President's Final, to be shot in stronger wind than we'd seen all week and a big rainstorm that the Brits expected to favour them. Lightning caused a stoppage after a few shots and we all fell back to the shelter of the vehicles until the match resumed, apart from Matt Ensor and George Gilpin who had sensibly opted to avoid the soaking altogether by withdrawing. Nigel overcame technical problems (iris and extractor) to score 73, but David was very impressively still clean after 800m.

As 900m commenced, the rain returned and the wind picked up from 5 to 11 and then 13 minutes of right wind. With the flags (which weren't even close to being square!) showing little change above 10 minutes, the only clue that the pick-up was closer to 6 minutes than 3 was the huge number of left handed outers and magpies across the range. One coach managed the unusual achievement of firing his sighters with a 5 minute elevation difference between them and converting both. At least he got the wind right!

There were few scores above the 70-72 range and plenty below. Parag had finished six off on the day to win the South African TR Championship, with Nigel four points behind in second.



Dave Dyson won the State President's.

To the pleasure of the GB team (except the bearer party), David Dyson won the State President's Prize, dropping only two points - one of only two such scores.

Prize giving followed. Our top placings in the Grand had been:

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Parag Patel |
| 2 | Nigel Ball |
| 9 | Adam McCullough |
| 10 | Jane Messer |

Fellow Brit David Calvert was sixth.

The proudest moment of the prize giving, though, was when the team went up to collect its medals for the Protea Match, the one thing we had come for.

The team followed the ceremony with a quick turn-around before team dinner at the Beef Baron, where a nearby table contained Bernand de Beer and his Gauteng North team. Toasts flowed back and forth and one team member surprised himself and everyone else by coping very comfortably with the 1kg steak challenge - now both Matts will forever be able to find their names on the wall when they return. Appropriately the evening finished at the Sportsman's Bar, where a member of the Cheetahs professional rugby team who had beaten the Queensland Reds that day told Matt Charlton: "You guys are really good aren't you? I hear you've been breaking lots of records." Ample demonstration that shooting gets much more and better press in the Free State than it does back home!

It had been a short(ish), intense and successful tour, with Captain Steven Thomas's key objective for his team attained, in sporting and competitive circumstances. Thank you to all who contributed. It is Bill Bramley's words that will forever be treasured - in his view we were: "the most successful team ever to visit South Africa," and he'd know better than any of us.

INTRODUCING BRIGITTE RUSHMORE - MARKETING MANAGER, NSC

by Tony de Launay

The National Shooting Centre has appointed Brigitte Rushmore as Marketing Manager. Her previous career was with BII, the professional body for the Licenced Retail Sector. During her time with BII she undertook a number of communications and marketing roles, culminating in the position of Deputy Director of Marketing.

When the opportunity arose she did not hesitate at the chance of a new role in a different sector. She clearly relishes the new challenge.

"In the very short time that I have been here I have been struck by the difference between my previous place of work and Bisley. To be able here to walk out of the office and be surrounded by the product that we can offer to the sports and leisure market, is a staggering contrast", she says.

"My job is to maximise the revenue that we can develop through corporate events, sponsorship and facility usage. To do this we have to improve shooting's image and to present a sport for all, as other major sports have done. We must dispel the possible misconceptions about our sport that there may be in public and corporate minds".

At the time of writing she is working to a deadline to present a marketing plan to the NSC board meeting on 27 May, the first step in the process. "Bisley is unique, a time capsule with fantastic facilities. By itself that is a valuable commodity, but we have already shown just how attractive it can be to non-shooters - such as the Harley Davidson motorcyclists".

She appreciates the potential stresses that maximising revenue could present - between the need to maintain the core sport of shooting for which Bisley is justly famous and the use of the space for new and different activities. "We must ensure that the pursuit of revenue benefits the shooting community as a whole, not only here at Bisley but also throughout the regions".

"Customers who make use of corporate events, or who go for sponsorship packages, or who become involved in other ways with using our facilities, are all looking for benefits and a return on their investment. If we can satisfy them, the revenue they yield will be NSC's contribution to the growth of shooting sports".

She knows that in real terms it is very early days. Her first tangible result is already available in the form of a new corporate brochure presenting the unique shooting experience. She feels that she is at the start of something big, and looks forward to being part of the team turning survival into growth.



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TALKING WITH MIK MAKSIMOVIC

by Tony de Launay

I first came across Mik Maksimovic when he was in a state of euphoria after his charges at Stamford School had put in what was then, and will remain, a record score in the Ashburton when it was a two range shoot. It was what has been named the Millennium year of 2000. It had passed Mik by in the joy of the moment that technically it was the last year of the old century and, anyway, it mattered not one jot.

Mik Maksimovic, known to some as MikMak, is easily recognisable by his succession of golf buggies that have transported him around the ranges during the Bisley meetings since 2002. Justifiably proud of this contribution to range friendly transport he plans this year to go one step better with an eco-friendly electric version, specially customised for the purpose. "If I had not had this form of transport last year, when I had a broken ankle and was up to my knee in plaster, I would have been completely snookered. The new one will have balloon tyres to be even more considerate to the grass".

Mik was not a born shooter. "I joined the army as a boy soldier in 1979. That was my introduction to .22 and service rifle shooting and although I was among the recognised shots I never quite made the army team",

something he puts down with a burst of laughter to having to surrender the last places to eager young 'Ruperts'.

When he was not shooting he was supposed to be fixing broken tanks, with his REME colleagues. He left the army in 1991 with the rank of sergeant, and promptly bought the Dolphin pub in Stamford as a first investment in what

was to become a career in property development. Today he runs a medium size company specialising in redeveloping old and stone buildings, with a portfolio of rented out licenced properties.

"One of the spin-offs from the Dolphin was that I got to meet some of the masters from Stamford School in the bar of the pub. It was from those conversations that I was invited to help the school's cadets in their rifle shooting". He became honorary master i/c shooting and the school flourished under his guidance until the glorious moment in 2000 when they posted that unbelievable Ashburton score of 550 ex 560.

"It was the year when all of the schools that had rifle VIIIs using the cadet target rifle had General Sir Mike Jackson to thank. It was he who overcame the bureaucrats and ordered the release of sufficient ammunition to allow schools to practise with the rifle". It is a matter of record and pure coincidence that Jackson is a former pupil of Stamford.

"That year we were lucky and we also made our own luck. We had one of those squads that masters dream about, with Graham and Rob Nelson, Jim and Alex Lawrie and Peter Calvert among others. Six of that VIII are still shooting at the highest levels. We had at least a dozen competitive practices that year and it all came together on the day - fantastic".

Mik is now known as a leading proponent of F Class rifle shooting. He never touched a target rifle while in the army and later, when he did, he confesses with that Maksimovic grin that he was not good enough to rub elbows with the winners. "So I found that in F Class I got the double enjoyment and interest of preparing my own ammunition and being able to compete with the front runners", he says. He is the Adjutant to the British team in next year's World Championships at Bisley.



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Next year's event will be a testing one for F Class. With tension running high after some arguments within ICFRA about the technical rules, it will be important for F Class that the championships are seen to be a success in their own right. "There are pressures to send the discipline towards something akin to armchair shooting, with rifles and rules closer to some form of prone bench-rest", he observes in his typically pithy manner. "It is not. The discipline was always intended to be a next step for those that either found TR becoming difficult and unsuitable primarily through age, or for those who did not wish to adopt the more spartan TR approach. It was never intended as an equivalent to some ballistical custom-car show". He intends that it will be a World Class competition.

More recently he was invited by John Jackman to join the board of the National Shooting Centre. He also became a Trustee of the NRA with the unanimous approval of the General Council, and sits on the Membership Committee. "It has been an interesting 18 months. Every member owes John Jackman a deep vote of thanks, because without his work to put right the disastrous mess that we were in six years ago we would have no sport and no shooting centre. It was as stark as that".

He is confident enough to feel that the Association is now on a relatively level footing. "Light at the end of the tunnel", he says. However he was brought onto the NSC board for his practical business experience. "We are now in the redevelopment stage – development for

shooters at Bisley and in the regions. Any reliance on the conditions suitable to the mid 1900s is no longer the standard to offer our customers.

"Families do not come to participate at world class centres where concrete floors and shared showers are the norm. En suite bathrooms are what we all expect on holiday and that is the standard for the future. Shooters come here to enjoy their sport and we should ensure that they go away wanting to return and spend their money next time". He is also fully aware that part of the work has to be done by sympathetic development of the non-conservation areas. Opportunities for self-development of small shooting lodges are already progressing as part of the plan.

He looks to the newly created Marketing Manager post as one of the sources for growth. More sponsors for competitions, more corporate packages, more revenue and above all more people participating, are all part of the recipe for growth. "Shooters can, and must, do their bit by bringing in new shooters", he says.

As we speak he is rattling around in a pile of cases, preparing for the next loading. This guy is a worker armed with a sense of humour and the ability to give you the good reasons why something can be achieved – not the 101 fears why it cannot. Very refreshing and eminently approachable, he has even been known to attack the plumbing to get the job finished. Just watch out for that new model golf buggy.

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THE WORLD F CLASS OPEN & F CLASS RESTRICTED CHAMPIONSHIPS BISLEY 2009

These Championships will be held at Bisley immediately following the Imperial Meeting, and will run from Sunday 26 until Thursday 30 July 2009. The programme of events will be as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 26 July | Teams & Individual Practice Targets. |
| 27 - 28 | July World F Class Individual Championships. |
| 29 - 30 | July The World Championships of International F Class Teams.
Open & F/Restricted, also the Rutland Cup (Six Man Open Teams). |

Entry forms are available to download from the NRA website for these Championships and must be forwarded to reach the Squadding Department at the NRA by no later than 1 April 2009.

Bids for entries to the F Class World Individual Championships may now be made but are subject to the following conditions:

- a A maximum of 300 entries can be accommodated on Stickledown Range, three details of 50 targets (two firers per firing point) at each distance (800, 900 and 1000 yards) each day for two days.
- b All competitors must (i) be of the highest class within their own country and (ii) their nomination must be supported by their own NRA.

As required by the rules of ICFRA priority must be given to members of the international teams. It is likely that there will be some 120 in these categories leaving only 180 places for individuals. The number of entries which can be accepted from each country will therefore be as follows:

- 1 All members of the International F Class team and F Restricted teams
- 2 An equal number (likely to be in the region of 20) individual competitors who also comply with para b above. This number will be increased depending on entry.
- 3 Home based competitors are likely to complete the entry.

Teams Composition

ICFRA F Class Open International Team

Sixteen members comprising a Captain, an Adjutant, three Coaches, eight Firers, two Register Keepers and a Reserve.

NRA (GB) F Class Restricted International Team

Eight members comprising a Captain, a Coach, four Firers, a Register Keeper and a Reserve, minimum four firers.

F Class Open - Rutland Cup Teams

Six members comprising a Captain, a Coach and four Firers, minimum four firers.

Note: Rutland Cup Teams (F Class Open/F Restricted) matches are open to firers from anywhere in the world. Teams may be called by any reasonable name and team scores may be shot concurrently with the International Match. Entries will close at lunchtime Mon 27 Jul 2009.

Further information can be obtained from Mik Maksimovic on mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk who will happily answer any questions or put you in contact with the people who will know the answer.

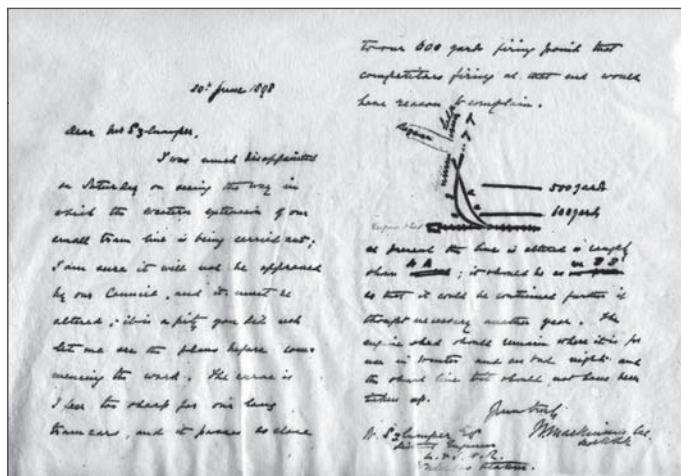
THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ITS TRAMWAYS AND THE LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

by Christopher C Bunch

Returning to 1898, an exceptionally busy year in Range Tramway developments, the NRA had finally decided to extend it at both ends and the L&SWR, through Scotter, were requested to do the job. The plans were for an extension to the Long Siberia Range and to re-site the Camp terminus at the far end of the Bazaar Lines, adjacent to and alongside the Century Range. The work was carried out under the control of AW Szlumper, then a District Engineer but later the L&SWR Chief Engineer. However all did not go entirely to plan as the following letter and following letter book copy graphically describes!

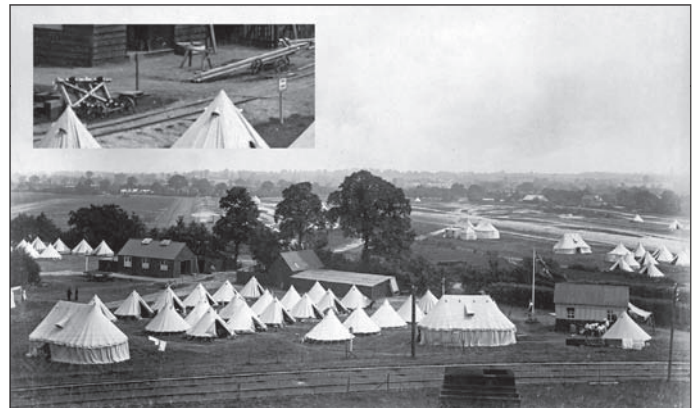
I was much disappointed on Saturday on seeing the way in which the western extension of our tram line is being carried out; I am sure it will not be approved by our Council, and it must be altered; it is a pity you did not let me see the plans before commencing the work. The curve is I fear too sharp for our long tramcars, and it passes so close to our 600 yard firing point that competitors firing at that end would have reason to complain.

At present the line is altered as largely shown AA; it should be as in BB so that it could be continued further if thought necessary another year. The engine shed should remain where it is for use in winter and on bad nights and the short line bit should not have been taken up.



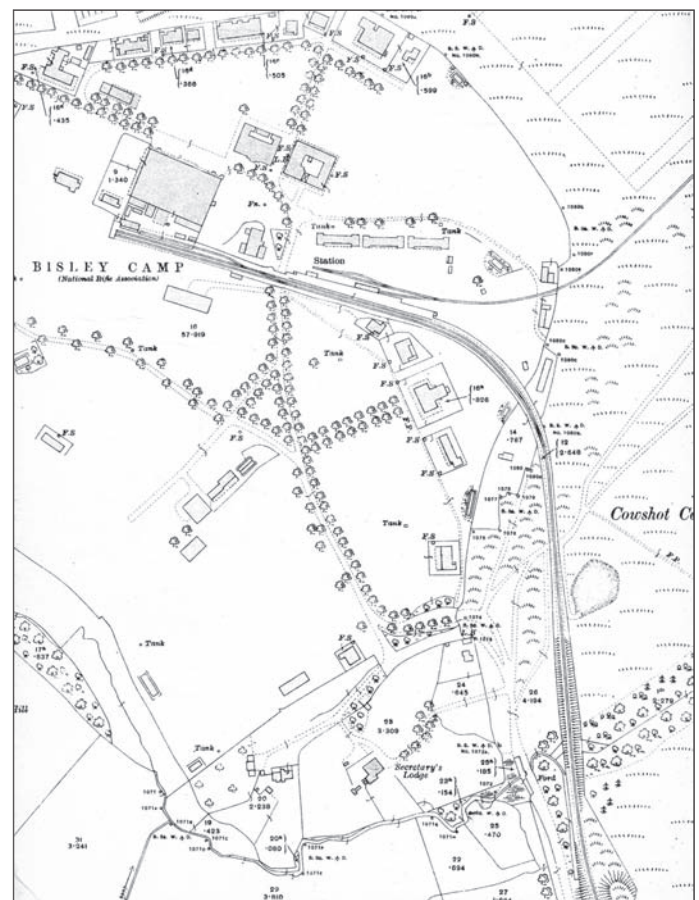
Col Mackinnon's letter complaining about the way in which the L&SWR had laid an extension to the range tramway.

In 1900 the owners of the nearby Princess Christian Homes requested the construction of a temporary branch to their site from a junction at Wisdom Corner (near the north eastern end of the Century Range 600 yards firing point) and, at the Camp end, for the tramway to be altered to terminate in or near to the goods yard, close to the Camp Station. This was required for the transport of building materials to the Homes. Track material was obtained from the Royal Engineers but,



Looking east from the Canadian Club in July 1901. The Range Tramway alteration of 1900 can be seen diverging to pass in front of the Workshop. It then rejoins the original route behind the Century Range 600 yards firing point. The enlargement shows the scene just in front of the Workshop. It includes a discarded underframe and wheels from the old Wimbledon tramcars and also a Range Tramway level crossing, complete with warning signs.

although the Camp terminus was duly altered, it is not known whether the branch to the Homes was ever constructed.



By kind permission of the Ordnance Survey

Bisley Camp in 1914 - this is a section of a large scale OS Map, published in 1915, which shows virtually the whole of the Bisley Camp site including all the Ranges. The Camp termini of both 'tramways' are prominent, showing three of the five turnouts

on the Range Tramway as well as the tramway shed behind the branch platform. Other 'tramways' shown on the complete map served the Century and Siberia Butts for the movement of targets and also the Running Deer and Running Man Ranges.



Bisley Camp Station platform in July 1912. The range tram shed of 1900 is immediately behind the platform on the right. To the left of the tree in the foreground can be glimpsed the Camp level crossing with the goods yard beyond. The latter was the site of the short-lived 1890 station and also the starting point of the Bisley - Blackdown Military Railway of 1917.

Correspondence with the L&SWR Superintendents of the Line

Sam Fay, who went on to become the General Manager of the Great Central Railway, was the L&SWR Superintendent of the Line from 1899 until 1902. There are several items of correspondence with Fay in the Letter Books, and it is from this period onwards that some of the incoming correspondence has been preserved.

On 21 March 1899 Fay wrote to the Acting NRA Secretary, HC Mathews, regarding the waiving of the NRA's proportion of the Bisley Camp tramway charge for a special train. This was in connection with the 'Home District Rifle Meeting' to be held on 17 May. He received an immediate reply from the NRA Assistant Secretary agreeing to the request 'as a one off'. It was not always so harmonious for on 29 April of the same year Mathews wrote a long letter to Fay regarding 'slackness principally in the method of issuing and collecting tickets which offers undesirable facilities for irregularities on the part of the Staff employed in working the Trams'. This resulted in a meeting at Waterloo, presumably with a satisfactory outcome.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BISLEY,

Every Week-day, from 10th to 21st July inclusive.

SPECIAL CHEAP RETURN TICKETS, including Tramway and Admission

TO THE CAMP

Will be issued by all Trains from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Queen's Road, Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison Road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Wimbledon and Rayne's Park. Return Fares: First Class, 5s.; Third Class, 3s.; available to return on the day of issue only.

CHEAP TICKETS will also be issued to BROOKWOOD or BISLEY to Volunteers in Uniform or bearing arms, also Competitors from the Regular Troops, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Militia, on production of their Competition Cards and Passes signed by their Commanding Officer; also Members of the National Rifle Association upon production of their Badges from all Stations on this Company's system, available from 4th to 22nd July, but for one journey only in each direction.

THROUGH TRAINS TO THE CAMP will leave WATERLOO at 1.5 and 1.50 p.m.

On SUNDAYS 15th and 22nd July, Cheap Return Tickets, 4s. First Class, and 2s. Third Class, will be issued to BROOKWOOD from Waterloo, &c.

The CAMP TRAMWAY runs in connexion with Ordinary and Special Trains to and from Brookwood. Any further particulars can be obtained on application to Mr. Sam. Fay, Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station, S.E. CHAS. J. OWENS, General Manager.

L&SWR Service arrangements for the July 1900 Meeting as printed in the Volunteer Gazette of 6 July 1900

A few months later the NRA Assistant Secretary was writing to Fay on a very different subject. It concerned, once again, the possibility of establishing mixed gauge between Brookwood and Bisley.

August 29th 99

S. Fay Esq.
Supt. of the Line
Waterloo Station L&SWRy

Dear Sir

With reference to my call on you a few days ago about Railway communication between Brookwood and Bisley Camp on Saturday afternoons during the Musketry season other than during the Annual Prize Meeting. Mr. Andrews has not yet informed me whether or not he considered the proposed mixed gauge on this line to be within the range of practical policy, but from my interview with him and from subsequent examination of the points at Brookwood Station with the Station Master, I can see that this is likely to be more difficult to arrange than the Committee of the National Rifle Association thought would be the case, and I shall therefore be obliged if you will go into the alternative proposal more closely and let me know to what extent your Company could meet the wishes of the N.R.A. in this matter should the mixed gauge scheme have to be abandoned.

You will remember that the alternative scheme was that during the busy part of the Musketry season, that is to say, roughly from the middle of April to the middle or end of October, (except the three Saturdays in July covered by the Annual Meeting) your Company should run a short train on Saturday afternoons between Brookwood Station and Bisley Camp making such connections with your trains at Brookwood both up and down as experience would show the Volunteers are likely to be travelling by.

The Council would like to know whether your Company will provide such trains.

Assuming a satisfactory service is maintained, I think you may expect that at least 75 percent of those who now travel to Brookwood (for the Bisley ranges) would travel on to Bisley Station if the fare were not more than 3d return, or possibly 2d each journey; and although I have no definite authority for saying it, I have every reason to believe that the N.R.A. would not require to receive any part of these fares if the service proposed was thereby facilitated.

If you can arrange to let me have something definite in reply by the 18th of October I shall be glad, so as to be able to place before the next meeting of my Committee, and if there are any further points you would like to confirm with me about it, I shall be pleased to keep any appointment you may make.

Fay replied within a fortnight and a following letter from Mathews, dated 16 September, accepted that the mixed gauge proposal was impractical but that the L&SWR

were prepared to introduce a Saturday service during the Musketry season, provided the NRA guaranteed an income of £5 on each day the train was required.

However in 1901 the somewhat combative Lt Col CR Crosse, who had been appointed as NRA Secretary in 1900, wrote to Fay on both 11 and 18 September demanding to know why the NRA was being asked to pay for the services of the Attendant for the Bisley Camp level crossing.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter A/3/86222 of the 19th inst from which it is obvious that for the safe working of the line the provision of men experienced in the management of a level crossing is necessary and I am therefore at a loss to understand why the Association is asked to pay for the services of these men any more than for that of Guards, Engine Drivers, Stokers, &c. The only charge for the services of your staff which the Association has in previous years called upon to pay is the moiety of the Salaries of Booking Office Clerks.

Many years later, in August 1921, the NRA Secretary wrote to the Superintendent of the Line regarding the uneven state of the same crossing. He received an immediate acknowledgement of receipt from the Office of the L&SWR Chief Engineer, AW Szlumper. The handwritten 'done' seems to indicate a timely repair!

Fay was succeeded in 1902 by Henry Holmes, who remained in Office until 1916 and was, therefore, contemporary with Crosse in each of their respective positions. The two maintained an extensive business correspondence throughout this period, much of it in connection with the arrangements for the Bisley Meetings and reduced fares for competitors. On occasions the subject was the provision of special Saloons to transport overseas teams to Bisley. In 1903, for example, a Saloon carriage was arranged to bring the American Team, who were to take part in the Palma Match, from Liverpool to Bisley.

June 8th 1903

Dear Sir,

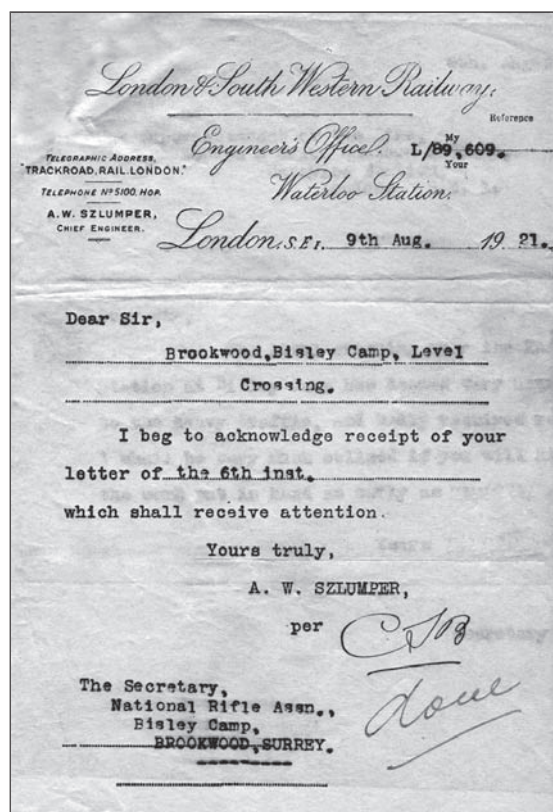
I beg to inform you that the American Rifle Team which is visiting Bisley to shoot for the Palma International Match will arrive at Liverpool on June 20th, and I am directed by the Council to ask if you could possibly arrange with the L. and N. W. Rly for a Saloon carriage to be placed at their disposal to convey them from Liverpool to Bisley Camp. In the event of this arrangement being impracticable, perhaps you could kindly arrange for a Saloon carriage from Waterloo to Bisley Camp.

We expect that a number of Foreign and Colonial Teams will be in Camp here from June 22nd, and the Council hope that you will kindly give them the facilities which have in past years being granted to the members of the Canadian team to travel from



'The Saturday Train at the Platform' taken from the October 1911 NRA Journal.

Brookwood to the various Stations on your line at the single fare for the return journey. When Teams from England have gone abroad the Railway Companies have been so ready to grant every concession, the Council feel that the English Railways will not be backward in this respect.



Acknowledgement from the Office of the L&SWR Chief Engineer

May 20th 1914

I am greatly obliged for your letter of yesterday informing me that you have arranged for the issue of cheap tickets to Lady members of the Association when production of their badge or card of membership whether they are proceeding to Bisley for rifle shooting or not.

*H. Holmes Esq.
Supt. of the Line, L.&S.W. Rly
Waterloo Station*

Other saloons to visit Bisley regularly were those making up the Royal Train. Edward VII, who was the Patron of the NRA, paid one of his many official visits in 1905, this time on the last day of the Annual July Meeting. To publicise the visit the NRA produced a set of posters and requested Holmes to have them displayed at L&SWR Stations.

July 18th 1905

Dear Sir,

I have instructed our printers, Messrs. Reliker & Co., to forward to you tomorrow a parcel of posters announcing the visit of His Majesty the King to Bisley Camp on the 22nd instant and to request that you will be so kind as to have them prominently exhibited at the Stations on your line.

As the time is short I shall be obliged if you would give the matter immediate attention.



The King takes a salute outside Bisley Camp Station on 22 July 1905 just before his departure in the Royal Train. To his left and just behind the main Station Building, decorated by the L&SWR for the occasion, the headshunt of the Range Tramway can just be discerned in the grass. Both Station buildings still survive, the one on the right possibly being the original booking office from the 1890 Camp Station.

As late as 1914, less than three months before the outbreak of the Great War, Crosse was arranging another special saloon, to collect the Australian Rifle Team at Plymouth. Before the Great War foreign and colonial teams travelling to Bisley, often involving voyages lasting weeks, expected and received the very best transport facilities!

The Supt. of the Line
L.&S.W.Rly. Co.

Dear Sir,

Last year you were kind enough to arrange for a Saloon Carriage and Luggage Van to be provided at Plymouth to meet the Australian Rifle Team and bring them direct from the Docks to Brookwood Station. This arrangement was much appreciated and I would ask you to again provide this same accommodation for the team which will visit us this year and will arrive at Plymouth about June 11th by the P. & O. S.S. "Mooltan".

You will remember that last year there was some difficulty as to running the Saloon from Millbay Docks, but this was eventually overcome and arrangements made with the P. & O. Agents at Plymouth for the Saloon Car and Luggage Van to be in waiting at the landing stage.

I hope you will be able to make similar arrangements this year in every respect.

It is notable that, even at this late date, the possibility of the outbreak of war was not even contemplated.

Bisley Camp Station and other Matters

In late 1909 Crosse wrote to Sir Charles Owens regarding platform accommodation at the Camp Station.

November 15th 1909

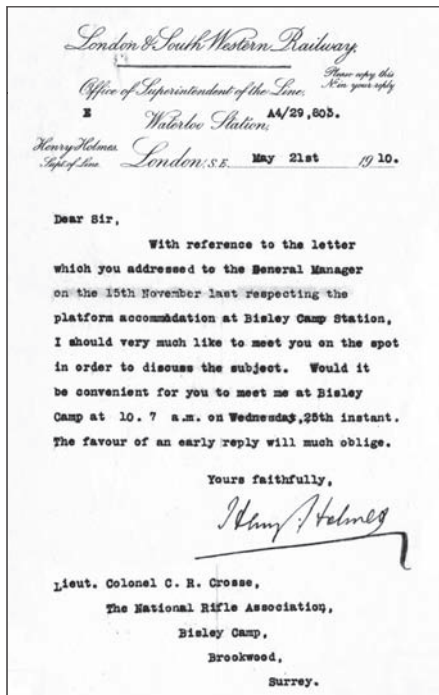
I am instructed to communicate with you with reference to the platform used by passengers at Bisley Camp Station. It has been doubtless been reported to you by your local officials that the length of this platform is quite inadequate for the length of trains which frequently come into the Camp station, and it is a common occurrence for passengers in the rear end of the train on arriving in Camp to have to alight on the line at some risk of accident, the same inconvenience being experienced when leaving, as, when the carriage at the back part of the trains are crowded, it is only with considerable difficulty that passengers can enter the front coaches. Owing to the level crossing being close to one end of the platform it is impossible for the train to draw up so that passengers could alight with ease.

My Council therefore hope that your Company will see their way before the next Shooting Season opens, to extend the platform end towards Brookwood to such a length as will accommodate any train which can be sent into the Camp.

*The General Manager
Ldn. & South Western Railway
Waterloo Station*

After further correspondence the matter was placed in the hands of Henry Holmes who then responded

by offering to meet Crosse at Bisley on 25 May 1910 to discuss the matter.



Meeting to discuss accommodation at Bisley Camp Station.

This was not in fact a convenient date for Crosse and further letters were exchanged on the subject. In the event the platform extension was not finally completed until the following year. The L&SWR however agreed to pay half the cost that included the provision of electric light.

On 7 July 1914, just prior to the Annual Meeting, Crosse wrote to Holmes for advice respecting the temporary porters at the Camp Station.

The Shoeblack Society which has for many years supplied boys who have acted as porters for the delivery of luggage at Bisley Station during the N.R.A. Meeting is unable to let us have the boys this year and it is proposed in their place to have a few men, mostly pensioners, who are known to us as being reliable. These men would have access to the Station Platform at the Camp and would wear N.R.A. Badges and if you wish it and would care to supply them on loan could also wear badges similar to those worn by your Outside Porters

To enable us to make arrangements with the men I shall be glad if you would kindly inform me what are the usual charges authorised by you for the collection or delivery of luggage by Outside Porters.

In our case the men would be expected to collect luggage on the platform and deliver it at the various Huts or Tents or vice versa.

I shall much appreciate any information you may be able to give me in the matter, and as the time is short I would venture ask for a reply by return as soon as possible.

During the Annual Meeting boys from nearby schools were also employed for various tasks around the Camp including acting as attendants on the Range Tramway.

On the following day Crosse wrote to AW Szlumper, the newly appointed L&SWR Chief Engineer, confirming that he should retain the NRA passes, originally issued to his predecessor, Jacomb-Hood who had died earlier that year.

I thank you for your letter of the 8th instant and shall be glad if you will kindly retain for your own use, the passes sent to your predecessor the late Mr. Jacombe Hood.

*A. W. Szlumper Esq.
Engineers Office,
Waterloo Station,
S.E.*

Previously the NRA Secretary had also recorded the passing in late 1910 of Sir Charles Scotter, latterly the L&SWR Chairman who had been such a good friend to the Association over many years, when his Life Member's ivory badge was returned by the L&SWR Secretary, Godfrey Knight.

Jan 6 1911

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the ivory badge which belonged to the late Sir Charles Scotter who was a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, and of whose death my Council have heard with deep regret.

Thanking you for so kindly returning the Badge.

Immediately War broke out, in August 1914, the NRA made the Camp and Ranges available to the War Department as a training facility. A School of Musketry was quickly established under the Command of Lord Cheylesmore, the incumbent NRA Chairman.

On 2 September 1914 Crosse wrote to the Railway Clearing House regarding special rates for Musketry Instructors.

Under the authority of the War Office the National Rifle Association is raising a Corps of Expert Rifle Shots to act as Musketry Instructors to the new Army which is now being raised.

A number of these Instructors will be travelling to Bisley from all parts of the Country and I am directed to request that special facilities may be given to them to obtain return ticket at single fare.

The matter being one of urgency, I shall be glad if you will give it your immediate attention.'

The London & South Western Competition

The L&SWR had originally sponsored a short-lived 'Volley Firing' shooting competition at Wimbledon that took place in 1865 and 1866 only. However in 1895 they

offered to fund a new Bisley competition which was known, initially, as the 'Railway'.

2nd May 1895

Dear Sir Charles Scotter,

Your telegram arrived while our Council was sitting; they desire me to ask you to convey their thanks to your directors for their handsome contribution to our prize list. This donation of 100 guineas entitles the London and South Western Railway to nominate five Life Members of the Association; when you send me the names I will be happy to register them. The competition will be called 'Railway', (we abbreviate all titles as they are more talked of than long titles), prizes by the London & South Western Railway, two distances, for tyros, it will be very popular - last year a similar competition had over 1000 entries.

Colonel Sir Charles Scotter
London & S.W. Railway
Waterloo Station

This was renamed the 'L & SW Railway Competition' in 1896 and remained in the NRA Competition List until 1923.

On several occasions, just before the Annual Meeting, the NRA Secretary had to write a polite letter to the L&SWR reminding them to remit the prize money!

PRIZES FOR M.H. (Individuals, 200 and 500 yards). 149

(B) 7. Competed for by individuals at 200 and 500 yards (aggregate).

"L. & S. W. RAILWAY." (M.H.).
Martini-Henry "Tyros" Competition.
(Unlimited Entries at each distance.)
Unsuaded Competition every day.
Open to all M.H. Tyros.

£52 10s. given by the London and South Western Railway Company,
and £52 10s. added by the N.R.A.

Distances ..	200 and 500 yards (aggregate).
NO. OF SHOTS ..	SEVEN at each distance.
POSITION ..	200 yds. kneeling, 500 yds. prone.
Entrance Fee ..	2s. each entry at each distance.
One Prize of ..	£10 = £10
One " of ..	9 = 9
One " of ..	8 = 8
One " of ..	7 = 7
One " of ..	6 = 6
One " of ..	5 = 5
One " of ..	4 = 4
One " of ..	3 = 3
Ten " of ..	2 = 20
Thirty-three Prizes of ..	1 = 33
Fifty-one Prizes.	£105

SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

1. Competitors must apply at the Entries Office not later than 4.45 p.m. on Saturday, 25th July, for an Aggregate ticket on which to enter their best score at each distance. This ticket, duly filled up in ink, must be delivered at the Statistics Office before 7 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, 25th July.

2. Any Competitor failing to comply with this Condition forfeits all claim to a prize.

The 'L&SW Railway Competition' from the 1896 'Bisley Bible'

The Brookwood Cabmens' Shelter

It had long been rumoured that one of the old MC & W Range Tramway cars, originally supplied for the Wimbledon tramway in 1877, ended its days as a Cabmens' shelter at Brookwood Station (presumably a suitable roof would have been provided!). The 1900 letter book shows that this was indeed true, although no

photograph of it in use as such has so far been identified. In March 1900 the NRA Secretary wrote to the L&SWR Estate Agent, AV Haines, to see if the Company would waive any rental charges for the shelter.

March 23rd 1900

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of February 28th, I shall be glad to hear further from you respecting the proposed Cabmen's Shelter at Brookwood.

Might I suggest that, as the Shelter is a gift on the part of the National Rifle Association for the benefit and convenience of the Cabmen at the Station, the charge for the site and the rent should either be quite nominal, or your Directors might see their way to forego any charge whatsoever, or allow it to be carried to expenses.

A.V. Haines Esq
L&SW Rwy Estate Office
Addington Street
Waterloo Station

The L&SWR finally agreed to a nominal rental charge of 1/- per year. By 1912, however, the shelter was in poor condition and the L&SWR having duly noted this, requested that something be done about it!

London & South Western Railway.
Estate Office?
Addington Street
Waterloo Station.
London S.E. 29th November 1912.

Dear Sir,

Brookwood.
Site of Cabmen's Shelter.

It is reported to me that the above shelter is in a very dilapidated condition and sadly needs renovation.

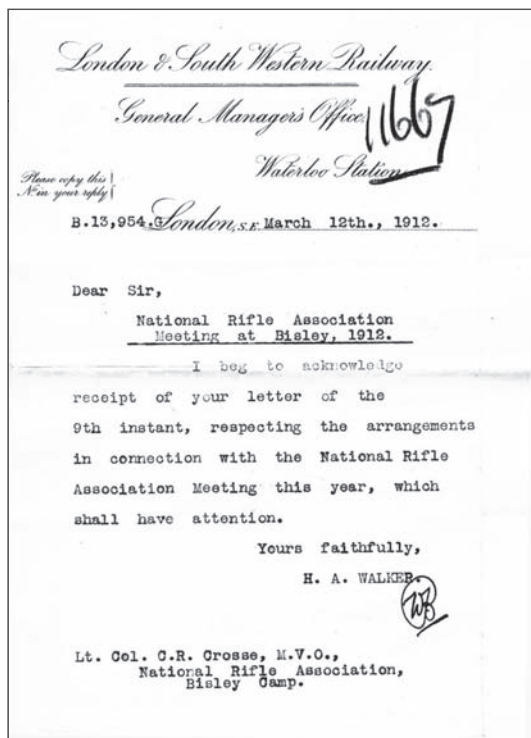
If you will kindly refer to the agreement of the 20th July 1900 you will see that you covenanted under clauses 3 and 4 to well and sufficiently keep the shelter in repair to the satisfaction of the Company's Engineer. I shall be glad to hear that you have given instructions for the necessary renovations to be effected.

Yours truly,
M.C. Matthews Esq.,
S/o, Secretary,
National Rifle Assn.,
Bisley Camp, Brookwood.

The L&SWR suggest that the Cabmens Shelter is renovated.

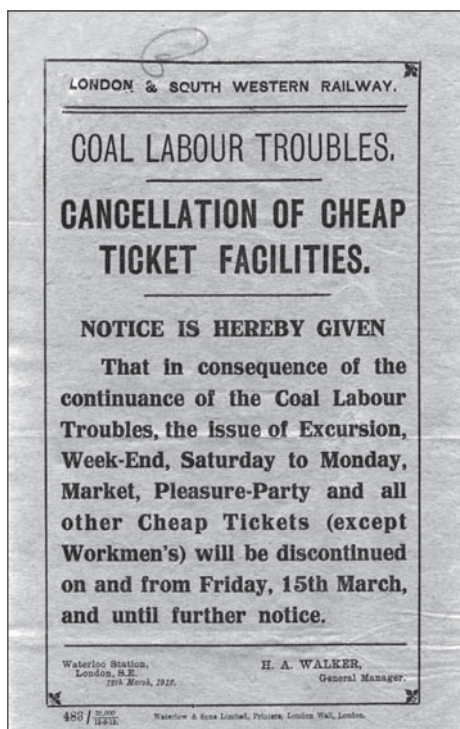
The 1912 Meeting

As was customary in previous years the NRA Secretary circulated the major Railway Companies with details of the Annual July Meeting adding the hope that the usual concessions would apply to competitors. He received an immediate acknowledgement from the new General Manager of the L&SWR, Herbert Walker, who had only been appointed that year.



Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the L&SWR General Manager

Otherwise, however, things got off to a rather poor start. Labour problems in the coalfields had caused the L&SWR to suspend most of their cheap tickets for the duration. Crosse promptly advised NRA Members that the L&SWR had suspended, without notice, the issue of special tickets. This brought a terse response from the Superintendents of the Line's Office, dated 1 April, in which the point was made that the issue of cheap tickets to Volunteers had not been disturbed, a copy of the Coal Labour Troubles Notice issued by the L&SWR being included for good measure.



Coal Labour Troubles Notice issued by the L&SWR.

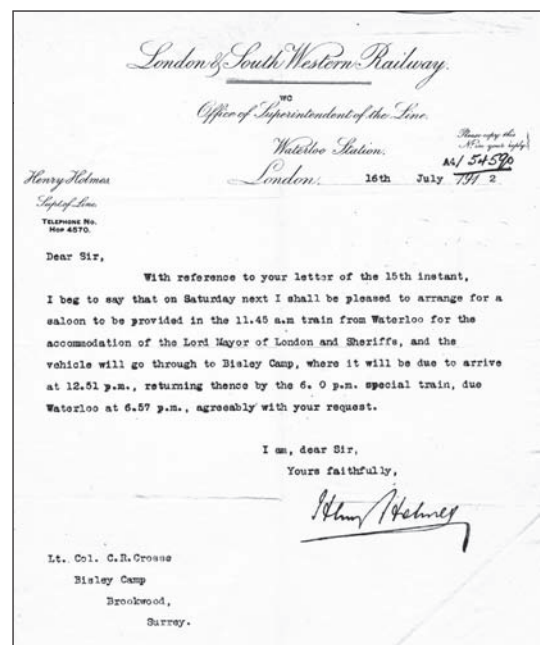
Crosse characteristically stuck to his guns and, after several communications were exchanged all in the space of about three days incredibly, the matter finally seems to have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion by a letter that he sent to Holmes dated 4 April.

I am in receipt of your letter and telegram of 2nd instant and thank you for so promptly advising me of the withdrawal of your instructions to suspend the issue of special tickets to Members of the National Rifle Association and Members of Rifle Clubs travelling to Brookwood.

I felt certain that when the facts of the case had been brought to your notice, you would realise that I was only asking you to carry out an arrangement which was specially agreed upon, and I would venture to ask you to kindly record the fact should your Company find it necessary at any future time to suspend the issue of Excursion and other cheap tickets, that such arrangements do not apply to the special tickets above referred to, which are granted under a specific promise, and are not therefore subject to the ordinary Regulations governing the issue of cheap tickets.

It is possible that some of our Members who have paid the full fare under protest may apply to you for a refund of the excess fare paid, and I trust that their applications will be considered in the liberal spirit which your Company usually treats such matters.

By July all was harmonious again with Henry Holmes agreeing to arrange a special saloon to convey the Lord Mayor of London and Sheriffs to the Meeting.



Agreement to arrange a special saloon.

Fare concessions for competitors and officials requested by the NRA were co-ordinated through the Railway Clearing House. The letter from the Railway Clearing House for the 1912 Meeting is preserved in the archive and is included to show details of these concessions.

A black and white photograph showing a steam locomotive pulling a passenger car through a grassy field. In the foreground, several white tents are visible. In the background, there are various buildings, including a large house with a chimney, and a line of trees. The scene appears to be a fair or festival.

ALL LETTERS TO H. CURT SMITH, 307T

TELEGRAMS, "CLEARNESS, LONDON"

Railway Clearing House.

Synagogue Street, Easton Square.

London 13th May, 1912.

N. W.

Dear Sir,

Bisley Meeting.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Railway Superintendents in conference have agreed that the following arrangements be adopted on the occasion of the National Rifle Association Meeting at Bisley, July 18th to 20th:-

- (a) That 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class single fare tickets to London and Reading, available for the double journey, be issued--
- (1) To Officers and Men of the Territorial Force, either in uniform or upon production of tickets of admission to the competition,
- (2) To Competitors from the Regular Troops, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Marines, upon production of Passes signed by their Commanding Officer, and certificates or shooting tickets showing they are intending competitors, and
- (3) To members of Civilian Rifle Clubs affiliated to the National Rifle Association upon production of tickets of admission to the competition,

from the Thursday before the Meeting, except as to Stations in Scotland, from which Stations the tickets are to be issued from the Wednesday before the Meeting. These tickets to be available for return from London up to the night of the Thursday succeeding the close of the Meeting.

That.

Meanwhile the Station Master at Brookwood Station kept Crosse fully informed about changes to the Saturday train services affecting Bisley Camp. Judging by the letterhead Brookwood Station appears to have had its own Traffic Department at that time!

In 1919, less than a year after the War ended, the NRA were able to restore a semblance of normal competition shooting. By 1922, the last year of the L&SWR's independent existence before its absorption into the newly formed Southern Railway, Bisley had recaptured much of its pre-war character. The appointment of Sir Herbert Walker, General Manager of the L&SWR since 1912, as the first Southern Railway General Manager helped ensure that significant aspects of the NRA's close relationship with the L&SWR were transferred to the new regime.

11820

London and South Western Railway.

(169*)

In reply

to your

Supplies Department,
BROOKWOOD Station,
26th April 1912

Refer hereto

17395

In your reply.

Sir,

Bisley Camp line Saturday Services

I beg to inform you, I am advised that, as at present proposed, the 1.13 pm Special will be run from Waterloo to this Station on Saturdays next the 27th idem until Saturday May 25th inclusive, in lieu of the 1.5 pm relief train from Waterloo, will you please note,

Yours Respectfully
Chennise
St. Master,

W.C.A.

Bisley Camp

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BISLEY (Brookwood),

JULY 10th to 22nd, 1922, inclusive.

TRAIN SERVICE

FROM

LONDON (Waterloo Station) and intermediate stations to BROOKWOOD,

ON WEEK-DAYS ONLY,

MONDAY, 10th, to SATURDAY, 22nd July, inclusive.

DOWN TRAINS.

		S. & S.W.				S.E.				S.E.			
		dep.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	dep.	a.m.	p.m.	dep.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Waterloo	...	dep.	9 16	9 40	10 20	11 4	11 55	12 23	1 50	2 00	2 28	3 50	4 10
Clapham Junction	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Wimbledon	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Burton	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Toburn	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Woking	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Weybridge	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Brookwood	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12
Bisley Camp	...	...	9 18	9 42	10 22	11 6	11 57	12 25	1 52	2 02	2 30	3 52	4 12

UP TRAINS.

		S. & S.W.				S.E.				S.E.			
		dep.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	dep.	a.m.	p.m.	dep.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Brookwood	...	dep.	10 30	11 15	12 30	1 45	2 30	3 15	4 30	5 15	6 00	6 45	7 30
Woking	...	...	10 30	11 15	12 30	1 45	2 30	3 15	4 30	5 15	6 00	6 45	7 30
Weybridge	...	...	10 30	11 15	12 30	1 45	2 30	3 15	4 30	5 15	6 00	6 45	7 30
Brookwood	...	...	10 30	11 15	12 30	1 45	2 30	3 15	4 30	5 15	6 00	6 45	7 30
Bisley Camp	...	...	10 30	11 15	12 30	1 45	2 30	3 15	4 30	5 15	6 00	6 45	7 30

S. & S.W. - Southampton & Woking. S.E. - Southampton & Woking.

Passengers changing at Brookwood will find trains in each direction.
Passengers from and to intermediate stations between Waterloo and Woking, are requested to ascertain at what point it will be necessary to change trains.

Waterloo Station, S.E. 1.

H. A. WALKER, General Manager.

2027

1/2027

WATERLOO & S.W. LONDON, DUNSTABLE & WATFORD.

The timetable for the 1922 July Meeting - the last to be issued by the London & South Western Railway.

However the Range Tramway never reopened and "Wharncliffe" and the tramcars slumbered on in their shed until this was demolished by a severe gale in late 1929. The Council were unwilling to spend £200 on a new shed and decided to dispose of the rolling stock. A minute of the Executive and Finance Committee, dated 21 February 1930, recorded the details.

Tenders for the purchase of the Siberia Tramway Engine and cars and old rails were examined and the Secretary was instructed to accept that of Cohen, Sons & Co. for £95, all expenses in connection with taking up and removal to be borne by the purchasers.

The sum received to be ear-marked for the proposed new road fund, if and when such a road to Wisdom Corner and Siberia were constructed.

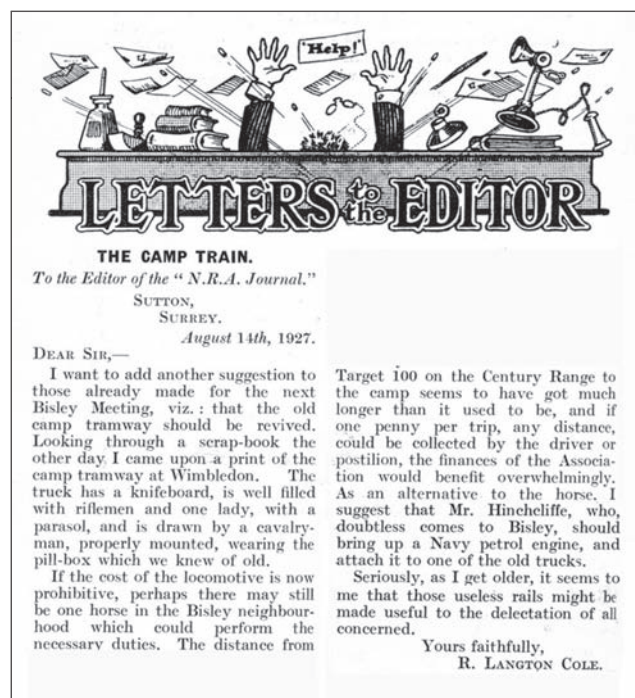
The Blackdown military extension was finally dismantled in 1928 (although it was reinstated as far as Pirbright Camp during WWII), while increasing road competition seriously effected the viability of the branch 'tramway' although it did not finally succumb until 1952.

Acknowledgements and References

Please note that all letters in this article have been reproduced verbatim.

All material contained in the article, except where otherwise acknowledged, is derived from photographs, Letter Books and other documents in the NRA Museum Archive

For background information on the leading L&SWR personalities *The London and South Western Railway Parts 1 and 2* (RA Williams), *The London and South Western Railway in the Twentieth Century* (Faulkner and Williams)



A letter published in the September 1927 edition of the NRA Journal provides a rather appropriate valedictory for the Range Tramway.

and *The South Western Railway* (C Hamilton Ellis) have been consulted.

Much of this article was previously published in the *South Western Circular*, the *Journal of the South Western Circle*.

Thanks are once again due to Ted Molyneux and Eric McGibbon of the NRA Museum for allowing me freedom of the archives and every assistance.

HELP NEEDED!

from Ted Molyneux

The Museum has recently been sent these photographs of a medal. The medal is from the Volunteer Movement. The emblems on the four arms represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales so may suggest a connection to a match between them. The kneeling rifleman has the words "in defence" behind him which is part of the Volunteer's motto "in defence- not defiance".



If you can help identify this medal please contact Ted Molyneux at the NRA Museum.



THE BAND OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

This year the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will be attending the Imperial Meeting for the ceremony of Beating of Retreat and on Queen's Final Day. A short article on their history follows:

To compress the history of the Band into a short space is difficult, for it is a long and glorious one, and still in the making.

The Band was raised in November 1859 as part of an Indian Army Gurkha Regiment called the Sirmoor Rifle Regiment. It had 16 Bandsmen and one Naik (a leader) and soon became a part of Regimental life, playing for parades, polo matches, dinners and troop entertainment at the Regimental base at Dehra Dun, North East of Dehli. In the early days the Band travelled with the Regiment to other areas of India, Malta, Cyprus and Afghanistan. 1886 saw the raising of a 2nd

Battalion which allowed for a further 16 Bandsmen and Naik and whenever possible these joined the already trained Band, effectively forming one large Band. As the two Battalions were often co-located this worked well enough but when separated the Band would support each Battalion with a smaller group both musically and as stretcher bearers on operational duties.

When India was partitioned in 1947, Gurkha Regiments chose their new affiliations to either Britain or India. The 2nd Goorkhas, as the Regiment was now called, chose Britain and sailed for Sungei Patani in Malaya with the band instruments. Sadly there were no Bandsmen to play them as they had all elected to remain in India!

In 1949 sanction was given to raise the Band again, with some 56 recruits commencing training. Ad-hoc musical instruction from co-located British Regimental Bandmasters was given until May 1951 when Captain JPC Bailey MBE was appointed as the first Director of Music. From that day forward they have delighted crowds with their fast and slick marching displays, lively concert music, ethnic Nepali folk tunes and colourful traditional dances.

In 1950 the decision was made to raise a Staff Band for the Brigade and by 1958 there were two flourishing Gurkha Bands. This happy state continued for some twelve years when, because of financial stringencies, the two Bands were amalgamated. Hong Kong and the United Kingdom provided dual bases for the Band in support of the two Battalions of 2nd Goorkhas and other units of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Then in 1994 as a result of the withdrawal from Hong Kong the Band moved back to the United Kingdom permanently.

The Band has travelled extensively throughout the world. Australia, Brunei, Canada, South Korea and Malaya were visited in the 1970s and more recently Solomon Islands, the Falkland Islands, France, Canada, Korea, Germany, Cyprus, Belgium and Australia again in 1995.

Today, musicians are recruited into the Band after their Basic military training. Initial musical instruction then commences, first under the supervision of the Director of Music then after approximately four years, at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall in London.

The operational role of the musicians is in support of Field Medical Units employed in Chemical Decontamination Areas.

Operational tours include Op Palatine (Bosnia) in 2000 and 2001; and Op Fingal (Afghanistan) in 2002. In November to December 2003 and 2005 the Band have toured Nepal performing concerts and marching displays in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan and at the prestigious World Elephant Polo championships in the Royal National Park Chitwan. In May to August 2004 the Band toured Germany. The highlights of the tour were the 46th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes; QBPs at the Ambassador's residences in Luxembourg, Brussels and Dusseldorf; the 23rd NATO Festival of Music; service at the Battle of Somme memorial, Theival, France; the Nijmegen Marches and a brief but very enjoyable visit to Berlin.

Recent tours have included Nice and the USA for the International Military Tattoo.

The NRA look forward to welcoming the Band to the Imperial Meeting.



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&
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.... or how to care for your
hunting and sports guns

INCLUDING
BLACK
POWDER



SIGHT
RAISING
BLOCKS

NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2008

by Chris Haley

Captain	Matthew Charlton
Vice-Captain	Glyn Barnett
Adjutant	Martin Whicher
Coaches	Charles Dickenson
	Bruce Winney
Firers	Tim Green
	John Halahan
	Chris Haley
	Tom Hunter
	Reg Roberts
	Natalie Sarafilovic
	Peter Seebohm
	Ben Stevens
	Stephanie Ward
Reserves	James Anderson
	Olivia Newhouse

The NRA's annual tour to the Channel Islands in May is intended to facilitate participants' development as shooters or coaches and as integral parts of a team that gives Guernsey and Jersey some close competition, establishes friendships with locals and team-mates and enjoys the islands. Development was the captain's core aim so the team contained a broad range of experience and skills, not particularly correlated with age (20 - 55). Inclusion of different skill-sets meant that those selected for what they should be able to impart might also learn something useful alongside the rest of the team.

Glyn Barnett was named Vice-Captain specifically with a view to complementing the captain's ideas about team shooting dynamics, drills and training with a technical approach to shooting (and analysis thereof) and goal-setting with a view to making suggestions that might have a positive effect. Martin (Archie) Whicher was appointed Adjutant and took care of the logistical side of things with such aplomb (aided by treasurer Charles Dickenson) that his fellow officers could concentrate on what they needed to do to get the best out of the team and develop its members, each of whom was given tasks before and during the trip to ease the administrative burden; all were undertaken with enthusiasm.

Although departure was on 21 May, the tour started two months earlier with an Easter training weekend for some, followed by a full one on the Purples weekend with a full complement. The two were fortuitously timed to allow for training in (nearly) the full range of potential weather conditions, from snow to blistering sun. Emphatically, the April weekend was not about "practice" but "training". It started with mutual introductions, continued with small group discussion about what makes a good (and a bad) team, updates on each pre-tour role and a seminar with Glyn about goal setting, addressing not only longer term aims but also micro ones to be applied within single shoots.

Part of the day saw familiarisation of all firers with each coach, part was devoted to speed shooting in team format and part to proving the team was capable of a full score at 300 yards, as Jersey had achieved in recent times. Goal-setting by each person meant that none of the shooting was simply a case of making brass - there was always a purpose. Sunday morning continued similarly, after a team bonding evening where Archie showed he had clearly spent too much of his youth honing his considerable ten-pin bowling skills.

The training weekend concluded with the traditional match against the LMRA, untraditionally held alongside the Purples Match rather than just before departure in order to save everyone a day's holiday and provide a focus for the weekend. While two firers were released to their county, the remainder shot together as a team for the first time and the progress from each range to the next was clearly visible as everyone got used to each other, the firing point layout and the plotting sequence; and as individual items were chosen as the next range's focus. The result was a win over the LMRA by 1174.153 to 1159.125 and our gratitude to them for having helped in our preparations.

On departure day, baggage masters Reg and Bruce crammed all the rifles and kit into the (smaller than expected) rented van and most of the shooters into a minibus, which transported us to Poole and glorious sunshine which, together with the quaint French summer ritual of port-blockading (fortunately St Malo not Guernsey), made it feel much like a summer holiday. Plentiful and pleasant company (and the Club Lounge) made the crossing pass remarkably quickly. After a mid-afternoon arrival, we drove straight to the Cobo Bay Hotel, located about five metres from a large sandy beach. After checking in (but before unpacking), most of the team were quick to apply themselves to the first sport of the tour: beach frisbee in unexpectedly glorious sunshine. That mutated into two-piggies-in-the-middle, helping everyone work up an appetite for dinner. Natalie was the only one to brave the cold water for a swim, much to Tom's pecuniary chagrin.

The following day was "free", or so many thought. It turned out, for most, to involve seven hours of whizzing around the island on bicycles (or helping each other fix them) and stopping to see some of the sights: Napoleonic and German fortifications at Fort Hommet, Fort Saumarez and Fort Grey, the fascinating German Occupation Museum, and Guernsey Pearl for tea and scones. The energy requirement rose when the captain's shortcut required our carrying the bikes up hills and over clifftops by Pleinmont Tower - perhaps a covert fitness regime? He had already been seen taking off on his heavy steel velocipede in pursuit of someone training on a 'proper' road bike before drafting him, and later racing to the pub for lunch.

After easing aching limbs with G&Ts in the hotel's hot tub (including Tim's that hadn't cycled for two decades!), the team travelled to the smaller island of Herm for dinner with the GRC at the Black Rock Restaurant, where raw food was served along with individual hot basalt slabs and cooked by each of us as we went along. With Matt having convinced some of the team they'd be rowing across as a bonding exercise, there was considerable relief to see a ferry waiting at St Peter Port.

Friday morning was meant to see individual shoots for the Parker Tankard (2ss & 10 at 300 and 600 yards) but in fact saw nothing but fog. The team glimpsed the targets at Fort Le Marchant and unpacked kit just in time for the sea fog to roll in. This proved annoyingly persistent despite sunshine bathing the rest of the island and we eventually abandoned hope and went for lunch at Hotel Bon Port, shopping, playing beach cricket or sleeping before a formal dinner hosted by Peter Sirett and the Guernsey Rifle Club.

Saturday required an earlier start, since timings were tight and we needed to pack and check out before shooting. Unfortunately the weather had worsened overnight, so that the range greeted us with strong wind and light rain . . . but at least no fog. Shooting started about 08:00 with the Guernsey Can (amended course of fire as for Queen's II), which went well but for Ben's extractor which broke when the spring sheared off. Armourer Steph, aided by Natalie, did a great job by repairing it with the spring from a propelling pencil.

Impressively, seven of the team managed 149s, with Glyn winning from Charles on 149.21 and 25.5 in the tie shoot. Tom was third on 149.19. In addition, the first seven shots at each distance were deemed to comprise the Parker Tankard in lieu of the previous day's cancelled shooting. This was won by local Peter Jory with 105.15, from Glyn on 105.14 and Matt on 105.12.

After a sandwich lunch, shooting resumed with the team match, for eights firing 2ss & 10 at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Unfortunately, by now the rain had set in harder, pouring non-stop and making conditions quite taxing. The wind was strong but reasonably steady, with more points perhaps lost to buffeting than unforeseen changes. With some of our shooting a little loose and Guernsey on good form, we finished 300 yards three points behind.

Our start at 500 yards was delayed by a few minutes owing to problems with the coaches' communication system (or possibly their posing for the local TV camera crew). However, scores at this distance were better after all were encouraged to concentrate primarily on good shot release and avoidance of buffet in what was proving a fairly steady wind of 4 to 6 minutes. One firer's lens caused severe problems after misting up in the rain but the rest dropped only one point between

them to recover the deficit and go into 600 yards with an eight point lead.

A good start at 600 yards, with main coach Reg very precisely calling "seven and three quarters, *not eight!*" for the first sighter resulting in a 12 o'clock V bull. However, the deteriorating weather was presenting significant challenges to the markers, with lost patches, jamming targets and, especially, target faces ripping in the wind. After a valiant struggle they eventually ran out of replacement target faces as five (of eight) were destroyed in twenty minutes, forcing curtailment of the match for the first time in the Guernsey men's memory. The result was determined on the first two ranges only, the totals being:

NRA	782.96	G Barnett	100.19
Guernsey	774.91	P Ogier	98.13

Alongside, the reserve pair won their match by 195.25 to 184.12, with Steph achieving the additional feat of her first 50.10 (coached by a delighted John, who scored 50.6 himself at 300 yards to make team selection for the Jersey match even more difficult).

There was only time for a brief prizegiving before we piled sodden kit into the bus and hurried to St Peter Port (only to find that the ferry had been delayed). Peter and Bruce kindly braved the rain to fetch chips and beer, which raised soggy spirits while we waited in an increasingly wet and smelly minibus.

On board, a light supper was consumed and surprise voiced that the Vice-Captain had heard of some bands on Nat's iPod, while another young shot asked, of the emergency instruction video, "couldn't they just play it when there is actually an emergency?" More senior members didn't escape embarrassment, though, realising some time after arrival that the captain had fibbed about Jersey being on French time! Cliff Mallett led us from St Helier to Hotel Cristina, where we consumed the output of a small power station trying to dry kit before gathering in the bar for a celebratory glass of bubbly.

Sunday morning involved the earliest rise yet in order to repack shooting kit (now damp and smelly or dry and crispy) and depart for Les Landes long range in the west of the island for a 07:00 start. This range was new even to those who had visited previously and required someone to scythe down gorse bushes which obscured the line of sight. The shoots were for the Jersey Evening Post over 2ss & 10 at 900 and 2ss & 11 at 1000. Unfortunately this was too much for Archie who, forgetting it wasn't a more standard format, got up and handed in his empties after a second 2 & 10. Reg's comment that he had scored 103 still didn't cause the penny to drop, Archie even telling the captain he was level with Reg until Matt, who'd just noticed an extra 'converted sighter', persuaded him that they really ought to fire their final shot. Archie's resulting inner dropped him to third behind Reg (102.11 to 103.11) and winner Debbie Thompson of the JRA (103.13).



The team in Jersey.



Sighter sacrifice!



Hopefully the team's wind reading skills are better than their map reading skills!



The Captain receives the Parker Ross trophy.



Wow!



Archie - our secret weapon.



Crabbe team match - a packed firing point.



Surprisingly good shooting weather . . . for coaches.

After butt-marking for two details, with only a couple of injuries sustained, the team headed to Crabbé Range for lunch at the JRA and the Crabbé III shoots (2ss & 10 at 200 and 500 yards). At 200 yards it was a complete contrast to the previous day, offering a gentle fishtail and an opportunity to check wind zeros, with few excuses (other than quick changes on aim) for dropping points - though all but three of us still did so. It was slightly trickier at 500 yards, and revealed significant elevation changes compared with Guernsey. Jersey took the top four places in the Crabbé III, led by Richard Benest's excellent 100.19, while Glyn and Matt were our best in fifth and tenth on 99.17 and 99.13. Archie was placed third, Reg sixth and Glyn tenth in the Sunday Aggregate.

The evening saw a quiet meal ahead of the big Jersey match. The following day started with the Crabbé IV, comprising 2ss & 10 at 300 and 600 yards. This was a last chance to stake a claim for a place in the eight that afternoon. With heavy thunderstorms overnight, we feared that the day would be like the Guernsey team match and prepared for another soaking. We started at 300 yards under overcast skies and threats of rain but conditions proved relatively easy with only a light fishtail on the first detail.

Unfortunately, as firers fell back to 600 yards, a veil of mist appeared and obscured the targets. Presuming this meant the 600 yards shoot would be suspended, some of the team disappeared to beat the queue for bacon butties, only to be caught out five minutes later when the mist lifted as suddenly as it had arrived, forcing them to hurry back to the point. Charles (who had called everyone back to the point) was placed equal second on 100.13 while Chris and Glyn were equal sixth on 99.14. In the Edna Parker Cup (aggregate of all shoots since our arrival in Jersey) Glyn was second, Charles fourth and Archie ninth. Jersey were to the fore.

Following lunch, we prepared to shoot against an extremely strong Jersey team, as was apparent from the quality of reserves Le Cheminant and Norman. The weather had improved significantly - generally sunny but with patchy cloud that made the light variable. The wind had increased but was not too tricky. However, our performance at 300 was mixed, with a few loose shots and perhaps a mild dose of nerves. We found ourselves three points behind Jersey, who had been shooting well.

The middle distance was rather better as minds were again encouraged to focus on good shot release. Excellent performances contributed to a very solid score of 396 but this was still one point short of Jersey's total, leaving us four points adrift. It had been a good shoot though, so the captain praised the team and asked for a similar display at the final range, betraying no doubts about the outcome while assuring the team that they should win if they delivered.

The start of 600 yards was tense. While the wind was not strong, it was variable and became more so halfway through, by which time the margin had widened slightly. The NRA's performance was steady, ensuring they were in touch if an opportunity should arise. A couple of loose shots by Jersey, and two more fired while the NRA waited for mirage and flags to agree, presented such a chance. Remaining firers Steph, Ben, Chris and Glyn were a reassuring sight on the point as the door opened. The coaching team managed conditions well and made full use of time with everything at stake. Both Glyn's sighters were sacrificed as pilots and the firers avoided further slips to end the range on 395 to Jersey's 389, overturning the deficit and taking a two-point win. Final team scores were:

NRA	1182.152	G Barnett	150.23
Jersey	1180.142	G Harris	149.17

That evening saw a formal dinner with the JRA and the visiting Barbarians. Bruce Horwood presented the Parker Ross Trophy to Matt, who thanked the JRA for their perennial excellent hospitality and strong competition. Post-dinner champagne in the Captain's room followed into the early hours as several of the team finally let their hair down.

Tuesday was our last full day and provided much-needed dissipation of match tension and the cumulative effect of several early mornings. After a leisurely start, a few opted to visit the Jersey War Tunnels while most eased their way around the Gerald Durrell Zoo, collectively resembling some of its inhabitants.

After an afternoon of crazy golf, beach frisbee and sleep, we ventured down to the Green Island restaurant, the most southerly in the British Isles. Expecting something perched on its own island, we were underwhelmed to see a small seaside café that had acquired its name by overlooking a turf-covered rock. However, inside it revealed itself as a first-class restaurant and excellent venue for our final supper.

The last day was rainy, which made it easier to leave. It was Ben's birthday, but gastroenteritis (which he had impressively overcome late during the Jersey match) meant he was too ill to enjoy it properly. The ferry reached Poole via Guernsey, but the considerably longer (and rougher) return crossing passed quickly as we reviewed hundreds of photos and vetoed some of their publication.

The tour had been thoroughly enjoyable, with a diverse group bonding well and supporting each other, and the resulting team performing well in often adverse conditions. The key aims of fun, success, friendship and development had largely been achieved, and we can only hope that our hosts enjoyed it half as much as we did. Sincere thanks are due to Guernsey, Jersey, the NRA, sponsors and all team members for doing their bit.

THE CENTENARY OF THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RIFLE ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE

by Brian Cudby

The clubhouse of the London and Middlesex Rifle Association is one of the largest and most impressive of the clubhouses; it was opened in 1908 by the Duke of Bedford, then Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex and President of the London and Middlesex Rifle Association.

It is not precisely clear where and when the Middlesex Rifle Association first came up with the idea to build a clubhouse at Bisley. We have correspondence starting from 17 April 1907 and it was probably during that year that things were first mooted. However, it is clear that there were concerns about their ability to raise the funds and it is doubtful if the project would have gone ahead without the financial assistance of three London based rifle clubs; the Stock Exchange Rifle Club, the IBIS Rifle Club (this was the club run for the staff of the Prudential Insurance Company) and the HAC (Honourable Artillery Company). Of these the major provider of funding was the Stock Exchange Rifle Club, who provided £2,000 of the required initial funds of £2,500 (£160,000 in today's money).

The Chairman of the Stock Exchange Rifle Club was Colonel (later Sir, knighted in 1910) RW Inglis VD. He donated to the Stock Exchange Rifle Club the £2,000 referred to so that they could buy the required debentures, as confirmed in the seventh AGM of the SERC held on 20 January 1909. Col Inglis had a distinguished military career serving in the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle volunteers and London Irish Rifles. However, his great grandfather was a colonel of great military fame and his connection with the Middlesex regiment was probably the reason that Inglis connected himself with the scheme put forward to build a clubhouse for the Middlesex Rifle Association.

The first letter we have about the building scheme was in April 1907 with a letter from Lt Col The Hon TF Fremantle VD (an NRA Council member) to Colonel Crosse of the NRA.

My Dear Crosse,

I have had a circular from Middlesex Rifle Association re a proposed new building for which I doubt their getting the money.

No doubt you know all about it. But I want to ask whether one question of general policy connected with this scheme has been considered by the Council or any of our Committees - that of allowing a vast building to be put up in which a large number of rooms are let to separate Regiments or Clubs. It may be alright to allow this, but as far as I know it is a new departure and must complicate the tenure of such bodies and their relations with us and any control of ours as to their doings. I thought we were very particular - as a

matter of policy - about the question of subletting, but it seems to me that we may find that we have handed too much over to a rather amorphous Association and let control go too much out of our own hands.

I had supposed the Middlesex Rifle Association wanted a club house for itself and not to sublet to Regiments and Clubs. This part of the scheme is probably for the sake of making money. Would it not be better that we should have accommodation to let to Clubs, if that is a requisite at Bisley.

I write this as possibly I may not see you tomorrow as I am doubtful about getting to the R Clubs committee.

Yours sincerely,

TF Fremantle

There then followed the first official notification to the NRA about the building scheme. This was to request a site which continued the line of clubhouses beyond the North London. The London and Middlesex is at the junction of Century Way and Club Row. The evidence of old camp plans suggests that Century Way came into being naturally after the building of the new NRA offices.

The following letter from Lieutenant JN Le Fevre (Hon Sec Middlesex Rifle Association) was sent to the Secretary of the National Rifle Association.

30th September, 1907

Dear Sir

I beg to inform you that my Council propose to build a clubhouse at Bisley during this winter, and at an Extraordinary General Meeting this scheme was sanctioned by the members conditionally that the necessary funds could be raised.

My Council would therefore be glad if you would please reserve a site between the 200 and 500 yard firing points - continuing the line of the Clubhouses beyond the North London Rifle Club - provisionally until the final decision of the Association is made at the end of October.

The proposed clubhouse will have a frontage of 100 feet and a depth of about 70 feet.

Yours faithfully,

J. N. Le Fevre - Lieut.

Hon. Sec.

Next came the conditions established by the NRA for the provision of the ground. There is no date on this document and we assume it was sometime in late 1907.

Conditions of building at Bisley

- 1 Association will let ground on a ground rent.
- 2 Tenant will build and maintain in repair a Bungalow. Designs, specifications, estimate, to be approved by Council and adhered to the satisfaction of Secretary.
- 3 Tenant to have occupation for Annual Meeting and in connection with use of ranges at such other times as shall be approved.
- 4 Leases granted up to 21 years renewable by arrangement for a fixed period.
- 5 Association insure, Tenant repay Association.
- 6 Ground rent 1d per square foot of ground on which building stands to be paid together with insurance on or before 30th June each year. A reasonable space of ground adjoining bungalow allowed for, if more is wanted then $\frac{1}{2}$ d a square yard.
- 7 Tenant will observe all Camp Orders and Regulations.
- 8 Association not be liable for damage. If building is damaged by Regular Forces, Association will hand over all they recover.
- 9 If Tenant or Assignee wishes to dispose of Bungalow, Association to have right of pre-emption at a price to be agreed on or settled by arbitration, if not Tenant may sell to any person approved by Association. Except as aforesaid, Tenant shall not assign, sublet, or otherwise part with Bungalow.
- 10 Should Tenant fail to pay rent and insurance at the time appointed or fail to observe any of the conditions herein before stated Association may determine agreement, resume possession of the land and building.
- 11 Association in the event of ceasing to occupy the Camp, may terminate tenancy on three months written notice.

From there onwards things seemed to move quickly. A letter was sent to all members of the Middlesex Rifle Association in an attempt to raise the funds for the building. Note that the amount to be raised was set at £4,500, although it looks as if a smaller amount was actually needed for the eventual building scheme.

The following letter was sent to all Members of the Middlesex Rifle Association dated 3 October 1907

Dear Sir,

Proposed new Middlesex Clubhouse at Bisley

I beg to inform you that owing to the increasing interest displayed in rifle shooting in the County of Middlesex, my Council consider it highly desirable to build a Clubhouse at Bisley, capable of properly accommodating the many Middlesex riflemen.

My Council has accordingly invited tenders from Contractors, and the estimated total cost of such a building is £4,500.

The proposed Clubhouse will contain 10 Regimental or Clubrooms, 34 cubicles, and 240 lockers, which will be let to members at low rates, together with commodious dining, smoking, dressing, and gun rooms.

It is not proposed to raise the present membership subscription of 5/- which entitles members to all privileges.

Prior to the issue of debentures, it will be necessary to raise at least £1,500 by public subscription, and in view of the necessity for such accommodation, my Council herewith appeal to you for your generous assistance towards raising this required sum.

The Clubrooms will be let at a nominal rental of £1 1s per annum each, for the sole use of the ten regiments or rifle clubs instrumental in raising the largest subscriptions, with a minimum total of £25 in each case, either directly or through their respective members. Further subscription lists will be forwarded if required.

Donors of a least five guineas will become Life Members of the Association.



St George's Lodge

Elcho Road on Bisley Camp

Phone: 01483 473006

E-mail: secretary@lmra.co.uk

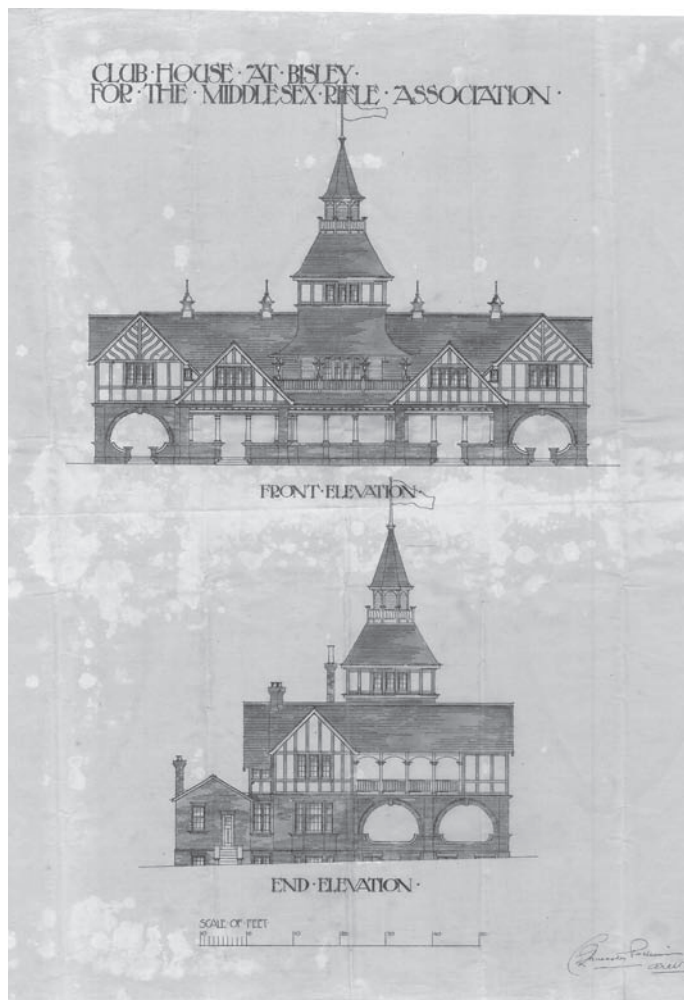
Quality accommodation on Bisley Camp
Large en-suite rooms with bath and shower
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Breakfast available at LMRA from £2.00 per person

£55 per room per night (2 doubles)
or £60 (3 singles)

Check in from 3pm, vacate by 11am



Above is a sketch of the original grand plan as submitted to the NRA for approval.

In order that the Clubhouse may be erected by the early spring of next year, my Council is anxious to ascertain by the 28th October the amount of financial support which may be expected from members. I should therefore deem it a favour if you would kindly let me know as soon as possible to what extent you are prepared to contribute.

Cheques should be made payable to the Middlesex Rifle Association, and crossed "Union of London and Smith's Bank, Ltd."

Trusting that you will do everything in your power to further this worthy project,

Believe me, yours faithfully,

J.N. Le Fevre, Lieut., Hon. Secretary

Dear Sir, In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I enclose herewith cheque for £ : : : as a subscription towards the Middlesex Rifle Association Clubhouse Building Fund.

An architect was appointed, CE Lancaster Parkinson of 44 Bedford Row (Telephone Number 10756 Central), and the initial plans were drawn up.

This first scheme would have produced the largest and tallest clubhouse on the camp - over 100 feet long and 70 feet high. It was rejected, presumably because it was too expensive. What it would have cost is not known but the relatively simple NRA offices were nearly £4,000.

Next was a formal letter raising the issue of subletting (as first raised in April 1907 by Lt Col Fremantle). The NRA must have already been discussing this to be able to respond so quickly after receiving the plans.

The next letter was dated 19 October 1907 to JN Le Fevre Esq. This letter is not signed but appears to come from the Secretary of the NRA.

Dear Sir

With reference to the proposal of your Association to build a Club House at Bisley Camp, I beg to inform you that my Committee when approving the application understood that the Building was intended for the use of Members of the Middlesex Rifle Association only.

It appears, however, by the circular emanating from your Council, that it is the intention to sublet the Building to subsidiary Clubs. This would practically be a contravention of paragraph 9 of our Conditions of Building, and my Committee regret that they do not see their way to recommend to the Council that this condition be altered.

Yours faithfully

Lt-Colonel

Secretary - NRA

So the battle lines had been drawn on this subject. Obviously this scheme was too important to be dismissed by this one objection and within nine days the Middlesex Rifle Association responded with their answer to this objection.

Dear Sir

Re: Proposed Clubhouse

In reply to your letter of the 19th Instant, I beg to inform you that it is proposed to confine the use of the new Clubhouse to members only.

As a County Rifle Association most of the Middlesex Volunteer Corps and Rifle Clubs are affiliated to us, and it is the duty of my Council to encourage them in every way to come to Bisley to shoot, and, judging from the very great support given to the N.R.A. by our many members, we have been very successful in our efforts.

The following line was at the top of the new page:

9 - "Except as aforesaid, Tenant shall not assign, sublet or otherwise part with bungalow" (No mention of any part therefore.)

My Council read para 9 - (shown above) of your "Conditions of Building at Bisley" as forbidding the subletting of a building as a whole not a part thereof. Otherwise it would prevent letting lockers and cubicles.

Our proposal is to let a Corp or Rifle Club (which is not in a position to build its own hut) have the use of a small room chiefly for secretarial purposes, at a nominal rental of £1 per annum. I do not see how your Council could object to this.

I would mention that the English XX Club are allowed to sublet their bungalow (not part of it) to us for £25 per annum.

Having regard to the above and to the worthy object of my Council I trust that you will see your way to waive your present objections.

Yours faithfully

J. N. Le Fevre - Lieut. Hon. Sec.

Lt Col Fremantle then entered the fray again with another letter to the NRA Secretary.

My dear Crosse,

Thank you for the cheque for £4.5 I have posted the receipt to you. Very much obliged.

Very bad, not beating New Zealand.

The matter of the Middlesex R.A. hut is not an easy one to deal with. I do not know how far we actually enforce, in allowing the subletting of Clubhouses, any sort of stipulation as to the sub-lessees or any proportion of them being members of the N.R.A. Probably we don't enforce this in any way.

I don't know that we have any general rules on the subject. I don't quite understand how Regiments (to whom it is proposed to sublet rooms) can be members of the Middlesex Rifle Association. Nor if used for any sort of a general Regimental purpose would it be possible that the use of rooms so sublet should be confined to "members of the Middlesex R.A. only." We can hardly interfere as regards the subletting of rooms to individual members.

Would it not be a good thing to have our legal position in the matter considered? We must not, of course, discourage anything that will really bring us new members or users of our ranges.

There is now a gap in the correspondence as I believe that there must have been a letter from the NRA relenting and confirming that the building scheme could go ahead. This is a conclusion drawn by the following exchange of letters. There is an undated sheet which could well have been the draft of a letter from the NRA.

The following letter was a single sheet undated and headed Middx RA (possibly a draft of a letter to Le

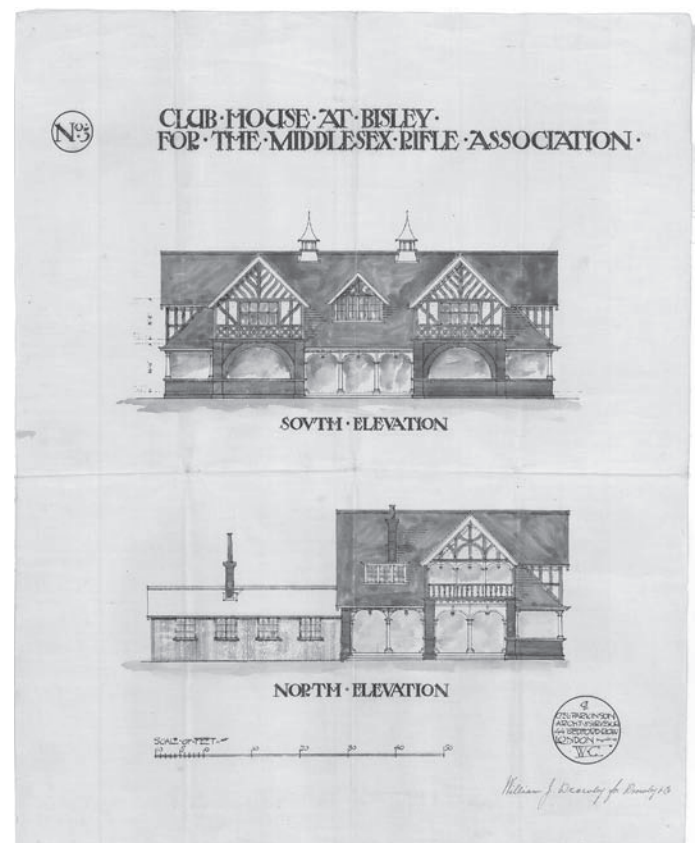
Fevre from the NRA written just before 20 November 1907).

With reference to the proposal of your Association to build a Club House at Bisley Camp I beg to inform you that my Council have further considered the matter and are now prepared to let your Association ground space for this purpose.

With regard to the question of sub-letting certain parts of the proposed building to Regiments and Clubs, my Council are of the opinion that in accordance with the paragraph 9 of our Conditions of Building they should, in each case where it is proposed to sublet a part of the building, be consulted and their approval obtained.

I shall be glad to hear that your Council are prepared to agree to this.

The job to develop the clubhouse had been put out to tender and the project was awarded to Messrs Dowley & Co.



The sketch of the final plans for the building.

This second scheme was smaller and less ornate, although still retaining the flavour and style of the first. Gables on the south, west and east fronts are decorated at first floor level with black timber framing and white infills. Such carved timber work was a device used in the 15th century to display the wealth of a building's owner and was in use in the early decades of the 20th century as decoration in all classes of work. Gables on the south front are carried on sturdy brick arches while that on the west is carried by timber-clad

column and pilasters dressed up with a variety of classical and Eastern details.

By 14 January the formal agreement had been concluded between the Stock Exchange Rifle Club and the Middlesex Rifle Association. Remember that Col RW Inglis was to take up £2000 of debentures and then to donate them to SERC and the other debentures were to be taken by the IBIS Rifle Club and the Honourable Artillery Company. Because of the amount offered by SERC certain privileges were given as part of this agreement.

The following is an extract from SERC Council meeting held on 22 January 1908.

The Chairman then read a few extracts from the agreement made between the London & Middlesex Counties Rifle Association and the Club, whereby the latter received the following special privileges in connexion with the Association's New Club House at Bisley.

- 1 *The use of a good sized room rent free.*
- 2 *One third of the Messing accommodation.*
- 3 *Call of eight Cubicles at £3 3/- per annum.*
- 4 *Call of forty Lockers at 5/- per annum each.*
- 5 *The right to erect a Flagstaff our end.*

6 *A good sized piece of land to adjoin our end for the erection of a Marquee & Bell Tents during the Bisley Meeting.*

7 *All the above to hold good for twenty years.*

One interesting letter dated 20 May 1908 to Col Crosse NRA from CE Lancaster Parkinson is reproduced here which is particularly significant because it is the first time the name of the Association is referred to as the London and Middlesex Rifle Association. So the change of name happened between 22 January 1908 and 20 May 1908 and it must have happened because of the association with the London clubs who funded the development of the clubhouse.

Dear Col. Crosse

London and Middlesex Rifle Association

May I ask your permission to make a gateway in the hedge to give access from the above pavilion to the ranges, similar to that in use by the North London Club.

Yours very truly

C.E. Lancaster Parkinson

A full history of the clubhouse up until the present day has been produced and is available from Brian Cudby at the LMRA.



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THE IBIS OPEN MEETING 2008

by Frank Harriss

The Ibis Rifle Club is a small Bisley club, no longer associated with a particular well known financial institution, with excellent facilities in a modern clubhouse situated very centrally on Bisley Camp. It offers rifle shooting (target rifle, F class, small-bore rifle and historic arms) together with black powder pistol and clay shooting, all in a friendly atmosphere. The club is currently recruiting for members especially target rifle shots. The new website is at www.ibisrifleclub.co.uk.

One of the highlights of the Ibis calendar is the Open Meeting held in April each year. This year forty-eight competitors turned out on Saturday 12 April. The weather was kinder than predicted with one detail shooting through in the dry, while the other caught a couple of showers. The wind was tricky enough to keep the scores down.

A very welcome feature of this year's shoot was the presence of schoolboys from both Epsom College and Greshams School, increasing their shooting prowess in adult surroundings. Matthew Purdy of Greshams certainly distinguished himself by coming second in the aggregate.

The morning's short range competition was a Queen's II, with the 600 range cut to seven shots because of a delay with the start of the 300 yards competition due to a communications failure with the butts, the total being 135. The winner was Andrew Wilde from Somerset with 134.11, dropping his one point at 300 yards. Second was Peter Griggs (Ibis captain) with 132.12. Then followed several 131s, with Carol Painting leading with 18 Vs. Next was Edmund Johnson from Greshams with 131.14.

The afternoon long range shoot had some tricky winds which reduced scores at 1000 yards. Perhaps it was just as well that, because of lack of range space, the competition could not be shot at the traditional 1000 and 1100 ranges! The winner, Carol Painting, is a vigorous supporter of the match being shot at 900 and 1000 and she certainly proved her point, winning with a fine 96.10 out of 100, including a 47.5 at 1000, when most of us were struggling in the middle to low 40s (and some lower!). Second was Richard Stearn of OGRE with 95.8, including a possible at 900. Third was Simon Whitby from Nottingham with 94.8, counting out Matthew Purdy from Greshams with the same score.

Needless to say after a perusal of the above scores, the Aggregate Cup was won by Carol with 227.28, three points clear of Matthew Purdy on 224.20, a score shared by Peter Griggs which had to be counted out by going back to the 900 score.

The usual amiable Prizegiving in the Clubhouse was very well attended and the gathering applauded

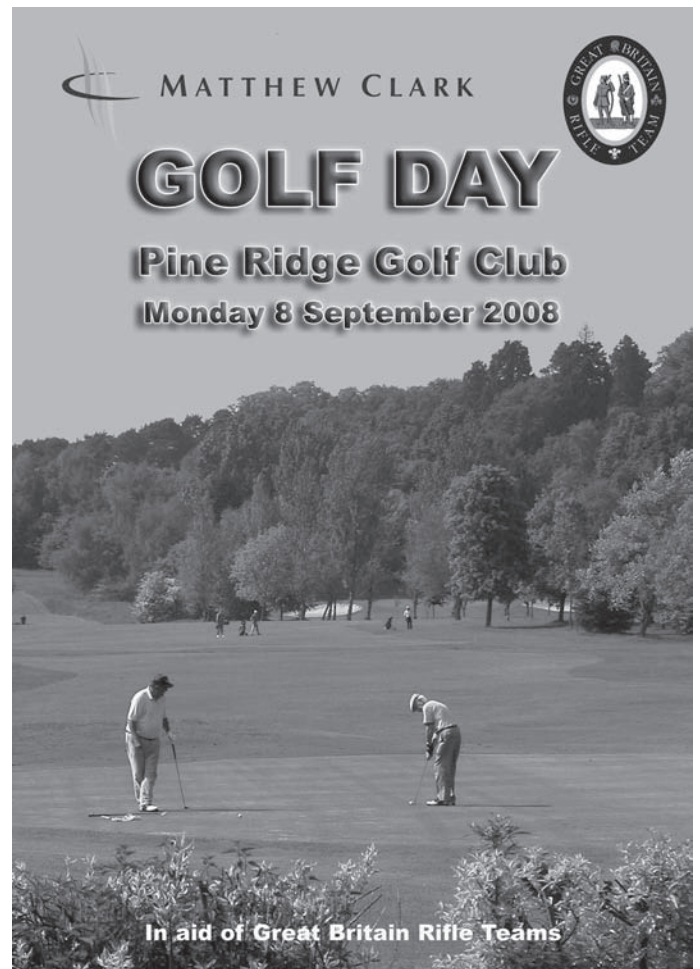
the top scores in each competition and also many lucky spot prize winners. We are grateful to John Carmichael of HPS for sponsoring the prizes by awarding two gift tokens. Many of the top scorers used HPS ammunition. Peter Griggs presented the prizes and thanked Bill Rowland for organising the meeting and David Stevens, Brian Hulatt and Eddie Young for running the firing point.

Nearly thirty people stayed to the evening dinner, always a high spot of the Open shoot. Bill Rowland (Ibis Treasurer) not only organises the whole shoot but puts on his chef's hat to provide a basic lunch and an excellent dinner, which was much enjoyed by all the participants.

.....

GOLF DAY IN AID OF THE OTF

The Matthew Clark Golf Day in aid of the Overseas Teams Fund and future GB teams will be held on Monday 8 September at Pine Ridge Golf Club. Teams from companies and groups are invited for a great day of golf with great prizes including a Mercedes car for a hole in one! Please contact Chris Hockley via the NRA for details.



COMMON VISION, COMMON VOICE

NEWS ON THE NATSS INITIATIVE FROM PERFORMANCE MATTERS

The Steering Group of the three largest National Governing Bodies, (NGBs) of Target Shooting Sports in the United Kingdom, with a working title of National Association of Target Shooting Sports, (NATSS), are currently engaged in a modernisation process aimed at helping the sports to organise their resources more efficiently. Those NGBs currently involved in this project are:

- The Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) - England
- The National Rifle Association (NRA) - UK
- The National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA) - UK

The Central Council for Physical Recreation, (CCPR) and UK Sport have supplied finance to help investigate ways of operating more cohesively for the benefit of the sports and its members.

Funding has been deployed by the Steering Group, to identify and recruit an independent organisation, experienced in the provision of facilitator services for such initiatives. Performance Matters, led by Roger Moreland and employing a number of specialist consultants, was selected to assist NATSS navigate a smooth path towards a closer co-operation between the NGBs. It has been briefed to recommend a new governing structure to assist the sports to improve their future prospects, both at a competitive and especially at grass-roots level.

Performance Matters developed a communications strapline of 'Common Vision, Common Voice' to reflect the process of modernising and updating that is currently in train.

The Target Shooting Project was initiated with a National Forum held in November 2007 at Bisley in Surrey. This was very well attended and helped to launch this 'modernisation process' and to signpost a route-map for its progression. The programme then gathered pace with a series of Regional Workshops held in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The initial Forum was swiftly followed by a wide-ranging online survey amongst the shooting fraternity that was posted on the websites of the three NGBs. Over 2,600 people interested in the target shooting sports responded to it and, in comparison with other such surveys, this was an exceptionally good response. The main findings from a representative sample covering the whole range of shooting disciplines were as follows:

- 84.3% of respondents thought modernisation was a good thing
- 87.5% of respondents supported the concept of 'one brand new body governing and protecting all target shooting sports'

The top five benefits of this work are seen to be:

- Improved representation with legislators
- Improved public perception
- Improved media relations
- Improved relationships and representation with UK Sport and other national bodies
- Improved strategic vision and direction

The key strategic priorities for target shooting were identified as being:

- Protecting the sport
- Repositioning the sport in the media and improving public perception
- Education - target shooting in schools and in the National Curriculum
- Widening and increasing membership
- Protecting the heritage of the sport

The Workshops started off in early March at a venue just outside Dorchester, and then around the other English regions with events in Suffolk, York, Brentwood, Bisley and Wolverhampton. The other Home Countries were covered with Workshops taking place in Belfast, Newport and Fife.

The Workshops, which were very well attended, included full feedback from the online survey, and had many interactive elements for feeding back existing concerns and ideas to help the sports become more cohesive, responsive to market forces, members' expectations and to prepare for growth in membership.

The feedback from all nine Workshops was collated and distilled into a report and recommendations from Performance Matters to the Steering Group. It focused on analysing and recommending new governance structures and models that can help assist the NATSS Steering Group in developing proposals on future direction and structure.

Another National Forum will be held in the autumn for UK-wide representatives as a prelude to proposing a new structure to assist the Steering Group in making a presentation to the Boards of the NGBs. It is well recognised that proposals will need finally to be put to and approved by the memberships.

It is not widely appreciated that there are over 40 different organisations across the target shooting sports in the UK; all will be consulted and involved so far as practical in shaping the solution before the process culminates. It is only via this consultative process that we can give ourselves the best chance of finding a solution that works right across the sport.

Home Country & Regional Workshop Consultation Report

Produced by Performance Matters



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the workshops. Your contributions were invaluable and much appreciated.

Further Information

The latest information about the modernisation process is posted on the web-sites of each of the National Governing Bodies:

www.cpsa.co.uk

www.nra.org.uk

www.nsra.co.uk

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The Workshops

- 9 Workshops were held around at various venues around the country during March and April at:
 1. Southern Counties Shooting Ground, Dorset
 2. Lakenheath Clay Target Centre, Suffolk
 3. Easingwold Rifle Club, North Yorkshire
 4. Ashwells Sports and Country Club, Essex
 5. Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley
 6. University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
 7. Dunstall Suite, Wolverhampton Racecourse
 8. Holiday Inn, Newport, Wales
 9. Cluny Clays and Activity Centre, Fife, Scotland
- 459 people attended the workshops. They came from a variety of backgrounds in shooting, including regional committees; Home Country Associations; owners and managers of shooting grounds; club representatives; the shooting press; the shooting trade; and, individuals who indicated an interest in attending through the online survey.
- The workshops followed on from the 'Bisley Forum' held in November 2007 and the Online Survey. They provided an opportunity for further consultation on the way forward on the shooting modernisation project and, more specifically:
 1. For shooters to share and discuss common interests and differences with shooters from other disciplines.
 2. To share the findings from the Bisley Forum and the Online Survey.
 3. To discuss views on the most realistic options for restructuring the sport.
- Information on the findings emerging from the online survey are available to view on the websites of the CPSA, NRA and NSRA.

Support For A New Body

- The outcomes from the workshops reinforced the views that emerged from the online survey. Overwhelmingly, in terms of the structure of the sport, this was that the 'status quo' was not acceptable and that a new target shooting body should be established. The key question was how this should be achieved.
- There was consensus as to the nature of any new body and the way the new structure might be achieved.
- Views were also expressed on a range of other issues such as the retention of the expertise that exists in shooting today; membership; Home Country identity; and, the strategic priorities of any new body.

Nature of the New Body

- 8 points emerged consistently from the workshops as to the nature of any new body:

1. It should oversee all the target shooting disciplines.
2. It should be of UK significance.
3. It should be primarily strategic.
4. It should have a small, competency based Board led by someone of appropriate stature and experience (not necessarily from shooting).
5. It should be business like and professional in its approach.
6. Its main work should be focused on the 5

strategic priorities emerging from the online survey - legislation, public relations, shooting on the school curriculum, membership, protecting the sport's heritage.

7. It should retain Home Country identities to make communication to devolved administrations and funding bodies easier.
8. It should be the 'one voice' for the sport both in terms of lobbying Government and enhancing its profile with the media.



3 Options For The Way Forward

- Analysis of discussions at the workshops reveals 3 main trains of thought on the set up of the new body :

1. 54.7% thought the new body should be set up as soon as possible. There should be non strategic operational committees in place of the existing governing bodies, with Home Country identity retained.
2. 35.9% thought there should be a phased approach, so that transition from the current situation to the new body could be managed over time.
3. 9.4% were undecided on the best way forward.

Other Issues

- A number of other issues emerged as being important at the workshops:

1. The need to ensure that all the existing good practice and knowledge is not lost.
2. There was little reference to the possibility of expanding the role of the GBTSF.
3. All target shooters should become members of the new body based on the principle of 'one member, one fee'.
4. The need to have one communication strategy for target shooting.
5. Retention of Home Country identity.

Next Steps

- The material generated through the process so far will be used to develop the shape, strategy and structure for the new body.
- The proposals will need to examine a number of areas, such as:
 1. The optimum corporate status for the new body.
 2. The most effective financial model for the new body.
 3. The question of charitable status.
 4. Membership categories and structures.
 5. The shape, nature, roles and responsibilities of the Board.
 6. How regional and Home Country issues should be

accommodated.

7. How discipline specific issues and competition should be accommodated.
8. What the committee structure and composition should be.

- The proposals will be the subject of further discussions later in the year. Target shooting has an exciting future to look forward to and, ultimately, it will be put to the membership for a decision on how the sport takes the first steps towards achieving it.

PHOENIX MEETING 2008

by Brian Thomas

This year we celebrated the eleventh year of the Phoenix Meeting, our largest meeting after the Imperial, and our Gallery Rifle flagship event.

The Organising Committee knew they had to work very hard to achieve the standards reached at last year's Meeting, but, not being a group to shy away from a challenge, they surpassed last year! One way they achieved this was to offer a number of new items at the Meeting, including several new competitions. Some of the popular competitions were introduced from the Imperial GR&P Meeting as well as a new 100/200 yards competition for the .22rf Long Barrelled Pistol, which proved to be a challenge. We also had a Tyro Bianchi competition for those competitors not yet fully compliant with using a holster - the tyro competitor used no holster with one-to-one supervision by the Range Officers.

This year also saw the introduction of our new medals - a new prize medal, the Grandmaster (awarded to those competitors achieving high standards in their shooting at the Phoenix) and a dated souvenir medal available to purchase. These very fine medals are currently on display in the main reception of the NRA.

Always welcome are all the new faces attending - this year we had an increased number of couples volunteering and shooting; some people have already offered their services for the Gallery Rifle Championships in late August, which is very encouraging. It may well be that one of the reasons people offer to help is the fact that not only do they have the chance to give something back to their discipline but they can also enjoy the very social side of the Meeting.

New to the Phoenix Meeting this year was Man v Man, with newly developed electronic targetry for

Gallery Rifle Small-Bore. The competition is run on a simple knockout basis with the shooters competing against each other in pairs. The shooters are presented with five targets and one stop target. Each target is approximately 15cm across and connected to a bright LED light that is illuminated until the target is hit. The rifle is placed on a table at the firing line, loaded with the slide forward but not made ready. The competitor starts approximately three paces behind the table with a tin can in the strong hand. At the start signal, the competitor moves forward and places the can on a post at the table, picks up the rifle, makes ready and engages the first five targets until all are hit. After a compulsory reload, the competitor then engages the stop plate until it is hit. The first competitor to hit the stop plate wins the run. The best of three runs wins the round. The reigning champion is an old hand at this style shooting but there are plenty of younger shooters chasing the title. All money raised from this event goes to the Overseas Team Fund.

One problem that is not new and is proving difficult to eradicate, is the high proportion of spoiled scorecards. With the stats team already working hard all weekend to process approximately 2700 cards, it proves very difficult to input a score with no name. Again, another classic common error is 'we' have entered the wrong score on the final result list but, of course, on checking, the competitor has not only written the wrong score down but then signed to say it is correct before handing in the card to be processed.

Back to the good times - the German team held a reception party on Friday evening. Alas one attendee obviously did not approve the chef's delicious offering of party food, as he chose the local wildlife instead - in the guise of eating raw Cockchafer! My highlight of the evening was leaving the party as the proud owner of a rare BDMP team polo shirt. Other



Sieglinde Janus from Germany on Melville.



Gallery Rifle Centre Fire - kneeling ...



... and standing.

Photos by Andy Duffy, Steve Foskett, Alan Keating and John Robinson.



Mick Tedesco shooting Long Barrelled Revolver.



Some like the optical aids . . .



. . . whilst others prefer iron sights.

gifts I am thankful for came over with the team from the Republic of Ireland. These were some spare metallic silhouette targets donated from Fermoy Rifle Club in Ireland, which helped the Target Silhouette competition flow without incident.

The following night we held the main Phoenix party at the Lord Roberts Centre. As an informal affair people were able to relax, eat and drink from the overladen tables of wonderfully prepared food and a well stocked free bar that lasted all night. The next day a concerned guest left a note on my desk asking that a certain CRO not be given the chance sing karaoke style on the sound system next year, as his vocals needed a lot more training before ears would stop bleeding! Fortunately, I missed this treat on the night.

The weekend was not all about social events and there was plenty of shooting to be had with the ranges very busy this year with 530 people making a total of 2652 entries in the various events. This is the highest yearly average of just over five events per person and one person managed to fit in 23 events! I am glad to say that even though the weather was up to its normal damp standards, it didn't impinge on the numbers too much. The standard of shooting is still

very high with four new British records being set over the weekend.

We were very lucky that the NRA Chairman, Bill Richards, attended the prizegiving as the guest of honour and presented the winning awards. There was a good turn out to the prizegiving and those attending warmed to Bill very quickly with one comment coming back to me, as "he seems like a nice bloke". There were a great many raffle tickets sold over the weekend. This might have had something to do with the first prize being securely displayed on the front counter. The raffle was drawn at the prize giving with the winner being a recent addition to the world of shooting.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| • 1 A GSG -5 .22rf rifle | Lynne-Marie Smith |
| • 2 Free 2009 Phoenix entry | Darren Squire |
| • 3 Free NRA membership | Ashley Dagger |

If we compiled a list of all the people who helped to make the 2008 Phoenix Meeting a success, there would be a list of over 130 volunteers, all of whom give up so much time and inject so much effort. Without these people there simply would not be a Phoenix Meeting of any sort taking place. To you all a huge 'Thank you'.



Dave Hackett receives the John Rolfe Trophy from NRA Chairman Bill Richards.



Bill Richards presents the awards for the teams' competition for Multi-Target.



Metallic Silhouettes on Stickledown.



The Long Range Pistol shooters settle down in their 'flying machines'.



Mel Beard on the Barricade stage of the Bianchi.



Lisa Bagley shoots her Long Barrelled Pistol.



Shotgun firing solid slug at 200 yards.



Clive Hayward on Melville.



Sitting at 50 metres with a small-bore.



The popular 1500 competition.

OBITUARIES

Ena Goodacre

Police sergeant, probation officer and international marksman who scored notable firsts for women in all her careers



Ena Goodacre lived her life in a pioneering spirit. Her service in the police force and as a probation officer set new firsts, as did her love of competitive target rifle shooting.

It was in this sport that, in 1988, she achieved the notable distinction of being appointed by the National Rifle Association as Captain of the British Womens Rifle Team to the bicentenary matches of the Australian National Rifle Association. The appointment was unique, being the first - and last - time that the National Rifle Association of Great Britain sent a womens fullbore rifle team to any overseas championships.

It surprised many among the Bisley headquarters fraternity that the NRA was prepared to send a womens team, the sport having been open and equal for men and women since the foundation of the NRA in 1860. Indeed, it was Queen Victoria who had fired the ceremonial opening shot on the NRA's move from Wimbledon to Bisley in 1890. To depart from this policy seemed to fly in the face of open competition.

However, Australia and New Zealand both had womens teams, much used to shooting against each other and nobody else, and additional competition from the British on the occasion of the bicentenary was considered essential and politic. The team would also be shooting alongside the members of the full British Palma team in the individual events.

Goodacre, in 1988, was then 76 years of age. Faced with the task at short notice she picked those whom she believed were the best for the job. With the upsurge of highly talented women shooters emerging from school, university and club shooting teams in that decade, it was a young team, the next oldest in her selection being some 40 years her junior.

After a preliminary success with a victory over the Queensland state team, "Goodacre's Girls", as she named them, came second to the Australians in the international match on the reclaimed waste landfill site at Maroubra. Thanks to earlier torrential rain such were the conditions underfoot that she dispatched members of the team to make a special bulk purchase of pairs of Wellington boots at a nearby hardware store. The boots, left neatly lined up for inspection, were later donated to the police barracks. It was a most successful tour that broke down many of the historical barriers to the notion of women

touring, much aided by Goodacre's calm direction and the undoubted team spirit of her charges. Members of the team went on to participate in further tours as members of integrated British teams.

Ena Goodacre was born in 1911 and lived her early years on the family farm at Stretton in Warwickshire. While sport and hunting featured from an early age, it was target shooting that became her passion, a notable early hit being an upstairs bedroom window while she practised with an air rifle without her father's knowledge.

At the age of 19 she joined the Coventry police force, and rose to become the first woman police sergeant in that force. She served throughout the Second World War and was on duty on the night that Coventry suffered its terrible bombing. She recalled emerging from the shelters to find, to her horror, awful casualties and the city flattened. Her overwhelming emotion, she said, was relief and surprise at still being alive when so much damage had been done.

After the war she joined the Probation Service, serving in Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire. In 1957 she moved to Vancouver where she became British Columbia's first woman probation officer. She returned regularly to visit the UK at the time of the annual Bisley meeting. After moving back to England in 1962 she continued with the Tunbridge Wells probation office until her retirement in 1976.

She then settled in Wadhurst, East Sussex, and, alongside her love of gardening and bee-keeping, pursued her passion for shooting. During her long association with Sussex she joined Mayfield Rifle Club, winning many smallbore trophies and often topping the ladies' averages.

Competitive shooting at Bisley was a focal point in her life for some 45 years, and she established her reputation as an unflappable Adjutant to the Sussex county side, later taking over as Captain and ultimately becoming President of the county.

Her personal successes included winning the Alton Trophy for the top-placed lady in the Bisley Grand Aggregate twice, and the equivalent Tess Spencer Trophy at the Canadian Championships in Ottawa twice - achieving a notable double in 1973. She appeared twice in the final of the Queen's Prize, and also won the Queen's Veterans Trophy in 1979.

In 1974 she was selected as a member of the British rifle team sent to Canada, and in 1981 as Adjutant for the England National Match team. However, she always held her 1988 women's team to be the pinnacle of her achievements. In her later years, when her health and eyesight were failing, she would always inquire how "her girls" were getting on. Her last appearance at Bisley was in the summer of 2005, at the age of 93, when she saw the Canadian Jim Paton win the Queen's Prize.

Goodacre exuded calm and competence. She was widely respected for her wise and non-judgmental insight into people and events. She did not marry.

Ena Goodacre, police officer, probation officer and markswoman, was born on May 22, 1911. She died on February 24, 2008, aged 96.

[The above obituary appeared in the Times of March 17, 2008 and is reproduced here with their kind permission.]

There is always so much more than just an obituary that can be written about any of the characters found in the sport of shooting. To anyone who was active through the days in which David Goodall, Phil Harrison, Sam Gilson, David Friend and others were at the peak of their powers in the Sussex team, it was always a source of confidence that, whether sitting on the coaching stool or prone with a rifle, a glance over the shoulder always found Ena quietly and confidently at the heart of the organisation. Her presence seemed to bring stability and calm.

Many of the Sussex shooting family have been able to offer anecdotes and memories of Ena. She had many strings to her bow. She sang as a chorister at her local church. She made potent home-made blackcurrant and parsnip wines, testimony to the fruits of her labours on her allotment. Her aged Volkswagen camper van never seemed to falter under her guidance and care. She always had a beer bottle opener to hand - particularly after a county shoot was finished.

In any discussion she always had the closing word, usually without the other party realising. Her care for her 1988 team was matched equally by her care for the earlier Sussex teams, referred to by her as "her boys". Her slow dry humour reduced an amorous male in pursuit of one of her girls to a gibbering reptile on an Antipodean roof-top.

And yet there was a cloak of privacy despite - perhaps because of - all her good works in the community and in our sport. The measure of the woman was that we all respected that privacy. Even so she was well known across the globe. Even the Canadian probation officers recall being reminded that there was a difference between being an expert bee-keeper, and just a keeper of bees.

And all that alongside a mental picture of a steely gaze that spoke her mind for her, when she deemed it right.

Tony de Launay with thanks to JHM, MP, LTW

Maurice Gosling

Maurice Gosling died on Saturday 7 April 2008, aged 75, days after his wife June passed away. He was a soldier of the old school; a marksman, raconteur, artist, and one whom I was proud to call a friend.



Maurice enlisted in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Colchester in 1952 and left the service in 1979, attaining the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. His service took him to Egypt, Singapore and Germany. He finished his service at Chilwell where he and his beloved wife June settled.

Maurice learned to shoot prior to enlisting, and was soon engaged in service rifle shooting. He was a member of the Army 100, and a proud member of the RAOC Methuen team. In the late 60s he turned to small-bore target rifle shooting and became a valued squad member in the Regular Army team that enjoyed many successes against the Home Countries, France and of course the other services. For last three years of his service Maurice was the team Adjutant, an appointment he carried out with great tact and expertise; not an easy task in a team comprising ranks from Colonel to Private soldier. His loyalty to the Captain was remarkable and contributed to the many successes the team achieved. On leaving the service in 1979, Maurice gave of his services to the Nottinghamshire Rifle Association and the Falcons Rifle Club in particular. In 1986, in recognition of his 'Service to Shooting', Maurice was elected as a member of the Centipedes Club, whose motto 'Service about Self', was a fitting tribute to a man who had contributed so much to the shooting sport.

Up until his untimely death, Maurice assisted the NRA with their summer Stats and the ARA with scoring of competitions and leagues. He also organised and ran competitions for the Army Target Shooting Club. His wealth of knowledge and capacity for work will be sorely missed. No matter how much work had to be done, Maurice was always ready to assist with a smile and a friendly hand.

In the mid 70s, Maurice started to 'paint by numbers' quite a popular pastime of that time. It was not long before he branched out into watercolour painting. He specialised in English birds; what a talent to realise at that time of life. Never a man to remain idle, once in 'Civvie Street' he became a gardener and handyman around the Chilwell area, augmenting his service pension, but also occupying himself with a task he loved. Latterly when I rang, June would have to get him out of the greenhouse, then one would be regaled with tales about the fishpond, and more often than not a dissertation on fuchsias, about which he was a fund of knowledge.

Maurice was a great raconteur. Tales of service abroad were vivid memories, so much so that one could probably get away with recounting the same tale as though one had experienced that particular phase of service. It must be said that the tales were always more vivid after joining the teller in a few glasses of the 'mountain dew'!

'Maurice whistled' What an epithet! No more are we to be warned of his presence. We can but listen.

He was a great family man, and out thoughts go out to his children, along with the rest of the family. Maurice will be remembered for his firm handshake, his enthusiasm, integrity and above all his loyalty.

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Bill Sharman

Bill Sharman had a long career in the RAF, and was a greatly valued teacher of IT for almost as long; he was also a widely respected shooter and coach at the highest level and, of course, a deeply loved husband and brother and uncle. Depending on how you came to know Bill, he may be remembered as Willum or Womble - but it is the same Bill that we all remember with such affection.



Bill was born in 1943 in Shrewsbury and was brought up, in his early years, by his grandmother, "Granny Mac", in Inverness. Bill's father was in the RAF, and so there followed the usual nomadic existence of an RAF child from posting to posting, but ending up settled in Wiltshire, where Bill attended Malmesbury Grammar School.

At 15, Bill followed his father's footsteps and became a Boy Entrant in the RAF, training initially as a fitter and then as a radio operator; he graduated to aircrew and ended his career as a Master Aircrew in air electronics after 25 years service in 1983. He had, by this time, toured the world and shot for the RAF (including a winning sub-machine gun team) - but Bill's most enduring claim to fame from his flying career was his record of having taken off three more times than he had officially landed (you must decide for yourselves whether having survived three crash landings makes him exceptionally lucky or alarmingly jinxed, or perhaps both).

It was while acting as coach for the WAAF shooting team in 1975 that he first met Wink, and that was to lead eventually to a lasting relationship and a romantic wedding in the Seychelles in 1986 - a devoted partnership and a perfect match (after all, Wink did all the cooking and Willum looked after the wine!).

After leaving the RAF, Bill took up a one year appointment teaching at Hull College, followed by a couple of years teaching in Young Offender Institutions, before returning to lecture in computers and IT at Goole College until he retired in 2003.

Throughout all his time in both the RAF and in lecturing, Bill's great hobby and sport was, of course, rifle shooting, at which he excelled. He shot and coached for the RAF before becoming a regular with both Scottish and GB teams, coaching the Scottish Match Rifle Team to a legendary victory in the Elcho in 1988, acting as Main Coach for the prestigious GB Kolapore Team in 1995, and captaining Scotland from 2004 to 2006. Sadly though, in April 2006 Bill was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which did not respond to treatment, and there followed

two very painful years, born with great courage and unfailing good humour and generosity (though aided, no doubt, by the impressive supply of wine stored in both locker and fridge during his stay in the Dove House hospice). It was at Dove House that Bill passed peacefully away on 24 February, and that has seemed to all his family and friends to have been a blessed and kindly release; but though Bill has passed away, his memories are still with us and greatly treasured.

"The Womble" has come to be a shooting legend, most of the stories involving implausible quantities of wine or Pimms followed by improbably accurate shooting and prescient wind-coaching - and all of them appear to be completely true! But Bill also has a well deserved reputation for his kindness and generosity, and his ability to encourage the very best out of inexperienced shooters, whether in their first National for Scotland or their first Humphrey for Oxford.

Willum is remembered by his family as being particularly good with children, probably because he was a big kid at heart himself (Naughty Uncle Willum alongside their Favourite Auntie Wink), telling them stories (always one of Bill's strong points) and teaching them rude songs, and still holding the title for knowing the most names for being sick!

Many shooters from every corner of the shooting world will remember Bill as the most genial and generous of hosts, and the parties at his Bisley caravan are the very stuff of myth: BBQs, puddings (by Wink) and excellent company, all enlivened by Bill's irrepressible sense of humour and mellowed by copious quantities of good wine ("every case," he would proudly proclaim, "comes with a white stick and a labrador").

Shopping was another of Bill's wide-ranging skills, and he was master of the BOGOF's ("buy one get one free") and a connoisseur of the yellow dot price reductions in the supermarket (once taking three hours to go round the Hull Sainsbury's, and having some of his carefully gleaned trolley-full of yellow-spotted bargains lifted by shoppers who mistook it for the Bargain Trolley). Indeed Bill was the very essence of "New Man", arranging flowers, making jam (known in the family as NMJ!), and the inventor of Brocolates (hot chocolate with brandy) as well as the tall story involving Paddington Bear that went with them.

Bill would meticulously research any proposed project (hence their time-share property in Wales that he and Wink only visited once, but swapped endlessly and profitably for holidays all over the world).

Bill was an avid reader of newspapers (especially old ones!) and crime novels and the "Oldie" magazine, and he loved good wine, and puddings with custard - but whether we think of him as Bill, or Womble or Willum, perhaps all our memories can be summed up in that cartoon of "wine speak" on the plate hanging on his wall at home: "Coarse but generous!"

Alan Simpson

Frank Pacey

Frank Pacey died quietly at home in November 2007; he was 81. Born in Essex, he followed his father into a career in the railway industry. Before retiring in 1992, Frank achieved senior positions with British Rail and he was considered to be one of the foremost authorities on signalling. His expertise was considered vital in several high profile enquiries.



In his early years, he was a successful motor cycle scrambler, but when he was introduced to target shooting, that became his number one sporting interest. He joined the Holland-on-Sea Rifle Club in the 1950s and quickly demonstrated an outstanding talent.

Frank joined the Colchester Rifle Club in 1962 and became a regular member of their winning teams. The Colchester team included several notable shooters, including the late Andrew Tucker and winning major team competitions became a habit!

Frank was the first shooter to score 400 ex 400 in the National League following the introduction of the British National (experimental) targets in 1960. He also achieved 'fame' when shooting in the 1965 final of the British Short-range Championship for the News of the World trophy. Frank shot 1000 ex 1000 to reach the final shoot-off. He then scored 799 ex 800. A total score of 1799 ex 1800.

Frank attended the Bisley Championship Meeting throughout the 60s, 70s and 80s. He appeared in the Earl Roberts Final on four occasions and he won the Diamond Jubilee trophy, when he made top score in the Earl Roberts Second Stage. His last major win was the Bailey Trophy (veterans) in 1987.

Frank was proud of his International representation. He shot for Great Britain in the Dewar team in 1964, 1965 and 1969. He represented England in the prone rifle competition at the 1972 Commonwealth Games held in Jamaica. He also represented Great Britain in the European Championships in Wiesbaden.

He enjoyed fullbore shooting and was a long-time member of the NRA. When he secured a caravan site, Bisley became his second home. He was a member of the London & Middlesex, the City and the South London Clubs. He claimed that he shot fullbore for fun, which suggested that he did not take it too seriously. Nothing could be further from the truth; he was an excellent 'big bore' shooter and won a coveted Queen's Final badge.

Having enjoyed over 40 years of shooting at the top, Frank together with wife Audrey, became joint shooting

masters at a private school near Cranbrook. Teaching the new generation of shooters gave both of them much pleasure.

The collection of cups, tankards, shields, medals and badges displayed in their lovely little Kent cottage, is testament to the fact that Frank was one of the outstanding marksmen of his generation and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

TE

John Drury

A man best described as the hardest worker, ever, for British pistol shooting. John was a motor engineer by trade and training, becoming an RAC patrolman who transferred to breakdown service and then to workshops. During this period he was the winner of an RAC bravery award, presented by the Queen, for rescuing cows from a burning barn.

Too young to serve during the war, he was an enthusiastic junior member of the Home Guard. Subsequently he had a major involvement with Army Cadets over many years, teaching shooting in particular. Throughout his life he preserved a great respect for the military and for servicemen, numbering many amongst his friends. He became a member of what is now Sidcup and District Rifle Club, commencing a long and fruitful relationship with that club. Building on his growing knowledge of firearms he trained under famous British gunsmiths, including George Swenson the rifle maker.

He became proprietor, partner and gunsmith with Shooters Supply and Sportsmans Guns. Those who saw it will never forget the marquee set up outside Fultons during the Imperial Meeting, with John as its welcoming host. He will be remembered for being one of the few people who could wring the best performance from a service Browning. The successes of the All Comers Team in the Whitehead Service Pistol Team competition owed much to his skill.

John was centre fire coach and gunsmith for the National Squad from 1950s to 1980s, assisting the late John Chandler. It was a period of his life of which he was most justly very proud. His commitment was enormous and his legacy in the role is still traceable.

He was the long time Secretary for the BPC from 1972 until his death. During most of this period he was responsible for the smooth running of the Club weekend shoots, enjoying the confidence of the Committee and thereby considerable autonomy. He did much to demonstrate the organisation of major shooting events that became the standard for others to emulate.

This success led to the Pistol Anno Domini events and the founding of the National Pistol Association. John was one of the founder members of that organisation and the BPC appointed member for its Council. The NPA did well to capitalise on his willingly given expertise and to host successfully the largest pistol shooting event in the world.

John was always a fount of useful information, enthusiasm, advice and assistance. He was also an enormous enthusiast for new technology, and he brought many of them to shooting, such as amateur radio and the early use of computers.

Particularly during the Anno Domini years he was a solver of problems for foreign and domestic visitors. He was the salvation for many arriving at Bisley, finding that something had gone wrong. He was always able and willing to help, whatever the problem, from re-building a malfunctioning pistol to cutting off a padlock that had lost its key. He was the ultimate Mr Fix It.

We will all miss greatly his friendship, knowledge, expertise, enthusiasm and love of the sport.

Robert Turvey

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bob Turvey on 8 November 2007. Born on 22 July 1937 he was the second child of a family of three. At an early age Bob was encouraged to shoot air rifle by his father.

In 1963 he qualified as a Structural Engineer BSc CEng and later became a fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers.



In 1962 he married his wife Anne and moved from Blockley in the Cotswolds to the Midlands. They spent most their forty-five years of happy married life in Streetly. It was there that Bob's love of target rifle, small-bore and pistol shooting grew. He was a member of Kidderminster RC, Midland Counties RC, City of Birmingham RC, 3rd VB Warwicks and the English VIII. He was a life member of the NRA, English Twenty Club and London and Middlesex. He shot at club and county levels in all his disciplines. In 1991, after winning the Times, he achieved his greatest honour of shooting for England in the National. It was in 1992 whilst shooting at Tyddesley Wood, Worcestershire that he collapsed and was later diagnosed with a severe kidney condition. After a successful kidney transplant, he was able to enjoy eight more years of his much loved shooting. During this time he was Adjutant to the 2000 NRA team to the Channel Islands, Chairman of Hereford and Worcester RA, a Committee Member of the MCRC and helped with the Commonwealth Games at Bisley. He also enjoyed music, especially Brass Band, for which he played the cornet. Over the last eighteen months he suffered greatly but showed so much courage and humour. We will never forget him.

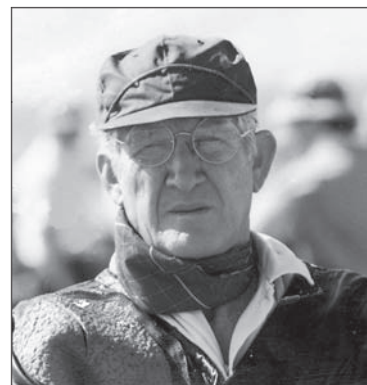
To his devoted wife and family we send our deepest and sincere condolences

God bless you Bob.

Iris Bennett

Neville Holt

The death has occurred in Australia, a few weeks short of his 96th birthday, of Neville Holt, a Life Member of the NRA and well known to members at Bisley and to shooters who have toured to Australia. Neville was one of Australia's most brilliant target shooters and an outstanding administrator.



Born in 1912, Neville was the son of a gunsmith and found his way into target rifle shooting shortly before World War II. He quickly showed his abilities winning the New South Wales militia forces Grand Championship in 1939, coming second in the 1940 Victoria RA King's Prize and third in 1941.

After the War, in 1948, he shot his way into the Australian team to Bisley in which his team colleagues Percy Pavey and Reg Parker won, respectively, the King's Prize and the Grand Aggregate. With the trip coinciding with that year's Olympic Games, Holt was selected one of the two Australian competitors in the 50m small-bore event. In later life this eventually allowed him to rejoice in the title of "Australia's oldest living Olympian".

Further honours followed. He was again a member of the Australian team in 1953 thanks in part to a then unbelievable maximum 50 at 1000 yards in the test shoots. In 1973 he won the New South Wales Grand, and in 1976 captained the Australian team to Bisley, the team being unbeaten in all the team matches.

He was also an outstanding administrator, editing the Australian Markman magazine for 16 years and becoming Chairman and then President of the NSW Rifle Association. He was secretary of Melbourne District RCU for 13 years.

In recognition of his contribution to the sport he was made a life member of the NRAs of Australia and Great Britain and the NSW Rifle Association, as well as other clubs and associations.

In 2000, at the age of 88, he was a participant in the Olympic torch relay, passing on the torch to his brother John, also a former Olympic shooter. In 2007, in a ceremony at the NSW Queen's Prize 1000 yards shoot he was presented with a blue "baggie" cap embroidered with the number 11 to mark the eleven state teams in which he had shot over the years.

He died peacefully on 6 February 2008.

With grateful acknowledgements to Australian Target Rifle Magazine and the National Rifle Association of Australia.

Richard Vincent Malbon

If, in life, you had come across a chap like Richard Vincent Malbon, the chances are that you would very soon be captivated by a combination of characteristics which go to make up the very essence of a gentleman. He was clever, knowledgeable and articulate over a wide range of topics and that is why he had such a wide circle of friends. It was common to hear people saying nice things about him and here are some short excerpts from the many messages I have received which well illustrate the fact:



"Richard, although something of an eccentric, was a wonderful man. I always appreciated that his first thought was "what can I do" or "what can I give" rather than the other way round."

David Oak, Lt Col (Ret'd) 42 Northwest Brigade

"I shall miss Richard, he was a gent."

Michael Sykes, Firearms Licencing Manager, Lancashire Constabulary

"I can say without hesitation that by making the effort to attend Range Safety Seminars he took his sport very seriously and clearly did all that was possible to ensure the safety of those involved in shooting as a sport and the safety of those who live and work around ranges. I only hope many others will follow his example."

Major Frank Compton, RE MBE, OC Technical Advisory Section RE

"I am very sad that we have lost Richard. He was a super fellow and if helping to get him a rifle that pleased him on his last shoot, then that is a little consolation."

Charles Young, Proprietor Angel Skill at Arms

"I will miss him enormously, he was always there to help in any way he could and was the most loyal friend I could wish for."

Alan Westlake, Director Sportsmans Association

"I am very sad. Richard was a good friend and such a kind man. I shall miss him."

Mike Wells, Secretary Sportsmans Association

"Only last week (meeting Saturday 15 March) he was so full of life, enthusiasm and a willingness to help carry Army Cadet Force shooting forward."

Lt Rod Leonard, Shooting Co-ordinator, Lancashire ACF/CCF Units

These surely show the respect and affection that Richard engendered with all those he met.

In his professional life Richard started with an apprenticeship at Henry Simon in Cheadle Hulme and studied at the Royal Technical College Salford.

Having made the transition to nuclear engineering he took early retirement from his position as Deputy Site Manager with the CEGB at Heysham Power Station with responsibilities for Wylfa and Trawsfynydd.

Although our paths through industry were totally dissimilar, he in the heavy electrical business, me in aerospace, we found that our apprenticeships gave us a great deal in common and he would regularly visit to use my workshop machinery in order to manufacture some component which one of his neighbours needed. On such occasions he was an admirable lunch guest and never forgot to compliment the hostess.

Just a few short months ago he managed to save up enough pocket money to buy his own lathe and fulfil a long held ambition. A new pillar drill was to remain high on his sadly unrealised wish list.

Richard possessed an abiding enthusiasm for every sort of firearm from .22 rimfire pistol to the huge naval guns of the First World War, about which he had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge. The smaller arms became a major part of his life as a competitor and an instructor.

As Secretary of Morecambe Rifle and Pistol Club for more years than I can remember he was instrumental in spreading the concept of safe, disciplined and enjoyable shooting for all comers. He was a respected Council Member of the County of Lancaster Rifle Association and was always to the fore when there were duties to perform so as to allow others to enjoy their shooting. Most of the Qualified Range Control Officers in this and other northern regions acquired their skills at one of his Assessor Courses.

Latterly he was the President of the 101 Rifle Club and chaired their AGM only five days before that fateful Good Friday. Indeed on that same Friday 21 March he spent the day at Morecambe teaching the basics of shooting to an impressively large crowd of Sea Cadets, such was his enthusiasm for the youth movements of the region.

Since his retirement Richard seemed to be working as hard as ever and certainly driving many more miles in a month than I did in a year and all in the service of others. He used his developed expertise in Firearms Law to great effect when he was Director of the Sportsmans' Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, helping the less learned in their times of difficulty.

His enthusiasm for shooting sport in general inevitably brought Richard face to face with the post-Dunblane gun law changes and he was determined to do what he could to fight the injustices which he perceived as arising from that legislation.

He made time to become a co-founder of the Countryside Party, to sit in on the Cullen Enquiry in Scotland, to address forums in France (in French) and provide situation reports for the National Rifle Association of the USA. He did copious lobbying of key members of the Government and the Police Services, fought his corner

with passion and logic, but like many others, became disillusioned with the organs of Government and critical of the ever increasing loss of civil liberties.

It was early in 2001 that Richard showed another facet of his farsightedness; he asked whether I thought it would be a good idea to seek the agreement of the Lancashire Constabulary to have a forum within which we could "improve lines of communication between the Police and the shooting fraternity" and those same words were recorded in the minutes of the first meeting which we and several other representatives attended. The Firearms Users Liaison Group, as it became known, has recorded many successes and continues to meet to this day.

To me his energy seemed boundless, he had great charm, a rapier-like wit and willingly dispensed wise counsel.

Over the years Richard and I became very close friends, to the extent that we were occasionally referred to as Waldorf and Stadler, after the two grumpy old men from the Muppet Show. I must admit that in private we revelled in this notoriety.

On our all too infrequent excursions to the Lake District he was a great walking companion and I'll leave it to others to work out who carried the map and somehow managed to lead us into the occasional disused quarry.

Quite recently Richard suffered a haemorrhage in his right eye which left him with floating blood clots and prevented him from seeing well enough to continue with his target rifle shooting to the extent that he was contemplating giving it up altogether. With a little gentle persuasion and the loan of my 'scoped rifle, he had a go and was delighted to find that he could see through the floaters and had enormous fun hitting the bulls eye consistently. For him this was a new lease of life for his involvement in the sport he loved and true to form he embraced it wholeheartedly. The evening following an afternoon shoot, a scan of his score diagram would appear on my e-mail with a shot by shot analysis of his group. He was starting to have fun again.

One of my enduring memories of time shared with Richard, will be of us relaxing together on the verandah of the El Alamein hut at Altcar after a hard day on the range at an Open Meeting, when everyone had gone home, feet up on the hand rail, chairs tilted back at a crazy angle, debating the merits of a bottle of fine red wine, anticipating the prospect of the beef stew simmering in the microwave, watching a stunning sunset over the stop butt sand dunes and agreeing that life doesn't get much better than this.

There will be many others who will have equally fond memories of a great, great guy.

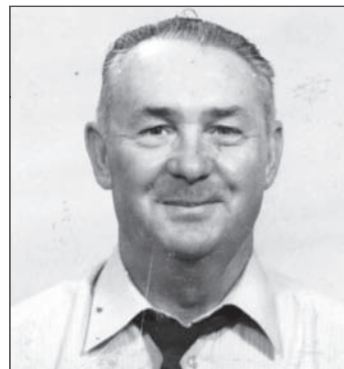
To Janett, his daughters Alex, Jill, Jackie and Joanne, and his recently arrived grandson Justin, you are in our thoughts at this saddest of times.

Brian Anderson

Vice-President County of Lancaster Rifle Association

David FN Le Guern

I wonder if David would have objected to the description "the quiet man" or whether his many friends in the fullbore shooting world, especially in Zimbabwe, where he spent most of his life, may feel that such a nomenclature is altogether wide of the



mark? Certainly he could be forceful when the occasion required it, but for as long as I knew him, Dave worked quietly and competently and with unlimited enthusiasm when promoting our sport of target rifle and service rifle shooting. There will be none who will deny that his dedicated input in Rhodesia and in Zimbabwe was inspirational. As a team-mate or as a friend, he had the respect of all who knew him.

Dave was born in London in 1928. Like so many young men of the post 1939-45 era, he was enticed by the allure of Africa after a term with the Royal Navy in Simonstown in the Cape, but more especially by a poster of a policeman on a motor-bike in Rhodesia. He emigrated to Salisbury in 1949 to join the British South Africa Police (BSAP).

I was always curious about the French connection (Le Guern) and if I mentioned this, he would immediately rattle off some French – or what sounded like French, to the untrained ear! His father was born in Jersey but educated in France.

Dave met Quita when they were members of the Light Operatic Society in Bulawayo and although Quita's intention was to work in Rhodesia for only two years, where she arrived in 1951 as a radiographer, clearly the music worked its magic and they married in 1953. Those fortunate enough to have lived in Rhodesia will fondly recall Fort Rixon, Umniati, Enkeldoorn, Gwelo, Que Que, Salisbury, Banket, Goromonzi – all of which were homes to the Le Guerns for various periods, until Dave retired as Chief Inspector in Salisbury in 1972. Sons Nick and Roger and daughter Claire completed the family but like Mom and Dad were destined to travel and now live in far away California and Tasmania, except Roger, who lives up the road from me in Durban.

Not long after retirement, Dave rejoined the BSAP with the special task of organising and training the famous (infamous!) "Wombles" namely, we oldies who were conscripted for a "Dad's Army" that I am certain was just as comical as that well-known outfit! Being a shooter, Dave kept an eye out for potential recruits to the sport whom he encouraged to join the Police Rifle Club in Harare. He finally retired in 1981 from the Zimbabwe Republic Police, but continued with his shooting interests until he and Quita returned to England in 2005.

As it will mainly be shooters who will read this tribute, they will readily understand that shoots and shooting do not happen miraculously but require a serious

amount of dedicated labour, reams of paperwork with regard to control of weapons, ammunition, scoresheets, trophies, finance and secretarial work and in this domain Dave was not only accomplished but indefatigable and meticulous. I recall that he was Treasurer of at least three shooting clubs and secretary to as many – some simultaneously. It was rare that anyone arrived ahead of him at the Cleveland Range in Harare for the weekly shoot, where he ensured that entry forms, score cards and ammunition were always ready, range officers designated and radios and butts staff organized. He did not consider it an imposition to drive down the range and erect the flags himself – even in the hottest weather. David's contribution at every level was supreme. If further testimony of this commitment was needed, perhaps the amusing anecdote that he cautioned his daughter Claire and her fiancé Guy, that their wedding plans must fit in with the local shooting calendar, speaks volumes! Not sure what Dave would make of his grand daughter's description of him "Gramps always smelt of gun oil". But this too, surely, speaks volumes!

As a shooter, he was accomplished in both service rifle and target rifle disciplines and was always ready to guide those in need of assistance, often, I felt, to the detriment of his own ambition on the day. His successes on the range were not something that he would have wanted to boast about, but he won the St George's at Bisley during one visit there. He truly loved the rare opportunities of competing at Bisley. Zimbabwe teams competed there several times in the 1980s and David was a member of all those teams. He had numerous successes on rifle ranges from Bloemfontein to Bulawayo and Bisley, and from Harare to New Mexico. He shot for Zimbabwe in the 1985 Palma Match in England and in Bloemfontein in 1999; he coached Zimbabwe at Raton in 1992.

I am sure that I do not recall all the honours he received, but he was an Honorary Life Member of the Police Rifle Club, of Harare Rifle Club and of the National Rifle Association of Zimbabwe.

Regrettably I only knew Dave since 1977 when, at his behest, I took up target rifle shooting; I am sure that there are many friends who could do more justice to his many attributes and achievements. However, on a personal note, to me Dave was the epitome of a loving and caring husband and father, to Quita and their children, but found sufficient space in his keen enthusiastic busy private life and policeman's life, unstintingly to share time and skills with others. He was an artist of no mean ability and kept family and friends amused with witty and amusing sketches of people and incidents from his daily life. I have been reading wonderful tributes from all his family and I wish that there was space to print them. I consider it an honour to have been his friend and team-mate. In my various administrative positions in the shooting world, he was always an honest and reliable sounding board who gave the fairest and best advice that one could expect from a man of unquestionable integrity. He will be sorely missed by his family and by all his friends. Rest in Peace, Dave.

Wally Creane

John Basil Pollock

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of John Pollock at his home in Brookwood, Surrey, only a short walk from the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. John was three months short of his 88th birthday, and had been actively competing in rifle, shotgun and pistol shooting up until December 2007.



Born at Allahabad in India on 19 April 1920, the son of an officer serving in the Royal Engineers, John only spent a short time on that great continent before his father returned to England. Very early on, what was to become a life-long passion with firearms and shooting manifested itself. At the age of 12 he made his first functioning firearm by hand drilling the barrel of a blank cartridge pistol and he never looked back. His whole life was spent accumulating a vast store of knowledge on firearms of every description, and he gave of this knowledge unstintingly. As a metallurgist, he was in a reserved occupation during the war, but he joined the Home Guard and found in it a wonderful excuse to carry all manner of guns openly.

He became an individual member of the NRA in 1944 and took life membership in 1947, a birthday gift from his father. In 2004 John himself noted that this was the best five guineas anyone could have spent!

As soon as he could, John was off to Africa after the Second World War to take up a job with the Uganda Geological Department in what was then British East Africa. It was there he met and married a young receptionist, Betty Lusher, and there that his three children were born.

Uganda in the fifties and sixties was a paradise for hunting, especially in the northern Nile district of Uganda. John was fluent in both Swahili and Acholi, and spent many safaris with his favourite tracker in pursuit of elephant. Later, with the growing demands of young children, safaris became family affairs to places like Karamoja in Northern Uganda, and to Karuma Falls on the Nile.

The rise of Idi Amin spelt the end for the white residents of Uganda, and in 1972 John and Betty left Uganda for the last time, their children already scattered. A short stint with Sierra Rutile in Sierra Leone didn't work out, and John found himself back in England teaching at a private school near where he and his wife had settled in Brookwood.

Retirement at last allowed him to concentrate on his shooting at Bisley, with clubs such as the British Pistol Club, the HBSA, the Muzzleloaders and the Leatherhead Rifle Club of which he was the President. He also gave of his time as a Range Officer for many events over the years.

Better known under his pen-name of Walter Lyall, John wrote prolifically, and his knowledgeable and wide-ranging articles have been published in magazines as far apart as South Africa and Australia. Sadly, the death of his wife Betty drew a cloud over the last years of his life, and on 29 January this year he died unexpectedly in his

home. He is survived by his three children, Chris, his only son, who is a farmer in Australia, Anne, his elder daughter, a businesswoman in Johannesburg, and Sarah, a University lecturer in Plymouth, UK.

Chris Pollock

OVERSEAS TEAMS' FUND IN 2007

by David Hossack

As the Chairman of the Team Finance Committee, I was not only delighted by the successes of the three GB TR teams at the World Championships in Canada and the NRA Team to the Channel Islands but pleased that we were able to make grants totalling nearly £31,000 towards their costs. Our ability to do this was of course entirely dependent upon the hard work of the organisers of the various fund raising projects and of course the generosity of those who support them.

The next two years give us a necessary breathing space to restore the OTF's reserves, as we currently only raise some £20,000 in each year. Apart from the GB TR team to South Africa this year and the normal NRA teams to the Channel Island, 2010 will be our next major year with GB TR teams to New Zealand and Canada, and of course the Palma and World Championships follow in 2011 in Australia. So we need all the support we can get for the OTF this year and next.

The observant of you will see that there is a change in the way the OTF accounts show its Reserves. We have now established a Capital Reserve from the TR Reserve, to which we will add funds from time to time when we feel we have a surplus, or when we receive donations. The interest or dividends received will be used to supplement the funds available for grants. We do not intend to use this Capital Reserve for grants.

The General Reserve from which grants will be made will also now have individual pre-allocated reserves for each discipline. I hope this will encourage the supporters of all disciplines to start some new fund raising projects. This will be particularly helpful to those who only send a team abroad at infrequent intervals, as relatively small sums can be built up to useful amounts. Team grants will therefore consist of a general grant plus any accumulated funds available from a pre-allocated reserve.

The Annex below shows the position over 2007. As 2008 is the first year for operating this system I hope that some of the zeros will show significant figures by the end of the year.

Allocation of OTF Reserves

	Reserves at 1Jan 07	Funds Raised in 2007	Less Grants made	Reserves at 31-12-07
Capital Reserve	116769	0	0	116769
Available for Team Grants				
General (available for all grants)	14154	16605	20985	9774
TR General	0	7615	7615	0
TR U25	2103	0	2103	0
TR Veterans	0	0	0	0
F Class	709	0	0	709
Match Rifle	3113	1489	0	4602
300 Metre		0	0	0
Historic Arms		0	0	0
Gallery Rifle		0	0	0
Totals	136848	25709	30703	131854

NRA OVERSEAS TEAMS FUND

Year ending 31/12/07

Year ending 31/12/06

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GB AND OTHER TEAMS

GBRT Canada Palma 07 (06)	15000.00	7000.00
GBRT U25 Canada 07	7853.00	0.00
GB Veterans Canada 07	5000.00	0.00
GBRT S Africa 2006	0.00	10000.00
NRA team to Channel Isles 07 (06)	2850.00	2600.00
GB Historical	0.00	3500.00
Total Contributions to Teams	30703.00	23100.00
less Sports Council Grants received	0.00	0.00
CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTF	30703.00	23100.00

INCOME FOR THE YEAR

Donations

MR Australia 2004	0.00	610.71
South Africa 2006	0.00	1000.00
NRA Channel Islands 2007	1420.00	0.00
Corporation insurance	115.00	212.00
Imperial competitions TR	4180.00	4439.00
Imperial competitions MR	324.00	351.00
Other donations	397.66	0.00
	6436.66	6612.71

Supporters Clubs

Freddy Payne 100 Club	6000.00	6000.00
OTF Swindle (net)	1900.00	2800.00
Albert Swindle	1165.00	1280.00
Share of fireworks surplus	670.00	668.00
Golf Day	1669.92	2761.53
Cookbook	545.00	892.50
Bullet Ball	0.00	0.00
	11949.92	14402.03

Interest

Interest on Gilts	1853.44	1853.44
Loss on redemption	-457.15	0.00
COIF interest	5883.17	4647.23
Bank & other interest	42.46	0.00
	7321.92	6500.67

TOTAL INCOME

25708.50 27515.41

Less Expenditure

Contributions by OTF to GB & other teams	30703.00	23100.00
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SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR

-4994.50 4415.41

Unrealised (loss) profit on investments in period

0.00 -1120.00

Reserves at 1/1/07

136848.27 133552.86

RESERVES AT 31/12/2007

131853.77 136848.27

Represented by:-

Investments at market valuation (Gilts)	0.00	26022.00
COIF Deposit account	122681.51	104697.95
Business Premium account	3096.51	2603.42
Owing by (to) NRA general funds	-23014.71	3524.90
Debtors	31790.46	0.00
Creditors	-2700.00	0.00
Net Assets at 31/12/2007	131853.77	136848.27

Reserves at 31/12/2007

Capital Reserve	116768.82
General Reserve for grants	15084.95
	131853.77

116768.82
20079.45
136848.27

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Great Britain Under 25 Target Rifle Team, Canada, August 2007

Captain – Ed Jeens

A full account of this tour was given in the Winter 2007 issue of the Journal (pp 77 - 78). The team of 14 competed in the World Under 25 Championships at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa, against teams from the USA, Australia and Canada. In a close match Great Britain were successful in retaining the World Championship title by a narrow margin of two points from the USA, with a score of 1558.150 to 1556.147.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Air Travel	6,402	Grant from OTF	7,853
Vehicle Hire & Fuel	3,227	Corporate Days	2,250
Coach Transfer	470	Donations	2,000
Insurance	368	Ammunition resale	758
Accommodation			
Ottawa	8,552		
Algonquin	2,410		
Shooting Costs	8,719		
Ammunition	4,600		
Team Kit	2,985		
Sundries	218		
Brochure cost	810	Team Members' Contributions (14) (£1,850 per head)	25,900
Total Expenditure	£38,761	Total Income	£ 38,761

Great Britain Veterans Target Rifle Team, Canada, August 2007

Captain – Mick Barr

A full account of the tour is given in the Winter 2007 issue of the Journal on pages 75 - 76. The team of 20 shot in the Veterans World Team Championships held at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa, against teams from USA, South Africa, Canada and Australia. Defending their title won at Bisley in 2003, they were once again successful in winning the World Title, beating the USA by two points with a score of 1931.158 to the USA's 1929.165.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Flights	11,931	Corporate Days	2,760
Vehicle Hire & Fuel	5,438	Grant from OTF	5,000
Hotels	8,401	Bank Interest	841
Meals	1,384	Sale of Score Cards	677
Ammunition	5,731	Sundry Donations	135
Match & Training Costs	13,474	Team Brochure	383
Clothing	1,514	David Cooper Lecture	985
Entertaining	634	Sundry Income	71
Trophies & Admin	670	Team Members' Contributions (£1,916 per member)	38,325
Total Income	£49,177	Total Expenditure	£49,177

The officers and members of the Team wish to thank most sincerely, all advertisers and sponsors who gave so generously, thus enabling our tour to be the more enjoyable. We had a truly great time and met with many old friends gained over the years.

With the result recorded above we trust you will feel the support you gave us was put to good use.

LETTERS

Prize Lists in CD rather than Book form

from David Haley

I have just seen the latest NRA Journal.

I saw the letter on page 60 from Paul Charlton, and endorse **every** word he says. It also explains the absence of the books recently, much to our disappointment.

Three of our sons shoot internationally, two for Wales, one for England and GB. We, they, and their grandparents have enjoyed seeing their results in print. As your correspondent says, computer data changes with monotonous regularity such that I have a bin load of floppy discs, that are now irrelevant.

As an example, all our sons made many TV and film programmes when they were young. We copied all of them onto Betamax, as a professional commercial-film maker told us that the system was the best. Needless to say, VHS became the favourite.

We recorded the last of their films on VHS (leaving the originals on Betamax, as every time you re-record something, you lose quality.) Now I am told few have a VHS player, as everything is on DVD.

But today, I am told that DVD is on the way out, and one of the Facebook or similar websites will take over within a year or so.

As your correspondent said, the only permanent record is a printed book. I am sure many, if not most, members would happily pay for such a permanent record. As an aside, I suspect there are many who do not have computer facilities to play CDs, and not be able to show the results to relatives, let alone see them themselves.

May I urge you to persuade the powers that be to re-introduce the book version of the results.

Reply from Karen Robertson

We have received many similar complaints about the Prize List format so I am pleased to say that a limited print run will be available later this year. At the moment the cost is not known as it will depend on the quantity required.

If you would like to order a book copy of the 2007 and/or 2008 Prize Lists, please contact me in writing at the NRA or by e-mail at karen@nra.org.uk. Further details will be enclosed in the Imperial Meeting squadding envelopes and in the Winter Journal.

Any More for Golf?

from Robert Stafford

In an e-mail from the NRA and then in the Spring Journal (page 61), I floated the idea of forming a Golf Society, both to support the Overseas Teams Fund and give shooters who also play golf an enjoyable day out on a golf course. The e-mail produced an instant 20 replies but the Journal only one reply (does anyone read the Journal?).

To go ahead I think we need a group of about 40 - 50 potential supporters, as not everyone will be available on a particular day. I feel sure, after talking to someone who plays golf regularly but does not belong to a club, that there are more golfers out there who also shoot (Tim in Wiltshire get in touch!).

So if you are out there, play golf fairly regularly, whether as a club member or not, and like the idea please contact me at robert.stafford1@ntlworld.com. On a Society Day you will be able to bring a guest or guests and both men and ladies are welcome as members or guests.

The Matthew Clark Golf Day for 2008 will be taking place on Monday 8 September at Pine Ridge near to Bisley. Potential members of the OTF Golf Society will be invited to play on that day at favourable rates and it will provide a chance for those who can enter for this to discuss plans for a launch of the OTF Society in 2009.

In the interim I will be doing some research with those who have responded already to see what might be the best format for getting started.

Teenage Confessions!

from Rae Wills

I was interested in the history of the Tramway, and although the locomotives and engines had I think long since gone, the rails still ran down Century as in the photo taken of the Charterhouse team on butt duty, probably summer 1956. Even with youthful muscle replacing power some astonishing speeds were achieved on the downhill bit, and monumental crashes were not unknown!

I also remember pushing the trolley on the Running Deer; the name of the game here was to hurl it with such velocity it not only disconcerted the firer but so it was still travelling with enough speed at the other end to discomfort the other team who had to stop it. Stories of some unfortunate not letting go and having the bullets pass a few feet over him are probably apocryphal, but in those risk prone days there might always have been a bet!



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MEMBERS PAGE

Food at the Imperial Meeting

Members may be interested in the following report which appeared in the Illustrated London News of 24 July 1869, which lists the food and drink consumed during the Wimbledon Meeting in just **two days**!

This new refreshment pavilion, of which a view is given in one of our Engravings, was a great improvement in the arrangements for the Wimbledon meeting. It was crowded with guests on each of the most popular and fashionable days. Messrs. Spiers and Pond, with all their cooks, waiters, and young women at the counters, forming a staff of 450 persons, had quite enough to do. Not a seat was vacant in the dining-rooms during two or three hours in the afternoon, and it is computed that there were 25,000 customers at the buffet in two days. The actual consumption of articles of food on these two days included the following, among other items:- 8000 lb. of bread, 16,000 rolls, 5 cwt. of biscuits, 1000 fruit pies, 4 cwt. of fresh butter, 5000 eggs, 4 cwt. of cheese, 2500 lettuces, 1½ ton of potatoes, 600 quarts of shelled peas, 5 tons of ice, 600 quarts of ices, 780 gallons of tea, 130 gallons of coffee, 350 gallons of milk, 100 tongues, 100 hams, 5 cwt. of salmon, 156 lb. of eels, 20 turbot, 480 lobsters, 900 head of poultry, 6 tons of meat, 80 hhds. of ale and stout, 760 gallons of claret cup, besides a large quantity of wines, spirits, liqueurs, and aerated waters.

Those were the days!

RG Ammunition

A Palma team member writes:

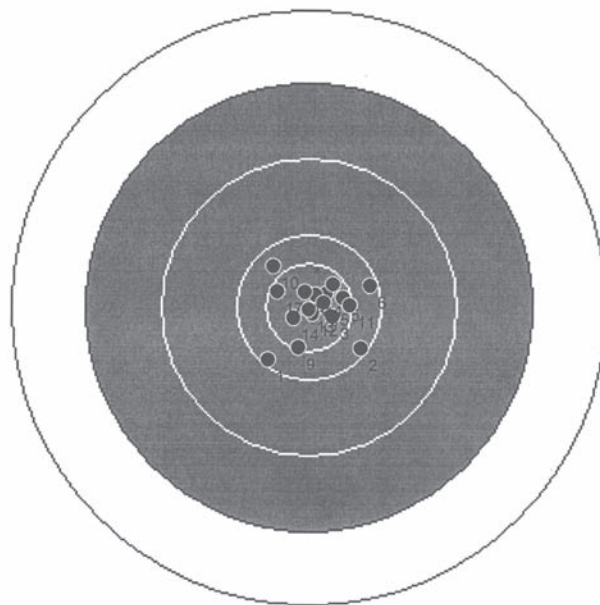
So there I was one Sunday afternoon, in the Range Office and having a discussion about the electronic targets with John Gardener. The electronics targets had been unserviceable the previous day - so I was asking about the problems. John told me that the supplier had been in that morning to test the system and found nothing. The random errors were thus assumed to be a problem with the nut at the back of the butt - something that appears to be quite common when using electronic targets!

When I asked if I could hire one, John said he actually wanted someone to test it and so he sorted out a monitor whilst I went off to get my rifle. I returned to the Range Office intending to buy some ammunition, but since it was a system test, Fred gave me some "returned sighters" to use and off I went to target 102 at 600 yards.

I managed to shoot three groups of 15 shots over about 30 minutes and aside from my first sighter in each group and one bad shot in my last group, all ended up in the bull with the majority in the V bull. I wandered back to the Range Office and handed in the monitor

to be greeted by grins all round and questions as to how the shoot had progressed. I was a little surprised by the interest the staff were paying and discovered they had printed out the groups. After a while, Fred then asked me how the ammo had performed and then showed me the empty cases I had handed back - to say the "returned sighters" were of mixed batches would be an understatement. I had been handed a box containing a selection of RG 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 and 07!

What this demonstrates about the staff and the electronic targets may be open to interpretation, but clearly it says something for the consistency of the ammunition RG have produced over the years . . .



2008 Bullet Ball

Where: Bisley Pavilion
Date: Friday 25 July 2008
Time: 8.00pm to 2.00am
Cost: £40 per ticket

This year's Bullet Ball will be back to basics - great music, good food, plenty of drink and lots of dancing!

This year all proceeds from the Ball will go to support the Under 25 members of next year's Home Countries teams competing in South Africa. Seventeen Under 25 shooters have been selected to represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales at South Africa's 80th Anniversary Championships. This tour will involve a heavy financial commitment from each member and the Under 25s will find it most difficult to raise funds so please help support them by buying a ticket (and maybe making a donation as well).

This will be a Ball for everyone so buy your ticket online now at <http://ball.nra.org.uk> or from Front Counter during the Imperial Meeting.



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