



National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2009

Volume LXXXVIII

Number 3



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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by
Glynn
Alger

Olympics

At first glance the Olympics may not be one of those issues that fullbore shooters would see as an NRA interest, in that our bit of the sport is not represented in the Games. However, the NRA has a fundamental belief that it needs to support shooting in all its various lawful forms and disciplines.

Being the Trustees for Bisley, we thought that the most essential issue for the sport was that, as well as a successful 2012 in medal terms, the sport ought to get some solid legacy out of the Games. To this end the NRA employed a professional development team to ensure that we could make a credible bid in all our interests for the event to come to the National Shooting Centre. The aim was to create the conditions at Bisley to host World Championships going forward, plus offer a home to Team GB and the Paralympic Team. More importantly we looked to be able to promote the sport from a world class shooting centre for the benefit of all.

During the course of this whole debate we have been in discussion with Sport England to get more investment into the sport. They saw the Olympic facilities forming part of a modern multi-discipline facility as the 'National Centre of Excellence', with them willing to make further investment in similar facilities nationally as 'Regional Centres of Excellence'.

To avoid any doubt, our bid for the Olympic shooting venue, despite what has been said publicly, was the least expensive, met all the security and safety conditions, plus providing a full legacy.

After exerting pressure through meetings, the press and friends in Parliament we have got the Olympic authorities to the table to talk legacy for shooting. If we do get legacy out of the Olympics it will be due largely to the investment that the NRA has made in the wider interest of the sport.

In the longer term we have developed a valuable relationship with friends in the House, who are willing to work with us in the future.

Regional Development

As you may be aware, the emphasis of NATSS has now switched to joint working on a number of issues of mutual benefit to the NRA and NSRA. The CPSA dropped out in July, although we have high hopes they will return to the party when they are able.

The key outcome of this process has been the allocation of funding from Sport England to develop shooting away from Bisley in the regions. To this end the project involving the NRA and the NSRA will be appointing a National Development Manager to be quickly followed by part-time Regional Development Officers to interact directly at local level with clubs and find sources of funding from Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities.

This project is also closely linked to the talks with Sport England, as previously mentioned, relating to National and Regional Centres of Excellence, all of which are designed to promote and support shooting nationally, in the regions, which the NRA places as a high priority.

Evidence of this is the number of interest-free loans the Association is making, on an annual basis, to clubs wishing to build or upgrade ranges. This is seen as an essential investment in facilities to help promote shooting away from Bisley.

Additionally, the NRA has spent a considerable amount of effort in making proposals to the MoD to increase access to ranges for civilians at a time when the 'war effort' has brought increased pressure on the use of ranges for training.

We have also made representations regarding those ranges that the Army are intending to close or mothball in an effort to save money. We have asked that the NRA be allowed to assess all such ranges to judge the feasibility of keeping them open for mixed use by cadets, reserve forces and civilians. The Association is currently examining at least two ranges that fall within this category, both of which are being considered as potential 'Regional Centres of Excellence'.

Similarly the Chairman, Robin Pizer, is leading a project looking at the feasibility of developing a model for 300 metre 'no danger area ranges' acceptable for the UK.

Access to MoD Ranges

In recent meetings with the MoD we were informed that the military, in an effort to cut costs, were going to look to reduce their use of ranges by 25 to 50% at weekends. Initially it appeared as though this proposal was to be a general closure of ranges.

The NRA has made the point, which has now been accepted, that, if the military create a gap, civilians would probably want to fill it, thus getting increased access to their ranges rather than less. This is of course accepting that clubs would have to bear the full cost of using the ranges and and paying the wardens.

The Association is hopeful that clubs will be able to shoot more often. However, to enable this to be done more efficiently, it is hoped that clubs will be willing to act co-operatively, ensuring that ranges are used more cost effectively by sharing them, thus reducing the bill. It is also hoped that, via an informal co-operative arrangement, distances and sequences of shoots can be agreed and everyone accommodated.

Although the NRA has asked for the MoD to notify us which ranges will benefit from reduced army usage, it is likely that some areas of the country will benefit more than others from this move. The Midlands, for instance, hosts a 'Super Garrison' and currently only has one useable range, although we are informed that two others will be redeveloped and 'come on stream' over the next eighteen months.

I am sure that some clubs do have a group booking arrangement. For those that do not, I recommend you find other clubs with similar shooting interests to your own in your local area and start to make group bookings as soon as possible to maximise this opportunity.

Improved Benefits

As you are aware the cost of joining the NRA this year has, in real terms, reduced for the fourth year running for an individual full member to between £55 and £60 depending upon whether you pay by direct debit or not. This has been achieved despite the cost of your insurance going up 30% this year and the fact that we have managed to negotiate better levels of public liability cover, £10 million, for you.

Unfortunately there will be an increase in club affiliation costs for those that take the NRA insurance, purely because premiums have risen and the Association could not afford to assimilate all the cost. For those clubs taking the insurance they will be purchasing a product that gives members improved public liability, plus Directors and Officers cover.

NRA Council and Committee Elections 2009

The 2009 Committee Election process is now complete and the following appointments announced.

Members of the Council (Board of Trustees) elected Charles Murton to be their Vice-Chairman for a period of one year.

Members of the General Council re-elected Mik Maksimovic and Charles Murton to the Council (Board of Trustees) for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council re-elected Mark Haslakiewicz as Treasurer and Dick Horrocks as Vice-Chairman of the General Council for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council co-opted Chris Farr to the General Council as Gallery Rifle and Pistol Discipline Representative for a period of two years and co-opted Charles Murton to the General Council for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council elected John Bloomfield, Tony Clayton and Guy Larcombe and re-elected George Barnard, David Calvert and John Carmichael to the Shooting Committee for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council re-elected Mik Maksimovic and Karen Robertson to the Membership Committee for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council re-elected David Calvert, David Evans, Michelle Gooden, Jonathan Holmes and Rae Wills to the Disciplinary Committee for a period of three years.

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees), General Council, their Committees and Sub-Committees are shown on pages 70 and 71 of this Journal.

Team Captaincies

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

GB Team to South Africa 2012

Iain Robertson

Kolapore 2010

Jeremy Thompson

Under 25 Captain 2010

Alexander Walker

Nominations

Nominations are required for Captains for the following target rifle teams:

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2011

GB Team to Canada 2012

Nominations are also required for a Captain for the following gallery rifle team:

GB Gallery Rifle Team 2010

Nominations are required for Captains for the following F Class teams:

GB F Class Open - FCWC Raton USA 2013

GB F/TR Captain - FCWC Raton USA 2013

Nominations for all teams should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 15 January 2009.

Onwards and Upwards!

NOTES FROM THE SHOOTING DIVISION

General

Communication with the Shooting Division

For preference, please use e-mail for communication. The address is:

shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

Marksman's Calendar

The Marksman's Calendar is currently being compiled on the NRA and NSC websites. Please could club secretaries check this calendar carefully and let Karen Robertson have their own club fixtures list and details of any other club championships or meetings, whether to be held at Bisley or elsewhere, as quickly as possible, preferably by e-mail to karen@nra.org.uk. Please do not include minor events such as practice sessions. Details should be with Karen by the middle of January. Once your fixtures are listed on the website, please check all details are correct and that the e-mail link is directed to the correct person.

The Marksman's Calendar is no longer provided as a printed insert in the Journal. However it is available in the same format by visiting the NRA website and clicking on the Calendar sub menu. For those members without internet access and who cannot get a friend or club member to print a copy for them, please contact Karen who will be happy to post a copy to you.

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

Ranges

Certificates of Safety and Competence

Any user of Bisley Ranges must produce a Certificate of Safety and Competence for the type of firearms he or she will be using, both in the Range Office when signing for targets for individual use, or on the range if requested to do so by an NRA or NSC member of staff. The RCO who signs in for a group or club booking thereby certifies that all members of his group have such certificates.

Shooting on Bisley Ranges

Only the following may shoot on Bisley Ranges:

- full members of the NRA
- members of Clubs affiliated to the NRA who are shooting on official Club Bookings (*)
- those shooting in a formal NRA competition who have paid a non-member's subscription for that competition

- those taking part in Guest or Corporate Days
- (*) Club Bookings are bookings made by an affiliated Club which have been advertised to and are open to all members of that Club.

On booking in at the Range Office, please produce your Club or individual membership card as appropriate.

Rifle Zeroing at the beginning of the season

The NRA expects all members to have an accurate wind zero and to know the correct sight settings for all distances at which they may be firing, taking account of variations due to personal technique, ammunition and changes to the firearm since it was last used. We want you to hit the target first time!

For these reasons anyone using Century, Stickledown or Siberia ranges should check their wind zero and elevation settings on the Zero Range after any layoff, rebarrelling or other significant work on their firearm. Use of the Zero Range will therefore be allowed free of charge (yes we are giving away zero cards), for this purpose only, during the months January to April inclusive. Zeroing for HME firearms remains free of charge throughout the year.

Range Booking System

The Bisley Online Booking Service was launched on 1 September this year and has already attracted over 2750 Club, Association, School and Official Team reservations, totalling over 11000 targets hired. Thank you to all those who have sent compliments on how easy it is to use and we also take note of the constructive feedback received thus far.

An updated system will be launched in early 2010 and will include as much of your feedback as possible as well as other developments to make it even better including the ability for individual NRA members to book online too!

Later versions will also give you the ability to give feedback on the service you received after the event. We want to give you the opportunity to provide direct feedback on your experience, including the condition of firing points/bays, quality of marking, targetry provision and the level of service received in the Range Office.

Any further comments are welcome. Please send your e-mail to range.bookings@nra.org.uk or call the Range Office on extension 152.

Many thanks to the Range Office staff for the original idea and to James Watson and Matt Ensor for putting so much time and energy into getting this system built and working so well so quickly.

Backing Boards – Melville and Cheylesmore

A new design has been trialled over the last few weeks and we are delighted to advise that these boards designed by Les Pulling, Pistol Range Warden, are

of lighter design and cheaper to produce. We will, therefore, be offering these in the future at a reduced cost of £2.50.

Imperial Meeting

Imperial Meeting 2009

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2009 Imperial Meeting and F Class World Championships a success.

Programme 2010

The Shooting Committee is considering changes to the Imperial Meeting programme for 2010, with the intention of achieving earlier finishes on some of the longest days and making the Chairman's Prize and the Queen's Consolation more attractive. This requires a number of consequential changes, all of which are being reviewed now. Full details will be in the next Journal. We will also be holding the Australia Match and Under 25 Australia Match. These events are currently scheduled for Sunday 25 July with team practice sessions on Second Tuesday. However, we are still waiting for confirmation of required dates from ICFRA.

Athelings Centenary Aggregate

To celebrate one hundred years of the Athelings, CCRS has kindly offered to donate a trophy and medals for a suitable competition during the Meeting. Further details will be in the Spring Journal.

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2010. All entry forms (other than the Schools' entry form which is sent to all eligible schools) will be posted on the NRA website from February onwards. Entries and payment for TR and MR events may be made online, and entry by this means is strongly recommended.

Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

There is a continuing annual requirement to augment our Imperial Meeting RCOs. The Imperial Meeting cannot be run without competent RCOs – if you would like to be considered for this important position please contact Sally Agnew as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail with details of your shooting experience.

Target Sizes

Prior to the 2009 Imperial Meeting, the Shooting Committee had considered changing the size of the V bull should the results of the Meeting indicate that such a course was necessary.

In the TR element of the Meeting there were only five scores of 50.10. There was no significant change in the number of tie-shoots, and even the largest tie-shoot, with 14 competitors, was settled in five shots. It was felt that there was insufficient evidence to change the size of the V bull for next year but the matter will be

kept under review. The rule requiring competitors making a HPS of 50.10 in TR events to fire five extra tie shots immediately will run for another year.

Stickledown Range

There is considerable evidence that a significant advantage may be afforded to competitors squadded on Butt 0 of Stickledown, and that with the growth of trees over the years, the Queen's Final draw does not mitigate this as effectively as it could. Accordingly, it is intended to avoid use of Butt 0 as far as possible for the TR events of the Imperial Meeting, and to change the Queen's Final draw so that competitors move in an X pattern on falling back rather than the current "two Butts to the left" rule.

Review of the Bisley Bible

It is intended to carry out a major review of the NRA Rules of Shooting over the next two years. The first stage will be to rationalise the existing rules as far as possible, including a significant rewrite of several Appendices. To meet the 2010 publication schedule, the draft revised version for review by the various Committees and ultimately by the Trustees needs to be issued early in January. Suggestions for amendments will gladly be accepted. Ideally these should be submitted by e-mail. The e-mail title should start "Rule xxx change" or "Rule Appendix xx para yy change" or "Rule *competition name* change" as appropriate, so that submissions can easily be sorted in an e-mail program. Please explain the rationale behind the proposed change in the e-mail text, and if the change is more than one or two words, please attach a Word file with the amended text so that it can be pasted in if accepted. Please send suggestions by e-mail to iain@bang.eclipse.co.uk. For the non-computer-literate, we will be glad to receive written suggestions to Chairman Shooting Committee, NRA, Bisley Camp etc. The second stage will be to consider the structure and layout for possible revision, including reorganisation of the grouping of the Rules. It is hoped to complete that work for the 2011 edition.

Astor Ammunition

Club and County Secretaries will be pleased to note that the conditions for the Astor County Competitions (Astor heats) have been changed to remove the requirement for ammunition to be purchased from the NRA. Heats may now be shot with any commercial ammunition but please note that the Astor Final will be shot using issued ammunition.

Scrutineering

The scrutineers' activity during the 2009 Meeting was reviewed by the Shooting Committee. There were no significant breaches of the rules detected, but a number of minor infractions were found. Partially for this reason, but mainly because it was noted that the presence of scrutineers resulted in considerable effort by many competitors to ensure compliance, it

has been decided to continue with a programme of scrutineering for 2010. The Scrutineers' procedures, and the specific rules being checked, will be published in advance of the Meeting.

Rifle checking

It is intended that a 100% recheck of Target Rifle chambers will be carried out in 2010. This check must be done before a firearm is used in any event for which the ammunition is issued by the NRA. We will start checking as soon as possible in 2010, and will publish further details by e-mail, on the website and in the Journal.

Shooting Matters

Use of other Shooters' Firearms

Section 15(1) of the Firearms Act allows members of Home Office Approved Clubs to borrow rifles or muzzle loading pistols. Section 15 does not cover such firearms as Long Barreled Revolvers, Section 1 Shotguns or Long Range Pistols. Such firearms are permitted to be used only by the owner (or other person holding a Firearm Certificate showing the firearm as "possessed"), and may not legally be given to any other person either to handle or "have a go".

Open Days 2010

The Home Office has been asked to agree two NRA Open Days at Bisley in 2010 on Saturday 1 May and Saturday 11 September. It is also planned that an Open Day will be held at Altcar on Saturday 28 August 2010.

7.62/.308 Enfield Conversion Safety Alert

Further consideration is being given to any potential safety issues concerning the use of .308 Win (7.62mm x 51) factory ammunition in 7.62mm conversions of Enfield No 4 rifles. Discussions are ongoing with the UK Proof Authorities over a joint statement which

will be published as soon as it is available on the NRA website and in the Journal. Pending that statement, the Association must apply the precautionary principle, thus the following advice remains extant:

A basic principle of Firearm Safety is that the individual is wholly responsible for the safety of the firearm/ammunition combination he proposes to use. However, in competitions where ammunition is "as issued" the NRA has a duty to ensure that the ammunition it issues does not create a hazard.

The Enfield No 4 action and its derivatives were originally designed for use with the .303" cartridge which has a lower maximum cartridge pressure than the .308 cartridge. The actions were produced in huge numbers by several factories to varying standards.

These conversions are not all "factory" conversions as barrels of many different makes with varying internal dimensions have also been fitted to a number of such actions over the years. Additionally the history of the usage of most of these actions is not traceable. There is some evidence of failures of these converted actions after prolonged use which is exacerbated by the use of cartridges contaminated by wet weather or oil.

As the NRA is now supplying ammunition manufactured especially to its requirement, they are no longer prepared to allow the use of these conversions in events where the ammunition is provided. Nor do they condone the use of this particular ammunition in these rifles at any time.

What the shooter chooses to fire through their rifle upon other occasions is of course entirely at their own risk and liability.

RUAG WERE PROUD TO PRODUCE THE AMMUNITION FOR THE IMPERIAL MEETING 2009



Easter Meeting 2010

The Easter Meeting to be held on 3 to 5 April 2010 will be run by the City Rifle Club. For entry forms or further information please contact Pat Drummy on 01329 281769.

Entry forms will be available from the City Rifle Club and the NRA Range Office from early January 2010.

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



by
*Jeremy
Staples*

NRA Autumn Open Day

The NRA Autumn Open Day took place on Saturday 5 September and a total of 1050 guests registered to shoot on the ranges. The proposal to reduce the number of guests seemed to work very well and we have had very positive feedback from the members of the public that did attend and we obtained numerous new members of the NRA.

I must just thank all NRA volunteers who helped run the day. Without you it would be impossible to run such an event.

Clock Tower

I hope you will have noticed by now that the Clock Tower refurbishment has been completed and it has now been returned to its former splendour.

Many thanks are due to the numerous members that contributed towards the Clock Tower Restoration Fund and in particular to Mark and Carol Silver of Greens Scaffolding who provided the scaffolding at a greatly reduced cost.

Ablution Blocks

We are very aware of the growing concern about the state and cleanliness of the ablution blocks. Having spent many hours carrying out detailed inspections of the blocks I am fully aware of their condition and the difficulty in keeping them clean due to the existing layout and design.

We are currently obtaining detailed quotes to carry out a complete refurbishment of a number of these blocks. Some will be carried out during the course of the winter and a programme of refurbishments will be put on the website as soon as this has been agreed with the NSC Board and the Trustees.

Owning the Night

You may have noticed that the Bisley ranges were shut for three days early in November. This was a result of hosting a military exhibition called "Owning the Night"

and comprised a two half day conference, a tented exhibition centre on Stickledown together with night driving along a circuit around Century range and night shooting on Stickledown.

It is the first time in recent history that such an exhibition has been undertaken at Bisley and it proved to be a great success both with the exhibitors and the visitors who included a number of very high ranking military personnel. It is hoped that this type of event will become a regular occurrence during the winter season outside the main shooting season.

Staff

I am sorry to report that Brigitte Rushmore decided to resign as Marketing Director for the National Shooting Centre. The corporate marketing has been taken over in the short term by Amanda Vaughan and Libby Gendall.

Margaret Gilder retired at the end of this year's Imperial Meeting after many years of loyal service and we wish her well in her retirement.

Karen Grafton-Brown is now working in the Accounts Department and I would urge you to introduce yourself when next in the building. Matt Ensor has been working on a fixed term contract as Assistant Director – Range Office and Armoury to look at the practices and procedures within the Armoury and Range Office during the latter part of this year.

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



*by
Phyllis
Farnan*

Probationary Training

The NRA runs Probationary Courses for its own members throughout the year at Bisley. The courses summary at the end of these notes shows the proposed dates of all courses in 2010. Courses are normally held at weekends, though individual mid-week training may also be arranged.

Copies of the NRA Probationary Manual (£5) and the Instructor Training Packs (£10) are also available from the Training Department for clubs to purchase for use with their own probationary members.

Handloading Course

The NRA Basic Handloading Course is run annually at Bisley. The next course will be held on 6 - 7 February 2010 and is open to NRA members only.

Skills Courses

TR Skills Courses are open to full members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs and to cadets. The courses are designed to enhance individual knowledge and shooting skills. Separate courses are being developed to provide training for target rifle and for other shooting disciplines.

Club Instructor Course

The Club Instructor Course is open to members of the NRA, its affiliated clubs and to adults from the cadet forces. This course is designed for those who wish to assist with the training of novice shooters at their club/unit and with the assessment of club members for certificates of competence. There are two categories of Club Instructor Course:

The Target Rifle Club Instructor Course is designed for those who specialise in fullbore target rifle shooting.

The General Skills Instructor Course covers shooting disciplines using gallery rifles (carbines), telescope sighted rifles and iron-sighted rifles (excluding target rifles).

Candidates for the Instructor Courses must be experienced and competent club shooters. Those attending the Target Rifle Club Instructors Course should ideally have completed the TR Skills Course.

Instructor Courses are run twice a year (Spring and Autumn) at Bisley, but can also be run regionally by arrangement with the NRA.

Club Coach TR Course

The Club Coach Course is only open to individual NRA members - it is held in the autumn each year at Bisley but may also be run regionally. Candidates should have good instructional skills and have completed the Club Instructor TR Course. Candidates without formal teaching or instructor qualifications should also attend a one-day Methods of Instruction workshop.

RCO Manual

The current NRA RCO Manual is Edition 3 dated August 2007. This manual will shortly be reprinted and the new edition should be available before the end of the year. RCOs will automatically receive a copy of the latest manual when they renew their qualifications. The new manual will also be available for purchase from the NRA (price £6.00 including postage) shortly.

RCO Courses

The NRA Range Conducting Officer Course qualifies civilians to conduct live firing practices on military ranges. Clubs wishing to book military ranges must have members who are qualified as NRA RCOs. Please note that the NRA RCO qualification applies to gallery ranges and other fullbore ranges including field firing ranges providing the targets are in fixed positions and firing only takes place from the designated firing points. NRA RCOs are not qualified to plan or to change the position of targets or firing points. They may conduct firing practices only at targets and from firing points as directed by the range orders for that range.

The RCO courses are run throughout the year at Bisley and can also be run regionally by arrangement between the club and the NRA. The course consists of a standard series of lectures, followed by individual oral, practical and written assessments. Candidates receive a copy of the RCO Manual for pre-course study. The standard NRA RCO Course covers the management of ranges for both fullbore rifle and gallery rifle (by agreement with the NSRA the NRA course also includes small-bore ranges).

Any individual who holds a current military range management qualification (including the CRCQ qualification) may apply directly to the NRA for an NRA RCO qualification.

RCO Renewals

The RCO qualification is valid for six years and may be renewed on application to the NRA. A renewal form, to be endorsed by the RCO's club Secretary, is available from the NRA, or may be downloaded from the NRA website.

All RCOs who qualified in 2004 should note that your qualification will run out in 2010. Please apply for your renewal before the qualification lapses or you may have to retake the course.

RCO Endorsement Courses

Qualified NRA RCOs may apply for the following Endorsement Courses:

- The RCO (HME) Course which is run by the NRA at Bisley and regionally on request.
- The British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) runs Instructor Courses for sporting rifle (including moving target).
- Muzzle Loading Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) runs RCO Endorsement Courses for muzzle loading firearms.

RCO Assessors' Training

This is open to NRA RCOs with at least five years experience of running ranges for their club. Applicants must have good communication and instructor skills. Initial training is held at Bisley and trainees assist on RCO courses during training. Trainees should have experience of more than one shooting discipline.

RCO Assessor Update Seminar

The annual update seminar for NRA RCO Assessors will be held on Sunday 31 January 2010 at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley.

This year a training day will also be held on Saturday 30 January for Assessors with experience in several shooting disciplines who are interested in becoming General Skills Trainers. This will enable the NRA to offer the new General Skills Club Instructor Course regionally as well as at Bisley from 2010.

Bisley Training Dates for 2010

Probationary Courses (5 day course)

Course 1	7 Feb, 13 Feb, 27 Feb, 13 Mar, 27 Mar
Course 2	10 Apr, 17 Apr, 8 May, 22 May, 12 Jun
Course 3	19 Jun, 26 Jun, 4 Jul, 18 Jul, 25 Jun
Course 4	4 Sept, 18 Sept, 3 Oct, 16 Oct, 23 Oct
Course 5	6 Nov, 20 Nov, 27 Nov, 4 Dec, 11 Dec

Club Instructor Courses

6 - 7 March - General Skills
date tba (Autumn) - General Skills
20 - 21 March - Target Rifle
9 - 10 October - Target Rifle

Skills Courses

20 - 21 March - Target Rifle
9 - 10 October - Target Rifle
date tba - General Skills

Wind Coaching Courses

15 - 16 May - Weekend Course (provisional date)
17 July (short course - pre-TR Meeting advice)

Club Coach Course

23 - 24 October

Methods of Instruction and Assessment Workshop
4 October

Handloading Course

6 - 7 February

RCO Courses

20 - 21 February
24 - 25 April
5 - 6 June
25 - 26 September
13 - 14 November
18 - 19 December

RCO (HME) Courses

23 May
21 November

RCO Assessors' Training and Update Seminar
30 - 31 January

All NRA training courses at Bisley in 2010 will be shown on the NRA website once the course dates are confirmed.

For RCO course bookings or renewals contact Maureen Peach (RCO Support) e-mail maureen.peach@nra.org.uk or telephone 01483 797777 ext 149.

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

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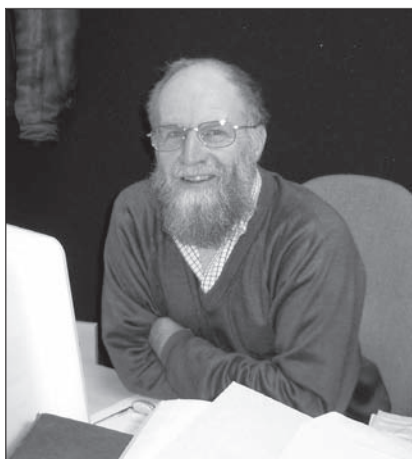
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NOTES FROM THE NRA FIREARMS LIAISON OFFICER(S)

by
Roger Speak



Visitor Permit Applications

For our foreign visitors, I have to remind you that you must allow at least eight weeks from when you send me your application form to when the police will send your permit back to me. I then have to post it on to you, so you must allow at least another week for that. This summer has been particularly difficult, with people expecting permits to be sent almost the same week! This is just not possible and has caused much extra work for me in trying to contact applicants to explain. In the future, it may take even longer to receive permits, as there are possible staff cuts being forced on the police.

Could all national association officials do what they can to remind their members to allow adequate time for permits, please? Also, please could those associations remind their members who store their rifles permanently at Bisley, that they must have a valid Visitor's Permit each year to cover those rifles. No reminders are issued either by the police or by NRA: permit holders must remind themselves to renew their permits! Every firearm kept in the UK must be covered by a current UK Firearms Certificate or by a current Visitor Permit.

As a reminder, when you apply for a Visitor Permit, all I need is a completed copy of the NRA Visitor Permit application form (not the UK Police application form), an original up-to-date European Firearms Pass (where necessary) and the appropriate fee, currently £25.00 plus £5.00 for Recorded Delivery postage. I need no other forms or paperwork such as copies of your own firearms certificate.

Home Office Approvals of Clubs

Very soon, many clubs will be coming up for renewal of their Home Office approval. May I remind all secretaries that they should be fully aware of the 22 requirements for Home Office approval. It has been quite clear recently that clubs have been ignoring

the requirement for police to be notified whenever a person has applied for membership of a Home Office approved club and the outcome of the application. Even if the applicant does not want to shoot Section 1 firearms, it is our quite clear understanding, that the details of that person must be put forward to the police and that that person must sign the declaration regarding Section 21. If you are in doubt, please contact me.

I have said it before and I will say it again: it is my strong belief that every club secretary should have a copy of Firearms Law Guidance to the Police 2002, either hard copy or online, for them to refer to. Section 18 is especially important! If you don't know where to obtain a copy, contact me.

Signing on in the Range Office

As ever, may I remind all of you that when you shoot at Bisley as an individual NRA member, you must sign in on the Range Office computer, just inside the Range Office door. Signing on at the computer is in addition to signing on the sheets on the top of the Range Office desk: the computer is the only official record of your shooting. If you have not signed on, when we carry out the searches of the shooting database each January, your name will be highlighted and the police will be informed that you have not been shooting during the previous year. Again, we highlight that information



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added to the paper sheets on the Range Office desk is not somehow automatically transferred onto the shooting database. Only you, using your unique PIN, can enter data onto the computer! Once again: "Sign In, Use It or Lose It"

Travelling within UK

May I remind all members who are travelling with their firearms within the UK and wishing to stay overnight, to ensure that they have read the article published in the Summer 2009 Journal on Page 37 by Jeff Hide of Knights Solicitors, following a recent case.

Unfortunately Roger is currently unwell and all his friends wish him a full and speedy recovery. In Roger's absence Mike Wayland will be standing in for him as Firearms Liaison Officer.

Introducing Mike Wayland MBE

I retired as a Superintendent from Surrey Police in 1994. During my 30 years service, I headed various headquarters departments, was a divisional commander and also a member, for over ten years, two years as leader, of the Surrey Police Firearms Support Team.

After various roles in industry, I was general manager in the British Transport Police Central Justice Unit,



before returning to Surrey Police as a civilian in 2003, performing various roles.

For my last three years with Surrey Police, I was a Firearms Enquiry Officer. I dealt with firearms and shotgun certificates grants and renewals, licensing of registered firearms dealers, clay pigeon shoots and explosives and also carried out land surveys for shooting game/deer etc.

In September this year, exactly on the day I tried to retire to the golf course again, I was asked if I could assist the NRA temporarily, in the absence of Roger Speak, in the role of Firearms Liaison Officer. Having dealt with Roger, one of life's gentlemen, on many occasions, I was pleased to do so, although I was not completely prepared for the variety and complexity of the problems that NRA members have brought to me!

After a very hectic month in the job, with the European Championships and industrial action in the postal service causing all manner of problems, the most important request I can make to all NRA members is to ensure that all applications for visitors permits reach me at least eight weeks before they are needed.

Also don't forget to update your shooting records (held on the computer in the Range Office) as I cannot provide proof of shooting to the police, when requested at FAC renewal time, if they are not there!

Mike Wayland
Firearms Liaison Officer (in waiting)
07528 037221 (Tues and Wed only)
firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk

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SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Gallery Rifle and Pistol

from Chris Farr

As Charles Murton has been elected Vice-Chairman of Council, he has decided that the duties of his new office will prevent him being able to devote sufficient time to his role as Discipline Representative. I would like to thank him on behalf of the GR&P community for all the work he has done and what he has achieved. As I served on his sub-committee I know how much time he spent on it and the effort involved. So much of it is in the "background" and it is not always apparent how much of one's spare time this type of post consumes.

General Council has approved my appointment as Discipline Rep for the remaining two years of his term of office. I have started by forming a new sub-committee which will have responsibility for working on what we consider to be our core tasks and representing the wider GR&P community.

The members and their initial responsibilities are:

Charles Bestwick	Representing the Scottish Pistol Association
Ash Dagger	Clubs and regions
Chris Farr	Chairman and representing the English Twenty Club
Neil Francis	Range Officers
Sally Philcox	GR data manager
Gwyn Roberts	Training and coaching
Brian Thomas	Meeting Director
Taff Wilcox	Representing the Welsh Rifle Association

Our main tasks will be getting to grips with a more formal training structure for competitors and range officers and encouraging closer involvement between the Association and the clubs and regions. These will be in addition to the usual business of a discipline sub committee. One of the latter tasks is dealing with amendments to rules and there is one particular issue which has arisen - the definition of a Gallery Rifle Centre Fire rifle.

We have made this our first item of business as it has caused concern to many both inside and outside our discipline. I would like to emphasise that although GR&P has its own rules and definitions, as do all the disciplines, we like to try and accommodate competitors in our meetings, wherever possible, while always maintaining the basic concept of a "level playing field". We have composed a new draft definition which will, of course, only apply to GR&P and not affect other disciplines. We are in consultation with those who have expressed concerns and welcome any other contributions (contact details at the end of this piece).

Very briefly, we propose the creation of three GRCF rifle types as follows, all of which exclude downloaded fullbore rifle cartridges:

- Standard: a tube magazine-fed lever action rifle with any sights
- Classic: any rifle that is considered allowable at IHAM and in the Trafalgar
- Open: anything else, including different actions, detachable magazines etc

This is still work in progress but we hope you can understand what we are trying to achieve and that it will make it possible for more competitors to take part in our meetings without feeling "outgunned" or at any disadvantage.

The 2009 season is now drawing to a close and it has been a successful one with increased numbers at the meetings at the National Shooting Centre and plenty of open meetings at clubs around the country. We hope that we will be able to encourage more clubs to become venues for open meetings in the coming year.

I know that it is not always a good idea to single out people for thanks as you invariably leave out others but none of this would be possible without the tireless support of the NSC Shooting Division – Sally Agnew, Sally Philcox and Brian Thomas. The two Sallys are part of our community too as they compete alongside us at the NSC meetings – perhaps Brian feels the competition is too stiff?

On the international front, the UK GR team has won two of our three matches and will soon be heading for Germany and a hat trick under the firm guidance of its Captain, Sharon Bowden.

The national teams have also competed against each other and other countries at the Phoenix Meeting



England – winners of the 2009 GR Home Countries National Match

and elsewhere. The premier match of the year, the GR Home Countries National Match, was held in August at the GR National Championship Meeting at the NSC. The winners were England who tried a bit harder after some words of encouragement from their Captain, Norman Brown, after a defeat by Wales earlier in the season.

Let's hope for an even better season in 2010 with plenty more of you coming out to enjoy shoulder-to-shoulder competition, in the sunshine, all over the country.

Contact e-mail addresses:

gallery@nra.org.uk
chris@galleryrifle.com

Classics Report

from Rae Wills

As we approach the Trafalgar, it always seems a long way back to the Imperial, but I have no trouble in looking back to a most successful and enjoyable meeting. Congratulations to our new Match Director, David Gregory, on a great start to his reign. My fears of a poor entry due to the credit crunch proved absolutely groundless as both competitor numbers and matches shot were up on last year.

But we must not forget the rest of the management team, the redoubtable Phil Wikeley in charge of staff, Tricia Gregory, congratulations on her first time as Head of Stats, and David Mumford our liaison at the NRA, plus the too-many-to-mention RCOs and others.

Myself, with the role of Adjudicator, designed to act as general troubleshooter of rules and scores, had absolutely nothing to do: nada, zilch, zero, as they say. That was entirely due to you, our competitors, who have truly adopted our philosophy "In The Spirit Of The Original". Good news for me - redundant, free at last, and looking forward to shooting lots of matches next year. Well done all!

Rules brings me to a recent little drama concerning Gallery Rifle calibres; thanks to all who responded. However, and not for the first time, the problem originated through announcements that meant one thing to one group but another to those "not in the loop" and some lack of communication between disciplines.

There will be changes, as Gallery Rifle, as practised by the new standard gallery rifle brigade (including me occasionally), has grown into a distinct species of its own, requiring its own rules. Who would have thought at the time of the pistol ban our poor substitute replacement Gallery Rifle would grow into a full International Discipline with teams competing from other countries?

But rest assured, competitions for others, such as our Rook & Rabbit or .310 Cadet, and others falling into the velocity/ME GR limits, will still exist and I hope that after the Sub-Committee meeting on 16 October I will be able to report on the situation and table it for discussion.

I have just come back from the International Congress on Historic Arms in Holland, or ICHA as it is better

known, as the exact title can vary as it variously gets translated from English to French and Dutch and back again. Truly, it is a very grand title for an eclectic bunch of friends from Great Britain and an area roughly from Eastern France to the Netherlands, with rather elastic boundaries, as members also came from Germany and Austria and one flew in from Canada!

Visits to museums you might otherwise never find and opportunities to shoot items not allowed here are not to be missed. But the greatest pleasure is making friendships from all over, often leading to being able to view private collections of a quality rarely seen in the UK.

There is no subscription or formal membership, and visits alternate between Bisley and variously Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Next year it will be our turn to host the event and, whilst Crawford Lines cannot compete with the luxury so recently enjoyed at the four star Asteria Hotel, Venray, we will be arranging the usual autumn weekend of shooting, museum visits and other events. If you wish to take part, contact me rae@wills0.demon.co.uk or the sponsoring Club, the HBSA.

These visits really emphasise that our passion is truly international and you are just as likely to find your heart's desire, even if it is the most rare English item, at Hermann Historica of Munich as at Holt's or Bonhams.

Whilst on the Continental theme, the Stuttgart Fair 2010 was cancelled and will not reopen following the nearby school massacre. However a replacement event has been arranged from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 March 2010 in conjunction with the Auto and Technik Museum Sinsheim (<http://www.technik-museum.de/>).

Quite a long way, but something for all the family at the museum, and (if it has not been moved, as proposed, to a new home far away in Dresden) the excellent Bundeswehr collection of Arms & Armoured Vehicles in Koblenz is just off the direct route from the Tunnel and the Channel Ports; great value at 1.50€ entry, and there is a very good Militaria bookshop close by.

(Wehrtechnische Studiensammlung der Bundeswehr: enter in the search box on <http://www.bwb.org/>)

NOTES FROM THE NRA REGIONAL MANAGER

by Chris Webb



A major review of Defence Estates (DE) facilities and practices has been carried out over the past few months, triggered by severe cuts in their budgets by government. There will be some fallout that could affect NRA clubs' use of military facilities, which the NRA will publish as soon as we as we are told.

Despite representations from the NRA, we believe that range hire costs and warden costs will increase from 1 April 2010, probably in line with the cost of living index.

West Midlands

There is still only one functioning military range in use, Kingsbury.

Partly due to the continuing increased military use, clubs are finding it more difficult to book ranges. This problem is not just confined to the West Midlands. To make things more difficult, some Range Administering Units (RAUs) are only allowing clubs to book two months or less in advance or will issue very short notice cancellations or extra bookings, because RAU programmes are being changed constantly. Either way, it makes life very difficult for club officials to produce a shooting programme.

According to Defence Training Estates (DTE) many of the problems are to do with the budgets they have to work with and the increased military usage. Because of this a number of facilities have cut staff working hours and military and civilian use at weekends, eg shooting on Sunday mornings only.

Frequently clubs that only shoot target rifle and at more than one distance, find that they have to share the range with other clubs that only want to shoot at one distance. The RAU does its best to accommodate clubs by giving them as many range dates as possible. As far as they are concerned it is the responsibility of the clubs to agree their shooting programme for the day.

DTE Ranges

Ranges still out of commission include Tyddesley Wood, which will probably be decommissioned in the near future, and Whittington is still closed.

Approximately two years ago, several members from the West Midlands put two proposals to the NRA to pass on to DTE. One, to build a 'bund' on Kingsbury between 'A' and 'B' Ranges to allow concurrent shooting at different distances and a second to refurbish the range floor and realign the Stop Butt on Whittington Range. All at no cost to DTE. Both proposals were politely received but not accepted.

We are still looking at Dechmont Ranges. The NRA has carried out two surveys of the range so far. Our consultant believes that the range can be reopened, however, DE has reservations. The NRA now has again gone back to HQ Scotland with our plans.

Civilian Ranges

Over the past six months or so, there has been a significant increase in requests for information on building shooting ranges of all types. Other requests are for range inspections and surveys. We have two main range consultants: one is heavily involved with the Olympics, Dechmont and tasks that the NRA has already passed to him and the other consultant will be out of action for quite a while due to illness.

If this volume of work continues, we will need more consultants suitably qualified and experienced in range construction, design and maintenance. If you know of anyone, please contact me by telephone 01483 797777 ext 156 or e-mail regman@nra.org.uk

Game & Country Shows

Norfolk Show

This event was held at the Norfolk Show Ground on 25 and 26 April. The NRA shared a stand with High Lodge Shooting Ground and the CPSA mobile road show. We were kept busy with a continuous stream of enquiries, which resulted in many new members.

CLA

This year the CLA Game Fair was held at Belvoir Castle, Nr Grantham. Compared with 2008, there didn't seem to be as many people or traders, possibly due to the economic climate. For the second year running, we were alongside the CPSA and NSRA. We were kept busy with lots of enquiries that only resulted in a handful of membership applications; however, people seemed pleased to see us.

CLA 2010 will be at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire.

Altcar Open Day

The Annual North West Region Open Day was held on the RFCA Ranges at Altcar on 29 August. Attendance was in the region of 300, which is twice as many as the previous two years, probably due to the change of date

from April and to better advertising. The weather was fairly good to us, if you discount the near gale force winds and the occasional downpour! Our grateful thanks go to David Young, NW Representative and to the clubs and volunteers, too numerous to mention, who made the day such a success. Thanks also to Steve Donaldson and members of the 101 Club for the use of their club's facilities and for his assistance with advertising the day.

Next year's event will be held at Altcar on 28 August 2010.

2010 Country and Game Fair Dates:

The NRA are intending to attend the following events in 2010.

Newark	27 - 28 February
Norfolk	24 - 25 April
CLA	23 - 25 July
Omagh, Northern Ireland	12 - 13 June

REGIONAL MATTERS

South-West Region Champion of Champions

Could all club secretaries of clubs in the South-West region please forward the names of their club champions for 2009 to the South-West Regional Representative, Peter Coley, for entry in the heat for the Champion of Champions. Closing date for nominations is 28 February 2010. Peter can be contacted by e-mail at southwest@nra.org.uk or by post c/o the NRA.

Southern Region Champion of Champions

Following my election to the NRA General Council as the Southern Regional Representative, I would like to organise a more formal heat for the Champion of Champions competition. I therefore, respectfully request all Club Secretaries in the Southern Region (Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight) to put forward their suggestions for the format and location of the 2010 heat. Please send your suggestions to Guy Larcombe at southern@nra.org.uk or via traditional mail c/o the NRA at Bisley.



Opening of New Target Shooting Facilities on the South-East Coast



The target sports facility owned by 1066 Rifle and Pistol Club is now complete after an extensive rebuild, which was necessitated due to the gradual dilapidation of the structure of the original range. This has improved and expanded the shooting facilities at the club which has been at this location since it moved from Battle some 16 years ago. Since then, the membership has risen ten-fold, now boasting 160 active target shooters.

Funding such a large project was facilitated by the prudent saving of club funds, together with generous loans from certain members of the club.

After only nine weeks of closure, the club has re-opened and is back in full use. There was a Grand Opening on Sunday 30 August, attended by the membership and official guests.

The new indoor shooting hall will be open every weekday evening and Sunday mornings. The outdoor Archery and Airgun range will be open to members by arrangement.

With the increased capacity, the club is looking to take on new members so, if you would like to see what target sports is all about, your first contact could be the club's website at www.1066rifleandpistolclub.co.uk or, alternatively, telephone a range officer at the clubhouse on 01424 465506.

1066 Rifle and Pistol Club

The Isis, Rock Lane, Ore, Hastings, TN35 4NY



CORNWALL OPEN MEETING - 5 & 6 SEPTEMBER 2009

by John Garnett

Some 40 shooters gathered from 8:00 in the morning and those who had travelled to Millpool before were surprised to be able to see the targets so early in the day, for quite often Message 1 has been delayed due to heavy mist which obscures the targets. The previous week's club shoot had been 'misted out' on the usual Bank Holiday date!

Shooting was held over two days and commenced with a leisurely 2 + 10 at 300 yards achieving good scores (for some!). This should have been a gentle warm up but although the weather god was kind, the shooting god thought we had to work at it! George Cann took the trophy with a very fine 50.9, followed closely by Gary Alexander with 50.8 and George Gilpin also on 50.8.

The next match, the first of the Grand Aggregate, was the dreaded Metric stage – 2 + 10 at 300 on a metric target. This one sorted the men from the boys. Not a favourite competition but 'interesting' with shooters walking away saying they must practice on the metric bull for next year (but never actually getting around to it!). George Cann of Devon won this one with a terrific 100.6. George Gilpin had to be content with second on 100.5 and Gary Alexander 99.5 – was a pattern starting to evolve?

Dressing back to 500 yards the wind began to strengthen from off the Atlantic to our left, a traditional westerly, and more work was required for a 2 + 15 but at least on a 'proper' target. This time it was Jon Cload with a 75.10, Steve Marris just losing out to Jon on countback. Gary Alexander had to be content with third with 75.9.

The MWT trophy was contested at 600 yards with 2 + 10. Gary Alexander took the trophy this time with 50.7. Alistair Kinross was second with 50.6 and Jon Cload third also with 50.6 but losing out on countback.

That ended the Saturday shooting and shooters went their various ways to prepare for the Sunday competitions.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear and we approached Millpool to see the wind had changed around 180 degrees, now coming from our right off the Channel, much more difficult to read as it can be very fickle from this direction (the scores achieved tell a different story) but again, we could be dry . . . ?

The competition today was 2 + 15 at 600 then 500. Having finished at 600 on Saturday we had a good starting point. The aggregated scores gave Jon Cload a fantastic score of 150.19 to win the trophy and entry to the City Open Meeting. Gary Alexander in second on 149.24, with Ken Willingale third with 149.23 – it was tight at the top!

The Millpool Gallop was the fun shoot of the day – 1 sighter and 10 to count in two minutes at 500 yards. When the smoke had settled and the barrels cooled Gary Alexander had put in a fine 50.5 winning himself £15 (should help cover the engraving costs), James Webber, George Gilpin and Alistair Kinross all sharing the remaining pot of £5 each with 47.3s.

While the relaxed Gallop or perhaps it should be called the Trot was shot, stats produced a list of qualifiers for the final, the Duke of Cornwall Trophy. The finalists are the top 20 in the Grand Aggregate, plus the top three F Class and is shot 1 and 15 over 600 yards. This was Pete Coley's moment of fame winning with 75.11, the wind direction now blowing hard from behind and switching. Being an ex sailor, this was obviously to Pete's liking. Gary Alexander came second with 75.8 and Stuart Young third with 75.7. Steve Richards won the F Class with 77, and Dave Pickering came in second also with 77 but less Vs.

The Grand Aggregate unsurprisingly was won by Gary Alexander with 373.45 ex 375 and we wish him equal success in New Zealand in January. Jon Cload was second on 372.39 and George Gilpin, third on 371.41. Devon won the Inter Counties Challenge 582.63 ex 600, Cornwall Seconds were second on 572.42

That concluded another great weekend on the Moor. The weather was kinder than predicted, the company was good, new friends made and old acquaintances revisited.

Cups and medals were presented by Jennifer Mitchell, wife of Tony, and again our sponsors came up with the goods for the prize draw and the Trakker sight was won by Kevin Hills

Thanks to Keith Ellett for organising the whole competition with help from club members. Marking was carried out by local cadets - there was great consternation in the butts when one of only about two message fours went down, but relief when it was discovered that the shot had been put on the wrong target! Considering this was the first time in the butts for the majority, it was a remarkable achievement and just goes to show what 15 minutes briefing can achieve. Our club captain, Tony Mitchell gave a thank-you speech acknowledging our sponsors and helpers without whom we would not have this successful meeting.

Our sponsors were Albie Fox, City Rifle Club, NRA, HPS, RPA, London & Middlesex Rifle Association, Norman Clark and TWP Designs. Thank you to them all for their continued support.

If you want a good weekend of shooting in a wonderful setting, make a date for 4 and 5 September 2010 - I think you will enjoy the experience.

NRA FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Photos by Alan Keating

Fireworks by Dragon Fireworks - www.dragonfireworks.co.uk

Next year's display will be on Saturday 30 October - put it in your diary now!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by James Watson, Chairman of the Membership Committee

Membership Rates 2010

I am happy to report that for the fourth consecutive year we can announce that we are able to reduce the cost of Annual Membership by another £5. This means that the highest rate of membership is now £60 (or £55 if paid by direct debit). We will continue to offer new membership at a discounted rate of £35 and we have other discounted rates for Juniors (under 25) at £35, Seniors (over 65) at £55 and Overseas at £55. All of these rates have a further £5 discount if paid by direct debit.

Over the past five years, we have consolidated the membership categories and reduced the annual full membership from £89 at its height. It goes without saying that we cannot continue to reduce the membership rate indefinitely and Council now believes it has reached a rate that we hope to be able to maintain. Clearly there may be a need, as costs rise in the future, to increase rates.

Summary of Rates for 2010

Introductory rate	£35	
Annual Standard	£60	£55 (with direct debit)
Annual Discounted (over 65s and Overseas)	£55	£50 (with direct debit)
Annual Junior	£35	£30 (with direct debit)
Friend of NRA	£40	

Club, Association and School rates will remain unchanged for 2010 with capitation fees also staying at the 2009 rates.

Certification for 2010

We have continued our dialogue with the MoD and are happy to report that the NRA has been given authority to certify its members as safe and competent

for longer periods. This means that we will be able to introduce a rolling four-year certification programme. At this point, the MoD is allowing only the NRA to extend the length of certification. Club certifications will continue in the same way as 2009 (an annual certification) for this next year with a possible change in the future depending upon the success of the NRA implementation. Details are currently being sent out to Clubs and NRA Individual members via e-mail or post depending upon their preferred method of communication.

Communication with Members and Clubs

Over the last few years, you will have seen the NRA make more use of technology. With the demise in the reliability of the Royal Mail (we appear to have had almost 10% of communications get lost last year) and the increased availability of e-mail, we will be using e-mail as our primary method of contact. If you have an e-mail address, please ensure that you include it in the details on the renewal form – it will help you get more timely and more frequent information!

Membership Numbers

In a tough financial time, we have continued to attract many new members. In the first ten months of the year, we have had more than 670 new members. Unfortunately, over the same time period, we have also lost a number, but overall the total number of members has grown to over 6200, a net increase of 5% year on year. I am also happy to report that we issued nearly 2000 cadet handbooks during this year's Imperial Meeting. This should help cadets join the Association and remain in the sport.

Please contact us with any suggestions or feedback by e-mailing membership@nra.org.uk

FORTHCOMING TOURS

Great Britain F Class Open and F/TR Captains - FCWC Raton USA 2013

Any NRA F Class shooter in either discipline who wishes to apply to be Captain for either Open or F/TR should in the first instance write enclosing their shooting CV to the Secretary General, Glynn Alger, at the NRA (*see page 3*). It will be expected that the applicants will have researched the requirements of this tour and will produce a training and funding plan with their applications.

It is expected to appoint both Captains in early 2010 so that they will have the maximum time available for fundraising and team selection. The Captains will be required to appoint their own team officers.

GB Team to South Africa 2012

I am honoured and delighted that Council has approved the vote of the General Council to appoint me as Captain of the Great Britain Target Rifle Team to South Africa 2012.

Alwyn McLean has accepted my invitation to serve as Vice-Captain, and David Calvert has accepted the post of Chief Coach.

The SA Championships are provisionally scheduled for 27 March to 4 April 2012. A tour will be designed around these dates, probably departing about a week before and returning about three days after the event.

I now invite members to apply for places on the team. The South Africans are formidable opponents at any time; doubly so on their own ground. Accordingly, my selection will be strongly influenced by demonstrated ability under conditions of high temperature and bright light. Experience at Bloemfontein will be a significant factor, particularly in selecting coaches. Notwithstanding these criteria, I will look favourably on applications from rising talents, and intend to select at least two new caps. I am happy for team members to be accompanied by shooting partners who participate fully with the team and provide support on and off the range.

Please send applications to me at sa12@nra.org.uk or by post via the NRA giving your full name, age and NRA membership number, contact details, and a brief outline of your recent team activity at or above County / Service level. Additional detail is not required at this stage. A selection questionnaire will be sent to applicants making the long list. Applications will be accepted up to First Tuesday of the 2010 Imperial Meeting; however I intend to select a core team immediately after the 2010 SA Championships and thus would appreciate submissions by 1 March if possible. The remaining places will be filled in autumn 2010 using performance at the 2010 Imperial Meeting as a final discriminator.

Iain Robertson

GB World Championship Veterans' Team to Brisbane 2011

The following have been selected for the GB World Championship Veterans' Team to Brisbane 2011:

Captain

Eric Stuart-Bamford

Adjutant

Peter Chance

Treasurer

David Cole

Shooters

Robin Baker
Brian Cambray
David Cooper
Ian Dampney
Jim Dunn
Mike Fugeman
Ron Hilyard
Leslie Wicker
Tony Mitchell
Derek Painting
Dick Rosling
Brian Taylor
Peter Thompson
Ken Willingale

Great Britain Match Rifle Team to Australia 2010

The following have been selected for the Great Britain Match Rifle Team to Australia 2010:

Captain

Loulou Brister Wales

Vice-Captain

Nick Tremlett England

Adjutant

Richard Whitby England

Treasurer

Ted Hobbs Wales

Shooters

Guy Blakeney Scotland
Andrew Burgess Wales
Alex Cargill Thompson England
Aled James Wales
Gareth James Wales
Tim Kidner Scotland
Derek Lowe England
Jim McAllister Scotland
Angus McLeod Scotland
Will Meldrum Scotland
Paul Monaghan England
Julian Peck England
John Pugsley England
Simon Whitby England

Reserves (Travelling)

William Mott England
Tom Smith England

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2010

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2010:

Captain

Colin Johnston Ulster, Ireland, GB

Vice-Captain

Reg Curtis Buckinghamshire

Coach

David Calvert Ulster, Ireland, GB

Adjutant

Tim Brooking Sussex

Shooters

Mike Ball Sussex
Elizabeth Barr London
Jonny Borland East of Scotland, Scotland
George Cotton Sussex, England
Henryk Golaszewski Wales
Lynne Johnson Ulster, Ireland
Alwyn McLean Ulster, Ireland, GB
Ross McQuillan Ulster, Ireland, GB
Tim Roberts Sussex
Matthew Stewart Ulster, Ireland, GBU25

Reserve

Will Steward

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- ✓ Shooting Mats from Evans and HPS.
- ✓ Gun Safes from Bratton Sound.
- ✓ Ammunition from Eley, RWS, HPS Target Master, SK, Lapua ~ including Air Gun Ammunition
- ✓ Optics from Tasco, BSA, Hawke, MTC, AGS.
- ✓ Clothing from Kurt Thune, Realtree, Holme, Anschütz, Gehmann, AKAH.
- ✓ With many more items too numerous to mention ~ so come browse and ask if you don't see what you want. You'll get a warm welcome, the best objective advice, the right product at the right price with a comprehensive after sales service.



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NEW
We now stock
HOLME
Shooting Jackets ~ Adult Sizes £75
A Great Introductory Deal

THE EARLY RUNNING DEER AND RUNNING MAN TARGETS AT WIMBLEDON AND BISLEY 1862 - 1896

by Christopher C Bunch

Visitors to Bisley have, no doubt, noticed the two white painted Running Deers which guard the NRA Offices at Bisley and have been there long enough to become part of the landscape. It is possibly not generally known that they have a rather intriguing history being, in fact, the original targets from the Running Deer Range at Wimbledon. As one faces the building the Deer on the right, which shows signs of significant repairs (including a new ear at some stage), is the original wrought iron target made for the Range in 1863. The other, to the left, is a steel replacement probably dating from 1886. The design was by Sir Edwin Landseer, the eminent 19th century artist famous for his animal paintings. His full scale drawing for the Deer is still preserved within the building.



The original wrought iron Deer of 1863 and the replacement steel Deer of 1886 still to be seen outside the Council Offices at Bisley.

Author

By 1862 mobile targets, commonly in the shape of a running deer, had been developed and introduced on various provincial ranges. However the NRA Council only seemed to have recommended the introduction of such a target when they received a communication from Alexander Henry, the noted Edinburgh gun maker, in which he offered to fund two prizes, one of which was for 'a running deer'. This was included in the minutes of the Council meeting, held on 11 April 1862, under the heading of 'Mr Henry's Prize'.

Lord Elcho read a letter from Mr Henry of Edinburgh offering 2 prizes - the 1st to be Shot for at a running Deer - the 2nd to be Shot for by ladies.

Resolved that the 1st prize be accepted and the 2nd declined.

Alas it would be many years before the ladies were allowed to shoot without a male proxy in spite of Queen Victoria's precedent in 1860!

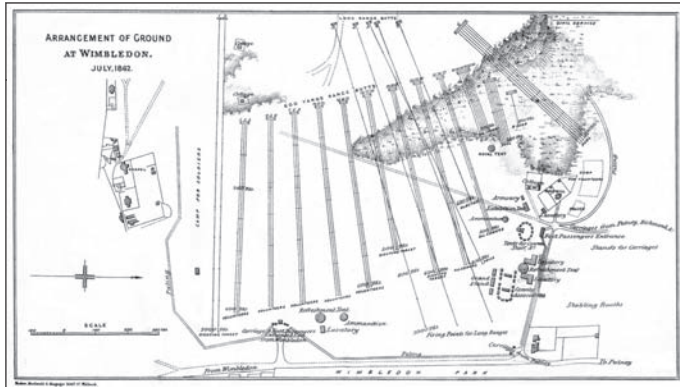
The acceptance of the running deer prize gave Lord Elcho, the NRA Chairman, the opportunity to introduce such a target, and at the Council Meeting of 16 May 1862 the Secretary 'read a statement of the various works which had been done at Wimbledon and of the arrangements proposed'. The 'works' were not specified but must have included the planned running deer range. These were the sole references to the new Range in the Council proceedings and it seems likely that it was, in fact, introduced as the result of a close collaboration between Elcho and the Secretary, Edmond St John-Mildmay.

The new Running Deer range consisted of an iron Deer target mounted on a turntable and carried by a small four-wheel railway truck running over a short 'tramway' of approximately 67 yards in length. The Deer was launched by its team of markers down a sloping section of track where it attained a speed of some 12 miles per hour to pass an opening in the Butt that was visible to the rifle shooters on the firing ground 111 yards away. It was slowed by the converse uphill section and brought to a halt by another team whose task it was to rotate it on its turntable and return it when signalled to do so.

To lay the track and keep the Deer truck in adjustment the Association was fortunate in obtaining the services of a member, Captain Gooch of the 11th Wiltshire Volunteers, who was described as from the Swindon Works of the Great Western Railway. This gentleman was, in fact, no less a personage than William Frederick Gooch, the Superintendent of Swindon Works. He was the younger brother of the eminent Daniel Gooch, then still Locomotive Superintendent of the Great Western Railway, who had worked closely with Brunel in establishing a reliable and efficient fleet of locomotives for the infant Company and later became its Chairman. The Association also gained the assistance of a well-known contemporary gun maker named Lancaster who had some experience with such exotic targets and was also in a position to lend the Association his own Deer, complete with its mounting truck, for the first season.

In May 1862 Mildmay, the NRA Secretary had noted in his diary that "we must have a plan of Running Deer

Butts as Gooch can do nothing without one". Gooch also brought along an assistant named Parks for whom Mildmay had high praise "Parks from Swindon is such an intelligent fellow - and will arrange all about the Deer - he understands it perfectly". On 24 May Mildmay noted to Elcho that "I send you the plan of Running Deer - Gooch himself will be up on Monday at 12 - we had better take him to Wimbledon".



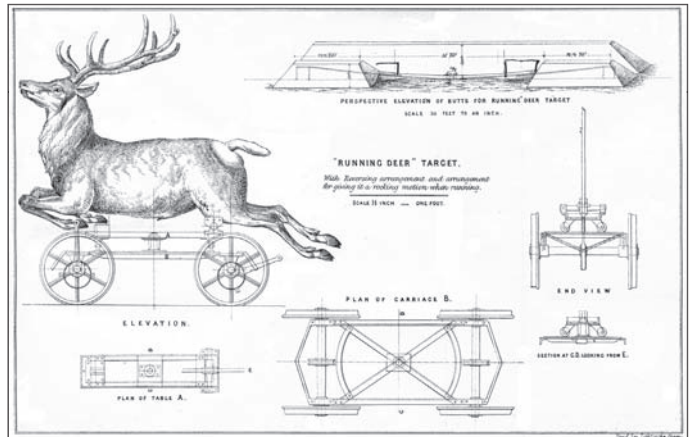
1862 Wimbledon Plan of Ground showing the new Running Deer Range located west of the Windmill.

On 14 June Mildmay noted that "Gooch's foreman is gone to Wimbledon and on Monday must take up his residence at the Village - as he has to do the whole work" and on 26 June he observed that "Gooch is not quite satisfied with the Deer - it does not roll fast enough - the wheels are too small".

It is not known whether the Deer truck, as used at Wimbledon, incorporated the rocking mechanism shown in the diagram. If it did the extra friction of the 'rocking' eccentric may have been a factor. Later Deers were not so equipped although a modification tested in 1878 failed for a similar reason. Whatever the cause it seems the problem was overcome by the time the Annual Meeting took place. The Report for 1862 described the arrangements for the Running Deer and also carried a comprehensive diagram:

The greatest novelty however in this year's target arrangements was the running deer. The deer itself is the property of Mr Lancaster, the gunmaker, who kindly lent it to the Association. The rails, &c. were laid down by Captain Gooch of the Swindon Works of the Great Western Railway, and the Council have to express their thanks to him for the trouble he took in the matter, and for the efficient and successful manner in which everything was done. The preparing of the Butt etc, for the deer was a work of considerable labour and expense, as every possible precaution had to be taken to protect the markers, and guard against the splash of the lead. This there was great difficulty in doing, and the first day two of the markers, six being constantly employed in working the deer, were slightly cut. Additional means were however taken for their protection, and no further accident occurred. The running deer will it is hoped be a permanent institution at the Wimbledon Meeting, and it has

been copied at several county meetings; indeed the Council propose having a deer of their own made from a design by Sir Edwin Landseer, which they will be ready to let out to County and other Associations, and they likewise propose to have a moving figure of a man.



The plan shows quite clearly the eccentrics designed to impart a 'bobbing' motion to the Deer but probably not used at Wimbledon. It is notable that the Great Western Railway, at the height of the Broad Gauge era (7ft 1/4 ins), was prepared to entertain such an exceptionally narrow gauge (for the time) as the 2ft 10ins used by the Deer!

On 31 July, immediately after the Meeting, a very pleased Mildmay wrote a complimentary letter to Gooch:

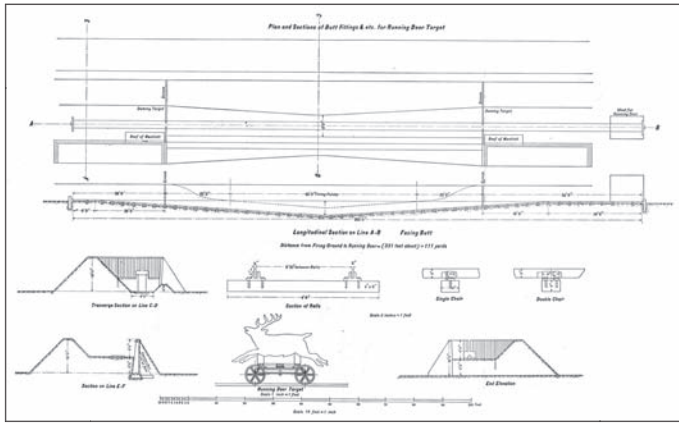
My Dear Capt. Gooch

I enclose with pleasure two cheques for the amount of our debt to you, and I seize this opportunity in thanking you for all the trouble you took in preparing the "Deer" for us.

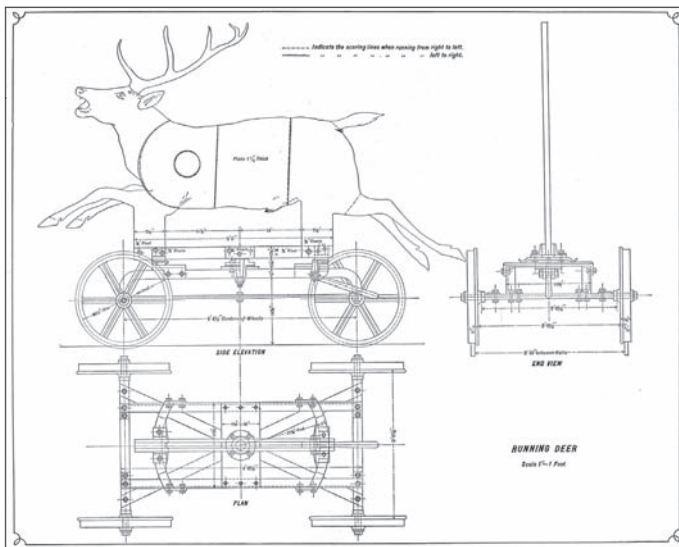
Please be so good as to thank Mr Parks on behalf of the Council for his share of labour in carrying out the arrangements of the Running Target. His services were most valuable and without them we should have been at a stand-still.

The undoubted success of the new Running Deer Range had persuaded the Association to order their own Deer and on 18 September Mildmay duly noted that "Gooch will send an estimate for making a Deer - and undertakes the manufacture of it". On 10 November Mildmay wrote, to an unidentified party, "I send you the Deer - could you get the Antlers in - take care how it is done as this is the copy to be traced on the stone". (The 'stone' referred to the contemporary lithographic process; this also permitted an early method of colour printing).

The NRA Deer, as designed by Landseer, was made of wrought iron and constructed, along with its carrying truck, at the Great Western's Swindon Works under Gooch's supervision. It incorporated larger diameter wheels than Lancaster's Deer and dispensed with the latter's 'rocking' mechanism.



The Running Deer butts and tramway



The Running Deer & its Truck

The new Deer duly went into service at the 1863 July Meeting along with an alternative target, the 'Running Man', also constructed by Gooch and running over the same track. The Deer, however, always proved the more popular. The Running Man was from a design by George Frederick Watts, another celebrated contemporary artist. Both designs were commented on in the year's Report:

The only other point connected with the Wimbledon preparations requiring notice is the fact of a new iron deer having been made for the Association by Captain Gooch of the 11th Wiltshire Volunteers, from a design kindly furnished to the Council by Sir E. Landseer. Coming as this design does from his master hand, it is hardly necessary to say that it is full of truth, life and spirit. The original tracing has been carefully framed and preserved at the office.

An iron figure of a Running Man was also made by Captain Gooch from a design by Mr. G.F. Watts, who first attracted public notice by carrying off the Second Prize in the great cartoon competition in Westminster Hall in 1843, and whose later works - amongst others his portrait of Tennyson - have made him justly celebrated.

The Association is greatly indebted to these two distinguished Artists.

On the day before the opening of the Annual Meeting the Prince of Wales visited the ground to inspect the arrangements and took the opportunity to try out the Running Deer Range:

His Royal Highness also fired a few shots at the 200 yards Range and at the Running Deer, at which he was most successful. The rifle used on the occasion by His Royal Highness was a breech-loader made by Mr Smith, the Armourer of the Association.



Shooting at the Running Man, 1863

The two mobile targets continued to operate satisfactorily, although, in 1871, the track sleepers required renewal and Aird (the noted Victorian contractor who also looked after the Passenger Tramway at Wimbledon at that time) was requested to carry this out in a letter dated 29 May:

I hear from our foreman that the sleepers of the Running Deer range will have to be renewed and the rails re-laid - will you kindly undertake to have this done for us? Mr Stockman our foreman at Wimbledon is to be found any day on the Common, a person sent by you could see what has to be done.

Unlike the passenger tramway of 1864 the track of the Running Deer tramway remained in position throughout the year.

In 1878 the Running Deer was modified in an attempt to emulate the true movement of the animal. The original Deer of 1862 was designed with a 'rocking' mechanism but this was not incorporated into the system purchased by the NRA the following year probably because of the additional friction and weight it introduced. Similar problems seems to have affected the 1878 experiment:

The Running Deer was by way of experiment made to imitate the movement of the animal at a gallop. The mechanism, however, by adding considerably to the weight of the carriage, had the effect of rendering its ascent into the butt too slow; indeed at times the Deer stopped half way, and the old system of running it had therefore to be resumed.

In 1883 Walter Winans, the American who was to become pre-eminent in pistol shooting at Bisley in the 1890s and later a Vice-President of the Association, presented a Cup for a Running Deer competition. Winans was always a most enthusiastic supporter of the Running Deer and included copies of the original plans (which he states had been given to him by the NRA Secretary, Col W Mackinnon) in a chapter devoted to it in his book 'The Sporting Rifle' published in 1908.

1883

The "Winans" Cup.
Value £50
Given by W.L. Winans Esq.
unlimited Entries
To be shot for at the Running Deer Target.

No. of Shots	Twelve
Rifle	Any, not less than 400 bore
Position	Any
Entrance fee.	6/-

Conditions of Shooting

1. The shots must be fired consecutively at every alternate point from the right and left of Butt.
2. Double Rifles to fire each barrel alternately.
3. The same Rifle to be used for the whole twelve shots.

Should a Competitor desire to participate in the Running Deer Pool, he must hand in a pool ticket before firing each shot with which he desires to participate.

July 9. 1883.

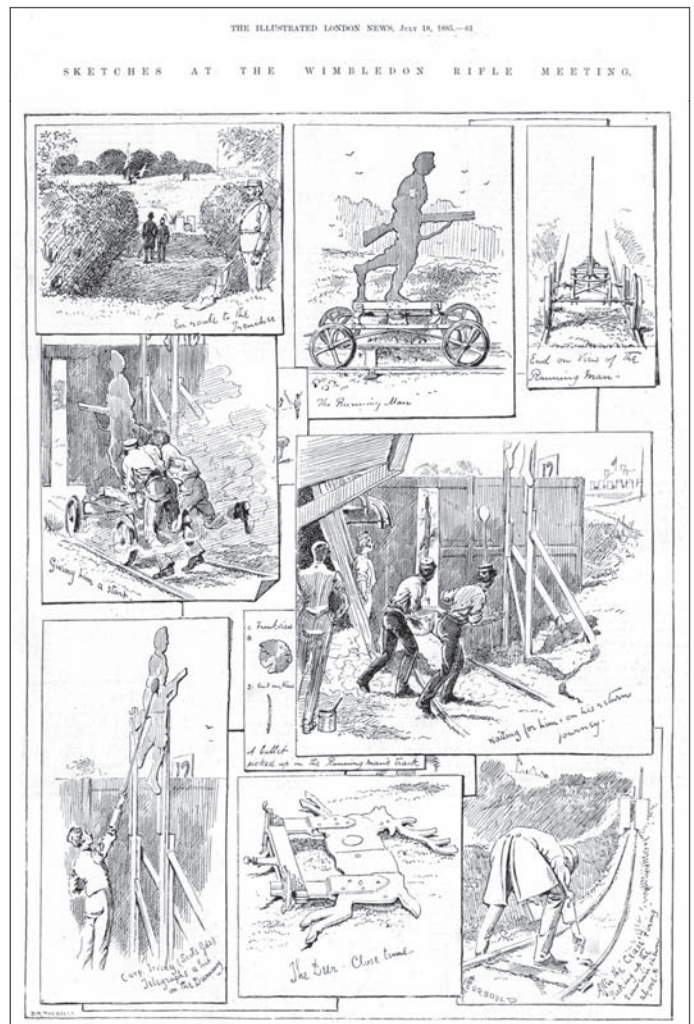
Tramway Season Tickets
2/6
May be obtained at the Secretary's Office
No. 12.

The Wimbledon Executive Committee lay out the rules for the introduction of Winans Cup on The Running Deer Range. Note also the introduction of Season Tickets for the Passenger Tramway.



Walter Winans shooting on the Running Deer Range at Wimbledon in the 1880s. The lady seated in the foreground with the small girl is believed to be his wife.

In 1885 the iron Deer seems to have become unserviceable, probably it had split in the middle, and the Illustrated London News ventured to assume it had been replaced with the Running Man. However the 'News' included a drawing of it in the issue of 18 July 1885 'Sketches at the Wimbledon Meeting'. Although shown apparently abandoned the depiction seems to correspond well with the preserved wrought iron Deer we see today complete with its bolted-on replacement ear! In any case the Council saw fit to replace it with a steel Deer, now also preserved.



Sketches from the Illustrated London News at the Wimbledon Rifle Meeting

The sketches we now present are of an amusing minor feature of the Wimbledon Meeting, the moving target, in the shape of a "running man" which has superseded the "running deer", and which affords most useful practice for the military marksman.

In 1890 both the Running Deer and Running Man were transferred to the new site at Bisley where a separate range was built for the Man, near the Clock Tower. This was not well used and became regarded as something of an eyesore in its exposed position up on the high ground. It was quickly reunited with the Deer but on a separate track. By 1896 the Man had lost the barrel of his rifle; however both targets were replaced by penetrable versions the following

ORDERS FOR MARKERS AT THE RUNNING DEER OR RUNNING MAN, 1886.

1. The deer will be run *head foremost*, or the man *face foremost*, from whichever side it happens to be on, by gong signal from the firing point.
2. On finishing the run the deer or man will be at once reversed on the turntable, so that it may be ready for the next run, and the hit or hits will be marked on the dummy as follows:—

Bull's Eye	..	..	..	White Disc.
Centre	..	..	..	Red
Outer	..	..	..	Black "
Haunch (of Deer)	..	..	..	Black X.

The disc will be shewn upon the dummy so as to indicate the spot struck on the target.

3. The men are on no account to expose themselves to danger by looking over the bank or passing the barrier.

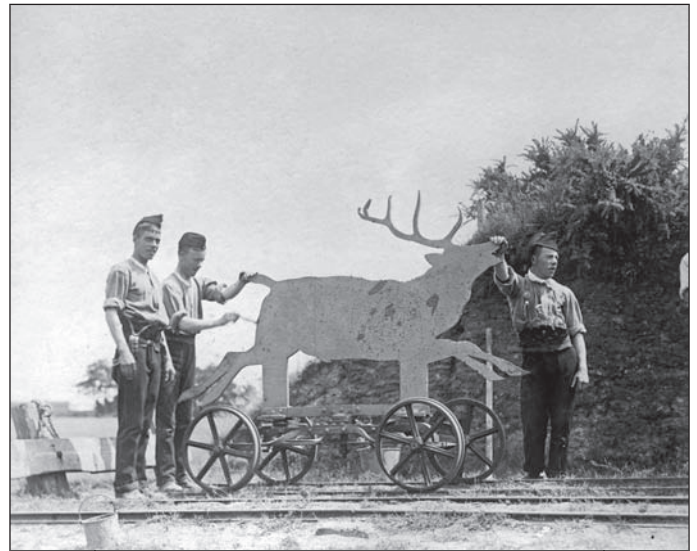
A. P. HUMPHRY,
EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

VE 3, (B.) (25.)

Orders for Markers issued in 1886

year made necessary by the final passing of the lead bullet era.

All documents, photographs and prints are from the NRA Museum or the Council Book archive except where otherwise stated. Quotes are verbatim.



The later steel Running Deer at Bisley during its final year of operation in 1896, ready for launch. The truck is the original but with modifications to the frames. The track in the foreground is that of the Running Man. Major bullet marks readily discernible on the original photograph can still be correlated with marks on the preserved deer as seen from the building side.

HISTORIC BISLEY COASTERS

Boxed set of six coasters depicting historic Bisley scenes (reproduced from the Victorian paintings exhibited behind the Long Counter at Bisley). Would make ideal Christmas presents!

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Payment should be made by cheque payable to "NRA OTF". All profits to the Overseas Teams Fund.



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The perfect partners for the Victorian print coasters:

Sets of 6 placemats, each measuring 238 x 201 £35.00 + £6.00 p&p

Sets of 4 serving-dish mats, each measuring 393 x 293 £40.00 + £6.00 p&p

Following the success of the Victorian print coaster sets we have had a number of people enquiring about the possibility of our supplying placemats in the same designs. We are pleased to tell you that these will be available at the prices above if sufficient orders are received. If you would like to pre-order either set, please send a cheque, payable to "NRA OTF", and marked "placemats" or "serving-dish mats" to

Mary Pearse, c/o NRA, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0PB

Your cheque will NOT be cashed until the order is placed with our suppliers. As soon as our order is placed, you will be notified of the likely time of arrival of your order.

For further details or queries, please contact Mary Pearse at marypearse@scriptix.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 12 JUNE 2009

Speech by Dr Robin Pizer, Chairman

On behalf of the whole Council it is my great honour to propose that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales be re-elected as our President. Can I ask you to approve that?

Agreed. Thank you very much.

Then there is the election of the Vice-Presidents. I would like to start firstly by proposing the re-election of the existing Vice-Presidents, again I do this on behalf of the whole Council, so can I have your approval for that please?

Agreed. Thank you.

Now we are proposing two new Vice-Presidents and these are Mr Eric McGibbon and Mr Richard van Lingen. Richard is, as you probably know, from South Africa, I have been told he has not been too well and is certainly not able to be here today and I would just like to say a few words about him. He is 75 years old and, they tell me, a doyen of the South African target shooting associations both as a competitor and as an administrator. In a shooting career spanning 61 years he has represented South Africa in more than 60 international team matches over three disciplines, small-bore, 300m and fullbore. He has served with distinction on the councils of SATRA (small-bore) and SABU (fullbore). Internationally he re-drafted the Palma Match Rules in 2003 and was then a member of the ICFRA Rules review group which compiled the recently published comprehensive ICFRA Rule Book. He has twice been honoured with the South African State President's Sports Merit Award. His first visit to Bisley was in fact in 1960 as a member of the official Springbok small-bore team. He has competed in 17 Imperial Meetings and he has always gone out of his way to welcome teams from the UK that go to South Africa. So I hope that you will approve that we appoint Richard as one of our Vice-Presidents. Can I have your approval please?

Agreed. Thank you.

Then Eric McGibbon, who is present today sitting in the front row at my invitation. He is slightly older, alleged to be about 82 and is well known at Bisley Camp as a stalwart of the Surrey Rifle Association. For many decades he has been a Range Officer at the Imperial and other meetings. His armourer skills were noticed in the 1990s when he was appointed armourer to the GB Palma team for 1992 and again in 1995. Nowadays, twice a week, you will find him in the Museum, where he has put in a lot of time to help with the displays and is an excellent raconteur who keeps our visitors fascinated. So may I have your approval to appoint Eric as a Vice-President please?

Agreed. Thank you. Eric, would you like to come forward and receive your badge?

Applause.

I now come to item 3 on the Agenda, that is the re-appointment of our Auditors, Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP. I again propose this on behalf of the Council so can I have your approval that they be re-appointed please?

Agreed. Thank you.

I will now say a few words before we get on to questions on the accounts and what I am about to say.

It was a great honour to be appointed Chairman of the NRA last February. I had thought it might take two days a week reducing in time to one day a week. It is taking much longer. However I believe the worst of the learning curve will be over by August. I therefore have great sympathy with Bill Richards' comments in July last year that his learning curve had been perpendicular rather than merely steep. I have talked in detail with Bill about the challenges facing the NRA and plan to talk to him again shortly. It has been very helpful to hear his observations and some of the things I will talk about today include his ideas. I would like to thank him wholeheartedly for his year in office and for the wise guidance he gave the Council in particular during a period of multiple challenges that the NRA is not geared up to dealing with.

Some of the challenges facing us have been mentioned by me at the front of the Financial Statements. I will only comment where there have been changes or new information is now available. I will be brief because several of these topics could easily take up an hour or more of discussion.

Olympics

First, the Olympics. As you know the LOCOG decision is to favour Woolwich for 2012 with Barking as the reserve option. The main reason given was their contractual commitment to a compact Games. Their other commitment to legacy value for the shooting sports has been forgotten about. It has certainly not helped that they saw Bisley Camp ownership as complex with no guarantee that all tenants would have agreed to exclusive usage at Games time. They felt that there was no credible lead organisation with clear responsibility for delivery of the master plan or the legacy programme.

In July I hope a talk and Powerpoint display can be arranged in the Umbrella Tent to show you in more detail just how impressive and well thought out the plans were.

There is to be a debate in the House of Lords on 18 June concerning the merits of Bisley v Woolwich. I am most grateful to our supporters in that House for the initiative they have taken. Maybe there is now a small chance that the shooting events will come to Bisley.

Developments at Bisley Camp

If the Olympics come to Bisley, many developments will be accelerated. But unless decisions are changed, we will have to go through the normal planning processes. Guildford Borough Council want to see a master plan for the development of Bisley showing shops, hotels, conference centres, leisure facilities and chalets etc. Later this month the Trustees are meeting those developing this master plan which has been delayed due to the Olympics. It is only through such development that funds can be generated to acquire surplus MoD ranges or build 300 metre ranges around the United Kingdom.

NATSS

NATSS became a contentious issue in the second half of last year. I have now had a meeting with the Chairmen and Chief Executives of the CPSA and the NSRA. It is clear that initially it was assumed that the only outcome was full amalgamation of the NRA, NSRA and CPSA as a charity by April 2010. That will not now happen. It has been agreed that we will 'work towards a new single governing body' with the clear understanding that this goal might never be reached because we decide in the light of 'joint working' that something different is preferable. The 'joint working' I refer to involves a service provider delivering a number of services that individually the three associations do not provide at all, or inadequately at present, or where a united front to Government is essential.

The first such service provider is expected to be GBTSF which is being reconstituted to deliver the Whole Sport Plan using funds from Sport England (so GB is a misnomer as only England is involved). It will have directors from the NRA, NSRA and CPSA. £750,000 has been allocated over four years – not much but better than nothing.

It is sad that so little has been achieved in three and a half years.

Review of workings of NRA/NSC

Before I was elected Chairman, I was aware of feelings amongst some ordinary NRA members that we were not very effective, not customer friendly, not good value for money and often out of touch with the mood of the members.

Having now seen things from the inside, I am very conscious that staff and volunteers serving the NRA and NSC are very dedicated and devoted to the cause of shooting with some working longer hours than they should. But the pressures we have had to face from the Olympics, the development and modernisation of Bisley Camp, Shooter Certification and the increasing difficulties of access to MoD ranges, NATSS as well as the overriding need to get out of debt have made it very difficult to satisfy members around the country or at Bisley. Our staff and committee structure was not designed to cope with this huge increase in workload.

So I would like a root and branch review of how the General Council, Council and staff operate to deliver what our members want.

Ammunition

The first 200,000 rounds of RUAG were delivered at the end of May and were successfully tested. Their next test is in the Inter Counties matches over this weekend. A further delivery of 300,000 rounds is expected imminently.

When the July Meeting is finished, we need to review the situation and decide what to do for 2010. An important consideration will be whether to continue with a single source or have two sources giving competitors at our meetings a choice.

Clock Tower

You will see the Clock Tower has been stripped naked and its body is showing signs of old age especially the legs that are sunk in the ground. I am told the work will be completed by the end of June but then my two immediate predecessors as Chairman thought the work was going to be completed long ago.

I would like to thank those who have so generously contributed to the appeal, which has raised over £8000 to date. Donations are still invited and may be made through the website.

150th Anniversary

2010 will see the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the NRA at Wimbledon. We will celebrate this by publishing a special commemorative edition of the Journal, badge the Phoenix, Imperial and Trafalgar Meetings as 150th Anniversary events and if costs are acceptable issue special medals for these events.

Child Protection

Child Protection is another issue where members and clubs need guidance as soon as possible as new legislation kicks in on 1 October 2009. British Shooting has produced guidance which the NRA will broadly follow but there are still a few points to resolve to make the burden as light as possible for clubs. The draft guidance is available for clubs now.

(Postscript: Implementation of the new legislation has subsequently been delayed to mid-2010)

That's all I have to say about what has happened in the last few weeks, since the Financial Statements were produced, so I would now throw the meeting open to questions and just say, who would like to ask the first question? Can I ask you to use the microphone and please give your name and club clearly?

Iain Robertson - RAFTRC

I notice from the accounts that the NSC income was approximately £1.4m turnover, is it possible to give a breakdown for that in any more detail? A one line entry while it is accurate is not very informative.

Mark Haszlkiewicz - Treasurer

We actually publish a consolidated set of accounts for the NRA, there are of course accounts for the NSC itself but we don't publish them to everyone although they are available. What we do try and do in these consolidated accounts is to keep them as simple as possible but to try and explain within them fundamentally what is happening. And it is always a very difficult balance to get the amount of detail right. In the accounts themselves, the detail of all the numbers are largely predicated by what is required by the Companies Act and the requirements of the Charity Commission but within the Trustees' statement we have a section which is the Financial Summary, Financial Review, and there we try and split all the income and expenditure not by which company it falls into, which would probably be misleading to many, but by what type of activity it is and I hope that will give you as good a flavour as we can fundamentally of where an item of income and expenditure is falling. I don't know whether that answers your question.

Iain Robertson

One specific point that I was looking for and I couldn't find was our income from corporate hospitality events which I notice is down by £28,000, I believe, looking at the NSC accounts but it does not say what the actual figure is.

Mark Haszlkiewicz

It is not a sub-division, it is included in the shooting income and of course the associated expenditure. If you would like to get a more specific number, I don't think it is commercially sensitive and if you come and see me after I can give it to you.

Chairman

Any more questions on the accounts? OK, let's move on to other questions.

Carol Painting - Pumas RC

I am a bit concerned about communication. I wrote a letter on 6 May to Jeremy Staples about health and safety on Bisley Camp and I have not had a reply, Amanda got her copy so that I knew it had arrived. And something which is more urgent is a message I sent to the Range Office on 24 May about the targets: targets 13 to 16 on Century butt 12 have the bottom of the targets obscured by the bank and it is apparent at all distances but it is not so important at 300 yards because the black is smaller. But at 500 yards and 600 yards the black is fairly close. In fact I thought target 14 was impossible to shoot on at 500 yards. Now there are, obviously, a couple of ways of handling this and it is essential that it is resolved one way or another before they are used but I have not had a reply. Could you confirm that this is being fixed before the Inter-Counties?

Jeremy Staples - MD NSC

Could you give me the target numbers again?

Carol Painting

Yes, target numbers 13 to 16 were the ones that I saw although I recommend that you look at the top of the previous butt, butt 11, because I have a feeling that there was a problem there as well. The grass has been cut which is great but I actually got the impression that you had to take something off the bank as well as re-arrange the target positioning so that they sit higher.

Jeremy Staples

I will get someone to look at it first thing in the morning.

Ian Brown - Wandsworth RC

I note that we have just asked for £25,000 to fix the Clock Tower, the main reason for that as far as I can see it is the NRA policy of not maintaining anything properly. Can anyone give me a figure of what is outstanding in maintenance for all the NRA assets on the Camp, including historic buildings?

Chairman

I doubt if that figure is available today but you are quite right, the maintenance has not been a high priority over the past few years because of trying to get out of debt and now we have successfully achieved that. So there has to be a re-assessment of what needs to be done around Bisley Camp and prioritise within the funds available. There will obviously be more funds available since we have now paid off the debt. So yes, I am disappointed, obviously. I am sure that everyone is disappointed including the staff, but it has been a difficult financial situation.

John Carmichael - Life Member NRA

Ian Brown has just touched on a point I was going to raise. I have been saddened by what I have seen around Camp as regards maintenance and the cleanliness of Camp, particularly the cleanliness of toilets. I know that matter has been raised recently and I was rather surprised to see today a group of people actually clean the toilet with bleach and doing a proper job of it but I look around and I see leaking taps, I see leaking pipes, I see water cascading down. In the ladies toilet just over there you will see a leak which has probably wasted a million gallons and the NRA can't afford to lose money like that. The state of the maintenance on the Camp is not just down to the shortage of money. It is down to it just not being done. I live in a 15th century house, which has four inch thick walls, timber and all that sort of thing, it is very old but it is not dirty. This place may be old but it is not as old as my house and it is dirty. If you look across to the NRA offices the gravel there is full of weeds and the road along the side of the NRA offices between Fultons and the NRA offices is full of mud which grew weeds last year and is growing weeds this year. I look around the telephone boxes and I see old leaves and dirt and dust that has been there for three or four years. On the other side of Fulton's, last weekend there were three or four rusty old barbecues that have been there for five years. Various

other metal frameworks have been there three years. I walk around the site and I see a lot of things on this site just down to simple maintenance not being done. Last year I saw a road sweeper and I thought wow this is good, there were two soldiers in front of it with shovels digging the mud out of the side of the road so that the road sweeper could actually pick it up. I discovered afterwards and I think I am correct in saying the Army paid for that because they were too embarrassed for their senior officer to come here and give prizes in such an untidy place. I would just like to see the simple maintenance done before this year's Imperial Meeting because I have had so many comments over the years from overseas visitors who come to this place and say what a wonderful place; can't somebody keep it just clean and tidy, dig the weeds up etc. I know there are lots of potholes and I know they are going to cost money to do and I know they are wear and tear but the cleanliness of the Camp is another matter. It needs attending to and now.

Chairman

You're quite right in that we have got to get a grip on many of the things you are talking about, certainly one of the items I was very well aware of was the state of the toilets. I was even threatened to be marched into one of the ladies' loos and have a look at them. We have got new contract cleaners and I am glad to hear that you have seen how they are behaving, you have seen them cleaning once but that is better than not seeing them at all. We will have to keep monitoring them and make sure that they are delivering what we want. But yes there are other things that we need to do and I am sure that within the resources that we have available between now and July we will do what we can to improve the general look of the Camp but time is now short and it may not be quite as spick and span as you and perhaps I would like.

John Carmichael

There is one other point I forgot to mention and that is the club houses around Camp have a responsibility under their leases actually to have them re-decorated every seven years. That can be enforceable and was indeed enforced several years ago. The thing that worries me, looking around Camp, is that behind the odd building, behind the odd shed, rubbish is just thrown. One I will just mention is the Inns of Court: if you go down to the Inns of Court, there used to be a swimming pool. Where it used to sit underneath the trees is a pile of old sofas. Again it is the sort of rubbish that must have been there for years, they are not in view but there are other places on Camp where such rubbish is in view.

Chairman

I take your point and I am sure we will do what we can. Thank you.

Chris Tighe-Ford - Life Member NRA

In his statement, the Chairman quotes 'One thing I can say is that we are looking at close co-operation with

the CPSA and NSRA . . . ' Why is it therefore that the recent 16th London & Middlesex Small-bore Meeting held on 29 - 31 May 2009 had to move from its usual home on Century Range to Worplesdon because of the proposed charge by the NRA of £3,800 for Short Siberia or over £5,000 for part of Century where it has always been held in the past? My understanding is that there has previously been no charge to the L & M. I have since learned that the ranges are controlled by the National Shooting Centre but I feel that surely the NRA should have some say in things. Another point is the cost charged by the NRA to the NSRA for the hire of Century of approximately £14,000, for the Small-bore Meeting in August in a climate of declining shooters, not helped by the fact that the shooters who would come to the meeting are put off because they cannot get accommodation for the first weekend because of the Hot Rod Meeting. Would the Hot Rod weekend happen at the beginning of the Imperial Meeting? I feel that in a time of supposed close co-operation it appears that the interests of small-bore shooters are given a low priority.

Jeremy Staples

Basically, we found out that last year for some reason not known to any member of staff the L & M were allowed to take over a large chunk of Century range on a busy summer weekend at no cost. There is no documentation as to why they had not been charged and I have no idea why that has occurred in the past. We discussed with the L & M the use of Century on a busy fullbore weekend, we showed them Short Siberia and spent a lot of time with them on Short Siberia and the cost for three days' exclusive use of Short Siberia was £3,800. We can fill it over that weekend with fullbore shooters and frankly there is no rhyme or reason why the NRA should subsidise the NSRA or the L & M for that meeting.

Chris Tighe-Ford

In previous meetings we have shot on Century with fullbore shooters further down.

Jeremy Staples

But you are shooting at 100 yards and that dramatically restricts the amount of space that fullbore shooters can use on Century range taking into account the danger areas.

Chris Tighe-Ford

Does it have to be such a high cost?

Jeremy Staples

That is the cost for Short Siberia. If we had it open that weekend that is the income we would generate. So I am not sure why we should subsidise the Small-bore Meeting quite frankly.

John Saunders

Surely the income from the use for that period for the Small-bore Meeting would not be as high as the charge to the NSRA.

Jeremy Staples

Three days' exclusive hire of Short Siberia which is the one range that generates better income? It restricts the use for fullbore shooting because of the danger areas. The danger angles if you are at 100 yards on Century means the loss of at least 40 targets. I cannot understand why the L & M had free use of Century last year. It just does not make sense to me.

Chris Tighe-Ford

But the meeting has been held here for the last 16 years, what has changed?

James Watson

There are very few ranges in the country that have the ability to go back even as far as 600 yards and if we are to maintain fullbore as a shooting sport we have got to have that opportunity to shoot at 600 yards. Having half the range closed so that people who are probably not even individual members of the NRA can hold their meeting free, personally I find that incredible and I am amazed that it has been allowed to go on for 16 years.

Jeremy Staples

In respect of the August Meeting when the NSRA take over the whole of Century for two weeks that is the charge that has been established which has been increased in line with the retail price over the last six years. In terms of the Hot Rods we have agreed with the NSRA to try and re-locate by 2010.

Maurice Ayling - RNTRC

In regard to range safety, two or three times this season alongside us have been people shooting with a great variety of rifles and they do not seem to have any idea of how to conduct themselves on the firing point. I have noticed that people get down to shoot a magazine from an SMLE who get up and walk away, no flag in, nobody to look to see whether the rifle is safe or not. I don't know what clubs these are but I would recommend that the Association take a more supervisory role with people who come to shoot on the range.

Chairman

From what you are saying there appears to be a flagrant breach of our rules. If you see anything in future please alert the Range Office so that they can immediately deal with the matter and if we are able to identify the people we should take steps to talk to them and deal with the matter. If you can tell the Range Office staff the day you were shooting, what targets you were shooting on and where the other shooters are shooting we may be able to identify them.

Bob Aitken - Life Member, NRA

We have a problem in Scotland with Landmarc. I really want to know if and when the NRA are going to help fight the cause on keeping civilian shooting available on MoD ranges. It is simply not working. They increased their rates this year by over 5% and introduced a

structure which required two Range Wardens. I phoned them about it because we could cover this if the RCO could be up there half an hour early and cover the period when the Range Wardens put the flags up and take them down again. We can only book a range in the evenings, the weekend is a non-starter and when the MoD did a re-arrangement of the access to the ranges they failed to appreciate that civilians work during the week. As an example the current rate for a single target at Castlelaw, Edinburgh, where we have a three hour booking and you pay for two hours shooting, Range Warden's charges are £28.65 per hour each for two of them. That's £171.90 plus VAT £191.69 for two hours shooting on one target which cost us £145.00 plus VAT so a single target for a three hour booking is costing us £224.00. Is there anything the NRA can do?

Glynn Alger - Secretary General

As you may or may not be aware we actually employ a Regional Manager to deal with these particular issues. We are actually having particular problems with the MoD at the moment, well over the last two years. The rationale behind that is that we have actually reached national agreement with the MoD in relation to access to MoD ranges and the conditions around the use of those ranges. What actually happens is that those national agreements apparently can be re-interpreted on a range by range or region by region basis and this is the problem we are currently suffering in Scotland in that the insistence on two Range Wardens being on the range is exclusive to Scotland at this point in time and it is being resisted by the MoD themselves elsewhere in the UK. It is the interpretation of an individual in Scotland that has led to two Range Wardens being present and an escalation in prices as a result. The 5% rise was a national across-the-board rise that was introduced. I know that Landmarc get the blame for this but it was the MoD who made the decision in regard to pricing, policy and everything else and Landmarc actually interpret that and collect the money and manage the ranges on behalf of the MoD. The issue for us is that over the last few years we have had ranges closed and we have had them open, we have had problems in Scotland with a particular individual who we are trying to deal with and we have got particular problems in the Midlands at this point in time in terms of ranges being closed. We have made all sorts of proposals in relation to solutions in Scotland and we have also volunteered in the Midlands and have gone as far as a member in the Midlands volunteering to reconstruct the stop butt at one of the Midlands ranges free of charge, which was £600,000 worth of work for nothing. The MoD still maintain that they wish to retain that range closed at this point in time when in reality they need it open for their own use never mind civilian shooting. This is an ongoing problem and an ongoing debate. In Scotland at this point in time we are still doing work in relation to re-opening Dechmont Range which may or may not be good news for you. All I actually can say to you is that the Army and our

consultants at this point in time are actually convinced that we can open Dechmont Range back to about 300 metres. All I am saying to you Bob is that the NRA are looking at other solutions to your problem. The issue is that because yours is the only region suffering with two Range Wardens in that they have resisted it elsewhere and are sticking with one Range Warden – we are working on it and we will try. On one hand we have actually invested quite a bit of money in trying to create an alternative for you in terms of Dechmont which would give you a facility that you can shoot on and it would be civilian led rather than military led and the other issue is that we have been trying to resolve the issue about improving the access and reducing the costs on Castlelaw and elsewhere in Scotland but at this point in time Chris is struggling with it. We are talking to people, we are not just talking to individuals in Scotland we are talking to senior officers in the UK in terms of our UK agreements

Chairman

In that connection it would be helpful if I could be given a summary of current problems on existing ranges because over the next few weeks I will be talking to a number of senior officers when they come to visit Bisley for various shooting events. And it would certainly be helpful to know what our problems are. Thank you. So, any other questions?

John Clarke

Are you going to say something about the situation regarding Martin Farnan and how it affects all of us who are interested in shooting? Because obviously it's not good the way things have been handled, that nothing much has been said about it and I would rather not go away with the impression that it didn't matter. I think it matters a tremendous amount. We have apparently got rid of one of our most staunch supporters, who has supported shooting in all its guises and also one of the people who knows the answer to all our shooting questions. Can I leave that for you to answer?

Applause

Chairman

Martin Farnan resigned from his employment as Shooting Director with the NSC on 1 May this year. As most of you know, over the years Martin has played a key role in the organisation and running of the Imperial Meeting. In spite of his decision to resign as Shooting Director, we tried to retain his considerable experience and expertise to assist with this and possibly also next year's Imperial Meeting. Our solicitors drew up a contract to engage Martin's services for the 2009 Imperial Meeting. Unfortunately, whilst Martin initially indicated some interest in such an arrangement he ultimately decided not to accept this offer. In the meantime, however, I am pleased to report that the team that has been assembled to manage this year's meeting have been making excellent progress

and whilst they are, inevitably, on a learning curve, they are confident that this year's meeting will be a successful one.

Name not given

Mr Chairman. Why weren't we told this? We're members.

Chairman

The circumstances leading to Martin Farnan's decision to resign are such that we cannot exclude the possibility that we have not heard the end of the matter. We have received clear advice from the NRA's solicitors that we ought not to comment on the circumstances surrounding Martin's decision to resign for the time being so as to avoid any risk that we might prejudice the position of the NRA or indeed the NSC. We intend to adhere to the professional advice obtained and therefore are unable to comment further.

Name not given

No announcement has been made to the membership so the rumour machine has gone into top gear which is not good for Bisley. Can that statement be made public on the website?

Chairman

Yes it will be but for reasons which I have tried to explain I am not allowed to say anything more.

Name not given

I understand that but I believe some statement on the website would be better than nothing at all. It does matter. I notice also on the website the Minutes of General Council were not posted where members who if they were interested could see what was happening in such meetings. There is nothing on the website later than June 2008.

Chairman

Yes, the Minutes from last autumn, I forget which month it was because I was not a member of that General Council then, those should be on the website. The Minutes of the February meeting were officially approved today so they should now go on the website. There are sometimes quite long gaps between meetings of the General Council and so it takes time before the Minutes are approved.

I used the website myself when my name was put forward as potential Chairman as I wanted to know what the General Council had been up to and there was nothing there other than last June.

Any other questions or points you wish to make? OK, then I will declare the meeting over, thank you very much for coming and for those of you shooting tomorrow I wish you luck

The meeting closed at 18:35.

THE CLOCK TOWER CHALLENGE

by John Hissey

To keep the citizens of this country free from harm by those who compete in the sport of rifle shooting, it has been deemed by our esteemed politicians and policemen that every gun in one's ownership has to be used regularly. Now I have an ancient SMLE in SRb form (I wonder how many of you know what that means?) and a quantity of ammunition dated 1944. Both by now must be historic, and I could not see any use for the latter in a museum where it would merely wither away. The answer was to shoot both some time during the year but it seemed a waste simply to fire off such venerable rounds without making it some sort of occasion.

The Clock Tower Fund appeared to require more support and, to celebrate my recent attainment of 80 years, I decided to issue a challenge. I would shoot at 300 yards and ask for 'sponsorship' of a minimum of £5 for the fund, valuing bulls at £1 and inners at 50p over 15 rounds using this venerable Lee Enfield, shot with aperture sights, two point sling and the ancient ammo which I hoped would go off. Most of my friends signed up at the Blair Atholl MR shoot and subsequently at the English VIII Autumn Meeting. The event was to be held that afternoon and members were invited to try out this rifle themselves for an additional contribution. In the very unlikely event of my getting 15 bulls, the maximum additional contribution would be £10. In fact I felt it unlikely that any bonus would be earned as I was using today's target with a 5.5 inch bull whereas in my time it was 5 inches at only 200 yards and I hadn't fired a target rifle for many years.

Philip Rowell had been designated the most senior competitor during last year's Imperial Meeting but this year he did not appear and some of us worried a bit as with people of our age no news is normally not good. However in answer to my circulated e-mail, Philip replied that not only he wished to be a sponsor but, furthermore, would shoot and had no need of my gun as he would bring his own Lee Enfield. He added that he

would endeavour to celebrate the occasion by dressing according to the age. We both found we had old shooting jackets, hats and even draw tube telescopes and shooting boxes of that era but alas our elbow pads seemed to have perished. The only trouble was that my old ammunition was cordite with a primer that did the rifling no good unless properly cleaned. I had supplied myself with stove, matches, kettle, water, funnel and hose so that I could 'boil out' soon afterwards which was the remedy but Philip decided that modern ammo would be kinder to his much valued antique.

We met in the morning to decide on terms. In MR we have a Granddad's Trophy whereby any years over 65 are added to each days score but this was over an average of some 50 rounds and not a mere 15. I felt that I should be allowed some bonus in view of the age of my ammunition. Philip appointed David Friend as referee and, with such a complex matter, he decided to arrange the handicaps after the event which seems much the best solution in view of the occasion.

I faced a problem as, although I was certified to shoot at 1200 yards in the morning, I was not considered safe at 300 the same afternoon! The Range Office Superintendent himself decided to supervise me which I thought a great honour. I found that we were allocated target 106 - that seemed strange since in our day Century Range only had 100 targets! At least the tram that ran behind 600 yards to take us the considerable distance was before our time although, in my early days, I often boarded a train at Waterloo which, if I remember correctly, required us to mount the last two coaches which were detached at Brookwood to convey us, without changing, to the Camp.

On arrival at the firing point I found that Philip's rifle was a No 1 Mk VI circa 1930, whilst my WW1 type SMLE is believed to date from 1920. As against this I had omitted to bring my Steward draw tube spotting scope. We posed for photos to mark the occasion and addressed the firing point as we were to shoot as a pair. We elected ourselves English Eight sighters which are a maximum of five. I opened my sealed carton of ammo marked CP44 only to find that the bullets were showing some discolouration, with odd green growths. George Barnard came to the rescue and polished the worst off for me.

On setting up my spotting scope, I was astonished to find that the aiming mark contained so many rings that



Before the Great Event.



The last shot. Has Philip beaten my V? Our umpire ensures fair play.

I would not know which one was which. I was informed that a hit here might only score two points as against four on Stickledown which seemed a bit hard but it was too late now to protest and I had to fire first. The gun went off which at least was a good start and furthermore the target went down which was an even better sign. The spotting disc appeared on the far right of the target. I couldn't see any wind so had started with zero but I noted that with my last shoot many years ago I had needed two minutes left so used this and tried again with the same result but closer. At least my elevation was dead on with both shots, so a brave change to seven minutes was made with a resulting inner. Clearly this was a fluke but I grabbed it with glee, declared conversion and was off.

I don't remember much about my shoot other than I felt much steadier than in MR even though I was using a sling rather than a rest as the wobble was not magnified as it is with a rifle scope. With my fading eyesight the aiming mark anyway was a bit of a blur but I had long ago learned that it works so long as you shoot at the same blur each time. The 5lb trigger pressure was hard work and the assistance of a traction engine would have helped. I got the hang of it eventually dropping only one point in the last six to make 67.3 with Philip an excellent 66.2. I was amazed at the performance of such aged ammunition which seemed able to group within the tiny bull. Some others were shooting on nearby targets with very expensive modern rifles, equipped with scopes and bipod rests, yet they seemed to spend the majority of their time in the magpie. Someone pointed out that the combined ages of ourselves, gun and ammo came to some 170 for Philip and no less than 234 for myself. We have thus set the record. Have we any challengers?

Others tried my rifle and ammo and it was then discovered that I had been shooting with my six hole eyepiece not clicked into place, hence the large lateral error in zero.

The referee was to decide the winner after declaring the various handicaps. David awarded Philip his full age advantage, namely six years, in spite of my protests. I was to have a bonus of five in view of the age of my ammo (under the same terms should it not have been 65 points?). However that still left me a V up but as they didn't apply in our day, they would be disregarded,

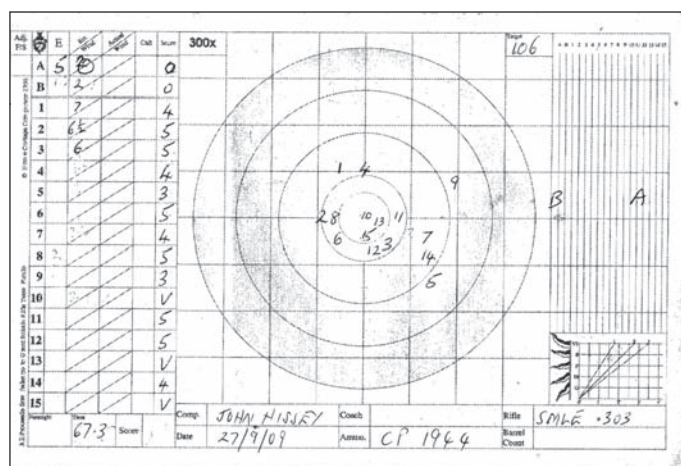
thus a tie was declared. After much shaking of hands and taking of photos, I went through the ceremony of 'boiling through' in the car park.

I was advised that I had failed to get certification as the loaded gun pointed over the butts on occasions. The problem was that, being a left hander and the bolt cocking on going forward, it was impossible to do so in the aim as the open bolt and my face wanted the same space. That apart, the action of pushing the bolt forward and down against the spring with the left hand required rather more dexterity than I have these days with the sling holding the gun in place. Clearly a different system would have to be worked out, maybe with non-traditional sling swivels to allow the rifle to be tipped sideways. It is curious how practice has changed since in our day we were always taught to keep guns pointing skywards to ensure safety.

On getting home I calculated the funds due and was able to forward £118 to the NRA with another £352 to follow which was quite good considering the few sponsors invited. Should anyone feel left out and wish to contribute, it is not too late and cheques for £11 (made out to the NRA please) may be sent to me at 53 Old Hadlow Rd, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4EX.

On thinking the matter over on the way home I decided to e-mail Philip suggesting that, as it was such fun we should have a return match next year when my ammo might do even better with another year to mature. In his reply he went further suggesting an annual match adding "Now we have a vital part of our social calendar, following in succession Henley, Royal Ascot etc. Perhaps after another year we will have mellowed to a point where the activity will be purely ceremonial like Trooping the Colour, and every bit as entertaining". It would also have the twin advantages of satisfying the Peelers, by ensuring that our much treasured antiques were not seized to be 'crushed' to ensure public security, besides providing further funds for NRA good causes.

Rather surprisingly I am also advised that empty cases of such age have a value beyond that of scrap brass. They are stamped CP 44 VII of which I have 27 to date. Offers to john@hissey.net, delivery at Bisley and cheques to the NRA please.



LT COL LESTER HOLLEY MBE

SOI OPERATIONAL SHOOTING, SECRETARY ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Talking with Tony de Launay

Imperial First Wednesday: lunch at the ARA HQ, prepared by the hand of Lt Col Lester Holley, Officer i/c training and competition, operational shooting. Fusilli, ciabatta and 'mad oil'. For those with culinary curiosity 'mad oil' is a mixture of olive oil, chopped garlic and chilli, to be drizzled on your pasta and mopped up with the bread. A frugal and satisfying Italian repast.

"Having lived for a while in Italy it reminds me of fine days in the sun and brings back memories". This introduction is nothing if not instructive on the wide variety of skills expected of a Gurkha Regiment career soldier. Our discussion was an introduction to the work of the ARA.

Lester Holley took up his current, and probably final, appointment in February 2007, scheduled to run until the early part of next year. His interpretation of his brief, in the wake of a major review of Army shooting requirements some two years ago, was to revitalise and redesign training and competition for service small arms to meet current day operational requirements.

"This was not simply a relabelling exercise. We were not into renaming competitions, for example from Fire in Built Up Areas to Urban Contact. We needed to look at exactly what challenges and requirements today's operational theatres present and redesign our training to supply the answers". What may not be generally appreciated is the effect that modern battle dress and equipment has on the nature of operational shooting. Packs and personal body armour have their impact on the firing positions used in warfare. Seventy percent of engagements are carried out in the standing, kneeling or sitting positions.

"It follows that competitions like the Queen's Medal series should reflect those demands, and we have had to review all aspects of the matches". He is quick to mention the impact of Major Peter Cottrell on the development process. He considers him to be one of the finest service marksmen. "We are no longer guided by the 'superior weight of fire' approach. Our aim is all about accuracy of fire. We have to be able to shoot from any position at fleeting targets".

Fundamental to the training programmes is the emphasis placed on the individual soldier being part of a team. "To get anywhere near to participating as an individual in the Queen's Medal matches you must prove that you can work as part of a team", he says. "That means that you can show that you can learn from others, support others, pass on your skills to others and improve your fitness. Fourteen matches in three days, including night shoots, demands a fit soldier for

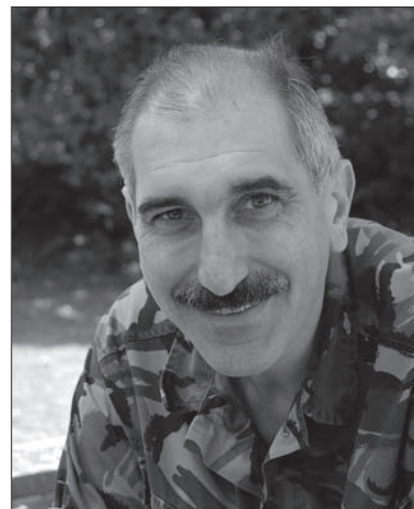
success". Places in the championship have to be earned against these criteria: gone are the days when the chosen few felt that they had a right to expect Queen's Medal tickets.

It was a fact that the Army had moved away from 7.62mm calibre to 5.56mm and the SA80 infantry rifle and to the .338" Accuracy International L115A3 sniper rifle. The 7.62mm was left for general purpose machine gun work. This moved the equipment further away from our own TR approach. However, only in the last month or so he has been staffing an urgent operational requirement for a 7.62mm Sharpshooter rifle to work alongside 5.56 and .338 systems. Perhaps the wheel is turning full circle and, if so, the link with TR will become closer than it has been.

"Civilian shooting can and does assist us. More and more serving soldiers are taking up shooting as their sport. We have over 700 members of the Army Target Shooting Club – an increase of some 350 compared with a year ago. We have two Army shooters in the GB clay target squad". He stresses that Army teams are focusing on Olympic disciplines - clays, air pistol and rifle, smallbore rifle and rapid fire target pistol. "We have a considerable advantage in the latter category in our ability to use military pistols on military ranges. We also hope to have about six members of the Army team at next year's Commonwealth Games".

There is an additional link through the contribution that civilians can and do make through the Army Benevolent Fund and the separate charity 'Help for Heroes'. The England Rugby Team are scheduled to turn out in September on the Bisley ranges to support the Benevolent Fund. "We see shooting as a sporting activity that can be an essential remedial tool. We give every injured soldier the opportunity to take it up as a remedial sport. We give them retraining on service and other types of shooting".

The approach to the relevance of the training has moved a million miles from the day in the early 1970s when I found the Perham Down range at Bulford had been converted to metric distances – by repainting the yardage signs with metres. Questions about



high points and low points were neatly and firmly deflected. Although he would say that being secretary of the ARA was “just another pretty routine job – and all jobs are good jobs”, he has been party to taking an opportunity to influence and mould changes to operational training.

I suspect that what Lester Holley would also say is that this is no more and no less than the sort of work that the Army Rifle Association should be doing. And that is something of a typically British masterful understatement. The ‘Mad Oil’ was pretty good too, but do not use it to clean the barrel.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

by Barry Cairns

It started one Friday night. Well, it could have been Thursday but, as I wouldn’t have been peering down the sights of a BSA Martini on a Thursday, it must have been a Friday. Suddenly I could not hold onto the aiming mark. My eye was being tugged to the high right, as though it was on an elastic band . . . and with a League card to be completed. But complete it I did, after a fashion. Heavy breathing gave me a respite of about seven seconds before the magnet was switched on, or, and this became the norm, I would shoot on peripheral vision. Funny how my eye remained focussed steadfastly at one-thirty, but nowhere else.

My time on the mat rocketed upward, like the lifestyle of an MP on unlimited expenses, while my scores went in the opposite direction, plummeting as though attached to a cannon ball just after it had gone through the hull of a Spaniard visiting Plymouth for the first time.

Things were getting dire and after about two or three years, probably in the mid-nineties, there came a deciding moment when the ‘Hemel Hempstead Civil Defence Rifle & Pistol Club’, a name almost longer than the range itself, was to be turfed out of the TA range it had rented for years. After weighing the pros and cons, I decided that instead of travelling to our new range, maybe fifteen miles away, I would give up the torture I was undergoing. After all, my fullbore shooting was unaffected.

So, what caused my loss of vision down a rifle sight, which did not show up in my normal life. I put it down to a number of things: end of a tiring week, being amongst other things a heavy CAD user, age then about fifty-seven, maybe the poor lighting of the range, but really, I didn’t know, and nothing I did would improve the situation: taking vitamin tablets, trying to sleep longer, not scheduling eye work for Fridays, even sitting with my eyes closed for an hour or so before shooting. Nothing!

Then in about 2000, it started appearing in my fullbore shooting. It progressed from just the odd shot to every shot. From just in the mornings to all day. Strangely, my vision was sometimes good in the afternoons but not to be counted on. And then I started to test myself with various combinations of anything I could think

of to beat it: Vitamin E, glucose tablets, liquid (but as I am a heavy sweater I had always taken a lot of Robinson’s), a Mars bar on the way down to Bisley, even waking up one Saturday and Sunday morning at 04:30 eating cold sausage, egg and bacon prepared the night before just in case it was calories, fat, protein, etc that I needed, and then back to sleep until 06:30. I even concocted a sandwich that had everything: Cheddar and salad cream with banana and honey. It tasted delicious. Yes, really. But still nada, zilch, zip, zero, nothing!

I loved fullbore shooting. I loved small-bore shooting. But comes a time when the only option is to give in and I was pretty much resigned to doing just that having had some years of disappointment. But I just couldn’t take that final step.

Talking to Chris White one day, on a not un-related topic, about the body and brain requirements for ‘optimum performance’, hidden in the conversation was a little gem, but it was some time before I recalled it, and even longer before I realised its importance to me. He mentioned the need to replace minerals and salts lost and the importance of salts to muscles. And, because I knew that our eyes are controlled by a whole bunch of muscles, I put two and two together.

My theory is, that, at about the time I first experienced the problem, manufacturers were starting to respond to health concerns, and reducing the amount of salt in prepared foods etc. I am an uncomfortably heavy sweater and my salt loss was no longer being replaced by normal food consumption. Ergo small muscle problems. I now take in added salt the night before I shoot, dosing tomato soup or in a glass of Robinson’s lemon. I no longer take anything else as extra to my normal diet. This has been going on for just over two years now and the result is my eyes are still old and astigmatic but I no longer have a problem. I have monitored my extra salt intake over the ten days I am in Camp for each of the last two Meetings, 26grms in 2007 and 28grms in 2008. Not excessive.

Incidentally, the title should read, ‘A Man for all Seasonings, especially Salt’ but which author gives the plot away in the opening line?

Thanks Chris!

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HPS wish to inform their customers that there has been a problem with one batch of .308 155 grain bullets which were loaded between week 30 and week 35 in 2009.

The problem is that a very small number of bullets with improperly formed (short) boat tails have been identified as being within these batches.

The number of such bullets is very small indeed but due to the size of the batches and the various stages of manufacture they have spread out into several boxes of ammunition and may appear as singles or in small clusters.

These bullets are not identifiable on the loaded round and when fired arrive at a lower point on the target. The effect is an increased elevation which is most noticeable at 1000 yards.

The customers who are known to have had these batches have been identified and contacted. The remainder of these batches will be withdrawn and replaced FOC by HPS.

This is not a problem that has occurred before and is not expected to occur again. The bullets affected are of the type #2155 and are in HPS batch numbers ending 13009 and 03509.

Anyone who has any remaining lots of either of these batches are requested to contact HPS in order to exchange the ammunition FOC.

HPS apologises for any inconvenience that this has caused and remains dedicated to producing the very best target ammunition.

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SERVICE RIFLE 2009

Photos by Alan Keating



IMPERIAL MEETING - MATCH RIFLE

by Colin Hayes

The Hopton entry of just over one hundred shooters, together with another dozen or so in F Class, and a reasonable weather forecast by the standards of the English summer, pointed to another lively and enjoyable Match Rifle Meeting; and so it proved.

The Any Rifle Extras provided the usual warm-up on the Friday preceding. Conditions in the morning were not easy, but the Scots showed the way, Jim McAllister's 73.10 at 1000 yards being good enough to edge out Angus McLeod by a single V. Angus got his own back at 1100 with another 73.10, from John Knight on 72. Then at 1200 yards the performances went up a notch: Ted Hobbs' fine 74.7 beating Dave Calvert's 73.6. Yet in the Aggregate for the three distances it was John Knight's consistency that won the day: his 217 beat Angus McLeod's 216 by a point. Jim McAllister subsequently won the Any Rifle 1200 yards (20 shots) with a fine 98 from Mike Baillie-Hamilton's 97.

So to the Hopton, and Saturday morning dawned mild and somewhat damp for the Whitehead . . . excellent conditions for high scoring. Four competitors made the highest possible score of 150, neatly representing the four nations. Julian Peck's and Tim Kidner's 27 Vs apiece (only three Vs short of the perfect score . . . the standard is getting a bit hot for most of us) counted out Ross McQuillan and Ted Hobbs. When the tie-shoot took place Julian's 25.3 won it from Tim, again on a single V. Conditions remained similar for the Halford in the afternoon. Here the competition moves back to 1100 and 1200 yards, but the scoring remained consistently high; the wind bracket was around only one to two minutes from the left all day. Tim Kidner maintained his fine form to win outright with 149.15, by a point from a clutch of 148s comprising Jim McAllister, Gareth James, Mike Baillie-Hamilton and Nick Tremlett. So Tim completed a terrific opening day by dropping only a single point, to win the Saturday Aggregate and lead the Hopton by two points from Gareth James and Mike Baillie-Hamilton. Save for a V bull cross-fire in the Whitehead, Jim McAllister would have been up there too.

Sunday started more breezy but that made no difference to scores in the Cottesloe; there were no less than fifteen 20-shot possibles at 1000 yards. Mike Baillie-Hamilton's and Dave Calvert's 100.17s were the best but Tim Kidner was only a point off among a long list of 99s. In the tie-shoot Mike's 25.4 saw off Dave's 25.2. For the Wimbledon it was fine and warmer, with a good breeze still from the left. Ted Hobbs and Tim Kidner with 12 Vs each were the best of seven 98s, but in the tie-shoot Tim lost out again: Ted's 25.3 beat him by a clear two points. Thus after four competitions and

six distances, roughly the halfway point of the Hopton, Tim had remarkably dropped only four points, leading by one from Gareth James with Ted Hobbs a further three back. This was a very new look to the Hopton leader board!

A heavy shower and a much wider wind bracket hit the top detail of the Armourers in the afternoon (20 shots at 1200 yards). Jim McAllister's fine 97.11 won it for him on Vs, but Ted Hobbs was still going strong with 97 as well and Nick Brasier's 97 was further proof of his consistency. Tim Kidner lost a bit of ground with his 93, so overnight he and Ted jointly led the Hopton on 11 off, Ted winning the Sunday Aggregate and Tim the Weekend Aggregate on Vs. Were we to see a new winner this year? Could Tim Kidner perform a rare feat and add the Hopton to his Grand?

The observant reader may have noticed that the name Tremlett has only featured once so far, and in a minor placing at that. But Nick's way is to accelerate when it matters, and his fourth place 96 in the Armourers was the signal that he had started his run, taking him to just two points off the pace in the Hopton. The Edge, on the Monday, is perhaps one of the unsung competitions; somehow it never quite seems to have the glamour of say the Albert or the Armourers. Yet this is a hugely significant event; with 200 points at stake over 1100 and 1200 yards anything can happen, and with the weekend competitors having gone home the field thins out a bit. This is the equivalent of the third round of a golf major; it's 'moving up time'. The morning was fine, warm and breezy for the Edge, with a more testing wind, just Nick's kind of conditions. So, true to form, Nick wins the Edge with 196.23, an awesome score, and sweeps to the top of the leaderboard, none of his closest rivals managing more than 192, to lead Tim Kidner by two points and Ted Hobbs by four. Mike Barlow was a fine second in the Edge with 195.19, and Jim McAllister third with 193.20, including a splendid 100.15 at 1100 yards. (Note: those Scots keep cropping up . . .)

Tuesday brings the Albert, the blue riband event and the culmination of the Hopton: 15 shots to count at each of the three distances with no sighters. There is no other individual event in the world (that I know of) to match it. Come on . . . after all this shooting over the previous four or five days it can't be that hard to get your first shot in the bull yet the pulse still races and the prospect of a magpie first to count introduces those dreaded 'negative thoughts'. It was dull and rainy again in the morning, the wind still from the left and then, as so often seems to happen at 1200 yards in the Albert, the wind went ape in the afternoon. No

doubt a fair few shooters did start with with a bird or worse at 1200 (I certainly did, and I won't say how many more I had!) but Nick Tremlett was making no mistakes; with his 215.26 he won the rose bowl, just as he did last year, and with it the Hopton and a stack of other aggregates. Andy Gent of Dorking was second in the Albert with 215.18, losing only on V bulls; he didn't shoot the Saturday, but a pair of good scores on that day would have put him well up in the Hopton.

This was Nick Tremlett's fifth Hopton win and his third in a row. His 998 was one point better than last year, and again only just shy of the magic 1000 that he alone has achieved so far. Congratulations to him once again for a perfectly paced tournament and for great shooting when the going got tougher. But the top of the list did have a different look to it this year: Tim Kidner held on convincingly in second place, six points back, and coming up fast into third place was Angus McLeod with never a bad shoot and a fine 214 in the Albert. Consistency likewise earned John Knight fourth place and Nick Brasier fifth (Nick also won the Ranken with the only possible, a fine 75.13). The national distribution of the top twenty places was interesting: seven Scots, seven English, three Welsh, two Irish, and one Australian (the ever-welcome Phil Bain, shooting as an individual competitor). And among these there were three back-gunners.

Nick Tremlett and Tim Kidner shared the other aggregates: Nick won the Councillors (1000 yards), the 1200 yards, the MR Selection, and the Victoria, whilst Tim took the Tribe (1100 yards) and the Weekend Selection. Tim gained a point on Nick in the Grand but Nick still won the Maxwell (Hopton plus Grand), 1686 to Tim's 1681. John Carmichael won the F Class trophy by eight points from Des Parr. John Lindsay of Cambridge University, coming a very creditable 21st in the Hopton overall, won both the Ogden Challenge Cup for top tyro and the Brian Green Memorial Trophy for top shooter under 25.

It was a clean sweep for Scotland in the matches. Warming up, the National Rifle Club of Scotland won the FW Jones by six points from the intriguingly named Sengenydd Club, with the Etonians just behind. In the Five Nations (happily, France were able once more to enter a team) Scotland at last won the trophy by entering three big Macs (McA, McE, McL - not hard to work out), four points better than LouLou Brister's fighting Celts. But the Welsh combination of Burgess and Hobbs claimed the Pairs by a handful of V bulls over Englishmen Rob Lygoe and Tom Smith, Tom having made it back specially this year from the USA.

Then to the climax of the Elcho. This year's match was historic in one particular and most welcome respect:

Rosanne Furniss, Captain of Cambridge University's MR team, had been selected as the first woman ever to shoot for England in the Elcho. Some glass ceilings are almost bomb-proof; this one had lasted 147 years! (The other three nations had broken theirs many years ago.)

Wednesday was a reasonable enough day, but the wind had a nagging, shifty feel to it, guaranteed to induce doubts and rumination among coaches, and the scoring reflected it. Remarkably, there was not to be a single possible in the match, and only two 74s. England fielded an entirely new coaching set-up in Ensor, Lygoe and Lowe and they made much the best of it at 1000 yards. Scotland, under their new captain Mike Baillie-Hamilton, were still searching for the wind and finished a full eight points back, alongside Ireland, with Wales another six points adrift. Buoyed by their victories of the last two years, and with a larger-than-usual early lead, England had grounds for confidence. But at 1100 yards the Scots began to hit their straps and, as they did last year, won the distance and cut England's lead to four points. At 1200 yards that margin is metaphysical. Ireland and Wales had fallen further back. The stage was set for another gripping finish. But at 1200 yards England badly lost their way. Scotland very soon wiped out the deficit and produced a rock-solid team shoot to leave the rest of the field trailing, running out winners of the shield by the substantial margin of twenty points. Nick Brasier top-scored in the match with 217, and Mike Baillie-Hamilton led his winning team with a captain's shoot of 215. During this decade the Elcho has unquestionably become anybody's match.

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Scotland	565.52	562.52	551.35	1678.139
England	573.62	558.44	527.38	1658.144
Ireland	565.43	547.32	530.30	1642.105
Wales	559.55	550.42	527.35	1636.132

Finally to the Humphry on Thursday morning. Last year Oxford had been cruelly denied by a single point; could they turn the tables? It was not to be: after a close start Cambridge produced a brilliant shoot at 1100 yards, led at every distance and won by 30 points, rounding off a wonderful year for Rosanne. Mike Judge (Cambridge) top-scored with 217, followed by Cai Marshall (Oxford) with 215. Once again the students' combined score of 1660 would have been fully competitive in the Elcho. May they continue to prosper!

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Cambridge	285.26	289.16	271.22	845.64
Oxford	282.21	269.13	264.12	815.46



The Sitting position in Match Rifle.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Jim McAllister - winner of the Any Rifle 1200 and the Armourers.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Julian Peck - winner of the Whitehead.

(Photo: David Pollard)



Nick Tremlett - winner of . . . sorry I've lost count!

(Photo: David Pollard)



England at 1000 yards in the Elcho.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Scotland and Wales at 1200 yards in the Elcho.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Rosanne Furniss - the first lady to shoot for England in the Elcho.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Result - a win for Scotland by 20 points.

(Photo: Alan Keating)

T REX – BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW

RUAG RWS

When no one is actually talking about or blaming the ammunition you know that it means that they are happy with what they have got. When us pernickety and fussy individuals do mention the subject with associated songs of praise then you know something has been done right. Well done RUAG RWS. What you provided was ammunition that can consistently hold to the central bullseye. Gone were the regular unexplained and unwelcome surprises. Long may it continue.



Is it time to shrink the central or any other rings? I do not think so. Maximum perfect possibles are still the exception rather than the rule. Something tells me that shrinking the central ring would be likely to produce more ties on 50.7 or 50.8 than we currently have on 50.10. I could well be wrong, not understanding where statistical probabilities are replaced by good fortune. Give it another year to settle down, says I. We might even get a year of benevolent weather to see what that can produce.

Third Generation Ashburton

Max Barber, shooting in the Ashburton for Elizabeth College, Guernsey (scoring a possible at 300), was the third generation of his family to shoot for Elizabeth in that competition. His father Gresham, who flew over for the Ashburton, shot for the school in the 1960s and his grandfather, also Max, did so in the 1930s. How many other Ashburton third generations are there?

Ashburton Double

Greshams' shooting master Freddie Grounds has gone to the top of the class by his win in the Ashburton. He joins Simon Pattinson as a member of the 'Two Schools Club' having previously orchestrated a victory while at Uppingham in 2001. Pattinson managed the feat first while at Cranleigh in 1968 before his six later successes at Uppingham.

Chairman's Prize

I do not really know what to say about the take-up of places in this year's Chairman's Prize, particularly after all the efforts made through this column to restore the original free entry arrangements. First, are lists including some 38 Os and 50 Ts out of a potential 75 entries in each low, reasonable or what? Second, just how well is the opportunity understood among potential beneficiaries? Third, do we do enough to publicise the list of qualifiers? All of this is information

that is important to those who have to make difficult decisions. On current evidence the impression must be that although the concept is excellent, sadly it is being overlooked or ignored by those for whom it is designed.

Tartanosaurus

I am intrigued as to the provenance of a postcard sent from Cocoa Beach, California and addressed to T Rex c/o the NRA. It shows a small and possibly plastic mechanical relative of mine with a distinctly saurian snout wearing a miniscule tartan scarf at the entrance to the Cocoa Beach Pier and 'Oh Shucks' seafood bar. After some very pleasant greetings and a reference to the sound of supersonic flying Ruagites, it signs off 'Tartanosaurus'. At this stage it has me guessing but graphologists could yet be employed.

Little Me

Scientists still continue to poke around in the origins of my origins in an attempt to find the real me. It appears that some 125 million years ago a tiny version (a very modest 68kg worth) is said to have roamed what is now north eastern China. Described as "punk sized" by the learned scientists, this raptorex kriegsteini later evolved into my altogether more substantial form, some 100 times bigger. Standing some 2.7 metres tall this skinny lizard is labelled by palaeontologist Paul Sereno as a "blueprint for a fast-running set of jaws" but was it predator or scavenger? The conclusions are obvious, given that it inherited infinite wisdom and sagacity from the Chinese connection with the added ability to utilise the odd scavenged titbit along the way. I rest my case.

Peter Bramley's Fall

Very disturbing news has reached me about one of our South African friends and fellow shooters, Peter Bramley. It is understood that on 28 July, while erecting some equipment for use in training horses, he had a fall from a considerable height onto some hard and rough ground. The result was a broken back (fractured L2 vertebra) and massive swelling to the brain. At the time of writing there are some signs of progress but it is not yet clear precisely what treatment will be required. It is, though, certain that it will involve a considerable time immobile and it might mean as much as eight months before he can walk.

Many UK shooters will have met Peter either at Bisley or out in RSA when visiting as members of official teams or as privateers, and will have been on the receiving end of his hospitality and help on many occasions. He has been a mainstay of shooting in RSA for many years. In 2000 he won the Bisley Grand Aggregate. The outcome of the accident is that Peter and his wife Lexi will be faced with considerable extra

costs while she runs their farm and hires specialist carers and physios to look after his recovery. Chris Watson, who has enjoyed their hospitality, has set up a fund so that any of Peter’s friends in the UK can make a contribution if they wish. Chris says “I feel it would be fitting to a man (and family) who has kept South African shooting alive for many years, to raise funds to assist in whatever treatment and recovery costs there may be involved”.

If you would like to help please send your donation in the form of a cheque, made out to ‘CJ Watson’, to Chris Watson, c/o Surrey Rifle Association, Club Row, Bisley Camp, GU24 0NY with a note of your name and address (including e-mail). This is an unofficial initiative and there is no compulsion upon any individual member of the NRA, but if those that know Peter and his work (to help both his RSA colleagues and UK visitors) feel able to help in these times of financial pressure, any sum of any size would be much appreciated.

Graceful Progress

I was appalled to have overheard the following upon the firing point: “That T Rex is moving well, like a runaway wheelbarrow . . . ”.

Shooting Etiquette

T Rex’s Thoughts to Guide the Novice Shooter

On Travelling to the Firing Point

Never interrupt the contemplation of a laden down shooter crossing Century range to warn him/her of a hidden ditch.

Do engage in small talk with all around you about the tornado forecast to arrive upon the heath within the next twenty minutes.

All figures standing in deep contemplation and concentration awaiting their turn to shoot welcome being regaled with trivia.

Should you leave an essential piece of equipment behind in your locker immediately lodge a protest with the Chief Range Officer that every other competitor is using a forged certificate of shooting competence, demanding an immediate security inspection to give you time to fetch your bit.

Upon the Firing Point

When exchanging register cards do so with a deep bow (or curtsy for ladies) wishing the other competitor very good fortune.

If, perchance, you should inadvertently break wind causing your neighbour to drift out of the bullseye in alarm, it is usual to ease the tension by suggesting that he/she obviously did not see that puff coming.

On firing a rank bad shot it is kind to all around you to observe out loud that your lunch was having its revenge.

On firing out of turn it is customary to suggest that your colleagues were so slow that you must have mistaken their silence for withdrawal from the competition.

When making a maximum possible score it is good manners to buy all the range officers a round of drinks.

It is unkind to doubt out loud the parentage of any official that disallows all or part of your score.

In the Gunroom and Elsewhere

In order to maximise your feeling of well-being it is always wise to hold post-mortems with those making scores worse than yourself.

It is very bad manners for fellow shooters to ask you to move your kit from blocking unoccupied cleaning bench spaces. Such requests should be met with a response that they wait their turn.

Always tidy away pieces of kit belonging to other shooters when they have their back turned. They enjoy the fruitless search that follows.

Refreshing cups of tea should only be consumed with relish in the gunroom when others have yet to complete their tasks. They will particularly appreciate knowing that you are finished and happy while they are not.

All caravan site occupants will enjoy the happy late night sing-song as you and your friends celebrate the existence of being.

.....

THE CORPORATION INSURANCE

by Bruce Roth

Five years have passed since I started selling these tickets after Lord Swansea passed away. This year we raised £248 for the OTF. The scores were much higher than usual with the winning score going above thirty for the first time in several years. I know many shooters didn’t hand in their cards as they thought they didn’t stand a chance.

1	Nicolas Beaulne	RCAC NRT
	5 4 5 4 2 3 2 2 2 2	31.0
2	Claire Hallerhan	West of Scotland
	5 5 4 5 3 3 4 3 3 4	39.0
3	Maj Robert J Aitken	East of Scotland
	3 4 5 V 4 4 4 4 5 4	42.1

Could I extend my thanks to James and Dot (Andrew Tucker Target Sports) for generously underwriting this Bisley tradition.

IMPERIAL MEETING - SCHOOLS

by Soupie

The schools started to arrive on the Sunday with several making use of the ranges to get their rifles zeroed and their teams organised before the meeting started. The biggest problem, as ever, was getting the rifles into the armoury for the armoury staff seemed more interested in shouting at the cadets than sorting out the paperwork required. A rather different situation was the front desk where the ever-calm Phyllis Farnan sorted out the problems caused by schoolmasters failing to fill in the forms correctly. There was the usual trip over to Pirbright to find out what was required there (if your team was not staying) but we do that every year and continue to wonder why.

The shooting started on the Monday with the usual split between those shooting everything on offer and those who just shoot the cadet equivalent of TR. The Marling was won by the Oratory with 179 beating Campbell College by just three points. Sedbergh came third six points behind that with 170 but the next scores were a long way off that. It is clear that those schools who take their shooting seriously really train for this discipline and deserve credit for their hard work. The Marlborough Cup was won by Cadet-Sergeant Ogden of Sedbergh with an impressive 48 beating Cadet-Corporal Knight of the Oratory and Cadet-Corporal Marples also of the Oratory. The third of the GP rifle competitions was the Schools' Snap Shooting and Campbell College managed to beat Sedbergh after a tie shoot. Sutton Valence were not far behind. There were only thirteen teams from eight schools in these competitions which is a real shame for the cadets really enjoy the variety of shooting.

The Cadet TR on the Monday only counts for the Monday Aggregate but the scores at the top were pretty impressive. Cadet-Sergeant Dowle beat Cadet Voisin of Victoria College by just one V bull (103.6 to 103.5). Cadet-Sergeant Oliver Ridd of Tonbridge was not far behind on 101.9 with a possible at 300 yards. The Canadian cadets featured heavily in the prize list which must have been a concern for the Athelings as the Rex Goddard was only a few days away.

In the evenings several activities were put on for the cadets and the Clay Target competition was as popular as ever. Cadet Watson of QVS won it easily with a score of 20 and Cadet-Sergeant Alexander of Langley School was second with 14. Cadet Hobson of Framlingham and Cadet-Corporal Harry Orpen-Smellie of Wellington tied for third place on 13. There were over two hundred entries in this competition and the coaching given by the NSC staff was outstanding. I am sure quite a few cadets will want to have another go at clay shooting based on their experiences during the Schools' Meeting.

Tuesday saw the Cadet Falling Plates with thirty-two teams entering. Campbell College C team beat the

Oratory's D team and their own A team to win the Challenge Cup presented by the Rifles. This is one of the best competitions as it is a real spectator sport. The Wellington, Iveagh and Victoria competitions got underway and the DSG Trophy was the first of the Cadet TR team competitions based on those scores. There were all the usual schools up at the top but it was pleasing to see Tonbridge School featuring so highly. Andrew Penfold (former Chief National Coach) has worked hard with his team and a steady stream of Athelings are starting to come out of Tonbridge now. Cadet Warrant Officer Paul Lanigan came second in the Tuesday Aggregate and is one of those Athelings. He has shot for Kent and Ireland and is someone to watch for the future. The Cadet Champion at Arms result came out very late in the day and is the aggregate of the three GP competitions for individuals. Cadet-Sergeant Ogden's result in the Marlborough put him well ahead of the field with a massive total of 197. A good seventeen points behind him came almost a complete team's worth of Oratory shooters.

Wednesday was the last day for the schools to get themselves organised before the busy Ashburton day and the cadets are usually getting quite tired by this stage. One problem for some of the schools is that the first stage of the Rex Goddard happens in the morning and this takes away some of their top shooters. The Athelings were a good ten points ahead of the Canadians having had a superb 500 yards shoot but of the twenty-four shooters at two distances only Cadet-Sergeant P Slater managed a possible. The Wellington was won by Cadet-Sergeant J McIntosh of Dollar Academy with a 35.5 beating Paul Lanigan of Tonbridge by a V bull. The 500 yards Iveagh competition was won by Cadet-Sergeant M Jones of Elizabeth College on count back over three other shooters who also shot 35.4. The Victoria Tankard was won by another Dollar Academy cadet; Cadet-Sergeant E McConnell managed a 35.5 which was a V bull clear of the field. With all the individual shooting over, all the various aggregates were calculated and people started to try to guess the outcome of the Ashburton based on these lists. The Wednesday Aggregate was won by Cadet-Sergeant J McIntosh of Dollar Academy with a 103.11 and so it was little surprise to see the Cadet Rifle Aggregate trophy on its way up to Scotland for the only 105 came from J McIntosh.

Gresham's won the Victoria College Trophy with an impressive 396.32 and the discerning gambler knows that this 'late form' indicator often gives away the eventual winner. I know it is based on a team of four with the opportunity of outside coaching but it has worked in the past. It was interesting to consider the results of the Regimental Challenge Trophies for some areas are still well represented and other

have clearly dwindled to next to nothing. The Times showed a photograph of the Ashburton from many years ago showing every target in use and we were a long way from that this year despite the strong entry. The Schools' Hundred badges are awarded on the Thursday but as the results were posted on Wednesday I thought I would share them with you now. Paul Lanigan won by a point over McIntosh of Dollar and McConnell of Dollar was a close third.

Thursday morning started with the Scottish Schools marching on to the sound of the pipes and the applause of the entire range. The Reserve match had only eighteen competitors but proved to be a close run affair with Cadet-Corporal Broad beating Cadet Register of Charterhouse by just one point. At the end of the 300 yards stage Gresham's were a few points ahead of Elizabeth College with Dollar Academy not too many more points adrift. The 600 yards is shot next to make space for spectators as well as to make sure the Schools' Veterans competition can start as quickly as possible. Gresham's continued their lead but Dollar moved forward and the Oratory started to show their form. All the usual names were doing well: Sedbergh, Marlborough, Wellington, Cheltenham etc. The last distance is the 500 yards and Gresham's managed to win that distance also putting themselves so far ahead of the field that Dollar's impressive 774.62 didn't seem quite so impressive. Gresham's scored 794.59 and Freddie Grounds was speechless when I caught up with him later that day. Elizabeth College were third with 770.52.

There are now several classes of Cadet Fours but the most interesting is the Closed class for those schools who could not raise an Eight due to the competition being so very late after term finishes. Lancing College beat Charterhouse by quite some margin. The combined Ashburton and Fours was won by Gresham's by over fifty points. The last shoot of the Schools' Meeting is the self-coached Spencer-Mellish and, as ever, the highest scores seem to arrive with Tony Clayton as late as the coaches can manage. Paul Lanigan finished tie shooting against Bennett of Gresham's after they both managed a 48.6 in tricky conditions. Paul Lanigan showed his nerve by winning the tie shoot with an impressive 24.1 to 22.2. All that was left to look at on the boards were the various Aggregates . . . For the Cadet TR shooter the Cadet Grand Aggregate of the Schools Hundred and Ashburton scores features highly. Paul Lanigan won that by a clear eight points. The schoolmasters who consider Cadet TR as the most important would be looking at the Rutland as their measure of a top school and Gresham's dominated that due to their huge Ashburton score. However the real measure has to be the Schools' Aggregate of the Ashburton, Marlborough, Snap and Marling. The Oratory beat Sedbergh 1340 to 1326 to secure their place as the top all-round shooting school in the country.

The Schools' Veterans' matches were two-thirds an Old Guildfordians benefit. They took the first teams' match by seven centrals from Uppingham, both scoring 249 ex 250. They also took the second teams' match with a score of 248 by the rather greater margin of two points from the Old Marlburians (who selected a B team that outshot their A team). But the third teams produced an Epsomian tour de force with three of the residual Epsom teams taking the first three places.

Secret Squirrels – Some Schools and The Media

An Annoyed Scribe – Tony de Launay - Comments

Two things struck me about the schools. First, it is very good to see the increasing number of schools entering the meeting. Second, it is sometimes very difficult to extract information about a school's progress during the Ashburton.

I had a robust conversation with one leading school that told me "it is our shooting master's policy to withhold that information" when I asked how the school had fared at 300 yards, no scoreboard being visible. I responded that, if that was the case, it would have to be my press policy not to disclose their name or score to the papers should they win! In the event a wiser former pupil over-hearing the conversation happily went and got me the information.

I quite understand the wish of the master to keep his young team's mind on the job in hand, but surely he must consider that he owes the spectators something. It is a fact of life that we live in a society in which very little escapes some form of scrutiny. When it comes to sporting events it is essential that teams realise that their activities are not state secrets but public property. Can you imagine an Ashes Test Match without scoreboards? Members of teams must learn to accept from an early age that what they do is a matter of public interest.

The solution: just put your scoreboard at the back of your tent out of direct view of your firers, facing the rear of the ranges, and feed the forecast board promptly so the interested spectator can see what is going on. We moan about lack of interest from the outside world, so at least do your bit to encourage the interest when it is offered.

My media colleague Bruce Parker, who also tries to get coverage of the event on radio, as I do in the two daily newspapers, e-mailed me this comment in support of what I wrote in the meeting diary. "I was furious that I did a live broadcast between the 500 and 600 yards ranges of the Ashburton which gave out the wrong information because XXXXX were keeping their scores to themselves. Do they realise the work we put in trying to publicise a sport which needs all the publicity it can get? I feel very sore that our professional integrity is put at risk at the whim of some schoolmaster (I was one once) who doesn't understand the bigger picture".



ISCRM AND THE SCHOOLS MEETING

Photos by Alan Keating, Tony de Launay, David Pollard and Colin Scoles.

FINAL SCORE		CADET PAIRS	
ASHBURTON		197 EPSOM	
1764 GRESHAM'S		195 DOLLAR	
1772 DOLLAR		188 GRESHAM'S	
1770 ELIZABETH		188 CHELTENHAM	
1769 EPSOM		186 EPSOM	
1761 MARLBOROUGH		182 AMPLEFORTH	
1760 ORATORY			



I agree entirely. Perhaps those who adopted the concealment policy might just reflect on their stance. I am more than happy to discuss it with them face to face.

I am equally prepared to suggest to the relevant organising committee that a minimum standard of presentation should be made a condition of entry if this short-sighted selfishness continues.

IMPERIAL MEETING - RUNNING DEER

by Bob Maddison, National Coach Running Deer

The Running Deer Championship was hard fought throughout although scores were a little lower than in past years. There were 18 competitors, with 15 shooting the full event (Singles and Doubles). This was the highest entry in recent years although we could have accepted more as most shot more quickly than the maximum permitted time between runs. The Singles title was won by Scott Chandler with 179 over Steve Wallis with 177. The Doubles went to John Kynoch with 165 over Scott Chandler with 162. Scott took the aggregate of the first series of Single plus Doubles with 172 just beating Steve Wallis on 171. John Kynoch was the last to shoot and so the result of the Double wasn't known until the very end. Ironically, John was disappointed at winning the Doubles as that excluded him from the Dewar Cup only introduced into the programme two years ago: he had won the Walter Winans Doubles Cup many times before and wanted a change!

The unlimiteds attracted a good entry of 79. The first NRA Gold Medal was won by Steve Wallis with 46 + 47 = 93, well ahead of John Kynoch on 86. The second NRA Gold Medal was won by Alistair Bullen with 87 only just ahead of Ed Gilbert on 85. The Dewar Cup for the best series of ten shots in the Championship and the Unlimiteds, but only for someone who has not won one of the three Championship Trophies, went to Steve Wallis on a tie break with Alan Harvey whose worst shot was 3.4 compared to Steve's 3.8.

The Standing Boar unlimiteds attracted some interest with an entry of 29: it looks so easy. However, standing without support and a 4.1 second time for each shot proved too much for many. The best score came from Steve Wallis with an excellent 94. No prizes for this one but much enjoyed by all.



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IMPERIAL MEETING – TARGET RIFLE

Tony de Launay revisits his daily diary

There seemed to be an air of expectation hanging over the Meeting from the beginning. I can only presume that it came with the hopes expressed for the new ammunition. After all, it was, in its way, the biggest change since the step of faith in moving to 155 grains bullets those 15 or so years ago. So, with that note of optimism from the customers we moved on to the Target Rifle events.

Friday 17 July

We pick up the story after the stresses of Black Thursday and a very good Veterans' dinner. There was an air of expectation: new ammo, brassy, shiny and tinkly – would there be the equivalent of a Monday morning rush hour on the M25 in terms of possible tie shoot jams? Would our plots be like the perfect croquet lawn – all flat and level? We would soon find out.

Friday was overcast with just an occasional flash of sunshine through grey clouds. Occasional showers followed from the edges of the bad weather heading northwards from the West. By 15:30 an embarrassed and watery sun was peeking through the murk. Early morning activists in the Astor got a bit of the wet stuff and the pattern potted on through the first details of the Century match.

Old Guildfordians went on from their double success in the Schools' Veterans to win the Astor by four centrals from last year's winners City of Newcastle, who then were also relegated (under the label of Durham) into second place in the Opening Shot by the Army, this time by the greater margin of 13 centrals. Not quite Newcastle's day, then! The Century (500 & 600 yards) went to a tie shoot: three tied on maximum 100s with 13 centrals. Alexander Coetzee of South Africa won at the second sudden death tie shot after he and Andy Sturrock of the Army started with equal scores of 25.3, an inner for Sturrock to a V for Coetzee. The Admiral Hutton (900 yards) finished with an outright winner in the form of Bruce Logan of Wandsworth on 50.9, with Gary Alexander just one central behind. However Gary could do nothing about the indefatigable Tom Rylands who pipped him by a clear point for the day's aggregate with the only maximum 150.

Saturday 18 July

At 06:30 it was sunny, but it did not feel that warm after a cold night. By the time of the first shots in the Donegall (300 yards) the wind was blowing hard from the left. Up on Stickledown the Lovell at 1000 yards was proving more than a handful for some. I cite as evidence a bracket of 4 to around 8 left reported down on range zero, in the lee of the trees and scrub, and further up the hill calls of 12 to 14. One common wail was that it was very difficult to see the changes in strength.

In the Donegall, 14 scores of a buffeted 50.7 (no 50.10s), lined up for the tie shoot, including the father and son pairing of George and Paul Cann. The resultant jamboree proved to be a relatively dull affair, with one of Norfolk's favourite sons, Ant Ringer, hosing in the only 25.5 with Cann P second and Cann G third, thus depriving the faithful supporters of late night entertainment. The Lovell was an altogether different affair, producing just one outstanding 50.10 from Sam Hunter of the Old Epsomians. Chris Haley (OCRA) and David Calvert (RAFTRC) were second and third with 50.6 and there were just seven scores of 50.

The Grand Aggregate opener, the Daily Telegraph at 500 yards, resulted in 68 scores of 75 despite the wind conditions. Brian Page of British Columbia RA put in a 75.14 to win outright, closely followed by Jon Sweet of Wandsworth on 75.13 and Nigel Ball (the sailor at the Stock Exchange) with 75.12. It is early days as yet, but I have not heard one moan about the ammunition - in fact nothing but non-cautious pleasure despite the difficulties of making comparisons in the unfriendly weather.

Sunday 19 July

The day dawned overcast and with a chilly wind, again from the left. It quickly grew in strength. The early Duke of Cambridge (900 yards) participants found it ranging from 4 to 6 minutes at the bottom of the hill, and 10 to 12 at the top, or so they said. Down on Century for the Alexandra (600 yards) someone remarked that he was using more wind than the long range butt zero firers, and he may well have been correct. Fortunately the rain held off – save for a short shower.

The Alexandra resulted in a four way tie with Andrew Wilde (LMRA), Glyn Barnett (OGRE), David Allen (Huddersfield) and Peter Bromley (Sedberghians) glued together on 50.9 among 45 scores of 50. Wilde produced the only 25.5 in the tie shoot. The Daily Mail (15 at 500 yards) at first seemed to have produced an outright winner in Mike Jenvey (RAFTRC) on 75.12, followed by Nick Mace of Guernsey on 75.11 and Kitty Jack (Wellington College coach and BCRC Hon Sec) on 75.10, with 16 scores of 75. Unfortunately for Jenvey, a mix up in the inputting had credited him with Canadian Jim Paton's 75.12. I had two visits at the command centre from a bicycle bearing a pothered Jenvey, concerned at all the attention he had received from well-wishers. A correction was published in the papers: I do hope that Mike did not receive too many calls of commiseration as a result!

The Duke of Cambridge went to Alex Williams of Uppingham Veterans, an O class, 25.2 to Angus McLeod's 24.2 of ATSC in another tie shoot, both



Polishing the NRA trophy collection is a VERY long job!
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Welcome to our many overseas competitors.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Andrew Wilde - winner of the Times.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



The scrutineering team hard at work.
(Photo: John Knight)



Tim Elliott keeps a careful watch on the competitors.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Jon Underwood - fairly happy after 75.11 in the Prince of Wales.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Not a sight you want to see five
Consolation (or indeed the Queen)



Glyn Barnett needed a 75.15 to win the Grand - no pressure there then!
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



The Great Britain Kolapore team.
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Brian Thomas and Robin Pizer ponder - "Is it a bird . . . ? Is it a plane . . . ?"
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



. . . no it's Mik Maksimovic breaking the speed limit again!
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Brian Page - winner of the Daily Telegraph.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Robin Pizer congratulates James Anderson on winning the St George's.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



minutes before the Queen's
en's Second Stage!).
(Photo: Alister Sainter)



"Someone must be breaking some
rule around here!"
(Photo: Alan Keating)



Well there isn't an actual rule banning angel wings during a
match . . . yet!
(Photo: Colin Scoles)



The Rainbow Nation.
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Gresham's School's Traditional Dressing Up for the Parting
Shot Team - what will they do next year?
(Photo: Colin Scoles)

with 50.9. Another Uppinghamian, James Watson, was third on the best 50.8. All of which when totalled saw Peter Jory of Guernsey at the head of the Sunday Agg with the Weekend belonging to Richard Vary of NLRC. Now to the most important bit, the Grand Aggregate after four events. There were three on an amazing 249 ex 250 despite the combined efforts of wind and rain over three days. Glyn Barnett was the best with 33 centrals, followed by Peter Jory on 31 and Mr Dependable Jon Underwood on 29. Nigel Ball was fourth as the only 248 with Adam McCullough, M Shaw, and Alexander Coetzee (RSA) on 247. The top 200 concluded with CC Mallett Jnr on 239.22.

Monday 20 July

A clear cold night gave way to a clear breezy morning with blue sky and sun for a short while. High cloud, mostly of a grey colour, started to sail in from the west and by 09:30 had liberally spattered the blue. The day's bill of fare contained the Times (300 yards), the Corporation (1000 yards) and the Wimbledon (600 yards). Once completed, they would bring the total of Grand shoots up to seven. Running alongside them would be the first batch of aggregates and the Donaldson Memorial qualification.

The Times was the first settled, thanks to the new rule requiring those with scores of a perfect 50.10 to shoot an extra five tie shots on the spot. Successive details threw up Steve Spinney of Canada, Angus McLeod of the Army and Henry Day of CURA, of whom the first two were still tied with 25.4 on their tie shots. Sitting waiting in the stats box as the final detail's cards came in there was a real sense of tension as the last cards were sorted. Then in the dying seconds Andrew Wilde's 50.10/25.5 appeared. So he had the win on the new system. There were 163 scores of 50.

The Wimbledon also produced a large haul of possibles - 99 to be precise. The new system could not apply here because the four at the top were tied on a less than perfect 50.9. Mike Black of Newcastle, Emma Lamont of East of Scotland, John Jackman of Old Johnians and Stephanie Ward of Welsh RA shot it out with Black winning by 24.3 to Ward's 24.2 with Jackman third on 23.2. Over to the hill and the Corporation, where the wind seemed strong but was for the most part steady (at least it was at 17:15). Cornwall's Roy Jobson took the prize with 50.9, followed by Robin Hatcher (Bedfordians) and David Young (101 RC) on 50.8.

All of which meant that the Grand was now led by Peter Jory of Guernsey on 398.43, having dropped a miserly two points. Glyn Barnett followed two points behind and Adam McCullough one more point down the list at the head of seven 395s. The first 50 were covered by nine points and the top 200 by 15.

Qualifiers for the final of the first of the staged competitions, the Donaldson Memorial (based on Duke of Cambridge, Lovell and Corporation) required a score of 140.14 to be in the 100.

Tuesday 21 July

Awakened at about 05:00 to the sound of a rainy beat on the roof of the command centre. Turned over and went back to sleep to be awakened again by the distant tattoo of the St George's getting under way at 08:00. A fleeting glimpse of the sun earlier had given way to overcast and a brisk breeze from 7 o'clock and intermittent showers. It continued like that all morning.

Nonetheless there were plenty of 75s in the St George's, 128 to be precise, which seems to confirm that the ammunition was every bit as good as envisaged. Just to recap, there were 163 50s in the Times which was shot in slightly more challenging conditions. Six tied for top spot in the George's: Andrew Le Cheminant (Jersey), R Shaw (Sheffield), Richard Vary (NLRC), Parag Patel (O Epsomians), A Hunter (HAC) and Glyn Barnett who is no stranger to shoulder-to-shoulder decisions.

That being the only Grand shoot, the order after eight events showed that Peter Jory still led by two points on 473.55, still with just two points dropped. Barnett on 471.63 was followed by Adam McCullough on 470.66, Ball 470.64 and Jon Underwood 470.56. Andrew Wilde headed a list of four on 469, two on 468, five on 467 and then ten on 466. Just nine points covered the first 50.

By my calculation there were 230 points at stake in the remaining three events. That seems like plenty of scope for recovery, but to look at it that way is to bank on the leaders chucking points overboard. They were not looking to drop any points at all, nor were they likely to be that generous the way they were shooting. But we have seen dramas before, particularly in the last event, the Prince of Wales. Fickle fate and wilful winds can destroy hopes. Defending champion Ball could yet find himself up against Dr Barnett once again.

Back in the realms of the relatively mundane, Norfolk snatched a one point victory over Surrey in the County Short Range Championship with London third. The Territorial Army did likewise over their permanent colleagues. It started raining as I started to type this, and as I ended so did the rain. The Queen's Prize First Stage kicks the day off tomorrow, with the Conan Doyle as the long range treat. And then that leaves us with the PoW Grand finish on Thursday. Time is moving on apace.

Wednesday 22 July

It seems to have been a very long day, what with the Queen's First Stage, the Conan Doyle and the Donaldson Memorial Final and then the Umbrella Tent meeting. Let us start with the weather. A very brisk and fickle wind from the left, requiring as much as two and sometimes a tad more minutes at 300 yards, was there to trouble the scorers. Add some nasty puffs and hollows and subtle changes in angle and you have the

picture. Multiply it through 500, 600 and 900 yards and it is no surprise that it had an impact on scores in the Queen's and the Conan Doyle. It persisted through the day, only steadying at around 17:30.

Jon Underwood was the top of the tree in the Queen's with 105.17, leading David Young of 101 Rifle Club and Bruce Horwood of Jersey both on 105.14. There were only nine 105s, indicative of the challenging conditions. Once again the ammunition behaved impeccably: shooting is now a real challenge between shooters, the elements and skill. The qualifying score to go forward as part of the top 300 was 101.7 ending at 600 yards with 34.4. This is lower than last year but just look at the conditions! I had to work hard for my 35.4 at 600 but those shots that failed to find the centre at previous ranges were down to my own failures, and that is how it should be.

The Conan Doyle produced yet another tie between Ant Ringer (Uppingham Vets), Dot Hume (NLRC and aka Mrs Dallas) and Gary Alexander (Dungannon) all with 50.9, later won by the far-seeing Mr Alexander. Despite the winds there were 43 scores of 50.

There were changes at the top of the Grand. Peter Jory had a mare of a Queen's and dropped six points to reside in fourth place. Jon Underwood jumped to the top on 625.80 thanks to his Queen's and a 50 in the Doyle, with Glyn Barnett just three centrals behind with another 105 today and 49 in the Doyle. Bruce Horwood of Jersey lay third on 621.78 and Nigel Ball dropped three points in the Queen's and two in the Doyle to slide to fifth. It looked like a straight fight between Underwood and Barnett, to be decided on the Prince of Wales. And so it should be: saving the excitement until last.

Thursday 23 July

It remained windy but with only a few showers after rain in the early hours. In the middle and latter parts of the day a moderately warm sun actually appeared. Surprise was in order.

The Grand was decided. Overnight it was Jon Underwood who led Glyn Barnett by the matter of



Jon Underwood - why are all these people watching me?

(Photo: Tony de Launay)

three slender centrals – if anything circular can ever be described as slender. Underwood was squadded in the third detail of the Prince of Wales at around 10:00, and Barnett in the last detail at 11:50. The conditions for each of those details were not dissimilar, with a moderate breeze from the left appearing to vary in strength and angle, but it did increase as the day wore on. Such advantage as Underwood might have had lay as much in the standard he could set for Barnett to hunt as in anything else. To be certain of a second Grand he needed 75.13. Assuming Glyn made a 75.15, a 75.12 by Jon would mean a tie shoot. You could hatch and perm a number of possibilities.

Before you enter this mathematical maze I will make it easy for you. Jon produced a stunning 75.11 in all the pressure – but it did leave the door ajar for Glyn. So 75.14 from Glyn meant a tie and 75.15 meant victory – at 600 yards in the Prince of Wales. Pressure? Not half! Some of us watching from behind the point mused on who we might put money on to manage a perfect possible, if anyone could. We concluded that it would be the Accident and Emergency consultant.

Glyn cut his V, 5 sighters to go for broke. First on score 5. He could still tie. Two Vs followed but disaster struck on the fourth to count – an inner. For Underwood it was all over. For Glyn the battle was for the Silver Cross for which 72 was essential: he made it with 72.7. Bruce Horwood was third one point behind Glyn, Peter Bromley was fourth and Andrew Wilde fifth. The top 200 cut was at 677.76, a place held by Cadet P Slater.

And so to the National Match: Anton Aspin's England piled on the agony at 300 and 500 yards, their team of 20 dropping only four points at each range. Ireland at 500 yards were 23 off at that stage, and Scotland and Wales were neck and neck behind Ireland. England again added to their lead at 600 in more testing conditions to finish winners by 27 points over Ireland with Wales relegating the Scots to fourth.

Tomorrow is the Kolapore and the second stages of both the George's and the Queen's. We hope for good weather: it is due.

Friday 24 July

Another long day as the events move to their various heads. A high overcast and early patches of blue sky gave way to spots of rain during the Kolapore and threatening clouds after lunch which, as we shall see, had some effect on the second stage of the Queen's Prize. The Kolapore kicked off the day and Robin Pizer's GB confidently posted a fine 398 ex 400 at 300 yards. Somewhat to their and everyone else's consternation Guernsey did exactly the same. A clear warning had been sounded.

Guernsey refused to back off at 500 yards: 397 for GB, and 394 for the islanders. Jersey and Canada were fighting their own battle. At the final distance it



The competitors prepare.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



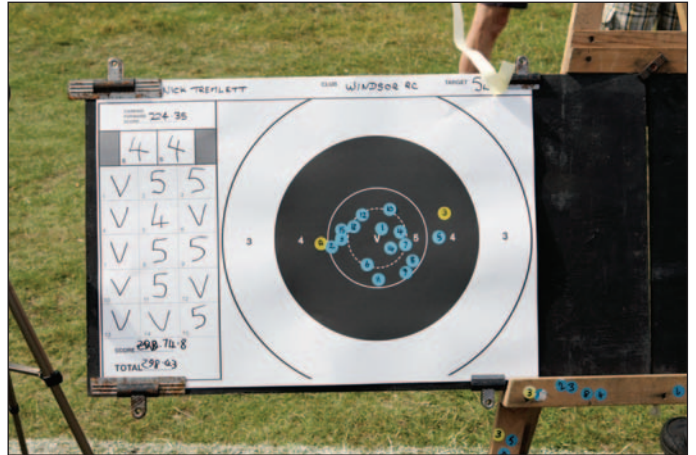
A very rare sighting of a T Rex in the Queen's Final - haven't seen one of those here for at least 23 years!

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Congratulations from previous winners Glyn Barnett and Martin Millar.

(Photo: John Knight)



Nick's 1000 yards shoot.

(Photo: John Knight)



The Gold Badge was presented by Major Phil Packer aided by NRA Chairman Robin Pizer.

(Photo: John Knight)



"Congratulations" to the "Conquering Hero"!

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Matthias Vogel, Marketing Director of RUAG, fires the cannon.

(Photo: Alan Keating)



Consternation at the end of the evening as Nick is presented with the bearing party's drinks bill!

(Photo: Mike Gregory)

became a bit more difficult with light rain and a frisky wind. GB pulled away for a final ten points margin and a total of 1193 to Guernsey's 1183. Jersey were three points behind and Canada nine more adrift.

St George's II produced 11 scores of 150, mercifully free of rain, of which the best with 24 centrals was Sarah Jane Binder of the Huddersfield Rifle Club – cue Yorkshire rejoicing. Dr John Deane of Dursley was second counting out Andrew Le Cheminant of Jersey both on 150.23.

And so to Queen's II. At about 14:20 the thundercloud spoke and spat forth lightning and then torrential rain for about ten minutes. CRO Tony Clayton understandably delayed the proceedings until the skies were clearing and at 15:00 the show got on the road in what became some warm and humid sunny weather. We steamed. The wind had veered around to 10 o'clockish at 300, but at that stage was readable. With the excellent ammunition a high qualifying score was expected.

Back to 500 yards which passed in the same vein with the wind backing round a bit to 9 o'clock. Again, with the standard of shooting and the ammunition, we were looking perhaps at 148s in and out. Then to 600 and a wind that bobbed and weaved, changing in strength and angle. The cut dropped from a potential 148 to the top three 146s each with 21 centrals. Three of them for one place: David Calvert was, eventually, the last one in. Ant Ringer took the Silver Medal with 150.23, followed by Matt Button on 150.22 and J Hinde of OGRE as the best of the 150.21s. And that set the seal on all but the last day.

Tomorrow the St George's Final, the Mackinnon and the Queen's Final. I shall be there at QIII, this time carrying a rifle and not the usual notepad and camera. The last time was 23 years ago. Please let it be a fine day: I have a very damp mat to dry out.

Saturday 25 July

A sunny start to the day with some high cloud and a forecast that suggests good weather. Please let it be so. In the first event of the day, the St George's, there was a moderate breeze from the left that looked fairly steady but clearly needed watching carefully. The top five all returned 150s: the best of them was James Anderson (NRA) with 24 centrals over the second and third stages. D Richardson and Andrew Le Cheminant gave Jersey second and third places with 23 and 19 centrals respectively.

The Mackinnon resulted in a win for Carol Painting's England. At the start of the shoot there was very little wind at all but the currents soon stirred back into the earlier patterns. England shot quickly to finish 900 yards 15 points off with the Scots six points behind and the Irish four more away. At 1000 there was, for a time, some greater movement in both strength and direction, causing England to pause while others

carried on – into fours and threes on the targets. It paid off: their lead at the finish was 23 points over Scotland with Ireland third and Canada fourth.

Later that evening, as a silver sun is starting its tracks down to the western horizon, the Chair begins its journey around the Camp. It has been warm and humid when the sun has been out and cooler in the breeze when it has not. We have a winner of the Queen's Prize in the incredibly grinning form of Nick Tremlett, adding it to his Hopton Match Rifle Aggregate less than two weeks ago, joining Keith Pilcher in the hall of fame with this extraordinary double. Nick, who was 50 last April, is a veterinary surgeon from Wokingham, mending unwell small animals.

He scored 298 and 44 centrals. The 900 yards section passed in a gentle wind that needed watching closely, but at 1000 it kicked up viciously. Wind brackets on ranges 0 and 1 were 4 – 6 minutes: but on range 4, on target 49, I visited all parts of the theatre from 6 – 14. Yorkshire's John Warburton was second, one point and ten centrals behind having matched Nick in points at each distance, but suffering from the one point disadvantage carried over from the second stage. Both he and Tremlett had the same draw for the final, 2 – 0. David Luckman of Somerset was third on 296.37, Jim Paton fourth (295.38) and Glyn Barnett fifth on 295.31.

A1 Hearing

We all know that shooting can damage our hearing, but did you know:

Listening to your iPod at 80% of maximum volume for 75 minutes a day can cause permanent long-term damage to your hearing;

15 minutes on a motorbike at 86mph will cause a long term hearing loss. With good hearing protection, this increases to 8 hours before permanent damage is caused;

DIY floor sanders, lawn mowers, drills and saws all produce sounds loud enough to destroy the nerves that process sound in your ears;

It is now a legal requirement for employers to provide hearing protection to all staff working regularly in noisy environments; consider this when subjecting yourself to continual loud sound both at home and in your leisure time.

So please protect your hearing. Your senses are important to you – don't lose one of them through thoughtlessness or negligence.

Carol Beecher RHAD FSHAA

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Sunday 26 July - Reflections

Grey and overcast again this morning, but that was of little relevance to most of us waking to face the last knockings of packing up at the end of what will have been, for some, nearly two weeks holiday. Save for yesterday the weather has been pretty dire. I doubt if anyone has escaped at least one wetting. It is the one thoroughly disappointing issue and genuinely and utterly out of the organisers' control. What happened to that fine July, we wonder? And the weather forecasters are getting bonuses . . .

Apart from that three things have struck me. First we have had what is, for target rifle shooters based on their experience of ten and more years, some quite exceptional ammunition. I spoke last night with a couple of pretty happy representatives from RWS RUAG. They were having a whale of a time loosely tracking Tremlett in his chair as he lurched around the Camp. The Bisley experience has been an eye-opener to them. Their product has been something of an eye-opener to many of us who have born with fortitude the 155 grains predecessor for too long. Goodbye figures of merit: welcome back consistent high performance. Long may it continue without any sense of complacency creeping in.

Second, and perhaps as a direct result, shooters and staff have been seen with smiles on their faces and there has been a satisfied and confident air permeating just about everything. Targets on the ranges have been accomplished: now other targeted improvements off the ranges can be prioritised in the fabric of the place.

Get that right and we will have nothing to moan about in the gunroom or loos.

Third, there was an 'under new management' note in the welcome envelope. The new team did exceptionally well with a refreshing lightness of touch. They are to be congratulated, from bottom to top. There were one or two glitches, but all were solved quietly and confidently. There are too many names to mention: someone deserving would surely be missed out. So a big thank you to them all for what I personally found to be one of the most enjoyable Meetings for a long time. It is something that can now be built upon for the future.

Next year is the 150th anniversary of the NRA of GB. We look forward to a fitting event for that milestone. So save up your pennies, euros, dollars or whatever and make sure you get here. My thanks to those who have e-mailed from afar and for all the messages about the online daily diary. I cannot always mention everything and apologise for any duff information that creeps in along the way in the haste to paint the daily picture.

So as the great catheter of time conducts the sighter of centralism past the clock tower of infinity, and the bristling paint brush of restoration is newly dipped out of turn to mark the ablutions of uncertainty with a fresh lease of life, we find the blue riband of comfort materialising in the clotted cream teas of satisfaction and therefore bid farewell until the dawn of the special celebration of the next Ruagific era.

SOME FACTS FROM 2009 GRAND AGGREGATE COMPETITIONS

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

Competition	Yards	HPS	Entry	Score	No	Tie	HPSs 09	HPSs 08	HPSs 07	09 %
Alexandra	600	50.10	1043	50.9	4	25.5	45	12	77	4.31
Conan Doyle	900	50.10	996	50.9	3	25.3	45	97	43	4.51
Corporation	1000	50.10	1003	50.9	1	-	24	0	40	2.39
Daily Mail	500	75.15	1035	75.12	1	-	16	22	97	1.54
Daily Telegraph	500	75.15	1039	75.14	1	-	69	4	83	6.64
Duke of Cambridge	900	50.10	1029	50.9	2	25.2	36	12	41	3.50
Prince of Wales	600	75.15	990	75.14	1	-	90	30	31	9.09
Queen's I	3, 5, 600	105.21	1107	105.17	1	-	8	26	26	0.72
St George's I	300	75.15	1098	75.14	6	25.5	129	31	69	11.75
Times	300	50.10	1020	50.10	4	25.5	163	39	204	15.98
Wimbledon	600	50.10	1020	50.9	4	24.3	99	11	159	9.71

THE THIRD F CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – BISLEY 27 - 30 JULY

by Les Holgate and Vince Bottomley

The F Class World Championships are held every four years, with the inaugural event being held in Canada in 2001. This was followed by South Africa in 2005 and four years later the international F Class community arrived at Bisley.

Round 3 of the GB F Class League deliberately coincided with the Individual World Championships, so you would certainly get plenty of 'bang for your buck' with this one! This was the one not to miss as GB shooters would not just be competing against the best in the country but also the best in the world. It was destined to be the largest gathering of F Class shooters ever with 140 F Open (FO) shooters and 70 F Restricted (FR) competitors in attendance. Of these, around half were from overseas.

The competition proper was preceded by a practice day on the Sunday, then the Individual Championship was contested over Monday and Tuesday and finally the Team Championships on Wednesday and Thursday. As the event followed the annual Imperial Meeting, many took the opportunity to shoot the F Class element and for some, it would be three solid weeks on Bisley ranges.

Even though the first official day was Sunday, by mid-afternoon Saturday most competitors had arrived and could enjoy the tail-end of the Queen's and of course take the opportunity to renew old acquaintances.

Once Sunday practice was over for the day, the official World Championships opening ceremony took place on the lawn outside the Pavilion with each country raising their flag. Competitors then adjourned to the Pavilion for a complimentary free drink and buffet courtesy of the GB F Class Association. Most then retired to their accommodation for an 08:00 start on Stickle-down.

The World Individual Championship

The course of fire for the two days would be 2 & 15 at 800, 900 and 1000 yards with FR Class shooting first, followed by two FO Class details. The final 1000 yards stage on the Sunday would be a 2 & 20.

The weather forecast wasn't good but at 800 yards it was dry and winds were light. Even though the conditions were good, it is still a remarkable achievement to keep all your shots in the 10 inch diameter five ring, particularly with a .308" but that's exactly what two shooters did - Mike Miller (USA) with a 75.9 and Dale Rathwell (Canada) on 75.7.

Conditions remained much the same for both FO details and it was hard to see how you could improve on those FR scores but no less than 35 FO shooters hit the maximum 75 which shows just how much F Class has advanced in the last few years - even though the

target is smaller. Eventual Open Class winner at 800 yards was Jeff Traylor (USA) with a 75.15. I don't care how good your rifle is and what the conditions are - to hit a five-inch diameter V bull fifteen times on a range you are not familiar with is something special. Jeff was closely followed by Cheryll van Niekerk (South Africa) on 75.12 and Shiraz Balolia (USA) on 75.12.

At 900 yards the weather was starting to change, the rain was coming and the wind had increased but that didn't seem to upset the FR guys and Stan Pate (USA) put in a remarkable 75.7 to win the stage. It would have put him in third place in Open Class! Not far behind was Mike Miller (USA) with a 75.1, followed by Andrew Penfold (GB) on 74.2. Highest FO score at 900 yards went to Gary Costello (GB) with an outstanding 75.11, with legendary USA shooter Middleton Tompkins in second on 75.8 and Robert Bock (USA) in third with 75.3 - these being the only three to shoot 75s.

At 1000 yards, the wind had increased considerably, testing the limits of the .308" calibre and scores started to tumble as many shooters explored the three ring for the first time. Some mastered it though and top FR shooter was Ian Dixon (GB) with 69.2 and Russell Simmonds (GB) not far behind on 67.4. In FO, in similar conditions, Grant Taylor (Scotland) won with an impressive 74.4 followed by Gary Costello (GB) 74.3 and USA's Jeff Traylor in third on 73.3.

With the shooting over for the day some retired to lick their wounds whilst others - like those listed below - could congratulate themselves on a job well done.

Day One results:

Restricted

1	Russell Simmonds	GB	213.15
2	George Barnard	GB	212.14
3	Mike Miller	USA	211.12
4	Terry Perkins	Canada	209.12
5	Stuart Anslem	GB	208.10

Open

1	Gary Costello	GB	223.25
2	Jeff Traylor	USA	222.26
3	Grant Taylor	Scotland	222.18
4	Middleton Tompkins	USA	220.25
5	Des Parr	GB	219.21.

(Note: first place man Gary Costello had dropped just two points all day!)

Tuesday's forecast wasn't promising but thankfully the rain didn't trouble us - pity the same couldn't be said of the wind!

FR Class were first off again at 800 yards and it soon became apparent that the wind was up, ebbing and

flowing and pushing many out into the four ring in both FR and FO but not Monte Milanuk (USA). Using a standard factory Savage FR rifle, he shot a stunning 75.9 - a score that was good enough for third place in the Open Class! Peter Scott (Wales) took second on 73.8 and third was Gary Rasmussen (USA) 73.7. Conditions remained similar for the Open guys and again, those who could avoid the odd 'four' would finish close to the top of the board. Eight shooters put in 75s and top spot went to Brian Otey (USA) with 75.13, with Martin Townsend (GB) in second on 75.11 and Rick Jensen (USA) third with 75.9.

When we dressed back to 900 yards, the wind had noticeably picked up with sudden direction changes with all but a few of the top shooters dropping points. In FR, John Weil (USA) was ahead by two whole points with an excellent 73.7 - again shooting a factory Savage - followed by Matthew Wolf (Canada) on 71.6 and Jeff Rorer (USA) third with 70.4. Conditions didn't improve for FO but that didn't seem to make any difference to John Campbell (GB) who put in a 74.6. Next best would be Martin Lobert (Australia) and John Carmichael (GB) both with 73.7.

The final shoot of the competition was at 1000 yards with the round-count increased to 2 and 20. The wind was even stronger now and twos and threes were not unusual for FR shooters. Highest placed was Stan Pate (USA) with an 85.2, with Russell Simmonds (GB) second on 85.1 and George Barnard (GB) taking third with 83.3.

These three were in close contention for the overall title and it was not initially clear who had won until the official scores were posted. The first ever FR World Champion was Russell Simmonds. Russell had won the GB F Class League the previous year and has now proved that he is truly world class.

The top five places in FR were:

1	Russell Simmonds	GB	437.23
2	George Barnard	GB	432.23
3	Stan Pate	USA	430.25
4	Jeff Rorer	USA	428.22
5	Ian Dixon	GB	424.18

It was equally close in the Open Class, such that the whole Championship could be won or lost at the final distance. It was still tricky and the best at mastering the wind was John Carmichael (GB) on 94.6, with second place going to Dan Brough (GB) with 93.8 and Des Parr (GB) on 93.7 in third spot. If you remember, the previous day's overall leader was Gary Costello and with Gary finishing in ninth place at the final distance, had he done enough to win as some of his closest contenders had taken points off him?

The leader board had changed considerably - John Campbell jumped from 24th to fifth place. John Carmichael jumped a staggering 26 places from 30th to fourth but Grant Taylor held his third place and

Des Parr's solid performance secured second spot. But yes, Gary Costello had done enough. He had put in a near perfect shoot on both days and by holding his nerve (and resisting the temptation to clean his rifle) had won the World Open F Class Individual Championship! Did it make a difference Gary? We will never know!

The top five Open Class competitors were:

1	Gary Costello	GB	458.44
2	Des Parr	GB	456.36
3	Grant Taylor	GB	455.30
4	John Carmichael	GB	454.37
5	John Campbell	GB	453.36

But the drama for Gary and the rest of us didn't end there. There are medals for the 800, 900 and 1000 yards aggregate over the two days and the aggregate score for 800 yards was a tie between Gary Costello and Larry Bartholome (USA) on 149.20. It provided a perfect dramatic end to the whole competition as both competitors and a crowd of supporters made their way to the 800 yards point for a 'one sighter and five to count' shoot-off.

Both sighters were fours but Larry was shooting much quicker than Gary and it was becoming difficult to figure out who was actually winning. Larry had put in a 24.2. When Gary stopped shooting we were unsure who had won but the man who had held his nerve for two whole days still had his eye on the ball (or should that be 'bull'?) and could add another trophy to his tally. Gary had shot a 24.3.

So the Individual World Championship was over and for some the team event was still to come but congratulations to both Russell and Gary making it a clean sweep for GB shooters. For the record, GB shooters took the first 10 places in the Open Class which must have caused some consternation for the overseas teams . . .



Sightron and Aimfield Sports were major sponsors of the WFCC and in addition to medals, Gary Costello took home a Sightron scope, shooting mat and gun bag.



Nancy Tompkins-Gallagher of the USA team.



The new World Individual F Class Champion, Gary Costello.



The Team GB – working like a well-oiled machine!



If you shoot in a kilt, good wind-reading skills are essential!



The new World Champions – the GB F Class Open Team



The American Open Team had to settle for silver.



USA didn't go home empty handed – their F/TR Team won gold.



Outgoing World Champion, American Middleton Tompkins passes over the magnificent Milcun Shield to Gary.



Mik Maksimovic with his well earned Gold medal.

The World Team Championship

The course of fire for the team shoot was exactly the same as for the individual event – 800, 900 and 1000 yards on each day with two sighters and fifteen to count at each distance. For those unfamiliar with World F Class team shooting, this is a coached shoot for eight man teams and individual shooters string-shoot with the help of their wind coach and a plotter. For the FR Teams, this was their first appearance in the World Championships and they fielded four man teams but for the next Championships in four years time, the F Restricted Class will be a proper part of the Championship and will also field eight man teams.

For day one on Wednesday, it was dry with a testing wind but nonetheless some impressive scores soon began to appear at 800 yards. It was likely to be a battle between GB and USA for the Gold, though current World Champions South Africa were staying in touch. After 800 yards only one point separated GB and USA with South Africa nine points adrift.

After 900 yards, GB opened up a useful six point lead which had increased to 19 points by the close of shooting.

Day one scores were:

Great Britain	1719.116
USA	1700.126
South Africa	1688.110
Germany	1631.98
Republic of Ireland	1618.80
Netherlands	1569.82

Barring an absolute disaster, it was now a straight fight for Gold between GB and the USA. The GB team incidentally prefers the 7mm calibre – either 7mmWSM or 284Win whereas the USA prefer the 6.5-284. The ideal Open Class cartridge has been the subject of much debate.

Individual range winners:

800	John Brewer	USA	75.11
900	Adam Brough	GB	75.5
1000	Cherryll van Niekerk	SA	71.4

Incidentally, Adam Brough is just eighteen years old – what a remarkable talent!

So how was the FR going? Answer – a bit better for America – here's how they finished after day one:

USA	807.40
Great Britain	785.43
Canada	755.35
Germany	737.16
Republic of Ireland	736.24
Spain	646.10

Individual range winners:

800	Matthew Wolf	Canada	74.6
900	George Barnard	GB	73.4
1000	Jeff Rorer	USA	67.2



"Can we coach from here please?" Matt Ensor and Martin Townsend keep out of the rain.

Day one had passed without rain and the forecast was good for the final day. Conditions were indeed good for the 800 yards stage and GB increased their overnight lead to 36 points. South Africa were fighting to stay in touch and matched America at 800 yards, both with 571 points.

At 900 yards, going into the lunch break, Team GB pulled further ahead and were now leading by 42 points with only one range to go. The FR teams were still battling and GB had pulled back a chunk of the 22 point overnight deficit with a cracking 900 yards shoot scoring 267.11 to the USA's 250.10. Strong shooting by ROI had hoisted them into third place, leap-frogging Canada and Germany.

We had a short rain shower at the end of the morning detail and more rain over the lunch break but the final 1000 yards stage started in sunny but blustery conditions . . . it wouldn't last.

Again, GB took a whopping 17 points from America on the final 1000 yards stage which was hampered in the closing minutes by a very heavy shower but time was tight and teams could not afford to stand down for too long.

Here's how it finished:

Great Britain	3436.240
United States of America	3377.234
South Africa	3337.188
Republic of Ireland	3218.158
Germany	3188.154
Netherlands	3134.160

Individual stage winners:

800	Jeff Traylor	USA	75.10
900	Gary Costello	GB	74.6
1000	Larry Bartholome	USA	74.6

Could the FR Team salvage some glory for the USA? With a healthy 15 point lead it looked likely but in FR at 1000 yards, it's not too difficult to be blown into the two ring and big points can easily be dropped. Well, the Brits did manage to pull back a few points but the US Team were strong and John Weil's score of 69

was better than several of the Open Class shooters managed at 1000 yards – and that's with a factory Savage!

Final FR scores were:

United States of America	1581.76
Great Britain	1569.74
Republic of Ireland	1508.47
Canada	1502.59
Germany	1423.33
Spain	1258.19

Individual range winners:

800	Jeff Rorer	USA	72.8
900	Dale Rathwell	Canada	70.6
1000	John Weil	USA	69.0

Prize giving was carried out on the range under a clear blue sky and warm sun – the best weather of the week. A Gala Dinner wrapped up proceedings and all those I spoke with were well impressed by the way the Championships were conducted. Chief Range Officer Doug ran a pretty tight ship on the point but with good humour and I heard few complaints regarding marking and the hard-working butts crew were warmly applauded by shooters at the end of each day.

No event of this size is down to one man but there is always a driving force. Mik Maksimovic shot

as a member of the GB team in the two previous World Championships and, when the third World Championship was awarded to Bisley, he was determined to put together a team capable of taking on the very best long range riflemen in the world and hopefully beating them!

Mik's quest started on a freezing cold November morning in 2005 at 08:30 on Bisley's Stickledown range. Mik threw out a challenge to the nation's F Classers to come and shoot. We did. Forty odd shooters turned up and the Great Britain F Class Association was born. Membership quickly doubled – and trebled as GB and Continental shooters discovered a discipline which was both challenging and great fun. League shoots were held up and down the country and we now have an established calendar based around Blair Atholl in Scotland, Diggle in the north west and of course, Bisley. October's 'Europeans' is the biggest F Class shoot on this side of the Atlantic.

Full credit must go to Mik's achievement in founding the GBFCA, his rigorous training regime and organising a splendid World F Class Championship. The GB team's victory was a fitting reward for four years of toil.

The next WFCC will be held at Raton New Mexico in four years time. Mik is already thinking about a team...

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BISLEY GENERAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2009

Speech by Dr Robin Pizer, Chairman

I should go through the formalities. The notice of tonight's meeting was in the Summer Journal. The Agenda is on Glynn's notice board and I hope you are all happy to take both the notice and the Agenda as read.

We had, of course, our AGM on Friday 12 June and a copy of the proceedings is on our website and the Minutes are available upon request from Glynn's office. There is also a copy in the Front Office reception.

I would particularly like to welcome all our Vice-Presidents who have either been here, are here or are coming here and those from overseas: Robert Chombart and Philippe Ginestet from France, Norris Gomez from Trinidad, Alan le Page and Peter Sirett from Guernsey, Cliff Mallett from Jersey and Stan Frost from Canada. I would also like to pay a special welcome to John Fitzgerald, the Chairman of the National Rifle Association of Australia.

Now I move on to the competitions.

We started with the Service Rifle events, which were supported by overseas teams from Canada and Oman.

The winners of Her Majesty the Queen's Medals were: for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines, RNW01 JS Newell RN; Territorial Army, L/Cpl A Chapman; the Army, WO2 M Cook; Royal Air Force, Chief Technician JT Pricor.

The Methuen Trophy Inter Service Team Shoot was won by the Royal Air Force.

The Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting was very successful and there were 517 cadets from 129 teams, including the Royal Canadian Army Cadets, present. The winning team was 2nd (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF with a score of 996 and 78 V bulls and Sgt SA Ruddell of the same unit won the Bossom, the individual prize, with a score of 248 and 23 V bulls. The prizes were given by Air Vice Marshal Richard F Garwood CBE DSC MA RAF – Air Officer Commanding 22 (Training Group).

At the Schools' Meeting there were 52 teams, 50 schools and 615 cadets - 42 of those schools participated in the Ashburton Shield. The Ashburton was won by Gresham's with an excellent score of 794.59, winning all three distances, beating Dollar Academy into second place. Gresham's also won the Garry Trophy. The prizes were given by Lt Gen Sir Nick Parker KCB CBE – Commander Regional Forces and myself. It was a great shock to read today that General Parker's son, Capt Harry Parker, was seriously injured in Afghanistan on Saturday and has lost a leg. I am sure I can say our sympathies and best wishes go to Capt Harry Parker and his family.

The Historic Arms weekend was again run by David Gregory (Match Director) and Phil Wikeley (Staffing Officer) and David Mumford ably assisted by volunteers to whom our thanks. There were 191 competitors, a further increase on the number in 2008, who fired in 98 different matches.

The amount of shooting at the Pistol and Gallery Rifle Meeting has substantially increased. There were more team and aggregate entries than in the past and considerably more medal cards shot. Overall takings were increased by approximately 25% and there were approaching 1,000 individual entries, exact figures are not yet known. Once again, the number of school cadets competing on Melville Range has increased, evening opening on Monday and Tuesday allowed for more entries than in the past. Both Cadets and Pistol and Gallery Rifle have increased dramatically at this Meeting. This bodes well for the future.

The Hopton was won by Nick Tremlett for the fifth time and the third year in a row, beating Tim Kidner by six points on 998.112.

The Elcho was won by Scotland beating England by 20 points.

Overall Target and Match Rifle has shown 1312 entries just 14 up on last year and 216 of those are from overseas, 12 up on last year. The Grand Aggregate has had 1033 entries which is up by 4 on the preceding year and we have seen teams and individuals from Australia, Canada, Normandy, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Netherlands, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, the USA, Guernsey and Jersey. A total of 379 under 25s were present including 286 under 21s, and I am pleased to say that the oldest participant was 86 years and 9 months young and the youngest competitor was 14 years and 1 month old.

We wish all the best on Friday to Richard Stearn with his Under 25 team.

But now to my thank you's. To our sponsors RUAG, HÅRING GmbH and A1 Hearing Protection. To Arthur Clarke and Mick Barr of the Bisley V Club for holding their annual long range shoot. To our Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century, Doug Watt on Stickledown and Doug Glaister on Melville. To our Chief Butt Officers, Peter Allis on Century and Paul Hendrie on Stickledown. To our Range Officers and our Stats Staff, particularly to Fred Parker, who retires at the end of the Meeting after more than 30 years working in the Stats Department, he will be sorely missed. To all our volunteers. To Jeremy Staples and his team of permanent staff. To all of those who have run competitions. To Lester Holley and his team at the ARA, who produced military range teams and to the two SMIs who gave up leave to help run events.

There are six topics I would like to talk about briefly as things have moved on since the AGM in June.

Olympics
NATSS
Review of workings of NRA/NSC
Shooter certification
Camp maintenance
Prizegiving

Olympics

First, the Olympics – much has happened since the debate in the House of Lords on 18 June. I must thank all of you who have written to MPs and peers. Some of you have recently received letters from them, which state that British Shooting no longer considers Bisley a suitable venue for the Olympics. This is untrue. An emergency meeting of British Shooting was held on Monday this week lasting some five hours. They issued a Press Release which stated:

British Shooting's Board of Directors met on 20 July to revisit the statement issued by the Chairman on 1 July. The Board decided to withdraw this statement.

In the light of further information, British Shooting continues to seek a shooting venue for 2012 which is a permanent bricks and mortar legacy.

British Shooting, therefore, wish to make crystal clear their preferred option is to host the 2012 shooting events at Bisley.

We affirm that British Shooting will continue to work with LOCOG to maximise legacy opportunities and we will do all that is necessary to ensure that the shooting events at the Olympic Games are truly successful.

Last night a few of you took the opportunity to see the presentation made to LOCOG, ODA and, more recently, to members of both Houses of Parliament, concerning the Bisley bid. The Ministry of Defence has been exceedingly helpful and has supported our bid by offering a large chunk of land between Bisley Camp and Pirbright Camp. It will be added to the existing 125 year lease of the ranges.

Legacy use will include MoD use of .22 ranges to provide basic training in shooting skills to soldiers and to help rehabilitate injured soldiers at Headley Park as part of the Help For Heroes campaign. This is linked to the Paralympic training facility at Surrey University. The clay ranges are expected to be commercially viable.

If the shooting events come to Bisley then the NRA, NSRA and CPSA will not accept any risk, which will have to be borne by ODA.

Lord Corbett, the Chairman of the Labour Peers, has invited ODA/LOCOG to explain to him and his

colleagues why the Bisley bid has been rejected. This will happen in early August.

The best we can hope for from this meeting is an agreement that ODA/LOCOG will review their decision to reject Bisley.

I would like to thank, heartily, those members of both Houses who have taken an interest in our cause. I would also like to thank Glynn Alger who has invested a lot of time and energy during the last few months into promoting our cause.

Applause

At times it has been frustrating.

NATSS

Secondly, NATSS – one of the reasons the Bisley Olympic bid was rejected was because the shooting fraternity were portrayed as fractured. What has happened this month has reinforced my view that presenting a united front to Government and the outside world is essential.

On 24 June the NATSS Steering Group met and formalised a change of direction that had been emerging over the last six to twelve months. The terms of reference have been altered to consider a range of options.

- one brand new body governing and protecting all target shooting sports.
- an overarching and federal controlling body with CPSA, NSRA and NRA left dealing with the shooting side of their existing activities.
- a service provider offering a range of services of mutual interest but subordinate to existing bodies CPSA, NSRA and NRA.
- CPSA and NSRA amalgamate with NRA remaining independent.
- CPSA, NSRA and NRA remain as they are currently only co-operating where necessary.

We also agreed that it was essential to list areas where we ought to co-operate for the common good, select some activities where we could anticipate quick wins and implement these to demonstrate to members that we can successfully work together.

Review of Working of NRA/NSC

Thirdly, I have had a very good response from the membership over help with risk reviews and a review of the working of NRA/NSC. During August the Trustees will consider the offers and form a Working Party to progress the work.

There will be other requests for help in due course. One area will concern development of Bisley Camp and the construction of Olympic shooting facilities (assuming the Olympics come to Bisley) as the Trustees do not collectively possess the skills to manage a

project of this size. Another will be development and construction of 300 metres no danger area ranges.

Shooter Certification

Fourthly, on the question of shooter certification, I expect we may be able to make the process less onerous and have started preliminary discussions with the MoD. We are awaiting a written confirmation of changes.

Camp Maintenance

Fifthly, several of you have commented on the lack of maintenance of buildings on Camp. This was an inevitable policy while getting the NRA out of debt. We are now able to do something about this but the initial estimates of costs are in the region of half to one million pounds, so we will need to prioritise the work and complete it over a number of years.

Prizegiving

Lastly, the main Prizegiving takes too long. Should we present Match Rifle prizes after the Elcho and have another prizegiving, say, on Monday evening? What ideas do you have?

That is enough from me and I invite questions and comments from the floor. Please use the microphone in front of the stage and give your name and club.

Questions and Answers

Ms Deitra Kimpton - Mars & Minerva Club

My question is regarding the maintenance of this camp. Sorry to be blunt but it doesn't require a lot of money to actually get some of the people who are working here now to actually do their job because I am sorry I don't think they are. I have been watching what has been going on here. I am the person responsible, by the way, for the sixty-odd photographs that are floating around because I went and took photographs of every single loo and ablution block on this camp last August. And I am going to tell you something, not much has changed,

Applause

It does not require money just to get the people here to actually do the work they are being paid to do and, by the sounds of it, overpaid to do from what I am understanding and that means getting the brooms out, getting something going, actually getting some bleach into the toilets. I am seeing some heads shaking on the dais. I am sorry but it is unacceptable and pretty soon most of us are going to start voting with our feet and we will start voting by saying I am sorry but we are not going to pay our subs for caravans because there are places you can go in this country and you can actually get a good caravan site with flushing toilets, with water services and pay less than what we are paying here. Thank you.

Applause

Chairman

Thank you Deitra for that. I am aware that the toilet issue has been a perennial problem and I had hoped that with a change of contractor doing the work it would be a little bit better. I personally thought it was but perhaps I did not visit all the toilets and I certainly did not visit the any of the ladies' ones. We will put that on the list and it will happen as a high priority.

Ms Deitra Kimpton - Mars & Minerva Club

I want to thank you for the response but the one thing I would say and should have added is that there was an improvement and the company that you hired in to deep clean which I understand was a different company that was brought in briefly to sort of do a blitz particularly after my pictures had arrived inside the office of the NRA. They were the company that you actually had come back and do the regular clean because they actually did know how to clean, it is unfortunate that whoever does the maintenance cleaning right now isn't actually maintaining the same standard. So there were areas in which there was a temporary improvement but I understand that was only a temporary measure. Why can't we get them back?

Ron Matthews - Australia

I arrived here on 20 June, I went into the men's toilets, they were disgusting, absolutely b****y disgusting. I complained to the NRA both to Amanda and to Mr Staples. I showered and then used the toilets of the ladies when my wife and I were the only ones on this range. Now if I could have used the ladies to have a shower then obviously this lady is correct they are b****y disgusting.

Applause

Chairman

Thank you Ron your point is noted.

Phil Harrison - City Rifle Club

I am going to give praise although last year I actually had to abandon my room because it was so filthy and indeed to the point where I had to go home early as a result of asthma due to the amount of dirt and dust. The praise that I want to give is that when I am at Bisley I like to go up to Stickledown and just wander around the Garden of Remembrance and look at the Clock Tower and I did that this evening and I just wanted to congratulate you on the state of the Clock Tower which looks magnificent and I was thrilled to see that either the NRA or the combined Bisley clubs, whichever it was, has actually sorted out the broken wall and the over-growth in the Garden of Remembrance. I would point out that you actually have to move the bushes aside if you want to look at the plaques so perhaps something a little smaller might be nice but can I just say well done.

Applause

Chairman
Thank you.

Stephen Thomas - Central Bankers Rifle Club

I think it is appropriate that we should acknowledge the success of the NRA in making a successful transition from RG to proper ammunition. Thank you very much.

Applause

Chairman

At least so far we have not had a criticism of the ammunition as we have so often had in the past. Is anyone wishing to criticise it? So there are no criticisms of the ammunition.

Ron Matthews - Australia

Mr Chairman, I want some advice from you or your delegates. You are selling ammunition for people to purchase on the rifle range. What happens next year if someone comes with handloaded ammunition with the RUAG case. What stamp are you going to put on the bottom of the cases to prove that they are for next year's competitions. We need a date stamp of some description.

Iain Robertson, TR Representative NRA General Council - RAF Target Rifle Club

Precise details of how we are going to differentiate the ammunition, for obvious reasons, won't be revealed until you see it. However we are acutely aware that there is a likelihood that if we don't do something we will flood the handloading market with high quality brass which may go round and round the loop if we don't date stamp the stuff until it becomes perhaps unsafe, therefore there will be a method of differentiating one batch of ammunition from another for precisely the reasons Mr Matthews identified. It is unwise to say more at this time.

Applause

Nigel Wells - UK Police Fullbore Target Rifle Club

The road show you did yesterday, is it going on the road to the regions ie Yorkshire and further north?

Secretary General

That may well be difficult. As you realise the only way it could be presented is by myself because it would be, shall we say, quite expensive to have our architect wander the world and actually do that presentation. I think at some stage it will go to the regions, you may well see it on television. I will say no more at this stage.

Chairman

Any more questions or comments?

Then I think there is a presentation that Cliff wishes to make.

Cliff Mallett - President of the Jersey Rifle Association

If you don't know me I have been around for rather a long time. As you know it is the 150th Anniversary of the NRA next year and following that in 2011 it is the Jersey Rifle Association 150th year as well. So we decided in our wisdom to present the NRA with a trophy for their 150th year because over the years the help that we have had from the NRA and I go back as far as the 1914-1918 war. After that the NRA gave us rifles to get our sport going again and in 1940-1945 the Channel Islands were the only British territory to be occupied by the Germans.

Secretary General

You have been around a long time.

Cliff Mallett

In 1946 of course we had no rifles they had all disappeared, well not all of them disappeared, some were hidden and the NRA kindly gave us rifles to start the Jersey Rifle Association again and in 1947 the NRA sent a team over to the Channel Islands and they have been coming here ever since and it's great to have them. We don't have to invite them, they know they are coming and they just turn up.

It gives us great pleasure in giving this trophy, it will be awarded in 2011, I know it's premature but what we have done is ask the NRA what they would like it to be shot for and we have come to the agreement that in the Queen's, in the First Stage you get the bronze and in the Second Stage you get the Silver Medal then you get the Gold Badge for the aggregate of the Second and Third Stage but there is nothing for the Third Stage of the Queen's, the top scorer of the Queen's in 900 and 1000 yards, it doesn't have to be the winner, it could be somebody else who makes 150 but nowhere near the winning of it and this is what we want it presented for as the winning highest scorer in the Third Stage of the Queen's.

Applause

I would like to pass this trophy over to Robin for safe keeping; for long after you and I have gone, for many years, it will still be here and will be shot for I am sure.

Chairman

Thank you very much Cliff it is a very generous gesture and it's delightful to receive such a trophy from you and I am sure those who win it will be few in number and will certainly be amongst the best shots in this country and I am sure they will very much enjoy having it on their mantelpiece. Thank you.

Applause

Cliff Mallett

Our prize meeting is, normally, the last weekend in August in every year, the Bank Holiday. We normally

only have four days for it, the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and the team shoot on Sunday.

In 2011 we are making it for the whole week because we are expecting, not all of you, but most of you to come down but the trouble is we only have eight targets so it's going to be spread over a week. We have got our long range and I know we are only 8 x 4 but we still have long range at Jersey; some of the other Great Britain countries haven't. But anyway, we will spread it over a week and anybody who would like to come down please let me know, or teams who would like to come down let myself know or go to our website or contact me via the NRA, they have got my address because they are always asking me for money, in any case so you can contact them for my address. Thank you very much indeed.

Applause

Chairman

Well I know from my own visits to Guernsey or Jersey (*laughter*) to the Channel Islands but particularly to Jersey that it's very enjoyable to visit you and shoot on your ranges and your hospitality is very generous so I am sure you will get a very good turn out in 2011. Thank you very much.

There is, I think, a messenger somewhere here who has a piece of paper which has some information on it that you might be interested in.

Tony Clayton

Mr Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to give you the results of the shooting that took place on my range this afternoon. (*laughter*)

Chairman

Thank you very much Tony

Applause

I do know from looking at various people's scores that some people found it really rather difficult at times so it will be fascinating to see what this has to say.

The NRA Bronze Medal and the NRA Bronze Badge was won by Jon Underwood of the Old Guildfordians with 105 and 17 V bulls.

Applause

For those of you who aren't quite that good:

The lowest qualifying score for the Second Stage is 101 with 7 V bulls, finishing 34 with 4 V bulls so I hope some of you are happy.

I think that then ends the proceedings for this evening so thank you very much for coming and there is clearly a very good turn out and I am grateful to all of you for taking the time to come along. Thank you.

Applause

The meeting closed.

NRA AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME – IMPERIAL MEETING 2009

We used the entry form again this year for firers to seek an Aunt or an Uncle but then contacted the shooter to confirm that they were still interested. This reduced the list from around sixty to just over forty. About a dozen didn't reply at all but, of those who did, they had either ticked the form thinking they were offering their services or the form had been ticked by their coach at school without their knowledge.

I am most grateful to all those who were so kind as to offer to help with this much respected scheme. I had eleven reserve Uncles due to the new system and was able to allocate some during the Meeting if I heard that any young shooters were having problems. One cadet I met on the point said he hadn't asked for help as he thought it was just for shooters on their first Imperial. He was very pleased to hear that it didn't matter how many times he had shot.

Sadly Hamish Tucker passed away just before the Meeting started. Hamish would always ask for several shooters to look after and would devote hours of his time to helping them. His humour and devotion to this scheme will be sorely missed.

The notice board 'The Hub' seemed to work as I often saw notes attached to it showing it was being used for communication between shooters and their Aunts or Uncles. I was also pleased to see so many cadets looking at the board during ISCRM and the Schools' Week which means more young shooters now know about the scheme.

Finally I must thank Tim Elliott for all of his hard work. He certainly made the 'take over' easy for me.

Bruce Roth

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FANTASY TARGET SHOOTING TEAMS

by Soupie

This year saw the return of the Fantasy Target Shooting Teams after a break of some ten years. Initial sales were made by members of Jane Messer's GB team (Canada 2010) but such was the interest that we decided to put a form in everyone's envelope. Sales of results books for the last two years increased at the front desk as the more dedicated did their research. It was clear to many that it was going to be the choice of O class that would decide the winner and many noticed how few of those listed had actually completed a full Grand Aggregate before.

Several shooters had to drop out due to illness and were quickly replaced by 'equivalent' shooters and the information put up on the board by Fulton's. Dr Glynn Barnett had been very upset about being missed off the first selection and in the end he and Jon Underwood replaced Jeremy Langley and Pete Holden. It was interesting to listen to people's ideas on who should be in their teams and who started to become the 'most fantasised' shooters. I produced a list of the top twenty to put on the board and was pleased to see that everyone was chosen by at least someone so there was no 'least fantasised' (one team was called "The only way Nigel Ball will ever be in my fantasy!").

Here are the top ten:

1	J	Cload	England
2	GK	Alexander	Ireland
3	R	McQuillan	Ireland
4	ERT	Jeens	Wales
5	DP	Calvert	Ireland
6	CE	Huxter	Wales
7	AF	Aspin	England
8	NJ	Ball	England
9	JW	Alexander	Ireland
10	TLW	Kidner	Scotland

I must say at this point how unbelievably helpful everyone was in 'stats' and how the whole competition would not have been possible had it not been for all of Bill Richard's help and advice.

Sunday

This took until Monday to work out as it took far longer to enter the teams than I had expected as the entries all arrived at the last moment. In the end it was won by Brian Cambray with his team 'The Harlequins'. He was one of the ones who had gone for Alexander Coetzee from South Africa and Alex Bryson of England as they were the top A and O class from the start.

Monday

I had a bit of a panic on Monday evening when several people had pointed out that the Monday result should be just on Monday's scores not on the Grand to that point. Back to the computer and a new set of results were produced. Thankfully 'Not B Hinde' were still the winners by a decent margin. Coetzee was still a

good shooter to have in your team plus a good selection from Ireland.

Tuesday

This was going to be the closest of all days as there was just the St George's 1st stage to shoot. One clear point put Garnett Faulkner's 'The Duffers' into first place with 'Pass Gas' (Mark Wrigley at a guess) and Queen's Lodge sitting in second and third with more V bulls. Garnett had obviously gone for an Irish flavour to his team and only two of his team had dropped points that day . . . the rest all seemed to have either 75.11 or 75.12.

Wednesday

I was expecting a bit of a shake up with the shooters getting the 'Queen's blues' but Garnett Faulkner's team had no problems on Wednesday either. His choice of Alex Bryson was inspired as he turned out to be the top O class and ended up 17th in the Grand Aggregate. Tim Kidner was surely the safest choice of all as he had won the Grand a few years ago and one would have expected him to be in the XXX class.

Thursday

Well now for the big money. What did it take to choose the winning team? Well clearly all the research was a waste of time as it was won by a non-shooter who Henry Day had wisely sold an entry to. Henry had sold the most (Nigel Ball a close second) and was known to be lucky (didn't he win the OTF mini . . . at least twice?). The winning team was "Marty's Mates" chosen by Martin Benton. Stan Frost came second with "Frost's Folly" and the look on his face when I gave him the money was priceless. Ed Dixon was the happy winner of third place with "Puckle's Posse". Many thanks to the keen board watchers who pointed out the silly errors that occasionally crept in. These were mainly due to Mrs Norman having her son's index number and Jon Underwood getting confused with Van Strien!

Another question I was asked on several occasions after the Grand was over was what the 'perfect' team would have been. It was actually quite easy to pick after the event for the mix of countries didn't cause any problems:

Here is the 'perfect' team:

Underwood	JC	England	XXX	700.091
Barnett	GCD	England	XXX	697.084
Horwood	BA	Jersey	X	696.090
Kidner	TLW	Scotland	X	689.077
Coetzee	A	South Africa	A	688.070
Benest	RA	Jersey	X	687.079
Ward	SP	Wales	A	686.080
Bryson	ACH	England	O	685.069
Johnson	LA	Ireland	O	681.062
Carson	SJ	Ireland	O	679.067

6888.769

THE 2009 BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY COMPETITION

by Tony Di-Domenico

Bisley ranges hosted the annual BAE Systems Inter-Factory shooting competition on 8 and 9 May, a target rifle competition held between the various sites within BAE Systems. This long running event first started in the early 1970s and we have seen one or two sites come and go as the company structure has changed over the years. We were well represented with entries this year, with teams coming from across the country to compete and reflecting the company's broad footprint in its many business areas. This year we welcomed teams and representatives from: Warton (Air Systems), Glascoed (Land Systems), Stevenage (Missiles), Filton (Research), Frimley (Integrated Systems), Portsmouth (Naval Systems) and Leicester (Land Systems).

The company provides significant support for this popular event in the form of Royal Ordnance's 155 grain target ammunition, something that is much appreciated by the competitors, especially considering the cost of ammunition these days. Each year we also ask head office for the services of a Director to present the prizes on the final day and we did indeed secure a Director, but with two weeks to go she was redirected to America on business and was unable to attend. This was a shame, as she was quite looking forward to coming and already knows a number of the Glascoed shooters.

The event has four trophies being competed for - two team trophies and two individual trophies. The first of the team trophies is the Long Range Weybridge Memorial Trophy (commemorating the long-closed factory in Surrey where Concorde was made) and the second is the Short Range Warton Challenge Shield (named after the factory in Lancashire that makes the Typhoon). Each competitor in the team of four shoots two convertible sighting shots and ten scoring shots at each distance to give a team score out of 600. Both competitions are run according to NRA rules. As for the individual trophies we divide the competitors into two categories. Class X is for NRA Class X and A standard competitors and Class M is for rest of us. The first of these trophies is the Summerfield Challenge Trophy (donated by the factory that makes advanced rocket motors) and is awarded to the Class X competitor who achieves the highest combined score in the long and short range competitions. The Glascoed Challenge Trophy (donated by the Welsh factory that manufactures, amongst other things, advanced ammunition) is awarded to the Class M competitor who produces the highest combined score.

This year's competition began with the Weybridge Memorial Trophy on Stickledown range. The weather was very mixed this year, the forecast was windy with showers clearing during the day and that was just what we got. It was bitter on the 800 yards firing point and no one wanted to get down and shoot. After a while

the rain cleared a little and so we braced ourselves and got down to it. The wind is never kind at 800 yards, but was no worse than anyone was expecting. A little daunted, we got cracking and everyone did their best and some very good scores were recorded. Charles Dickenson from Portsmouth, but shooting as a member of Frimley, scored a very impressive 50.7 and there were a few 49s close behind. In the team scores Frimley took a paltry one point lead over Glascoed with 193 out of 200, with Warton just five points behind them.

At 900 yards the wind has more time to make its mark and this is usually reflected in the scores, although many people were only shooting a little down on their 800 yards scores, and yes, the sun was still shining. Again, some good scores were returned with Tony Knokes from Glascoed scoring the only 49 - impressive under the conditions. This time Glascoed produced the best team score of 187, five points ahead of Frimley, who in turn were two points ahead of Warton, which put Glascoed just four points in the lead with just 1000 yards left to shoot.

At 1000 yards the scores were slightly down compared to those at 900 yards, which was not bad under the conditions. Jeremy Tuck from Frimley was top shot, with 48.4. In the team scores Frimley closed the gap to just one point with a score of 179, with Glascoed on 176 and Warton on 174. Thus, Glascoed had retained the Weybridge Memorial Trophy by just a single point with a total score of 555 out of 600. Frimley were a very respectable second on 554 and Warton third on 541.

In the individual competitions in X Class Charles Dickenson (Frimley) took a modest V bull lead over team mate Jeremy Tuck with 143.14. In M Class it was equally as tight. Kevin Miles (Warton) scored 141.12 placing him three points ahead of John Howells (Glascoed).

Saturday saw the Warton Challenge Shield competition on Century range. The weather forecast for today was cloudy and windy and that it surely was. There were no delays in getting started and the scores returned at 300 yards were just as good as had been the case in the long range event the day before. Fred Young



The long range competition on Stickledown.

(Glascoed) scored the only possible with 50.8 but there was no shortage of 49s. In the team scores it was very tight with just one point separating the top four teams with Glascoed taking a one point lead ahead of Warton, Frimley and Glascoed B with a score of 186 ex 200.

At 500 yards the good shooting continued with Charles Dickenson scoring the only possible with 50.8 and again there was a raft of 49s. In the team scores Frimley scored a whopping 195 out of 200 with Warton some nine points behind them and Glascoed one point behind them. In the rankings with just the 600 yards shoot to complete this placed Frimley a comfortable eight points ahead of Warton and Glascoed holding equal second place.

The conditions at 600 yards had started to deteriorate slightly as the wind had become more tricky and challenging and this was reflected in the scores. Charles Dickenson and Fred Young were the top shots both scoring 47.3. In the team scores Frimley and Warton produced the joint highest score of 181, with Glascoed B in third place scoring 175. Thus, the Frimley team won the Warton Challenge Shield by the nine point lead they amassed at 500 yards with a final score of 561, with Warton in second place and Glascoed A in third place, seven points behind them.

In the individual competitions the scores were quite close. In X Class Charles Dickenson and Jeremy Tuck, both from Frimley took the top two places with 145 and



The Glascoed team.

143 respectively. Combining these with the long range scores Charles comfortably retained the Summerfield Challenge Trophy with a combined score of 288.29, with Jeremy on 285.29. Third place was taken by Dave Robinson from Warton with a highly respectable 139.10. In M Class Kevin Miles from Warton was top shot with 141 with John Howells from Glascoed three points behind and team mate Tony Knokes two points behind him. This late rally meant that Tony's lead was cut, but not by enough and he won the Glascoed Challenge Trophy with a score of 281.15, just one point ahead of Kevin Miles, who in turn was just one point ahead of John Howells. How close was that!

One of the reasons the company donates the ammunition is because we are also able to conduct some fairly extensive field tests. With two days of practice and two days of competitions at distances from 300 yards to 1000 yards with 40 or so shooters of varying ability from GB team to club team taking part I'd say that was a pretty comprehensive test. Just looking at the scores there were several possibles. I myself was able to put eight V bulls in a two inch group at 300 yards and I'm not even county level. We had no complaints about the ammunition.

With the shooting done and dusted it was back to the North London Rifle Club for the prize giving and refreshments. This also gave the score-keepers the chance to complete the scores and the chance for a much needed cup of tea and sticky bun before we make the presentations, which we did in the sunshine on the grass outside the NLRC. Life doesn't get much better than this.

Special thanks are due to: Charlie Blakemore (MD Land Systems) for supporting the event, Ian Clay (ROF Commercial Manager) and his team at Radway Green for the supply of 155 grain ammunition, the NRA Armoury for receiving and issuing the ammunition to us and to the North London Rifle Club for their catering and support, without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to 2010.



Jo Scrimshaw

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ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2008/2009

**by Elected Ordinary, Regional, Shooting Discipline and Co-opted Members
of the General Council from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009**

	General Council	Council	Shooting	Membership	
No of meetings	3	7	2	2	
Alexander GK	3	x	x	2	(O)
Bailie HRM	3	x	x	x	(R)
Barnard GV	3	x	2	x	(R)
Bennett Mrs ID	3	x	x	x	(R)
Black MJ	0	x	x	x	(R)
Bloomfield JPS	2	x	x	x	(O)
Brooks CM	2	x	x	x	(O)
Calvert Wg Cdr DP	2	x	2	x	(O)
Cargill Thompson Dr A	3	x	2	x	(SD)
Carmichael JH	2	x	2	x	(O)
Clayton ARK	2	x	x	x	(O)
Coley PR	3	x	x	x	(R)
Farr CN	3	x	x	1	(C)
Farnan Maj MG	2	x	x	x	(O)
Frank DT	0	1	x	x	(T)
Gardener EJ	2	x	x	x	(O)
Gilpin GMLN	2	x	x	x	(O)
Hartwell JEM	2	6	x	x	(T)
Haszlakiewicz MJC	2	7	x	x	(C/T)
Holmes JM	0	0	x	x	(T)
Horrocks Prof AR	3	x	2	x	(O)
Hunter P	1	x	1	x	(SD)
Jones MP M	0	x	x	x	(C)
Kapoor J	0	x	x	x	(C)
Kidner TLW	0	x	x	x	(R)
Kynoch JM	3	x	2	x	(D)
Larcombe GAE	1	x	x	x	(R)
Law CD	1	x	x	x	(R)
Mabbot D	0	1	x	x	(T)
Maksimovic M	3	5	x	2	(O/T)
Malins MP H	0	x	x	x	(C)
Monaghan Dr P	2	3	1	x	(SD/T)
Murton CJ	3	7	2	x	(SD/T)
Pizer Dr R	2	2	x	x	(C/T)
Ragg JC	0	5	x	x	(T)
Richards BWD	2	3	x	x	(C/T)
Robertson Flt Lt IW	3	x	2	x	(O/SD)
Robertson Mrs KD	3	x	x	2	(O)
Scrimshaw Miss J	1	x	x	x	(R)
Shirra Gibb I	2	x	2	x	(SD)
Spittles D	0	x	1	x	(SD)
Warburton Dr JD	2	x	x	x	(R)
Watkins MP	0	x	x	x	(R)
Watson JA	1	6	x	2	(O/T)
Watt DD	2	x	x	x	(R)
Welford Miss AJ	2	x	x	x	(O)
Wills RHF	3	x	2	x	(SD)
Young DG	1	7	x	x	(R/T)

x = not a member of that committee

(C) = Co-opted Member

(O) = Ordinary Member

(SD) = Shooting Discipline Member

(T) = Trustee

(R) = Regional Member

NRA COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Mr CJ Murton	<i>Vice-Chairman (Elected)</i>
Mr DT Frank	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr MJC Hasztrakiewicz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr D Mabbott	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mr JC Ragg	<i>Co-opted</i>
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Chairman Shooting Committee</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Chairman Membership Committee</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Elected</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>

Audit Committee

Mr MJC Hasztrakiewicz	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JC Ragg	

Remuneration Committee

Mr CJ Murton	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr SCW Dixon	
Mr DG Young	

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Mr MJC Hasztrakiewicz	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr D Mabbott	
Mr B Pollard	<i>(in attendance)</i>

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Mr DT Argent	
Mr M Maksimovic	
Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	
Mr B Pollard	<i>Secretary/Director</i>
Mr JE Staples	<i>Managing Director</i>

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Prof AR Horrocks	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Mr MJC Hasztrakiewicz	<i>Treasurer</i>	
Mr GK Alexander	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr HRM Bailie	<i>Regional - Northern Ireland</i>	
Mr GV Barnard	<i>Regional - East Midlands</i>	
Mrs ID Bennett	<i>Regional - West Midlands</i>	
Mr MJM Black	<i>Regional - Northern</i>	
Mr JPS Bloomfield	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr T Bobbett	<i>CPSA</i>	
Col (Ret'd) WGC Bowles	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>	
Mr CM Brooks	<i>Elected</i>	
Flt Lt DP Calvert	<i>Elected</i>	
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson	<i>Discipline - Match Rifle</i>	
Mr JH Carmichael	<i>Elected</i>	
Lt Col ARK Clayton	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr PR Coley	<i>Regional - South Western</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i>	
Maj MG Farnan	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr CN Farr	<i>Discipline - Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>	

Mr EJ Gardener	<i>Elected</i>
Mr GMLN Gilpin	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain</i>
Mr PH Hobson	<i>Discipline - F Class</i>
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	<i>Welsh Target Shooting Federation</i>
Lt Col L Holley	<i>Army Rifle Association</i>
Mr P Hunter	<i>Discipline - Practical Rifle</i>
Mr MD Jones MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr J Kapoor	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr TLW Kidner	<i>Regional - Scotland</i>
Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Discipline - Sporting Rifle</i>
Mr GAE Larcombe	<i>Regional - Southern</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mr HJ Malins MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr CC Mallett (Jnr)	<i>Jersey Rifle Association</i>
Mr MF Martel	<i>Guernsey Rifle Association</i>
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr K Nash	<i>National Small-bore Rifle Association</i>
Sqn Ldr RE Nott	<i>Royal Air Force Small Arms Association</i>
Col WG O'Leary	<i>Territorial Army Rifle Association</i>
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Discipline - Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Mrs KD Robertson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr AJD Saunders	<i>English Target Shooting Federation</i>
Miss J Scrimshaw	<i>Regional - London & SE</i>
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>Discipline - 300 Metres</i>
Brig JR Smales	<i>Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting</i>
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Discipline - Muzzle Loading</i>
Wg Cdr M Symonds	<i>Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee</i>
Dr JD Warburton	<i>Regional - Yorks/Humberside</i>
Mr MP Watkins	<i>Regional - Wales</i>
Mr J Watson	<i>British Sporting Rifle Club</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr DD Watt	<i>Regional - Eastern</i>
Miss AJ Welford	<i>Elected</i>
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Discipline - Classic Arms</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Regional - North Western</i>

Committees of the General Council Shooting Committee

Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Mr GV Barnard		
Mr JPS Bloomfield		
Flt Lt DP Calvert		
Mr JH Carmichael		
Lt Col ARK Clayton		
Maj SH Cox		
Lt Col L Holley		
Mr GAE Larcombe		
Mr P Quilliam	<i>Co-opted</i>	
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson	<i>Match Rifle</i>	
Mr CN Farr	<i>Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>	
Mr PH Hobson	<i>F Class</i>	

Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Sporting Rifle</i>
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Muzzle Loading</i>
Mr P Hunter	<i>Practical Rifle</i>
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>300 Metres</i>
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Classic Arms</i>
Mr MK Townsend	<i>TFC</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JPS Bloomfield	
Dr JDS Langley	
Mr GAE Larcombe	
Mr RJ McQuillan	

Match Rifle and Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson	<i>Chairman</i>
Mrs LJ Brister	
Mr JMB Baillie-Hamilton	
Mr MK Townsend	
Mr CN Tremlett	
Mr AR Campbell-Smith	
Mr JM Kynoch	
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>

F Class Sub-Committee

Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr GV Barnard	
Mr C Cuthbert	
Mr P Hobson	
Mr D Kent	
Mr D Parr	
Mr D Stewart	

Pistol and Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee

Mr CN Farr	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr C Bestwick	
Mr A Dagger	
Mr N Francis	
Mrs S Philcox	
Mr G Roberts	
Mr B Thomas	
Mr WDC Wilcox	

Classics Sub-Committee

Mr RHF Wills	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr DK Mumford	<i>Secretary</i>

Representatives invited from:

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

Other Co-opted members by invitation

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

Schools Sub-Committee

Maj S Cox	<i>Chairman</i>
Lt Col ARK Clayton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Capt PJ Farnan	<i>Co-opted</i>
Lt ADE Grounds	<i>Greshams</i>
Maj SJ Pattinson	<i>Co-opted</i>

Maj AR Penfold	<i>Tonbridge</i>
Capt JRW Postle	<i>Blundells</i>
Mr O Shepherd	<i>CCF Association</i>
Capt CA Stewart	<i>Dollar Academy</i>
Brig JR Smales	<i>Chairman CCRS</i>
Lt Col NS Suffield-Jones	<i>Athelings</i>
Capt NE Topham	<i>Oratory</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Maj SB Fraser	<i>Secretary</i>

Teams Finance Sub-Committee

Mr MK Townsend	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr GK Alexander	
Dr JR Deane	
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	
Mr RM Hodgins	
Mr JDI Hossack	
Mr RCT Jeens	
Mr JWE Lewis	
Mrs MJ Pearse	
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	
Mr RWH Stafford	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr CN Tremlett	
Miss AJ Welford	
Mr ER Welford	
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>

Membership Committee

Mr JA Watson	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr GK Alexander	
Mr CN Farr	
Miss F Hinson	<i>Co-opted</i>
Miss S Lohmann	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	
Mrs KD Robertson	
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr CDR Webb	<i>Regional Manager</i>
Mrs HL Webb	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>

Disciplinary Committee

Mr JM Holmes	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr HRM Bailie	
Mr CM Brooks	
Flt Lt DP Calvert	
Mr DGF Evans	
Miss MF Gooden	
Lt Col CST Lehman	
Mr CN McEachran	
Mr RM Mott	
Mr RHF Wills	
Mr MJ Wood	

Bisley Facilities Advisory Group

Mr RHF Wills	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr HRM Bailie	
Mrs ID Bennett	
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	
Mr ND Anderson	

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

NEW TRUSTEES

David Frank - Co-opted

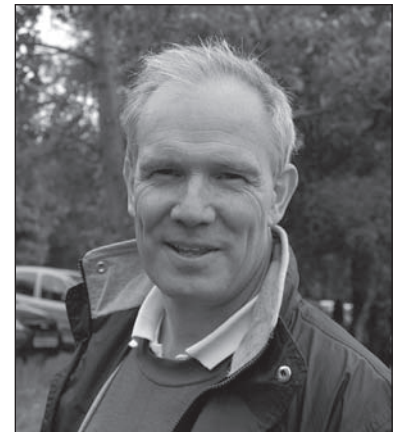
David Frank first came to Bisley in 1972 as a member of the Shrewsbury Ashburton team. At that time he had ambitions of following in the footsteps of his great grandfather who had first represented Cheltenham in the Ashburton exactly one hundred years earlier (winning the Spencer Cup that year) and who went on to represent Scotland in the Elcho Shield six times and Great Britain in the Olympic Games of 1908. Unfortunately work got in the way of these ambitions but he remains a keen (if inaccurate) enthusiast.



David joined Slaughter and May, the City law firm, in 1977 and spent his entire professional career there, becoming a partner in 1986 and head of the firm's capital markets practice in 1993. His clients included multi-national companies, private equity houses and investment banks both in the UK and overseas. In 2001 he was appointed the firm's Practice Partner with responsibility for the firm's international strategy and practice development. He retired from practice in 2008 and now has a portfolio of charitable interests, ranging from hospital guilds to community foundations and universities.

Iain Robertson - Chairman of the Shooting Committee

Iain first came to Bisley for the RAF Skill-at-Arms Meeting in 1979. In amongst the machine guns, somebody gave him an L39 and said "just treat it like a .22". One split lip and a lost tie-shoot later and Iain was hooked. Unfortunately the fag packet that he kept his first score on the back of does not survive. Iain's shooting career developed with the RAF Target Rifle Club, gaining his first Queen's Badge in 1985, his first overseas tour in 1987, his first appearance for Scotland in 1988, his first GB cap in 2002, and his first ride in a winner's chair in Namibia in 2004.



Iain joined the RAF as an engineer, but very quickly realised that flying was more fun. He has spent most of his career as a Search and Rescue helicopter pilot. For the last 10 years he has worked in Operational Test and Evaluation, investigating technical issues and assessing new equipment. He took an OU degree in Law in 2000 - 2004, which led indirectly to his being co-opted to General Council and the Disciplinary Committee. To gain legitimacy on General Council, he stood for election as an ordinary member, and more recently as Discipline Representative for Target Rifle. He was elected Chairman of the Shooting Committee in September, and thus a Trustee *ex officio*.

Iain is married to Karen – Journal Editor and Useful Person@NRA. They spend far too much time at Bisley.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY

With our 150th Anniversary celebrations next year, the National Rifle Association has many opportunities for advertising and sponsorship during the Imperial Meeting and our other Flagship events.

There are many competitions available for sponsorship with a wide range of benefits for your company or organisation.

Other opportunities available include score card advertising, advertising in the NRA Journal and other publications, promotional literature distribution, banner placement, trade stands and corporate hospitality.

If you would be interested in advertising or sponsorship please contact Karen Robertson for more details.

karen@nra.org.uk

01483 797777 ext 146

OLD GUILDFORDIANS RIFLE CLUB - A QUINCENTENARY TO REMEMBER

by Matt Charlton

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford, was founded in 1509 after Robert Becketingham left an order in his will for a free school to be established in Guildford. In 1552, King Edward VI of England ordered that there was to be his Free Grammar School for the education, institution and instruction of boys and youths in grammar at all future times forever to endure. In the following 480 years or so not much happened of note, other than the schoolboys' invention of cricket, an alumnus joining Monty Python and John Crathorne serving as master of shooting for about 200 years. In the late 1980s a bunch of like-minded chaps who were rather good at shooting and shared schoolboy humour (as they do to this day) founded the Old Guildfordians Rifle Club, also for all future times forever to endure. By early this new Millennium our members were ready for pastures and challenges new through a South Africa tour in celebration of 80 years of SABU and 500 years of the RGS. The objective: to represent OGRC proudly in all team matches for which we were eligible, competing in particular for the new Old Guildfordians Quincentenary Salver in the Open Clubs Championship.

So began our tour pamphlet for the first Old Guildfordians Rifle Club overseas tour, with the school's quincentenary serving as inspiration for the Old Guildfordians to raise their game not just in South Africa but also back at Bisley in July, on which more shortly.

South Africa

As a school old boys' team, we all know each other rather well. The tour, and the season, were always going to be all about the team and not about individual performances, and to that end we planned a trip that gave most of us two weeks in South Africa, with one week's shooting that culminated with the last of the six man club team matches. They were what we were there to try and win, and a lot of other competitors seemed surprised that we had no interest in shooting two more days to complete the Grand or four more for the State President's when there was Africa to see!

Along similar lines, our approach to Cape Town differed from those of the Irish and Welsh teams. They shot there. For us, that glorious city was an integral part of the OGs training regime, to help us cope with the intensive social demands of Bloemfontein. Very important for a team, of whose members half had only been shooting (and having post-shoot drinks) a couple of times a year . . . Among them were Chris Dawes, who hoped not to be chased by an elephant this time; and Graham Atkinson, who sought refuge in the team environment, having lost ten consecutive tie shoots on his last tour (with GB 18 years earlier). Both were on fine social form after sundowners in Camps Bay.

While we were up Table Mountain, having scaled it at some pace to help work some of the, er, fluids out of our system, we learned that Lizzie Barr, our first touring Rule 4c member (ladies, feel free to enquire about the initiation), was having a tough time getting to Bloemfontein after the airline decided it didn't want to take her rifle. That didn't bode well for the rest of the team travelling a day later but Rupert Dix managed to sweet-talk the guns through, at no cost.

Upon arrival in Bloemfontein, we met up with our tour Captain, Jon Underwood and the English XX team who were dining nearby, before proceeding straight into the Free State individual matches as a warm-up for the first key shoot – the SABU 80th Anniversary Match. We were entered in the eight man teams match as a 'pure' old boys' VIII which included the English team's Adjutant Derek Lowe in his sole appearance for us. Our performance was mixed at short range on the first day and even more so at long range on day two, but as we learned at the fine reception in the evening (where we presented the OG Salver for the aggregate of the Dewar, Hamilton and Rhodes team matches), we had managed to defeat all the South African provincial teams to win the match. We were also surprised to find that, at short range, we had also beaten all the home nations . . . even England!

One of the early highlights of the individual shooting was Rupert Dix (famed at school for his unconventional shooting exploits with Charlie V) shooting on target 15, but with his scope trained on target 25. Register keeper Richard Jeens was surprised when Roo tried to convert what he had thought were bullseye sighters – in fact they were a pair of 2s!

The first of the club team matches was preceded by a little controversy when Bernand de Beer announced that the matches were intended to be for genuine grass-roots clubs rather than for what he called "super-clubs", or umbrella clubs for entire international teams. We had understood that to be the case before travelling, the other teams (Welsh and Irish aside) apparently not, but



all we could do was go out and try and beat whoever else entered. The South African clubs were perfectly strong enough to worry about already! Our ambitions looked like they might be too elevated when we shot the Dewar Shield and performed quite unremarkably at 300 and 600m, which saw us just inside the top ten of over 40 club and national teams with 583 out of 600 points. The USA's 'A' team won that match, nine points ahead of us, and would surely be the benchmark for the remaining club matches despite our previously held belief that they were, in fact, a country!

Sunday was a rest day, so Saturday was the one really big night out, with most of the OGs taking over (along with the various Home Nations) the dance floor at 2nd Avenue . . . but not Rupert and Ally, who were last seen getting into a blacked out Range Rover with a group of heavies in the early hours. They returned to the hotel safe and sound by 10 o'clock, much to our relief, while a contingent went to see the Great Hole at Kimberley, led by Simon Cane, who used to work in South Africa as a gold miner.

The second clubs match, the Hamilton Cup held on Monday, was probably the Old Guildfordians' finest ever shoot. Mixing a very lengthy wait, for wind and light conditions to return, with some good and quick shooting, we somehow contrived to break the match record over an Astor course of fire at 300, 500 and 600m to win the match with 627 out of 630 points and 70 V bulls to Spesbona's 60, earning the congratulations of many of our very distinguished opponents. Oh to be able to produce such a shoot in the Astor! We were overjoyed to have shot so well and to have beaten the other clubs and the USA, but knew we still had a seemingly insurmountable eight points to make up on the Americans in the Rhodes to win overall.

The third clubs match (the Rhodes Cup at 800 and 900m) followed on Tuesday, after a late-ish evening at the Lettie Fouche school reception at which the charity auctioneer had appeared intent on putting people off bidding! With coaching from Matt Charlton (whose previous SA experience allegedly included converting V, 5 sighters with an intervening 5 minute change . . . in elevation!), the team finished both ranges very quickly indeed and watched the remaining teams shooting while the OGs enjoyed beverages provided by "Gin Wallah" Graham Atkinson. In scoring 10 points more than the previous year's BCRC (Great Britain) team, the OGs equalled the record score of 594 out of 600. However, we were overhauled (by a point) by a fine performance from Witwatersrand RC, eventually finishing second.

The overall scoring was unclear at that point because so many teams had been in the running for the SA Open Clubs Championship. We knew that we had overtaken Spesbona but it was going to be close against Wits and the Americans when the aggregate scores were tallied. After a miscalculation (awarding them one of our scores) initially saw the Old Guildfordians



Quincentenary Salver awarded to Baviaanspoort, the correct totals were eventually revealed to be very close:

1	Old Guildfordians RC	1804.188 (ex 1830)
2	Witwatersrand RC	1803.184
3	United States of America	1802.188

Naturally we were rather pleased!

Most of us left Bloemfontein at that point rather than continuing with the remaining individual matches, going, variously, on excellent safaris, back to Cape Town or onto the Garden Route, where David was found by some of the others soaking in a hot tub, having consumed three complete mini-bar fridges while waiting for them. Jon Underwood stayed on though, finishing second in the Grand Aggregate. Matt Ensor, who travelled, shot and coached with the England team, won two individual competitions, which we hope makes up for any disappointment in having gone to SA with England rather than the OGs!

Our thanks go to Bernand de Beer, Syd Gosling, Jeanette Burger and their teams, as well as to the English team for transporting our ammunition, the Scots for being good neighbours in the hotel, Paul Wheeler for organising much of the trip and the OGA for providing team kit. We hope that the existence of the Salver will prompt more club teams to tour to South Africa for what amounts not just to great competition but also to excellent early season warm weather training!

Bisley

The fruits of that were to be seen a couple of months later. Back at home, the OGs returned to the stewardship of Club Captain Archie Whicher, whose claims to fame include outshooting even Glyn (a different sort of OG) in the Channel Islands and having lost the most girlfriends to other school team members. He was keen to see the OGs capitalise on their SA experience and so it proved when, in June, they beat Wandsworth by one point and Old Epsomians by two to win the Civilian Cup, before coming from behind

in the Surrey heat of the Astor County Championship to win, again, by only one point – this time from the Old Epsomians with Wandsworth a further point back in third place. Finishing fifteen minutes before everyone else made for a nervous wait for the team, with Pete Savage joining six of the touring contingent to good effect.

That set the scene for the Imperial Meeting, with two key matches on the first two days: the Schools Veterans and the Astor Final.

The Veterans was its usual fraught affair, with firing point mobile phone rules meaning a lack of certainty about who would turn up in time and resulting in a late change to Archie's would-be perfect team selection. He sent Derek Lowe down to shoot for the 'A' team, demoting slightly tardy Simon Cane to the 'B' team, only for Simon to turn up immediately after Derek had started shooting. Simon put in a 50.7, Derek a 49.5, but no matter: as it turned out later, the 'A' team's 249.40 was enough to win the huge Schools Veterans shield by seven V bulls, with Underwood (50.10), Armstrong (50.9), Whicher (50.9) and Dix (50.7) the firers who went clean.

What's more, Simon's effort was not wasted, as teammates Savage (50.7) Dawes (49.7) and Wheeler (49.7) dropped only two between them for the 'B' team. That left Charlton, who sauntered onto the range with 15 minutes of the match remaining, calmly cleaned his rifle on the firing point (earning the 'tit of the day' award that had somehow eluded him in South Africa) and scored 50.5 for the 'B' team to win by two points with 248.33 – as good as the fifth placed 'A' team.

The Schools Veterans was followed, as ever, by the OG barbecue and AGM, which didn't exactly end early but did at least keep people out of trouble before the next morning's early start for the Astor Final.

The Astor team (Charlton and Dix coaching, Armstrong, Whicher, Lowe, Underwood, Ensor and Wheeler shooting) started decently if unspectacularly at 300 yards, dropping two points to trail Dungannon by one. Following the addition of plotters at 500 yards, the team dropped a further three to trail by two, requiring a strong last range if we were to have a chance of winning a match in which we had previously finished second and third but never first. 600 yards was a great shoot, with just one more point going begging – good enough that we could be satisfied with our performance and a score of 624.80, our best on home soil over that course of fire! The only other register cards we saw before hearing the results contained scores of 623 and another 624 from Newcastle, who had cleaned 600, so we were not altogether confident of having won until we heard their names read out in third and second places respectively. Yippee!

Archie had got his selection right again (not an OG strength prior to this year) and that was repeated once more in the Rifle Clubs, in which a team comprising

Underwood (105.17), Armstrong (104.11), Whicher (103.9) and current Atheling Rob Hyndman (103.15) triumphed with 415.52.

That left a week of individual shooting, into which everyone went more confidently than usual – apart from Jon, who always goes into it very confidently indeed. He had a pretty decent week, adding a second Grand Aggregate to his collection after a 75.11 in the Prince of Wales ended Glyn Barnett's strong challenge. Jon also won the Aiden Reece, All Comers' Agg, British Open TR Championship, Century Range Agg, Donaldson Agg, Fulton Agg, Hobson Agg, Imperial Security Products Agg, Lord Tedder Agg, Marjorie Keir Agg, Northland Agg, OTF Short Range, Queen's Bronze Medal, Toye, Kenning & Spencer Agg, Wednesday Agg and came seventh in the Queen's . . . and he added the Schools Veterans Individual Tankard (50.10/25.3) after the first team tie shoot in memory, with Matt coaching and Roo plotting versus Ian Shaw and the coach/plotter combination of Paul Kent and Toby Raincock and a bagpiper seemingly completing the OE team in the background. Well done Jon!

Meanwhile David Armstrong, best known for having reversed his Mini over the school's rifles in the 1980s not long before he tie-shot for the Queen's, came eighth in the Grand . . . his shooting had been good enough for second but sadly five points had been deducted for a trigger failure, in which circumstances eighth was quite remarkable.

That was all made up for, however, when David learned on Thursday afternoon that he was to be one of four OGs – quadruple our previous highest representation – in the Great Britain team for the Kolapore, alongside Jon Underwood and coaches Matt Charlton and Matt Ensor. We hope former shooting master Peter Hicks was proud when he took the official photo.

What a great way to round out a superb Quincentenary year for the Old Guildfordians – delighted, and pleasantly surprised, champions of Britain and South Africa! We can only hope our exploits inspire more current and recent pupils to join us and carry on shooting after leaving school.



LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RELOADED!

by Phil Harrison

Avid readers of this distinguished publication may remember (NRA Journal, Spring 2009) the reminiscences of the LMRA 2008 Tour of the West Indies. Among many anecdotes were the news that Andrew Wilde had carried all before him to win the 2008 WI individual title, and that LMRA members had conducted a brief coaching seminar for the fledgling Antiguan Fullbore Rifle Team which had only recently been formed. This had been well received and it was mentioned that further coaching would be welcome in Antigua, as would a visit to the Antiguan Range at Crabb Point, then in the very early stages of reconstruction. There was an LMRA view too – also formed in 2008 – that Antiguan “English Harbour 5 year-old” rum was quite the best rum to be had in the West Indies.

Correspondence between Dick Winney and Phil Harrison crystallised the idea of going to Antigua to conduct a week of training and shooting, followed by an appearance at the WI Championship in Trinidad and then by some R&R in Tobago. Even better, Ric Melling (our Anglo-Canadian member), David and Joan Robinson, and Andrew Wilde – all members of the 2008 team – seemed to think this was a good idea, though the Robinsons and Andrew elected to join up for the Championships only. The LMRA was gracious enough to accredit an extension of the 2008 team since the personnel were essentially the same.

Dick and Phil (together with wives Helen and Jenny) flew out from Gatwick on 3 May (British Airways in a Boeing 777 under the command of – you’ve guessed it – Captain Morgan!) to be met at Antigua Airport by Rick Melling (who had arrived the day before from Toronto), by Sergeant Warner from the Antiguan Police Service and Ivor Gomes from the Rifle Association who between them extracted the visitors from the Immigration queue and the rifles from Customs with great efficiency. The rifles were taken to Police HQ where they were instantly unpacked and dried: last year’s experience with the formation of condensation on rifles taken direct from the cold of the aircraft hold was fresh in our memory. Sergeant Warner and his police team ensured that the rifles were conveyed wherever and whenever wanted in the subsequent week with exemplary efficiency. We were then conveyed to the Galleon Beach Hotel on the south coast of the island, a five minute water-taxi ride from English Harbour and the historic Nelson’s Dockyard site, and settled in our waterside apartment. The evening was spent at a ‘meet and greet’ generously supplied by our hosts at which the Chief of Defence Staff (Col A Thomas), the Commissioner of the Royal Antiguan Police (Thomas Bennet) and the Chairman of the Antiguan Olympic Committee were among the guests of honour.

No rest for the wicked! The very next day we were on duty at 09:00 (Caribbean time, so say 09:45) with a full morning of presentations and an afternoon spent on the range on the elementary exercises of getting down properly to shoot, correcting sighters to the centre and grouping. Not only were we helping to train the Rifle Association members, we found we were training the Police and Army Marksmanship Units also! As is always the case, the goodwill of police and army are essential to the wellbeing of shooting so we were happy with the arrangement and the Police and Army were, for their part, attentive students, keen to learn the basics which apply to all shooting activities.

Crabb Point is an ex-US naval base which had the hitherto derelict infrastructure of a gallery range to 600 yards, together with a training classroom where we could teach, and a dining room where the Army could serve the field rations brought out by them at lunchtime. In 2008 we were told that there were eight fixed targets available which, for obvious reasons, were marked after each volley of eight shots! In the year starting summer 2008 – galvanised perhaps by the threat of our visit – the range had been graded, new firing points built, target frame infrastructure put in place and seven sash-window style frames (manufactured from scratch by “Christmas” Joseph) installed, with space for three more. The buttstop had been augmented by a deep layer of coarse sand at the appropriate locations. This was a huge labour, carried out principally by the members of the Association and is one of the most remarkable feats of ‘self-help’ the author has seen. Where there’s a will there’s a way and it reflects very creditably on the Antigua and Barbuda Rifle Association.

On Tuesday Phil was up early to appear on Antiguan breakfast television, after which we had time off in the day to visit Nelson’s Dockyard where the great man spent a while as Captain of HMS Boreas enforcing very unpopular trade control legislation, eventually being sued for his pains and compelled to remain on board his ship for his personal safety. We then provided an evening session for our students in the unusual surroundings of a Wesleyan Church Hall, courtesy of our good friend and Antiguan shooter Reverend Olson Daniel (“Preacher” to all).

Wednesday was a teaching and range day with Ric Melling providing an extra shoot under Canadian Sniper Match conditions for the Army and Police in the afternoon. This proved to be a real eye-opener for the participants.

Olson Daniel and Ivor Gomes kindly gave up Thursday to conduct us on a tour of the island, including the abandoned sugar mill at Betty’s Hope (the last on the island to have its woodwork and mechanisms in



Michael Greenaway, Dick Winney, Phil Harrison, Anderson Perry, 'Preacher' Daniel, Ivor Gomes, 'Lazarus' Mailes, 'Duki' Dukiram, Lorne Benjamin, 'Christmas' Joseph.

The new targets.



Col Thomas fires the ceremonial opening shot.



LMRA get their medals.

(Photos: P Harrison, R Winney, M Simon)

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place), and the very spectacular Devil's Bridge – a rock arch over the sea formed by wave action. Jenny and Phil crossed over . . . the others adopted the discretionary part of valour.

Two further training days followed with a full match shoot conducted on Saturday at which Col Thomas fired a ceremonial first shot on the new range, euphemistically described as an “inner – five!” Teams each consisted of three Antiguan and one LMRA (who did not coach) and a gratifyingly close result eventuated. The three LMRA shooters beat the best three Antiguan by four points, aided by Dick Winney's 148.19 which may stand as a range record for some time. Gifts were exchanged and it was remarked how rapidly the DalWinney whisky seemed to evaporate when surrounded by shooters!

Scores

Anderson Perry	
Rev Olsen Daniel	
Lourne Benjamin	
Ric Melling	541.34
Ivor Gomes	
'Duki' Dukiram	
Capt Alando Michael	
Dick Winney	534.36
Christmas Joseph	
Thomas Greenaway	
'Lazarus' Maile	
Phil Harrison	534.32

The two teams met again at the airport on Sunday for the flight to Trinidad for the Championship. On arrival there was some Trinidadian discomfort apparent: the meeting arrangements for the Robinsons and Andrew Wilde had gone astray earlier in the day (resulting in the detention of David's rifle by Customs), and we had been expected at a different time from that given on our briefing sheet to our hosts. After a long journey and a very impromptu supper at a local burger bar we finally arrived at the splendid Crews Inn Marina Hotel (where we had stayed in 2008) well after 23:00. Worse was to follow . . .

We arrived on the range in time for practice on Monday morning. Unfortunately the ammunition did not, the meeting batch of Hornady skulking in some US facility or other from whence it could not be persuaded to sally forth. After a couple of hours, there was a call for “Team Captains gather here . . .” A very embarrassed Norris Gomez explained the situation: there was just enough Hornady already on the island for the team matches and ten rounds practice per shooter, and ammunition would be obtained from the Trinidad Defence Force for the individual if it proved impossible to shift the log-jam in the US. Meanwhile, the day would be declared a rest day (in lieu of Saturday) and the team matches would be brought forward to precede the individual to maximise the

chances of getting the Hornady delivered. So we all went back to our various hotels and reconvened in the evening for a magnificent ‘Meet and Greet’ spread at Norris and Gabi's home in Port of Spain. LMRA Captain Dick Winney presented a new trophy – the LMRA “Bull” – to the WI Federation for a teams of four match to be shot at this and future Championships.

Resourcefully, the TRA did indeed organise a batch of ammunition from the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force . . . Israeli Military TZ 1984! So, on Tuesday the teams used their practice allocation of Hornady together with some TZ 84. TZ 84 gave results similar to a poor batch of RG 144 grain of similar vintage and scores redolent of the .303 era) so the LMRA felt at home. The following day the teams of four match was shot at 300 and 600 yards; eleven teams took part. It was a closely-fought affair, in which LMRA failed to win their trophy, coming third in a close match. Andrew Wilde, who is interested in such matters, reported that the temperature had peaked at 98° Fahrenheit, which surprised no-one who had been exposed to it.

Scores

1	Trinidad	380.41
2	Guyana	378.40
3	LMRA	377.33
4	Jamaica	376.31

Thursday was set aside for the WI Championship teams match. As there were exactly ten targets on the range for the five WI teams, LMRA declined a very kind offer to add a second detail to allow us to shoot – which would have been very disruptive – and retired to Maracas Beach and the well known culinary delights of Richard's Shark 'n' Bake. However, care was taken to return via the range in time to see the climax of the match, with the defending champions, Guyana, keeping their crown by a narrow margin over the hosts. The good news was that the LMRA's protégés, Antigua, beat Barbados with a performance much improved over their 2008 efforts and, pleasingly, with none of the beginners' errors which we had worked to eradicate the week before. The bad news was . . . TZ 84 for the individual tomorrow. Though a



Three left . . . or is it three right?

few visiting WI tigers declined to shoot, LMRA made a clear statement that we had come to shoot, and shoot we would, and pretty well everyone followed suit.

The individual consisted of three 300, 500 and 600 courses of fire (there being no long range in Trinidad), one on each of three very hot days. This was sufficient to allow everyone to have their share of doubtful rounds, and for the best man to be seen to have won. Very accurate group centering was the order of the day, and at least there were no RG "droppers" into the white to be had: the worst you'd get was a 6 o'clock inner (maybe a magpie if you were very unlucky). The wind on the range was extremely tricky, entering diagonally from behind and bouncing to and fro off the thick vegetation each side of the range and this made a substantial contribution to the interest of the event.

In Andrew Wilde, LMRA had the defending champion, and he remained in contention until the ninth and final shoot (having won the Day 2 Aggregate outright), using a rifle borrowed from Ric Melling. At the death, he had the misfortune to be squadded on the most exposed target on the range, and collected a "TZer" at an inopportune moment, ultimately finishing third. Ric, using his other rifle made steady and unspectacular progress each day, including second highest score in that same ninth shoot, to finish in fourth place, a single V bull behind Andrew. The winner was Richard Awong from Trinidad, followed

by Jose Nunes from Jamaica, a single point ahead of Andrew.

Proceedings were brought to a close by a chicken curry meal on the range followed by the prize giving and exchange of gifts – invariably liquid! The whisky provided by the LMRA was particularly prized. Our Antiguan friends, emboldened and encouraged by our work of the week before, announced that they had bid for the 2010 WI Championships on their new range – though an award for 2011 seems more likely as long range will be required in the Commonwealth Games run-up in 2010. This surge of confidence proved a gratifying reward for a week's hard work on our part.

Monday was spent at the heights of Fort George below which the whole of Port of Spain is laid out in panorama, together with the inevitable visit to the Caroni swamps to see the spectacular scarlet Ibis (now alas in substantial decline), the mangrove swamps and, to Phil's discomfort, the snakes in the trees overhead!

On Tuesday our guide and friend Marc Homer of the TRA supervised our easy departure through Trinidad customs for our five days R&R in Tobago – of little interest to you, dear reader, since you would otherwise become jealous - except to record that the Tobago Police looked after the rifles with the least administrative fuss that your writer has ever experienced.

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1989 ATHELINGS REUNION

by Alex Henderson



Most of you will have forgotten the unfortunate series of bomb scares that punctuated the Imperial Meeting in 1989, and the rest of you were probably not born yet. However, for eighteen school leavers 1989 was always going to be unique, and these scares gave it an identity. The 1989 Athelings' "Bombscare Tour" was therefore born. This year saw the twentieth anniversary of this tour, so Bisley was once again invaded by the same crew, some of whom you would have recognised (Glyn Barnett, Alex Henderson, Rupert Riley, Andy Sturrock and Bruce Winney being the more familiar faces about Camp).

You may ask why this merits a place in this Journal, or why you should even care that we met at all. But you should care, and here is why.

As a team, the 1989 Athelings was not particularly successful. We lost the Faraday; we lost the Under 25 match; we failed to win a single individual trophy in Canada (with the exception of Glyn Barnett, who bucked the trend by winning more silverware as an Atheling than the whole of that year's GB team); we were rebuked by the Connaught authorities for ignoring the line dividing male and female sleeping quarters; we hid hundreds of beer cans under the duck boards in our tents; we caused an unscheduled halt to the Montreal Metro for an emergency stomach-emptying and we had our liaison officer thrown out of the Canadian Army for supplying booze to minors. No, we were not a particularly successful team. We were an exceptionally successful team.

If "a dog is for life, not just for Christmas" then an Atheling should be for life, not just for Canada. The 1989 team was unexceptional on the ranges, but

quite exceptional since: exceptional in the way we have all held together and become the firmest of lifelong friends, thanks to one four week trip more than half a lifetime ago. To have six of the original eighteen still shooting regularly so many years later is unusual, to say the least. But to have all bar two still regularly in touch and eager to travel from as far away as Australia and California for a get-together says a lot for the strength of bonds that were forged twenty years ago.

It was not for want of trying that we lost touch with those remaining elusive two either. Picture this conversation:

"Hello, Glamorgan ACF . . . You're looking for a former cadet? What was his name? Stephen Williams . . . that doesn't narrow it down much . . . Yes, I remember a cadet called Stephen Williams, in fact I remember about ten of them. What did he look like? Short, red hair, freckles . . .



Ed Brown was determined to beat Barnett, even if it meant cheating.



The captain of the winning team receives the Bomb Trophy.

yup – that’s all of them. No, I’m afraid it wouldn’t help to say his nickname was “Taff.”

As for Mike Cassidy, who we last heard from shortly after he completed his PhD on Time Travel, we had no idea where (or when) to look, but he eventually turned up, courtesy of Facebook, in the guise of an acupuncturist (why didn’t we think of that?). Still can’t find Matt Bowden though.

The other sixteen have kept in regular contact. In fact, this was not our first reunion: quite apart from the annual pilgrimage to Brookwood’s finest curry house during the Meeting, we have also had full gatherings at five, ten and fifteen years. This year it was the North London who rued our existence, providing a wonderful black tie dinner to follow our match, a 900 yard shoot in which even those who had not touched a rifle in ten or more years shot the life out of the V bull with borrowed kit. The trophy (a model bomb, of course) was won by the Captain’s team, beating the Adjutant’s side by just one point.

We have wasted many an evening deciding what made us all stick together so firmly, then and since, and have largely failed. The root answer is that we just “got on”: from day one, we all liked each other, irrespective of background, nationality, education or



“Quick, Rupert, get that wind flag back to Connaught before they notice it’s missing!”

even shooting prowess; we simply put friendship first, and this friendship has grown, rather than dwindled, as the years have passed.

And the relevance of this nostalgia to you? Ask yourself why any of us shoot at all. Because we enjoy it, of course, but more than that: because we enjoy the company of the people we shoot with. Were it not for the friendships we made twenty years ago, some of us might well have stopped shooting, either completely or, at any rate, sooner. Our sport cannot survive without members: it is important that people continue shooting and do not give up the day they leave school or the cadets. The impetus to keep shooting lies, more than you might suspect, in the bonds of friendship we all have, make and keep with other shooters.

So let this be a word of advice to the Athelings selection committee: Do not pick a team based on shooting ability; pick a bunch of disreputable reprobates who don’t necessarily shoot very well, and our sport will be reaping the benefits for many years to come.



Back row: Andy Sturrock, Bruce Winney, Alex Henderson, Ed Brown, Pete O’Brien
Seated: Glyn Barnett, Rich Pollock, Juliet Elvins (McEachran), Charlie Cox, Brian Mackenzie
Front row: Rob Pile, Rupert Riley



SHOOTING IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

by Bob Maddison

Because of the debate over the location of the shooting events in the 2012 Olympics, little attention has been paid to the matter of which British shooters will take part. The IOC places strict controls on the number of athletes who may participate, and these must be spread throughout all the participating countries. However, whilst the IOC lays down the overall numbers, they have mostly left it to the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) to work out the details. They have to decide how best to allocate a maximum number of 390 shooters amongst a maximum of 15 shooting events. Currently there are five rifle events, five pistol events and five shotgun events; there are nine events for men and six for women. The events are:

For Men

- 50m Rifle Prone
- 50m Rifle 3P (3 x 40)
- 10m Air Rifle
- 50m Pistol
- 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
- 10m Air Pistol
- Trap
- Double Trap
- Skeet

For Women

- 50m Rifle 3P (3 x 20)
- 10m Air Rifle
- 25m Sport Pistol
- 10m Air Pistol
- Trap
- Skeet

Note that this list does not include any events for fullbore rifle or pistol. Nor is there a Women's Prone Rifle event.

Doing the maths, this means that on average there can be only 26 competitors in each event. Because international participation in events varies, some are allocated more places than others, the numbers varying between 17 and 32. To fill these places in an equitable way, the ISSF has devised the following system:

- 1 In the first instance, no one may compete in any shooting event in the Olympic Games unless he or she has achieved a Minimum Qualifying Score (MQS) in that event in an ISSF designated event during the four years between Olympic Games. The criteria for an event to be designated a qualifying event by the ISSF are rigorous. Not only must it comply in minute detail with the ISSF Rules (both for

the shooting and the overall organisation), but there must be minimum participation by both competitors and by participating countries. Events like the World Shooting Championships, Continental Championships and the ISSF World Cup matches are included, along with, exceptionally, events like the Commonwealth Games.

Typical MQSs are Men's 50m Rifle Prone 587 and 3P 1135, Women's Air Pistol 365, Men's Double Trap 118 (ex 150). These scores are all attainable by anyone dedicated to his or her event, yet when we look at scores from typical domestic events, there aren't too many shooters who can achieve these scores reliably; even fewer who attain them in a designated international event.

- 2 The MQS is only a starting point. The next stage is to "win" an Olympic Start Place. This can only be done in a very limited number of events which include World and Continental Championships and selected World Cup events. These events are normally held during the period of one to two years before the Games are held.

The rules for Start Places are very simple. Only one place may be "won" by any individual and he wins it for his Country, not for himself. No Country may win more than two Start Places in any event, nor may any country have more than 28 Start Places overall. The Host Country is privileged. Some Start Places, currently nine altogether, are reserved for the Host Country but still subject to someone from that country having the necessary MQS for the events. It is not unknown for the Host Country to be unable to take up all of its Start Places because no one has an appropriate MQS. In that case the Start Places can be reallocated by the ISSF as "Wild Cards".

If, at an event where a Start Place can be won, the event is won by someone who has already won a Start Place for that event, or by a Country who already has two Start Places, the Start Place goes to the next lower shooter in the rankings. Towards the end of the qualifying period, it is not unknown for the Start Place to be awarded to someone placed lower than 8th (ie who did not qualify for the Olympic Final of the event!) In such an instance, it is extremely important that any ties are broken in accordance with strict ISSF protocol.

- 3 It is very important to understand that it is the National Governing Body (NGB) of the competing Country who decide who will or will not compete in the Games, provided that the above rules are followed. Thus, the shooter who actually “wins” a Start Place may not necessarily be selected as long as the person who is selected has an MQS (and is qualified to shoot for that country). To many this may seem unfair, and it is usual to select the person who won the place. However, in a country with many qualified shooters, the NGB may well select the shooters most likely to win a medal regardless of who won the actual Start Place.
- 4 There is one apparent anomaly. Although the IOC has strict limits on the overall numbers of competitors and the number of shooting events, it is the ISSF alone who decide how these may be allocated. Thus, if a shooter has an MQS in more than one event (eg Trap and Double Trap), and is selected to take up a place won by his country in one of them, he can opt to shoot in all or any of the events for which he holds an MQS. This is why the number of competitors taking part in events such as the Men’s 50m Prone Rifle might be very much more than the 30 or so actually

allocated. The “extra” shooters have actually qualified to shoot in the 3P or AR events and, because the Prone MQS is relatively easy to achieve for such shooters, they opt to shoot prone too. Thus the organisers must provide for at least 60 firing points at 50m (more likely 80 or 100).

From all of this it can be seen that in shooting at least, most of the work towards winning an Olympic Medal must be done during the four years before the Games commence. Although I can describe only the process for the shooting events, most Olympic Sports have some form of qualification system. For many such as Track and Field Athletics, this is mainly an MQS system but with the MQS set to such a demanding level that only the very best can hope to get to the Games. In shooting, although we might criticise the qualification system, it does mean that Games participation is well spread amongst the nations and that “strong” shooting countries such as China are not allowed to dominate the entry. However, it does mean that everyone must work very hard to get that place. The “free” Start Places for Great Britain in 2012 will mean that we can be assured of some representation in the shooting events; it is up to us to ensure that there is no complacency and that we can “win” even more Start Places and fill them effectively.

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LETTERS

Commonwealth Games and ICFRA

from Phil Harrison

I am writing as both the Chairman of the CSF(FB) Committee and as the CSF Observer on ICFRA to take up a couple of points contained in the Secretary General's notes about the Commonwealth Games contained in the Summer Journal.

Firstly a correction of fact: the 2010 Commonwealth Games Rules are not 'as 2006'. There are a number of uncontentious amendments to take account of experience in 2005 and 2006 at Melbourne. Readers should remember that the 2006 rules (written in 2004) were the first ever full set of international rules and would inevitably have errors of omission or commission in them to be revealed by experience: indeed they were one of two base documents for ICFRA's own TR Technical Rules. The new 2010 rules are aligned with ICFRA's in respect of the conduct of shooting on the range (albeit put into a context of Jury supervision). The match conditions remain unaltered. As far as technical matters are concerned there's a rule of thumb "if it was legal at the 2007 World Championship, it's legal here". Hence the rifle weight remains 6.5kg and the trigger pull at 1.5kg; but a "clearing lens" may be used with an eagle eye. Each and every Commonwealth participating nation should have its own copy of the rules (with the rule changes highlighted). I have to add, however, that if electronic targets are used as intended, the necessary protocols for their use in a TR context will have to be written and added. They will, of course, be promulgated at the earliest possible date.

This being the case, the whole of the rest of the section in the Journal is gratuitous, rather than a logical progression of argument.

Moving on, despite the NRA's concern (and I note that the NRA is not a stakeholder in the Commonwealth Games and has no standing – only a 'legitimate interest'), the Secretary General's professorial arguments are, with respect, disingenuous. The number of competitors at the Commonwealth Games is clearly not a function of equipment cost (whether actual or imagined), and the contrast with numbers at the World Championship is a function of two linked features.

Firstly, the Palma Match calls for resources to support teams of 16 (minimum) to 26 (maximum) being run at the same time as Veterans teams (a further 10 to 17) and a variable number of "Age-Group" matches – as opposed to two-and-a-manager at the Games and . . .

Secondly (and crucially), the World Team Championships are not open to the UK Home Countries & Islands and West Indian Territories (unless by special resolution – a most unlikely event). This, at a stroke,

provides nearly a dozen additional aspirant nations to the Games.

Talk, therefore, of entry levels falling to "the current levels competing in the World Championships" smacks of irresponsible scaremongering designed to obscure the poverty of the NRA's arguments. With barrels at £600 each fitted (to £3.5K rifles), the cost of an eagle eye (even with a clearing lens) is trivial, purchase of a modern (ie safely adjustable) trigger in any new rifle is automatic, and unfair benefit from heavy rifles is unproven at best. The era when a Class O shot could roll up and win the Queen's Prize with a second-hand P14, a Norfolk jacket with elbow pads and a pair of plus-fours, while a blissful nostalgia for some, is fifty years out of date. As has been noted by others, the Commonwealth Games is not a vicarage tea party – it's a competition for elite athletes (not just shooters) at the pinnacle of attainable achievement. Indeed such competitors will of necessity have had top-line equipment to reach their national summit and thereby gain selection.

Finally, I'd remark that Fullbore Rifle is most certainly not subject to especial threat at the Games: it is shooting itself (of whatever discipline) which is under threat, at Multi-Sport Festivals. The swathe cut through the Commonwealth shooting events for 2014 and onwards is proof enough of this – indeed, alone among the disciplines, FBR has retained its Pairs Event for the future. This arises principally because "Sport is entertainment": the perceived value of a sport is proportional to the revenue stream it can generate in terms of television advertising; and shooting quite simply doesn't cut the mustard. Hard but true. It is shooting which is under massive threat at the Commonwealth Games, not FBR. We (FBR) are, however, passengers in the same boat. Hence an insistence that FBR "Jazz it up a bit" in Delhi. In addition, many Governments are uncomfortable with civilian access to firearms (of whatever sort) and would really rather it didn't happen – even less be seen to happen.

Commercial Ammunition Costs

from Andy Gent

Noting the price of RWS ammunition at the NRA to be ~83p per round versus the cost of equivalent handloads at ~50p per round, surely the NRA should seriously consider allowing competitor-supplied ammunition for the Imperial Meeting. Leaving aside the obvious potential for RWS to supply ammunition of excellent quality, the essential fact is that every round of RWS ammunition fired represents a loss to the Association and/or its members of at least 20 pence. A growing number of open meetings around the UK allow handloads (eg Surrey, Lancashire, Welsh, Scottish, Norfolk, Cornish, Bisley Clubs Easter

Meeting) and I understand from the Chairman of the Surrey RA that the entry cost of the second Surrey meeting to allow handloads was significantly reduced due to the healthy profit made as compared with issued ammunition - profit/savings that undoubtedly accrued from the cost differentials mentioned in my opening line.

The opposing view often cites the problem that youngsters may have in provisioning their own ammunition but surely the savings made could be used to subsidise an almost free ammunition issue to the under 21s or those in full time education? I for one would be very content to shoot handloads yet pay an entry fee reflecting a commercial ammunition issue if the 20-30p per round saving was used to meaningfully subsidise an issue of Carmichael/Lapua/RWS etc to those in need. If we really care about the costs of shooting and how it affects beginners then we can mitigate those costs by the simple expedient of preparing our ammunition and using a proportion of the savings to promote the sport by assisting the youngsters. Bottom line remains the same - every round of RWS fired is 20-30p to RWS which could be used to support GB shooting were handloads to be seen for what they really are - the cheapest source of quality ammunition available by a considerable margin.

Reply from Iain Robertson, Chairman of the Shooting Committee

When considering the way forward following the end of the MoD "ammo-for-facilities" we did review the possibility of going to handloads. However, at the Imperial there are several hundred competitors who are not licensed to bring their own ammunition, and most of them are cadets or youngsters. We really need to avoid any move that discourages their participation. There are many more who do not have the knowledge, the equipment or the inclination to handload ammunition. There is a view that the balance of the sport is already leaning well towards technical factors rather than shooting ability – adding a whole new level of technical expertise should be avoided in what is after all a mass-market event. The ammunition does not need to be the best possible – the last refinement in performance always comes at utterly disproportionate cost. So, if we permit handloads, we will add another dimension to the arms race that has seen the price of a target rifle reach £3000+.

All that said, your basic premise is a laudable one. However, the sums are not as clear-cut as you indicate. The 2009 Imperial Meeting TR ammunition was priced at 65p per round to members. Entrants to the RWS Aggregate in the Match Rifle events, and similar competitions where ammo "as issued" is specified but not actually provided, could buy RWS at that price on production of the appropriate register ticket. So the additional differential cost of having your

ammo provided is about £30 for all the individual competitions. If you don't do a lot of handloading, it takes some considerable time at £30 per year to recoup your costs for your handloading equipment. If the Association takes half that (say) to subsidise the young and the poor, it takes even longer to get your money back. Let's be generous and assume that one-third of the entrants to the Meeting make their own ammo. That allows us to give a subsidy of 15p per round to one-third of the competitors. So we might just get the youngsters (25% of the entry) and the pensioners (8%) a subsidy to make their ammo the same price as that of the handloaders. Meantime the handloaders have gained the competitive advantage that goes with handloading. Now you can place such value as you like on the competitive and cost factors that result. My take is that the perceived inequality in competition isn't worth the possible cost reductions for the most needy 33% - they would rather find the cash and play level. I may be wrong of course, in which case I expect to lose the next election as TR Rep!

Imperial Meeting Gallery Rifle and Pistol

from Alan Hargrave

I refer to the letter from John Warner and the reply from Charles Murton, which appeared on pages 51 and 52 respectively in the Summer 2009 edition of the NRA Journal.

It doesn't seem all that strange to me that there are fewer entries in the Imperial Gallery Rifle and Pistol competitions than there are for other Gallery Rifle and Pistol competitions held throughout the year at Bisley. With the exception of the Light Sporting Rifle competition, no other individual competitions are available for GRSB shooters at the Imperial!

I don't know what the ratio of GRSB to GRPF shooters is at other competitions but precluding GRSB shooters from entering the Imperial must have made a significant difference to the overall figures.

Speaking for myself, I entered three competitions in the Imperial Gallery Rifle and Pistol meeting in 2007 using my small-bore rifle but was unable to do so in 2008 and 2009 because these had now become only open to shooters using centre-fire rifles.

Apparently running GRSB and GRPF together in the same type of competition doesn't cause any particular problems in other Gallery Rifle and Pistol meetings. Comments from Charles Murton on this rather strange situation would be appreciated.

Reply from Chris Farr, GR&P Discipline Rep

I have been asked to respond to your letter as Doug Glaister, who runs the Imperial Pistol & Gallery Rifle events, is unable to deal with this at the moment.

The Imperial P&GR events have been developed over the last few years independently of the Gallery

Rifle & Pistol Discipline and do not share our rules or meeting conditions. In 2007, we were involved in a trial introduction of GR&P events which is why you were able to compete with your GRSB. The trial did not prove to be a success and Doug and his helpers reverted to the previous format.

I am sorry I can't be of much help at the moment but the Shooting Committee is currently reviewing the whole format of the Imperial P&GR with a view to making recommendations about its future in early 2010. If you could wait until January we should know what is going to happen by then.

Recycling Empty Cases – a Whinge!

from Brian Taylor

All shooters take seriously the issue of recycling their empty cases, or do they? Yes, when it comes to brass after a shoot we are pretty good at picking up our empty cases and recycling them. However, based on the contents of many wheelie bins etc I come into contact with around Bisley Camp I am frequently disgusted to see the number of bottles, both glass and plastic consigned to the rubbish bin. Likewise cardboard containers (including ammo boxes) and paper!

At home are we not all subject to a requirement to recycle these items by our respective local councils? Clearly it would be helpful if there was a recycling centre created on camp where all paper, cardboard, bottles, tins etc could be collected. It would go some way to help prevent overfilling and spilling over of wheelie bins during busy periods. However there is also another solution:

How many of us staying on camp visit Sainsbury's at Knaphill on a regular basis? I know we do and we have got into the habit of taking our recyclable items to the recycling centre they have there. It actually takes very little effort and you feel better for having done so. So please, can everybody play their part in keeping our cherished Bisley Camp (not to mention planet Earth) cleaner and tidier by making a little extra effort to recycle all their recyclable waste, even if it means taking it home for recycling.

No 4 Safety Warning

from Dr Erik Blakeley

A couple of articles in the Summer 2009 Journal made me sit up and think and think along the same lines. The first was the debate about the location of the 2012 Olympic Shooting centre and the other was the Safety Warning regarding Enfield action 7.62mm rifles. What could possibly be the connection between the two you may ask? The connection is that we should always ask what the underlying agenda is. Clearly the reason why the government and its Olympic agents do not want the shooting to go to Bisley or any other established shooting sports site is precisely so that it can be wiped off the face of the planet after the event,

leaving no legacy of sustainable facilities for shooting sports after 2012. I am sure that, if they could have got away with it, this government would have removed shooting sports from the Olympics entirely.

What agenda could there be to do with the safety warning regarding Enfield actions? It is difficult to be sure about this given that no information is given as to the origin of the warning, but I suspect that it might have come from MoD sources associated with the procurement of the Radway Green ammunition. As there are many thousands of No 4 actions around, the conversion of such weapons to 7.62mm has, for 40 years or more, provided a relatively low cost entry route into serious target competition. The consignment of these weapons to the scrap heap would suit the Government's anti-shooting agenda down to the ground. Now that the Government no longer use their L42A1 Sniper rifle which was just such a conversion (and incidentally gave sterling service for several decades), they are free to initiate moves to ban all such weapons from the ranges.

But surely the technical points made in the warning are valid? They might be, but I am suspicious. Firstly the question of the underlying strength of the action. We have a reliable system of proof for firearms in this country and every conversion should have been tested by proof loads significantly above the service loads for any variety of military or commercial ammunition before being proof marked for the 7.62mm calibre. If it is the case that the changes in RG ammunition have so altered the pressure characteristics of 7.62mm ammo that the proof process carried out on Enfield conversions is no longer valid then this should be a matter of concern for all owners of 7.62mm rifles proofed before the changes, not just for the owners of Enfields.

The idea that the difference between 144 grain bullets and 155 grain ones will have led to a marked decrease in safety seems unlikely. Whilst most target shooters have stuck to the military ammunition, sporting rifle shooters and handloaders have been trying a much wider range of bullet weights up to 180 grains or more in Enfields and other 7.62mm rifles for decades. I used to shoot a Mauser actioned Parker Hale and found that 160 grain bullets gave the best accuracy for my rifle at ranges up to 400m. Assuming that the different cartridges are all loaded within the acceptable pressure ranges for 7.62mm the exact behaviour of different weight bullets is more likely to be affected by the twist of the barrel and the exact chamber dimensions than the nature of the action. Obviously it is important that the pairing of action and barrel is a good one but again this is true of any rifle and, if the new ammunition is raising real concerns, it should affect all rifles put together before the change over.

The question of water or oil in the chamber and barrel during firing is again a matter of concern for all rifles and it is well known that significant and dangerous

increases in pressure can be generated by failing to keep both the weapon and the ammunition dry.

Finally and most suspicious of all is the question of exact bullet diameters. The difference in nominal diameters cited is only 0.0008" or 0.8 'thou'. How does this compare with the manufacturing tolerances used by the bullet manufacturers? How does it compare with the differences in diameters across the lands of different barrels and between those in a new barrel and one with a few thousand rounds behind it? I suspect that choosing a selected fat bullet or a tight barrel or a worn barrel will make much more difference to the observed pressures than this purely nominal increase in bullet diameter.

Clearly most of the Enfield actions around are past their half century and many have had a hard life and some were better made than others in times of national emergency so caution should be exercised as with any second hand weapon. I am sure that some Enfield actions have failed due to metal fatigue, corrosion, accidental abuse or any range of other causes but is it valid to assume that all of them are inadequate to their job? Generations of experience have shown us that proof testing is the best way to assess the safety of a firearm and anyone concerned about the safety of their Enfield or any other rifle can always have it reproofed.

Reply from Iain Robertson, Chairman of the Shooting Committee

I can assure Dr Blakely that the concerns regarding No 4 conversions have nothing to do with the Government or the owners of RG. The basic principle of firearm safety is that the user is wholly responsible for the safety of the firearm and ammunition combination that he uses. In NRA competitions where a condition of entry is that you use the ammunition supplied by the NRA that principle is compromised. Accordingly, in such competitions, the Association imposes other rules and checks to ensure that it has done its part in ensuring the safety of the combination. External information has indicated that there may be a problem with some No 4 conversions used with some types of 7.62mm x 51 (.308Win) ammunition. We are currently consulting with the UK Proof Authorities before issuing definitive guidance to members. Until that advice is finalised we are maintaining the precautionary view that such rifles should not be used when the NRA provides the ammunition.

Much of Dr Blakely's analysis of the technical issues is valid, however, his final statement regarding proof should not pass without comment. The UK has a compulsory system of proof testing firearms; many other nations do not, however that does not necessarily make firearms from those nations unsafe. A proof test is a one-off check under a load substantially in excess of the normal working load. It is intended to reveal

any major flaws in materials, or deficiencies in the manufacturing process. Proof testing will not however reveal a developing fatigue condition, such as might occur in a firearm repeatedly (ie every shot) subjected to loads in excess of the normal working load for which it was originally proofed, unless the firearm is subject to re-proof at regular intervals.

Re-proof of a serviceable firearm will normally do no harm and is of course a legal requirement and normal procedure when either rebarreling or changing calibre. Many early No 4 conversions to 7.62mm calibre were proofed for the then current standard of 19 tons per square inch (base pressure) and owners of such rifles are strongly advised to have them re-proofed to the present standard of 4150 Bar (radial piezo pressure).

Bisley: Maximising Range Use

from Barry Thompson

Yesterday our Club enjoyed a lovely day on the range but we didn't do enough shooting, admittedly there was a brief cease-fire period which didn't help, however, is it time to review the shooting hours?

We currently have use of the range for four hours in the morning and only three and a half hours in the afternoon; in practice given the distances our members travel the 08:30 start is not practical so we had only three and a half hours for our half day shoot. Losing an hour in the middle of the day struck me as a real waste of range time.

The current use of the ranges is very inefficient as regards the value of the facility and the individual's cost in making a visit to Bisley, a considerable element of which is non-shooting cost.

We lose an hour at lunchtime and a further half an hour by stopping at 17:30 when we used to fire until 18:00. Maybe Century range could have a non-stop shooting period 08:30 to 17:30 - a 20% increase in range time. This might lead to flexible booking which in turn may lead to more shooting at Bisley: it is increasing activity at the margin that will increase the use etc.

I can see that this kind of flexibility might be useful to schools bringing numbers of cadets to shoot enabling individual cadets to fire more rounds with the benefits that brings in experience.

I feel sure that any objections might be easily overcome and an increase in shooting time would be very welcome

If markers need a lunch break we might be able to do own marking for that hour, or even an hour and a half, enabling the markers to do the same hours' work but with a later finish: all kinds of compromises come to mind - my suspicion is that the markers might go for more money with a reduced lunch break.

What do others think?

Reply from Brian Thomas, Assistant Director of Shooting
Currently (high season) the hours of shooting are 08:30 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 17:30 at the weekends - two four-hour periods.

Employment law dictates that we may only employ temporary staff (our markers) for a maximum period of four hours before we must give them a break. Couple this with the fact that many of our markers may only, if under 16, work half a day we must have a stoppage to extract them from Stickledown butts. This is to either allow them a lunch break or finish their period of work after four hours.

The road which leads into Stickledown butts is in the danger area from Century and Short Siberia ranges hence we also have to stop these ranges firing to allow the movement of markers.

I am sure there would be markers who would forego or reduce their break for extra cash but these prolonged periods of work would have an effect on their ability to mark consistently at an acceptable standard. Even if a mythological stalwart marker could be found we would not wish to stray on the wrong side of employment law.

Although having a non-shooting period over lunchtime may appear to be wasteful, it is actually necessary to enable us to comply with employment law and allow access to the range butts.

Imperial Meeting

from Carol Painting

I think the team who ran the Imperial Meeting should be congratulated for a job generally well done. The only problem I heard about was a mixed batch of ammo; hopefully procedures will be changed to prevent that next year.

In recent years I have asked two different Shooting Committee Chairmen to consider first stage shoots and the method of selecting those to go through to the second stage. I have pointed out that the present system that takes the scores in order of merit regardless of detail is very unfair. I suggested that we should adopt a system where so many from each detail (or detail pattern) progress to the next stage. Initial reaction has been favourable yet nothing has been done, and no-one has told me why.

The St George's in particular would benefit from a proportion of the next stage qualifiers coming from each detail. The conditions at 08:00 are usually much easier than at midday. With computerised squadding and statistics it is surely not difficult to do this. If details have different numbers of shooters, the proportion being taken for the next stage can vary. Unless the numbers in each detail are vastly different, an even distribution across the details is still a lot fairer than taking scores off the top.

Congratulations James "Jumbo" Lewis



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The only reason I can think of for not doing this is that squadding details are not allocated at random but instead a seeding system is used. If that is the case the details of the seeding should be published.

A completely different problem is the disruption to the Queen's Prize winner's progress around Camp just to fit in a very long visit to the Canadian Pavilion early in the evening. A forty minute delay is quite unreasonable, and firing the cannon more than twice is also unreasonable. Do we want to alienate the local residents? The Canadian Pavilion visit should revert to its traditional place in the tour. If that is too late to fire the cannon, so be it.

McQueen Precision Snap Competition – some discrepancies at the Imperial Meeting

from Steve Wallis

Firstly, well done and thank you to Martin Camp for running this competition throughout the Imperial Meeting and also for raising the profile of this event in the last newsletter. If only others in the NRA were so forward thinking.

Consider this scenario:

A shooter settles down on the firing point and on the RCO's instructions takes his two sighting shots before shooting a series of ten shots at random three second target exposures on the Castle. After firing his ten shots he's asked if he has any protests, to which he advises he does – on a number of exposures the targets were moved after they had been presented and consequently several of his shots were off target. The RCO agrees as he has been watching the exposures through binoculars and the shooter is allowed a re-shoot - two more sighting shots and another series of ten shots. This is not a hypothetical scenario, it is one I witnessed a number of times during the first week of competition and on each occasion the shooter was using issued ammunition.

Now consider this situation in the context of Shooter A who uses his own home loaded ammunition and then again with Shooter B who uses issued ammunition.

Both shooters pay £9 to enter – Shooter B is already at a financial advantage as his entry fee includes 12 rounds of ammunition at 73p per round, meaning only 24p out of his £9 is actually for his entry to the competition!

Shooter A fires a total of 24 shots which costs him, at a very conservative estimate of 40p per round, £9.60.

Total cost to Shooter A = £18.60.

Total Receipt to NRA (to pay for targets, markers and other costs) from Shooter A = £9.

Shooter B also fires 24 shots which cost him nothing extra as ammunition is issued.

Total cost to Shooter B = £9.

Total Receipt to NRA (£9 less 24 rounds at 73p each) = -£8.52.

In short, shooters using their own ammunition are subsidising those using issued ammunition and receipts to the NRA to cover costs are much reduced.

It would be nice to think that for 2010 there would be sufficient forward thinking to ensure that: a) markers were given training and/or practice before the start of competition to reduce as much as possible any allowable protests later; and, b) entry fees would be reduced to, say, £5 and that 'issued' ammunition would be charged for at, say, £10 for 12 rounds.

Bisley – Our place to be proud of

from John and Deitra Carmichael

Some NRA members may be aware of the comments made at the Spring General Meeting by myself and at the Umbrella Tent Meeting in July by my wife concerning the very poor state of maintenance and cleanliness of the camp, some of the clubhouses, the showers and the toilets. We are ashamed of what we see and are stung by the comments of our many overseas visitors. They are so proud to be able to come and shoot at Bisley and yet they are quite simply shocked and hugely disappointed by the scruffy state of the place and cannot understand why we just do not seem to see it or be bothered by it or do anything about it.

There are well known financial reasons as to why some maintenance aspects have had to be postponed over the last few years, like the roads, but there is no good reason as to why general cleanliness, simple minor maintenance and general tidiness cannot be to a much higher standard than we see it to be. Whilst it is easy to blame the "NRA/NSC" for this situation, this in many instances (but not all) is completely unfair. Yes, they have their difficulties and a reorganisation of the management levels and responsibilities will certainly not go amiss; nor would a clear out of a few of the less useful committee members whose presence seems to produce little result. However, most of the problem lies primarily with the attitude of the members (and we include ourselves!) and secondarily with some of the staff.

We reside on Site 6 and whilst we have complained about the problems over the years, we decided it was time to do something about it. We and a number of other volunteers on our site and the adjoining Site 8 have set about cleaning up our sites and rectifying some of the more basic items. These have included:

- Picking up litter and dumped items and putting them into the bins.
- Pressure washing and cleaning the showers and toilet cubicles and the floors as the cleaning company can't keep "clean" that which starts off filthy.

- Using bleach and cleaners in the showers and toilets to remove the years of grime.
- Replacing the missing/broken latches on most of the shower and toilet cubicles, and replacing the missing toilet holder rollers or complete assemblies.
- Repairing broken standpipe fittings and taps.
- Trimming the forest of weeds and sweeping and washing the pathways around the buildings.

The cost is absolutely minimal, less than £100 so far.

We also put up laminated signs urging the users to keep the buildings clean, to replace the exhausted toilet rolls and to put the wrappers and cardboard tubes into the bag or bin provided. It is, however, a little sad to find that some of these signs have been (twice) ripped off and dumped into the dustbin by someone of questionable motives! The next major task we intend to perform is to further clean up the site by asking/persuading/telling some of the more untidy caravan owners to clear up the junk and rubbish that is under, around or close to their caravans. We intend to be proud of our sites.

It is about time that all NRA members, clubs, staff and camp users showed more pride as well in the camp and set about making it the clean, tidy and beautiful place that it should be. We point especially to some key areas where major visual improvements can quickly and easily be made. These are by no means the only ones, but they are perhaps the most immediately visible and we make no apologies for what we say.

Commonwealth Club – Your hedge is long overdue for a cutting and shaping and the dumped junk behind and alongside the club needs disposal. The woodwork is seriously in need of cleaning and painting.

London and Middlesex – The pile of chopped up chairs behind your armoury and the rubbish by the cleaning shed is an eyesore.

English XX Club – The paintwork is looking very sad, the rear boundary wall is crumbling and rubbish around the back needs clearing.

Inns of Court – The dumped furniture and bed frames behind one of the buildings are a disgrace.

Canada House – There is a huge pile of wood and a large old kitchen range behind the building that needs clearing.

NRA Offices – A good clean around the building with a rake, broom and shovel would make a big difference. This is a ten minute job by the office staff. There is a pile of mud and leaves by the Armoury door that is at least three years old. Yours of all the buildings should look immaculate as it is the building all visitors and shooters see first!

NRA Workshops – The piles of dirt by the gates, the yard full of junk, the discarded tyres and the dumped rubbish under the trees by the Site 6 toilet block are inexcusable.

Apart from the painting and perhaps the brickwork, none of the above should have been allowed to happen and all can be rectified by club members and staff at little or no cost. You allowed it to happen, so come on everyone, cut the excuses, and get on with it! This is all our responsibility as members and staff of the NRA. This is **our** Bisley; let's take some pride in it!

We must state that there are some areas that are a shining example of what can be done. Perhaps the two most visible this year have been the Artists Club and the North London RC to whom we give the highest praise – well done! There are several others too who are already good and tidy or are trying very hard at this time. Please keep it up, you are showing us all that there is some hope. So what about the rest of you?

PS This is just the beginning. I recall someone telling me they had done a detailed survey of the condition of the firing points in the recent past, but nothing had progressed. Give me a call if you have any information on this matter on 01452 729888 (office).

Six Queens and a Joker

from Tim Webster

Ant Ringer and Alain Marion found themselves squadded on the same target of the Lovell, and Ant said to me that this really deserved a photo, as he had never shot with Alain before, and between them they had six Queen's winners badges. I said I could do the photo afterwards and what target was he on . . . it turned out to be mine.

Full of fear, I found myself right hand man on target 45, expecting to have an embarrassing time in such illustrious company, and a very strong wind. When Ant got a left-hand maggie and a right handed outer, I managed to alter on his shots, and finished high man on 47. One 'Queen' got 42, the other 45, so they very kindly included the Joker in the photo!



Ant Ringer, Tim Webster and Alain Marion.

OBITUARIES

Anthony John Clark MBE

Known to many in later years as Tony, but to those who knew him from the start of his shooting career he was always Nobby. He referred to himself as Nobby and, many years ago, he built himself a rifle stamped with NO-BB-Y1, for his firearms certificate. He died on 16 June 2009, the day before his 85th birthday. He was born and brought up in Southampton and educated at Taunton's School. After a brief spell in a white collar job, he decided that such was not for him and he embarked on a toolmaker's apprenticeship, which he loved. On completion in 1945 he joined the Royal Navy as an Air Mechanic, transferring a few months later to Engine Room Artificer, serving in the fleet carriers "Indomitable" and "Implacable". He was then seconded to the Fleet Air Arm for workshops duties, becoming a Chief Artificer in which capacity he remained for the remainder of his Service career. (For those not familiar with RN rates, 3rd, 2nd and 1st class artificers were all grades of Chief Petty Officer, and a Chief Artificer was a Chief of Chiefs).



In 1953 he discovered an aptitude for shooting all types of personal weapons, making such good progress that he was selected for the 1954 RN Air Command team for Bisley. During the work-up prior to the National Meeting he progressed further and, as a Tyro in his first year, was a member of the winning Navy VIII in the United Services Match, believed to be a unique achievement. One RAF wag, on learning that a CERA (which some thought a strange forename on the squadding card) was a member of the FAA team, observed that he always knew that the FAA flew agricultural machinery, but had not realised that it was powered by steam.

Nobby continued to progress with the Air Command team, having a considerable effect on its development from scratch into one of the finest Services teams to compete at Bisley. It must be realised that prior to 1947, there was no RN Air Command, and its shooting teams had none of the fund of experience available to the other Commands via their gunnery schools. During the following years, he won the NRA Pistol Gold Badge several times, which brought him to the attention of the Olympic selectors, and was 11th in the Grand Aggregate in 1959, which earned him a place in the winning England XX that year. He was often prominent in the Service Rifle Aggregate, and regularly represented the RN with both service and target rifles. He was captain and selector for the Navy Pistol VIII until the end of his service career and won the RN Pistol Championship many times. In 1963 he was a member of Stan Wheeler's GB team to South Africa. His collection of honours during that time is too numerous to detail, but his prowess was amply demonstrated by his Methuen medals. Most

considered themselves lucky to have one, but Nobby had six, which also reflected the influence he had on the progress of the Air Command team. This is believed to be an unsurpassed achievement. For much of the time, he was the armourer to the Air Command team, during which he introduced the bedding of rifles in epoxy resin, a revolutionary move which took some time for the NRA to approve, whereupon it became standard practice.

He left the RN in 1967, becoming a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Southampton Technical College and attained a senior position before finally retiring. In 1968, being now able to devote his entire time to his own shooting, he was second in the Grand Aggregate. He maintained his links with the RN by coaching the Inter-Services Target Rifle teams until the use of retired members was prohibited by a change of rules. He became a member of the RN Target Rifle Club on its inauguration in 1972, shooting and coaching when available. He was a Life Member of the City Rifle Club. He was one of the finest wind coaches, noted not only for his accuracy, but for the ability to instil confidence in his firers, especially those on their first appearance in a team. In 1999, he had to give up shooting because of a neck problem but continued to coach, even in an Empire Match conditions event when approaching 80. During that time, he had been a member of National, Mackinnon and Kolapore teams, had won the Conan Doyle, had a St George's Bronze badge and six St George's and nine Queen's Final badges as well as several Grand Aggregate crosses. He would have been an asset to any overseas GB team but, as he remarked, he had plenty of overseas trips to keep him busy, as will be seen from the following.

During the foregoing, he developed his small-bore pistol shooting in parallel, starting Rapid Fire in 1959. He competed in the Rome Olympics in 1960, Tokyo in 1964, Mexico in 1968 and Munich in 1972. He competed in World Championships in Cairo in 1962, Wiesbaden in 1966 and Arizona in 1970. In 1966 he won Gold and Silver in the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica. He competed in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in 1974 and in European and Nordic Championships, and was six times British Rapid Fire Pistol Champion.

In 1974 he gave up competitive pistol shooting, and was involved in setting up the national pistol squad, becoming its chief coach. He served on the British Olympic Committee. He was the shooting team manager for the Montreal Olympics in 1976, Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988. He also served on the NSRA Council, being Chairman from 1982 until 1989.

Throughout his shooting career he was also a small-bore rifle shot of excellence, representing the RN many times, and, in retirement, was no mean golfer. In 1980 he was made MBE for services to shooting.

Nobby was disarmingly modest about his own achievements, but more than willing to recognise those of others, and to offer advice, assistance and encouragement, especially to youngsters. Always calm

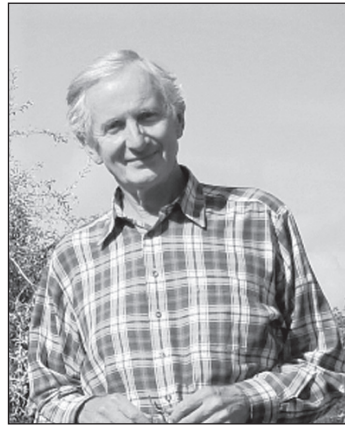
on the firing point and with a wonderful sense of humour which, with a competent and firm manner when in charge, earned him the respect of all who came within his sphere of influence.

In 1960 he married Julia Boughton who had been a Wren Range Assessor and a member of the RN Air Command team in 1958 and 1959, and is currently Chairman of the Association of Wrens. He is survived by Julia and their two children, John and Elizabeth, and two granddaughters, to whom his many friends both home and abroad will extend their sympathy.

Maurice Ayling

Richard Alexander Cumming

Richard Cumming had a short but very successful shooting career, in CURA at Cambridge from 1955 to 1958, and then at Bisley until 1962, after which work and family activities became his major interests. For those of us who were there then, that was a golden age. Shooting and firearms were regarded as normal interests, Bisley became an Army encampment for the Service and Imperial Meetings, the markers marched to the Butts preceded by a band and an interest in explosives did not make one a terrorist. We all took advantage of this and Richard was one of a small group whose activities caused the headline, "Explosion Rocks Coton" in the Cambridge Daily News in 1957. The next day we saw a mine detector being used in the fields searching for unexploded bombs, as we drove back from the Barton Road Range. This made our day.



During his CURA years Richard's successes included Half Blues in the Chancellor's (1957) and Humphry (1958) and, as Captain of small-bore in 1958, his Heslop team made a then record score of 796 ex 800 against Oxford. His success at Match Rifle gained him a place in England's winning Elcho team where he got top score. Richard was also a member of the first Oxford and Cambridge team to shoot in Canada in 1957. The team of nine enjoyed a very civilized trip over by sea from Liverpool to Montreal, taking part in the Province of Quebec RA meeting at Mt St Bruno Range and then at the main DCRA Meeting at Connaught, Ottawa.

His individual successes included winning the Albert and Henry Mellish match rifle competitions in 1958. In 1960 he went to Canada as Adjutant to David Horton-Smith's GB team and also shot again in the English Elcho that year.

After leaving Cambridge, Richard joined the computer company which later became known as ICL and was able to develop what became his lifelong interest in

computers. After 21 years with ICL he left to set up his own business to exploit a software package MULTICOM which he had developed. After this was established the family moved to Burford near Oxford.

Here he led a very full life outside work, in the community, with golf, fishing, model aircraft, painting and gardening being among his many pastimes.

Richard retained an interest in Bisley, shooting and Cambridge and only last February he and the three other members of the victorious Humphry team from 1958 joined a group of his contemporaries to attend CURA's 100th Anniversary Dinner in Queen's, his own college. We expected to have another get together before long but sadly Richard died in the John Radcliffe Hospital on 13 August, two weeks after being rushed there for an emergency heart operation. There had been no warning of trouble.

A memorial service was held in Burford on 2 September and among the full house was a good Bisley and Cambridge contingent. The service fittingly concluded with a spirited performance of Handel's "Hail the Conquering Hero" by trumpet and organ. At 73, Richard left life too soon and will be greatly missed by the family and all his many friends.

RWHS

Anthony Stephen Oldroyd

The greeting: "Hi Tony how are you?" The reply: "Still upright!"

Unfortunately not any more. Tony died in Pinderfields Hospital Wakefield on 16 October, 2009. He had come off his motor bike, smashed his arm and shoulder and needed an operation to put them right. Whilst

the arm and shoulder operation was a success, because of Tony's previous history of heart problems he never recovered from the anaesthetic and after some days in intensive care died.

Tony was a retired police officer, serving 30 years in West Yorkshire. He was a keen and very accomplished Bandsman being a member of the West Yorkshire Police Band during his service, after he retired and until his death. He was also a Freemason and worked endlessly for charity within that organisation. He took up target pistol shooting in the 1970s and quickly made his mark both within Police shooting circles and nationally. A member of the National Police Squad for a number of years he represented the British Police in the European Police Championships in Finland shooting in the Free Pistol event (as it was then called, now called the 50 metre pistol event). From there he moved on to the



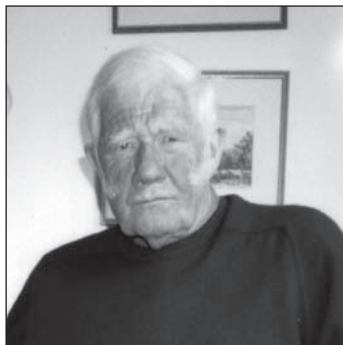
administrative side of the pistol shooting world and qualified as an ISSF Judge officiating as a Jury Member at Commonwealth Games and World Cup events. He will be best remembered by NRA members as the friendly face in the Range Office at Bisley where he was Range Superintendent. Because of his long-standing heart problems he had to retire from that position after five years but still kept contact with Bisley as CRO and RO on Melville Range during Imperial Meetings. Right up to his motor cycle accident and subsequent death he was involved in the organisation and running of a training course for potential pistol range officials for the 2012 Olympics. Tony leaves a widow Pauline, a son David and daughter Nicola. He will be sadly missed by both his family and all others who knew him.

Still upright - sadly not any more!

Doug Glaister

Fred Francis

Fred Francis, born in Southsea, Hampshire in 1915, died earlier this year aged 93. After finishing his education Fred followed his father and grandfather into the dental profession. He was commissioned into the Army Dental Corps in 1940 and went on active service with the 5th Armoured Division in North Africa where he was mentioned in dispatches. He later served in the Italy campaign, taking part in the landings at Salerno, the battle of Monte Cassino and the fall of Naples, Rome and Florence.



He was demobbed in 1946 with the rank of Captain and set up his own dental practice in Chichester which he ran, along with his late father's practice in Havant, until he retired. Fred joined Chichester Rifle and Pistol Club in the 1950s and was one of a small band of members who, during the 1950s, spent their weekends preparing a site in Quarry Lane, Chichester for the erection of a disused timber hospital building as the club's range and clubhouse. That range was opened in 1961 and, for the next 45 years, was to form the home of the club which Fred cherished and served with great dignity as Chairman and latterly President. He shot pistol and small-bore and fullbore rifle and was always keen to encourage fellow members to participate in competitions outside of the club, particularly at National meetings.

For many years Fred organised the Sussex County Schools Meeting held annually at Bisley and which, during those days, was attended by about 70 schools nationwide. He was also President of the Sussex Homeguard Rifle Association.

Fred's name will live long in the history of Chichester Rifle and Pistol Club and now the new range, which was

opened in Chichester in October 2006 has been named the Fred Francis Range to commemorate Fred's long involvement with and service for the club.

Fred had plenty of other interests outside shooting, he loved the countryside and all the wildlife within it and coupled with his interest in walking, he spent many happy hours roving the countryside throughout Britain with his wife and dog. He didn't need to travel far to see the countryside and its wildlife since he and Sue lived in a cottage on the South Downs surrounded by countryside.

Fred's other interests included sports cars, motorbikes and steam engines and most people that knew Fred through shooting will remember him wearing his walking boots with his dog alongside him and those people will remember him very fondly.

Peter Terry

Jim Mawson

Jim Mawson of Newark, Nottinghamshire, ex Secretary of the old Cafferata Rifle and Pistol Club, died on Sunday 26 July 2009.



In his working life he was a Professional Engineer working as a Senior Planning Officer for the Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Jim was a prolific target shooter competing in full and small-bore rifle events, full and small-bore pistol events as well as air rifle and air pistol events. As well as being an official and member of the local Cafferata and British Rail Shooting Clubs in Newark, he was a member of the National Small-bore Rifle Association, National Rifle Association, English Small-bore Shooting Union and the National Rifle Association of America to mention but a few.

It was in 1971 that Jim travelled to America with the English Small-bore Shooting Union to compete at international level, confirming his status as an English international rifle shot, an accolade of which he was very proud.

He regularly attended the annual Bisley and Scottish rifle meetings and many other meetings around the country. Jim shot rifle at International, National, County and Club levels and he only stopped shooting during the last 18 months or so.

Jim's funeral was at Newark on Monday 3 August 2009 and was attended by his family and many of his shooting friends.

Dave Poole (past Chairman of the old Cafferata Rifle and Pistol Club)

Philip Pearse

Phil was born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1938. He did well at school and won a scholarship awarding him a place at the Sir Roger Manwood’s Public School in Sandwich, Kent. Soon after leaving school, he enlisted in the Royal Navy. This put focus in his life and he enjoyed the years that followed. In March 1962 he married Sue and their daughter Amanda was born in August 1963.

On leaving the Navy, Phil tried several trades: luckily he saw an advert in a national newspaper for a husband and wife team to run a boat yard in Walton-on-Thames. Phil was in his element again and some enjoyable years followed.

After working in several fields of employment, Phil set himself up in business doing diamond-core drilling and

sawing on buildings and roads. He spent a lot of time on the Thames tidal barrier.

His health started to deteriorate quickly with all the physical work, arthritis being a great problem. The last years were bad and finally he was diagnosed with advanced throat cancer at the beginning of 2009. But it can be said he lived his life to the full helping many people along the way.

He is greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Susan Joy Pearse

The NRA are sad to announce the deaths of Hamish Tucker of the RAFTRC and Paul Edwards of Essex. Obituaries will appear in the Spring Journal.

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PELTOR™ SPORTTAC™ MUFFS GIVEAWAY

The NRA Journal have very kindly been given two pairs of Peltor™ SportTac™ Muffs worth £143 each to be given away to two lucky readers. If you would like to be put into the draw for a pair of these ear muffs please send your name and contact details to Karen Robertson either by e-mail or by post (contact details on page 1) by 15 January.

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