



# National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2010

Volume LXXXIX

Number 1



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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

SPRING 2010

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**National Rifle Association**

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Cover photo: Jon Cload winner of the Ballinger Belt in New Zealand.

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# NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



by  
*Glynn  
Alger*

## **NRA Review**

Over the last year the NRA Council has changed substantially in its make-up with new Trustees taking on the challenge. As such there is a 'new broom' mood around the place.

You must be aware by now that the Association has tried to engage a number of you in reviewing its core business through Strategic and Structural reviews. This has to be a healthy approach because every business needs to regularly review its business to ensure that the focus is correct and that our financial plan is sound.

The timing of this review and probable change in direction is timely because the NRA has emerged from a period in its history where it has been in dire straits because of an enormous and debilitating debt to a situation where if we make the right investment we will be able to 'grow the business', improve services and facilities for members and give real support to the regions.

In simple terms Bisley needs to become the engine that drives the car. As many of you are aware, in the past seven years little has necessarily been spent on Bisley as the NRA clawed its way out of debt. Going forward, Bisley needs reasonable investment to improve facilities for shooting, its core business, thus attracting more business. At the same time we need to look at other commercial opportunities that can create income.

Recently we have been in discussion with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary to create accommodation and firearms training facilities for them at Bisley that will, when built, create good income for the Association while upgrading facilities for civilian shooting. Similarly we need to look at similar opportunities with other police forces in the South-East who, like civilian shooters, are struggling to get access to MoD ranges.

The advantage of introducing this potential new business to Bisley is that it takes place during the week, which is relatively quiet as most members choose to shoot at weekends. By creating new commercial activity on-site Bisley needs not only to maintain itself but act as the means of funding support for national shooting around

the UK. With the right plans and focus in place this is now a possibility.

## **Data Protection**

As part of the review process we have had to look at some housekeeping issues. As members you will be pleased to know that a recent independent check of our Data Protection arrangements showed that we are compliant and that our staff are aware of their responsibilities to both the organisation and our members. As an extra safeguard we are introducing an annual training regime.

## **Child Protection**

The NRA has a responsibility as a National Governing Body to ensure that all its members and clubs are aware of requirements in relation to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. In an effort to make things as simple as possible we have produced a précis of the requirements and posted our Child Protection Policy on the NRA website which is now available to download. We have also made arrangements so that those requiring a Criminal Records Bureau check can easily download the documentation from our website and have the checks carried out at low cost. Further we have published details of the legal requirements on pages 33 to 37 of this Journal.

I would encourage all of our members who regularly coach to read the précis to see if they fit the criteria requiring a CRB check.

## **Membership Services**

In the last five years Membership have had to service an increasing number of new members, with individual membership having risen from approximately 4,200 to 6,200 at present. This has been achieved by better marketing, reducing the cost of being a member from approximately £90 to £60 (£55 with direct debit), providing better insurance cover, being more active in the regions and providing an overall better service to members.

So that we can provide a more timely service, we are currently looking at our joining requirements, processes and computer systems. We hope to simplify and automate the more routine functions carried out by the Membership Department so that we can be more responsive to members' needs and, hopefully, be able to handle higher volumes without having to increase staff costs.

## **The NRA, MoD and Range Development**

It is not a secret that over the last forty years a large number of ranges in the UK have closed as the military need has reduced. Unfortunately the National Governing Bodies either did not recognise the long-term trend and the eventual outcome that might have on the sport or they chose to ignore it. One of the major reasons clubs join NGBs is to get access to competitions and/or ranges. In the case of the NRA, clubs cannot get access to MoD ranges without being affiliated, thereby being adjudged by the military to be a club that meets certain criteria in relation to training and conduct on their ranges.

At this moment, because of the upturn in military operational deployment, there has been noticeable pressure on the remaining facilities that has reduced the opportunities for clubs to shoot. Further, the current defence review, which is a response to the current financial crisis, is likely to force upon the military the need to reduce the number of facilities that they currently keep open. Ranges are likely to be a victim of this move. Thus we are likely to see a number of closures and a resultant increased pressure on the remaining ranges that could lead to the virtual exclusion of civilian shooters. If the NGBs and clubs are not prepared to act in concert on this issue the probable outcome will be both a reduction in the opportunities to shoot but also a contraction in the numbers shooting.

This is a threat but also an opportunity if we act appropriately. The NRA has a relationship with the MoD that means that they are notifying us in advance of any impending range closures. Examples of this are the recent notices sent out to clubs relating to Blarbuie (north-west of Glasgow) and Whitburn (north-east) which could be run either by a co-operative of clubs or jointly by the NRA and clubs depending upon feasibility and cost. It is essential that clubs working with the NRA seriously consider their futures and their needs, which may require some investment in time and money to help safeguard the future of their sport.

The NRA has demonstrated, in recent years, its willingness to assist clubs to buy and develop their own ranges by offering support, professional advice/consultancy and funding. This support will continue but unfortunately clubs cannot expect to be totally dependent upon the NRA to sort out their problems. If we are to protect our sport we need to be more proactive at local level, with club representatives taking the lead on purchasing, leasing, building and project managing developments with NRA professional support.

The NRA will notify clubs of opportunities, as they arise, relating to potential range development. If there is no local interest and support it is unlikely that the NRA would act. Conversely if there were local interest and support that can save a range the NRA would give its fullest assistance.

### **Grant Net**

In line with the need to support clubs the NRA has recently purchased, on your behalf, access to a search engine called Grant Net that allows affiliated clubs that have a project to search online for both local and national funding opportunities.

The site has been designed in such a way as to be user friendly, but if you are a technophobe like myself there is a Grant Net helpline. Assistance is on hand to train individuals to use the system, or to help match your needs with funding bodies.

Once a likely funding source or sources have been found, links to those organisations allow club representatives to either download the application forms or complete them online.

If clubs are interested in finding and applying for funding via this route they can go to the NRA website, where they will find a link that takes them to the Grant Net website.

### **GB Olympic Pistol Team**

Approximately three years ago the NRA and the Sportsman's Association made representations through Martin Salter MP to the Sports Minister to allow the British Olympic Pistol Squad to train in the UK.

After many false starts, mainly due to Ministers and the Home Office trying to insist that a reticent MoD should allow the team to train on unsuitable military ranges, the team has recently been given permission to store their pistols and train at Bisley.

The GB Pistol Team are not currently funded; the NRA wishes to support them and is currently working out the best way to do this.

At the same time the NRA has declared that it supports the return of all legal pistol target shooting to the UK.

On this basis, the NRA have approached the British Shooting Sports Council, that represents a broad church of shooters, to get general agreement on policy and approach for the future, with the intention of achieving a change in government policy, to allow the return of pistol shooting sports to the UK.

### **General Notices**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 11 June at 17:30 in the NRA Pavilion.

#### **Bisley General Meeting**

The 2010 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 21:00 on Wednesday 21 July.

### **Team Captaincies**

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

#### **GB F Class Open – FCWC Raton USA 2013**

David Kent

#### **GB FTR – FCWC Raton USA 2013**

Stuart Anselm

#### **GB Gallery Rifle Team 2010**

Ashley Dagger

### **Nominations**

Unfortunately, due to late publication of the last Journal the time period for the nominations for the following captaincies was deemed to be too short. Therefore the closing dates have been extended and nominations are still sought for Captains for the following target rifle teams:

#### **NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2011**

#### **GB Team to Canada 2012**

Nominations for all teams should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 30 April.

# SHOOTING MATTERS – COMPETITIONS

## Open Days

Two NRA Open Days will be held this year, one on Saturday 1 May and the other on Saturday 11 September. These days will be administered by the NSC, but all the firing points will be staffed by NRA-appointed coaches. A dispensation under the Firearms Acts allows anyone who registers (subject to age limits) to fire under supervision. A registration fee of £12 (over 14 years of age) or £5 (10 to 14 years of age) will be payable. Booklets of tickets (ten £1 tickets) may then be purchased, which may be used to pay the fees to shoot a number of different firearms ranging from air pistol to all varieties of fullbore rifles.

We are seeking experienced shooters, who are members of the NRA, to help coach or supervise the general public at the above event. If you are interested, and can give your time freely to promote the sport, please contact Karen Robertson on karen@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ext 146 with brief details about your shooting history and availability. More information about the Open Day can be found on our website [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk). Please let all your friends know about the day and encourage them to attend.

## Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting is being held over the weekend of Friday 28 May to Monday 31 May – good weather is guaranteed! From Air Pistol to Smallbore to Shotgun to Muzzle Loading to F Class Rifle at 1000 yards this flagship Meeting has something to suit everyone's tastes.

All documents are available online via the NRA website. Additionally a paper version of the entry form will be posted to all members of the Gallery Rifle database. The NRA GR&P Rulebook is available free of charge from the NRA offices (or via Royal Mail for £1).

## Imperial Meeting

### Future Dates

It has been decided that in the future the Imperial Meeting will always be held on the same relative dates each year (subject to military constraints). First Saturday will now be the seventh Saturday after the late May Bank Holiday.

### Dates

This year's Imperial Meeting will run from Thursday 1 July to Sunday 25 July starting with the Service Weapons events and ending with the Australia Match on Final Sunday. First Saturday will be 10 July and Final Saturday will be 24 July.

### Entry Forms

The individual TR/MR and F Class entry forms may now be downloaded from the NRA website.

However, online entry is easier, quicker, more accurate and will save a postage stamp! All online entries are uploaded directly to the Imperial Meeting entry and stats database, saving many hours of manual entry, reducing errors and making your entry more secure. If you are able to enter the Imperial Meeting online please do so.

The paper entry form will be in its usual format of an A3 folded sheet perforated down the centre. Pages 1 and 2 contain important notes on completing the entry form correctly: it is essential that these notes are read carefully before the entry form is completed. The actual entry form is on pages 3 and 4. The majority of competitors will only need to complete page 3 (personal details, block entries and financial reconciliation). Only those competitors wishing to enter single events will need to complete page 4. Pages 1 and 2 should be kept for reference and only the entry form on pages 3 and 4 should be returned.

You may also need to enter your unique TRID (Target Rifle ID) on both the online and paper entry forms. The TRID enables us to match your scores with previous results. If you are a full member, have previously shot the Meeting and enter online, the software will look up your TRID for you. You can find your TRID by doing a search on the website for your scores at <http://scores.nra.org.uk>. If you do not have internet access please contact the Squadding Department on ext 146 who will be able to look it up for you.

### Entries

Once entries have been processed and entered in the computer, a detailed entry summary sheet will be forwarded to each competitor. Entries are processed in batches, so this is unlikely to happen until late April at the earliest. Please check your summary sheet carefully and report errors as soon as possible to the Squadding Department.

Late entry fees for individual TR, MR and F Class events will again be payable after 31 May (10% extra) with 25% extra payable after 30 June. No entries for any squaddled competition will be accepted after 12:00 the day before that competition.

Late entry fees for team events remain unchanged, ie 25% extra on all entries received after 12:00 two days before the day of the match concerned (except for the FW Jones and the Parting Shot competitions which may be entered up to 12:00 the day before the match). Team captains should note that, in the event of a late entry being accepted, it may not be possible to provide markers at such short notice. In this case the team will have to provide the required number of markers or it will not be able to shoot. Please read carefully the notes on all entry forms before making your entry.

## **Individual Entry Fees**

The actual entry fee for each individual squadded competition will remain at the same level as last year, ie £1 per round issued plus the cost price of the ammunition. The entry fees for aggregates and sweepstakes will also remain exactly as for last year, £4.40 and 50p respectively.

## **Ammunition**

Ammunition will once again be RWS which will be priced at a special Imperial Meeting price of 75p per round. The contract for RWS ammunition has been agreed for the next five years. Competitors using .308"/7.62mm rifles in Match Rifle or F Class will be able to purchase RWS ammunition at the Meeting price on application with their entry. RWS ammunition will be available for the McQueen on the range at the Meeting price.

Competitors using their own ammunition (Match Rifle and F Class) have not been charged for ammunition. In view of the potential complexity of the entry form, F Class will have a separate entry form, similar to the TR/MR entry form, but with their own ammunition-free entry fees shown. Please contact the Squadding Department for an F Class entry form if you cannot enter online.

## **Subsequent Stages of TR Competitions**

The costs of running the Second and Third Stages of HM The Queen's Prize and the St George' Prize, the Final of the Chairman's Prize and the Final of the Donaldson Memorial, will again be subsidised by the sale of the empty cases after the Meeting, and it is therefore imperative that every case, and every unfired sighter, is returned with your squadding card.

## **Markers**

All marker fees are contained in the quoted entry fee, and no competitors will be required to mark in any of the competitions on the main TR/MR or F Class Individual Entry Forms.

## **Aggregates**

The aggregate competitions, based on the individual squadded matches in both TR and MR, are grouped into four blocks as follows:

- Block C including Grand Aggregate matches only
- Block D including Middle Saturday matches
- Block E including First Friday matches
- Block G including all MR competitions

This will enable competitors to more easily enter the blocks which will fit in with their date of arrival at Bisley. Competitors arriving on First Friday are therefore encouraged to enter Blocks C, D and E. Those arriving on the morning of Middle Saturday should only enter Blocks C and D and those arriving on the afternoon of Middle Saturday should enter Block C only.

Block entry fees are discounted by approximately 10%. In Block C, for example, you get 22 aggregates for less than the price of 20! Please note that Sweep entry fees are not reduced (since these entry fees are returned as prize money).

Also enclosed in this Journal is a request form which may be used to obtain entry forms for Team Matches (including Schools Veterans), Pistol and Gallery Rifle, Any Rifle (MR), Civilian Service Rifle and the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting. All forms will also be available for download from the NRA website during the next few weeks.

Please note that the programme and entry forms for the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting are unlikely to be available until early May and will be sent to all those who competed last year in IHAM or the Trafalgar.

## **Competitor ROs**

The paid NRA RCOs will be responsible for ensuring that each range is fully equipped with the required equipment before the start of all competitions, for the safe running of the range and for closing it on the conclusion of shooting. Competitor Range Officers (ROs) will be appointed as hitherto and will continue, under the supervision of the NRA Competitor Wing Officers, to be mainly responsible for the interpretation of the rules. No competitor RO should have more than two RO duties. Their assistance in the running of the ranges during the Imperial Meeting will be much appreciated.

## **Service Rifle**

Entry forms for Service competitors may be obtained from the NRA website or NRA offices. They should be returned by 24 June 2010. There have been further changes to the CENTSAM programme this year and there may be some major changes to the NRA SR events.

The NRA matches may be shot concurrently with Matches 4 and 8 during the various Service SAMs. The squadded team events will still be shot as stand-alone matches on 8 and 9 July. Details will soon be finalised and will be published in the Summer Journal.

## **Civilian Service Rifle**

It is hoped that the Civilian Service Rifle programme will be as follows. However, please check the Summer Journal and the website for any further changes.

## **Individual**

- Thu 1 July Civilian 100 yards, 200 yards, 300 yards and Civilian Urban Contact Matches
- Fri 2 July PR Long Range Match and PR Short Range Match
- Sat 3 July Civilian Rundown Match and Civilian Falling Plates
- Sun 4 July TBC – range space available

## **Teams**

Sat 24 July Civilian Methuen Team Match

All individual matches are planned to be held on Bisley, Pirbright and Ash Ranges. The Civilian Methuen will be held on Century Range. Details will soon be finalised and will be published in the Summer Journal.

## **Target Rifle**

There have been some major changes to the TR programme this year, with the objective of reducing the number of late finishes thus providing a more attractive shooting programme for the latter stages of the Meeting, and scheduling the Chairman's Prize so as to be accessible to all O and T class qualifiers.

A new trophy has been presented by CCRS to commemorate 100 years of the Athelings. The Wednesday Aggregate will be renamed the Athelings Centenary Aggregate. Many thanks to the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting for this generous gesture.

A new team competition, named the Under 25 Home Countries Invitation Match, was introduced last year by the English, Irish and Scottish Under 25 teams and has now been adopted by the NRA. This match will be fired alongside the Astor and will be open to the four Home Countries plus invited overseas Under 25 teams.

The Champion of Champions will move to Second Monday to be held at 1000 yards after the Corporation.

The Stickledown will move to the afternoon of Second Thursday after the Barlow. Both competitions will be fired in two details which will allow competitors to shoot the Barlow, Stickledown and PW Richardson should they so wish.

The St George's Stage II will now be held on Second Thursday at 18:00.

The Donaldson Memorial Final will be held on Second Friday at 18:00.

The Inter-Services Long Range will move to Second Tuesday and will be held at the same time and under the same conditions as the County Championship Long Range except that each team will have two targets. Shooters may fire in both matches or scores may be counted concurrently.

The Queen's Consolation will be 2+15 at 900 and 1000 yards, mirroring the Queen's Final.

The Chairman's Prize will have its own separate Final. This will be held at 09:00 on Second Friday and will comprise 2+15 at each of 900 and 1000 yards and will be open to the top 50 in each of class T and O in the Grand Aggregate. The previous condition of not qualifying for Queen's Stage II has been removed. Firers will be squaddled two to a target so it will mirror the Queen's Final.

There will be some small changes to other timings so please check the Daily Programme in the Bisley Bible or the Daily Detail sheets during the Meeting.

## **F Class**

All F Class squaddled shoots (except the Queen's First Stage and those alongside 20 round MR events) will now become 15 round shoots.

This year F Class are introducing two new aggregates – the 2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate and the Donaldson Memorial Aggregate. There will be a Donaldson Memorial Final for the top 20 competitors in the First Stage held on Second Thursday. Trophies for these two events have been very kindly donated by David Kent (2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate) and Peter Hobson (Donaldson Memorial).

The F Class Queen's Prize and St George's Finals will move to the afternoon of Second Friday.

The F Class Champion of Champions will move to Second Monday to be held at 1000 yards after the Corporation.

## **Schools**

The revised Schools entry form will be sent to all Schools before Easter. Entry fees will remain the same as last year. There are a number of changes to the programme for the Schools Meeting this year.

It is likely that both the Schools Meeting and the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting will again be shot using the Lynx back sight, and it is hoped that this will include those purchased from public funds as well as those issued by DSG. Further details will be given in the letter to Schools which will also be sent before Easter.

## **Schools Veterans**

The Schools Veterans teams match will be shot at 500 yards commencing at 17:15 on Thursday 15 July. The fact that the Ashburton 500 yards is being fired after lunch, from 13:15 to 14:50 should allow Old Boys time to visit their old School team in the final stages of this match, and still allow time for practice from 16:00 to 16:45 for the Schools Veterans match. Team captains will be required to certify on the team register that all members of their team have a Safety and Competency certificate or will be coached, on a one-to-one basis, by the holder of such a certificate.

## **Match Rifle**

It will again be possible to enter the MR Meeting in F Class, shooting alongside the Hopton competitions for medals (Prize List D) only. Accordingly the appropriate box on the entry form should be completed.

## **McQueen Centenary Aggregate**

Other than pricing, no changes are proposed in the McQueen competitions this year. The Centenary Aggregate prize of £100, introduced in 2008 for scoring



a double possible in Classes A, D and E, was again not won. In accordance with the match conditions this prize has been rolled-over and will be £300 this year.

### **Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol**

The programme for this meeting will be much the same as last year. Matches will be run specifically for cadet competitors during the Schools Meeting on Tuesday 13 July and Wednesday 14 July. The main GR&P Meeting will be shot from Thursday 15 July to Sunday 18 July. All the squadded events will be shot during the Middle Weekend. Entry forms are available from the NRA website or offices.

However, due to the relatively low numbers of entries year on year, the future of the Imperial Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol Meeting is still not secure. If this meeting is not supported there is a very good chance that it will be discontinued. To encourage shooters to support this meeting the Meeting Membership fee will be lowered to £5.00 for non-members of the NRA in line with other GR&P events and the cost of medal re-entries will be reduced.

### **Prize Lists**

As usual prize lists will be produced in CD format as well as a printed book. All competitors in the Grand Aggregate or the Hopton Match Rifle Aggregate, and all Schools competing in the Ashburton, will receive a free Prize List CD provided they request one on the entry form. The CD will be sent out to all qualified competitors who request one after the Imperial Meeting. Additional CDs will be available at a cost of about £5.00 to all those not eligible for a free copy.

A Prize List book will also be produced but will only be available to order during the Imperial Meeting. The price is likely to be in the region of £15 (plus postage and packing if required) but will depend on numbers ordered. An order form and further details will be available in your squadding envelope.

### **Medals and Bars**

All competitors are required to complete the appropriate box on the entry form if they wish to receive medals and bars. If you do not tick this box you will not receive them!

### **Sponsorship**

There are still many competitions which are not sponsored and so you are invited to consider whether you know any firms, companies or individuals who might like to sponsor, or present a trophy for, a competition in the Imperial Meeting. Full details of the advantages for sponsoring firms and the packages available, are available from Amanda Vaughan on ext 135 or e-mail [accommodation@nra.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@nra.org.uk).

### **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 and we welcome applications. If you would like to be considered for this important position please e-mail [sally.agnew@nra.org.uk](mailto:sally.agnew@nra.org.uk) as soon as possible, with details of your experience, qualifications and availability

### **Free Lunch!**

The Australia Match and the Australia Under 25 Match will both be held on Sunday 25 July. We are expecting several teams in each match. As host nation the NRA is required to provide register keepers for all the teams competing and is looking for willing volunteers to assist with the match. We have booked lovely sunny weather so if you are available to spend a day watching a premier international match take place as well as getting a special NRA free lunch please contact Karen Robertson on [karen@nra.org.uk](mailto:karen@nra.org.uk) or ext 146.

### **Revised NRA Handbook – the Bisley Bible**

The Bisley Bible has undergone a major revision this year. Conceptually, the Bible is now a set of procedures, rules and regulations issued under the authority of the Council. Physically, it will consist of the usual A6 publication and the glossy A5 Gallery Rifle and Pistol Handbook. Additional discipline-specific volumes are in preparation, although the schedule for their release is not yet established.

The main volume is now organised in three parts.

The Handbook includes a variety of policy documents and general information. It is planned to extend this to form a more comprehensive reference book. Included in the Handbook are the Bisley Camp Standing Orders and the Bisley Range Safety Regulations. These are under the control of the Managing Director NSC and are written to be stand-alone documents. Consequently some items are repeated in both documents and / or in the Rules of Shooting.

The Rules of Shooting are, as far as possible, generic rules for use on any range. The work of separating elements of the previous rules and structuring elements of limited application continues.

The Imperial Meeting section contains all the administrative regulations for the Meeting, and the competition conditions and timetables. The major change in the document itself is that F Class events have been separated to clearly indicate the status of F Class as a discipline distinct from TR.

As well as being rearranged, there have been some changes to the Rules themselves. It is essential that competitors read the Safety Rules section in the Rules of Shooting, and worthwhile taking the time to check through the whole document. There are so many changes that the convention of sidelining alterations has been dropped for this year.

Individual rules where the substance has changed significantly include:

- The precedence of the various rules, regulations and conditions.
- TR ammunition rules.
- In the Safety Rules:
  - The procedure following an emergency stop
  - The misfire procedures
  - The rules regarding responsibilities and procedures for clearing firearms
- Observing fall of shot for other competitors following a miss.
- Procedure for converting sighters in a team match.
- Persons allowed to submit a challenge, and persons responsible for informing the RCO when the spotting disc unmistakably disagrees.
- Responsibilities of firer and register keeper for correct recording of scores and completion of register cards.
- Eligibility for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain, now part of NRA Policy.
- Classification of overseas competitors.
- Ammunition arrangements for the Imperial Meeting, including availability at cost of NRA .308" 155gr ammunition to competitors in disciplines other than TR.
- Definition of the "Services" for the purposes of competition

Individual rules where the wording or layout has changed to improve clarity or remove anomalies include:

- The dimensional requirements for a Target Rifle
- The definition of Match Rifle
- Definition of F Class rifles
- Rules which deal with jackets, slings, gloves and screening of firearms. The new wording is extensively copied from the ICFRA TR Technical Rules.
- Rules defining the various positions used in competition.
- Rules regarding being on time for squadded competitions.
- Circumstances in which another sighter will be allowed.
- Scoring a shot fired out of turn.
- Offences for which the potential penalty is expulsion.
- Use of the various tickets and claim cards in the Imperial Meeting.

Please also see the article on pages 54 to 56.

## **Other Competitions**

### **Civilian Service Rifle Meetings**

This discipline caters for military style competitions for the civilian enthusiast. The course of fire has been altered to take into account the fact that civilians cannot shoot with semi and fully automatic fullbore firearms. The programme of Civilian Service Rifle meetings has continued, with competitions being held in November and December 2009 and continuing through to April. Civilian SR also has a separate section during the Imperial in July. The competitions shot are varied and details are found in the Bisley Rules of Shooting. Entry forms are available on the NRA website and entries may be made by post, fax or e-mail.

### **European Long Range Championships**

The 2010 European Long Range Championships will be held on 16 and 17 October at Bisley.

### **The 2010 Ages Match**

The Ages Match is now a popular annual event especially as it includes the fantastic Fireworks Display by Dragon Fireworks on the Saturday night. The Ages Match will be held over the weekend 30 and 31 October 2010 and will follow the same broad programme as previous years. Further details will be given in the Summer Journal but please note this weekend in your diary now.

### **Historic and Classic Firearms**

The Classics Discipline has changed its name to Historic and Classic Firearms, which will more accurately reflect its specialisations to outsiders.

Heritage pistols, which currently are not included in any Discipline, and consequently have no formal representation at General Council or Shooting Committee, will become an element of the Historic and Classic discipline.

The NRA Percussion Revolver Championship will this year be held on 5 June, immediately preceding the "1910" Meeting on 6 June.

### **Gallery Rifle and Pistol**

A full programme of events for Gallery Rifle and Pistol, including the Phoenix Meeting, Action Weekends and the National Championships, can be found on the NRA website.

### **Marksman's Calendar**

The full Marksman's Calendar 2010 is available on the NRA website. The main advantage of this version is that it is constantly being updated, with new or amended events, changes of date etc. If you have any events that you would like included on this calendar, or notice any events that are missing, please send details to karen@nra.org.uk.

# NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



by  
*Jeremy  
Staples*

## **NSC Restructuring**

I am very pleased to be able to inform you that, following a review of the existing structure of the NSC, the NSC Board has recommended to the Trustees, which has now been agreed, a restructuring of the NSC management.

The restructuring has been put in place to improve the service given to both members and visitors to Bisley since we have taken on board the comments from the membership in respect of the poor state of maintenance and cleanliness of the National Shooting Centre.

With immediate effect I am pleased to announce the following appointments.

## **Brian Thomas – Assistant Director Shooting/ Competitions**

Brian Thomas will be in charge of all aspects of competition shooting at Bisley, which will include the co-ordination and management of the Imperial Meeting and other flagship events. Brian will also be encouraging competitions for new disciplines and to further develop the gallery rifle meetings that already take place on a regular basis.

Due to experience with the military and range design, Brian will also lead the range safety side of the business.

## **Matt Ensor – Assistant Director Operations**

Matt has now been offered a full time role and will be responsible for the operational side of shooting at the NSC and, in particular, will be responsible for the Range Office and Armoury and will be instrumental in the introduction of the new RFD Pro record keeping system within the Armoury. Matt has already introduced a new online booking system and is working on a real time range allocation software programme. Matt is determined to improve the service offered to the membership and other NSC customers.

## **Clerk of Works (to be appointed)**

A Clerk of Works, which will be a 'hands on' role, will monitor and control the work carried out by

our outside and target shed staff to ensure that the quality and visual impact of the site is considerably improved.

We recognise that a number of members have commented on the decline in maintenance standards and we are determined that this role will reverse this trend and we hope that a very real improvement can be achieved within a short space of time.

## **Amanda Vaughan – Events Manager**

Amanda has moved from the Range Office to become Events Manager. She will be co-ordinating corporate hospitality and other events that take place on the site whilst retaining her role in respect of accommodation.

## **Range Office/Armoury Manager (to be appointed)**

This is a new position reporting to the Assistant Director – Operations and is essentially a 'hands on' role responsible for the day-to-day management of the combined Range Office and stores function. It will involve planning and provision of safe range operations, rota management and day-to-day staff management together with direct face-to-face customer service at peak times.

We are convinced that this new structure will deliver a better service to NRA members and visitors to Bisley and we look forward to receiving your feedback as the new structure progresses.

## **Ablution Blocks**

We are fully aware of the concerns expressed by members in respect of the quality and cleanliness of the existing ablution blocks.

A number of quotes have now been received in respect of the upgrading and refurbishing of the ablution blocks on the site.

The most effective quote that will provide the finish that we require is in excess of £58,000 per block. The proposal is that two of the 1970s blocks will be refurbished with immediate effect and that this refurbishment programme will continue over the next few years. It has been decided that the blocks on sites 2 and 5 will be the first sites to be upgraded and this work is expected to start imminently.

In addition we will be carrying out a full deep clean and steam clean of all ablution blocks before they are opened for the main shooting season and, where possible, any necessary remedial work will be carried out to ensure that they are in good working order and are as clean as possible.

We have had a number of meetings with our cleaning contractors who have guaranteed that they will provide a much improved service from previous years. Again we welcome your feedback if there are any problems so that we can resolve them as a matter of urgency.

# SHOOTING MATTERS

## RANGE OPERATIONS



*by Matt Ensor*  
*Assistant Director*  
*- Operations*

### **Bisley Online Booking System**

It has come to our attention that some users are unfamiliar with the method of confirming bookings through the online system. Your 'My Bookings' section will show you the status of each booking.

We are currently unable to e-mail you with status updates as and when they occur, so please check your 'My Bookings' section regularly for the status of your bookings. In the event any have been declined due to a lack of space, please either resubmit an alternative arrangement, or contact the Range Office to discuss your options. Please have your unique Booking ID (BID) to hand when you call.

### **Melville Bays – Trialing the ability to share bays on weekends**

As some of you may be aware, we may have to close Cheylesmore shortly to construct a new, state of the art range in its place. In order to alleviate any booking congestion, we are trialing the ability of clubs to share bays if they don't require all ten lanes to themselves. This will also allow clubs to share the costs of a bay in the process. For full details please see the NRA website, or speak to the Range Office or Les Pulling in Melville Range. The trial will initially run for all bookings between 1 March and 30 April 2010. We will then examine the feedback and see if we can improve the offering in time for the closure of Cheylesmore. Your patience and understanding would be appreciated during the trial.

### **2010 Bisley Charges**

The NRA and NSC websites now have full details of our pricing structure for 2010, and copies are available from the Range Office or NRA Front Office. This covers Bisley range hire and markers, firearm hire, accommodation and the Melville bay-sharing trial. We hope you like the new format, and find the pricing documents more accessible. We are pleased to announce we have managed to reduce the costs of:

- Rifle Ranges during the week in winter

- All charges in our pistol calibre ranges (Melville, Cheylesmore and Butt Zero)
- The costs of buying additional backing boards in our pistol calibre ranges.
- All accommodation not taken during weekends in peak season

Our other rifle range charges have been increased to the nearest pound, at an average increase of around 1 to 2% only.

We are still working hard on finalising details of our secure storage charges for members' firearms and ammunition, and an announcement will be placed on the NRA website as soon as possible. All those who currently store with us can expect invoices to arrive shortly thereafter, and we will allow a grace period of one calendar month for those who wish to remove any items stored with us as a result of any increases. Once this grace period expires the annual charge will become payable in full.

It has become clear that we have been inconsistent in our approach to payment for secure storage in the past, and we are already putting steps in place to improve in this area.

### **RUAG pricing**

In a VAT increase-busting move, we are delighted to announce that our 2009 RUAG supplies are still priced at 83 pence per round. With the 10p rebate for returned once-fired cases means that the net cost to you remains at our 2009 level of 73p per round.

We continue to ask for cases to be returned as soon as possible, and normally within 24 hours. However, we understand that those who do not shoot at Bisley, or who are administering large competitions, may find this a little difficult. We will arrange details of how and when to return once-fired cases on a case-by-case basis in these events. We do ask that you buy at least 500 rounds for us to consider any special arrangements.

If you would like to discuss this further, please give Fred James a call from Wednesdays to Sundays on 01483 797777 ext 134, or send an e-mail to [armoury@nra.org.uk](mailto:armoury@nra.org.uk)

### **Hiring NSC firearms**

In order to provide a significantly better service to those wishing to hire firearms from us, we have completely restructured our hiring charges. Previously clubs shooting 150 rounds through a rifle would pay the same rate as an individual firing 12. This clearly does not reflect the costs of maintenance of the various component parts so we have now introduced usage limits per hiring period for individuals and groups.

To negate the safety concerns of allowing unknown ammunition types and loads to be fired through these rifles, only ammunition sold by the Range Office on the day of hire may be used with these firearms.

## **SAFETY NOTICE**

### **ENFIELD No 4 RIFLE CONVERSIONS TO 7.62MM**

A safety warning concerning the use of Enfield No 4 Rifle actions converted to 7.62mm was published in the Summer Journal.

After further consideration of all factors influencing safety of these conversions and consultation with the Birmingham Proof Master, the following advice must be adhered to in respect of the use of Enfield No 4 conversions:

- Owners of Enfield No 4 actioned rifles converted to 7.62mm currently proofed to 19 tons per square inch are strongly advised to have them re-proofed to the current CIP standard (requiring a minimum mean proof pressure of 5190 bar) which allows the use of CIP approved ammunition with a Maximum Average Working Pressure (MAWP) of 4150 Bar.
- Conversions retaining their original Enfield barrel or a replacement barrel as manufactured by RSAF Enfield are safe to use with commercial CIP approved ammunition, which complies with a MAWP of 4150 bar, loaded with any weight of bullet, providing they carry a valid proof mark, and are still in the same condition as when submitted for proof.
- Conversions fitted with any other make of barrel (such as Ferlach, Maddco, Krieger etc) should be checked by a competent gunsmith to determine the throat diameter of the chamber/barrel fitted before further use.
- Conversions where the throat diameter is less than the CIP specification of 0.311" but not smaller than 0.3085" must not be used with ammunition which exceeds 3650 Bar MAWP when fired in a SAAMI/CIP pressure barrel.
- Conversions which have been checked and found to comply with Rule 150 may safely be used with any ammunition supplied by the NRA including the 155 grain Radway Green Cartridge, 155 grain RUAG Cartridge or other commercial CIP Approved cartridges loaded with bullets of any weight provided that the ammunition pressure does not exceed 3650 Bar when measured in a CIP standard pressure barrel.
- Owners of Enfield No 4 actioned rifles converted to 7.62mm who are uncertain as to the proof status of the rifle should have it checked by a competent gunsmith.
- Owners of Enfield No 4 actioned rifles in any calibre are strongly advised not to use them in wet weather or without removing all traces of oil from action and chamber prior to shooting.
- Enfield No 4 rifles converted to 7.62mm calibre or any other 7.62mm calibre rifles which are fitted with a barrel which has a throat diameter less than 0.3085" must not be used on Bisley Ranges.
- Ammunition loaded with bullets of any weight which are of greater diameter than the throat diameter of the barrel must not under any circumstances be used on Bisley Ranges in any rifle or barrel of any manufacture.

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by  
*Phyllis  
Farnan*

The training year is now under way at Bisley and there is a busy programme of courses planned for 2010. See the Marksman's Calendar on the NRA website for details of all courses at Bisley. Please note that some courses dates may have changed from the provisional dates given in the Winter Journal.

## **RCO Assessors' Training**

NRA RCO Assessors from all areas of the UK attended a training course and annual update seminar at Bisley on 30 - 31 January.

RCOs who would like to become RCO Assessors now receive "on the job" training. They will be required to attend two RCO courses at Bisley and will then be supervised in the regions by senior RCO Assessors. Applicants must have been active NRA RCOs in their clubs for at least five years and must also have experience of more than one discipline of shooting. For further details contact the Director of Training.

## **RCO Courses**

The RCO courses at Bisley continue to be very popular and the first course for this year (20 - 21 February) was fully booked. There are still vacancies for the remaining RCO courses this year but early application is advised. RCO courses will be held at Bisley on: 24 - 25 April, 5 - 6 June, 25 - 26 September, 13 - 14 November and 18 - 19 December. Please note that some of these dates differ from those previously advertised. Courses can also be held regionally by arrangement with the NRA. To book a place on an RCO course please contact Maureen Peach (see below).

## **RCO (HME) Courses**

This year there will be two "bolt on" RCO HME courses at Bisley on 23 May and 21 November. This course is only open to qualified NRA RCOs.

## **RCO Renewals**

You are reminded that the RCO qualification is valid for a period of six years. All RCOs who qualified

in 2004 will therefore need to apply to renew their qualification this year. Your actual run-out date is shown on your RCO photo ID card. Please contact Maureen Peach for details of the documentation required for renewal.

## **Instructor Workshop**

The Workshop, which covers methods of instruction and assessment, is for trainee RCO Assessors and potential Club Coaches. The next workshop will be on Sunday 3 October and will cost £25.

## **Basic Handloading Course**

This year the annual NRA Basic Handloading Course took place on 6 - 7 February. A total of 11 students attended the course.

## **Probationary Training**

At Bisley, Probationary Course 2010/1 is already under way and bookings are currently being taken for course 2010/2 which will start on 10 April. Stocks of the NRA Probationary Manuals (£5 each) and instructors packs (£10 each) are available for clubs to purchase - please contact the Training Department.

## **Club Instructor Training**

Experienced club shooters can be trained to deliver Probationary Courses by completing an NRA Club Instructor Course. Last year, a new General Skills Club Instructor Course was introduced to meet the requirements of clubs that do not focus on target rifle shooting. This course will be offered again this year at Bisley on 6 - 7 March. The course fee is £100. Later in the year we intend to introduce this course regionally and have already begun training some of our regional assessors in preparation. More details will be given in the Summer Journal.

The next Club Instructor (TR specific) course will take place at Bisley on 21 - 22 March. The course fee is £125 for NRA members and £145 for non-members of the NRA.

## **Skills Courses**

The next Skills (TR-Specific) Course will be run on the weekend 20 - 21 March at Bisley. This course is for those who are less experienced TR shooters and those who may have recently completed the Probationary Course. The course fee is £125 for NRA members and £145 for non-members of NRA. Students on the Skills Course may be coached out on the range by Club Instructor Course students who are themselves "under training" from qualified NRA coaches.

## **NRA TR Club Coach Course**

The next TR Club Coach Course will be held on 23 - 24 October. Applicants must be individual members of the NRA and should have previously completed the NRA Club Instructor (TR Specific) Course and an Instructors' Workshop. The course fee is £120.

## Wind Coaching Course

The usual short Wind Coaching advice session will take place as usual on First Friday (16 July) for the benefit of those attending the Imperial Meeting; further details will be found in competitor squadding card envelopes.

Unfortunately the Wind Coaching Course advertised provisionally for 15 and 16 May has been cancelled. It is hoped that this weekend course can be offered later in the year but a new date has not yet been arranged.

## SSS Club Audits

Under the terms of the 2008 NRA/MoD agreement, for civilian clubs shooting on military ranges, the NRA is required to conduct an annual audit of the records from a sample of its affiliated clubs in the UK. Details of the records which must be kept by clubs, under the Safe Shooting Scheme, was given in the letter which was sent to all affiliated clubs in May 2008. This letter is still available as a download from the NRA website.

The NRA will notify all clubs that have been selected for audit in 2010. Arrangements will then be made for a local NRA Assessor to visit each club to carry out a check of the club records. It is intended that this audit process will be completed by 1 May 2010.

## Child Protection

The full NRA policy and procedures document on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Target Shooting is now available to download from the NRA website. Information and guidance on how recent legislation may affect clubs has been sent to clubs with their renewal documentation, and is also available online. The NRA has also set up procedures so that any NRA members and members of affiliated clubs who wish to apply for a CRB check will be able to do so through the NRA. For more information on child protection matters please see the child protection page on the NRA website or contact the Director of Training who is also the NRA's Child Protection Officer (NCPO).

The NRA is very grateful to Liz Woodall for her informative article on this subject published on pages 33 to 37 in this Journal.

## Contact Information

Contact Maureen Peach for all RCO Course bookings or RCO renewal information on 01483 797777 ext 149 or e-mail [maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:maureen.peach@nra.org.uk)

For application forms or further information about any NRA training courses, or any child protection matters, contact the Director of Training on 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk)



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# NOTES FROM THE NRA FIREARMS LIAISON OFFICER

## Guidelines for NRA Member's Firearms Certificate Renewals

As the NRA staff member responsible for acting as a 'referee' I am regularly receiving members' applications for renewal of Firearms Certificates, or telephone calls for assistance in completing the process.

In order to ensure that renewals sent contain all essential details and all necessary documentation and to enable me to deal with renewals speedily and accurately, please find set out below some guidelines for your information:

Get your other referee to sign Part E of your Firearms Form 101 and to endorse the back of one of your photographs accordingly. He/she should also complete a referee's form and send it direct to the police.

Send the following to me:

- a Fully completed Firearms Form F101 and please make sure your other referee has completed and signed Part E.
- b Your four photographs – one has been endorsed by your other referee, you sign one and I will endorse another.
- c A referee's form for me to complete.
- d A shooting record request form. Some police forces send this out and I will complete it from

NRA records or I will create an original NRA shooting record and attach it to your renewal application papers.

- e Your cheque for renewal made out to the relevant police force.
- f Your existing firearm certificate (and shotgun certificate if coterminous application is being made) or photocopies of same.
- g A stamped and addressed envelope for me to use, addressed to the relevant police force

If you are also making a coterminous shotgun certificate application, then get your other referee to endorse the application form and a photograph. Include these – and the other photographs – with the papers relating to your Firearms Certificate that you send me and I will send them to the police with your firearms renewal application.

## Visitor's Firearms/Shotgun Permits

Surrey Police have indicated, that, in view of the anticipated number of applications for Visitor's Firearms/Shotgun Permits, they have to insist that they receive completed applications from the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer, a minimum of four weeks before they are required. It is essential therefore that applications reach the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer at least six weeks before they are required.

*Norman Clark*

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Berger, Tubb D-Tac, Lapua, Hornady, Speer, Nosler, etc. can be supplied upon request.

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22-250, .243 Win, 6.5 x 47, 6.5 x 55, 6.5 x 284, 7mm WSM, 7.62 x 39, 7.62 x 54R, .300 Win Magnum., 300 WSM, and .338 Lap Magnum.

All ammunition available in minimum lots of 50 rounds, 400, 500, 800 or 1000 round containers, depending on calibre.

The NRA Armoury on Bisley Camp stocks our .223 Rem Sierra 69 and 77 grain and our .308 Win Sierra 190 grain ammunition.

The NSRA shop on Bisley Camp stocks our .223 Rem Sierra 69 grain and our .308 Win Sierra 155 grain and 175 grain ammunition.

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# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## F Class 2009 Report and Looking Forward to 2010

*by David Kent and Stuart Anselm*

### F Class Association and League

The F Class Association is now five years old and held five league events last year for its F Class Open and FTR members. Additionally various clubs held F Class competitions at Bisley, Diggle, Blair Atholl and Altcar throughout the year. On top of those opportunities to shoot F Class, there were F Class shots competing in the Match Rifle events during the Imperial Meeting at Bisley. What is more, with the F Class World Championships following directly after the Imperial Meeting, a healthy number of F Class competitors, many of them visiting internationals, took part in the Imperial Meeting competitions (for a report on the F Class World Championships please see the NRA Journal Winter 2009.) If there were other F Class competitions taking place around the country please let us know.

The 2009 league season started at Diggle with a full complement of shooters in March in good weather. For a beautiful picture of Diggle in the snow please see the UK F Class website organised by Les Holgate. The ultimate winners at Diggle in April were Grant Taylor with 262.15 four points ahead of John Campbell in F Open and Stuart Anselm won from Ian Dixon in FTR class.

The league moved to Bisley in June where John Carmichael won the F Open with 389.22, one ahead of Adam Brough. In FTR Russell Simmonds took a decisive win scoring 385.31 with George Barnard placed second.

### F Class Imperial Meeting

#### Match Rifle

Ten F Class shots attended the Match Rifle competitions. The little band of brothers had a great time but there was no distinction made between FO and FTR. Perhaps this could be rectified another year? Overall winner was John Carmichael in the Hopton beating Des Parr in a staggering charge of 37 points in the last three competitions, to win by seven points.

#### F Open

There were up to 70 FO competitors with a few less in F Restricted (now renamed FTR). There were representatives from most of the teams who then went on to shoot in the World Championships. Many more arrived later in the week. On First Friday of the Meeting it was great to see Jim de Kort, the Netherlands Captain, win the Century and Dan Brough the Admiral Hutton.

In FO overall honours were shared between the following with two wins each in the minor competitions;

Dan Brough, Wolfgang Scholze of BDMP Germany (with a perfect 90 in the Prince of Wales), Jim de Kort and David Kent. Single wins were from Jim Murphy (USA), Des Parr, M Downey (USA) (a perfect 60 in the Times), NG Kelly and Mid Tompkins (USA).

The St George's went to Adam Brough, two points clear of Jim Murphy, and HM Queen's Prize went to David Kent three points clear of Jim de Kort. An examination of the scores indicates just how wild and blowy a day the final Friday had become.

Wolfgang Scholze won the Stickledown Aggregate, one point ahead of Lee Tomlinson, and David Kent won both the Century Aggregate, seven points ahead of Dan Brough, and the Grand Aggregate ahead of Wolfgang Scholze and Dan.

### F Restricted at the Imperial Meeting

With a number of contestants preparing for the World Championships this was (like FO) an extremely competitive meeting. In the minor competitions A Rathwell (DCRA), Paul Eggerman (BDMP Germany) and our own George Barnard won two competitions each. Each of the following had one win each; TC Perkins (DCRA) 59 in the Times counting out Matt Wolf (wow what shooting!), WR Flintoft (DCRA), Andy Duffy, J Weil (USA), M Dechamplain (DCRA) and D Carpenter (USA).

The St George's was won by TC Perkins with a score of 75 and HM Queen's Prize by Russell Simmonds two points ahead of TC Perkins. The Century Aggregate was won by Paul Eggerman 14 points clear, the Stickledown Aggregate by George Barnard six points clear, and the Grand Aggregate (not surprisingly) was won in handsome fashion by Paul Eggerman by 14 clear points from A Rathwell. Well done Paul and well done to everyone!

### Further League Matches

The league was shot contemporaneously with the World Championships so it will not surprise anyone that our new World Champions Gary Costello FO and Russell Simmonds for F Restricted won the League matches as well. Well done guys - brilliant shooting!

And so to Diggle in September where, like Lee Tomlinson in July, Mark Daish came from "nowhere" to win one point ahead of John Carmichael with 259 ex 275. In FTR Russell Simmonds again took first place with Steve Rigby trailing by a solitary point!

Lastly to Bisley for the European Championships where Adam Brough finished a fine year of shooting

to take the title of 2009 European Champion, an impressive win for a teenager considering the competition. Russell Simmonds finished the season with a successful defence of his European title in FTR.

Overall Grant Taylor became the FO league Champion and Russell Simmonds rounded off the perfect year by claiming the "triple" - GB, European and World Champion.

### **The Future**

We have an exciting time ahead of us. There are seven league shoots planned for 2010 and the now traditional Training Day at Bisley on 20 and 21 March for newcomers and those who would just like to have their skills brushed up. Places are limited. For all information on the F Class Association and the League please check the UK F Class website and then e-mail Mik Maksimovic on mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk.

In addition to the League there will be a chance to shoot at the longer distances of 1000 to 1200 yards once again with the band of brothers during the Imperial Meeting Match Rifle event.

There are also some exciting changes to F Class in the Imperial Meeting. For 2010, after requests from the NRA F Class Committee, many suggestions from Iain Robertson and discussions with Mik, the NRA Shooting Committee has decided the following:

All F Class shoots will be 2+15 rounds with the exception of the Queen's First Stage which will remain at 2+7 rounds at each of the three ranges.

There will also be a new Weekend Aggregate to be called the 2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate. It will

consist of the usual weekend competitions being at 300, 500 and 1000 yards on the Saturday, and 500, 600 and 900 yards on the Sunday (all 2+15 round shoots).

There will be a long range final of 2+20 rounds called the Donaldson Memorial shot on the Second Thursday.

All F Class shoots will be on the same butt for each particular competition, lessening the chance of marker confusion.

It is hoped that the increase in numbers shooting F Class last year will continue and that we will again see a good number of teams in the International Match (won by the US in 2009) on the Second Friday of the Meeting.

### **GB Team selection for the European Championships**

We have the European Championships to work for again. Although the team match was rained off in 2009 we had a great turn out last year with eight teams attending. This was the largest F Class event in Europe in 2009 with over 160 shooters attending. Lets do it again in 2010. A GB team will be selected in FO and FTR.

There is also an F Class European Match planned in Ireland for 2011 for which GB teams will be chosen.

Good, enjoyable shooting to you all!

*(Note: the authors of this article have just been appointed as the Captains respectively of F Class Open and FTR to the World Championships in Raton New Mexico for 2013.)*

## **Historic and Classics Report**

*from Rae Wills*

It is not often I start writing this column filled with good news and thus with such enthusiasm; normally it is the result of a battle between the blank page and writer's block, resolved by a truce brokered by last minute panic.

Firstly, we have a new name - in full "Historic and Classic Firearms", but "Historic and Classics" for everyday use. But, if we mended it, what broke? Two items really, the first the anomaly that being just "Classics" caused confusion to some, as it is also the name we have for our pre-1918 pride and joys, so did we represent only them? Secondly, we needed a handier and more easily understood name that we could use when promoting our discipline to the general public, especially at Open Days and similar events. I hope you like it.

Now comes the plug. Pistol shooters, put this in your diary; Saturday 5 June, the NRA Percussion Revolver

Championships, Melville Range, Bisley, morning and afternoon details. This has been moved at popular request from the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting. For those unaware, this is a real challenge covering a precision, timed and rapid-fire Stage, followed by the Ambidextrous, Bobber, and Surenden Matches, as in the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting programme. Three classes for "Spirit of the Original", Target (adjustable sights) both shot off hand, and an Open class for Nitro conversions and others revolvers, including any designs, any sights, and which may be shot two-handed.

Even if you think you have no chance of winning, this is a great shoot lasting a half day, and on the next day, Sunday 6 June, will be the HBSA 1910 Meeting, to make it a great weekend.

Some time ago a notice appeared in the Range Office, advising there was doubt about the safety of the

current NRA match ammunition, the RUAG 7.62mm with a 155 grains bullet, in No 4 actions. This caused considerable disquiet, especially as very little technical information was given as to why the warning. The Shooting Committee has been looking into this matter, and whilst I cannot pre-empt their report, initial indications show the problem does seem to have been very much overstated.

It is to be remembered that the primary control of firearm safety in the UK lies with the Proof House and, if the firearm has passed proof and is in good condition, and the ammunition is within the relevant CIP /SAAMI specification, then that combination is safe. But always remember that anything outside of these parameters can cause unsafe pressures; a typical problem area is barrels with too tight bores or chamber necks. Also wet ammunition, or with the bullet set too far out so it engages the rifling on loading, can raise pressures to alarming levels.

Another alarm occurred last summer with an NRA notice apparently restricting all Gallery Rifles to certain pistol calibres; goodbye 310" Cadet and similar old friends. This, it was discovered, was designed to deal with a problem caused by new cartridges within the velocity/energy limits; one was in the 300" Whisper family. The Gallery Rifle and Pistol Sub-Committee then looked further into the problem and decided to re-think all the relevant rules, particularly the rules for international matches.

The result made all our fears go away; no calibre restrictions! It is worth repeating here the new and very simple Gallery Rifle classes.

Gallery rifles in a centrefire calibre are divided into three types, as follows:

- **GRCF Standard:** a lever action rifle with an integral tube magazine.
- **GRCF Open:** any other Gallery Rifle of different design.
- **GRCF Classic:** any Gallery Rifle which complies with the Classics Discipline definitions of eligibility for the Imperial Historic Arms and Trafalgar Meetings.

So why not come to the Phoenix or one of the Action weekends and show how old timers really can shoot, whether or not you put on a modern sight system! Rules on ammunition are the same, no downloaded rifle cartridges, but sleeved chambers or adapters are OK.

Also our sincere thanks to Chris Farr, the Gallery Rifle and Pistol General Council representative, for all the time and trouble he took to come and explain the new rules to our Committee.

As if all this was not enough, the Bisley Bible is being rewritten; this was probably long overdue and all sorts of oddities were found. Would you believe prescribed shooting dress was "normal street attire"? Come to

think of it I have not recently seen anyone on the way to the office in current shooting dress either, give or take a media type in Craghopper trousers.

The new Bible will only contain the basic NRA rules and the conduct of the Imperial Meeting; the rules for each discipline will be in a separate document. The Gallery Rifle Handbook is already published, and the one for Historic and Classics is being prepared for us by David Gregory and many thanks to him for volunteering. The plan is for it to be published in time for adoption at the coming Imperial Historic Arms Meeting. So far, supported by advertising, the plan is that the discipline rules will be free of charge.

Finally, our HQ is on the move, as all staff directly involved are being moved into the revamped Shooting Division Office, so early in February David Mumford and all his works were installed there. This will enable closer integration with the administration and eliminate endless trips from one end of the building to the other. Also our old office, next to the Range Office, becomes available to the Range Office management, so those conducting Training or Corporate Days can operate close to the Armoury and their kit.

The rest of our equipment such as range kit, notice boards etc will be in one of the Portacabins, and during the Meetings, Stats, RCO control etc, will operate from there.

Remember: Imperial Historic Arms Meeting 10 to 11 July - put it your diary now!

See you there!

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## 300 Metres

*from Ian Shirra-Gibb*

My normal report at this time of the year usually recaps on the previous year, so here goes! I would like to congratulate the winners of gold medals; Mary Pearse 598 (Ladies Prone, Weimar, Germany); Tony Lincoln with a new British Prone 60 shot record of 600 ex 600; an equal British record men's prone team score of 1784 (European Championships, Croatia) from Tony Lincoln, Simon Aldhouse and Harry Creevy. Well done guys, long may it continue! Yes, we also had our ups and downs but we learnt a lot.

So we look forward to another busy new year with Bisley and overseas programs plus the World Championships being at the Olympic ranges in Munich.

This winter saw a full refurbishment of our target systems, which have given us such good service over the last five years.

Whilst, yet again, the snow settled on Bisley, I started to reminisce and think it's amazing how quickly another decade has passed in our discipline. When I look back to the start of my involvement with 300m (early seventies) what incredible advances I, and others, have seen in the technology of clothing, rifles, ammunition and range standards etc.

British involvement goes back a long way and is well recorded. Evidence can be found, in the NRA Museum, of shooting from the early nineteenth-hundreds and, in my research of British shooters attending invitation matches in Switzerland, in the late eighteen-hundreds.

Calibres of rifles were, of course, in the national calibre of the country with central European nations being almost anything up to 8mm.

The target is still one of the hardest of all rifle events, requiring first class equipment and a well-trained shooter to obtain top scores.

Looking back Britain had, to my knowledge, no dedicated 300m ranges and, when the 1908 and 1948 Olympics came to Britain, temporary firing points were assembled (certainly in 1948) on or around what is now butt 18 or 19.

As 300m shooting was classed as a free rifle event, there were then no major prone-only competitions and it was 3 x 40 (40 shots in each position) which, at that point, was not a practised British discipline!

For the 1948 Olympics our rifles were assembled by the late John Knott with 303" BSA heavy barrels and set triggers on P14 actions. An example is on display at Bisley and to my knowledge around eight or so were made.

Spectators watched in amazement as the 1948 gold medal was won by the Swiss shooter Emil Grunig

with 1121 ex 1200 with his 7.5mm rifle, the pictures show him in a leather shooting jacket and modern style glove etc, which was very advanced for the time. Our shooters looked more fit for going to the office in trilbies and suits!

Emil's family business evolved over the years to what we know to day as Grunig and Elmiger, run now by his grandsons, who make some of the best 300m target rifles in the world.

As a discipline we were to become a little dormant for a time, but myself and other UIT shooters watched with interest as mainly the USA and Russia, together with assorted European nations, battled it out for 300m supremacy throughout the late 1950s and 1960s.

Leaping forwards a few years to 1970 and the World Championships in Phoenix, Arizona. British shooters were given the opportunity to enter (with borrowed equipment) the 300m Free and Army Rifle (now Std Rifle) events, and, on their return, decisions were made to get the event back on the fullbore map as the 1972 Olympics were getting close. The British Free Rifle Club were tasked to hold trials on behalf of the NRA to see what we could produce in the way of scores (I have memories of mixing concrete for a firing point on Long Siberia which today can still be found in the grass, but is now used as a base by the clay shooters).

The majority of the triallists mainly came from the small-bore world and at each trial British records were broken. The now legendary Malcolm Cooper, who by then was a force to reckon with at 50m, produced some very good 3 x 40 scores so was selected to go. His Munich score of 1139 stood for some years, with his kneeling British record score of 387 not being beaten by himself for another twenty years or so. However his standing prowess was for what he became world famous, as records show.

The NRA had been donated (sometime back) a trophy by Argentina, which was hurriedly forgotten in the early 1980s. The Argentina was a NRA squadded extra event at 300m on Long Siberia during the Imperial Meeting – I wonder where it is now?

Britain joined the Nordic region in the mid 1970s and were regular competitors in these and other countries where European and World Championships were held.

Most other calendar events were run together with 50m competitions in various countries, as 300m was, and still is, a military event.

Britain was now a force to reckon with and, travelling as I did with the teams, it was a great feeling to know you would bring medals home – 1985 and 1986 were particularly good and memorable.

As by now 300m had been dropped from the Olympics (mainly caused by the need for large land areas for range complexes) which, in turn, produced a lack of funding as it was no longer an Olympic event, many of our old friends disappeared from the competition. However, following an incentive from the French (FFT), a series of Grand Prix were organised, starting in the early 1990s, which today is the European cup circuit as we know it. This now includes ladies events which were, for a period of some years, prohibited in international competition.

There was then the acceptance by the ISSF of the 60 shot prone event introduced, I understand, to encourage more of the prone-only Commonwealth nations to participate.

The next major step forward was in ammunition when, in 1995 at a European Championships in Sweden,

Norma introduced their new 300m target calibre of 6mm Br, followed later by the Swiss 6 X 47mm. This helped dramatically with the lower recoil (as we had all been using .308" at the time) to introduce people to the sport, and over the last fifteen years or so has seen competition scores rise comparable to and sometimes better than small-bore.

We have held two Nordic 300m events at Bisley, the first being in 1980/1, the second in 1992 and, as Bisley had to build a facility fast, the range was put on butt 10 where it is today. It was plain, open, noisy, probably in the wrong place but, with lots of upgrade work over the years, it is now our home.

Electronic targets have revolutionised 300m shooting; they are now the expected norm.

But enough of the past and let us look forward to another successful year for British 300m shooting!

## PROHIBITION NOTICE

### Montana 1999 Rifles in Stainless Steel

In October 2009 there was an incident at Bisley when a Montana 1999 action made in stainless steel suffered a breech explosion and catastrophic failure of the front receiver ring. Fortunately, nobody was seriously hurt. The NRA has carried out a technical investigation on the rifle, including obtaining a metallurgical analysis.

As a consequence of this incident and pending full consideration of the information generated by the NRA's investigation, **the use of stainless steel Montana 1999 actions on Bisley ranges is prohibited until further notice.**

The NRA will pass its concerns to the manufacturer and is in communication with the Birmingham Proof House. The prohibition will be reconsidered in the light of any advice received from these two sources.

Owners of Montana firearms with such actions are invited to supply contact details to the Secretary General so that the NRA can pass on any advice with minimum delay.

It is emphasised that this prohibition applies only to stainless steel Montana 1999 actions. Montana actions made in 4140 CrMo steel are not included in this prohibition.

## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### Great Britain Team to Canada 2011

The following have been selected for the Great Britain Team to Canada 2011:

#### *Captain*

David Richards Hampshire, England, GB

#### *Vice-Captain*

John Warburton Yorkshire, England, GB

#### *Adjutant*

Donald Anderson Wiltshire, Ireland, GB

#### *Coaches*

Charles Brooks Hampshire, England, GB

Simon Cleveland Surrey, England, GB

Jeremy Langley Devon, England, GB

#### *Shooters*

Sarah-Jane Binder\* Yorkshire, England

Daniel Blake London, England

Danny Coleman Surrey, England, GB

David Crispin Surrey, England, GB

David Dyson Yorkshire, England, GB

Jonathan Kent\* Surrey, England

Andrew Lothian Surrey, England, GB

Stephen Penrose Essex, England, GB

Kelvin Ramsey Surrey, England, GB

David Rose Surrey, England, GB

Ian Shaw Surrey, Scotland, GB

Simon Shouler\* Nottinghamshire, England

Jonathan Taylor\* Berkshire, England

Andrew Wilde Somerset, England, GB

#### *Reserves*

Henry Day Suffolk

Judy Scott Langley Ulster, Ireland, GB

\* New Cap



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## REGIONAL MATTERS

### Shooting Programme for Scotland in 2010

by Tim Kidner

In 2009 the Scottish Open Championships were moved from Barry Buddon Ranges to Blair Atholl using electronic targets for the first time for this event. The change was made because of increasing costs for using Barry plus significant disruption and delays to shooting when using the range in recent years. The move to Blair Atholl was very successful with a full entry of 60 and over the three days 7,000 shots were fired without any reports of missing shots, though some of them were fired at the wrong targets! Scoring in the Championships was down slightly on recent years mainly due to the difficult wind conditions at Blair Atholl but the results were very close in the Grand Aggregate with two scores on 510 out of 525 with James Anderson beating Mike Barlow on V bulls. The Scottish Championship was won by Peter Bromley with a score of 147 in the final which was shot at 900 and 1000 yards. The Lawrence Trophy Match between Scotland and England was also very close with Scotland coming out winners by one point – England were leading by one point after 500 yards but Scotland managed to gain two points at 600 yards. Coaching in team matches with electronic targets is different, partly because you can't see the fall of shots on your opponent's targets so you only have the information from the screens for your own targets. As a result of the positive experience of using the electronic targets at Blair Atholl it has been decided to hold the 2010 Scottish Championships at Blair Atholl again and to increase the maximum entry to 72 shooters – the dates will be June 18 to 20 (Friday to Sunday) which is later than usual but this change was necessary in order to avoid the dates clashing with other shooting events at Bisley.

Blair Atholl over recent years has become the venue for the majority of TR, F Class and Match Rifle events in Scotland – the only Championship event not shot at Blair Atholl is the Invernessshire Championship which is held at Cawdor Range near Inverness. In the past a lot of shooting in Scotland took place on MoD ranges – Dechmont, Barry Buddon, Castlelaw, Fort George and Aberdeen – but now only Castlelaw is used regularly by the East of Scotland Rifle Club but the cost has to be subsidised by the Club because of the requirement to pay for two range wardens to be on duty which is a regulation for all the MoD ranges in Scotland.

The 2010 programme in Scotland starts with the West of Scotland Championships on 1 and 2 May, followed by an F Class League competition on 8 and 9 May. The Scottish Long Range Open Championships will be on 5 and 6 June – all shooting is at 900 and 1000 yards – followed by the Scottish Open Championships

on 18 to 20 June. The Pentagonal (TR) and Finlux (F Class) inter-regional team matches are on 4 July. The Inverness-shire Championships at Cawdor are on 7 and 8 August and over the same weekend there is the second F Class League competition at Blair Atholl. The Tullibardine (Tayside) Championships are on 14 and 15 August and the East of Scotland Championships (also at Blair Atholl) are on 18 September.

The Match Rifle Open Championships run by the National Rifle Club of Scotland will be on 11 and 12 September which will be the 24th Open Championships at Blair Atholl – the Open Championships started once firing points were built at 1100 and 1200 yards in 1987. Match rifle scores in recent years have increased at Blair Atholl as they have at Bisley so that scores of 100 at 1000 and 1100 yards are being achieved regularly. Blair Atholl scores of 100 at 1000 yards were first achieved in 1989 (John Carmichael and Colin Hayes) and at 1100 yards in 2006 (Des Parr shooting F Class) but since then there have been seven scores of 100 at 1100 yards by match rifle shooters. However, the only score of 100 at 1200 yards so far was shot by Derek Newlands shooting F Class in 2006 – the highest match rifle score at 1200 yards has been 98 achieved by Stuart Collings and Bruce Mackie, both in 2003. The 1200 yards firing point is actually 1233 yards from the targets – the extra 33 yards is enough to make a difference!

Details and entry forms for these events will be on the NRA Marksman's Calendar on the NRA website and on the SRA website [www.scottishrifleaseassociation.org.uk](http://www.scottishrifleaseassociation.org.uk) and on the NRC of Scotland website [www.nrcofs.org](http://www.nrcofs.org).

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# T REX – DOLDRUMESQUE



## Brooding

I do not know what it is about the period from December to February but it always reminds me of being marooned in the Doldrums – not that I ever was.

Geography teachers

had a way of translating this area of latitude into some sort of limbo, of a profoundly depressing nature, when linking it to early trade in tea and spices from John Company's far flung parts. You sat there under a burning sun with nothing to do, no wind to do it in, betting on whether the passing albatross is the same one that you saw passing yesterday and generally wiling away time until something more exciting comes along.

And then, lo and behold, it does come by. This is the 150th anniversary year of the UK National Rifle Association. It's party time . . .

## Music to Message Ten By

My eye was taken by a lengthy series of letters in the correspondence columns of the Daily Telegraph last October, on the choice of appropriate – or inappropriate – music in time to which to shuffle off this mortal coil. 'Funereal', you might think, but also very amusing. "Return to Sender" by Elvis Presley had my vote among many others. This set me thinking what some of our top shots might list for their final course of fire (excuse the incendiarist reference). So far the following songs or scores, some crematoriumesque, spring to mind:

- Top Gun: this has to be the number one choice
- The One That Got Away (1957 film starring Hardy Kruger as the only German PoW to have escaped successfully from allied clutches) - for all those who have dropped their last to count at some important point
- NBC TV 1983 mini-series theme V For Victory in which aliens arrive on Earth (an obscure central bullseye connection)
- High on the Hill in memory of disasters on targets 49 and 50 on Stickle-down, or possibly some other sort of experience
- The Great Escape for all those who have, undeservedly, at an important point wobbled their last one in without the slightest idea where it was going
- The X Men for self-satisfied Palma folk
- For clay pigeon finalists Flash Bang Wallop by Tommy Steele from the musical Half a Sixpence

- for 2012 LOCOG Olympic Shooting planners, the theme from Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (how unkind)
- for the bowmen and women 'Do Be Do Be Do Be Do': hum it, signature music from The Archers
- or for the more cultured and stout-hearted bowmen and women, the second verse of 'Jerusalem', . . . Bring me my bow . . .

Any better suggestions? I feel duty-bound to include the following from an excitable Smokin' Dave who suggests Come on Baby, Light my Fire by The Doors despite the total lack of a shooting connection. The Editor is sitting in rapt attention waiting for your offerings on a postcard.

## Not Quite Cricket?

Apropos of nothing in particular I feel that those of you who follow any sort of sport will have been mesmerised in 2009 by a number of extraordinary goings on. These have ranged from the high-profile diving activities of over-paid and over-egoed footballers, joke-shop fake blood capsules deployed with crass intent and even crasser dexterity by professional rugby players, multi-million dollar F1 chariot crashing to engineer a Grand Prix win for a team-mate, and even an unproven accusation of a national team throwing a match on the sedate bowls rink to gain a more favourable draw in succeeding rounds of a championship.

Much of what we have read about would have been greeted with expressions of disbelief and incredulity had it been mooted a few years ago. Thanks to the amateur ethos that pervades the activities and involvement of most of our sports men and women, we simply could not have believed that it could happen.

Hang on: just think about it for a moment. Cricketers have been known to carry pockets filled with dirt (and even bottle tops) to apply to the surface of the cherry to aid their bowlers. Batsmen have adopted a 'no walk' policy when blatant nicks to the wicket-keeper have avoided the umpire's attention. Footballers have collapsed like shot elephants when anywhere near an opposition leg in the penalty area (yes – we have covered that one). Rugby players practise their skills as mobile chicanes and lazy runners. And so on: you can probably contribute some more examples.

What seems different in some of the recent incidents is an odour of management complicity, encouraging and defending acts that go beyond the boundaries of 'just trying it on to see if you can fool the referee'. And that concerns me. Where has the Olympic ethos gone? What is it that is so important that the management should want to break the rules and to encourage or instruct their players to do so? No prizes for spotting the combination of money, personal record and position, stupidity, and pressure to win, win, win. In

all this the good old-fashioned concept of it being a 'sport' vanishes.

In our sport we play for enjoyment and to exercise that little skill that we still possess. With magnificent complacency I would argue that the need to cheat is not a sensation that is commonly felt. It is difficult to see how it might be done so as to avoid the eagle eyes of knowledgeable fellow competitors. The processes are already there to police individuals and self-policing does seem to have worked over the years. Or is this just being self-righteous and rather stupid?

I live in a strange world where I have this touching belief that we can – more or less – trust each other. It is rare to have to challenge your neighbour's score for a lower value: a firer is the first to seek clarification, up or down, if the spotting disc appears to disagree. In team matches it would take all eight or twelve or more to conspire to use unauthorised ammunition. Disciplinary action and potential life disqualification is the consequence – not to mention the associated pariah status.

My comfort zone is that I have never felt the need to spend any time devising ways in which I could circumnavigate the rules. It would spoil my idea of enjoyment, competing on as level a playing field as I can get. Am I unique, or bonkers? I sincerely hope that I am neither.

## Coxing It Up

My old schoolmaster acquaintance Simon Cox has been spurred to respond to the piece in the last issue about third generation Ashburtonistas. With justifiable pride he tells me that his father, HJ (Jack) shot in the Ashburton for King Edward's School Birmingham in 1930 (and may have done in the year or two before that but he has no record). Simon himself shot for Oakham School in the years 1960 to 1964 (Cadet Pair in 1960 and 61). His son CR (Charlie) shot for the Cheltenham Cadet Four in 1985 and Ashburton 1986 to 1989 – see also the Athelings 1989 re-union article in the last Journal.

Jack was Athelings' Commandant in 1967 or 68, again no record and Charlie was an Atheling in 1989. Jack taught Maths and ran the shooting at Oakham from 1937 to 72: Simon taught Maths and ran the shooting at Cheltenham from 1970 to 2006 (and although he never did an Athelings tour, he did send 20 Cheltonians to Canada over the years). Finally, Jack was Chairman of the Schools Fullbore Sub-Committee from 1968 to 72, and Simon has been Chairman of the same since 1999.

Can anyone trump that? I can only claim an Ashburton winning uncle from KCS Wimbledon in the early 1930s. A small prize to the first quad generation Ashburton shooter to come forward.

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# “WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT WEDNESDAY?”

by Heather Webb

“What are you doing next Wednesday?”

“Hi, Chris Evans would like to come and shoot some guns for something he’s doing on his radio show.”

Well, that sounds easy enough. Declare a guest day, book some targets, organise different firearms and a coach. No problems.

“OK, we can organise that. Do you know exactly what he wants to shoot?”

We can probably keep this in house, use our own coaches, keep outlay down . . .

“Well actually it’s for his sporting challenge.”

So that’s two people, two coaches – still possible in house.

“Oh, by the way, we will need a celebrity for each discipline and we want to film it.”

“ . . . ?!”

The initial exchanges started on 3 February and the BBC wanted to do this seven days later. So the might of the NRA organisational machine sprung into life . . . well, Chris and Heather Webb started making phone calls.

For those of you who don’t listen to Radio 2 in the morning, Chris Evans and Jonny Saunders have a weekly sporting challenge where they take on sports they haven’t tried before. So far they have had a bash at tennis (won by Jonny), darts (Chris), golf (Chris) and ice hockey (Jonny). So two all and they get to us. We were limited by their time constraints so Chris W decided that we would offer clay shooting and target rifle as being two very different shooting sports but reasonably easy to get scores as beginners.

With ranges booked, firearms and ammo ordered and coaches contacted, we turned our thoughts to shooting “celebrities”. Chris W contacted George Digweed MBE, World Champion 2009, whilst I phoned Parag



Chris Evans and Jonny Saunders prepare to brave the cold.

Patel, Commonwealth Games 2006 gold medallist. Fortunately both could make themselves available and were happy to come along for the day and help out.

Wednesday 10 February dawned dry and sunny, although snow was forecast. The production crew arrived shortly after 10:00 to be briefed by Chris W and to work out exactly which order they wanted to film the event. Chris and Jonny arrived a little later, after their show, decked out in furry lined deerstalker hats.

The filming started outside the National Clay Shooting Centre, showing Chris and Jonny arriving for the challenge to be met by George and Parag. They then moved onto one of the layouts where George instructed them both ably assisted by NCSC coach Dan Archer. They had several practice clays and then did the clay part of the challenge which consisted of ten clays each. The score at this point was six clays to Jonny and three clays to Chris.

The challenge then moved onto Century range at 600 yards. Both Chris and Jonny were amazed at how small the targets appeared and initially refused to believe they could hit the targets without scopes on the rifles. Parag and I, as second coach, assured them that it wasn’t as difficult as it looked, unfortunately for Chris it turned out that it was! I was coaching Jonny and was very pleased with the way he had listened to Parag’s initial brief and explanation. I had to add little before he was ready to take his first practice shot. Parag, however, was having a few problems with Chris as he was having great difficulties with the iron sights. After a few shots that barely made it onto the target it was decided that Chris would have to use a scoped rifle whereas Jonny was quite comfortable with his TR rifle. Clearly Chris would have an advantage so we gave Jonny a head start of ten points to even it up a bit. Fortunately I had taken my FTR rifle out with me ‘just in case’ and had great delight in handing



Coffee cup, fluffy hat . . . yes it’s the production crew!



George Digweed coaching Chris.



"I can't stand here to film because . . . ?"



A fine body of celebrities!



"Do I really have to shoot a PINK rifle?"



"Those targets are too far away . . ."



" . . . see, you can hit them!"



Chris and Jonny discuss their performance with Parag.



Time to go home!

(All photos by Alan Keating)

over a bright pink stocked rifle to the amusement of the film crew.

Once underway again, Jonny showed that he could make quite a good rifle shot, even getting a dead central V bull at one point. Chris did end up with the higher score but when Jonny's extra ten points were added, he was a clear winner. During the course of the shoot Jonny noticed a lone shooter over to our right at 300 yards. There then ensued a discussion about whether he was very brave, or very daft, to be on the range at all whilst they were shooting, let alone 300 yards in front!

We finished just as it started to snow, a few gentle flakes – pretty.

At the prize giving, on range, Jonny was declared the overall winner, making it 3-2 so far, and was presented with the challenge trophy. George presented him with one of his gold medals and Parag gave him one of his Commonwealth Games shirts. Jonny then did a piece to camera about being pleased to win whilst in the background Chris can be seen walking dejectedly away, down the firing point with the snow coming down much heavier. Filming finished and discussions started about what else needed to be done. No-one thought to tell Chris they had stopped filming, how far do we let him go? Almost out of sight in the snow . . . oh well, better tell him he can come back now.



"I'm not sulking really!"

As it was almost impossible to see by now as well as being bitterly cold, Chris and Jonny said their goodbyes having enthused about what a good time they had had. Kit was unceremoniously bundled into the back of various vehicles and the rest of us retired to the clays cafe to warm up. The film crew still had some shots they wanted at the clays as well as in Century range butts so once the weather cleared up, it was back out into the cold again.

All in all, everyone involved rose to the occasion brilliantly, for which Chris and I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks. Here's to the next phone call!

If you want to see the challenge, just go to <http://media.nra.org.uk> and follow the Chris Evans Breakfast Show Challenge link.

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# THE ATHELINGS TOUR 2009

by Hazel Mackintosh and Peter Turner

## **Commandant**

Maj Hazel Mackintosh ACF

## **Adjutant**

Sqn Ldr Peter Turner ATC

## **Armourer**

Maj Alwyn McLean TA

## **Cadets**

Sgt Seb Altus Gloucestershire ACF

Sgt Charlie Atkins Warwickshire ACF

Sgt Nick Beesley Epsom College

Sgt Charles Brook Sedbergh School

CSjt Tom Bulmer Somerset ACF

PO Mike Creber Elizabeth College

Sgt Tem Greenhalgh Derbyshire ACF

Sgt Paddy Haines Leics, Northants & Rutland ACF

PO Rob Hyndman RGS Guildford

Cpl Paul Lanigan Tonbridge School

Cpl Ewan McConnell Dollar Academy

UO Mike Phipps Oratory School

Sgt Freddie Puckle Hobbs Marlborough College

Cpl Charles Rivett-Carnac Epsom College

SSgt Stephen Rose G Coy 2nd (NI) Bn ACF

LBdr Stuart Ruddell F Coy 2nd (NI) Bn ACF

Cpl Peter Slater Epsom College

LCpl Lulu Watson Cheltenham College

## **Non-Travelling Reserves**

CSgt Reese Fullerton E Coy 2nd (NI) Bn ACF

Cpl Callum Livingstone Gloucestershire ACF

On Wednesday 29 July the 2009 Athelings met at Derby Lodge, Bisley for the start of the Canada tour. The team had already shown promise at the practice weekend in March and during the Cadets, Schools and Imperial Meeting at Bisley, notably in winning the Rex Goddard and AG Bell matches.

An evening of admin and a good dinner was followed the next morning by an hour or so of drill (just to remind everyone they were in the cadet forces) and everyone but the Armourer – who would arrive for the shooting phase – was packed, dressed in their team blazers and ready for the experience that is getting twenty people, forty hold bags, forty cabin bags and twenty-one rifles on an aircraft. This was done remarkably smoothly, though having the Adjutant work for the airline helped somewhat. The usual boring trans-Atlantic flight arrived in Montreal and we experienced, for the first of many times, the organisational skills of Captain Paul Antoniou, the liaison officer, who managed to get everyone and

everything cleared and onto the coach to Connaught in double time.

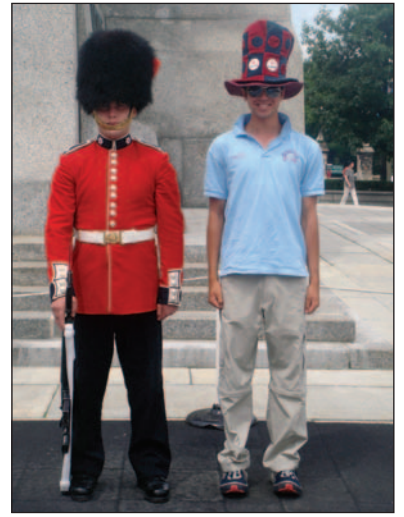
The following morning was a blur of official hellos, kit issue and wondering how the Canadian Military managed to provide such good food. This was followed by an afternoon touring Ottawa by land and sea in an amphibious bus followed by a tour of the Ottawa Parliament. It was decided that 'gifts' of brochures would be left in unexpected places for people to find; one Canadian Senator was going to find some extra reading material in his desk on return from holiday.

The next few days were a well-orchestrated (by the liaison officer) blur of visits, meetings and food. Among the experiences were white water rafting, ice skating in Montreal, watching 1800's drill at Fort Henry and parachuting by Canadian cadets. Day trips included an Alton Towers-style theme park and Niagara Falls, with food ranging from donuts on the coach to two 'all you can eat' experiences. The return to Connaught came all too quickly and with it a change in focus for the Athelings.

The first phase of shooting was in the Canadian Cadet meeting, using the C12 rifle – a version of the RPA. After fitting and zeroing the rifles two days' individual shooting followed, with details at 300, 500 and 600 yards on both days. Unfortunately the ammunition – IVI - was not of the best standard and everyone experienced lower scores than expected. However, Tem Greenhalgh found a way through the misses and outers to win the aggregate over the two days and earn himself his first experience of being chaired into the prize ceremony by the rest of the Athelings.

After the individual shoots came the first of the team matches in Canada – the Rex Goddard Stage II. Stage I had been shot using the UK Cadet rifle and resulted in a ten point advantage by the Athelings over the Canadian Cadets; in Canada the C12 was used and – thankfully – RG ammunition. After 500 yards the Athelings were down by two points, but good wind reading and some excellent individual shoots at 600 yards resulted in a stage II win by the Athelings by just three points and the double. The team celebrated that evening with rifle cleaning and preparation for the DCRA Meeting followed by a team meal and a film at the cinema.

The DCRA Meeting pre-shoots started the next afternoon, which gave everyone the morning to sort out squadding and personal rifles. Everyone was in the first detail of the first match, the Ottawa Regiment at 800 metres, which tested zeroes and the Armourer's counting skills – he managed to draw enough ammunition for all except the Commandant.





He made up for this by getting a possible, with two Athelings, Lulu Watson and Ewan McConnell, close behind on 74. Afterwards it was a quick change into 'number ones' and off to the Canadian Cadet courses' graduation.

Saturday saw three shoots, one at 500m and two at 900m, all 2 and 15, followed by swimming and food at the local beach and, as the sun went down, a sound and light show at the Parliament buildings.

Two shoots on Sunday at 300m and 600 yards ended the pre-aggregate phase, with a creditable 98 from Stuart Ruddell. In the afternoon the first two shoots of the Macdonald Stewart Aggregate at 300m and 500 yards saw Freddie Puckle Hobbs manage a 99 ex 100. The evening's activity was spent with most of the rest of the camp and a large swarm of mosquitoes at the local golf driving range.

Monday, and the first possible for an Atheling – Ewan McConnell's 50.6 at 600 in the Brick was the start of a run for him. In the Norman Beckett, four Athelings and the Armourer scored 50s, with Freddie Puckle Hobbs scoring possibles at both 300m and 800m for a score of 100. That evening the team were given a tour of the local nuclear shelter, now defunct but intended for use by the local and national government.

Tuesday was a busy and important day, with the Letson, the DCRA equivalent of Queen's First Stage. The Athelings were now getting into their stride, with 19 possibles out of 54 shoots. Two had 105 – Mike Creber with 105.10 and Ewan McConnell with 105.12. The Commandant also achieved her first possible in this meeting. The Alexander of Tunis at 900m was, as usual, many peoples' downfall, though Freddie Puckle Hobbs had a 49 and there were a few 48s. In the evening the Athelings entertained everyone who had helped so far with dinner and presentations at the Lone Star Texas Grill, where the fajitas kept on coming as they were eaten up. Presentations of Athelings glasses and some photos were made to the Commandant, Colonel Barrette, some of his staff and the range staff. An extra presentation was given to our escort officer, Capt Paul Antoniou, who had done such an excellent job for our first two and a half weeks. He had then handed over to Major Victor Knowlton to finish the visit as he could not get any more time off work. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Wednesday saw the President's (DCRA equivalent of Queen's Second Stage) plus the Gibson at 800m. Ewan McConnell had another three possibles. Possibles were also scored in the President's by Nick Beesley, Rob Hyndman, Paul Lanigan, Freddie Puckle Hobbs and Steven Rose. Charlie Brook had possibles at 300m and 800m. Ewan McConnell finished the day one point off, with 150.19 in the President's, leaving him one V bull off the lead in the qualifying stages for the Governor General's Final. In a spare moment, some of the team found a caterpillar of a lunar moth.

It was about the thickness of a thumb, 10 cm long and pale green with various hairy lumps protruding from it. Having checked that it was not poisonous, they decided to adopt it and named it Derek, housing him/it in a spare ammo box. Much time was then spent over the next few days watching Derek make silk and eating leaves.

In the evening, most of the team members had hoped to look on the UCAS website to see if their university applications had been successful but the UCAS website did not have the information at the expected time. Instead, we went to a corn boil and barbeque.

Thursday morning finished the Gibson off, then the afternoon was taken up with the last of the team matches specifically between the Athelings and Canadian Cadets – the Michael Faraday. The Athelings had a nervous start, with insufficient possibles at 300 yards. However, they got better as they went back, but they still took it up to the wire with the outcome not at all certain until the last shots had been fired. In the end, the Athelings won by three points.

In the evening, we accompanied the RCACNRT to the annual Faraday dinner. The NRT coach thought there was some difficulty in finding a venue for so many people but his Commandant had it all sorted out. Afterwards, a short time was spent in a 'glow in the dark indoor golf driving range'.

Friday was the last of the Grand Agg, with the Gatineau – Paul Lanigan was our highest scorer with 75.3.

Since there was no official GB team present, the Athelings took charge of the U25 matches, starting with the long range. Just as it was due to start at 800m, the heavens opened and the targets disappeared. After a while, the shoot was suspended and we returned to the team tent to dry rifles and change clothes. As predicted, by 15:00 the sun was coming out. The 800m distance was scrapped since, due to other matches, we couldn't run late and the match was 900m only. We ended up seven points ahead of the Canadians but were beaten by a very strong USA Young Eagles team by eight points. Immediately following the match the teams celebrated Tom Bulmer's 18th birthday with ice cream on the range.

That evening was the annual Macdonald Stewart dinner, to celebrate the winner of the Grand Aggregate. The Athelings team had been given four places, which went to the three staff and the Captain, Paul Lanigan. The winner of the Grand was one of the USA Young Eagles who was not much older than the Athelings and they had made friends with him during the week. He was expected to take a partner to the dinner, so he invited Lulu Watson to accompany him. Lulu was duly piped in to dinner with the top table. Meanwhile, the remainder of the team had an evening at the local wave pool.

The final Saturday, and with it the U25 short range match. The team consisted of seven Athelings and one ACF cadet from the Cadet Leadership course, Bryan Boyle, who had shot well at short range throughout the DCRA Meeting. The team again took it to the wire, being equal with the Young Eagles after 500 yards but we fell behind at 600 yards and although we beat the Canadians by nine points we were beaten by the Young Eagles by seven points. The afternoon was the final shoot, the Governor General's Prize, which is the DCRA equivalent of the Queen's Final. Three Athelings – Ewan McConnell, Michael Creber and Rob Hyndman – qualified, together with the Armourer, Alwyn McLean. The rest of the Athelings had a general clear up before going out to watch the final shoot at 900m. Ewan eventually came seventh, Alwyn 30th, Rob 44th and Michael 46th. After the winner was chaired off, we quickly had to sort the rest of the kit away and get the van with the rifles into the secure area, before the prizegiving. There was also some packing of items such as water filters and rations (American MRE) for the canoe trip to be done.

Afterwards, the Athelings staff took both escort officers out for dinner, while the Athelings started packing for home and getting ready for the canoe trip. They were under strict instructions from Victor to shower on Saturday but not on Sunday morning and not to use any scented products as cleanliness attracts mosquitos. They were also told that they didn't need to shave on the canoe trip.

And so for the finale – winding down on the water following a busy (and successful) fortnight's shooting. We had now been joined by two RCAC canoe instructors for the three hour journey to Algonquin. On arrival we were issued with rucksacks and camping equipment and set off for the campsite, some paddling very professionally and some going in circles at first. The safety boat went ahead and offloaded at the campsite, then went back and helped the stragglers with a tow. The next hour or so was spent erecting tents on the three campsites we were occupying, then most people went for a swim. The Adjutant decided to refresh his memories of field training as an RAF recruit and used ponchos to make a shelter. We then set up the gas stoves and sampled the 'delights' of American 'compo'. Some of it is quite good (the pasta dishes), some not so good (scrambled eggs). Camp fires were built but everyone was so tired after Connaught that shortly after 21:00 most people were in bed.

Next day was a proper lie-in – 10:30 for many – followed by a very leisurely trip to another island and some swimming and diving. Back at our own campsite, the instructors showed us how to right capsized canoes and empty them. They also instructed those interested in how to balance one each end of a canoe and rock it (which ends up tipping them into the water). After supper, they instructed us in the camping delicacy of S'Mores – marshmallows toasted

in the campfire and sandwiched, with chocolate drops, between crackers.

The final day on the lake – Tuesday – started with a stiff breeze. The team struck camp and headed back for the outfitters, packed up and headed back to Connaught. Pizzas were ordered for supper and we were joined by Paul Antoniou to say his last goodbyes.

Wednesday, and time to fly home. Final admin and kit returns kept everyone busy until lunchtime, but the team were on the road at 13:00 and, after a final WalMart stop for shopping, soon in the airport where check-in was efficient and quick, partly due to having a dedicated BA check-in staff member. The flight back took only five hours twenty minutes thanks to tail winds of about 150 mph, but Paul Lanigan managed to get the sympathy vote from the cabin crew and a check from a doctor on board by falling over. Customs at Terminal 5 decide to check each rifle, which took some time but we were soon out, to be met by CCRS Secretary Simon Fraser and Athelings Hon Organiser Nigel Suffield-Jones. Ewan McConnell left us to catch an onward flight to Edinburgh. The coach then went via Terminal 1 to drop the Irish for their onward flight to Belfast and Tem Greenhalgh to catch his train. The remainder dispersed from Bisley at the end of a tour we will all remember for the rest of our lives.



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# CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN SPORT

*The NRA is indebted to the author Elizabeth Woodall of the NSRA (and life member of the NRA), and to the NSRA, for their permission in the interests of shooting sports to adapt their 'Legal Briefing' article printed in the Winter 2009 edition of The Rifleman for use in the NRA Journal.*

Child protection is an emotive subject that has generated a great deal of often heated public debate in recent years and, like all social issues, is stuffed full of jargon and confusing acronyms. This article aims to set out the essential information calmly, clearly and simply.

The law and statutes mentioned in the text below apply in England and Wales. There are separate statutes and consequent variations in the law for Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, the same overall principles apply throughout.

In this article, references to children should be read to include vulnerable adults.

## **The Legal Definitions of Child and Vulnerable Adult**

A child is defined in Section 9 of the Children Act 2004 as 'a person who is under 18 years of age or a person aged 18, 19 or 20 who has been looked after by a local authority at any time after the age of 16 or has a learning disability'.

Section 59 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 defines a vulnerable adult as a person 'who has attained the age of 18 and is in residential accommodation, sheltered housing, domiciliary care, or lawful custody; receives health care, welfare services or benefits under S57 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001; is subject to a supervision order; requires assistance in the conduct of his own affairs; has particular needs because of age, or has any form of disability'.

Note: Many disabled people have a robust attitude to life and do not think of themselves as vulnerable. Many are active and successful competitors in shooting sports. Disability discrimination is outside the scope of this article but there are some disabled people who are more vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour than their non-disabled counterparts. Most of these are either elderly or would be categorised as "special needs". Equally, there are people who might appear at first glance not to be vulnerable, but actually may be because of advanced years or some mental incapacity that is not very obvious. There is also the very different issue of safety to consider, dealt with in more detail in the full NRA Guide.

## **It's more red tape!**

Much of the public irritation with this topic grows out of the red tape that inevitably binds up the child protection package. When we are all being suffocated with red tape generally, this particular bundle is complained about along with the rest. However, viewed dispassionately it does have more merit than

much of the rest, and for the sake of common humanity, as well as the interests of the future generations of shooters, it behoves us all to put our prejudices aside and get to grips with it.

## **Why is it important?**

It is a sad but unavoidable fact that some children do need protection from those around them – and not just from the conduct of adults, because bullying or abuse by other youngsters can be just as damaging. The other adults that they come into contact with may observe evidence of a problem, and if this happens there are two choices – either do something to help the child, or turn away and allow it to continue.

It often takes courage to speak up, and there is always the fear that one might be wrong and someone is accused unjustly. The procedure that has been set up by the NRA is designed to ensure that reports are handled with total discretion and confidentiality, at least until such time as it has been established that there is a real problem. If it turns out to be a false alarm, only a very few people need ever know that the issue was raised.

Even something that seems to be only a small indication of a problem should be considered properly. It may be that several different people observe different small signs which if put together give a pretty clear indication that there is a real problem. If the signs have all been reported to the one person responsible for dealing with such matters, that person can piece everything together and ensure that any necessary action is taken.

## **What sort of conduct is relevant?**

Inappropriate conduct ranges from the obviously criminal through to what is described as "poor practice". Some can be remedied by appropriate training or advice, some may be more serious. Aside from the violence and sexual abuse that spring to mind whenever this subject is raised, there are a number of other types of abuse or maltreatment. In some instances it is not at all easy to spot the signs that anything is wrong.

There are various types of "invisible" abuse. Emotional abuse covers a multitude of sins, including depriving a child of love, help and encouragement, undermining them with constant criticism, ridiculing them or swearing at them. Mental pressure can be unreasonable if it is applied by an over-ambitious parent, or sometimes even a coach. It can also come from other children in the form of verbal bullying; nowadays there seems to be an increasing tendency for bullies to employ text messages, or to use social networking sites to attack their victims.

It is now widely-known, as a result of some much-reported news stories, that social networking sites

are also being used by adults to “groom” youngsters who are then enticed into running away from home, sometimes with fatal results.

Some abusers attempt to disguise their inappropriate conduct as accidents (eg deliberately leaving a trip hazard for their victim), or teasing (sexually-suggestive talk), or “a joke” – this can be claimed to cover a multitude of deliberate sins.

Something else that may also be noticed is neglect of a child by its parents, or of a vulnerable adult by his carer(s). Signs of lack of medical attention, insufficient food or patently inadequate diet, the ignoring of emotional needs (such as lack of praise for good results) might all be picked up in a club environment.

### **Statutory background**

The principles governing the whole field of child protection were laid down by S3(5) of the Children Act 1989, which confers on anyone who has the care of a child authority to “do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare”. In addition to parents, guardians or permanent carers, that applies to those who are in charge of a child temporarily because they are *in loco parentis*.

The foundation stone of the current child protection régime was laid by the Police Act 1997, which introduced criminal records checks for those working with children. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was set up to handle the checking process.

Two years later came the Protection of Children Act 1999, which describes itself as “an Act to require a list to be kept of persons considered unsuitable to work with children [and] to enable the protection afforded to children to be afforded to persons suffering from mental impairment”. That was soon followed by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 which empowered courts to make orders disqualifying those convicted of offences against children from working with children.

A big step was taken when the Children Act 2004 required all county councils or equivalent local authorities to set up Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), tasked with co-ordinating the child protection work of other public bodies, notably the Police, social and health services, courts, and so on. This was the point at which information from many different sources began to be gathered together in order to identify both children at risk, and those who posed a risk to children.

The latest development has been the introduction of the vetting and barring scheme by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The scheme, which is administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), started coming into effect on 12 October 2009 and will be phased in over the next few years.

### **CRB Checks**

For many people, these have been the most emotive part of the whole subject of child protection, but a recent major study for Sport Scotland Child Protection (*Legislation and Volunteering in Scottish Sport, Research Report no 112 by Sport Industry Research Centre for Sport Scotland, July 2008*) showed that resentment is fading and they are becoming accepted as a reasonable precaution. A lot of the emotion attached to this subject arises because people are affronted at the perceived implication that they are not trustworthy. In reality, of course, we should all be aware of the possibility that a child may need protecting from someone else, who may be nothing to do with the sport – but the evidence might be noticed by someone at the child’s club who could then help him or her.

Yes, CRB checks are only valid for known (as opposed to undiscovered) past conduct and are no guarantee for future conduct – but in an imperfect world they are better than nothing, and they are effective in deterring at least some unsuitable people from engaging in activities involving children. Complaints about the time and expense involved are not infrequent, but it is not the business of this article to discuss the cost-effectiveness of the current system – unless and until a new and better one is legislated it is all there is, and it is better than nothing.

Who needs to be CRB checked? The NRA’s policy requires Club Instructors and coaches at Club Coach level or higher working with children to be checked. In addition, the person appointed as Child Protection Officer for each affiliated club, association or other organisation must be checked. Beyond this, it is up to clubs and other bodies to decide what will be appropriate for them. For example, clubs with a lot of junior members may decide it would be prudent to have their Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) checked.

As to cost, the CRB does not charge for checks on volunteers, but the NRA has to use an agency to handle its checks, and the agency fees mean that the Association has to charge between £20 and £30 per person, depending on the level of membership.

### **Dealing with a positive CRB check**

A positive result is one that discloses past convictions, cautions, etc, and all too often the first reaction is panic, resulting in the individual concerned being banned, suspended, or otherwise sanctioned with immediate effect. This is not the best way of dealing with a positive result.

The club should look carefully at the information that has been provided and consider objectively four things:

- 1 Is the offence actually relevant to the issue of child protection?
- 2 How long ago did it occur?
- 3 How serious was the offence?

#### 4 What has the individual's conduct been since the offence?

Is a spot of youthful graffiti-work by someone who has become a steady, respectable family man in the intervening 20 years something that justifies exclusion from part or all of the club's activities? What about two or three minor shop-lifting offences ten years ago? Such a record might suggest that the individual would not be an ideal candidate for the post of Treasurer, but should it bar him from a coaching career? How does the club feel about someone who has been drunk and disorderly, or gone joyriding, or smoked cannabis?

The careful deliberations which should precede any decision ought to include the question of rehabilitation of offenders. Someone who has clearly made a huge effort to sort himself out after a brush with the law should not lightly be condemned for his past conduct. A rational decision must be made, based on the reasonable implications of the offences.

It is also very important to allow the individual concerned a fair chance to put his case before a decision is made. After all, the CRB is not infallible – there may have been a genuine mistake on the result of the search: (the NRA is already aware of one such mistake). There may be circumstances surrounding a past offence which should legitimately be considered as mitigation. Damning someone unheard and without consultation is a breach of natural justice, and if the damned man chooses to make a legal fuss about it, it can also be very expensive.

Any club that has been presented with a positive CRB check result on which it is having difficulty reaching a decision can, of course, also seek advice from the NRA by contacting its Child Protection Officer (CPO) who is actually referred to as the NCPO. She will have received a copy of the result, and will have referred it to the Association's Child Protection Panel (CPP). If the panel has decided that some action needs to be taken by the NRA as a result of the positive check, the club will be notified of that.

An individual who has a positive CRB check result may wish to seek advice about it from the NRA's CPO. The Association has a Child Protection Appeal Panel (CPAP) which, as its title suggests, will handle any appeals against decisions made by the CPP.

Fuller details of all these arrangements, and a good many more acronyms, are set out in the full NRA Guide, so they are not being duplicated in this article.

#### **Vetting and Barring Scheme**

This has been in the news in recent months, largely because of misleading reports that it will require even people who enter into informal child-minding arrangements to register with the ISA. In fact, as the ISA's guidance makes clear, parents employing someone to look after their children are not covered by the scheme, although individuals working as paid child-minders will have to register.

The ISA guidance refers to people "employed" to work with children and/or vulnerable adults, but makes it clear that this expression includes volunteers as well as paid staff. Everyone employed in a controlled or regulated activity will have to be registered with the ISA.

The ISA will gather and collate information on individuals registered with it, and if they are deemed not to be suitable to work with children or vulnerable adults they will be barred from doing so. Every organisation that employs a person to take part in controlled or regulated activities will have to check that person's ISA status before they start work. It will be a criminal offence for someone who is barred to be employed in regulated activities, and it will be a criminal offence for anyone to employ an unregistered or barred person for a regulated activity.

The timetable for introduction of the scheme is as follows:

From 12 October 2009 the ISA is open to receive from employers, local authorities, and other organisations (including clubs) information on individuals who are felt to be unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults. The reporting process is called "referral" and full details are on the ISA website.

People taking up new work in controlled or regulated activities can register from July 2010, and as from November 2010 they must be registered before they start work.

Those who are already working in controlled or regulated activities will start being phased into the scheme in 2011.

The ISA will not charge a fee for volunteers to register (it will cost £64 for paid employees to do so), but if application has to be made via an agency as now happens for CRB checks, there may still be a fee payable for that. There is no mention of any fee payable by organisations carrying out checks on those they wish to employ.

#### **The NRA's Guide**

This sets out in reasonably straightforward terms what to look out for as indications of possible abuse, what amounts to good practice, step-by-step guidance on what to do if a problem does arise, and how the NRA will handle any matters that are referred to it. It will be available to download from the NRA website at [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk). All affiliated clubs and associations will also receive a pack containing guidance and a summary of NRA policy, and a description of the Vetting and Barring Scheme, also available from the website.

#### **What steps need to be taken within clubs?**

Clubs, and indeed other affiliated organisations, need to grasp the child protection nettle if they have not already done so. Any club that has or hopes to have members who are juniors or vulnerable adults must make a formal decision as to whether it will have a

child protection policy. If so, it may choose to adopt the NRA's version, or to draw up its own.

Each organisation needs to appoint a Child Protection Officer. The person who takes on this role should be chosen with care. He or she must have total discretion and integrity, and the trust of fellow members. The identity of the CPO needs to be made known to everyone in the club.

The CPO must be CRB checked (information on how to deal with this will be given on the Association's website). Would it be sensible to ensure that all those who are engaged in coaching children are also CRB checked, even if it is not yet a formal requirement?

The guidance that has been adopted by the club must be readily-accessible by all members, so perhaps attached to the club notice-board would be a better place for it than the bottom of the Secretary's filing cabinet.

### **What should individual members do?**

Read the guidance so that if they do come across an indication of abuse they will recognise it as such, and know where to go for advice on the proper way to deal with it. It is not a case of every member being in a constant state of maximum vigilance; that would make club life very uncomfortable. People just need to be reasonably alert or "switched on" as they go about their normal shooting activities.

The Good Practice section of the NRA's Guide is intended to protect people from the risk of coming under suspicion as a result of doing something inappropriate, even inadvertently. Understanding the principles of that good practice, and adhering to them, will help to ensure that members do not get into difficulties.

### **Coaches and Range Officers**

It would be helpful for each coach or RCO to have his own copy of the Guide, as they are often the "front-line troops" in the battle against mistreatment of youngsters. They may find it helpful to seek further advice and information, such as that on offer from the NSPCC.

### **Insurance**

All affiliated clubs and other bodies that sign up to the NRA's Child Protection Scheme and purchase club insurance, will automatically receive the benefit of additional insurance cover as part of their affiliation package. The extra cover will be in respect of any civil claims that may be made against the club as a result of an incident of alleged abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, and will include the legal costs of being represented on such a claim (details in renewal pack).

The cover will be effective from the date of renewal, provided that the club notifies the NRA of the names of its instructors and coaches. For cover to continue in future years, clubs will have to confirm their continued

adherence to the NRA Child Protection policy each time they re-affiliate.

### **'In Loco Parentis'**

This latin expression has been defined as "A description of the relationship that an adult or an institution assumes toward an infant or minor of whom the adult is not a parent but to whom the adult or institution owes the obligation of care and supervision." This legal relationship between a child (in British legal systems, this means someone under the age of 18) and someone other than his or her parent is not a statutory one. It is a common law principle; ie it has grown out of the body of law that is created by court decisions, not by an Act of Parliament.

An *in loco parentis* arrangement arises in many ways for the average child. At school or in hospital it applies to the staff; on holiday with relatives it applies to those relatives; on a sleep-over with a friend it applies to the friend's parents/guardians/carers; at Brownies, Scouts or whatever it applies to the group leaders, and so on.

When a child attends a sports club with his parent, no-one needs to act *in loco parentis* because the actual parent is there. If the child attends without his parent, the state of *in loco parentis* arises automatically, so that the adults present are deemed to be acting temporarily in the place of the child's parents. However, much the better option is for the parent to give specific authority, preferably in writing, to one or more named individuals at the club to act *in loco parentis* in respect of the child. This has particular benefits if, for instance, the child has an accident or is taken ill and needs urgent medical attention – someone has the formal authority to give consent to necessary treatment.

Such an arrangement is a personal one between the parent and the person(s) taking care of the child, so it is not appropriate for the parent to nominate the club itself. Common sense suggests that at least one person nominated should have been CRB-checked.

The duty laid upon a person acting *in loco parentis* is to take the same care of the child as a reasonable parent would. This means taking into account the child's age, abilities and experience when deciding what is "reasonable".

Note that this is as "a reasonable parent" would, not as the actual parent would. Sometimes what the child's actual parent might permit, those assuming responsibility for the child in the sport may not. Thus, the actual parent of a 12-year-old may allow the child to stay out until after midnight, whereas the officials of a Junior training squad, acting as "a reasonable parent" whilst the child is training away from home, may insist that he is in bed by 23:00.

On the other hand, if the actual parent imposes stricter requirements than those *in loco parentis* would normally apply (perhaps the 12-year-old has to be in bed by 22:00 at home), those parental wishes may have to be

respected, even if all the rest of the squad goes to bed at 23:00. Clearly, this sort of thing needs to be discussed with the actual parent at the time that the authority is given, and agreement must be reached at that stage to avoid later recriminations.

Failure to take reasonable care of a child for whom one is *in loco parentis* may lead to a claim for damages if the child suffers any harm as a result. Within a club that is affiliated to the NRA, such a claim would normally be covered by the club's insurance package. In the case of a coach acting outside a club or other affiliated organisation, individual membership of the NRA will provide the same insurance cover.

### **Photography**

This is an issue that seems to have generated some rather hysterical over-reactions which have been reported with varying shades of disapproval by the media. Other sports, especially swimming, gymnastics and athletics, the clothing for which is skimpy and figure-hugging, obviously have a tricky task to establish appropriate guidelines. This article is not going to explore those problems; it is sticking to shooting, for which bulky jackets and trousers are *de rigueur*, at least for rifle shooters.

There are two aspects of the photography issue – taking the photographs, and what is done with them afterwards.

The taking of photographs also involves two key factors; are the photographs “appropriate”, and has permission been obtained? There is no general law that allows people to be prosecuted for taking photographs of children or anyone else, whether in public or not, and whether with permission or not.

What is “appropriate”? Fully-clothed children engaged in harmless activity are fine. Snaps of children (or anyone else for that matter) getting changed, or in a setting that might be suggestive of something undesirable, are at least unwise.

At an organised event or at a club, it is sensible to ask an organiser or official for permission to take photographs. If photographs are being taken of specific individuals who are not closely related to the photographer, then the person being photographed should be asked for permission, and if they are youngsters then their parents should also be asked.

The use to which photographs are put is sometimes a problem because people don't think about what they are doing. Snaps by proud relatives of trophy-winning youngsters for the family album are no problem, of course. Photographs or video which are solely to help with coaching the child concerned are also fine. Using coaching images in a lecture without permission to do so from the child and parent is inadvisable.

If photographs are to be published, the photographer and publisher must have permission to do so from any children (and their parents) or vulnerable adults shown.

Publishing on the internet is much more of a minefield, because it is totally accessible to precisely the sort of people that child protection measures are aimed at. To avoid the pitfalls, pay close attention to the advice on photography in the NRA's guide.

The question of permission does not need to be an administrative pain. For example, entry forms at open shoots can include a notice that an official photographer will be present and unless there is an objection, all competitors are assumed to consent to being snapped. Other photographers can be asked to complete a simple registration form.

### **Confidentiality**

Discretion is the watch-word throughout the entire child protection system. If something is observed it should not be discussed with club-mates, even to seek their opinion on its relevance, because that is all too likely to be the start of rumour leading to suspicions about a specific person which may actually be totally mistaken. The fall-out from such a situation can be catastrophic for an entire club, not just the suspected individual. The only correct way to deal with any suspicion is to report it promptly and only to the CPO.

### **Further Information**

NRA links for advice and guidance:

The following documents can all be found on the NRA website:

- the full NRA guidance document
- NRA introductory note for Clubs and Associations
- NRA note on the Vetting and Barring Scheme

Further advice and guidance on this subject generally is available on the NSPCC's CPSU section of its website: go to [www.nspcc.org.uk/inform](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform) and click on Child Protection in Sport Unit in the list on the left-hand side.

Criminal Records Bureau – [www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Independent Safeguarding Authority – [www.isa-gov.org.uk](http://www.isa-gov.org.uk)

The law on this subject is detailed and complex, and this article is not an exhaustive explanation of it, so anyone who has a specific problem or query should seek legal advice. Clubs affiliated to the NRA who have taken up the option of legal expenses insurance should find that it covers the cost of obtaining legal advice on this subject.

The full text of Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments can be viewed online at or downloaded from [www.legislation.hms.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.hms.gov.uk) – click on “Legislation” in the left-hand list.

*Given the summarised nature of the information contained in these articles, the author cannot be held liable for any omissions or inaccuracy in the contents.*

# GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO NEW ZEALAND 2010

by Matthew Charlton and Richard Jeens

## *Captain*

GK Alexander GB, Ireland and Tyrone

## *Vice-Captain*

JC Underwood GB, England and Surrey

## *Adjutant*

NRJ Brasier GB, England and London

## *Head Coach*

MK Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

## *Coaches*

MJJ Charlton GB, Scotland and London

MJ Ensor GB, England and Surrey

JH Messer GB, England and Sussex

## *Shooters*

J Cload GB, England and Surrey

DC Crispin England and Surrey

GMLN Gilpin GB, Ireland and Devon

ERT Jeens GB, Wales and London

RCT Jeens GB, Wales and London

ASH McCullough GB, Ireland and Ulster

RJ McQuillan GB, Ireland and Ulster

DA Rose England and Surrey

ND Stangroom GB, England and Norfolk

ANR Walker Scotland and London

CJ Watson GB, Wales and Northants,  
Leicestershire and Rutland

JA Watson GB, England and Northants,  
Leicestershire and Rutland

AR Wilde GB, England and Somerset

In late 2008, team captain Gary Alexander selected a strong squad, with four new GB tourists, to go to the other side of the world and win the New Zealand Match - something previously achieved by Great Britain only in 1994. Team members were put through their training paces during 2009, benefiting also from the Palma training in which all were then involved, so as to hit the ground running on arrival.

After 36 hours of travel with new underwear bomber-inspired hand luggage restrictions for Baggage Master Matthew Ensor to deal with, we dried out damp kit and posed for the official team photo in Christchurch, where various activities filled the time before the New Year's Eve celebrations. Some fished (or looked for fish) at every opportunity, others explored the Banks Peninsula or trails near Arthur's Pass and most went jet-boating and mini-golfing at Hanmer Springs. The views of the Waikariri valley from high up the Bealey Spur Trail were majestic, and our understanding of South Island's divided climate was greatly enhanced by a brief look over the western side of the pass, where a cloudy sky full of rain hung gloomily.

New Year's Eve saw everyone in Cathedral Square for "The Anthony Harpers Lawyers New Year's

Eve Party", which offered "safe and alcohol-free celebrations", preceded and followed by some good old fashioned bonding during which new cap Sandy Walker was awarded "legendary" status. New Year's Day was mostly spent in leisurely fashion, exploring the cultural and botanical attractions, although a few learned to fly light aircraft under the guidance of David Crispin.

## **Canterbury shoot at Malvern**

Properly acclimatised, we all left by 07:15 on Saturday for Malvern Rifle Club, about seventy kilometres north-west of Christchurch. There we were met by several cows, wind flags pointing both ways and the wonderfully hospitable local team. An individual competition at 300, 600 and 900 yards on Saturday would be followed by two teams shooting against the Canterbury eight over the same distances on Sunday.

Between 900 and 500 yards, the Malvern range cuts across a large field that is exposed to the rapid changes in wind direction from north to south. Between there and the targets, however, the range funnels into a narrow gap between two banks of trees. Shooting at 300 yards is relatively simple, despite the mismatch between flags, mirage and sand splash. Wind reading at 600 yards and further back, however, is more opaque. The strong wind from the right shown on some of the flags implies a significant adjustment – but that does not take into account the 'bounce effect' from the left as the bullet travels down the tree funnel towards the target. For most of the team, the net effect at 600 yards was not much wind adjustment at all (and largely in the opposite direction to that felt on the face), but that sometimes suddenly changed.

Notwithstanding these complications, a pick-up in the wind and a chilly finish after the hot start, there was some good shooting, with the top three places taken by both Jons and Ed Jeens on 150, with Underwood winning on 19 V bulls and Bevan Mehrtens fourth. Thereafter we retired with our genial hosts to the nearby pub in Coalgate, where the Captain and Vice-Captain lined the team up in a row and proceeded to pick teams one by one, school playground style (or so it appeared – some combinations seemed too right not to have been planned). To his misery, Martin Townsend was the last selected.

Come 09:00 on Sunday, we were ready for our first team match, against Canterbury. At 300 yards the Vice-Captain's pep talk seemed to do the trick, as his team dropped only one point, against the Captain's and hosts' five each. Each team's two coaches shared coaching and plotting duties, with plotting at speed the challenge at 300 and understanding the wind the





Gary in control . . . or not!



The team at Malvern Rifle Club.



On a wait . . . the wind became tricky at 1000.



The winning GB team in the New Zealand Match.



Martin's breakfast was served on the range each morning.



"And if you can put this scope together in less than 30 seconds we'll let you have another beer!"



Jon Cload in action.



Jon with the team silver.

greater issue (as the locals agreed) at 600. Though the wind seemed strong, early firers had a smoother ride than the later ones, who were not told 'target number, go on' but rather 'buffet-free, go on'. Team discipline, especially constant next-firer readiness, came to the fore at 600, with both GB teams having the freedom to wait for significant periods as coaches despaired of wind flags and mirage that didn't correspond at all. By lunch, the Captain's team had cut the Vice's lead to just two points.

As if to emphasise the task at hand, the end of lunch was marked by our hosts' frantic efforts to tie the tea tent down. All targets struggled at 900 with the blustery conditions. Fifteen rounds to count each and long wind-induced waits made it a test of stamina as well as accuracy. The eventual winners were the Captain's team, coached by the two Matts (1360.126, from the Vice-Captain's 1346.124 and Canterbury's 1324.91), while Underwood's 173.24 was the highest score. Overall, management expressed happiness that team drills could be readily deployed in unfamiliar conditions. Congratulations to John Carmichael (and team) for preparing such impressive ammunition too.

#### **From Christchurch to Trentham**

En route to Blenheim the next day, some hunted for tasty lunch and tea, some stopped at Kaikoura to go whale watching, and Chris Watson and George Gilpin took the rifles on the winding mountain road. On arrival in Kaikoura, the whale watchers were disappointed by the cancellation of all trips owing to rough seas, but most returned the next day to better fortunes. A superb seafood lunch provided instant consolation before they headed into Marlborough wine country. Reflecting diverse interests within the team and the flexibility afforded us by management, different groups set out from (or within) Blenheim over the next two days to look for fish in lakes and rivers, sample wine at dozens of vineyards, go boating on the sounds or tramping, sea kayaking and swimming in Abel Tasman National Park. While many unplanned wine purchases were made and the Abel Tasman party reported having witnessed the greatest concentration of spectacular scenery and best night sky they'd ever seen, the biggest grin belonged to Nigel Stangroom after his successful catch of a fine trout enjoyed by him and friends back at the ranch that evening.

The route to Trentham via the Picton-Wellington ferry meant a more cavalier approach could be taken to packing than when flying. It also offered spectacular views and, in Wellington Harbour, extremely strong winds that threatened to blow even stouter team members off their feet. As the coaches pondered whether it might be possible to get flights back to the UK before shooting started, the rest enjoyed conditions on deck before the shortish drive to Trentham where we were met by Paul Lambert of Upper Hutt City

Council. On going to inspect the range, we discerned in no time that its reputation for confusing and rapidly changing wind was well deserved!

Friday, our last touring day with no shooting or travel, saw the ever-dependable Jons performing team duties, with Cload seeking ammunition perfection while Underwood liaised with range officials and dealt with team admin. While Jane Messer led an expedition up the east coast, most others went into Wellington, with the highlight being Te Papa Tongarewa. Final kit preparations, ammunition pushing and a review of the rule changes filled the evening.

#### **Warm-up shooting**

Saturday's early start proved futile as the whole team was to shoot at 10:30 in the NZ 300m Championship. For many this was their first 60 shot match and the 300m bull looked very small! Some stayed prone, several got up in the middle and others chose not to complete the shoot, which was just practice with the New Zealand Match two days away. In fairly benign wind, the highest NZ score of 589 was beaten by Andy Wilde on 596 and Underwood on 597 (in his first ever 300m match, with a halfway rifle change and no extra sighters!). A subsequent range walk was followed by a team shoot with 2 sighters and 10 to count (twice) at 300 yards. In this final team practice before Monday, the team of 16 (with Martin, Jane and the two Matts coaching), scored 790.78 the first time and 792.91 the second, with top scorers overall being Underwood on 100.16, James Watson 100.15, George and Andy 100.14, Chris 100.12 and David Crispin 100.6.

Sunday's Wellington RA Championships provided an opportunity for shooters to warm up at 3, 6, 8 and 900 yards prior to the important Masfield and Ballinger Belt series. For us this was also our last day before the New Zealand Match and an opportunity for team members to show strong form ahead of evening selection or, as it turned out, to be blown about a lot by the strong and tricky wind. A tailwind appeared, during 300 and the early stages of 600, to come mostly from the left. But then it switched quickly to be predominantly a right wind. With lots of exceptions to those trends, a score of 49 or one of 45 might be good, depending on when you shot. Underwood tied for the 300 yards range on 50.8; Richard Jeens and Martin were third and fifth at 600 yards with their 49s.

Shaun Connolly, WRA President, told us a lunchtime meeting would determine whether the afternoon's shooting would go ahead, given concerns the larger targets might be damaged by conditions. After sandwiches prepared by Jane, the team (and an assortment of Kiwi, Australian, Malaysian, English and South African competitors) returned to do battle with Trentham. Though the wind raged and switched sides, the skies darkened and scores were shattered, the afternoon's programme was completed.

Underwood managed the only 50 at 800 yards and there were none at 900 in the strong and changeable wind with spots of rain (still better than the snow back home!). Jon led the team in seventh on 193.22 for the day but Matt Charlton picked up our only medal, finishing second by a V bull in the long range aggregate on 97.10. Richard Rowlands of Malvern won overall on 196 and it looked like Trentham would be a challenge.

### **The New Zealand Match**

The morning of 11 January saw everyone in purposeful mood ahead of the key match of our tour. It was a shame that Australia had not come to Trentham after all, but New Zealand on their home range would be formidable rivals. The range looked a lot calmer than the preceding day as the team set up at 300 yards, and so it proved. An unchallenging first range (uncharacteristically for Trentham) afforded both teams the opportunity to shoot straight, untrammelled by wind-induced stress, and the first distance ended with a 499 to 497 advantage to GB. It was slightly more interesting at 600 and the gap between the teams more obvious, to the gratification of GB who wanted to insure themselves against potentially difficult conditions later that the locals might well know better. GB scored 499 again, extending their lead to ten points after New Zealand dropped nine.

Gary's post-lunch team talk refocused minds for long range and the response was good. Although New Zealand had their best range at 900 yards, dropping only four, GB's 498 in rather more "interesting" conditions than those experienced earlier was a performance of sufficient quality to reinforce the team's confidence (no matter what Trentham might throw at us at 1000 yards on our first attempt at it in this country). The first half of that range was more docile than the latter part of 900 had indicated it might be, and the team tried to get as many shots off as possible while it remained so. The second half was trickier, though. When the wind got up, varying between 3 and 8 right, we considered a tactical wait but carried on, dropping a few more points but extending our lead.

At the end, we had scored 1989.237 out of 2000, against New Zealand's 1968 that would have won previous iterations of the match. It beat all previous New Zealand and Australia Match scores, which bodes well for the latter fixture at Bisley in the summer. Chris was top scorer on 200.26, with Andy, Clody and George also making 200. Underwood and Ed shared the highest V count, with 199.27. The Kiwis had performed strongly and were extremely gracious as our celebrations started.

### **The Masefield**

The next morning saw unwillingness to venture into the torrential rain at 07:00 to start the individual phase

of the NZ nationals with the Masefield, this year to be shot with all five ranges on the same day. Shooting started at 300 yards in moderate rain and benign wind that continued at 500, while 600 brought showers and sunny interludes with more difficult wind as well as the harder (same size as at 500 but further away) bull. Nevertheless, Underwood managed 105.12 to lead the team. At long range, there were patches to pick but dramatic pick-ups and drop-offs to avoid, especially at 800 yards; 900 was a simpler affair. Only two people emerged wholly unscathed: Rex Chilcott on 205.23 and Underwood on 205.25, while Sandy took the Under 25 prize on 201.20 and four of the team managed to cross-shoot during the day. That was to become a recurring theme with all the targets being closely spaced, the number boards all the same colour and neighbouring register-keepers calling out their (rather than one's own) target number loudly while string-shooting firers were on aim . . .

### **Ballinger Belt**

The start of three days of Ballinger Belt matches brought a welcome improvement in the weather, with warm and gentle breezes bringing glee to shooters and a frustrated wind dance from the coaches. Day one consisted of two sets of 2ss+10 at 300 yards followed by 2ss+10 at each of 500 and 600. Di Collings's and Andy's 50.10s took the 300 shoots (although Andy tried to have his downgraded to a 50.9) and scoring remained high at 500 despite more interesting conditions, but 600 led to frustration, notably for Chris whose cross-shot constituted his only points dropped on the day. GB took six of the top 13 interim places, with Underwood leading the Belt series on 200.32. That evening, the team's reception at Petone Rifle Club saw many of the locals enjoy our wine and wholesome nibbles laid on by Pearl Townsend and team nutritionist Gwynne Jarvis before we had pizza back at base.

Thursday dawned beautifully, but a becalmed start turned into a raging finish. Underwood predictably scored 50.10 at 500 yards along with locals Lindsay Arthur and Mike Collings while the coaches struggled with the lack of difficulty. Scoring remained high in the light fishtail at 600 but slipped slightly at 900 (800 was no longer in the Belt this year, replaced by 1000) in a fickle right wind. By the latter half of 1000, however, conditions varied between 3 and 10 right and everyone bar Clody dropped points, with his 200.22 for the day bringing him up to second place in the Belt, 14 V bulls behind Underwood. Most unfortunate was Bevan Mehrrens, our south island host, who cross-shot at 600 yards for his only points dropped so far (ultimately costing him the Belt). Brits now occupied nine of the top 12 places, with some easy conditions and quick learning of the tricky ones aiding their efforts. An interim prizegiving with gongs for Messrs Underwood, Alexander (in Wilts

Have you ever wondered who makes these items?



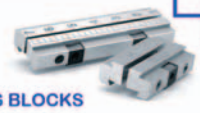
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ACF Lieutenant guise) and Walker was followed by an excellent carbonara prepared by Ross McQuillan in his second, very popular, team chef imitation.

The Dominion Post (Wellington-based national newspaper) carried an interview with and large photo of Underwood on Friday morning, when his team shot against the Captain's alongside the long range regional teams match in preparation for Sunday's mini-Palma. On a day characterised by strong wind coming up the range that (depending on the second one chose to check) would stream down one valley or another to bring adjustments from 2 left to teens right, the Captain's team emerged victorious by 963.85 to 953.81 in a tense finish, with Nick Brasier helping by dropping a few points (three) in his last seven shots as Underwood had done with his last to count . . . it was that tricky! Ed on the Vice-Captain's team top scored overall with a fine 100.10, pipping Andy and Ross each on 100.8 for the Captain's.

The afternoon brought the final two shoots of the Ballinger Belt qualifying series at the same ranges. At 900, the wind came predominantly from the right with gusts up to low teens and lulls down to zero or even slightly left. It was brutal, with only a few fortunate and quick enough to take advantage of brief steady patches that weren't available to all. Brutality was all the more the case at 1000, where lots converted inner sighters and a single 47 was the highest score. James's outer last to count gave him 45 and a range-leading 94.9, while four team members were blown clean off target while on aim! Nigel followed his 46 at 900 with another at 1000 but scores in the mid-30s were common. Even Underwood was reduced to 39.2 and a single point's deficit going into Saturday's final behind James, Bevan and Cload. At another interim prizegiving, Cload and the Surrey RA (Ed, both Jons and both Watsons) picked up trophies.

An impressive nineteen team members qualified for the Queen's Final 50, but Saturday first brought a short range match in which to rehearse Sunday's mini-Palma team format (one target having joint shooter-coaches in Underwood and Cload to liberate Martin as dedicated main coach). We skipped 300 yards to give tired team members a little extra freshness but shot both 500 and 600 in order to implement any lessons learned at the former. The wind proved tricky and the exercise useful, with the stacked shooter-coach target team of Adam McCullough, Gary and both Jons proving itself by (officially) "winning" the match, as GB Green.

In the afternoon final, tactics varied. Underwood started slowly before bursting into swift action while Cload started faster and shot steadily, completing his shoot later than James but ahead of Bevan, who scored 70. Underwood's scoring tailed off and (like James) he finished with 69 while local Ross Geange gained ground. Top scorer was McQuillan with an excellent

74.8, but Cload's 74.4 was the score that won the Belt overall from Geange two points back, with Andy and Richard in third and fourth. A delighted Cload, who had been responsible for our match ammunition and most tour armouring queries, was chaired off the range behind a bagpiper and interviewed by New Zealand television before the drinks reception that preceded prizegiving. It was pleasing to see the close relations that have been fostered between the NRA of New Zealand and the Upper Hutt local authorities (who themselves encourage the media interest), as this bodes well for the future of shooting at Trentham which had been saved from closure less than a decade ago. Prizes were presented by Mayor Wayne Guppy and competitors were encouraged by the supportive nature of his closing speech.

At prizegiving, Jon Cload was awarded the Ballinger Belt, to be looked after by Geange as top New Zealander in both Queen's and Grand (in which he was runner-up to Underwood). There followed a brief team meeting and final ammunition pushing session while the team watched its TV appearance and Cload's eloquent interview, before the Upper Hutt Rifle Club barbecue where Rags Owens's "dob session" (kangaroo court) raised lots of beer money in fines for misdemeanours or silly mistakes throughout the week. Fun as the Bisleyesque evening was, the team left sensibly early to prepare for the important match the next day.

### **Mini-Palma Match**

The Kiwis were keen to exact revenge in Sunday's mini-Palma match, where superb wind reading, very fast shooting and tactical acumen would be crucial. The entire touring team was either coaching or shooting or both. Cool and overcast conditions brightened during the morning with a changeable wind from the left that rapidly turned into a stiffer one from the right. At 800 yards this meant slightly easier conditions for early firers but careful thought about the transition from left to right wind for later ones. As the coaches soon rediscovered, simply not firing when the wind was so changing proved the best strategy. Moving back to 900, GB had dropped just six points to New Zealand's 15. After a delay starting at 900 while New Zealand gave four reserves match experience, the winds had become considerably stronger, if nothing like the gales experienced in previous days. Again, quick shooting and waiting for flags, trees and mirage to approach agreement proved successful, even if it resulted in stop-go shoots for many. Once both teams had finished, GB had extended their lead by dropping 24 points to New Zealand's 45 at 900.

After a leisurely lunch while waiting for the Kiwis, the team maintained the concentration that the range had taught it to require, notwithstanding the nearby New Zealand combined forces band's rehearsal for HRH Prince William's visit the next day (including

a few bars of the National Anthem which had some springing to their feet). Winds at 1000 yards proved very tricky, as they came both up and down the range and from both sides. Sandy fired his sighters on 4 right and 5½ left (albeit with a few minutes in between rather than a few seconds in the raging rear fishtail of seven years earlier). Perhaps unsurprisingly given the number of waits, changing light conditions, and changes from head- to tail-wind, some groups opened up when compared to the earlier ranges. Towards the end of 1000 it became apparent that, in not much more than an hour, the wind had done a full 360 degree circuit of the range. Only at Trentham! Nonetheless, the coaches managed to find some steady patches in which we managed to score (mostly) heavily and quickly.

The eventual result was Great Britain 3493.352 to New Zealand's 3453.304, with the ten point gap at the final range meaning we had won every distance in each match. Top score for GB was (again) Chris with a brilliant 224.21, while Richard (with a magpie) and Adam made 223 and Dave Rose 221. The reactions of some were less jubilant than after the New Zealand Match, in part because the last range had been hard work but also because some scores didn't "feel" all that high. It was only later that realisation dawned: this was the first match fired on the new ICFRA targets (mostly the same as the Palma ones but scoring out of 5, not 10), so a 73 equated to an old 148, 70 to 145 and 65 broadly to 140 – not at all bad in the conditions. Chris, Richard, Adam and Dave had effectively scored excellent totals of 449.21, 448.27, 448.22 and 446.22 in one of the best few one-day totals ever, on a tricky day.

Following the match we shared a last drink with our adversaries, all of whom had become firm friends. Bidding farewell to the range and thanks again to all those who had helped, the team returned to the motel for a couple of hours of hectic packing, rifle cleaning and ammunition sorting before continuing to a Wellington restaurant and some good old-fashioned bonding laced with speeches, songs and fines.

### Conclusion

Notwithstanding some US-driven secondary searches, hand luggage weight problems, a threatened aborted landing at LA and unchanged movie selection (which helped people sleep), the long journey home was a smooth and satisfied one, with team members gratified by the number of fellow passengers who remarked on how well we had done because they had seen us on television or in the newspapers, heard Gary or Jon on the radio.

All in all it had been a very successful and enjoyable tour, for which sincere thanks go from the team to the management trio who had put in so much work, all the New Zealanders who had eased our passage and made us feel so welcome and all those who had supported the team and its members either financially or morally. It had been a real team endeavour, with the whole touring party pulling its weight, and an encouraging trip from the point of view of the future of shooting at Trentham. We wish New Zealand well, and those members of our team fortunate enough to be selected for Brisbane next year will look forward to seeing them there.

More information at <http://www.gbrt2010nz.co.uk>

## SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

### NRA Target Rifle Team, Channel Islands, May 2009

#### Captain – James Bennett

A full account of the tour can be found on pages 46 to 49 of this Journal. The team of 14 competed in individual competitions and matches against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Travel	2396	NRA OTF Grant	2800
Accommodation	4753	Brochure & Sponsorship	681
Clothing & Kit	2004	Sale of Brass	19
Team Receptions & Meals	1704	Interest	4
Trophies & Gifts	123	Team Members' Contributions	11828
Team Training Weekend and dinner	1340		
LMRA Pre-tour Shoot and dinner	782		
Tour Shooting Costs	1929		
Admin & Sundries	301		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>15332</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15332</b>

# SECRETARY-GENERAL – INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FULLBORE RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS (ICFRA)

ICFRA will need a new Secretary-General to take over the day-to-day running of the Confederation following the retirement of Colin Cheshire which will become effective immediately following the World Long Range Rifle Championships being held in Brisbane in October 2011. The appointment is initially for four years, and is renewable. It is unsalaried, though a very modest honorarium is payable (currently \$CAN 2500 per annum) which covers telephone, fax, e-mail and stationery and postage costs. Any other essential out of pocket expenses are refundable with receipts and are subject to prior Presidential approval, and the cost of the Secretary General's passage, accommodation and food to the World Long Range Rifle Championships is payable by ICFRA.

The Secretary-General provides comprehensive business management and support services to the Confederation, its President and its Council, and is their Executive Officer. The Constitution provides for the optional appointment of a Treasurer: failing which the Secretary-General may either be also appointed Treasurer, providing the necessary service himself or oversee the financial affairs of the Confederation receiving treasury services on an agency basis from a Member NRA. This last is the current situation with Accountancy and Treasury functions provided by the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. These arrangements will be subject to discussion with the new incumbent. The Secretary-General also oversees the activities of the International Rules Review Group of which he may be (and currently is) a member: also of the activities of the ICFRA Webmaster.

The services provided by the Secretary-General include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- 1 Acting as Secretary to the General Assembly of the Confederation and its Council, minuting the Assembly Meeting. He/she records and promulgates the decisions of the Council, and is responsible for managing and facilitating all its day-to-day business.
- 2 Maintaining the various databases of the Confederation, principally the address and distribution lists.
- 3 Acting as principal professional adviser to the President and to Councillors on ICFRA Matters. Acting (as required) to advise host nations on any aspects of the hosting of ICFRA World Championships or other ICFRA Matches
- 4 Overseeing the financial affairs of the Confederation as outlined above.

Apart from the quadrennial General Assembly of the Confederation or any Extraordinary Council Meetings which may be specially called, ICFRA business is

conducted electronically. This means that the Secretary-General must be completely comfortable with e-mail communications, the Internet and the management of files held on a personal computer. He needs to be an energetic and determined correspondent.

One of ICFRA's main events is the quadrennial Long Range World Team Championship for the Palma Trophy together with the associated Individual and other World Championship events and the Australia Match. There is also a quadrennial World Championship for F Class Rifle Shooting. Previous experience with, and involvement in any capacity in, these events is of very high importance in enabling the Secretary-General properly to advise Councillors and host nations alike.

ICFRA is also required under its constitution to promote common rules of shooting throughout the fullbore world. The International Rules have been completed and promulgated, but there will be a need to update and review the rules as experience with them develops, and to encourage all ICFRA member nations increasingly to adopt them. An interest in the rules for shooting and conditions of matches is important: the Secretary-General is supported in these matters by the International Rules Review Group.

The ideal candidate therefore will be:-

- a Experienced in the conduct of affairs of a shooting governing body, including secretariat support,
- b Knowledgeable about, and energetic in the use of, electronic means of communication and information management,
- c Have been involved in fullbore target rifle shooting (and/or F Class target shooting) and its international aspects; this preferably to include Palma Matches,
- d Of integrity, neutrality, standing and bearing sufficient to gain the respect of National Shooting Governing Bodies, their representatives and their elite competitors, and
- e Above all, have a passionate interest in the sport of long range target shooting and its long term international future.

Those who wish to be considered for this appointment should in the first instance send their name and curriculum vitae (not to exceed one side of A4 paper) and a photo of themselves to the Secretary-General, Colin Cheshire, 16 Cygnet Way, Staverton, Trowbridge, BA14 8UU, UK (or by e-mail on ceefour@btinternet.com) by no later than 1 September 2010. Names and CVs will then be sent to the ICFRA Council for further deliberation.

# NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2009

by William P Hanley

<i>Captain</i>	James Bennett
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	John Tuffen
<i>Adjutant</i>	Paul Johnson
<i>Coaches</i>	Dave Davies Michelle Barry
<i>Firers</i>	Ian Dampney Jon Ford William Hanley Henry Ives James Lawrie Steve Postins Henry Sanders Bob Shaw Isobel Stevenson
<i>Reserve</i>	Peter Barry

The aim of the 2009 NRA Channel Islands tour, as laid down by team captain James Bennett, was to create a line-up that consisted of shooters from a wide-ranging pool of talent, whether they be seasoned touring veterans or the up and coming freshmen looking to gain vital experience from what these incredible ranges had to offer. James's intention for this amalgamation of shooters was to develop a close-knit team whose varying levels of age and experience would allow everybody to be able to learn things from each other and create the bond which is intrinsic to the success of any team.

James selected John Tuffen to act as his Vice-Captain; a sage and wise appointment by the Captain as John is considered (by us at the least!) to be an honorary Channel Islander when it comes to TR shooting. John's knowledge and understanding of the ranges, the people, the logistics and, most importantly, where to get something good to eat and drink is second only to the islanders themselves. John's management and his many attributes were invaluable in the development and the execution of our tour.

Paul Johnson was handed the task of team Adjutant and Treasurer. Paul was ultimately responsible for making sure the tour could take place at all. Needless to say, he did an exceptional job of handling all of the logistics required for the venture to run smoothly. Not to mention the even more challenging task of getting us lot to sort our paperwork out on time.

In order for this rabble to gel into a team, preparation for the tour had to begin months in advance. A cold morning in March at the back of Century would mark the beginning of this process. The main goals for the weekend were to establish the essential symbiosis between coach and firer and to impose the firing point discipline and team mentality necessary for any team to function effectively in competition.

The next time the team would be gathered together would be on Tuesday 19 May in readiness to take on the LMRA captained by Gary Alexander in a Queen's II format competition. The blustery conditions during the afternoon provided a decent challenge for coaches and firers alike; however when the dust had settled the result proved to be a victory for the NRA against the hosts. Despite their loss, the LMRA kindly hosted us again later in the evening for a team dinner in the clubhouse. Thanks to the LMRA for helping with our tour preparation and for the kind hospitality before our departure.

On Wednesday 20 May a fresh-faced and well-rested team gathered early in the morning to pack the cars and get on the way to Weymouth in order to board the 10:00 ferry to St Peter Port. Thankfully the crossing went smoothly as the conditions could only be described as like a millpond. Jimmy Lawrie, however, would vehemently testify against this statement. Glorious sunshine and warmth greeted us upon our landing in Guernsey as we made our way straight to the St Pierre Park Hotel to check in and transfer the rifles over. The rest of the afternoon allowed the team to venture out and explore the island whilst taking full advantage of the summer-like weather.

Thursday was billed as a free day to enjoy before business was to begin on Friday. Once again the weather was very much on our side as the island was bathed in constant sunshine. The team separated into groups to engage in their favoured pursuits whether that was investigating the rich history of the island, taking advantage of the weather by hitting the beach or even giving an in-depth interview to BBC Radio about the cleanliness of the Guernsey coastline. A few of us decided to go and investigate the range at Fort Le Marchant and speculate as to what we might be up against. First impressions were stunning as the range certainly lived up to its reputation as being one of the most picturesque in the world. Surrounded by the sea and indented with relics of Napoleonic emplacements and Third Reich bunkers, this range certainly left an impression on us. It would be our job on Friday to start leaving our impression on the competition.

The dawning of Friday signalled the beginning of our campaign in Guernsey. The silverware up for grabs came in the form of the Parker Tankard which was an individual match that would be competed for at 300 and 600 yards. The NRA got off to a strong start with the three Northants boys – Steve Postins, William Hanley and Henry Sanders all racking up scores of 50.7 to set the standard going back to 600 yards. Alas, the Parker Tankard was to be retained by Guernsey at this visit as Rob Waters took the pot with a result of 100.12. Friday evening saw us being hosted by the





**NRA Channel Island Team 2009**

*Back Row: Bob Shaw, Henry Sanders, Ian Dampney, William Hanley, Isobel Stevenson, Peter Barry, James Lawrie, Steve Postins and Henry Ives.*

*Front Row: Dave Davies, John Tuffen, James Bennett, Paul Johnson and Michelle Barry*



Steve Postins NRA top score in Guernsey.



"I only mislaid my rifle for 35 minutes!"



Congratulations to JRA.



NRA and Guernsey teams relax after the match.

Guernsey Rifle Club at a formal team dinner before having to do battle the following day.

Saturday was our last day on the island and once again the weather didn't fail to do its job in soaking the range in nothing but sunshine. The morning individual shoot would be for the Guernsey Can which would be contested over 500 and 600 yards. Once again the NRA were quick out of the blocks with Bob Shaw producing a clinical 50.8 in the slightly less steady breeze than Friday to go into the lead after the first distance with John Tuffen just one V bull behind. Once again though the islanders managed to see off the NRA threat as Nick Branch notched a 100.13 with our Steve Postins coming in second with 100.11. The afternoon hailed the beginning of the Guernsey vs NRA match which was contested by teams of eight in a Queen's II format. Both sides found it difficult to settle in at 300 yards as a few loose shots managed to get away. Guernsey put the pressure on by pulling three points ahead after the first distance leaving the NRA to play catch up. When the dust had settled at 500 yards it revealed that both teams had started to find their rhythm with improved scores all round. As a result, Guernsey's lead had been reduced to a single point, leaving everything to play for at 600 yards. The NRA performed amicably at 600 yards losing only six points. However Guernsey emerged the victors as they too only dropped six, therefore winning the match by that single point:

GRC	1174.131	Nick Branch	149.21
NRA	1173.142	Steve Postins	149.17

Although the NRA were narrowly beaten by their hosts in the team match, the pairs competition showed a different result. The 'dream ticket' partnership of Henry Ives and John Tuffen stormed to victory (by a point) over the islanders producing a result of 288.33 against a Guernsey score of 287.22. We had to say goodbye to Guernsey on Saturday evening as our ferry awaited to sail us to St Helier. The inevitable delay for the ferry allowed time for the inaugural Guernsey Open Frisbee Championships to take place in the car park - the winner of the match remains disputed. On landing in Jersey the standard procedure of checking into the new hotel and finding food took place before calling it a night at a sensible hour in readiness to play our part in the individual matches early on Sunday morning.

Sunday required an earlier than normal reveille as Message One at Les Landes was to be passed shortly after 07:00. The Jersey Evening Post Trophy was contested at 900 and 1000 yards and required two sighters and ten to count at 900 and eleven to count at 1000. A brisk but consistent breeze from the right allowed some high scores all round when dropping back to 1000 yards. Jersey's Andrew Le Cheminant took the trophy with a clean 105.21, the highest NRA scorer being reserve Peter Barry who had to replace

Jon who unfortunately had to pull out of the tour coming in fourth hitting a 104.12.

The afternoon matches commenced at Crabbe ranges with the Crabbe III competition over 200 and 500 yards. The blistering heat provided little challenge from the flags as there was only some mild mirage to keep an eye on. The NRA were quick to make their mark in the short range individual matches as Bob Shaw came out on top with a cracking 100.14 with Ian Dampney not far behind in third place totalling 99.15. Peter Barry's consistent performance rewarded him with third place on the Sunday Aggregate scoring 203.21 ex 205.41.

Monday meant that the competitions in the Channel Islands for the NRA were about to reach their climax. Before the team matches could take place in the afternoon Crabbe IV at 300 and 600 yards had to be negotiated. Once again Andrew Le Cheminant proving to be top dog on the day scoring 100.13 with our Peter Barry biting at his heels only one V behind him to claim second place. As in Guernsey the team matches were Queen's II with teams of eight. Unlike in Guernsey, the NRA got off to a good start; however Jersey started off stronger and established a three point lead against the visitors after 300 yards. Once again the NRA improved at 500 yards dropping only five points. Regardless of this the Jersey team also grew stronger and increased their lead by two points leaving

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Richard@richardfburden.freeserve.co.uk

Rob Needham, Hon Sec, r06\_needham@yahoo.co.uk

Brian Taylor, Captain, brian@btaylor.go-plus.net

the NRA with everything to do when dropping back to 600 yards. The final distance saw the NRA score impressively again, dropping three points. Jersey however seemed unstoppable in defending their island as they dropped only two as they claimed a clinical victory over the NRA invaders. The final results are as follows:

JRA	1189.156	Andrew Le Cheminant	150.24
NRA	1183.142	Bob Shaw	150.19

The Pairs competition was a closely fought battle until 600 yards when Jersey managed to steal victory from the NRA with a total of 295.32 over Paul Johnson and William Hanley who slipped away to leave a deficit of two points to finish on 293.37.

It was the JRA's turn to host us and the touring Barbarians team at the formal dinner on Monday evening. A speech and presentations were made by a jet-lagged Bruce Horwood who introduced James to give our thanks to the wonderfully hospitable Jersey Rifle Association who provided us with some excellent shooting and experiences that we have all taken with us.

Tuesday would be our last full day on the island and once again the sun refused to give way to poorer weather conditions. The team once again split up into groups to explore this considerably larger island and for some of us at least, the beach once again was the

ideal option. Many team members seemed to have become disillusioned with all of the lobsters, oysters and foie gras that consistently became the staple foods of several of the team and as a result the need to forage for some wild fare for the beach barbeque took over . . . The result? Limpets of course. Readers will be relieved to hear that chief food tester Henry Ives is still alive and well.

Our final team dinner to officially end the tour was organised by John and took place at the Navigator restaurant in the beautifully picturesque Rozel Bay which offered up some of the freshest fish that Jersey had to offer and provided excellent closure to a truly splendid week.

The sunshine finally decided to submit to the clouds and rain on Wednesday morning as we departed St Helier for England on a considerably choppier ferry crossing than the previous Wednesday. The tour finally ended as we were welcomed back to a grey and drizzly Weymouth and all the cars made their own journeys home after a truly enjoyable and unforgettable week.

On behalf of the team I take this opportunity to thank James, John and Paul for their excellent work in providing us with a magnificent tour in the Channel Islands not to mention the warmth and hospitality that the Guernsey RC and Jersey RA provide the NRA year upon year.

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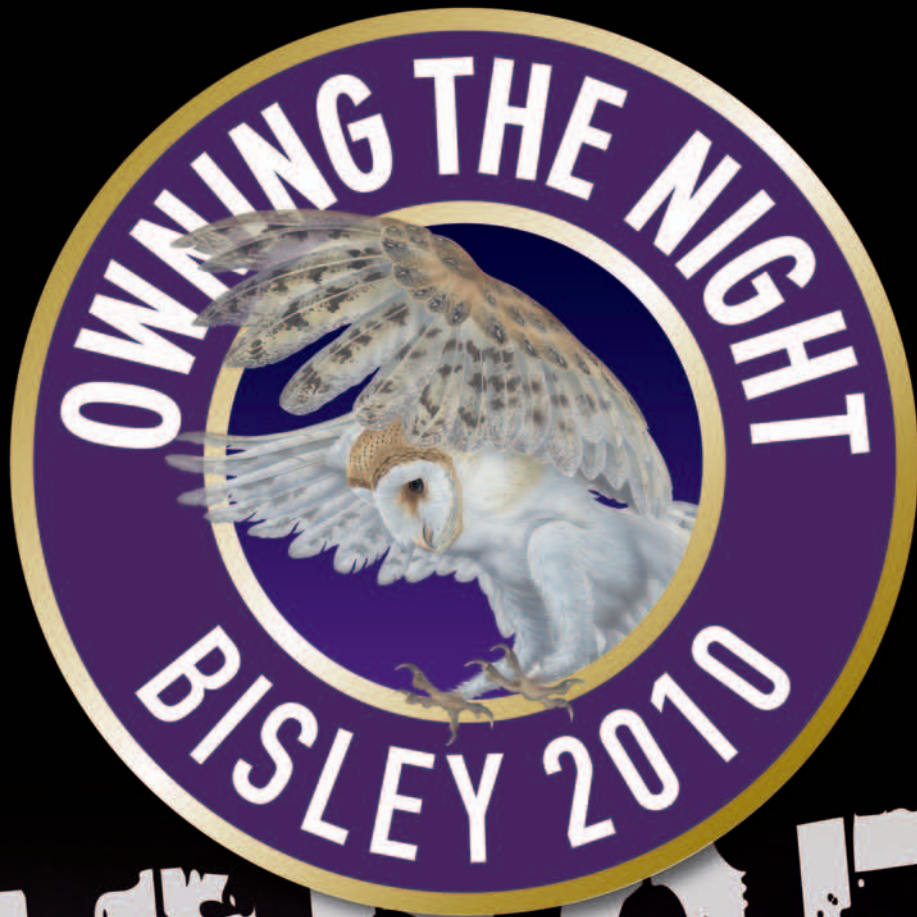
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# OWNING THE NIGHT

## DISCUSSING THE FUTURE, TOUCHING THE PRESENT

*by Julian Nettlefold*

As night fell on 10 November over Stickle-down Range at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, a NAMMO flare snaked into the sky to launch the start of the night firing sequence of the Owing the Night event. The visitors had assembled on the range guided to the UKTI DSO safety briefing by light markers supplied by LGI and Cylume and ear defenders supplied by Nacre with their new QUIETPRO® Intelligent Hearing System. LGI's Fireworm™ is a self-powered flexible illuminated overt marking system; the light output is blue/green in colour. The NVG Fireworm™ is the covert system; the light output is red. The NVG product has the ability to switch between overt and covert modes. Both products are powered from their own internal batteries; the products can be supplied with 50m, 100m, 300m and 400m of illumination material. Peli Products provided the vital stand-alone lighting system to guide the delegates from the Conference Centre to the Range. The delegates had come from a lively Conference chaired by Peter Varnish where, after excellent papers delivered by the Army outlining 'Lessons Learnt' and 'Future Requirements', a lively Q&A session chaired by Major General Chris Wilson produced some piercing questions from the likes of Raytheon and Northrop which were parried away by the panel in exemplary form!

The flare dropped in the sky in a moment of quiet until the roar of a 7.62 NAMMO IR-friendly round snaked down the range to its high-tech thermal target, supplied by MJ Services, fired from a rifle supplied by the Dolphin Gun Company, followed by a burst of NAMMO 5.56 tracer ammunition. The remarkable ranges of ThermBright Passive Thermal Targets being used at OTN are fulfilling an urgent operational requirement for the British Army and other overseas customers. They have natural thermal contrast properties, completely unpowered, working on the principle of reflected energy from space. Conventional targets are useless against thermal imagers.

Captain Tony Green of UKTIDSO, the range ring master, moved the focus to the Qioptiq firing point where Accuracy International were showing their 7.62mm and for the first time on a live range to the public, their .338" rifle firing the Lapua Magnum round. The IR tracer solves the problem with blooming disturbances in the NVD. The latest IR technology adopted to the calibres 12.7mm, 7.62mm and 5.56mm ammunition makes the IR trace totally invisible to the naked eye but can clearly be seen by the warfighter wearing NVDs. Qioptiq have supplied 20,000 Image Intensified and 4,000 Thermal Weapon sights to UK MoD including the S-Vipir2+ Thermal Sniper Sight attachment for deployment on the Accuracy International .338 AW

Sniper Rifle. This combination has greatly increased the 24 hour capability of UK sniper teams on current combat operations. Many other NATO forces have taken advantage of the proven capability of Qioptiq products and are benefitting from the low power and high reliability that Qioptiq products provide and infantry environments demand, as such, Qioptiq land based sighting systems have seen extensive use on current operations in the most demanding of environments and can truly be called "combat proven" equipment.

The focus of attention moved to the DRS Firing Point where Bryan McLean was demonstrating the DRS TWS sight for the first time live in Europe. The DRS infantry Thermal Weapon Sight (TWS) is a world-beating product and DRS has supplied 20,000 to the US Army and 600 Heavy Weapon TWS to the British Army as well as some to Turkey under FMS. At the height of production requirements we were supplying 2000 TWS per month and 2400 DVE kits. The technology in the TWS and the DVE is identical. The TWS was mounted on a Dolphin Gun Company weapon. Alongside the firing point, Chris Corsbie and his DRS team showed off the capabilities of the DRS new Jalapeno sensor and the CHILI sensor where, on the second night, the system, which has a range of up to 25kms, tracked a deer on the range to allow it safe passage away from the firing.

A brief interlude of silence was interrupted by the haunting burp, burp, burp of the AEI Systems blank-firing .50 calibre machine gun which has been ordered by the British Army, followed almost immediately by the rattattat of the 7.62 GPMG with a DRS TWS mounted on the Supacat Jackal which also had a Kongsberg sensor. The Elcan firing point showed a variety of Elcan sights mounted on weapons supplied by Hall 7 Watts.

At the far end was the FLIR Systems Inc firing point where Darren Gould and his team were demonstrating their HISS sniper system, Trijicon sights and running the shooting competition with Lapua ammunition, which was, I am glad to say, won by a soldier from 'F' Company Scots Guards with my 2nd Lieutenant Simon Kershaw in charge.

High above, the C2 Range Tower, run by Nikki Peskett and Michael Brunton of C2, kept a watchful eye over the proceedings.

However, in the background a myriad of new and exciting EO/IR systems from exhibitors such as Thales, Oshino, Flir, VIT, whose system has been used in the recent pirate operations, kept a silent eye on

the proceedings whilst the Plextek radar, mounted behind the range complex clearly showed the fall of the targets during the shooting. Qioptiq, ISTEK and Qinetiq chose OTN to launch their high-tech Spotter system which, using advanced acoustic and computer technology allows the weapon to automatically slew to the target. Thermoteknix showed their new range of MicroCam uncooled thermal cameras and cores. MicroCam weighs <26g, is uncooled, shutterless and consumes <0.6W yet delivers an astounding 110,000 pixels at a 60Hz frame rate. In the background the Rolls-Royce FEPS generator quietly provided the vital power required to keep the Blaythorne exhibition complex lit and heated. Blaythorne's BASE-X tentage system is being bid into the MoD to replace its current range of tentage and is already in use with a number of British Army units.

At the same time a thunderous clap from the MS Instruments NIMBUS protection system launched the driving sequence. The Hobson Industries teams, managed by Praetorian International, and filmed by the unique Indicom Global system which networked the entire driving range illuminated by systems from MJ Services and Whitby and Co planned by Mike Gormley and his team, then mounted the visitors into the team of Land Rovers, demonstrating the new Oxley IR lighting system which switches from white light to IR at the flick of a switch. The NAVISTAR Defense Husky, supplied by the MoD, being shown for the first time with the DRS Technologies Inc DVE took its position behind the Land Rovers, closely followed by the BAE Systems Panther with a suite of Finmeccanica UK Battlespace solutions EO/IR systems, this was followed by the Thales Bushmaster vehicle with its suite of Thales EO/IR systems. The Panther would take visitors to the Finmeccanica FV436 vehicle waiting in the gloom to demonstrate its suite of IR driving systems. The DRS DVE system was also shown on the Hobson Ranger and was being driven during the day in simulated conditions to show how DVEs can be used 24/7 to save lives and to detect dangerous objects and IEDs. Other vehicles shown were the new AEI/Hobson Industries gun ship, the AEI all-terrain motor bike and trailer and the new Springer vehicle. Satmap showed their 10MX, the first handheld GPS unit capable of displaying any type of maps or aerial imagery, offering an easy to use and reliable GPS receiver, incorporating some of the most advanced navigation technology available today.

### **UKTI Evening IED Demo**

UKTI DSO EST put on a unique display of IED detection alongside the range complex. Companies had the opportunity to bring guests and/or clients into the Demo tent with tables, where available, to rest their equipment on. WO2 'Monty' Montgomery of UKTI narrated the scenario to what is happening in the Demo Area.

A vehicle stopped 150m away from the OP (Demo Tent) on an imaginary MSR. Two X rays got out of the vehicle carrying weapons and did a scan of the ground. Once they were happy that no coalition troops were in the area they made contact via mobile phone that they were in position. They then proceeded in removing and disarming the IED. Once complete they drove off, one sensor used was the FLIR Systems Inc Recon III.

This allowed the companies an opportunity to showcase their equipment's night capabilities. There were sources left in the Demo Area after the vehicle had left the area from disturbed soil, foot prints/tyre marks and of course the IED.

### **Night Driving Event**

This night driving event was a world first. On Wednesday night the author, with OTN Press Officer Yvonne Headington donned the Qioptiq LUCY NVGs now being supplied to the British Army. It is a weird feeling to drive off into the night without lights using the LUCY as the method of lighting the way aided by the Oxley IR lights. Taking the LUCY goggles off during the drive showed quite how dark the night was and how this technology allows troops to move about at night without detection

As the gunfire on the range died down and the vehicles drove into their parking spaces for the night, it gave the author time to reflect on Owning The Night and what we had achieved with the team from Battlespace, the NSC and UKTI DSO. One exhibitor told me that he did not believe that we could achieve what we had done and thought that I was either naive or crazy! We believe that we achieved what we set out to which was, in the words of one senior British officer attending, "A chance to discuss the future at the Conference and experience the present on the range and in the Exhibition area."

Having reflected on the event, I moved on to the Artists Rifles Club where FLIR hosted an excellent cocktail party managed by Katie Williams and her team where the shooting prize was given to F Company Scots Guards and 19 Regiment Royal Artillery

### **Winners of competition:**

- 1 Guardsman Moon, F Coy, Scots Guards
- 2 Gunner Evans, 19 Regiment Royal Artillery
- 3 Guardsman Blankhorn, F Coy, Scots Guards

The team moved to the Bisley Pavilion where Shaun Hopwood and his team had laid on an excellent feast, sponsored by Finmeccanica UK Battlespace Solutions and DRS, for 180 people. During this event we raised a great deal of money for BLESMA for which I thank everyone.

We believed we achieved our objectives and will move on to 2010 where our theme will be 'Force Protection'

in the same format. We would welcome any insight from our visitors, delegates and exhibitors how we can improve any part of the event.

I would like to thank all the sponsors and exhibitors who made this event happen, the NRA who gave the ground, the Battlespace team of Andy McAllister from Aquatint who produced all the graphics, catalogues and the magazine, David Harrison who managed the

exhibitors and Yvonne Headington who managed the press and the NSC team headed by Jeremy Staples with Brian Thomas managing the range, Amanda Vaughan who managed the complex and Libby Gendall who managed the registration. Last but not least I would like to thank the UKTI DSO team headed by Major Nigel Rudsdale, Captain Tony Green, Captain Tom Devaney and WO2 John Montgomery who laid on the excellent IED demonstration.

## FORTHCOMING HISTORIC AND CLASSIC MEETINGS FOR 2010



### The NRA 150th Anniversary Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

10 and 11 July 2010 at Bisley

Entirely *"In The Spirit of the Original"*

Matches for Rifle, Sporting Rifle, Gallery Rifle and ML Pistol

Enquiries to David Mumford, 01483 797777  
or e-mail [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)

### The NRA 150th Anniversary Percussion Revolver Championship

Saturday 5 June at Bisley

Melville Range

Entries permitted in more than one class

**Class 1 – Standard Percussion Revolver**

*"Spirit of the Original"*, shot offhand

**Class 2 – Target Percussion Revolver**

Black powder only, metallic adjustable sights permitted, shot offhand

**Class 3 – Open Percussion Revolver**

Any design, any sights, any propellant, two hands may be used to support the revolver. Any propellant (not nitro) for which the revolver is proofed; may be primer fired, but chamber must be loaded from loose (inc pelleted or bagged) powder and projectile from the face in the direction of fire: no centre-fire, pinfire or rimfire.

Enquiries to David Mumford, 01483 797777 or e-mail [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)



### HBSA "1910" Open Short Range Championship Meeting

Sunday 6 June at Bisley.

200 yards: Deliberate, Snap and Rapid practices; classes for Vintage (blackpowder breechloaders), Classic (pre-1919) and Veteran (pre-1946) rifles, including Service, Sniper, Target, Sporting, Schuetzen and Miniature Rifles. Practice targets available on Saturday 5 June.

Enquiries to: [range.practice@hbsa-uk.org](mailto:range.practice@hbsa-uk.org)

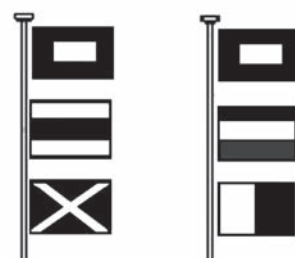
### The NRA 150th Anniversary Trafalgar Meeting

23 and 24 October 2010 at Bisley

Entirely *"In The Spirit of the Original"*

Matches for Rifle, Sporting Rifle, Gallery Rifle and ML Pistol

Enquiries to: Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 ext 148, [brian.thomas@nra.org.uk](mailto:brian.thomas@nra.org.uk)



# THE 2010 BISLEY BIBLE

by Iain Robertson, Chairman of the Shooting Committee

The NRA Rules of Shooting and Programme for the Imperial Meeting, to give the 2009 Bisley Bible its official title, has been substantially rewritten in producing the 2010 version. As well as changes to several of the rules, and a new structure, the Bible even has a new title. The new rules are effective from 1 April, and this article outlines some of the more important changes, and the rationale behind them.

In producing the 2010 Bible, we set out to achieve a better separation of non-shooting information, generic rules, Bisley-specific rules and Imperial Meeting regulations. There is also an aspiration to publish additional items of useful information in the 2011 and later editions. To those ends, the Bible is now formally titled "The NRA Handbook, incorporating the NRA Rules of Shooting and the Programme of the Imperial Meeting". Internally it consists of three "volumes". The "Handbook" contains administrative information about the NRA, some items of NRA policy, and the Bisley Camp Standing Orders and Bisley Range Safety Regulations. The "Rules of Shooting" contains rules which can be applied on any range. Work to ensure the completeness and validity of this, regardless of where it is applied, continues. The "Imperial Meeting" contains all the regulations for the Meeting and the programme for this year's event. A fourth volume which is published separately is the "NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Handbook".

There are individual rules where the substance has changed significantly. The changes of most concern to shooters are in the Safety Rules, which are reproduced below. Please read these in full. If you read nothing else please read rules 262 and 263. Most importantly, when presenting your bolt-action rifle for inspection, you must remove the bolt (you may put it back after the inspection is complete).

## H – RANGE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR NRA COMPETITIONS

### SECTION 61 – SAFETY RULES

252 If any person on the range considers that there is a potential or actual breach of safety which urgently requires all competitors to stop firing he will immediately give the order "Stop, Stop, Stop". All competitors must immediately stop firing, take their finger off the trigger, keep their firearms pointing at the target and await further instructions. No-one may unload or move off the firing point. The person ordering the stop, if not himself the RCO, must immediately explain his action to the RCO so that the RCO may take effective control of the situation.

253 When at the firing point a competitor must comply with all orders for the due carrying out

of the NRA Rules and Regulations given by the CRO or any official acting under orders of the CRO.

254 No competitor may move himself or his equipment forward onto the firing point until authorised to do so by the RCO.

255 No round may be placed on the loading platform or in the firearm, nor may it be fired, until the RCO has given the order to load and carry on (see Para 546c).

256 A competitor is responsible for ensuring that his firearm and, if provided by himself, his ammunition, is safe to use. He must submit his firearm and ammunition for inspection and testing whenever required. No ammunition of a dangerous character may be used. For definition of dangerous ammunition and instructions for RCOs see Appendix V and Paras 288 and 544.

257 The bolt (or equivalent working part in other types of firearm) must not be closed (or opened after being closed) on a live round if the barrel is elevated at more than 70 mils (approximately 4°) above the horizontal. In practice this means that when closing or opening the bolt with a live round in the chamber the barrel should be horizontal.

258 Except only where otherwise prescribed in the conditions of a competition a loaded firearm must at all times point no further left or right than the limits of the assigned butt (see Para 546d).

259 Neither aiming nor snapping an unloaded firearm is allowed except when in the firing position on the firing point, and then only if it would be in all respects safe actually to fire and provided it causes no delay. The RCO must give permission before any such aiming or snapping may take place. Competitors shooting muzzle loading firearms may, after the order has been given by the RCO, "cap off" to clear nipple vents prior to loading for fouling shots. During capping off the firearms must be pointed down range or into the ground immediately in front of the firing point. When competitors have completed capping off they must retire from the firing point to their designated loading location behind the firing point.

260 A competitor who, whilst on the firing point, accidentally discharges his firearm will not be allowed another cartridge and the shot will be recorded as a miss. He may also be dealt with under Para 261.



- 261 A competitor acting in a dangerous manner will forthwith be forbidden to fire again until the circumstances have been investigated and decided on, or referred to higher authority, by the CRO.
- 262 **Misfire Procedures**
- a Bolt-action centrefire rifles. If a misfire occurs the firer must remain on aim for at least 30 seconds (in case of a hangfire) and then inform the RCO. Under the supervision of the RCO the firer should tilt the rifle to the side and open the bolt, ensuring that his hand is not behind the bolt and that no one is standing behind the rifle. He must ensure that the cartridge comes out complete with the bullet.
  - b Gallery Rifle. In accordance with the procedures in the NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Handbook (published separately).
  - c Other types of firearm. As specified in the procedures for the relevant discipline.
- 263 **Inspection of Firearms and Magazines**
- a The competitor is primarily responsible for ensuring that his firearm is clear before it is removed from the firing point. Any competitor who fails to present his firearm for inspection whether called to do so or not, or who presents his firearm for inspection in an unsafe condition, may be considered as “acting in a way that might prove dangerous” and be dealt with as in Para 546.
  - b The responsibility to carry out inspections falls to a specific individual. When clearing an automatic or semi-automatic firearm, the person designated is the CRO or a member of the range staff to whom the CRO delegates the responsibility. Otherwise in a team competition where a coach is present on the firing point, the coach is the designated person. In individual competition, or if no coach is present, the register keeper is the designated person. In the absence of a coach or register keeper, the RCO is the designated person.
  - c On the conclusion of a shoot or stage, or on the order of the RCO, all firers must:
    - i unload their firearm and inspect the chamber, action and magazine (if one is fitted) to ensure that the firearm is clear,
    - ii if using a bolt-action firearm, remove the bolt,
    - iii present their firearm to the designated person on the firing point and have them inspect and confirm that the firearm is clear,
    - iv for a service weapon complete the unload,
- v either keep the bolt removed or insert a breech flag (or both) for any bolt-action rifle, or carry out the equivalent procedure for other firearms (which may include casing in accordance with GR&P procedure),
- before leaving the firing point and before anyone goes forward of the firing point. Where applicable the firer must also ensure that the designated person signs their squadding card confirming that they have cleared the firearm.
- 264 A competitor using a bolt-action rifle must carry it either with the breech open and a breech flag, which must protrude into the chamber, clearly inserted, or with the bolt removed from the rifle, except when on the firing point. Para 254 applies. A competitor using a self-loading rifle must carry it unloaded, ie no magazine on it, no round in the chamber, working parts forward, not cocked and safety catch at ‘safe’. Civilian service rifles or practical rifles which are able to utilise a magazine fitted loading block may do so in addition to a breech flag. The cadet GP rifle must at all times be carried with a breech flag clearly inserted, except during a shoot. Firearms specified in the NRA GR&P Handbook (published separately) must be carried in accordance with GR&P rules. All other firearms must be carried in a manner such that they are as clearly unloaded as is possible for that type of firearm.
- 265 If a firearm cannot be unloaded in the normal manner, the shooter is to leave it on the firing point pointing towards the target. The shooter is to inform the RCO immediately. The firearm is to remain pointing towards the target until the detail has finished and all shooters have cleared the firing point. The RCO is to arrange for a qualified person (at Bisley, the NSC Armourer or a person designated by him) to make the firearm safe on the firing point. At no time may a loaded firearm be taken from the firing point behind shooters or spectators. Should the armourer have to fire or expend a competitor’s live round in the interests of safety, that round will be replaced on the authority of the RCO.
- One other completely new rule arises because of the need to make the rules consistent with the NRA Safe Shooting System. The new rule, reproduced below, sets out conditions which must be complied with if a competitor is to continue following a miss with the first shot.
- 277 In deliberate rifle competitions, a competitor whose first shot misses the intended target may only continue if one of the following applies:
- a The shot was seen to strike the stop butt or the ground.

- b The competitor identifies and rectifies a fault or error (eg mis-set sight) that would reasonably account for the miss.
- c There is reasonable evidence (eg an unexplained shot on the next target) that the competitor has crossfired.
- d There is reasonable evidence (eg based on the advice of other competitors, which advice shall not be considered to be in the nature of coaching) that the wind allowance applied was such as to account for the miss.
- e With the permission of the RCO.

Note that sub-para b is very widely drawn. It encompasses all sorts of errors, including loose sights, wrong distance (are you sure you are at 900 and not 1000?), wrong butt (are you aiming 1/3/10 targets away from the correct one?), wrong wind (is it left or right? - if it's been right wind all week it's easy to put the 10 minutes left on the wrong way out of habit), foresight not properly seated, and so on. A thorough check without prior assumptions is required.

Other subjects where the rules have changed include:

Observing fall of shot for other competitors following a miss; procedure for converting sighters in a team match; persons allowed to submit a challenge, and

persons responsible for informing the RCO when the spotting disc unmistakably disagrees with the value signalled; responsibilities of firer and register keeper for correct recording of scores and completion of register cards; eligibility for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain; classification of overseas competitors; ammunition arrangements for the Imperial Meeting, including availability at cost of NRA .308" 155gr ammunition to competitors in disciplines other than TR; definition of the "Services" for the purposes of competition; various event timings in the Imperial Meeting.

In addition, there are many rules where the wording has changed in an attempt to improve clarity or remove anomalies.

The changes have been extensively reviewed by the Shooting Committee, the Discipline Sub-Committees, NRA and NSC staff, the Council and a team of proofreaders. We hope we have produced an improvement. We are certain we have not spotted all the desirable changes and we will be amazed if we have spotted all the typos and other minor errors in production. Comments and suggestions will be welcomed for inclusion in the 2011 edition.

If you spot any errors or have any comments or suggestions please send them to Karen Robertson either by e-mail at karen@nra.org.uk or by post c/o the NRA.



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## LETTERS

### **Imperial Meeting**

*from Keith Pilcher (GM2 GC SM SC)*

I write in strong support of Carol Painting's final paragraph of her letter in the Winter 2009 Journal.

It is quite unreasonable that the traditional processing of the Sovereign's Prize winner round the Bisley clubs should be interrupted as it was last year by up to an hour.

As one waiting to welcome Nick Tremlett (*GM*) to the North London the sight of the Chair crossing the green and disappearing behind the NRA Offices caused some concern. When the reason was ascertained a not inconsiderable number of those present left and more followed as time went by leaving a small number to provide a welcome on this, to Nick, great occasion.

I felt this to be very sad. I am sure that all the rest of the Clubs after the Army felt the same. I feel strongly that tradition should be restored.

Canada should take its turn and fire its cannon whenever it deems it appropriate with or without the presence of the prize winner.

### **Bisley Ablutions**

*from Dave Lee*

I am glad to see comment in the NRA Journal on the state of the sanitation on the Bisley Camp. Whilst I fully appreciate the financial constraints that the organisation has been subject to over the last few years, I really feel that the toilet facilities are a disgrace. What may have been acceptable in the nineteenth century is certainly not so in the twenty-first. Bisley is supposed to be a world class venue attracting shooters from all over the world, and it had hoped to play a part in the Olympics which sadly now will not be the case. Modern shooting attracts lady shooters as well as men so how does the organisation expect female shooters to use these unsanitary, dank, and in most cases, unlit toilets with no proper hand washing facilities? To make it worse, the portaloos on Short Siberia (in place in winter) are frankly an abomination. I don't even want to go in to the subject of the 'new' road into Short Siberia and the mudbath at the end of it that the NRA considers to be a car park.

The NRA has steadily decreased its annual membership fees over the last few years and abolished the old car-parking charge. I cannot be alone in the view that the fees should have stayed around £100 until the sanitation and other site facilities were brought up to what most people feel are satisfactory. I am sure that a lot of people would have been happy to see their membership fees being maintained at higher levels but used to improve the facilities instead of just being used to keep them as they are. As for poor cleaning contractors, well, words fail me? If someone is not doing a job they are

being paid for, get rid of them. I am sure that there are others (who have heard about bleach and other cleaning products!) willing to do the job.

The NRA really needs to do something about this and soon. I don't want to hear things like "I do not like shooting at Bisley because the toilets are disgusting". The NRA also has a duty of care to its members in that we often handle lead during the course of our shooting and it is imperative that hand washing is available before getting in the car to go home.

*Please see the NSC Managing Director's Notes on page 9 for a full update on the planned ablution block maintenance programme.*

### **GB Team to New Zealand Brochure Correction**

*from Tim Kidner*

I was very impressed by the brochure for the GB Team to New Zealand which was sent out with the Winter NRA Journal – high quality presentation and interesting articles. However, one significant error appears in the article 'Bisley Names – What's in a Name'. Under Melville Range, Sir Ronald Melville is stated to have been a "staunch English match rifleman" whereas he shot in the Scotland Elcho team for many years – approximately 50 years having first been in the Elcho Match at the age of 22. Also, his date of death is shown as 2005 – he actually died on 4 June 2001 at the age of 89.

### **No 4 Safety Warning**

*from Dr Erik Blakeley BEng MSc PhD FRSA*

Thank you for publishing my letter re No 4 conversions in the Winter 2009 Journal along with the response from Iain Robertson. I hope you will not mind me coming back on what he said. I am anxious to respond as his main criticism of what I said was on a point relating to metal fatigue. By chance my doctorate is a PhD from Birmingham University's Department of Metallurgy and Materials and my thesis topic was metal fatigue! Whilst it is true that steels exhibit a fatigue limit which is a loading level below which no number of loading cycles will produce fatigue crack initiation, growth and failure, in a laboratory test piece, a complex machine like a rifle has so many holes, screw threads, tooling marks and other deliberate and unintentional features that can act as stress raisers and crack initiation points that I doubt that any high performance (ie highly loaded) machine can ever be truly immune to metal fatigue. Certainly it is unbelievable that the difference between .303" and 7.62mm is such that we could ever say that an action designed for .303" would never suffer from fatigue whilst firing this calibre whereas to use the same action with 7.62mm would mean that it would suddenly be a major problem.

During fatigue, microstructural changes occurring with normal loading (not necessarily an overload) eventually initiate a crack which grows slightly every time the piece of metal is stressed until eventually the combination of the increased stress raising properties of the crack and the diminishing of the effective cross-section of the piece means that it can no longer withstand the peak loading experienced (again this need not be an overload) and it then breaks by either brittle or ductile fracture.

Iain is correct in saying that proof testing at the beginning of a rifle's life tells us nothing about the susceptibility to fatigue. Predicting the fatigue life of a machine remains an extremely difficult task which is at its most relevant in aircraft maintenance. Most aluminium-based alloys used in airframe manufacture do not exhibit a fatigue limit and will always be susceptible to fatigue cracking regardless of over-engineering. Cracks in aeroplanes have to be identified, monitored and their life expectancy predicted using very expensive non-destructive testing methods – but I digress! For a piece of less high tech machinery the best way we have of predicting the fatigue behaviour is by looking at the past behaviour of examples of the machine. For the No 4 and SMLE actions this is possible as there have been many hundreds of thousands of these actions made and many thousands have been subjected to many thousands of rounds. I would be interested to hear differently but the anecdotal experience that I have picked up through 25 years of association with firearms is that the Lee-Enfield has been an excellent example of durability and reliability. However, such is not the case with newer specially designed actions. If you buy a newly designed action of which there are only a handful made then it is still very uncertain whether some fluke of design or manufacture isn't going to mean that large numbers suffer fatigue failures at the 5,000 round mark or any other arbitrarily suggested figure. As with cars – if you buy the latest model you are in some ways acting as the test population – sometimes things go wrong!

Metal fatigue is all about numbers of loading cycles and nothing to do with chronological age. It is therefore arguable that a Number 4 action taken off a rifle that you know has spent the last 50 years in storage and has fired few if any rounds is a better bet than an example of a very recent design that has been previously used enthusiastically by a 100 rounds per weekend shooter. In terms of fatigue your rifle may effectively be the oldest of that design in the world and be on the very brink of demonstrating that catastrophic failure that will eventually be recognised as being a feature of the design.

Reproofing can show whether there is a fatigue crack nearing the point at which normal loading would initiate a failure as it will break earlier under the safe conditions of the proof test. It is also true that under certain circumstances the periodic overloading of a structure can slow down fatigue crack growth as the

crack tips are blunted by the overload and it takes some cycles before the crack is resharpener and crack growth resumes at its previous rate. However I would not advocate over-frequent proofing as an anti-fatigue measure.

The variability in steel stock, machining tolerances and errors such as accidental damage during manufacture or incorrect heat treatment does indeed mean that you are taking your life in your hands if you fire a weapon that has not undergone some form of reliable proof process though why Iain thought that his comment on those countries that do not have a compulsory system of proof was relevant to my advice that re-proof was available in this country, I cannot say.

Although it is stated that the concerns re No 4 conversion have nothing to do with HMG or RG Iain only feels able to refer to shadowy “external information”. The usual reason for raising concerns is a statistically significant body of examples of failure. Have there been lots of No 4 actions failing? Are the numbers of such actions failing greater in proportion to the numbers in use than those for other actions? The composite nature of a rebarreled rifle means that very few are identical so, as the law requires, reproofing is the best means of insuring that any individual rifle is safe for the calibre for which it is intended. Equally, as proofing only says that a rifle is safe on that day for the pressure to which the proof was made, Iain's final comment about the 19 tons per square inch test and the 4150 Bar test are equally applicable to any action and not just the Lee Enfield. Consequently I come back to my fundamental question which is “What is so special about the No 4 that means that properly and recently proofed examples that have not fired excessive numbers of rounds should be banned from use on NRA ranges, except that it provides an excuse for banning another range of civilian owned weapons?”

*From Iain Robertson  
Chairman of the Shooting Committee*

Thank you for your continued interest. I say again there is no agenda to ban another range of civilian owned weapons. The National Rifle Association supports target shooting in all its lawful forms. There is no conspiracy. However, we do have to protect the interests of the Association as a whole.

The Shooting Committee noted action by other National Governing Bodies to limit use of No 4 rifles. Since the NRA was now providing ammunition to its own specification, the Shooting Committee felt it necessary to adopt a precautionary approach. Meanwhile, the NRA sought advice from the UK Proof Authorities. That advice is now available and is published on page 11.

I am sorry that the NRA has had to be dogmatic about this matter. In the nature of the indicated problem, we would not have been on safe ground if we had been merely informative or advisory pending definitive advice.

# PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2010

## Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid-up their subscriptions for 2010 by 31 March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

## Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

Those voting for Regional Candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region even though their nominated Candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for Shooting Discipline Candidates must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary Shooting Discipline.

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2010.

Nomination forms for Candidates and Proposers with an explanation of the procedures for nominations are available from the Secretary General's office.

## Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro forma.

The Secretary General will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or are, or appear to be, factually incorrect.

## The Programme of key dates for Elections

### 31 March 2010

All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

### 30 April 2010

- a) Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Secretary General by 17:00 on this date.
- b) Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.
- c) All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

### 28 May 2010

Voting slips will be posted to all entitled Members by this date together with the procedures for voting.

### 19 July 2010

Voting slips, in the correct envelope supplied, must be received by the NRA office by mail, or by hand, no later than 17:00 on this date.

## Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 15 April 2010.

## Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2010, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

## Five Ordinary Members

JH Carmichael  
Lt Col ARK Clayton  
M Maksimovic  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Miss AJ Welford\*

## Four Regional Members

MJM Black	Northern
Dr JD Warburton	Yorks/Humberside
DD Watt	Eastern
DG Young	North Western

## Three Shooting Discipline Members

PH Hobson	F Class
Flt Lt IW Robertson	Target Rifle
DE Spittles	Muzzle Loading

\* not standing for re-election.

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## OBITUARIES

### Charles McAlester Copland

The Very Reverend Charles Copland, widely known in shooting circles as 'The Canon' and one of Scotland's longest serving and most distinguished shooters, died in December just four months short of his



one hundredth birthday. Born at Ardrossan on 5 April 1910, he was a "son of the manse", the youngest of four children and the only boy. Even before going to Forfar Academy in 1919 he had begun to display his sporting prowess, shooting snipe, fishing, hill-walking, an excellent games player, in winter skating on the lochs above Ardrossan wearing wooden skates, and later curling.

Forfar Academy did not teach Latin or French, so Charles was not able to go to Glenalmond and instead went to Denstone College near Lichfield, a school with church connections. There he became Captain of School, Captain of Rugger, won the Athletics Cup, and was CSM of the OTC. He gained his shooting colours and shot in the Ashburton twice; and at other moments he trod the boards, usually cast as a noble lady in Shakespearian productions! In his last year he was supposedly working towards a scholarship in history to Oxford, but a hard winter and keen ice resulted in long happy mornings spent skating. Charles maintained it helped his studies, but it did not win him a scholarship. Oxford's loss was Cambridge's gain and he went up to Corpus Christi to read History and Theology. Sport still took up a lot of time as he represented the College at rugger (and as an undergraduate played for the London Scottish B Team); he was President of College Athletics; and of course there was shooting, for which he had to be in the OTC. Charles became a gunner, one suspects because it also brought him a new sport – riding; they rode and had horse gun teams. He gained half blues for both Service Rifle and Match Rifle, shooting in three winning Chancellors and three winning Humphrys, for one of which he was Captain. He continued with Service Rifle until he went to India, shooting for Scotland in both the National (twice) and in a winning Mackinnon. He had a King's Hundred badge (1934) and in 1935 tied for the St Georges, but finished third.

Match Rifle, though, turned out to be his natural discipline. His first Elcho was in 1932, which Scotland won, and he shot four more times in the 1930s. Ordained in 1935, the Elcho photograph for that year shows him in his dog-collar. He won the LD Ranken Memorial at 1200 yards twice; 1200 yards was not an Elcho distance in those days, so perhaps the challenge of the longest distance had a special appeal.

In 1938 Charles Copland offered himself for missionary service, and was sent to the Chanda Mission in the very heart of India, where he spent fifteen years, becoming Head of Mission in 1942. He worked with the local people as a member of a team, not as a "father figure", and from many accounts down the years it is clear that he was deeply loved. On leave in Scotland in 1946 he married Wendy, who pre-deceased him in 2001 after 55 years of marriage.

In India his skill with a rifle must have impressed the people as he was just the man needed for Shikar – big game hunting for fresh meat. The Mission supplied him with "a useful but horrible little Remington". His first shot was at a small deer, some way off and difficult to see in the undergrowth. The deer dropped; rushing up, the people found it dead, shot clean through the eye. Charles's reputation was made, but somehow he omitted to mention that he had actually aimed at the shoulder! Tigers were scarce, and he only had one attempt at a shot, from his van. Not wanting to lean out and disturb the tiger he lent his rifle against the side of the vehicle and fired. Nothing happened. The lucky tiger looked at him and strolled away. That he had missed at close range seemed impossible, so he concluded that using the van as a rest had altered the vibrations.

The Coplands returned to living in Arbroath in 1953. Six years later Charles was appointed Provost of St John's Cathedral, Oban, a ministry that lasted twenty years, combined latterly with the office of Dean of Argyle and the Isles. He also returned to Bisley where he immediately regained his place in the Scottish VIII, adding another twelve Elchos to his pre-war five. Individual successes mounted up, among them: eight Scottish Crosses including the Gold (twice); all the Scottish cups; the Albert, the Halford and the Cottesloe. In 1989, at the age of 79, he led the field in the Albert after 1100 yards, only running out of inspiration at the final distance. His preparation for Bisley was said to include lying on the grass verge beside a length of straight road in Scotland and sighting with his Match Rifle at a 30mph sign some distance away which, he claimed, made the perfect aiming mark. The local folk may have been startled by this sight, but they were in less danger than the tiger.

From 1966 to 1993 Charles was Scotland's main coach for the Elcho, always to be seen in an old tweed jacket, sporting a black felt clerical hat with holes in it, or a battered straw one, and from his neck a Cross on a piece of knotted string. Prone to forgetfulness, he twice lost his silver Elcho bars in the heather, and twice they were miraculously found again. The Scots maintained that as coach he had access to Divine Guidance, but the results did not always support that; or maybe there were days when even the Almighty couldn't make sense of Stickle-down. On Sundays at Bisley Charles always celebrated Holy Communion at 07:30 in the English VIII Club, ahead of the 08:30 detail; his own room in Elcho

Lodge had the atmosphere of a tiny chapel. At Barry he would take prayers in a sodden nissen hut before shooting began, wearing enormous gumboots under his surplice.

Charles remained remarkably spry almost to the end. It was only a few years ago that his daughters finally dissuaded him from taking part in the Kirriemuir Annual Charity Swim, at which he still insisted on diving in. He flew down from Scotland for Elcho Day every year until 2007, wearing his kilt and London Scottish rigger socks whatever the temperature. He could still see the spotting disc at 1200 yards with his naked eye. In 2004 he conducted the presentation after the match, and in 2006 he came to see the shield hung in the City Chambers of Edinburgh where he and fellow nonagenarian the Earl of Wemyss, whose ancestor had presented the original Elcho Shield, somehow engaged in spirited reminiscence even though each was profoundly deaf. He always came to Blair Atholl for the Autumn Meeting too.

For all of us, Scots in particular, the passing of Charles Copland does mark the end of an era, that pre-war vintage of terrific shooters and great characters. We shall miss him so much: this kind, courteous, upright man, full of enthusiasms, always encouraging others, deeply devout yet with the most engaging eccentricities (his home-made wines were cask-strength, nothing less), multi-talented yet utterly humble. To his family we extend our deep sympathy, especially to his daughters Frances and Jane who, latterly, brought him to Bisley and Blair each year to make his day – and ours.

*Rosemary Meldrum and Colin Hayes*

### **Lt Col (Retd) WJ Strachan OBE CD (CSM CSC)**

Born in Carp, Ontario in 1914, Bill enrolled in the Army in 1931 with the rank of Private and was promoted through the ranks to reach the rank of Lt Colonel in October 1959, serving as ADOS (Assistant Director of Ordnance Services) Ammo, until retirement in June 1964.



Bill was a D Day Veteran of Third Division, landing in Normandy in 1944, and proudly wore the following decorations: the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, the 1939 – 1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, the War Medal 1939 – 1945, the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953 and the Canadian Forces Decoration with First Clasp. One of his more interesting tour of duties was the Canadian Military Attache to Sweden and Finland from December 1952 to July 1954.

After his retirement in 1964 he was employed by the Royal Trust in Ottawa as a Loans Officer doing assessments on homes and arranging loans and mortgages until final retirement from work altogether. During his last

three years of life he spent the time at a cottage he and his son built together on Lake Manitou on Manitoulin Island. Although his first love was target shooting, age diminished his vision and he played quite a bit of golf.

Bill was, at the time of his death, the Senior Life Governor of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association and also a Vice-President of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain.

From his very early years, Bill took up and excelled at target rifle shooting and service rifle shooting. Bill was a member of both National and Army Bisley Teams. He was Captain of the Canadian Army Team to Bisley in 1957 and Commandant of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Team to Bisley in 1966. He was also the Adjutant of the National team in 1980.

What I, and most of his friends and colleagues will remember of Bill, was his everlasting and generous ability to promote the sport of shooting. He was a former Executive Vice-President of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association and President of the National Defence Headquarters Rifle Association.

I still have a letter written by Bill to members of National Defence Headquarters Rifle Association when he was elected to the position of President of that organisation some thirty years ago:

“We have a job to do – we have some fences to mend – and since our home grounds are under reconstruction, we must find a way to provide our membership with the facilities for practice in order to maintain the high degree of skill for which we are noted. To all of these ends, the one word which sums up our duties and responsibilities in this association is “Commitment”.

This of course, applies not only to the officers but to every one of us in this association, even the newest of members.

What is our commitment to shooting in general and this association in particular? How much time and energy are we willing to commit, to devote to the game we all play, to the promotion of more attractive programs, to more efficient direction of our operations, and in aid of the rich comradeship which flows from our overall activities. This commitment is, of course, dependent on our priorities; how high on the scale of importance in our lives do we place our sport and our association? I urge each of you reassess your life style and seriously consider committing more of the fine talents and abilities with which you have been endowed to whatever facets of our activities as shooters seems most meaningful to you.

Let us all work together, understand the problems which face us, so that we may build, even a little, on the structure and records of achievement handed to us by our past leaders and members.”

Bill had the most commitment of anyone I ever knew.

Bill Strachan had a host of friends, both in Canada and abroad and we will miss him so very much.

*Colin Brown*

## Colonel HJ (Tommy) Thompson OBE

Herbert James (Tommy) Thompson died on 2 December 2009 a few weeks short of his 97th birthday. He was born in China where his parents were missionaries, the youngest of seven children. On returning to England after the First World War, he attended St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, and Imperial College, London. In those years he was a proficient boxer and cross-country runner and started to develop his interest in rifle shooting.

His father had ambitions for him in the field of forestry, but Tommy's ambition was to join the Army. This he did, enlisting in the Royal Corps of Signals in 1933. In 1935, as a wireless operator, he went with his section to the Saar as part of the International Force supervising the plebiscite and subsequent re-assumption of power by Germany. Following this he was selected for Officer Training at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, the "Shop", and was commissioned into the Royal Signals in 1938. He was first stationed in Catterick in Yorkshire – the "home" of the Corps - to which base he would return at intervals during the rest of his military service. Postings in Southern England followed and, especially after Dunkirk, he was very much involved in providing for communications in the event of a German invasion. In 1941, he was posted to Scotland to the newly formed training centre for Combined Operations, a somewhat novel concept at the time, gaining experience in amphibious techniques and the co-ordination of communications for use in assault landings.

When the United States entered the War after Pearl Harbour he joined a British Training and Liaison Team in Washington formed to work with and assist the USA in developing combined amphibious operations. He was appointed to the staff of General George Patton and took part with American Forces in the invasion of North Africa – Operation Torch. He was on board the flagship for this operation, the USS Augusta, the same heavy cruiser on which Churchill and Roosevelt had signed the Atlantic Charter in 1941. For his work with the Americans and in this operation, he was made an Officer of the American Legion of Merit, one of the first three non-US citizens to receive that honour.



Tommy Thompson and Bill Strachan (see previous page) pictured in 1964.

Further service with Allied HQ in North Africa led to his involvement in the invasions of Sicily (Operation Husky) and Salerno (Operation Avalanche). He then was posted back to Britain where he applied his now considerable experience in amphibious landings to the provision of specialised communications facilities for the D-Day landings (Operation Overlord). He landed in France shortly after D-Day to assess the effectiveness of the assault communications. It is noteworthy that he was directly involved in nearly all of the great amphibious landings of the European War and that he worked closely with our allies, the Americans, in much of this.

After the end of the war against Germany, he attended the Staff College at Camberley and was then posted to India. His first job was as Staff Officer in a Section dealing with Military Farms, Veterinary Services and provision of remounts – a job, as he put it somewhat dryly, "that was a far cry from matters of communication!" He returned to more conventional Signals' duties, in India until partition in 1947, and then in Catterick until 1952. In that year, as Denmark was entering NATO, he served on a joint UK-US liaison team in that country preparing a comprehensive logistical and communications plan for use, as almost casually described, "in case of a certain eventuality". His next move was to Egypt, planning for the move of the British GHQ from the Suez Canal Zone and setting it up in Cyprus. In that sad and beautiful island, life was made more complex by the activities of the Enosis-EOKA movement and by the British-French operations in Egypt in 1956. For his work during these years, he was appointed to the Order of the British Empire.

On returning to the UK in 1957, he commanded the 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division Signals Regiment. His final posting was to the Air Ministry in London, with wide responsibilities for communications between RAF stations overseas. He retired from the Army in 1961 with the rank of Colonel. For three years, he worked with the Royal Automobile Club, where he initiated the now familiar roadside service and membership centres around the country. He joined the Civil Service in 1964, part of the Government Communications organisation, working on specialised aspects of the security of communications until his retirement in 1978.

Tommy was a practical man of many parts. He had a succession of remarkable cars, which he lovingly used and maintained; he was a skilled craftsman, and a first priority in any house was the setting up of the workshop – he was known to many of his grandchildren as Grandpa-Fixit; he loved fishing, chasing grouse and ducks over moors and marshes, and took a considerable interest in gardening, especially in keeping his lawns immaculate. He could not really be described as a "modern man". His main advice to footballers on TV was "get some shears and give him a hair cut"! Although much of his working life was spent in the business of communications, he never came to grips with modern technology. He refused to have much, if anything, to do with such devices as hearing aids, computers, mobile



phones and TV remote controls, calling them, amongst other less polite phrases, "Inventions of the Devil".

One of his great passions was target shooting. From school and university, then through his army years and into retirement, he had a long and distinguished career in marksmanship. He was a reserve for the English National Match Team in 1937, shot in it three times, coached in 1965, and was Captain in 1988. In the Mackinnon he was adjutant twice, shot once, was reserve once and was Captain in 1985. While he never fired in the Kolapore, he was Adjutant in 1975 and was appointed as Captain of the Great Britain Team in 1989, but, sadly, had to resign the position due to ill-health that year. He toured Canada with the GB Team five times, including going on to the USA for the Palma Match in 1976. In all he was a member of three GB Palma Teams. He was Vice-Captain of the GB Team to the West Indies in 1978. He finished in the top 50 of the Bisley Grand Aggregate five times, made the Queen's Final eight times, first in 1935 and last in 1975, and the Governor General's final in Canada twice. He contributed much wise advice and counsel, and was a Vice-President of the North London Rifle Club and the English Twenty Club. Perhaps his fondest support was for the Old Lawrentian Rifle Club, which he had helped revive in the late 1950s and of which he was President for many years. Tommy retired from shooting in the early 1990s, scoring a V bull on his last shot, and firmly and characteristically declaring that "that is enough"!

Tommy was married twice in his long life. First, in September 1939, just after the start of the Second World War, to Marjorie Charlton, with whom he had two sons (Jim and Pete) and a daughter (Sue). Marjorie died of cancer in 1972. A year later, he was remarried to Elizabeth Jenkins, which extended the family to Tim and the late Jane. He had eleven grand-children and nine great-grand-children.

He will be remembered by his family and friends as a kind, genuine and loving man. He lived a full and happy life, had a quiet, sometimes impish, sense of humour and always enjoyed a party. A Thanksgiving Service in his memory was held in Rotherfield, East Sussex, on 20 January 2010, on what would have been his 97th birthday. It was a tribute to him that a large number of people attended, braving Britain's unusually inclement weather, with many having travelled great distances across oceans and continents. Donations in his memory, if desired, may be made to the Royal Signals Association, c/o Paul Bysouth, 9 Croft Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1DL.

*JCT & PRT*

### **Max Otto Alfred Stanton**

Max died on 2 December 2009 two days before his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday after a long illness. Max was a long time member of the NRA, HBSA and MLAGB in its formative years. He will be remembered for his knowledge and ability with the ML Enfield and match rifles. He was a fine shot.

Max organised the Oxford v Cambridge Roads Cup match for many years both teams using ML Enfields. Max was in every sense a shooting man – stalking red deer in Scotland to roe in his beloved Oxfordshire, clay, game and pigeon shooting in equal measure as well as his passion for shooting at Bisley for some 55 years.

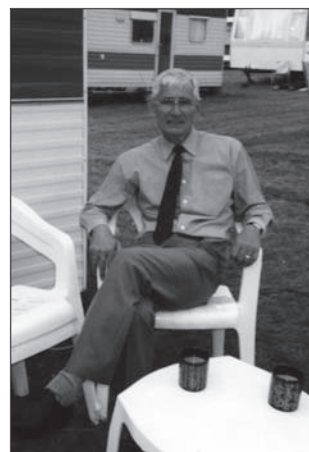
His friends will remember him for his willingness to share his knowledge and experience to all of us. Above all his hospitality extended to so many.

Rest in peace old friend.

*JHW*

### **Paul Raymond Edwards**

Paul Edwards was born in the East End of London at the start of the Second World War on 3 October 1939, weighing in at a tiny 3lb 12oz and twin sister Pam at 3lb. Soon after their birth the family was evacuated to Peterborough. Growing fast on the country air and farmhouse cooking Paul thrived and grew into a healthy, chubby little boy, affectionately called "Porky".



Leaving school at fifteen to become an apprentice printer and then joining the army cadets he soon got the bug for shooting. He first shot at Bisley in 1955 with the 1st Essex Regiment. Paul soon became a good shot and joined Rainham and District Rifle Club. Marrying Dorothy in 1961, and becoming a dad to Gary and Judy, never held him back and the whole family attended shoots as Bisley, Colchester and Rainham – whatever the weather.

Dorothy soon took up the sport and on one occasion came first and Paul a near second, of which he had his leg pulled many a time. Paul was always very happy being at Bisley whether it was shooting or just debating shooting.

Paul won the St George's Second Stage in 1969 and was in the Queen's Hundred twice, 1968 and 1977. In 1974 he won the Daily Telegraph. Adding two tours of the Channel Islands with the England team to his belt, and shooting with the England Veterans Team in 2003 were a few of his proudest moments.

Paul loved Bisley with a passion and took on the task of Superintendent for the English XX and county shot and coach for Essex with tremendous pride. Paul had a ready smile and made time to chat with everybody, there was always a shooting tale to tell.

Paul, a loving husband, dad and grandad sadly passed away on 13 September at the age of 69, three weeks away from his seventieth birthday. His ashes were scattered at 1000 yards at Bisley on his birthday, the place he

loved most. We were so pleased at the number of Paul's shooting buddies that turned up for his funeral and he had a wonderful send off.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the kind cards, letters, floral tributes and donations for our selected charity. He will be greatly missed.

*Judy Cranfield (nee Edwards)*

### **Hamish Tucker**

Hamish Tucker passed away in his sleep at the beginning of the 2009 Imperial Meeting after spending the day at Bisley with his friends. He had undergone major heart surgery six months previously but had appeared well on the way to a full recovery so the news came as a complete shock to all those that knew him.



Hamish joined the Stock Exchange Rifle Club in 1986. At that time he was a beat officer serving from Wood Street and the local community and security office for the shops in the area. He was well known for his ability to persuade shopkeepers to donate various superb prizes for our erstwhile annual Christmas raffle. Hamish shot .22" regularly in the early days and competed in many internal competitions. He won the 1910 (Winter Aggregate) from 1988 to 1992 and again in 1994, the Gosling (.22" Championship) in 1988 and 1990 and the Frisby in 1988 and 1990. He was also placed in many other competitions over the years.

His main love was fullbore shooting at Bisley and he concentrated on this over the past 15 years or so. He won the House Cup in 1986 and 1993, the Marks in 1990, the Millar Symons in 1993, the George Cup in 1990, 1992 and 1993, the Grimes in 1986 and 1993 and the Hoskier in 1987.

His legacy to the SERC is the Paul/Tucker Prize Fund, which he established with Chris Paul to assist younger shooters and to ensure that SERC members recognised the club on their entries to the Imperial Meeting.

He was also a member of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club. Although health problems prevented him shooting in later years, he was always ready to help less-experienced members, could be relied on to act as Range Officer on club weekends and to entertain everyone with his repertoire of inappropriate jokes.

He would always help several shooters in the Aunts and Uncles Scheme and was very proud to see them improve during the Meeting.

Flags were flown at half mast at Bisley in his honour and he will be sorely missed.

*Brian Cudby and Karen Robertson*

### **Jeff Fenge**

It is with regret that I report the sudden and untimely death of Jeff Fenge at the age of 63. Jeff collapsed and died in the Range Office at Bisley on 6 November 2009.



Jeff was born on 27 October 1946. He joined the Army as soon as he left school, serving in the Royal Corps of Signals for nine years. It was in the Army that Jeff found he had a natural talent for athletics and excelled as a pole vaulter. During his time in the Army, Jeff was a member of the highly successful 21 Signal Regiment team which won the Army team championship a record nine consecutive years. He won the AAA Junior title at Crystal Palace in 1964 and was Surrey senior champion in 1968. Jeff's best year was 1975 when he represented Britain four times.

He was also a competent sprint hurdler and long and triple jumper and finally retired from athletics at the end of the 1977 summer meetings.

When he left the Regular Army in October 1973, Jeff joined the Territorial Army, serving with 31 Signals Regiment. Although he had always been a competent shot he developed a keen interest after leaving the Army and successfully completed the Master Coach course at Warminster in 1977.

He joined the London District Specialist Training Team in 1983 and with a couple of other members of the team set up the Londinium Rifle Club, affiliated to the NRA in October 1984. Although he had become interested in civilian target shooting, Jeff was also heavily involved with shooting in the armed forces and he shot for the London District Rifle Association from 1988 until 1996, excelling on several occasions with the service issue SLR. He was granted a commission as a Captain in the Royal Logistic Corp in 1989.

In preparation for the day when he would no longer be shooting or working with the Army he became an individual member of the NRA in March 1992.

A member of the Corpsam Champion Unit Rifle Team in 1996, Jeff was awarded the Royal Logistic Corps Colours in recognition of his contribution to shooting. He resigned his commission in April 1997 and began to spend more time shooting as a civilian at Bisley as well as his regular trips to Belgium, with friends, where he had his pistols after the banning of pistols in Great Britain.

After he left the Regular Army Jeff worked initially for his father's building company and then as an engineer for BT, taking early retirement a few years ago. After retiring from BT, Jeff spent more time at Bisley during the week, shooting together with a couple of friends. Having decided it was time to put something back into the sport of shooting he attended, and passed, the NRA RCO course in September 2008. He followed this by

becoming a General Club Instructor in September 2009 in order to help with courses at Bisley.

Jeff's father had been wounded and captured at Arnhem and Jeff had an avid interest in the Second World War to the point where he not only collected a considerable number of items of that era but was also in the process of renovating a Willys jeep.

It would seem that with such a full life, Jeff would have little time for anything else but he also had a very contented family life married to Becky with two adult children and two grandchildren. Living in Raynes Park he had made the comment that apart from being somewhere nice to live it was also rather convenient for Bisley.

His funeral took place at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden on Friday 20 November and he is missed by not only his family but also those who enjoyed his company on the ranges.

*Dave Burton*

### **Tony Wheeler**

Tony passed away at Shrewsbury Hospital on the morning of 18 December 2009. He was born on 15 July 1934 at Paddington, London.

Whilst a young man he mostly worked as a labourer in the building trade, this occupation being cut short by his call up for National Service.

His period of National Service was carried out in the Royal Corps of Signals where he became a NCO with the rank of Lance Corporal. On completing his National Service he trained as an apprentice in the plumbing trade. In his late twenties to mid thirties he became a mobile ice cream salesman. At the age of thirty eight he undertook the 'Knowledge of London' to become a London black cab driver, an occupation he continued until he retired.

In 1984 he joined the Stanmore Rifle and Pistol Club and took up pistol shooting, a discipline in which he developed considerable prowess.

Tony was a committed club member and served the club as the Pistol Captain, a pistol coach and a committee member. He also ran the Junior Air Weapon section. He so enjoyed shooting that with the banning of handguns he quickly switched to rifle shooting.

Being a black cab driver he had a locker full of stories and jokes which he would regale the members with in the club room.

On retirement, along with his son, he moved to Shropshire where he happily spent the last five years of his life.

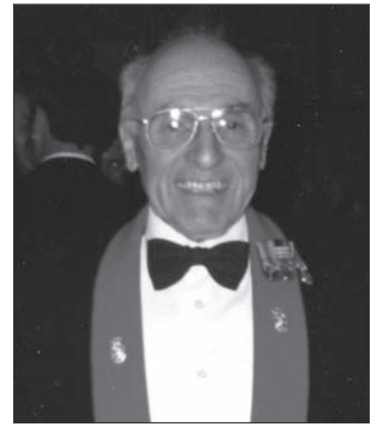
The Club has lost a loyal member and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

*Glyn Williams*



### **Jack Meynell**

Anyone who knew Jack Meynell, who died peacefully at his home in Suffolk in December at the age of 80, would tell you he was not a man given to exaggeration, but it is no exaggeration to say that Jack passed on his love of shooting to hundreds of young men and women.



This is also why most of us would have to find out for ourselves that he was one of a kind in the shooting world and well known in the offices of the NRA and on the ranges as a conscientious range officer.

As far as the author is able to ascertain Jack is the only man ever to have won the Queen's Medal with two different weapons. He made the achievement in the reserve forces version of the Medal with a Lee Enfield .303 first in 1956 and again with an SLR in 1964.

But that was very far from the peak of his achievements. Shooting-wise, among others, he won the London & Middlesex Service Rifle Championship five times, in 1969, 1975, 1976, 1979 and 1982. Bear in mind that he was in his 40s and 50s at this time – it shows what a natural affinity he had with any rifle he picked up.

He told a story once at the end of a dinner of the Old Framlinghamians, of which he was a much-valued honorary member. He was out shooting rabbits with his brother Eric in his native North Yorkshire as a young man and a pheasant got up out the hedge in front of him. He downed it with the .22" rifle he had in his hands from, by his estimation, 80 yards. An unbelievable, almost circus-like feat of marksmanship. "I shouldn't have taken the shot really," he said with his characteristic modesty, "but I couldn't resist it." Not one of us had the confidence to challenge him, and as it happens we were right not to, as the story was subsequently confirmed by Eric.

It was at Framlingham College where he gave of his best. Literally generations of shooters, myself included, passed through his capable and patient hands. And it largely as a result of his legacy that the Old Framlinghamian Rifle Club is currently enjoying some of its golden years, refreshed with new talent – such as youngest-ever GB shot Sandy Walker – and members into their 70s and living successful trophy-winning years.

The very best of his gift was given up for these cadet shooters he had charge of for so many years, inspiring them with his love of the sport and coaching with his sometimes ascerbic Yorkshire wit. Each one of them was treated the same, with firm courtesy and careful guidance – offering praise and criticism in equal measure. "Come up two clicks, and squeeze the damned thing. It's a trigger not a cart - don't pull it," he would say.

John William Meynell was born on 24 October 1929 at Newsham Grange Farm, near the River Tees some

six miles from Barnard Castle in County Durham. He was the eldest of three children in the family of Walter and Minnie Meynell. He attended primary schools at Staindrop and Barnard Castle before completing his secondary school education at the private public school at Barnard Castle. It was during his time at Barnard Castle Public School that Jack developed his athletic skills, winning many events like the half mile and mile races due to his stamina and developed the love of shooting which was to remain with him all his life.

After studying at Houghall Agricultural College he worked in his grandfather's farm and joined the TA. He married Aileen Close in 1951 and his two children Brian and Suzanne were born in 1952 and 1964 respectively. He worked at Glaxo before taking a job at Framlingham College as lab technician and shooting master. He remained working there for 35 years, well into his 70s and according to official reports he retired no fewer than three times.

Prize boards in clubhouses all over Bisley bear the name and rank of WO2 Jack Meynell, who served for many years in the TA, first in the Durham Light Infantry and latterly with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Yet you would never hear this from him. You only ever got an inkling of how well Jack was regarded within the gates of Bisley – absolutely everyone knew who he was. Indeed, it was a tragedy that in his later years with increasingly failing health he could no longer make it to Bisley. He clearly hated it but numerous offers of a lift from members of the OFRC were politely declined with a sorrowful resignation that was difficult for us to bear.

The Old Framlinghamian Rifle Club deeply laments the loss of its greatest asset, friend and supporter. He will be sorely missed at our annual Bisley barbecues and come this July we will all take pleasure in raising a glass in his name as we scatter his ashes at the Clock Tower according to the wishes of his family.

*Steve McDowell*

### **Santokh Singh Jaswal**

Santokh Singh Jaswal known universally as "Jazz" was born on 17 May 1934 in Nairobi, Kenya and came to the United Kingdom in 1968. Jazz grew up on a diet of being passionately keen on shooting and hunting since he was 11 years of age, and when he came to the UK in 1968 he had hunted all sorts of game using his rifles.

After Jazz had come to the UK he was keen to continue his passion of shooting and in 1970 he joined the world famous NRA at Bisley to which he was a life member and became well known by everyone at Bisley over the years.



In 1973 Jazz joined North Surrey Gun Club and also applied for a shotgun certificate which was granted on 4 July 1973, one day before his youngest son Rupinder (Sunny) was born. Later that year Jazz bought a brand new shotgun for £300.

In 1975 Jazz had joined Uxbridge District Rifle Club, became a life member of the London & Middlesex Rifle Association in 1976 and Kenton Gun Club in 1977. Later in 1977 Jazz applied for a FAC and was granted one for a rifle and two pistols.

This was now the start of a much sought after gun collection by an individual shooter which included three .455 Webley pistols of which there was one .455 Webley Fosbery, one .455 Webley WG Army Model, also there was one .455 Colt and a .38 Colt. The collection also included walking stick shotguns to name but a few

In 1981 Jazz entered the NSRA/Eley National Postal Competition and was awarded a certificate for "reaching a high standard of shooting to qualify for Stage 2 of this competition". Over the years Jazz won over 50 trophies in shooting.

Jazz had also joined the following clubs over the years: Heathrow Clay Pigeon Club, BAA, The West London Shooting School, Wembley Gun Club, Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA) and Surrey Rifle Association to name but a few.

His son Rupinder (Sunny) remains an active shooter and member of various shooting clubs and is carrying on in the footsteps of his father.

*Sunny Jaswal*

### **Laurie Ingram**

The Normandy RC suffers a bereavement because of the death of Laurie Ingram. Laurie was a very old and faithful member of the association.

Living since long on the Côte d'Azur with his wife Eve and his son Stuart, he fully justified the play on words to call "North - Midi" the Normandy RC.

The time and the age had not dulled his passion for Bisley and the long range rifle shooting. He kept an intact curiosity for the new actions, and a mind of pioneer to improve new calibres and loads.

His experience and his texts have been a precious help and a mark for the NRC members shooting Match Rifle or F Class. But his main contribution was his simple presence, since he was a nice, fair, and witty fellow.

After the death of the late David Goodall, he was our British audience to hear the good, crude and smutty French stories.

In leaving us that is the first time that Laurie makes us sad.

*Philippe Ginestet NRC Chairman*

*Robert Chombart NRC Président d'Honneur*

A full obituary will appear in the Summer Journal.

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# NRA 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

2010 is the 150th anniversary of the formation of the NRA and obviously we want to celebrate!

## Commemorative Badges

Every competitor in an NRA event during 2010 will receive a free 150th Anniversary commemorative badge. Extra badges will be available for sale from the NRA.

## Imperial Meeting

The 150th party will be held on the evening of Friday 23 July. The plan is that as many of the Bisley clubs as possible will stage a different event, (formal dinner, barbecue, disco, theme night, mud-wrestling contest etc) so that there is lots of choice open to everybody around the Camp. Clubs who have already planned events include:

- The Army Target Shooting Club will be holding a Cocktail & Canapé Party with live music.
- The North London Rifle Club will be holding a formal black tie dinner (possibly with a Victorian theme).
- The RAF Target Rifle Club will be holding a Cocktails and Karaoke evening with the traditional Empty Cases barbecue.
- The City Rifle Club will be holding a Buffet Supper.

Other clubs are still in the planning stage but we should have a full list of events in the Summer Journal and on the NRA website.

Please contact each club individually for further information or to book places.

At 10pm, the NRA invites everyone to Stickle-down for a massive Fireworks Display set to music by Dragon Fireworks. As anyone who has been to the Annual Fireworks Display in October will tell you this will be an event not to be missed! The Fireworks Display will be open to all members, competitors and their guests so please feel free to bring your friends and family to help us celebrate. After the fireworks we return to the clubhouses and carry on partying.

An updated list of events will be on the website, in the Summer Journal and advertised in the squadding envelopes so if your club would like to advertise its event please contact Karen Robertson (contact details on page 1) with full details.

## Other plans

We intend to have an audio-visual display of photographs and film footage of Bisley in the past running throughout the Meeting.

The Overseas Teams Reception will be held on First Friday at 21:00 at the Army Target Shooting Club. Please contact Elaine Buttle for further details at [elaine.buttle@nra.org.uk](mailto:elaine.buttle@nra.org.uk).

On Final Saturday a Victorian Re-enactment Society will be in attendance. Music for the Final of HM the Queen's Prize will be provided by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

## The Earwig

*From the NRA Jubilee 1860 – 1909 Official Souvenir book*



Visitors at the present day to the NRA Offices at Bisley will find over the door leading to the committee rooms a huge owl and earwig, which creatures for many years stood guard respectively over the boxes marked "suggestions" and "complaints" that stood on each side of the Council Tent entrance. So great a part did these two creatures play in the early life of Wimbledon that no record of the NRA would be complete that did not give an account of the birth of the insect at least. Intent on making the Association a success Lord Elcho, who had set his heart upon the work, endeavoured during the first meeting to discover the wants and wishes of the majority. For this purpose nightly camp fire meetings were held at which those who had grievances, or who thought they could help the young Association, were encouraged to speak. At one of these informal meetings, all the suggestions being exhausted, a dead silence fell upon the gathering until a competitor, tasting for the first time the joys of camp life, turned with an air of reproach to the Council and mournfully ejaculated "There are many earwigs." The shout of laughter that followed must have penetrated to the extreme borders of the parish of Wimbledon and the earwig became the creature to mark the complaint box. The Victorians also made a golden earwig of immense size and placed it upon a pole as a warning that the creature was to be found in fairly large quantities upon the Common. So much did these two disturbers of the night seize upon the popular imagination that in later years an "Earwig" and an "Owl" prize were founded, while within a short space of time two journals appeared in camp also bearing the name of these two ubiquitous creatures. No book, however small, attempting to deal with the subject of Wimbledon would be complete without some reference to these two newspapers which played so prominent a part in the early life of the camp.

An "Earwig" prize was also established in 1864 by the proprietors of this journal, the qualification being that on production of a copy of the paper at the Prize Entry Office of the NRA one Earwig Pool ticket would be issued on payment of 1s., which ticket would enable the owner to participate in the 500 yards ordinary pool and if a bullseye was obtained to shoot in the second stage of the Earwig Prize for which no entrance fee was charged. The first stage was at 500 yards, one shot being fired for each Earwig ticket, the second stage being five shots at the same distance, any position.

For 2010 both the Earwig journal and the Earwig Prize will be reinstated (albeit under slightly different conditions).

Keep an eye out for further details on all these events and others in the Summer Journal.

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