



# National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2010

Volume LXXXIX

Number 3



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# NRA STRATEGY – MAPPING OUR FUTURE

## Introduction

Over the last few years the health of the NRA has been transformed. Our membership is growing steadily, whilst tight management, despite recent setbacks, is beginning to restore our financial position. At the same time, the world changes around us and we need to both stay abreast of change and take advantage when we can for the benefit of the sport. Strengthening the finances of the NRA will be secured at a price, however. The trustees would be the first to recognise the consequences of delaying maintenance at Bisley, some of which is now badly overdue. At the same time, there are many other areas that we could prioritise. As with so many organisations today, we must make choices. Making the right choices is the purpose of this strategy process.

As we strive to shape our future in a positive direction, we are not short of options. Do we focus on not just maintaining Bisley, but upgrading its facilities? What emphasis do we place on developing shooting facilities outside of Bisley? What role should 'grass roots' recruitment play versus skills development for existing shooters? How much emphasis and resource should we put upon working with and lobbying government?

As part of a strategy review, the Council has undertaken a review of the strategy for the NRA, and then mapping out how to deliver that strategy over a five year financial planning horizon. The stages involved in this have been:

- Soundings from Council and Exec members on possible elements of such a revised strategy
- Structured feedback on the prioritisation of those elements from both Council and then General Council, as well as members of the NSC Board
- Work between Exec members and their teams and Trustees and NSC non-exec directors around the actual implementation and the attendant financial plans.

## Our Strategy

### Our Aims

- To promote the sport of target shooting across the UK
  - In all of its forms
  - In a way that emphasises safety and proper governance
- To provide facilities and related services to UK government defence and security organisations.

## Our strategy in brief

Essentially, we aim to promote target shooting as widely as possible as a sport, but hold dear to the original spirit of our Association as playing a role in promoting marksmanship in defence of the realm. Over time, the relative weight of these may have changed and certainly the way we go about them, but both are clear in our strategic objectives and the activities that support them.

Our strategy is to build Bisley into the revenue-generating heart of the sport in the UK, worthy of the title of the 'home of shooting'. As such, Bisley will fund the development of the sport, where growth in other parts of the country is a priority. Also, Bisley will be a key asset to the police and armed forces in providing high quality training facilities in service of their marksmanship needs. This will in turn provide some of the resources required to meet our wider sporting development ambitions. We also seek to support, inform and influence government in the formulation of firearms policy and law in support of shooting as a legitimate, accessible and safe sport.

To become that critical cornerstone, we need to invest in Bisley. In the past, investment has been constrained as we have worked to restore our financial health. This will include catching up on overdue maintenance and improving facilities, whilst retaining the heritage character of the 'home of shooting'. We need to improve the customer orientation of the NRA and NSC in a world where service expectations have moved on. Thirdly, we need to attract both shooting-related and non-shooting-related revenues to reduce the call we must make on the membership.

Overall, this should ensure that our sport is funded with the minimum burden on NRA members consistent with the standards and developments we all expect.

## Our Strategic Objectives

Whilst we have a range of initiatives underway at any one time, like any organisation we have scarce resources of time, people and money. It is important that we recognise those constraints and work within them for the long-term health of the sport and the Association. As far as the next five years are concerned, the key strategic objectives are as follows:

- 'Catch up' at Bisley

This involves overdue maintenance as well as infrastructural upgrades essential to other further strategic development. We have made a key choice that we will seek to develop Bisley only as far as is necessary to make it 'fit for

purpose' and that further strategic investments will be made away from Bisley, in other parts of the country.

- **Commercial Revenues at Bisley**

Encompassing both shooting and non-shooting revenues, this is a key element of the strategy, providing the funds for us to make the investments we wish to make in service of developing the sport. There are a range of initiatives, both large and small, currently under discussion to this end.

- **Regional development outside Bisley**

The key initiative in terms of developing our sport, the NRA is seen as very much centred on Bisley. Developing the popularity of the sport requires us to work beyond this, making the NRA more relevant and valuable to members beyond Bisley and enhancing facilities across the country.

- **Widening NRA membership**

In tandem with regional development, we would aim to refresh our benefits package for members, improving the quality and value for money of NRA membership.

- **Engagement with Government**

Key to the future health of the sport, this activity encompasses:

- Lobbying on legislation and Police Service firearms policy
- Providing facilities to the military and the police
- Marksmanship training
- Supporting the rehabilitation and welfare of those injured in the line of duty
- Civilian use of MoD ranges

- **'Customer Centricity'**

Whilst far 'softer' than the objectives above, an essential part of creating the right environment at Bisley and attracting additional revenues is a more customer-orientated culture within the NRA/NSC organisation.

must maintain a degree of separation given charity law regarding commercial trading arms, we will seek to minimise the day-to-day impact that this has.

- Against each key initiative for 2011, we have identified the executive responsible within either the NRA or NSC and 'tagged' both an NRA trustee and an NSC non-exec to work with that person in delivering that initiative.

The next stage is to enshrine this within a 5 year financial plan and set objectives for both the NRA and NSC against this strategy. The recent financial challenges we have faced have set this planning back a little, but it is key to our future development.

## **Key risks to the strategy**

### **Commercial revenues**

Put simply, if we do not have the money, we cannot execute this plan. Critical are a number of commercial initiatives that we hope will enhance our revenues whilst not reducing the provision of facilities and services for members. This is not as simple as it sounds. Some initiatives will enhance our facilities in the long term and provide secure revenue streams, but may mean disruption in the short term. Striking the right balance will require careful thought and attention to detail.

### **Initiative overload**

With the range and scope of initiatives described above, the execution risks given our resources cannot be overstated. If we are to secure the outcomes we aspire to, we must be careful as to what we commit to and when, so that we 'do a few things well', rather than over-committing and falling short.

### **Where we go from here**

The key now is implementation. We will update you regularly on initiatives as they develop. Clearly we need to respond to changing circumstances as they emerge, but we feel that this strategic direction offers a strong future for the Association and the NRA and NSC will strive to achieve this strategy. We are excited by the new level of impetus that these discussions are having within the organisation and are confident that they will provide a very different trajectory for the NRA.

• • • • •

## **Steps already taken**

We have already taken two key steps in this process and more are on the way:

- We have agreed with the NSC Board that they will be invited to attend the NRA Council meetings. Given the inextricable links between the two organisations, it makes sense that we should work as closely as possible. Whilst we

You will find a response mechanism on the website to feedback your views. The closing date for submitting feedback is 31 December 2010.

We will continue to update you on progress and developments and hope to give you a sense of real progress over the coming months.



# THE NRA OUTSIDE BISLEY

*by Robin Pizer, Chairman NRA*

My early years of shooting are full of memories of shooting regularly on ranges in East Anglia, the north but particularly the north west of England, Scotland and more recently Gloucestershire. A few ranges were taken into private ownership in the 1960s but many more closed forever. Ammo was cheap, less than 1p per round, a good second-hand rifle cost £10 and a new one £25. The NRA did not seem to matter much at that time. As the screws were turned on shooting (access to MoD ranges, 1968 Firearms Act, Hungerford, Dunblane) the NRA was the obvious organisation to turn to. It was often slow to recognise the problems and appeared at times quite powerless although a lot of effort was put in behind the scenes on some issues. The NRA got a bad press with clubs outside Bisley, which was not always justified. I was certainly one of the critics.



In the last few years the NRA has made a very significantly greater effort than before to help regional shooters, particular those using MoD ranges - without the certification process shooting on such ranges by clubs would have ceased. The NRA have helped a few clubs financially to improve their ranges and buy the freehold. Behind the scenes work continues with ACPO and the Home Office on a number of issues.

Before I became Chairman of the NRA, I had hoped to find a situation where the debt was essentially paid off and the Bisley estate was generating substantial surpluses but it is clear that we are still a year or two away from that. I wanted to see 300m no danger area ranges built to keep the sport alive where access to longer ranges was no longer possible. That remains my aspiration.

In this Journal you will find the high level NRA Strategy for the next five years although you may also have seen it on the website. The lower level detail for 2011 will be hammered out during the process of agreeing a budget for next year. It will not be an easy year.

Since becoming Chairman, I have heard from many of you who shoot regularly outside Bisley. Some of you remain quite critical on a wide variety of issues including Home Office criteria for clubs, the range pass, competency certificates, child protection, training courses and training of RCOs in particular, content of the NRA Journal, lack of NRA knowledge of problems faced by clubs outside Bisley, help over problems caused by the Police, conditions for joining the NRA etc. Much of the criticism is about what you see as an overly bureaucratic and dictatorial approach from the NRA. Some of it appears to be a complete misunderstanding of what we are advising you to do, as I said at the Umbrella Tent meeting in July. So we need to provide better explanations of why we recommend certain courses of action to you so you properly understand the problem and can introduce as simple a process as possible. But we also need to change.

So I need your help and guidance. What are the three most important things that you would like us to achieve for regional shooting in 2011? Please bear in mind that we will not have a lot of money to spend on this and with some issues it may not be possible to make progress due to the terrible shootings in Cumbria using a legally held firearm and shotgun. What are the three least important things that you feel we should not waste our time on? Please send your suggestions to our Secretary General or to me by letter or preferably by e-mail [secgen@nra.org.uk](mailto:secgen@nra.org.uk) and [robinpizer@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:robinpizer@connectfree.co.uk)

During the Vizianagram match in July, and again during the visit of the Home Affairs Select Committee to Bisley in November, we were given the strongest possible encouragement to offer to work with the Home Office and Police to reduce the cost and Police time involved in administering the Firearms Acts. So here is an opportunity for you to say how aspects that worry you could be changed to reduce costs and yet maintain the assurance that we are fit persons to hold firearms.

Once I see the issues of most concern to you, I may call for volunteers with expert knowledge to help. This approach has generally worked well on issues connected with Bisley Camp and has greatly supplemented the skills of the Trustees of the NRA, the Directors of NSC and the staff of both NRA and NSC.

Lastly I am particularly keen to know which MoD ranges go out of their way to welcome civilian clubs but also which MoD ranges cause our clubs the most grief. So what are the good and bad things that have happened on the MoD range you have used this last season? Please be as specific as possible especially where describing the bad points.

Please contact me by e-mail at [robinpizer@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:robinpizer@connectfree.co.uk)

# NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*by  
Glynn  
Alger*



## Finance

As you are now aware the Association has announced a deficit for the end of 2010. As expected our critics are forecasting gloom and a return to the old failings of the NRA prior to 2001.

The previous £2 million plus debt was accumulated with little comment over an extended period, due to a lack of business planning and financial management. The excuse used by many at the time was we went into debt due to the Commonwealth Games. In reality the shortfall from the Games was only one part of a bigger problem.

This time it is different. The Association has notified all of the membership in an open and honest manner that it is going into the red, on the basis that this is something we can fix by next year.

Why did this happen, you ask? In truth we got our budget forecasts wrong. As a result having made assumptions about our income we believed we could be more positive going forward. We employed more staff to try to improve service, driving costs up. At the same time having listened to members we invested in new toilet blocks at Bisley, supported teams, discounted prices to young shooters, in an effort to bring them into the sport, sold high quality ammunition to members at a very low price compared with its real retail value and gave interest free loans to clubs nationally allowing them to buy their ranges or to improve facilities. All of these decisions made sense and were in line with our charitable objectives when put up against the financial forecasts given to us.

The basic mistake that we made was that in our enthusiasm to be charitable we made the mistake of giving benefit to shooters based upon forecasts rather than known income. This is not a mistake we will make again.

In the meantime we have to cut our cloth appropriately by looking at cutting costs and increasing income to put us back into the black in 2011.

## Cumbria

The NRA gave evidence to the Parliamentary Home Affairs Committee (HAC) based upon our submission which was in line with that agreed with the British Shooting Sports Council. The evidence was given to the HAC by Geoff Doe our Firearms Liaison Representative in the initial meeting in September.

The key recommendations are:

The Firearms Acts of 1968 – 1997 should be consolidated into a single Act

No wholesale review of firearms law should take place in the current emotionally charged climate

Any new firearms legislation should be divided into two acts; criminal justice matters and licensing administration

Appeals against police licensing decisions should be dealt with by tribunal

Airgun control laws should not be devolved to Scotland

The current regime for licensing rifles should not be extended to shotguns

During the course of the evidence being given it became apparent to those present that the HAC members had little or no knowledge of firearms use or the law, in particular the various hoops that shooters have to leap through to get a Firearms Certificate.

It did become apparent however that if the NRA and its partners in BSSC do not act co-operatively and robustly there is the threat of a number of undesired outcomes:

Shotguns being reclassified as a firearm under Section 1 conditions

Airguns bought and owned under certificate

Requirements to have regular medical checks to hold firearms

A requirement for all shooters to be a member of a club or national body

A requirement for all shooters to undertake training prior to qualifying for an FAC

A requirement for all shooters to be regularly certified as safe and competent

The paradox of any such efforts by the authorities to go down this route is that had all of these conditions been in place they would not have stopped the tragedies in Cumbria or Northumberland.

In an effort to ensure that the HAC are better informed and to create an appropriate relationship, the NRA, NSRA and the CPSA have arranged the opportunity for the members of the Committee and their staff to come to Bisley to shoot rifle, pistol and shotgun so that they have a positive experience and are able to get a view on the current legislation in an informal setting. It is hoped that at some stage the Committee will come to Bisley a second time to take evidence for their enquiry.

In the meantime the NRA will continue to take part in, monitor and comment on any evidence sessions as they occur.

The other worrying issue, particularly following Cumbria, is the failure of the police to date to report on the circumstances surrounding the obvious operational failure to manage and minimise Derek Bird's tragic rampage around Cumbria.

Traditionally the police will try and divert some of the blame to the shooting community by recommending the introduction of yet more bureaucracy. This will be resisted.

## **Ranges**

As you are aware it has been the intention in recent years for the NRA to invest in ranges away from Bisley. The proposed programme was designed to be more ambitious than just making interest-free loans to clubs. The hope was that we could persuade the MoD to release ranges to us on a partnership, lease or buy arrangement, with the money being provided from activities at Bisley.

I became aware some time ago that although it was feasible for the MoD to release ranges to us, the likelihood of us being able to raise sufficient funding from Bisley was limited. As a result we began to look at other forms of business model.

The model that shows the most promise is for the NRA to enter into a form of commercial arrangement with a business partner. As the preferred organisation, the NRA would have access to range leases or purchase, with the partner reducing the financial risk and giving commercial expertise. There is also an opportunity with this model for clubs to enter into partnership with a commercial developer, who could uplift the ranges and facilities, run them commercially most of the week with the club having use on club days. This project has been monitored by Sport England, who see a financial downturn for assistance for sport post-2012. They have a view that this could be a model for all sports going forward in an effort to provide high quality facilities.

In the meantime Chris Webb continues to intervene on your behalf to ensure you get access to MoD ranges. We hope to have a list of ranges with availability to publish on our website from Landmarc and DTE in the near future.

## **Liaison with ACPO and the Home Office**

The NRA has recently had a series of discussions with ACPO regarding Long-Barrelled Pistol and Section 1 Shotgun possession within clubs for use in NRA competitions. We made the point that the current position of the Home Office and ACPO did not allow clubs to own, train and assess their members as fit to use these classes of firearms. ACPO have approached the Minister and the Home Office expressing the view

that Home Office Approval should be widened to allow ownership of these firearms by clubs.

Discussions also took place regarding the requirement for European visitors to apply for a Visitors Permit when they already hold a European Firearms Permit. Although to date ACPO and the Home Office will not accept that Visitors Permits should be dispensed with, they do accept that they will reduce the current requirement for the shooter to supply their original EFP to one where they can supply a photocopy. This change in requirement is likely to be in place prior to the 2012 Games.

## **NRA Council and Committee Elections 2010**

The 2010 Committee election process is now complete and the following appointments were announced:

Members of the General Council elected Peter Hobson to the Council (Board of Trustees) for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council elected James Ragg as Treasurer for a period of three years.

Members of the General Council co-opted John Horton to the General Council as a Lay member of the Disciplinary Body Appeal Committee.

Members of the General Council re-elected Richard Bailie, Charles Brooks and Colin McEachran to the Disciplinary Body for a period of three years.

Membership of the Council (Board of Trustees), General Council, their Committees and Sub-Committees are shown on pages 88 to 89 of this Journal.

## **Team Captaincies**

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

### **Under 25 Captain 2011**

James Lothian

## **Nominations**

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

### **GB Kolapore Team 2011\***

### **NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2012**

### **GB Team to Canada 2013**

### **GB Team to West Indies 2013**

*\*The request for nominations for a Captain for the 2011 GB Kolapore Team in the last Journal received no replies and is therefore being re-advertised.*

Nominations are required for Captains for the following match rifle team:

### **GB Team for the Woomera Match Bisley 2012**

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

### **GB Gallery Rifle Team 2011**

Nominations for all teams should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 15 January 2011.



# SHOOTING MATTERS – COMPETITIONS

## Marksman's Calendar

The Marksman's Calendar is published on the NRA website in the Calendar sub-menu. For those members without internet access and who cannot get a friend or club member to print a copy for them, please contact Karen Robertson who will be happy to post a copy to you.

The outline Marksman's Calendar 2011 is now available. Please could club secretaries check the Calendar carefully. To have club fixtures, whether to be held at Bisley or elsewhere, included, please send details to karen@nra.org.uk. Please do not include minor events such as practice sessions. Details need to be with Karen by the middle of January. Once your fixtures are listed on the website, please recheck the details and confirm that the e-mail link is directed to the correct person.

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

## Shooting on Bisley Ranges

Only the following may shoot on Bisley Ranges:

- full members of the NRA
- members of Clubs affiliated to the NRA who are shooting on official Club Bookings (\*)
- those who have paid Meeting Membership
- those taking part in Guest, Corporate or Open Days
- Armed Forces, Cadet organisations and other government agencies operating under their own regulations with the approval of NSC.

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

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

## Rifle Zeroing at the beginning of the season

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

For these reasons anyone using Century, Stickledown or Short Siberia ranges should check their wind zero and elevation settings on the Zero Range after any layoff, rebarreling or other significant work on their firearm. Use of the Zero Range will therefore be

allowed free of charge, for this purpose only, during the months January to April inclusive. Zeroing for HME firearms remains free of charge throughout the year.

## Certificates of Safety and Competences

Any user of Bisley Ranges may be required to produce a Certificate of Safety and Competence in the Range Office when signing for targets for individual use, or on the range if requested to do so by an NRA or NSC member of staff if more than one person is using a target. The RCO who signs in for a group or club booking thereby certifies that all members of his group have such Certificates.

## Open Days 2011

The Home Office has agreed two NRA Open Days at Bisley in 2011 on Saturday 30 April and Saturday 10 September. It is also planned that an Open Day will be held at Altcar on Saturday 27 August 2011.

## Imperial Meeting 2010

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 2010 Imperial Meeting a success. A successful Meeting is the major part of our Charter objectives, and it would not happen without the hard work of a great many people, both staff and volunteers. Your efforts are appreciated.

## Imperial Meeting 2011

The Shooting Committee is now considering the detail of the Imperial Meeting 2011. There will be some rescheduling of the programme on Second Friday, to reduce clashes between the Chairman's Prize, F Class team matches and Queen's II. Other minor changes are being considered. If you have an idea that would improve the Meeting or reduce costs, please let your Discipline representative or the Chairman of the Shooting Committee know so that it can be considered in the review starting shortly. Please send any submissions before Christmas so that they can be discussed at the January Shooting Committee meeting.

## Entry Forms

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2011. All entry forms (other than the Schools' entry form which is sent to all eligible schools) will be posted on the NRA website from February onwards. Entries and payment for TR, F Class and MR events may be made online. Online entries are processed electronically into the squadding program, saving a great deal of staff time and thus the Association's money, and cutting out transcription errors. Please enter online if you can.

## Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

There is a continuing annual requirement to augment our Imperial Meeting RCOs. The Imperial Meeting

cannot be run without competent RCOs – if you would like to be considered for this important position please contact Sally Agnew as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail at [shootsec@nra.org.uk](mailto:shootsec@nra.org.uk) with details of your shooting experience.

### Target Sizes

Following the 2010 Imperial Meeting, the Shooting Committee considered target dimensions. The results provided insufficient evidence that a reduction in the TR target dimensions was required, but the matter will be reviewed every year. The F Class Sub-Committee submitted a target set designed specifically for F Class. This will provide a shooting challenge more appropriate to the discipline and will avoid the confusion which has occurred in the past when modified TR targets have been incorrectly scored in F Class competitions. The F Class target set was approved and will be used for NRA F Class events from 2011.

### Extra Tie Shots

There have been two years of competition with RUAG ammunition. The possibility of a very large step change in accuracy, leading to many more tie-shots, caused the Shooting Committee to introduce extra tie-shots for scores of 50.10. Experience has shown that the increase in maximum scores has been smaller than feared. Accordingly, for 2011 the requirement for

extra tie-shots will be dropped and ties will be shot off subsequently as in 2008 and previous years.

### Competitions

We have enjoyed several competitions since the Imperial, including the Gallery National Championships, Target Shotgun Festival, Civilian Service Rifle, European Championships, Trafalgar Meeting, Autumn Action Weekend and Ages Match. Full details and results of all these events can be found on the website. We are, as ever, indebted to those volunteers who assist in all the events to ensure that so many can enjoy the shooting.

The Civilian Service Rifle league continues each month until April 2011. You can download entry forms as they become available on the website and follow the league results.

We are currently reviewing competitions in preparation for the organisational work that goes on all year, behind the scenes.

If you would like to receive regular updates on competitions from the Shooting Division, please ensure you are included on the database. E-mail your details to [galleriesquadding@nra.org.uk](mailto:galleriesquadding@nra.org.uk) to be included on the database.

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back to Bisley next year.



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## NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



*by  
Jeremy  
Staples*

### **NRA Open Day**

The NRA Open Day took place on Saturday 11 September and a total number of 950 guests registered to shoot on the ranges. We continue to restrict the numbers of visitors to allow an increased amount of shooting and to minimise the delays and this resulted in very positive feedback from the members of the public that attended the day.

Once again I must thank all the NRA volunteers who helped on the day and we do appreciate that they are very long days for a lot of you but without your help we would not be in a position to run these events.

### **Civil Nuclear Constabulary**

As mentioned in my notes earlier this year, we are still in discussion with the CNC in respect of the possible redevelopment of Cheylesmore range.

This is looking very promising and we are working closely with the CNC together with our own in-house advisers to draft up a specification for both the range and accommodation and from there a final costing for the project. We understand that the Department of Energy and Climate Change are very keen on the proposal and we are progressing this as rapidly as possible.

### **Future Events**

We recently finalised with the Shephard Group to run a three day conference and exhibition at Bisley in November 2011. Shephards are a well known military publisher and event organiser and we will be hosting an event entitled 'The Modern Infantry' which will include live demonstrations on Stickledown.

We are also in discussions with a major exhibition organiser to run a mini Game Fair during the course of 2011 at Bisley. The Fair will naturally be based around firearms but will also include other country sports and leisure activities. Details are being finalised but we are hopeful that this will become an annual event in our calendar and generate substantial non-shooting income for the NRA.

### **Staff**

We are sorry to lose Michael Batty from the Estates team earlier this year but wish him luck for the future.

We have a number of new staff which include Graham Gold, Head of Finance, who started with us in August this year, Josh Henson in the Target Shed and Nick Laldenga and Tim Coll on the Estates team.

### **Cheques**

As you will all be aware, there is a need to maximise the efficiency of our operations in the interests of improving our financial position. One opportunity for improved efficiency that has been identified is, in line with many retail organisations, to move away from acceptance of cheques in some areas of our operations.

At the Trustees Meeting on 14 October 2010 it was therefore agreed that from 1 January 2011 the NSC and NRA will no longer accept personal cheques through the Range Office or Clays areas. The NSC and NRA will, however, continue to accept cheques for other payment of rents and from clubs and societies paying for range hire, ammunition, clay hire and postal applications for competition entries and courses.

We also need to recognise the administrative and financial cost which attaches to dishonoured cheques. These occur once or twice a month, are time-consuming to deal with and, of course, mean that we are out of pocket until alternative settlement of amounts due has been arranged.

The Trustees have therefore also agreed that from 1 January 2011 all dishonoured cheques will attract a handling fee of £45.00 for any cheque dishonoured or which has to be represented to the bank for any reason.

### **Clock Tower Appeal**

We would like to apologise to Photon Shooting Club who were unfortunately missed from the list of donors in the Summer Journal. Please note that Photon Shooting Club should be included in the Stewards of the Clock Tower list.

## **New UK Shooting Forum**

**www.full-bore.co.uk** is a thriving UK based online shooting forum for all disciplines and welcomes new members to discuss all aspects of shooting and reloading at all distances.

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# SHOOTING MATTERS

## RANGE OPERATIONS



*by Matt Ensor  
Assistant Director  
- Operations*

### Staff

Chris Law left the NSC in June this year. We wish him every success in his future endeavours. Dylan Beasley was promoted from a part-time role to the full-time role of Range Office and Customer Service Assistant.

### Short Siberia – Butts Supervisor

We are trialling providing butts supervisory cover for Short Siberia at weekends until the end of 2010. We think this will address customer concerns about targetry being fired at and not patched up, targetry being booked for the afternoon and used by other members in the morning and any other concerns range users have. Initial feedback has been very positive but if you have anything you would like to add please get in touch with Mark Jackson at [ranges.manager@nra.org.uk](mailto:ranges.manager@nra.org.uk)

### Your Feedback

We continue to receive feedback on improvements to the service you are receiving when at Bisley and we would like to thank those who take the time to write to us about their positive experiences. If you have any feedback you would like to give, or suggestions on improvements to our service, please get in touch with me at [matthew.ensor@nra.org.uk](mailto:matthew.ensor@nra.org.uk).

In 2011 we hope to launch a more widespread customer survey to ask you to give feedback on your Bisley experience. Caroline in the Range Office has agreed to take on the task of creating the survey. If you receive an invitation to comment in the next few months we hope you will feel comfortable providing us with feedback on your latest visit to Bisley. If you have any suggestions as to what might be included in the survey please contact her via the Range Office.

### Booking Range Space Online – Individual NRA Members

2011 Priority bookings for Clubs, Associations and Schools closed on 31 October. As of 1 November we opened up the Bisley Online Booking Service to NRA

individual members. Please go to the NRA website, create an account if you haven't already, log in, select 'Range Bookings' and follow the instructions.

When making a booking please remember to add your name as it appears on your NRA membership card into the relevant box as titles such as 'Myself' will be difficult to interpret!

In 2011 all bookings received will be entered into the bookings database and you will receive a unique reference number for each one. This may mean that if you normally book in person or over the phone the Range Office team will enter your booking for you. If you would prefer to make the booking yourself, and benefit from the ability to track the status of your booking remotely, please visit the NRA or NSC websites for more details on how to book. If you have any questions please get in touch with us at [range.office@nra.org.uk](mailto:range.office@nra.org.uk) or by calling 01483 797777 ext 152.

### Stickledown Range Weekend Availability in 2011

As part of our commitment to improve our service we are constantly looking at ways to increase range availability at weekends. One of the pre-conditions of operating a free-movement range is the need to separate shooters by 8 targets per hundred yards. On Century this will mean letting 24 targets go unused at any one time, but on Stickledown the same allowance very quickly ensures almost half the range is set aside for safety reasons. As a result we turn customers away when the range isn't being fully utilised, whilst ensuring range allocation and safety administration is more complex.

Free movement by definition ensures that the empty lanes set aside for safety space will move around the range from day to day, thus minimising the opportunity to set aside time for essential firing point maintenance and improvement.

In order that we may significantly improve the quality of experience, turn away fewer clubs and individuals, and reduce the risk of significant price increases to run more profitable ranges we are trialling a new method of allocation on Stickledown at weekends:

NRA and NSC events (eg Imperial Meeting, Phoenix Meeting, Trafalgar Meeting, Inter Counties etc), and major club events (Easter Meeting, Army TRC Meeting, Whitsun Meeting, BCRC Meeting, Welsh Meeting and the September Club Meetings etc) will take priority and other lanes will be available in a format to maximise the amount of remaining space for clubs and individuals to book.

On weekends that hold traditional match rifle events, the ability to shoot out to 1200 yards will be maintained. In addition certain weekends will have prearranged and guaranteed availability out to 1200 yards for practice.



One new method of plotting the range will be tried on a few weekends namely 900 yards falling back to 1000 yards in any half day.

Other types of bookings will be trialled where possible (eg shooting only at 900 yards in a half day or shooting at 800 or 1100 yards).

Please bear in mind we will consider any and all booking requests. For instance if your club, association or school's formal competitions require a slightly different template then please let us know and we will do everything we can to say yes. If you can fit in with the predominant template we ask that you do so to maximise the chance of being able to say yes to others too.

Further information is available on the NRA and NSC websites. As in previous years the allocation of space for July will only be confirmed once early planning for the Imperial Meeting has been completed.

We will use the experience gained in 2011 to tweak our offering, perhaps changing the templates again, and hope to extend these trials if they prove successful. Throughout 2011 we will be asking affiliated clubs and individuals their thoughts on the trials and asking for feedback on the most efficient way of doing something similar on Century range. If you have any comments please get in touch with us at [range.office@nra.org.uk](mailto:range.office@nra.org.uk)

### **Melville Range Allocation**

At the time of writing we are still finalising arrangements to close Cheylesmore Range for refurbishment in late 2010 or early 2011. This will mean a reduction in the total number of bookable bays at Bisley throughout 2011. We expect this to be felt by affiliated clubs at weekends as demand for space on Melville Range is likely to increase. We hope to offset this by structuring availability to ensure all clubs get as much of their normal allocation as possible. We are investigating all options and urge affiliated clubs and members to check the NRA website for updates.

.....

## **THE BRITISH SHOOTING SPORTS COUNCIL – MPs AND PEERS MEET BRITISH SHOOTING ASSOCIATIONS AT WESTMINSTER**

MPs and Peers had a chance to meet Britain's shooting associations at the House of Commons on 21 October. Ten member associations of the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) set out their stall at a 'Westminster Shooting Fair' in the Terrace Pavilion. The event provided a 'one stop' opportunity for Parliamentarians to meet, talk to and receive information from representatives of the target shooting, quarry shooting and gun trade associations in advance of the impending House of Commons debate initiated by the shootings in Cumbria earlier this year.

Sponsoring the event was BSSC Vice-Chairman Tobias Ellwood MP, a competitive pistol shot who trains with the National Pistol Squad. Mr Ellwood emphasised that, while the Home Countries and Isle of Man had won 32 medals for shooting in Delhi, Britain needs better grass-roots training if we are to expect continued success at the Olympics. Lack of state-of-the-art training facilities, particularly for pistol shooters, puts British competitors at a disadvantage.

"The British Shooting Council accepts the needs for safeguards where pistol shooting is concerned, but opposes the draconian measures that prohibit competitive pistol shooting altogether," said Mr Ellwood. Noting that shooting is an activity that cuts across age barriers and is enjoyed by all parts of society, he stressed that shooting's rehabilitative benefits for disabled shooters are at the cutting edge of therapies.

"Shooting is increasingly popular among the young, as evidenced by the growth in popularity of the Scout Association's annual rifle competition and BASC's ability to recruit 1,000 entries for its Young Shots scheme during 2009." He concluded that there is clear potential for British shooters, including pistol shooters, to excel, but without the right support they will flounder. Any change in legislation should promote, rather than hinder, the legitimate shooter, whatever his or her age or shooting discipline.



BSSC Vice-Chairman Tobias Ellwood MP  
*Photo: Mike Wells*



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# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by  
*Phyllis  
Farnan*

## **Sport England Development and the Shooting Whole Sport Plan**

During the next two years some funding will be available under the whole sport plan for grass roots development in the target shooting sports. The project aims to encourage more people into the shooting sports, to retain people in the sport and also to nurture talent.

Restrictions in funding mean that the plan will only operate in four areas of the country and it has been decided that the pilot region will be the north-east. Under the umbrella of GBTSF, the fullbore, small-bore and clay target shooting associations are working together on the plan and an interim regional development manager for the north-east has been appointed to implement and coordinate the project.

Regional training forms a key stage in the "shooter pathway" showing the progression from beginner to elite shooter. Under the whole sport plan the pathway will be improved and made accessible to all. The ability to coordinate open/guest days and other showcase events in the regions will also help to grow and retain people within the sport.

As part of the plan, the NRA intends to offer regional RCO courses and Club Instructor courses in the north-east during 2011. These will both support shooting and encourage clubs in the region to increase their membership numbers by providing more training for instructors. Further details about these courses will be circulated to clubs in the north-east as soon as possible.

The whole sport plan will be extended to other regions of the country later; more information about the other aspects of this project will be given in the Spring Journal

## **Probationary Training**

From 2011, NRA probationary training at Bisley will be offered in a modular format. All probationers must complete the initial introductory module before

selecting one or more discipline specific novice skills modules. They will then be required to shoot under supervision with the NRA Shooting Club for a period before they can become full members of the NRA. Probationary training will be scheduled at weekends, but individual mid-week tuition will also be available on request.

Our stock of the current probationary training manuals is running low and a new edition, which will also include details of the novice skills modules, should be available by Spring 2011. Lesson plans to accompany the new modules will be available to clubs from Spring 2011. Provisional dates for probationary training at Bisley in 2011 are given at the end of these notes.

## **Novice Skills Courses**

From summer 2011 a new range of Novice Skills courses will be available at Bisley for members who would like to take up a new shooting discipline. The courses offered initially will include: target rifle, gallery rifle, F class /scoped rifle and civilian service rifle. Other disciplines may be available in due course. These new courses, which will be run in conjunction with the modular probationary training programme, will include basic instruction up to the standard for a shooter's certificate of competence. If you are interested in taking up a new shooting discipline please contact the Director of Training for further details.

## **TR Skills Enhancement Course**

These courses are open to full members of the NRA, its affiliated clubs and to cadets. The courses are designed to extend individual knowledge and shooting skills in fullbore target rifle shooting beyond novice training. Courses are offered twice a year at Bisley and involve practice at both long and short ranges.

## **Wind Coaching Course**

This course provides instruction, guidance and practical experience in reading the wind. It is designed for target rifle shooters seeking to improve their performance, particularly in competition shooting. Expressions of interest in this course should be sent to the Director of Training.

## **Reloading Course**

The NRA Basic Reloading course (rifle calibres) will be held in Spring 2011. This course is open to NRA members only. Contact the Director of Training for further details.

## **Club Instructor Course**

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

members for certificates of competence. There are two categories of Club Instructor course:

- 1 The Target Rifle Club Instructor course is designed for those who specialise in fullbore target rifle shooting.
- 2 The General Skills Instructor course covers shooting disciplines using gallery rifles (carbines), telescopic sighted rifles and iron-sighted rifles (excluding target rifles).

Candidates for the instructor courses must be experienced, competent club shooters and must be recommended by their club.

Ideally candidates for the TR Club Instructor course will have also completed a TR Skills Enhancement Course.

### **Club Coach TR Course**

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

### **RCO Courses**

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

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

An RCO must have knowledge and experience in handling the types of firearm in use on his range. Hence all course applicants require an appropriate endorsement to this effect from their club Chairman or Secretary. There have been a number of instances recently where an RCO candidate's application form had been endorsed by a club official even though the candidate had never handled that category of firearm. There have been other instances where a category

had been omitted from the club endorsement even though the applicant was an experienced shooter in that discipline.

Practical range assessments cannot be completed for an RCO candidate if the club's endorsement on the application form differs from the candidate's own shooter's certificate of competence. It is believed that some of the recent difficulties may be due a lack of knowledge or understanding by club officials about the names of some shooting disciplines and firearm categories. Please check all these details on the RCO application form before it is sent to the NRA.

An individual with a current or very recent military range management qualification (including the cadet forces range qualification) may apply directly to the NRA for an NRA RCO qualification without needing to complete an NRA RCO course.

### **RCO Renewals**

All RCOs who qualified in 2005 will need to renew in 2011. The RCO qualification, which is valid for six years, may be renewed on application to the NRA. A renewal form, which must be endorsed by the RCO's club Chairman or Secretary, is available from the NRA or may be downloaded from the NRA website.

Please apply for your renewal ideally four to six weeks before the run out date shown on your RCO photo ID card. The NRA is unable to generate renewal notices from its current RCO database so the responsibility for checking on the run out date lies with each individual RCO. Club secretaries are reminded that they should also be aware of the run out dates of their club RCOs.

### **RCO Endorsement Courses**

Qualified NRA RCOs may apply for the following endorsement courses:

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

An MLAGB RCO Endorsement course will be held at Bisley on Saturday 8 January 2011. Anyone who is interested in adding this qualification to their current RCO qualification is asked to contact the Director of Training immediately for further details

### **RCO Assessor Training**

Open to NRA RCOs with at least five years experience of running ranges. Applicants must have good communication and instructor skills, and must also have experience of more than one shooting discipline. Initial assessor training takes place at Bisley. Contact the Director of Training for more information.



## **Provisional Bisley Course Dates - 2011**

### **Probationary course (Introductory Module)**

- 1 Course 2011 / 1: 29 Jan, 5 Feb
- 2 Course 2011 / 2: 12 Mar, 19 Mar
- 3 Course 2011 / 3: 21 May, 4 Jun
- 4 Course 2011 / 4: 17 Sept, 24 Sept
- 5 Course 2011 / 5: 5 Nov, 12 Nov

### **Novice Skills Modules**

- 1 12 Feb, 19 Feb, 20 Feb, 5 Mar
- 2 9 Apr, 10 Apr, 17 Apr, 7 May
- 3 12 Jun, 18 Jun, 19 Jun, 26 Jun
- 4 1 Oct, 2 Oct, 8 Oct, 23 Oct
- 5 26 Nov, 27 Nov, 3 Dec, 11 Dec

### **TR Skills Enhancement Courses**

- 14 - 15 May  
15 - 16 October

### **Wind Coaching courses**

- Date tba - weekend course  
15 July (short course - pre-TR Meeting)

### **Club Instructor courses:**

- 2 - 23 April - General Skills.  
14 - 15 May - Target Rifle specific  
15 - 16 October - Target Rifle specific

### **Club Coach TR Course**

- 19 - 20 November

## **Methods of Instruction & Assessment Workshop**

22 October

### **Hand Loading Course**

5 - 6 February

### **RCO Courses**

26 - 27 February  
16 - 17 April  
25 - 26 June  
3 - 4 September  
19 - 20 November  
10 - 11 December

### **RCO (HME) Courses**

5 June  
4 December

### **MLAGB RCO Endorsement Course**

8 January

All NRA training courses at Bisley in 2011 will be shown on the NRA website once the course dates have been confirmed: [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)

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

For further information about training matters or other NRA courses please contact the Director of Training by e-mail at [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk) or telephone 01483 797777 ext 150.

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In due course, the website will also have details of the second-hand Kowa and Leica spotting scopes that we have in stock and the Ewing Scope Stands for which we are the sole UK importer and agent.

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[www.AndrewTuckerTargetSports.co.uk](http://www.AndrewTuckerTargetSports.co.uk)

# NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

## How you can help the NRA with little effort!

*by Nick Halford*

As I approach another renewal period it occurs to me to ask for your help. There are a few simple things you can do which will save us time and money which will help keep your shooting costs down.

Please keep a look out for our membership renewal e-mails, although more successful (and cheaper) than using the Royal Mail, a number of members didn't notice its arrival in their inbox. Some get bounced back to us as 'not known' so if you have changed your e-mail address, please let us know. As well as reminding members that their renewal is due the e-mail also serves as very useful tool to check members' contact details especially if they have moved! We do spend considerable time on a small number of individuals trying to track a new address so, if you have moved, please let us know. The renewal e-mail was sent out in November. If we don't have your e-mail address or you don't have one, you will be sent your renewal reminder by post.

If you don't pay by direct debit please consider it – around half of the current NRA members pay by this method. We discount your membership fee every year if you pay by direct debit for a number of reasons. Firstly it reduces transaction charges. Secondly if you submit cash or a cheque your payment has to be checked, entered on the database, passed through to the Accounts department and physically taken to our local bank in Knaphill. If you pay by credit or debit card payment each number has to be entered online via our secure payment system and the banks make a charge for this facility. Direct debit on the other hand does need a little more initial effort but, once in place, a large number of members can be processed in a small number of transactions each year. I know in the past some of you may have had bad experiences with banks and the direct debit process but, be assured, if there is a mistake we will do all we possibly can to rectify it promptly and efficiently. The direct debit guarantee entitles you to a full and immediate refund and of course you can cancel your direct debit at any time.

Similarly, Gift Aid helps us significantly. If you complete our form we receive the tax you pay on your membership fee from the Inland Revenue as we are a registered charity. It is worth about £62,000 a year to us and again around 65% of NRA members have signed up to this scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer we can benefit from this – even if you are retired and on a pension you can still contribute in this painless way.

Both of the above processes benefit the NRA and its members, help towards keeping costs down, allow us to work more efficiently and spend more time recruiting new members.

## Membership Department contact details

### Membership Secretary

Heather Webb      memsec@nra.org.uk  
01483 797777 ext 155

### Membership Assistant

Nick Halford      memassist@nra.org.uk  
01483 797777 ext 138

### Certification

Sarah Wells      memadmin@nra.org.uk  
01483 797777 ext 162

## NOTES FROM THE NRA REGIONAL MANAGER

*by Chris Webb*



### DTE Weekend Range Use Restrictions

We are still waiting to see if there is more grief heading our way from the Strategic Defence Spending Review (SDSR). By now all of the NRA Clubs will be well aware of the Defence Training Estates restrictions on weekend live firing on their ranges. The NRA has had notification of problems in the Northeast, Ballykinler in Northern Ireland and the ranges around Thetford in the East. There is still only one functioning military range in the West Midlands, Kingsbury.

Ranges still out of commission include Tyddesley Wood, which will probably be decommissioned in the near future, and Whittington is still closed. Whitburn in the North East has been disposed of and is no longer on DTE books. Penhale in Cornwall has also been closed.

### Civilian Ranges

Over the last 12 months or so, there has been a significant increase in requests for information on building shooting ranges of all types. Other requests



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are for range inspections and surveys. Geoff Doe, who some of you will know, joined us in the summer after retiring as the NSRA Director of Shooting. In addition to being the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer he has joined our small band of range design consultants. His knowledge of indoor and barrack (outdoor) ranges is extensive.

## **Game and Country Shows**

### **British Shooting Show – Newark**

This show is a must for every shooter whatever you shoot. The second British Shooting Show was held at the Newark Showground the last weekend in February 2010. We were very pleased to see the NRA East Midlands Representative who provided much needed local knowledge. For information about the 2011 Show go to [www.theshootingshow.co.uk](http://www.theshootingshow.co.uk)

### **Norfolk Show**

This was held at the Norfolk Show Ground on 24 and 25 April. The NRA again shared a stand with High Lodge Shooting Ground and the CPSA mobile road show. We had a good number of enquiries despite a number of the shooting related stands being situated away from the main show. The NRA amongst others has suggested that the organisers rethink their show layout.

## **CLA**

This year the CLA Game Fair was held at Ragley Hall, Alcester. It was a good show this year although, as in 2009, there didn't seem to be as many people or traders. For the second year we were alongside the CPSA and NSRA. We were kept busy with lots of enquiries that resulted in a number of membership applications; people also seemed pleased to see that we were there.

### **Altcar Open Day**

The annual north-west region Open Day was held on the RFCA Ranges at Altcar on 28 August. The weather stayed fine all weekend and attendance was the best so far with over 350 people registered. Unfortunately, quite a number of vouchers were returned because we ran out of time but everyone seemed to have a good time with lots of grins plastered across faces. There were numerous enquiries about local clubs and requests for shooting information in general.

### **2011 Country and Game Fair Dates:**

British Shooting Show – 27 and 28 February

Norfolk – 16 and 17 April

CLA – 22 to 24 July at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire.

Altcar – 27 August 2011

## **HOME SECURITY**

*by Nick Halford*

With most of us storing our firearms at home in approved cabinets to the satisfaction of our local firearms enquiry officer is as far as our security awareness goes. I was quite surprised by how many extra precautions I could take following a visit from my local crime prevention officer. I believed my security to be good but following the setting up of a local neighborhood watch scheme I asked for a visit.

I don't have a lock on my back gate – I have three bolts – padlock now fitted. I have a high boundary wall with a short wooden fence on top; adding an extra trellis on the top discourages entry (but may need planning permission if over a certain height). Whilst barbed wire and razor wire are not good ideas (as this could hinder the fire service) I may consider thorny bushes planted at strategic locations

I need a lock on my up-and-over garage door even though it cannot be opened from the inside and only from the outside with a key. I should have net curtains or mirror tint film on my shed and garage workshop windows to prevent miscreants seeing in from outside. I should have window locks on these as well. My shed needs an alarm – it already has a padlock – and I should lock my garden tools in a tool chest in my shed to prevent them being used to break in.

My home is OK with window locks and good quality door locks. I should lock my front door at night to

prevent access of cunning tools through the letter box and also fit a special internal flap to restrict access. I do keep my keys well away from the front door and I have internal alarms and smoke detectors which I test regularly.

Another thing that surprised me; I should not set a 'home' location on my Sat Nav. If stolen it tells a villain where my home is and also lets him know I am not there right now!

External lights that come with motion sensors are not a great idea. Neighbours tend to ignore them after a while especially as they can be triggered by cats, foxes and one's own legitimate movements. Much better is low light illumination on all the time near my garage and shed which will help discourage casual thieves.

Security marking is a good idea. I was presented not only with a UV security pen but with a vial of special water (SmartWater). It has a unique DNA profile – I had to sign a form to confirm I had received it – and anything I dab with it can be traced directly back to me. I was very surprised to be given this as it is not cheap! Of course it is less expensive than having to replace possessions and, as always, some things can never be replaced. But finally and most importantly, if ever my home is broken in to I may end up having to store my firearms in an armoury so remember prevention is better than cure!



# NOTES FROM THE NRA FIREARMS LIAISON OFFICER



*by Geoff Doe*

## Firearms Certificate Renewals

Many of you belong to the NRA, solely, as your Home Office Approved shooting club and use that as your 'good reason' for possessing rifles or pistols for target shooting purposes. When you apply for a renewal of your certificate one of the referees has to be an official of the club to which you belong. That is where I come in.

If you want to have the NRA act as a referee then the papers have to be sent to the NRA for completion. To ensure a quick and speedy turn around you should complete the documents in the following manner.

- 1 Have your second referee sign the Form 101 (application form), complete the declaration on the back of one of the photographs and give him or her Form 125 (the reference form) to complete and sent off to your Firearms Licencing Department.
- 2 Send me Forms 101 and 125, your photographs, a cheque payable to the police authority together with a stamped envelope addressed to the licencing department and I will complete all of the necessary boxes and send it on for processing.

By following these arrangements it not only saves postage by not sending the application form back to you for you to then forward on but it also saves time.

Clubs are well aware that it is a requirement to advise the police if a member has left the club or has not shot during the last year. The NRA is no different and it is important that whenever you shoot at Bisley you complete your shooting log via the computer in the Range Office. The problem for us is that our records are not necessarily correct in so far as we do not know if your Firearms Certificate states the NRA to be your primary club. Hence, when you receive your membership renewal letter, to ensure our records are

up-to-date and correct, you will be asked to confirm if the NRA is your primary club and also details of your Firearms Certificate number and issuing force.

## Visitors Permits

Those of you who live overseas and visit Bisley to shoot will know that it is a requirement to apply for a UK Visitors Permit. A copy of the application form can be found on our website ([www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)) which should be completed and sent to us for endorsement and forwarding to our local licencing department. EU residents are reminded that they are required to send their original European Firearms Pass for notating.

Surrey police have always been very efficient but unfortunately due to increased workload the turnround time is up to six weeks from when they receive the application. You are therefore advised that you should send any application to us at least eight weeks before your intended date of arrival. Permits may be issued for up to one year. If you think you are going to make more than one visit in a 12 month period, apply for this extended period. It will reduce the workload on the police and ourselves but also save you money as each application has to be paid for. It also guarantees that you will have a valid document for further visits.

Don't forget that you will also need a valid certification card if you are shooting either at Bisley or on any MoD range. The application form is on our website or can be requested via e-mail from Sarah Wells on [memadmin@nra.org.uk](mailto:memadmin@nra.org.uk).

## MEMBERSHIP RATES

*by James Watson, Chairman, Membership Committee*

Over the past five years membership rates have reduced from £89 to £55 (if paying by direct debit) as we drove down costs to members and made huge efforts to encourage new and younger members into the NRA. Last year's rate was almost 40% lower than it would have been had we simply added year-on-year increases in line with inflation since 2005.

However last year saw a steep increase in our insurance premiums. Unfortunately we have not been able to absorb these insurance rises and, as a result, membership fees for 2011 will rise to £65 – the same as the rate in 2009. We have also reduced the discount offered for payment by direct debit from £5 to £2.50. As members will read in the Secretary General's Notes, the NRA is facing some short-term financial issues. However, the Council is determined that membership rates should remain as competitive and affordable as possible and we hope that members will understand that we have no choice but to pass on fixed cost increases.

# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## 300 Metres

*by Ian Shirra-Gibb*



Gold for the Great Britain 300 Metres Team.

The year 2010 will be remembered for a long time by British 300m shooters for having two podium places at European Cups and winning a World title!

Following our success in Denmark (reported in the last Journal) we moved on to Germany (Weimar) but with middle of the road scores did not win any medals – two shooters made the Men's Final both scoring 594. The winner Richard Dietzsch (Ger) scored 599. Our only lady entrant made 585.

Shoots at Bisley followed with the NRA Championships being shot during mid-May. This resulted in gold for Simon Aldhouse in the Free Rifle event on 593 and gold for Gary Alexander in the TR section with 585.

Our next visit was to Switzerland (Thun) where it was the ladies turn to win. In the Prone event, there was a nail biting finish to tie for third but the new rules on Xs gave Mary Pearse bronze with 593; Eva Friedal, a rising star from Germany, took gold with 598. Our best Men's result was Simon on 594. The winner Thomas Jerabek from CZ scored 599.

After a short break, and not being able to use Butt 10 at the end of July, we travelled to Clermont to train for two days with part of the French team. This proved invaluable as we, together with the French ladies, took medals at the next event.

We now moved onto the biggest ISSF competition of the year – the full World Championships in Munich and with over 2000 entries it proved to be an amazing

competition. The event was nearly three weeks in duration but the bigbore events were staged in the final week. The Olympic 300m ranges in Munich use the same firing points as 50m but a stop-butt barrier is raised to allow shots to go the full distance.

Our team of three men and two ladies shot on different days. The men went well in training then the first two eliminator relays went towards the team medals. Starting on relay one, Tony Lincoln dropped only one point and Simon dropped four giving us a great start. However it was up to the third man, Harry Creevy, to get a similar score; I admit to closing my eyes as he fired his last shot but, as I hoped for, it was a ten.



Mary Pearse wins bronze at Thun.



His contribution of 597 gave Britain top spot by one point on the leader board from Austria with 1192, a new British team record by eight points and only two under the world team record. For the next hour or so I think I was floating about five feet off the ground realising this was our first world senior title for more than twenty years, a dream come true!

Due to heavy rain the presentations were made indoors a day or so later (which was a little diluted in the bling from the outside arena) but to have the National Anthem sung by an opera star was most entertaining.

The Individual event followed the next day and the scores were a little lower with 591, 593 and a 597 from Simon which, with double European Cup circuit points up for grabs, assured him of a place in the European Cup Final later in September.

The Ladies followed on the final Monday – this competition produced an equal world record for the Swiss shooter Bettina Bucher with 599; our two ladies, Hannah Pugsley and Mary Pearse, shot 587 and 593 respectively.

After a break of some weeks, we entertained the French team from Clermont at Bisley in early September – this was the return half of the biannual matches. The result was a win on both days for the NRA 'A' team. Top aggregate for the two days went to Tony Lincoln on 1190.

Our last overseas event for the year was the European Cup Final which was held in Pilzen over three days at the end of September. Those competitors who had

made the top 20 places in the circuit events shot for medals and money prizes sponsored by Lapua.

The Mens Prone event saw the CZ shooter Lubus Opelka shoot a maximum 600 – an equal European Cup and world record. Our two men shot respectable scores of 596 and 595 with Simon Aldhouse finishing in ninth place.

In the Ladies competition Mary, having dropped only four points in the first thirty, made a strong finish shooting a clean last 30 shots to score 596 for sixth place. The winner was Eva Friedal of Germany with 598.

The Mens 3 x 40 was won by the Hungarian shooter Peter Sidi with an impressive 1175. The Ladies 3 x 20 was won by Charlotte Jakobson of Denmark with 585 and it was great to see Opelka take the 3 x 20 Mens Final with a new European record of 591 before announcing his retirement from international shooting. The top two shooters from each event then went into a knockout final and it was the Swiss shooter Bettina Bucher who held her nerve to take top spot and a big Euro cash prize.

Our year ended on the last weekend of October with the GB 300m Rifle Club Championship and we now look forward to next year's programme which will include the European Championships in Belgrade. We are also hoping to arrange other friendly matches at Bisley in order to give our training weekends more bite.

Follow our progress, competition dates and results on [www.gb300m.com](http://www.gb300m.com).

## **Historic & Classic Firearms**

*from Rae Wills*

It is that time of year again when the warmer days of early autumn bring back memories of the summer past; already the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting is fading into memory. But still for me the warm glow of fine weather, great matches and always the pleasure of meeting so many friends is something you never really forget. Also the statistics were good, with both entries and matches shot up on last year. So once again many thanks to David Mumford of the NRA and Match Director David Gregory and his crew of volunteers for a very successful meeting.

However, I think to the surprise of all, the good weather re-appeared for the Trafalgar and this helped as, although fewer competitors came, more matches were shot. A very good meeting, which turned out to be a grand farewell to Jim Quinlan, who announced at the Meeting that he is standing down from his long-held post of Match Director. Despite this short notice we were able to ambush him at the prizegiving and present him with his own copy of the Trafalgar

Letter with our great appreciation and thanks for all the work he has done to develop this Meeting over the last eighteen years.

This was the first Trafalgar wholly managed by the Shooting Division staff under Brian Thomas and a very good job they made of it too. But it was only as the dust settled that all concerned realised just what a steep learning curve it had been; sure there are a lot of minor items to make better but, rest assured, there is a huge commitment by all to do just that and continue to develop this international Meeting as a major NRA flagship event.

But all these events depend on a select band of volunteers of whom there are never enough; all too often it is the same old faces every time, so why do we do it? I suspect there are as many reasons as people. I got involved as a very junior gopher and safety assistant over twenty years ago in the heady days of the National Pistol Association and the early Anno Domini Pistol Meetings, joining a redoubtable

crew, many, like me, from the TA, who ran the Service Pistol events under the watchful eyes of Colonel Wise.

This brought me in contact with many of the top shooters of the day learning a great deal from them and finding them most approachable, patiently answering my many questions and passing on so many tips and much knowledge. I also made friends from all over the world and saw the greatest perform their feats at first hand.

Who could forget Jerry Miculek of Smith and Wesson who could put 12 shots from a revolver into a playing card at 7 yards in about 2½ seconds . . . and yes, that does include the reload! Or John Rolfe, that great pistol shooter, in a howling gale with his poncho flying out behind him like a mad Batman in full flight, calmly winning another shoot off with a possible? Or on the more recent Historic front, that incredible skier, survivor of the Burma railroad and so much more, the late Barry Custance Baker, winning the Free Percussion Rifle at the age of 94 with a rifle of his own making, having won his first shooting trophy 71 years before.

Later I qualified as an NRA RCO and, more by Buggins' turn than merit, ended up as a Match Director with the Historic and Classics. So do not be shy, whatever your experience, come forward, you will be most welcome and you will find so many wonderful new friends to help you on your way.

For those who do not visit Bisley very often, you may not know that there is a new discipline in the offing; Target Shotgun is being shot at many meetings during the year, including Phoenix, and is well on the way to becoming a formal NRA discipline. The interests of Target Shotgun are being looked after on the Shooting Committee by Andrew Duffy – some of you may remember him in his Police days as one of the Met Police team who regularly came to the Anno Domini Pistol Meetings. The discipline uses most of the old pistol matches and events with both shot and solid ball or slug from both FAC and SGC shotguns. He has invited us to consider whether we would like to have a Historic Shotgun class, any ideas please? You can find details of events on the NRA website.

This year the International Conference on Heritage Arms visited Luxemburg. This impressive-sounding title is an organisation after my own heart; no constitution, no officers, no subscription and definitely no money! In fact it is a loose collection of people interested in Historic Arms, mostly from Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and the UK, who meet once a year in the early autumn to do a bit of shooting, with museum and other visits and a dinner or two and much convivial company – including one member who flies in from Canada!

On our recent tour we visited the WWI fort at Loncin outside Liège, a WWII German bunker on the Westwall and the Bastogne Historical Centre Battle of the Bulge

Museum with a morning shooting the MG34 single shot. Next year it is proposed to meet in Holland; anyone interested in joining us please contact me or the HBSA for further details.

## **Now for something different**

### **The MG34**

Much more happens at Bisley than involves us poor mortals; commercial testing of military weapons, TV shows and filming, and more; but only those involved and “in the know” get to have their sticky hands on the goodies, often machine guns and the like. So I think why can my old school mate Dimbleby shoot a Vickers and not me?

Good question! Something to do with the law and five years jail they tell me.

But all is not lost, there are countries with a more enlightened view on such matters, so off to the continent and to Echternacht in Luxembourg where the International Conference on Heritage Arms were the guests of Pit Kaiser and the members of SCAL, the Société des Collectionneurs d'Armes Lëtzebuerg.

There automatic arms can be collected but only fired on single shot – good enough! So off to the 100 metres local club range to fire the legendary MG34. The gun we used was a superb example, complete in its transit case with all the fittings and tools for mounted and dismounted use, six spare barrels and original documentation including the barrel use logs. Made in 1943 by Rheinmetal Borsig, it was purchased by the Portuguese Government and now belongs to Pit Kaiser.



Femke Wuijts from the Edward Beaumont Society of Holland firing the MG34

So on single shot, not the more usual high rate automatic fire, how does it compare with the opposition, the Bren? The answer is embarrassingly well, probably outperforming it.

The trigger has two finger grooves; the upper for single shot; the lower has a further inset lever, which when depressed gives burst fire. The single shot let





The two stage trigger

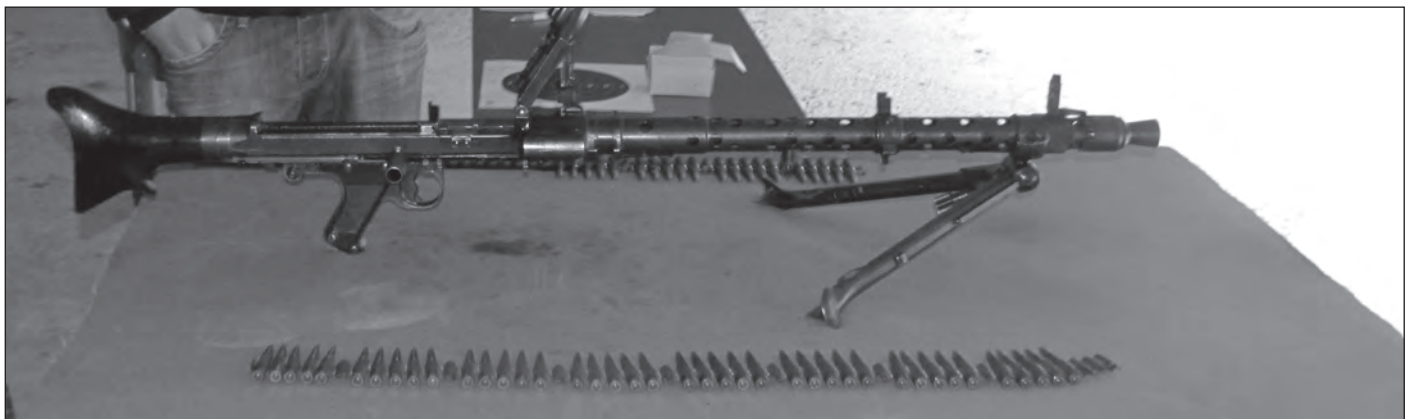
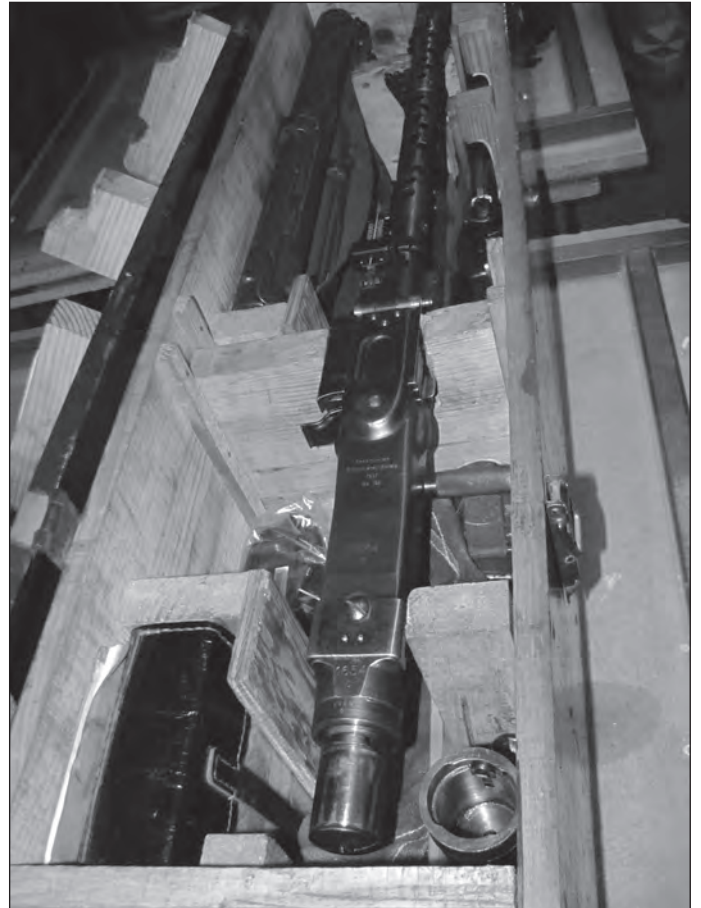
off was far from a target classic “breaking glass”, but nevertheless broke cleanly at I would guess between 3½ – 4lbs; I have known much worse military rifle triggers.

The sights are again not very refined, a large barleycorn front sight and matching V rear sight but giving a fair sight picture, despite shooting from a covered firing point into bright sunshine and no sight black!

Another feature which aided the shooter is that the bipod can be solidly locked backwards at about 30° to the barrel giving a low profile yet keeping the barrel and ejection port some 4” off the ground, which proved very stable in use.

The proof was in my group; four rounds within 1¼” and a flyer in the 8 ring so only the second best group of the day: the green dot was the aiming mark to get a central hit.

But the Bren would have won on one score – barrel changing. The Bren had the wooden carry handle attached to each barrel so a hot barrel could always be grasped with the bare hand and the barrel catch knocked open with any convenient object. The MG 34 item is just the bare barrel, which is removed by fully opening the action and extracting it rearwards, and even after only single shot firing it is very hot – an asbestos glove was issued for this purpose but in the heat of battle was often lost leaving a burnt hand as a common injury.



## Gallery Rifle and Pistol

*by Chris Farr*

The season's good start has carried on with 560 competitors entering more than 3000 events at the Phoenix Meeting which represents a five per cent increase over last year. The Phoenix GR Aggregate Champion was Gwyn Roberts and England won the International Team Matches.

The National Championships enjoyed a similar increase in numbers with 224 competitors and 1400 events. The GR Aggregate Champion was Gwyn Roberts and England won the GR Home Countries National Match. The English Twenty Club held a reception and prizegiving after the match for the visiting teams and range officers.

Activity in open meetings in the regions continues at a relatively low level and remains concentrated in a few active clubs. Progress in attempts to increase both the

number of venues and the numbers of competitors is slow. In Scotland, however, an active group of clubs is now holding regular inter-club meetings and we hope to learn from their success and reproduce the model elsewhere.

The GB team won the International Trophy at the Phoenix Meeting and the Cup match was won by the Republic of Ireland who then went on to win the next International in July held at Fermoy in County Cork. We hope for better things in November in Germany.

The first team from the Republic of South Africa took part in the Phoenix Meeting. It was led by the President of the NGB Sport Shooting Division and the Training Manager of SA Hunters. They will be returning next May and have invited the GB team to a return match in South Africa in 2011.

## International Gallery Rifle

*by Alan Whittle*

Gallery Rifle is described on [www.galleryrifle.com](http://www.galleryrifle.com) (the definitive gallery rifle website) as "... disciplines that cover events shot at short and medium distances by rifles and pistols. Many of the events are classified so competitors shoot against others of similar ability. Open meetings are held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley (NSC) and at club ranges around the country. Competitors can take part at all levels from club to international".

At international level there are two categories – European GR and the Home Internationals. The current difference between the European Championship and the Home Internationals are the events and rifles that they are shot with. In the last issue of the Journal I reported on the European Championships which are shot with centre-fire under-lever rifles chambered in traditional straight walled pistol calibres, the sole event shot in this category is the 1500 (pronounced, "fifteen hundred") Match of 150 scoring shots in six details at various distances between 10 and 50 metres.

The Home Internationals are shot annually shoulder-to-shoulder between England, Wales and Scotland and they take a different route comprising a pair of so called "shorts" matches. The shorts matches chosen for the Home Internationals are the Timed and Precision One (T&P 1) and the Multi-Target (M-T) Matches. T&P 1 is a thirty round match of three stages at 25, 15 and 10 metres. The precision stage is at 25 metres and the rapid fire snaps are shot at the other distances all on disruptive pattern targets. The M-T Match is shot on two adjacent disruptive pattern targets with four six round stages of rapid fire and snap shooting combinations at 25, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

Another difference is that the Home matches are shot in both centre-fire and small-bore classes. The centre-fire rifles used are the same rifles as in the European matches but the small-bore class use self-loading rifles with detachable magazines chambered in .22" rim-fire.

So what has been happening on the International Gallery Rifle scene since the spring? Well plenty.

### The Fermoy International Gallery Rifle Match in Ireland

The Fermoy Rifle Club in County Cork host an annual gallery rifle match in July which has at its centre the International 1500 Match so the GB Gallery Rifle Team took a squad to take up the challenge on 10 July 2010.

Following their recent success at Bisley, reported on in the last Journal, the Irish Team were eager to take on all comers on their home turf and, despite the rain that keeps the Emerald Isle green, they put in an excellent



But the rain didn't last all the time – but did the sun raise team spirits?



<b>Ireland</b>			<b>GB</b>		
<b>Captain:</b> Kieran Barry		<b>X</b>	<b>Captain:</b> Ashley Dagger		<b>X</b>
Mike Doherty	1481	97	James Smith	1482	98
John Robinson	1497	121	Steve Lamb	1490	110
Declan Byrne	1478	94	Johnathan Avetoomyan	1469	96
Martin Hayes	1488	101	Andy Jarman	1474	99
Glenn Forde	1482	93	Dave Emery	1475	75
Top 4 scores count	<b>5948</b>	<b>412</b>	Top 4 scores count	<b>5921</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Ireland</b>			<b>GB</b>		
<b>Captain:</b> Pat Herlihy		<b>10x</b>	<b>Captain:</b> Ashley Dagger		<b>10x</b>
Mike Power	1450	82	Ash Dagger	1426	67
Mike Doherty	1470	80	Dave Holt	1462	84
Glenn Forde	0	0	Steve Lamb	1464	95
Declan Byrne	1462	83	Christopher West	1455	78
John Robinson	1490	112	James Smith	1468	85
Top 4 scores count	<b>5872</b>	<b>357</b>	Top 4 scores count	<b>5849</b>	<b>342</b>

centre-fire performance beating the GB Team by 27 points (5948 v 5921).

As can be seen from the results the top four scores are aggregated to give the team score and with a very consistent Irish performance they proved too strong on the day – congratulations, but we will be back next time.

The Fermoy Club also hosted a small-bore 1500 Match and, not to be found wanting, the GB Team fielded a small-bore team for the first time. The Irish again aggregated the greater score beating GB by 23 points (5872 v 5849).

Although the small-bore match was a new venture in International GR, the Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee of the NRA has already discussed favourably the possibility of it becoming a permanent feature in future Internationals.

The third leg of European Matches takes place in Leitmar, Germany and Captain Ashley Dagger is currently preparing a squad to cross the Channel on

12 November – good luck to them, the international competition is becoming stiffer all the time.

### Home International

This year's Home International took place on Saturday 28 August during the National GR Championships at Bisley.

Each country enters separate centre-fire and small-bore teams that shoot both T&P 1 and M-T Matches. Teams are again of five shooters with the worst combined score discounted to give an aggregate score for each discipline (centre-fire and small-bore) which are then combined to give the overall match score.

The outcome was very close with just 34 points (out of a possible 3360) between first and second places and only another 17 points separated second and third:

	<b>Small-bore</b>	<b>Centre-fire</b>	<b>Overall Total</b>
England	1636	1670	3306
Wales	1634	1638	3272
Scotland	1615	1640	3255



The GB Centre-Fire International Team.



The victorious Republic of Ireland Centre-Fire Team.

Congratulations to England and their Captain Norman Brown but please note with only 1½% difference between all three scores, the competition is very tight.

### **Qualification**

If you have aspirations of joining the band of international shooters it's easy (not the shooting I hasten to add), just enter as many nationally classified matches as you can during the year and on the matches held at Bisley tick the box on the entry form with your country of origin. At the end of the season the statisticians will assess the performance of all those expressing an interest based on scores achieved and commitment, with the names of the best performing shooters being passed on to the elected Captain.

Home International shooters selection is based on the centre-fire and small-bore shorts match scores and the GB squad is selected on the basis of their 1500 performance.

The GB Captain is elected for a year and the names of all suitably nominated applicants are reviewed by a panel chaired by the NRA Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee Chairman. The Home International Captains are elected by processes defined by their governing bodies.

Selection of the shooting teams on match days is the sole responsibility of the Captains from the available squad members.

## **INTRODUCING GRAHAM GOLD**

*Talking with Tony de Launay*



Graham Gold, FCCA, took up his post as Head of Finance with the National Shooting Centre in the middle of August. As a clay target shooter he had visited Bisley previously to shoot clays and to participate in one of the NRA's Open Days, but the thought of working there had not crossed his mind until the vacancy was made public.

Graham comes from a manufacturing and distribution background in the IT hardware industry. His experience over seven years as European Financial Controller, coupled with voluntary work in finance and administration with a charity, should fit powerfully with the need for the NSC to make those final steps to being a modern business. So what are his first impressions after just two months?

"I see an organisation that has had a long history – but it has perhaps been slow to move with the times in terms of the financial systems necessary for today's modern leisure business. It is crying out to move that last yard to a properly integrated business system. What has been done over the last ten or so

years are steps forward but is as yet incomplete. We have to make improvements so that each part of the organisation, in financial management accounting terms, talks to each other".

There is an inescapable logic in this. "Nowhere in the business world can a successful business survive unless the financial information is available and used. The NSC management board has to have not only actual current figures available but also the projected figures for coming months. I am determined that we shall move quickly to that picture being available monthly".

To anyone who has worked in modern industry this might seem to be simple common-sense. "It means that cost centres, and there should be sufficient to reflect areas of activity, can see exactly where they are and be accountable", he says. If you can see accurately what is doing well or doing badly then you can take steps to improve further or make corrections.

He cites the soon-to-be-installed ammunition stock control system, from which control information can be obtained quickly and easily, as an example of something that is well on the way to being a success. "What we are not so good at is converting information that we hold from that and other areas into the essential financial information on which to run the business. Looking more broadly it is clear to me that parts of the existing financial systems seem to give us a disjointed picture of the whole business. We have to put that right".

He also recognises that there are opportunities to establish longer-term use arrangements with some of the newer commercial users of the facility. He feels that this can contribute to future financial stability and success. That has to be an approach that the membership would support. It might just mean no more nasty surprises. Amen and good luck to that.



# FROM THE COWSHED

*by John Gardener*

There seemed to be no escaping, in this world of acronyms, that the newly appointed Clerk of Works should work from the cowshed. Let me tell you why I've been appointed and what I hope to achieve on your behalf.

Two ablution blocks have been completely refurbished; the majority of the users are satisfied with the results although there have been some criticisms. Some of these are valid and have been taken onboard for any future upgrades. Some, it must be said, have been trivial but then you can't please everyone etc.

ABC lines and the ablutions blocks at Jenny's, top of the hill and Elcho Hilton were painted externally. I engaged two markers to pressure wash all the blocks and remove ivy and moss etc. This was in order to give the contract cleaners a head start for the season. Unfortunately that plan failed and cleaning has now been taken in house. The previous ablution cleaner's contract was terminated in July, a bad time you may think; thankfully the young lads I employed in their stead proved equal and better. Admittedly there were some justified complaints and mistakes were made, however I can tell you that the average of two justified complaints per week received this year with 'amateur' cleaners is a record low in my eight years on the staff. Now one young man, Tim Coll, is the ablution cleaner, he is keen, willing and a welcome member of my team.

There are plans to make more improvements to enhance the 'Bisley experience'. Your positive criticism will be welcome, advice will always be given its due consideration and help is positively encouraged. It is no good complaining to me that the place is full of litter if you are the culprit. It is no good complaining to me that something is broken if you have broken it and don't report it. It is no good complaining to me that the caravan sites are a mess when your caravan needs cleaning.

Two regular perennial suggestions, a play area and launderette, cropped up again this year. Bisley used to have a play area with a climbing frame etc. The Health and Safety Act put paid partly to that – we would need to provide a 'safe' play area with rubber flooring, padded bars plus a qualified, CRB checked attendant. As for the launderette (which is something I used to ask for myself) unfortunately no commercial company will undertake installation and maintenance of equipment for such a short season. The cost, which would have to be recovered if the NSC installed one, would be prohibitive. However there are launderettes in Brookwood, St John's and Knaphill.

I have been appointed to co-ordinate the staff, get the upgrade started and introduce proper maintenance schedules. So, if it's attached to the ground and belongs to the NRA then it's my responsibility. You

will, I hope, see some immediate improvements and will bear with us while we slowly (not too slowly I hope) do some permanent fixing to your satisfaction.

There are a great many areas in which I would like to see improvements – I would like to see the end of tatty notices pinned to trees, a curb on freelance 'improvements and extensions' (there is an availability of power issue involved) and a cessation of vandalism. Many 'off road' cars may be useful to you whilst here to carry kit, but most are an eyesore and may even be unsafe. I have use of a couple but they are properly maintained and insured. Be ready: if you have such a vehicle I will be asking you for documentary proof that your vehicle is insured and maintained, if you can't do that, please remove it from site.

Fly tipping costs us money. Your old refrigerator, which you as a private citizen can take to the dump free, costs the NSC £25. Your old mattress (which the bin men won't take) costs another £22. You, the members, have cost the NSC over £1,000 in my first six months. Money wasted!

Oh what I could do with an extra £2,000 a year. A qualified playground attendant for the Imperial perhaps, upgrade some accommodation, buy some washing machines, more nuts and bolts, another cleaner for the busy periods, proper signposts, a few bags of tarmac? Are you getting my drift?

Another 'biggie' on my list is the lack of respect some show for work we have already done. There are half a dozen shot holes in the new lane markers on the Zero Range – that's not poor zeroing, it is deliberate vandalism and downright dangerous. Coat hooks in the new ablution blocks were unscrewed and stolen within forty-eight hours of being installed!

A great deal of time is spent in refacing targets, especially on Short Siberia where, on some days with only two clubs shooting, fifteen targets are shot and not patched! If it's you, be ashamed, but don't be surprised to get there and find no targets available until you ask for one.

As I said, your help, advice and co-operation are welcome. The cowshed is located in the target shed yard – feel free to visit. You won't get a coffee because I don't have a kettle. You will get an attentive ear and positive action if your advice is sound and affordable.

When Deitra Carmichael stood up at the Umbrella Tent meeting I tried to hide in my seat. What she had criticised earlier was all true of course but I didn't particularly want to hear it repeated in public. What she did say on that occasion was music to my ears, she said something that I have been banging on about since forever it seems. It's your Bisley, why don't you help to look after it?

I had an idea to have a 'club maintenance day' however the H&S regulations and limitations are stalling that for the moment. If you can help me in that area I'd be most grateful.

Give us a little time and the chance to correct all those (four pages of A4 in ten point font and still writing) things you would wish us to correct. Don't walk past

it, pick it up and put it in a bin. I'll even have some gloves available! It's not a new slogan but I want you to help and join my 'Keep Bisley Tidy' campaign?

As I said earlier, I want to be part of making our Bisley a better place. Any help, advice and even criticism will be most welcome, much as I would like to I shan't be able to do it all on my own.

## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### **Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada (and USA) 2012**

I am honoured to have been invited, by the Council of the NRA, to Captain the Great Britain Rifle Team that is to tour Canada in 2012. I am delighted to announce that James Lewis (GM) and Ross McQuillan have accepted my invitation to be Vice-Captain and Adjutant for the tour.

The current plan is to leave the UK three days after the completion of the London 2012 Olympics and to compete at the DCRA Championships in Ottawa from 17 to 25 August. Although not currently sanctioned by the NRA GB, there is a possibility that after three days R&R this team will then move south to Raton, New Mexico to compete in the Spirit Of America (SOA) Matches culminating in the 2012 America Match to be held at the NRA Whittington Center. At this time, talks are on-going with the USA to enable these matches to be brought forward one week from their current schedule thus allowing this extended tour. The team would then return to the UK on or around 11 September.

I should like to invite anyone interested in applying for selection for this tour to contact me; all applications from county standard shots will be given full consideration. My initial aim is to take a number of younger shooters (those in their twenties) such that new blood is being carried forward into future GB shooting. However, I do recognise that the USA has never been beaten on home soil in the America Match and that this is something that needs to be redressed. I am therefore intending to take a very strong core of shooters thus generating a team that I hope will form a great blend of youth and experience to challenge in the individual and team matches whilst at the same time having a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable tour.

As we will be involved in an intensive schedule of shooting, it is not currently envisaged that partners will be able to join team members on the tour unless they are themselves bona-fide shooters. I should like to finalise the team selection in early 2011 and therefore the deadline for applications is 31 December 2010.

Jeremy Langley  
15 Lancaster Drive, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire, HP3 0RX  
E-mail: [jdslangley@googlemail.com](mailto:jdslangley@googlemail.com)

### **Great Britain Palma Team to the World Long Range Championships 2011**

The following have been selected as the Great Britain Palma Team to the World Long Range Championships in Brisbane, Australia in 2011.

#### *Captain*

John Webster GB, England and Cheshire

#### *Vice-Captain*

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland and Hertfordshire

#### *Adjutant*

James Watson GB, England and Northants, Leics & Rutland

#### *Team*

David Armstrong	GB, England and Surrey
Nigel Ball	GB, England and Norfolk
Glyn Barnett	GB, England and Norfolk
Nick Brasier	GB, England and London
David Calvert	GB, Ireland and Ulster
Jon Cload	GB, England and Sussex
Matt Charlton	GB, Scotland and London
Matt Ensor	GB, England and Surrey
Paul Kent	GB, England and Surrey
Jeremy Langley	GB, England and Devon
James Lewis*	GB, England and Norfolk
David Luckman	GB, England and Somerset
Ross McQuillan	GB, Ireland and Ulster
Jane Messer	GB, England and Sussex
Gareth Morris	GB, Wales and Cambridgeshire
Parag Patel	GB, England and Surrey
Toby Raincock	GB, England and Surrey
Ant Ringer	GB, England and Norfolk
Tom Rylands	GB, England and Cheshire
Paul Sykes*	GB, England and Sussex
Nick Tremlett	GB, England and Berkshire
Jon Underwood	GB, England and Surrey
Chris Watson*	GB, Wales and Northants, Leics & Rutland



### **GB Team to South Africa 2012**

The following have been selected for the GB Team to South Africa 2012:

#### ***Captain***

Iain Robertson GB, Scotland & Oxfordshire

#### ***Vice-Captain***

Alwyn McLean GB, Ireland & Ulster

#### ***Main Coach***

David Calvert GB, Ireland & Ulster

#### ***Shooters***

Chris Claridge England & Sussex  
Jon Underwood GB, England & Surrey  
David Crispin GB, England & Surrey  
Gary Alexander GB, Ireland & Tyrone  
Kelvin Ramsey GB, England & Surrey  
Ben Stevens London  
Rick Shouler GB, England & Nottinghamshire  
Gaz Morris GB, Wales & Cambridgeshire  
James Bullock GB, England & Nottinghamshire  
Gareth Davies Athelings, England & Norfolk  
Peter Seeböhm GBU25, Scotland & Hertfordshire  
Neil Moxon GB, England & Wiltshire  
Steve East England & Berkshire  
Bruce Roth GB, Scotland & Kent  
Mick Silver England & Oxfordshire  
Jonny Borland GBU25, Scotland & East of Scotland  
Colin Johnston GB, Ireland & Ulster

#### ***Reserves (alphabetically)***

Simon Carson Ireland & Ulster  
Lauren Crowson Athelings & GBU19  
Julie Ouston GB, England & Hertfordshire  
Nigel Penn GB, England & Northants, Leics & Rutland

### **GB World Championship Under 25 Team to Brisbane 2011**

The following have been selected for the Great Britain Under 25 Rifle Team to the 2011 World Championships in Australia:

#### ***Captain***

James Lothian GBU25, England & Surrey

#### ***Vice-Captain***

Stuart Young GBU25, England & Lancashire

#### ***Adjutant***

Ed Dickson GBU25, England U25 & Hampshire

#### ***Shooters***

Harry Ball GBU25 & Wales  
Henry Day GB, England U25 & Suffolk  
Tom Drysdale GBU25, England U25 & Durham  
Sam Harley GBU25 & England U25  
Sam Hunter GBU25 & Scotland  
Matt Millar GBU25 & England U25  
David Nuthall GBU25  
Georgie Ogden GBU25 & Yorkshire  
Steph Ward GB, GBU25, Wales & Gloucestershire

#### ***Reserves (alphabetically)***

Alex Bryson GB  
Gareth Davies England & Norfolk  
Dannica O'Kelly GBU25, Ireland & Gloucestershire  
Isobel Stevenson GBU25, England & Derbyshire  
Sandy Walker GB, GBU25, Scotland & London

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

The following have been selected for the National Rifle Association team to the Channel Islands in 2011:

#### ***Captain***

Charles Dickenson GB, England & Berkshire

#### ***Vice Captain***

Andy Luckman GB, England & Somerset

#### ***Adjutant & Treasurer***

Mike Fugeman GB, England & Berkshire

#### ***Coaches***

Kip Morton GB, England & Hampshire  
John Ritchie Surrey

#### ***Shooters***

Alistair Bullen Norfolk  
Charlotte Clifford Evans England & Norfolk  
John Evans Wales & Somerset  
Alastair Haley Wales & Gloucestershire  
Jonathan Hull Hampshire  
John Lindsay Essex  
James Lothian England & Surrey  
Jeremy Tuck England  
Bruce Young England & Lancashire

#### ***Reserve Coach***

Matthew Millar

#### ***Reserve Shooters***

Layne Chisholm  
Martin Liversage Lancashire  
Colin Skellett Hertfordshire

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 11 JUNE 2010

## **Speech by Dr Robin Pizer, Chairman**

Firstly may I welcome you to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the National Rifle Association. As you will know, a terrible tragedy took place in Cumbria on Wednesday 2 June about which the NRA expressed its shock. I would just like to reiterate that our thoughts and sympathy are with the families of those who have lost loved ones and with those who have been injured.

I will say more about our response after we have dealt with the formal items on our agenda.

I now turn to the formal agenda.

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

*Agreed.* Thank you very much.

I propose the re-election of the existing Vice-Presidents, again I do this on behalf of the whole Council, so can I have your approval for that please?

*Agreed.* Thank you.

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

*Agreed.* Thank you.

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

Some of the challenges facing us have been mentioned by me at the front of the Financial Statements. I will only comment where there have been changes or new information is now available. I will start with some internal matters and end with some remarks about our response to the tragic events in Cumbria.

Last month Jonathan Holmes resigned as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee after six years. I would like to thank him wholeheartedly for the commitment he has shown in dealing with a myriad of problems that he and his committee have faced. In his place I would like to welcome David Evans who has been elected as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. David thus becomes Ex Officio Chairman of the Disciplinary Body and a Trustee of the NRA.

I am delighted to say that four new Non-Executive Directors have been appointed to the NSC Board. They are:

- Roger Boyd who is a marketing and communications specialist with broad sporting and social interests.
- Tony Cornwell who is a Chartered Management Accountant and former civil servant. Now a semi-retired consultant, he has a strong financial background with experience of turning

government bodies into charities and the management of high profile leisure sites.

- Russell Neighbour who was originally a quantity surveyor but is now a senior facilities and estates manager for a major international company.
- Ron Pooley, formerly in the Army, then worked as an architect before moving into property and estate management.

The NSC Finance Director, Bruce Pollard, went sick at the beginning of April and has not yet returned. As a result there have been some delays in sending out various invoices – in particular for caravan site rents and for storage of firearms. They are now going out in batches due to the work of Tony Cornwell and I would encourage you all to settle these invoices as quickly as possible. I must thank Michael Blythe, former Financial Manager, for coming back from retirement and Mark Haszlkiewicz, our Treasurer, for their work in the completion of the 2009 accounts and for keeping our accounts for 2010 under control. This may continue for some time.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that after the austerities of the past several years, we have decided to ease the purse strings to a limited extent to allow for a greater level of both capital and current expenditure. This is intended to provide for a better standard of service and facilities for our members and customers. This includes actual reductions in subscription levels and increased assistance for our younger shooters. This will inevitably have an impact on our surplus for 2010.

On Wednesday 19 May 2010 a fire broke out in the Stickledown danger area. By Friday evening the fire had reached the back of the Stickledown butts coming within five yards of the target shed and came round both sides of Stickledown range. The fire stopped short of the main BSG shooting grounds but continued several hundred yards across towards the Siberia ranges before dying out. On the Pirbright side the fire came towards Pirbright Camp missing Melville range but dying out at a point roughly parallel with the 1100 yards firing point. We were very lucky and various matters including fire breaks need discussing with MoD. I would particularly like to thank all our staff who responded magnificently to the threat, working in shifts around the clock and helping to protect the BSG ground when that was threatened. Anthony Roupell has sincerely thanked me for the help provided.

We wanted to help our Olympic Pistol Team and Heritage Pistol shooters but were advised we could not do this because in 2006 we changed the Second Schedule of the Charter and as a result of advice at that time, we deleted the objectives clause. This meant that we could only support rifle shooting as specified in the First Schedule of the 1890 Charter. We have now been advised that the deletion of the objectives clause was invalid and it has



therefore been reinserted. The rest of the changes in 2006 to the Second Schedule remain valid.

One of the problems of getting out of debt was that we did not do the maintenance at Bisley Camp that was needed. Your disquiet over the toilets and roads has been expressed quite forcibly. There is also the problem of maintenance of other buildings used by the NRA. The total cost of putting things right may well come to £3 million. We have made a start with refurbishing two toilet blocks on Sites 2 and 5. There have been delays especially with the block on Site 5 which I am told will be completed by 26 June. It will be several years before the backlog is cleared.

I expect to see our strategy for the next five years published in a few weeks. This will drive our business plans and budgets and provide more focused objectives for our staff.

A root and branch review of how the General Council, Council and staff operate to deliver what our members want is still needed. We tried to get it done for a nominal sum using business school students but this did not work out. Once our strategy is in place we will concentrate on the structure of the NRA using our own resources.

Child Protection legislation kicks in on 1 July 2010 for sporting organisations. This also includes vulnerable adults. We have published guidance on our website for clubs and individuals. We urge clubs to consider this and implement changes appropriate to their circumstances. Phyllis Farnan has brought this to fruition and is available to provide guidance to clubs. I am very grateful to her.

As a result of the tragic shooting in Cumbria, the NRA is working closely with the British Shooting Sports Council and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation who are co-ordinating the shooting organisations' response. The NRA point of contact is Glynn Alger, our Secretary General. We have put together a small team to support Glynn and will be reviewing the situation on a continual basis. We are very grateful to members who have offered to help and expect to take up some of these offers. If you think you have some specific skill or knowledge that is relevant and have the time to help please contact Glynn. Our initial objectives are:

- to be thoroughly joined up with the other shooting organisations and to make sure we are all speaking with one voice;
- to ensure we have all the necessary data available to support the arguments we may have to make;
- to manage the interface with our members;
- to engage with parliamentary / police / press contacts as required.

In due course, depending on how things develop, we will need to add:

- to contribute (probably both in our own right and collectively with the other organisations) to the inevitable enquiry.

Yesterday Glynn Alger attended a meeting of BSSC and I would now ask him to say a few words about the plans of BSSC. Glynn the floor is yours.

### **Glynn Alger**

Ladies and gentlemen, what I would like to say about the NRA's response to the Cumbria incident is that it actually commenced at 11:00 on the morning of the shooting when we were informed that there was an ongoing incident in Cumbria. At that stage the NRA contacted the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) and the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) to discuss joint working with them and the other shooting bodies into how we would manage the incident. As a result of those early interventions BASC managed the media in terms of TV, while we and the other organisations managed things like radio broadcasts and press enquiries. Following that, according to the media and politicians in terms of feedback, is that the heat, as a result of the interventions that we made at that early stage, had gone out of the incident, in that the main message that was sent by all the main shooting organisations was that we hoped the Government would not act too quickly to legislate on shooting, going from past experience based upon Dunblane and Hungerford. We know this as a result of direct advice from MPs. They have generously offered both to keep us informed and to help going forward in terms of any debates in the House on this issue. They did assure us that within Government the view was that this thing should be played 'long' and there shouldn't be a quick reaction to the incident. In our meeting with BSSC all of the major shooting bodies in the UK were represented and present at that meeting. The agreed strategy going forward, contrary to our positioning on previous occasions, was that we would offer to Government and the Home Office to be involved actively in discussions in relation to how best shooting ought to be managed going forward in relation to their particular requirements. The issue is that in the past our reactions to changes to legislation have been that we would say "no" and we work up from there to a position where something would be enforced upon us. The position that I discussed with BSSC and the one that they have actually adopted is that we would have a more positive and joint approach to the Home Office. We would offer to put actual resource such as subject experts into the Home Office to assist them with any necessary changes to legislation that may help us and at the same time we would look at the whole issue of offering self-regulation of the sport, being orchestrated across the shooting environment by the NGBs. So that's where we currently are with the BSSC. At the end of the day the hope is that we are going to give the Government some answers to their current dilemma because we had a political advisor present during the meeting and his advice to us was that the Government at this point in time did not want to take any steps leading to further legislation in relation to shooting. That is the advice at this point in time of both Government and their political

advisors, but shooting needs to be able to offer some assistance to the Government in terms of, and I hate to use this expression, "the Government needs to be seen to be doing something". If that need to be doing something originates from the shooting bodies, that that something is a self-regulation exercise, that would be preferable to something being forced upon us. So that is our current position. Thank you very much.

#### **Chairman**

Thank you very much Glynn. I would now like to throw the meeting open to questions. May I first take questions on the accounts? When you ask the questions could I ask that you use a microphone and please give your name and club clearly. Who would like to ask the first question?

It almost looks as though the accounts are so clear that no one has a single question. That must be extraordinary, well done Mark.

*Applause.*

So we can move away from the accounts and into Open Forum and so the floor is open to you for your questions.

#### **Joanne Walker – International Long Range Pistol Shooters' Association (ILRPSA)**

My questions are as follows. As a member of the badly unrepresented human at Bisley human race or half of the human race called women, I would rather like the Council to give consideration to the female situation. I came to shoot at the Phoenix for the first time ever this year, I did manage to hit the target by the way, and my first experience of shooting was rather marred by the Range Officers who constantly looked at my male shooting companions and said to them "is she with you?" So essentially I think you need women, you need more women to join, you need more money, you need more women joining, you would have more fees. So surely doesn't it make sense to actually make consideration for that and try to do something about it? A more welcoming attitude I think is the answer. And if I could just move on from there my daughter wanted to learn to shoot a long range pistol. According to the Home Office guidance to the Police she should be able to do this as a member of the ILRPSA; the difficulty is that I can't lend her my pistol for some reason. I can lend her my rifle, they are both 6.5 x 2.84, what's the difference? Can somebody please explain that to me?

*Applause.*

#### **Chairman**

Yes, we would certainly like to see lots more ladies shooting and the problem I suppose has been that there has been a history of male domination but yes there are some very successful women shooters and there are many, many more now than when I was a young man I regret to say.

*Laughter.*

I should say I regret there were so few.

#### **Glynn Alger**

In terms of ladies shooting at Bisley it is an increasing phenomenon in that, certainly during the Imperial Meeting, we are getting increasing numbers of young ladies, particularly in the 16-25 year grouping actually joining the Association. We have never had any sort of feedback such as you have just given us in relation to the experience you had during the Phoenix Meeting, although I'm sure it does happen. Usually the bulk of the ladies attend during the Imperial Meeting and shoot and we have had no such feedback during the Imperial Meeting on that particular issue. As you are aware the NRA runs the RCO courses and on the basis of your observations it maybe necessary to include some diversity training so that the RCOs can get a wider appreciation of their duties and the way that they should treat people.

The other issue that was raised is in relation to long-barrelled pistols. Where we are at this point in time is that the Home Office have adopted a ridiculous stance in relation to both long-barrelled pistols and Section 1 shotguns in that they will allow the individual to own and possess but they will not allow a club to own and possess, they will not allow an individual to loan their long-barrelled pistol or Section 1 shotgun to another individual to use. We have written to the Home Office on two occasions on this particular issue and I have asked for a meeting. Our stance is the one that you have just made in that how can a club actually ensure that a member is fit and properly trained to use a long-barrelled pistol or a Section 1 shotgun if we are not able to train them properly to start with? We are sure that as our relationship improves, as I am sure it naturally will with the Home Office, we believe that we will be able to rectify that particular issue quite soon.

#### **Joanne Walker**

So you don't believe it is the way the NRA interprets the Home Office legislation?

#### **Glynn Alger**

It's not the NRA at all, the NRA have actually written to the Home Office complaining that this is inappropriate. We are currently supporting a legal action that involves a Sportsman's Association member on this particular issue with the Metropolitan Police, so it is not the NRA's position. The NRA wishes to own long-barrelled pistols for its members to use but because of the current stance adopted by the Home Office and Surrey Police this has not been possible. I have to say this situation isn't across the board, a number of police forces have actually broken ranks and they have gone with the good sense argument, so Wiltshire and Somerset to name two forces have already made allowances allowing clubs to own long-barrelled pistols and Section 1 shotguns.

#### **Carol Painting – Pumas RC**

I think Joanna needs to get her Range Officers educated by someone else. We have no problems in TR, I have



been shooting for 55 years and the Range Officers are always courteous and there is no difference as shooting is the one sport we can all compete on equal terms and that's why we never have it segregated, the small-bore people might but we don't.

I have a second question for you. I am very sorry about Bruce and I hate thinking about people being ill but I am very concerned for the Association's finances. Can you tell me whether he is getting anything more than statutory sick pay?

#### **Chairman**

Jeremy are you able to answer that?

#### **Jeremy Staples**

At this stage the answer is "no comment".

#### **Carol Painting**

Then infer yes. What plans have we got to deal with someone on long term sick pay that we can't afford?

#### **Chairman**

There are legal requirements and those have to be played out.

#### **Deitra Kimpton – Mars & Minerva RC**

A few of you already know me as the person who is probably raised a few issues about the state of the Camp. I am actually up here to pay some compliments. I would just like to say that I came on to Camp for the first time at the Phoenix Meeting and there is a marked difference on this Camp right now. I think there is a change happening, I think that Robin and the rest of the staff here deserve a round of applause for their hard work. It is going to take a long time and I think it's up to us as the members to continue to support what they are trying to achieve here and on that note I think it's also because of us being members of various clubs on Camp and some of those clubhouses are not in the best shape – that isn't the responsibility of the NRA it is the responsibility of the members of those clubs and I think we should all get behind the NRA and start looking at our own clubhouses as well. I am proud to say that Mars and Minerva is one of the clubhouses I think is a good example on Camp and the same sort of work has been going on at the Surrey and other clubhouses but I just wanted to say thank you Robin because there is a marked difference and don't worry if you are a little bit behind in one of the loos, we know it's going to happen because you are making it happen. Thank you.

*Applause.*

#### **Chairman**

Thank you Deitra. The people who are responsible for doing this, well three of them, are in the front row here and I think particularly to mention Jeremy Staples who has had to bear a lot of criticism from you and we are now able to give him a little bit more money to get some of the things done that are so badly needed.

#### **Roger Mason – Somerset**

You have three new Non-Executive Directors on the NSC. There are an awful lot of members who have property or who [belong to] associations and live on the Camp at various times. Would it not be a good idea to have a Non-Executive Director on the NSC to represent the users?

#### **Chairman**

I hope that all of the Non-Executive Directors will represent at least some part, or some group, of the users but of course when they start working together as Non-Executive Directors they've got to think of everyone; they can't at that stage represent a specialist interest. So, yes, we welcome the newcomers, we have selected them for their particular skills and I have mentioned some of those because we want to make sure we are going to move forward in the best possible way with the best possible advice so that our staff are well guided. So I can go part of your way but not, I am afraid, the full way.

#### **Simon Dixon – North London Rifle Club**

I would like to ask why it was that the NRA Trustees refused to allow me to make corrections to the misleading and incomplete announcement in December 2009 on the NRA website of my resignation as Chairman of the NSC and perhaps I can put the record straight.

It may not generally be known that I declined an invitation to become an NRA Trustee as I felt this would compromise my position as Chairman of the NSC and also my ability to chair the board of the company in the way I felt to be in the best long-term interests of Bisley.

I found that the Board's position was being undermined by the new Trustee regime, and day-to-day management inhibited in a way not previously experienced and in the Board's judgment not proper. This was because of major differences of view over the way the NRA and the NSC should properly work together. It was therefore with the deepest regret that I felt the proper course was for me to resign as Chairman and a Director of the NSC on 17 December 2009.

Under the Chairmanship of my predecessor and myself, the NSC has achieved significant profits from its commercial activities. It may be remembered that in the 2007 Winter NRA Journal I explained that between £750,000 and £1 million was needed to keep Bisley working and to enable us to bring the facilities more up to date.

You will be aware that the substantial debt incurred in the 1990s consumed any surplus generated by the NSC as well as requiring substantial contributions from members' subscriptions. On the positive side, we gradually brought the day-to-day activities at Bisley into surplus and, for the first time in living memory, without calling upon members' subscriptions.

In 2009 the NSC produced a record surplus. With imminent repayment of the final tranche of the 10-year bank loan, we can now look forward to a brighter future. The NRA can use these surpluses from Bisley, as it has done since the end of 2008, towards the development

of the Bisley estate. This will in turn raise additional revenue to further regenerate shooting UK-wide. In the light of this progress I am even more saddened that I will no longer be able to contribute towards this exciting stage in Bisley's development.

I wish the next NSC Chairman every success.

#### **Chairman**

Simon, you said that with the new regime of the Trustees you found it difficult because we were asking questions and, yes, a lot of this was myself asking questions. We tried to agree a statement to go on the website, we didn't really want to get into a huge amount of detail and that is why it was relatively short. We certainly recognise your contribution and we said that in the annual report and you are perfectly correct that you did warn the Association in that Journal article that they were neglecting maintenance on Camp at their peril. Now of course we are going to have to put much more into maintenance than if we had been able to do it at that time. I too hope and wish the new NSC Board every success in turning things around because we do want to generate these large surpluses to help shooting outside of Bisley where life has got significantly more difficult even in this past year. So, while we disagree on certain issues like management and style I hope we both agree that the Association must move forward. We must make it successful and we must be able to help people outside Bisley so I think that is all I would wish to say in response to your comments.

#### **Brian Taylor – Army Target Shooting Club**

I would like to follow the earlier speaker and again commend the team here responsible for the ablution block on Site 1. They've done a fantastic job, it really is a huge improvement. Very like the Hilton at the back of Stickledown, perhaps we should call it the Dorchester. Talking to one or two people who have used the facilities there is concern about whether we will be able to maintain and keep it in good order and I am not just talking about the individuals coming in off Camp to use these facilities, I am talking about members themselves. During the Phoenix Meeting the toilet part of the ablution block after 24 hours was quite disgusting, by Monday morning it was dreadful and I am talking about the actual loos rather than the stand up ones. Some toilet brushes or something put in there would help us to enable members to leave them as they would hope to find them. The other thing is by the end of Sunday there were no loo rolls in there and that was a Bank Holiday weekend so we were stealing them from the ladies but by last weekend I think even the ladies had run out except for maybe one or two. I went in there today just to have a look and there are not enough in there to survive this weekend. The last point I would like to make is, and I don't know why it is, but again on one of the loo doors of the men's there is a hook behind the door but the others don't have one and it would be most useful if they all had hooks. Sorry, there was one other item. We have gone now from the six wash basins we had in there last year, three in each part, down to four. During the Imperial Meeting with

six there was massive queuing so I don't know what its going to be like this year when you bear in mind in the shower block there is plenty of space there to have been a third one between the two that are in there now. So for future ones you may want to bear that in mind.

#### **Chairman**

Thank you Brian for those comments and I am sure we will bear them in mind. There are several more loo blocks that we have got to deal with and if we don't get it right with the first one or two we must make absolutely certain that we do with the later ones.

#### **Ian Robinson – Lancing Old Boys RC**

When I came in this evening, as I did last year, I was told that I was not allowed to vote because I was not an individual NRA member and I just put it to the Chairman why not? Or am I allowed to vote? And he said he didn't know and he suggested that Glynn Alger may be able to shed some light on it. I suspect there may be some others who may be encouraged to come from the Old Boys rifle clubs who are not full members so on behalf of those may I table the question?

#### **Glynn Alger**

I don't have a copy of the Rules with me but the Rules specifically state that it is individual members, and so full members of the Association, who are allowed to vote. So in terms of, shall we say, an affiliated club and an affiliated member, under the current guidelines you would not be able to vote.

#### **Chris Law**

You mentioned earlier about the removal of the Objects which included the defence of the realm. I notice it is not included in the current revised Bisley Bible. Is it the intention to restore it?

#### **Chairman**

The final legal advice we got came after the Bible had gone to press so, yes, I would hope that things would be back to normal next year and since I have mentioned the Bible it has, as you have probably noticed, undergone a huge change so there may well be inadvertent mistakes in there so if you see anything that needs to be put right please let us know. I would like to thank Iain Robertson in particular for undertaking this monumental task, he was at it for weeks on end I understand, and it is now in a much better situation or position for us going forward because we want in the end to be able to say to clubs outside of Bisley "Here is a rule book that you can use". And the way it is now structured we can strip out all Bisley-centric stuff leaving a rule book which hopefully most clubs around the country can implement. So, yes, there are problems with the Bible, inadvertent I think, and please let us know if you notice one.

Are there any other questions? No, then in that case all I need to do now is declare the meeting open, or no I mean closed.

*The meeting closed at 18:15.*



# THE 2010 BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY COMPETITION

*by Tony Di-Domenico*

The 7 and 8 May 2010 saw the BAE Systems Inter-Factory shooting competition on Bisley ranges, an annual target rifle competition held between the various sites within BAE Systems. We were well represented with entries this year, with teams and individuals coming from across the country to compete, reflecting the company's broad footprint in its many business areas. This year we welcomed representatives from: Warton (Air Systems), Glascoed (Land Systems), Stevenage (Missiles), Frimley (Integrated Systems), Portsmouth (Surface Fleet Solutions) and Leicester (Land Systems).

The company provides significant support for the competition not only through the presence of a senior Director to present the prizes but also by providing tangible support in the form of Royal Ordnance's 155 grain target ammunition, something that is much appreciated by the competitors given the cost of ammunition these days. During the Directors' brief visits, we have the opportunity to introduce them to Bisley and explain the pleasures and pitfalls of competitive target rifle shooting. They are always pleasantly surprised with Bisley's quaint ways and the diversity of backgrounds amongst the shooters, which of course reflects our sport as a whole. And this year our guest was Karen Lowe, Director of Business Improvement and Assurance from our Land Systems Headquarters at Glascoed.

The event offers four trophies; two team trophies and two individual trophies. The first of the team trophies is the Long Range Weybridge Memorial Trophy, which commemorates the long-closed factory in Surrey where Concorde was made and the second is the Short Range Warton Challenge Shield, named after the factory in Lancashire that makes the Typhoon. In both competitions each competitor shoots two sighting shots and ten scoring shots at each distance according to NRA rules. As for the individual trophies we divide the competitors into two categories. Class X, which is for NRA Class X and A standard competitors and Class M for rest of us. The first of the individual trophies is the Summerfield Challenge Trophy, donated by our rocket motor factory in Kidderminster, and is awarded to the Class X competitor who achieves the highest combined score in the team competitions. The Glascoed Challenge Trophy, donated by the Welsh factory that is our Land Systems HQ, is awarded to the Class M competitor who produces the highest combined score.

This year's competition began with the Warton Challenge Shield competition on Century range. We were initially on the far right hand side at 300 yards, which can be a problem when the wind is in the wrong direction, but fortunately there was very little wind

to contend with. There was plenty of cloud cover, but visibility was good and even better there was no immediate threat of rain. The scores showed that the conditions were good with both Jeremy Tuck (Frimley) and Martin Watkins (Glascoed) scoring a cool 50 with seven and four V bulls respectively. In the team scores Glascoed notched up 191 ex 200, a slim one point lead ahead of Frimley, who were in turn just two points ahead of Warton.

We got stuck into the 500 yards shoot at around 11:00 hoping to get as many people through before lunch and before any rain could appear. The conditions remained much the same and the scores remained consistently high with Jeremy Tuck again scoring 50 along with Phil Northam (Stevenage) and Dave Robinson (Warton) with just three V bulls between them. In the team scores Warton turned in the best score of 191 with Frimley on 189 and Glascoed on 185. In the rankings with just the 600 yards shoot to complete this placed Frimley just 11 V bulls ahead of Warton on 379 with Glascoed holding third place just three points behind.

We decamped to the 600 yards firing point and were pleased to see that the temperature had improved a little and the clouds were slowly dispersing. Visibility was better and the wind was still quite gentle. Jeremy Tuck was again the top shot scoring 50.6 with Dave Robinson and Charles Dickinson (Frimley) both on 49. In the team scores Frimley produced the highest score of 193 out of 200, three points ahead of Glascoed with Warton in third place two points behind. Thus, the Frimley team comfortably retained the Warton Challenge Shield with a score of 572, five points ahead of Warton, with Glascoed one point behind in third place.

Needless to say in the individual competitions in Class X Jeremy Tuck took the lead with 150.19, with Charles Dickinson three points behind and Martin Watkins one point behind him. Clearly, this was going to be a very



The long range competition on Stickledown.

close run competition. In Class M it was also a close run affair. Tony Knoles (Glascoed) scored 144.14, just four V bulls ahead of Brian Anderson (Warton) who in turn was two points ahead of team mate Kevin Miles.

Saturday saw the Weybridge Memorial Trophy on Stickledown. Unfortunately, because of range constraints we were unable to shoot at 800 yards and had to reduce the event to a 900 and 1000 yards shoot. We were located on the far left side of the range, next to the trees with a number of other clubs to our right. The weather wasn't as kind to us as it had been the previous day with a fine drizzle and almost no wind to start the day, but then this is the English summer. Nevertheless, some good scores were returned and again there were two 49s from Tony Knoles and Mike Place (Frimley). Frimley produced the best team score of 190, seven points ahead of Glascoed, who in turn were one point ahead of Warton.

During the 1000 yards shoot the weather improved slightly, the drizzle stopped and there was a gentle wind, which was just as well as we were expecting the Director mid-afternoon. The 1000 yards scores remained very good, the highest individual score being a 49.4 achieved by Charles Dickinson, and in the team scores Frimley managed to extend the gap by a further ten points with a score of 188 with Glascoed and Warton both on 178. Thus, Frimley had won the Weybridge Memorial Trophy with a total score of 378 ex 400, 17 points ahead of Glascoed, a very respectable second and Warton one point behind them, an equally respectable third. In the individual competitions the scores were even closer. In Class X Charles Dickinson produced the highest score of 97.10, just one point ahead of Jeremy Tuck; bringing up the rear in third place was Martin Watkins on 91. Combining these with the Short Range scores Jeremy Tuck comfortably won the Summerfield Challenge Trophy with a combined score of 246.29, with Charles Dickinson second on 244.28 and Martin Watkins third on 237.21. In Class M Tony Knoles maintained his short range lead and shot the best with 97.10 with Brian Anderson and Kevin Miles both five points behind. This meant that Tony Knoles won the Glascoed Challenge Trophy with a score of 241.24, five points ahead of Brian Anderson on 236.22, with team mate Kevin Miles in third place on 234.15.

The Director duly arrived mid-afternoon and was greeted by Paul Waldron, the Glascoed team captain. She was introduced to the competitors and spent some considerable time learning about the challenges and intricacies of competitive rifle shooting. With the shooting done she was then escorted to the North London Rifle Club, where tea and cakes had been arranged for the prizegiving and a chance for the guest to see a little more of Bisley.

Special thanks are due to: Karen Lowe and Charlie Blakemore and Chris Isaacs at Glascoed for their

support, Ian Clay and his commercial team at Radway Green for the supply of 155 grain ammunition, the NRA for receiving and managing the ammunition for us and the NLRC for their catering and support, without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to 2011.



Karen Lowe, Director of Business Improvement and Assurance presenting the Long Range trophy to Adrian Dyer of Insyte.

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## SCENES FROM THE SERVICE RIFLE MEETING

*by Alan Keating*





# choose your challenge choose your cause



## What is the Gold Challenge?

The Gold Challenge is a unique opportunity for everyone to feel the excitement of London 2012 by taking on multiple Olympic and Paralympic sports and raising money for charity.

Participants challenge themselves to do 30, 20, 10 or 5 sports. This can be done as an individual or as part of a team of 2-30 participants.

So whether the challenge is to try multiple new sports, push to the next level in favourite sports or create the most extreme sports challenge ever – the Gold Challenge will both motivate and inspire!

The Gold Challenge expects more than 200,000 participants to take part, raising over £20 million for charity and driving demand in grassroots sports. Working in partnership with:



## Who can take part?

The Gold Challenge is passionate about encouraging everyone to participate in sport – irrespective of age, physical ability or locality:

- Individuals and teams (place of work/study/friends)
- Youth (U16) and family version (to be launched in 2011)
- Student activity
- Paralympic sports included
- Corporates

## How to take part

Participants register for free, choose their challenge (their sports) and choose their cause (we have over 100 charities to choose from).

A sport can be completed in one of three ways:

- By completing at least three hours of coached activity

- By competing in a NGB affiliated tournament
- By completing an endurance event such as a marathon, triathlon or 10k open water swim

The Gold Challenge has a points scoring system allowing participants to score points based on the number of sports they complete and their achievements within those sports.

Participation points are scored as follows:

- 10 points for completing 3 – 5 hours of coached activity
- 20 points for completing 6 or more hours of coached activity
- 20 points for completing a sport by playing competitively (in a NGB recognised competition)
- 20 points for finishing one of the endurance events

Bonus points will be awarded based on objective criteria wherever the sport allows, e.g. times for running and swimming events. For other sports they



are based on recognised performance indicators or generic performance milestones, e.g. basic skills achieved, club level, county level.

The Gold Challenge team is on hand to help participants choose their sports and tailor the challenge to suit them.

## Information for sports clubs

The Gold Challenge is working with the National Governing Bodies for sports across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the challenge works for each sport.

Once a participant has selected their sport, they can learn about it through each sport's specific pages on the website. The website then directs participants to where they can find local activity (clubs, coaches, development officers, festivals, events competition or other) to complete the sport.

The participant attends the sessions with the criterion for completing the sport ready to be signed off by the coach once they are complete.

There are many benefits for sports clubs to be involved with the Gold Challenge:

- Increased participation for the club/area. This is a great opportunity where participants are choosing to engage with a sport for 3+ hours.
- Coaches/clubs still charge for the activity. Participants know they must pay for sessions where a fee would normally apply. This is the clubs to keep.
- The Gold Challenge:
  - Will present participants who are engaged in trying new sports
  - Is an opportunity to find new members
  - Is a revenue stream, with no additional marketing costs for clubs

- Will capitalise on the excitement generated in the build up to London 2012 and is a truly unique multi-sport programme
- Will launch a massive nationwide marketing campaign designed to signpost people to NGBs and clubs
- Will also have a volunteer and coach based arm

For more information on how each sport is being engaged with the Gold Challenge and how you/your club could get involved please contact your NGB/ Development Officer or the Gold Challenge Sports Team on **020 7299 0914**.

## Information for wider sports stakeholders

Are you a wider stakeholder in the sporting market?

- A corporate sports provider
- Local authority
- County Sports Partnership
- Leisure provider

We are always looking for ways to grow the Gold Challenge and would be interested to talk to you. Please contact the Gold Challenge Sports Team on **020 7299 0914**.

## About us

The Gold Challenge is a not for profit organisation. Any profit from the Gold Challenge will be used to fund grassroots sports initiatives. The Gold Challenge is working in partnership with Limelight Sports, the company behind the creation and delivery of some of the UK's largest grassroots sports events including Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon, London Youth Games, Swimathon, Sport Relief Miles and Sky Rides.

For more information on the Gold Challenge please contact the Sports Team on **020 7299 0914** or **sports@goldchallenge.org**







Gary Alexander of Ireland - donations for a new hat gratefully accepted.

Photo: Alan Keating



Alex Cargill Thompson deep in concentration.

Photo: Alan Keating



"Have I won?" Angus McLeod winner of the Hopton.

Photo: Alan Keating



The Elcho at 1100 yards.

Photo: Alan Keating



The Elcho at 1200 yards once the rain had cleared.

Photo: Alan Keating



The Scottish scoreboard.

Photo: Jeremy Gaywood



Canon Copland's daughter presented the prizes.

Photo: Alan Keating



The victorious Scotland team.

Photo: Alan Keating



# MATCH RIFLE

By Jeremy Gaywood

*That low man seeks a little thing to do  
Sees it and does it:  
This high man, with a great thing to pursue  
Dies ere he know it  
That low man goes on adding one to one  
His hundred's soon hit:  
This high man, aiming at a million  
Misses an unit.*

Robert Browning

The Hopton entry maintained last year's level at just over one hundred competitors. There was generally more wind this year, which banished the usual myriad of highest possible scores. Indeed, it was much more like the old days of lighter loads and bullets.

Also, as it proved, there was a certain breaking of the moulds, with new faces appearing at the top of the tree – although the well known stars were still right there in the running.

The Any Rifle Extras competitions provide an excellent warm up for the Match Rifle week, and help to dispel all the stress and road rage generated in getting to Bisley from far afield. Friday produced a light westerly wind, initially very useful for fine tuning wind zeroes, but becoming very variable at 1200 yards.

Jim McAllister opened up with a 75.13 at 1000 yards, with nine of the forty four entrants scoring 75s. Mike Baillie Hamilton and Julian Peck took the silver and bronze medals, both with 75.12.

At 1100 yards, the wind was slightly up and no-one scored 75. Nick Tremlett counted out Andrew Burgess with 74.8 to take the gold medal, Andrew taking silver, and Angus McLeod took the bronze medal with 73.10.

At 1200 yards it was quite breezy. Those using 190s were using up to eight minutes of wind, and the scores reflected the more difficult conditions. The median score in this shoot was in the region of 63.

Jim McAllister finished with 71.3 for the gold medal with Stuart Collings on 69.9 taking silver and Andrew Burgess with 69.7 taking bronze.

Angus McLeod won the overall Any Rifle Extras Aggregate with 217.21 from Nick Tremlett with 216.28, with Andrew Burgess taking the bronze with 216.23.

On Saturday the serious business of the competitions constituting the Hopton Championship commenced, as always, with the Whitehead at 1000 yards with light westerly winds. Only 11 competitors out of 130 scored 75s. At 1100 yards, there was a little more wind but it was fickle and only one 75 was scored – by George Barnard (of whom more later).

Andrew Burgess took the Whitehead with 149.19 from George Barnard with 149.16, one V bull ahead of Aled James with 149.15.

The wind was up a little for the Halford and, even at 1100 yards, there was much more separation of scores with only eight people breaking 70 led, at this point, by John Powell with 72.5 from Mike Baillie Hamilton and John Bridger both with 71.8. At 1200 yards, there was as much as eleven minutes of left wind, and the magpies were beginning to extend their wings. David Calvert's fine 73.4 was two points clear of David Friend at 71.9 at that range. Calvert thus won the Halford with 144.9 – a remarkable lead of five points from Jim McAllister with 139.10 and Stuart Collings with 139.6. Again, the spread down the field was very wide, with many people struggling with a very variable wind, moving from 1 to 7 minutes. This was Match Rifle at its very best. It was very good to see a Tyro, Kate Fitton well up the field with 132.5, to win a bronze medal.

David Calvert was now at the top of the Hopton leader board, but there was a long way to go. David also took the Saturday Aggregate gold medal with 289.22 followed by silver for Mike Baillie Hamilton with 286.27 and bronze for Aled James also with 286.27 but counted out at the longer range.

On Sunday the wind was up again for the Cottesloe with gusts from the west of up to 7 or 8 minutes even at 1000 yards. In the circumstances Rob Lygoe produced a fine shoot of 100.15 to win from Nick Tremlett on 99.15 and Angus McLeod with 99.13. Also remarkable were the performances of three competitors shooting with RWS ammunition. Danny Coleman, James Watson and Peter Barry won NRA medals with scores of 98.12, 98.8 and 97.13 respectively, leaving over one hundred match-riflemen in their wake. David Lloyd was the top Tyro with 98.7, followed by Simon Jones of CURA with 97.8 and John Lindsay, also of CURA, with 96.9 and Zoe Woodroffe, brand new to Match Rifle, on 96.7.

By now, Nick Tremlett was in the Hopton frame with 384.43. However, George Barnard, who did not enter for the full Hopton, was at this point ahead with 385.33.

Rob Lygoe continued his brilliant day by winning the Wimbledon with 99.10. Again there was a good breeze worth, at times, eight or nine minutes of left wind (for those shooting with 190s). Nick Brasier followed Rob's lead with 98.9 to take the silver medal, followed by Ted Hobbs of Senghenydd with 97.10 to take the bronze medal. By now the median score was approximately 90, reflecting the conditions. Less than half the field broke 90. Four people tied with 390 for the RWS Aggregate but Danny Coleman with 31 V bulls counted out Jeremy Thompson with 28 and Bill Richards with 27 for the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively.

Nick Tremlett, with a 96.11 in the Wimbledon and an aggregate of 480.54, was now still just ahead of Jim McAllister with 480.50 in the Hopton. But all this was to change.

The Armourers was shot in a wind which was moderate westerly variable, often less strong than it appeared to be, but moving between 5 and 10 minutes. Most people struggled to break 90.

But not George Barnard, who stormed away with the Alexander Forsyth Memorial medal, NRA gold medal and £100 to win by two points with 97.9. The question is what would he have done if he had been able to shoot a complete Hopton? We will never know. David Friend took second place with 95.8 and the silver medal, followed by Barlow, Collings and Hobbs with 95.7. Kate Fitton, as top Tyro, achieved a very good ninth place with 93.6 while David Lloyd and Graham French were not far behind with 91.4 and 91.2 respectively.

At the close of Sunday, Mike Barlow had won the Martin Parr (Sunday) Aggregate with 290.25 from Rob Lygoe with 289.31 and Angus McLeod snapping at their heels with 288.29. Mike Barlow's performances had been getting better and better as we were to see when he came second to Nick Tremlett in the Maxwell Aggregate which combines the Hopton and Grand Aggregates. He does great honour to his club, Fife and Kinross FBRC, which must be about the smallest club in the country, tucked away in Fife.

The Weekend Aggregate went to Stuart Collings with an aggregate of 573.44, which now put him ahead in the Hopton, and it was beginning to look like an old firm match between him and Nick Tremlett. Mike Barlow was lying second with 572.48 with Jim McAllister on 570.59. Only four points separated the first five in the aggregate. Most of the stars, Collings, Barlow, McAllister, McLeod and Tremlett were in contention, although Mike Baillie Hamilton had lost some ground in the Wimbledon. The Hopton was wide open.

Then came the Edge. The wind, from a docile start, began to pick up during the 1100 yards shoot. Jim McAllister produced a fine 100.15 (the only 100 to be scored in the competition) to give him a lead from Nick Tremlett and Richard Kenchington with 99.15, Alex Cargill Thomson on 99.13 and John Pugsley and Angus McLeod on 98.12.

Then Angus McLeod struck. With a remarkable 99.9 at 1200 yards, Angus took the Edge by three clear points. He won it with a score of 197.21 from John Pugsley with 194.24 and Nick Tremlett on 193.25. There had been intermittent rain all day, and increasing westerly wind needing 5 to 9 minutes at 1200 yards. Angus was now two points clear of Stuart Collings, four points from Jim McAllister and five points clear of Nick Tremlett. So he was night-watchman – guaranteed to

ruin one's sleep. His lead came as no surprise to the Scots, who have watched him winning many trophies at Blair Atholl over recent years. Three Tyros were still doing well. Graham French was 37th with 184.14 from Mike Judge of CURA with 179.14 and Kate Fitton with 178.15.

Out of the Edge, as it were, came the Five Nations Match which saw Wales with 759.68, captained by Lou Lou Brister, trounce England by seventeen points. Wales produced three scores over 190, whilst the highest England shooter was Derek Lowe, with 188.20. Scotland and Ireland were well down and Normandy were short of a full team.

In the FW Jones, the wonderfully named Senghenydd entered a strong team all of whom were in the first fourteen of the Hopton and duly vanquished all comers. They beat a disguised Scottish team by seven points with 559.10 with Old Nottinghamians third with 551.39. A North London team from the playing fields beat both Cambridge and Oxford.

And so to Albert day, described so well last year by Colin Hayes as the Blue Riband event and culmination of the Hopton. At 1000 yards it was wet with very light easterly wind. Surprisingly only six 75s were achieved but 80 per cent of competitors scored 70 or over.

At 1100 yards, the wind was almost nil, flicking between left and right. Five 75s were scored, and five competitors were lying on 149. By now, Angus was sitting on an aggregate of 916, four points ahead of Jim McAllister, five ahead of Nick Tremlett and six ahead of Mike Barlow.

At 1200 yards the wind had picked up slightly. No-one scored 75 and only twenty-five people broke 70.

The star of the Albert, however, was Gareth James who, from his 149.20 at the first two ranges, dropped only two points at 1200 yards to win with 222.23 from Julian Peck with 221.25 and 220.30 from Mike Barlow.

Jim McAllister and Angus McLeod, however, had both made 71.6 to finish at 1200 yards, securing Angus his four point lead for the Hopton Championship – a wonderful achievement for that modest and rather shy man who had been supported so tenaciously by Bullet, his loyal Border Terrier.

Graham French won the Tyro Challenge Cup with 218.22 and Aled James won the Henry Mellish with 217.22, awarded to the highest under 25 competitor who had not shot in the Elcho.

Angus won the Hopton Challenge Cup and gold medal with 987.106. Jim McAllister was second for the Hopton silver medal and Nick Tremlett won the Hopton bronze medal. Mike Barlow won the NRA silver medal for fourth place.

Aled James picked up the Brian Green Memorial Trophy and Kate Fitton won the Ogden Challenge



Cup and the NRA gold medal for the highest Tyro in the Hopton. Nick Tremlett took the Councillors 1000 Yards Aggregate, Jim McAllister the Tribe Memorial 1100 Yards Aggregate and Angus took the 1200 Yards and Victoria Aggregates. Jim also won the Ranken with 75.12 pipping Nick Brasier and John Musso by two and four V bulls respectively.

The Pairs went to Jim McAllister and Will Meldrum shooting as 'Cottelco' defeating 'Gaan and Smee' by one point and 'The Odd Couple' by two points.

Thus ended an excellent championship, with scores well down and all the better for it.

Scotland's success in the Hopton boded well for them in the Elcho and so it proved. As the day started, there was nothing easy about the wind which was reflected in the scoring throughout the match. Rain was a feature of the day with initially overcast sky which became darker during the morning.

At 1000 yards everyone found the target – always a relief when no sighters are allowed and wind zeroes may possibly be misinterpreted by sub-coaches. England achieved two 75s at the first range but team consistency was found amongst the Scottish ranks where no highest possible scores were made, no-one was below 73 and an eight point lead was established by Scotland over England. Wales were now already fourteen points behind the leaders followed by Ireland who trailed by seventeen points.

At 1100 yards, a picture similar to the previous range began to emerge. Rob Lygoe continued his brilliant shooting with a second 75.10 for England, but Scotland continued their consistent performance, and now produced two 75s from David Hossack and Jim McAllister. This put Scotland a further ten points ahead of England. Wales produced a 74.8 from Gareth James, and David Calvert replied with a 74.9 for Ireland. Scotland was now 18 points ahead of England, 33 points ahead of Wales and 43 ahead of Ireland. Indeed, Scotland demonstrated a very slick team management system which they have been developing for some years.

After lunch and further heavy rain which delayed the start, all teams were having to combat the elements with the wind up to between 8 and 10 minutes. Angus McLeod with 73.5 made top match score at 1200 yards with roughly half of each of the leading teams scoring in the 60s. England were now shooting on a par with Scotland and conceded only one further point at this range. Wales fell back a further ten points behind England and Ireland dropped fifteen more points behind Wales. So it was Scotland's day, under the captaincy of Mike Baillie Hamilton, for the second year running.

As was the usual custom, medals were presented on the firing point at 1200 yards, this time by the daughter

of Canon Copland who died earlier this year and who had been so widely known on the Common having first shot in the Elcho in 1930.

	1000x	1100x	1200x	Total
Scotland	586.68	589.62	559.44	1734.174
England	578.59	579.59	558.44	1715.162
Wales	572.57	570.45	548.36	1690.138
Ireland	569.48	563.45	533.35	1665.125

The Any Rifle gold medal at 1200 yards was won by Mike Baillie Hamilton with 97.4 – a full 10 points ahead of Jim McAllister who took silver with 87.6 with Angus McLeod in third place with 84.5.

The Humphry was shot in fairly unpleasant weather although the rain was more threatening than real and there was a fairly brisk left wind. Cambridge, under their captain Mike Judge, started with the considerable advantage of having all team members shoot the full Hopton championship and with good results. Of the Oxford team Tibor Barna had not shot during the Match Rifle week and although Tim Sherwin had done the full week, Richard Passmore and Emma Saxton, the Oxford captain, had shot only some of the competitions.

At 1000 yards Cambridge made a very steady start with only three points separating the shooters in the team. John Lindsay and Simon Jones both made 70.

Oxford, however, were in trouble from the start losing points from a non-functioning rifle. Indeed, Tim Sherwin had to switch from back position to prone which is everyone's nightmare in a match. Cambridge, therefore, snatched a large early lead of 26 points at the first range with a score of 275.24.

Oxford managed to reduce the range deficit at 1100 yards. John Lindsay produced a fine second 70 for Cambridge at this range. Cambridge, still shooting steadily, scored only four points less than at the previous range despite the conditions. They managed 271.14 at 1100 yards to Oxford's 254.10.

At 1200 yards the weather took its toll on both teams. In the circumstances, Mike Judge produced a fine 65.4 to score 200.15 for top score in the match followed by Richard Passmore of Oxford with 197.8. Honours, therefore, went to Cambridge on the day despite a valiant attempt by Oxford to reduce their deficit – only eight points at 1200 yards. Cambridge finished with 783.49 ahead of Oxford with 732.27. Oxford, for all their drubbing, are unbowed and have vowed revenge next year.

	1000	1100	1200	Total
Cambridge	275.24	271.14	237.11	783.49
Oxford	249.11	254.10	229.6	732.27

# GALLERY RIFLE AND PISTOL MEETING

*by Chris Webb*

Historically, this long established series of competitions is part of the Imperial Meeting and runs for five days. However, it desperately needs the support of all you gallery rifle and black powder pistol shooters, otherwise it will fade into history. Be under no illusion, this meeting may become another casualty of our current financial situation.

Whatever your experience or skill level, there is a competition for you. All of the medal competitions can be re-entered until you get that elusive highest possible score. On offer are the usual Police, Service, America and Advancing Target matches using centre-fire or rim-fire plus a host of other air pistol, black powder pistol and small-bore disciplines. Additionally there are cup and team competitions some of which are shot over the middle weekend, many under ISSF rules.

This year we had just under one hundred competitors who shot 938 medal scorecards, which is the highest total for some years. Nevertheless, the event still ran at a loss.

If you are an actual or potential participant, please let us have any ideas for making this section of the Imperial cheaper to run and/or more attractive to competitors. Answer, preferably by e-mail, to Chris Webb at [regman@nra.org.uk](mailto:regman@nra.org.uk).



*Photos by Alan Keating and John Prictor.*

## SCHOOLS MEETING

*by Simon Cox*

This year's Cadet GP rifle competitions attracted nine schools, pleasingly one more than last year, with two schools entering two teams each in the Snapshooting and the Marling; by contrast Ashburton entries were down to 32, although the Schools Fours (Closed) rose to nine, suggesting that while a few more schools are finding it hard to raise a full eight, they are still determined to continue fullbore shooting. The total number of cadets involved was consistent with the average of recent years at about 600.

In the GP competitions on Monday, Oratory and Sutton Valence took first and second places respectively in the Snapshooting and, despite letting Ampleforth and Sedbergh take first and second in the Marling, they still were respectively first and second in the Schools Aggregate; Ampleforth did however have the top two teams in the Falling Plates. Latham (Sutton Valence) won the Marlborough Cup, Clarke (Ampleforth) the Financial Times, and the Cadet Champion at Arms went to Knight (Oratory), who was well clear of a tight bunch of Clarke, Donald (Ampleforth), Latham and Coupland (Oratory).

The Cadet TR Tuesday Aggregate was led by Rowell (Exeter) on an excellent 104, with Knight, Astin (Gresham's) and Dowle (Epsom) on 103s, and Barber (Elizabeth) top of the 102s by V count. The Wednesday Aggregate was cut to two ranges only as torrential rain in the afternoon flooded the 600 yards point; Sutton

(Wellington) led with a clean 70, chased by 69s from Rowell, Dowle, Crowson (Sedbergh), Broad (Epsom), Danczac (Sevenoaks) and Barber. Hence Rowell retook the lead to win the Schools Hundred on 173, with Dowle 172, Barber 171, and Broad, Knight, Astin and Pugsley all on 170. Whether this was enough to secure the Cadet Grand Aggregate as well would depend on Thursday's Ashburton score; it proved to be Barber, whose 101.11 was highest of the day, who triumphed with 272, leaving Dowle and Rowell on 270, and Broad, Astin and Pugsley on 268.

In the Ashburton on Thursday, Epsom set an early challenge at 300 yards with a fine 260, five ahead of RGS Guildford and Wellington, with Gresham's, Cheltenham, Dollar and Exeter all in close contention behind. Another good team score at 600 yards opened Epsom's lead to 11, while RGS Guildford, Wellington and Gresham's were now neck and neck. Yet Epsom's likely success was not secure as the afternoon saw no fewer than six other schools out-shoot them at 500 yards, headed by Gresham's on a strong 256 to total 762; but even this was not quite enough to match Epsom's winning 763, while Cheltenham led the rest on 753. Epsom also won the DSG and Victoria College Trophies, Gresham's the Cheltenham, the Rutland and the Devon, and Dollar the Cadet Pairs, Cadet Fours and Schools Fours (Open); the Schools Fours (Closed) was won by Uppingham.





The Ashburton gets underway at 300 yards.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



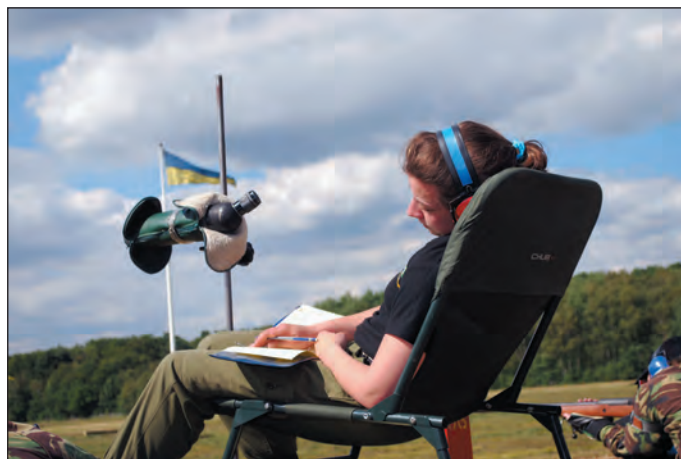
The Ashburton at 500 yards.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



The latest technology.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



For some it was all too much!

*Photo: Colin Scales*



Clare Huxter led Epsom College to victory.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



Wellington's Nigel Ball does his best Superman impression.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



The Ashburton final scores.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



NRA Chairman Robin Pizer presents the Schools Hundred badges.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



# TARGET RIFLE

*Tony de Launay summarises the story from his daily diary*

## Friday 16 July

Just after midnight a sudden severe downpour but dawn came bright and breezy with the early birds popping away in the Astor to greet the start of the TR competitions. Bright and breezy turned not very nice at all with some nasty slanting rain borne in on the stiff winds. There were tales of corrected values of 7 to 9 left at 600 yards in the Century match (500 and 600 yards) and quite a bit more in the Admiral Hutton at 900 yards. The winds remained all day and were scheduled for Saturday.

The Astor County Championship produced a win for the Old Guildfordians, pushing the City of Newcastle team into second place by not very much for the second year running. Guildfordians had also taken the Schools Veterans A and C team prizes and a second for the B teams the previous night so they were quietly satisfied with the early haul.

The warm up Hutton saw a three way tie for first place, between Peter Holden of OGRE, James Watson of Uppingham Veterans and Geoff Dyson of the visiting Australians all on 50.8. There were 19 scores of 50. The tie went to Holden. The back-to-front Century was won outright by Alex Williams of Uppingham Veterans. His 99.13 pipped Martin Millar of Comber and Les Wicker of Hailsham by just one central bullseye.

Wicker took the Friday Aggregate with a fine 149.19, given the conditions, chased by maestro Nick Tremlett on 148.19 with Parag Patel of Epsomians third on 147.18.

## Saturday 17 July

Bright sun and no real wind at 06:00: overcast and breezy by 08:30, a stiff south-southwesterly swinging nicely up the range over on Stickledown where the Lovell was going on. It varied in both direction and strength offering plenty of scope to cop a bird or worse. Corrected plots ran from 4 to 10 left. Down on Century it moved in a lesser degree early on but became more interesting for the Telegraph.

A good harvest with 116 scores of 50 in the Donegall at 300 yards, five on maximum 50.10. They were David Luckman of Sedgemoor, Gray Robertson of Australia, Gary Childs of Exonia, John Tapster of Old Johnians and Ray Smeltzer of Canada. Each shot five extra tie shots and Luckman and Robertson went shoulder to shoulder subsequently with Robertson winning the tie.

The Lovell (1000 yards) proved altogether more problematical. Sweeping breezes poured across from the left, ranging from around the left shoulder early on but then veering to have a more westerly bite from near on 1 o'clock – exciting and exasperating for the

shooter. Six souls managed a 50 led by Jonathan Kent of Old Epsomians on 50.6.

In the Daily Telegraph (500 yards), the first port of call in the eleven matches of the Grand Aggregate, there was a tie between Jim Corbett of Australia and Ian Jones of Jersey both on 75.13. The match had a nasty fluctuating breeze seeping from the left over the shotgun layout and hawking about which way to turn when it got to Century. There were 36 scores of 75, and Corbett took the tie shoot.

Aggregates: the Tucker went to Les Wicker of Hailsham on 247.32 and the Saturday to Jonathan Kent on 174.23. Herewith a tale from the Stats Office. A young shooter appeared at their door. He explained that he had had a rifle problem in the Donegall earlier that morning. He had mended it and 'please could he have another go'? Full marks for trying and enthusiasm.

## Sunday 18 July

Light rain tinkled briefly on the roof at 06:00 and it was breezy and overcast. As the day wore on the clouds disappeared and the afternoon was sunny. All the day's competitions had a left hand wind to deal with edging over the left shoulder at times on Stickledown. Early on it blew at 3 to 5 minutes on Century, and later from about 4 to 8 minutes at long range. It changed in strength and direction gradually declining towards evening.

The Alexandra (600 yards) produced another tie: Russ Jackson of Welwyn Phoenix, Dr John Deane of Dursley, Simon Cane of Old Guildfordians, Olly Collas of Guernsey, Dick Ellis of Wandsworth and Philip Dawes of Bedfordians all made 50.9. There were 97 scores of 50. The tie was resolved in favour of west-countryman Deane. The Daily Mail (500 yards) also went to a tie, this time with three scores of 75.13 from Jonathan Kent of Old Epsomians, Andrew Le Cheminant of Jersey, and Nigel Watson of Sheffield, two Xs and an O. There were 61 scores of 75. Kent won the tie.

On the hill the Duke of Cambridge (900 yards) produced a four way tie, with Charlie Clifford Evans of OGRE, Andrew Walker of Framlinghamians, Jim Corbett of Australia and Stuart Young of 101 RC all making 50.9 among 82 scores of 50. Walker won the tie. The Sunday Aggregate went to David Luckman of Sedgemoor by one central from Jumbo Lewis of ATSC. The Weekend Aggregate went to Paul Kent of Old Epsomians with Lewis second and Luckman third.

In the first meaningful look at the Grand, Lewis remained clean on the first four shoots with 250.34. John Pugsley was one point behind, equal on centrals. Jonathan Kent was third, with uncle Paul Kent fourth by a point. The top fifty went down to five off.



## Monday 19 July

A very hot day despite the breeze that continued to blow from the south-west. The first detail in the Corporation (1000 yards) produced its fair share of 50s with Andrew Sims of the Australian team just potting Nick Tremlett of Windsor on the tie shoot after both had made 50.10. The tie went 24.4 to 24.3 in favour of Sims with Ant Ringer third with the only 50.9.

The Times (300 yards) produced a rare surprise in the form of an outright win – after the mandatory five tie shots. Chris Claridge of ATSC knocked out Mick Silver and Andy Luckman by being the only one of the three able to hold the bullseye for all extra five shots. The Wimbledon (600 yards), too, had its fair share of fluctuating winds. Alex Gill of ATSC and Matthew Purdy of the Athelings both made 50.8, resolved in favour of Purdy. George Cann of Exonia was third, the best of five 50.7s.

The Monday Aggregate went to Gaz Morris of Uppingham Veterans. The Stock Exchange was won by Ben Picton of the Australian U25s, and the Young Riflemen's to Alex Dowle of the Athelings. The Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate went to David Calvert of the RAFTRC. The cut for the Donaldson Memorial Final at long range was 142.9 with none other than Andy Luckman holding that honour carrying a 44.0 in the Corporation. Brilliance will always shine through.

There were changes at the top of the Grand. Gaz Morris on 397.47 led by two clear points from Jon Underwood on 395.58, David Luckman one central behind at third, and Glyn Barnett a further 17 centrals off in fourth.

## Tuesday 20 July

Just the St George's First Stage (300 yards) counted towards the Grand. The signs at 06:30 were mixed with a highish overcast and not even a whisper of a breeze. The result was a dead flat calm and a stifling, oppressive, muggy, dead heat. To qualify for the Second Stage you had to score 74 and at least 8 centrals (73.12 last year). There were 146 scores of 75. Kip Morton of the RAFTRC and Dr Isao Matsumoto



Chris Claridge won the Times.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*

of London University made 75.15, and Morton won the tie to take the Bronze Cross. In the Grand, Morris remained two points clear with three shoots to go. Underwood had been displaced by Luckman D on centrals with just one separating them. Barnett was fourth and Bill the bearded wizard Richards leapt from eighth to fifth.

The County matches: Surrey were the winners at short range by one point from London. They completed a fine double with an extraordinary shoot at long where all six of their team firers went clean for 50 at 1000 yards for a new record score.

## Wednesday 21 July

We welcomed a bright sun, blue skies and the occasional puffs of high white cloud. It was not quite as sticky as earlier in the week. A brisk but misleading breeze continued to blow from the left all day. Sgt Stephen Hier of the ATSC rattled in a maximum 105 with 19 of the 21 shots in the central in the First Stage of the Queen's Prize. David Luckman was second and Jim Corbett of Australia was third. The cut for the Second Stage came at 102.6, slightly lower than the scoring thus far in the Meeting might have suggested, brought on no doubt by the afternoon wind that destroyed many ambitions.

The Conan Doyle (900 yards) resulted in yet another tie with five people on 50.9, Tom Rylands of Manchester, Jonathan Branch of GB U19, Hannah French of RAF Air Command, Zulkeflee Hamsan of Malaysia and David Rose of Old Epsomians. Rose took the tie. There were 41 maximum 50s.

With just the Prince of Wales to come the Grand was finely poised. David Luckman now led on 623.94, ahead of Glynn Barnett on 623.66. Jon Underwood followed on 622.86 while Gaz Morris dropped to fourth on 622.77. Paul Sykes of Bedfordians climbed up to fifth. Four points covered the top 14, but realistically the battle was between Luckman, Barnett, Underwood, Morris and Sykes. Barnett would have to gain a point on Luckman. Luckman had to match Barnett but not let the others slip past.

## Thursday 22 July

The morning dawned bright and sunny with some occasional high cloud at first. As the first two details of the Prince of Wales got underway huge black clouds gathered to the north and west. The earlier weather warnings for torrential showers looked accurate.

Quick shooting in the third detail and you stayed dry. The fourth, including all three leaders, was delayed by torrential rain of the stair rods variety, CRO Tony Clayton put his foot down with a determined squelch. He started the shoot after the rain had eased but it persisted for the whole detail. For David Luckman this will seem to be something of an epic day. None of his rivals were going to let him go quietly with both Underwood and Barnett posting 75s in that





This year saw the first visit by a Japanese team.

*Photo: Tony Clayton*



The Australian Under 25 Team.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



Susie Luckman wonders how much silver polish she'll have to buy this year.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



Ian Jones congratulates Jim Corbett after the Daily Telegraph tie shoot.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



Chris Belk – seven decades of Queen's Finals!

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



Say cheese! Mik Maksimovic and Des Parr smile for the camera.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



John Killian and Australia's John Fitzgerald taking it easy.

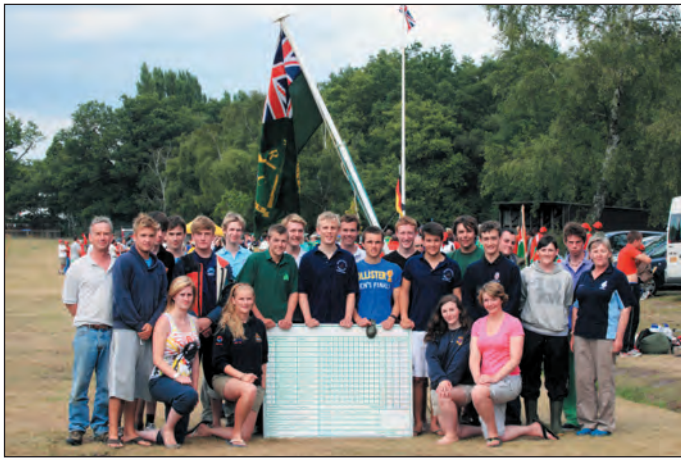
*Photo: Alan Keating*



David Luckman and Glyn Barnett – first and second in the Grand Aggregate.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*





The UK Cadets – winners of the AG Bell.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



Mark Wrigley, Ian Shaw and Iain Robertson let everyone know that Scotland won the National.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



The winning Kolapore team.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



The Parting Shot – Gresham's Superheroes!

*Photo: Colin Scales*



Ross McQuillan calculates the wind strength with his tongue.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



"Mr and Mrs Dearly? We think we've found your missing dalmatians!"

*Photo: Alan Keating*



The Australia Match team psych themselves up for action.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



The victorious Australia Match team.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



same detail. It was David's Grand to lose, in effect. But he did not and his 75.12 held them all off to give him 698.106 and the title, to go with his 2007 success. Barnett was second on equal points but a hatful of centrals adrift, 698.78. Underwood was third staying ahead of Gaz Morris on centrals with Sgt Stephen Hier fifth, a brilliant week in the Grand for him. The top 50 went down to Alexander Coetzee of South Africa on 688.74. The top 200 bottomed out with Kevin Hill on 680.64. Of course there was also the result of the Prince of Wales. Dannica O'Kelly of the Irish RC made 75.14. No one else could match her. Gaz Morris was the best of two 75.13s and Peter Slater of Old Epsomians was third.

The National Match: in one of the tensest encounters for many years Scotland took the fight to the auld enemy. Lindsay Peden's team led by one point after 300 yards. They then surrendered the lead and England had it by one point after 500 yards. Whatever the quietly spoken Scot said to his team before the 600 yards shoot, it obviously had the effect of that slow march onto the Murrayfield pitch all those years ago when the Scots destroyed England's hopes of a grand slam. It was a great team shoot, done quickly and with clinical efficiency, leaving England playing catch up as they leaked a couple of points too many. Scotland were the winners by one point and one central bulls-eye. Congratulations Scotland: commiserations to Paul Stevens and his English team, for whom David Luckman coached by Anton Aspin made 105.21, every one a central.

St George's II: the three hundred became 100 and produced one of the best tie shoots seen in some years. There were 34 150s. Parag Patel and David Luckman tied on 150.26 and shot an epic tie for the Silver Cross in almost a dead flat calm. They both scored 25.5 for their first five shots, Parag cutting a 5 sighter. Then they went shot for shot until the ninth extra tie shot after the initial five, Luckman eventually losing out with a five to a central. Mike Barlow of Fife & Kinross was third on 150.25. The cut 149.13: all 148s were out.

### Friday 23 July

A very cool and overcast start with not a great deal of breeze, from the right for the first time in the Meeting. The Kolapore started with the Jersey team chasing GB for all they were worth, level pegging at 300 yards on 399 each with just three centrals to GB's favour. Australia were two points behind with Guernsey and Canada one and two more points away. At 500 yards GB went clean for 400, with Jersey losing three and Australia just one to draw level with the Islanders.

At 600 yards GB contained the loss to three more for a total of 1196, while Jersey lost five but the Australians six, scores finishing at GB 1196.195, Jersey 1191.175 and Australia 1190.171 ahead of Guernsey, Canada, Germany and Kenya in that order. GB had five scores of 150 with, inevitably, David Luckman on 150.27 as top gun.

Queen's II seemed to rattle through. There were 15 scores of 150 with that other inevitability, Jon Underwood, winner of the Silver Medal on 150.26. Yet again Lucky struck the rich vein with 150.22, behind Nick Mace of Guernsey with one more central. The cut was 148.18, with seven of them tie-shooting for two places. The cut was one point higher than last year. Just one point covered the top 69 contestants.

A cadet, Tom Tatchell of the Welsh RA, gained his first Finals' badge using the Deputy Chief Range Officer's borrowed rifle. Chris Belk of Cambridge, OCRA and Uppingham Veterans qualified to put in the record books that he has now qualified for the final in each of the last seven decades, and this most recent on the 50th anniversary of his first Bronze Cross victory. There were some fine fireworks that night. Of such joyous trivia are golden memories and landmarks built and remembered.

### Saturday 24 July

First off was the final of the St George's (900 yards) in which all the usual suspects featured. There were 17 scores of 150 at the end of the show, topped out by none other than John Warburton of Huddersfield on 26 centrals. David 'yet again' Luckman followed on 25 with David Calvert third on 24. There were 149s down to 61st. England then turned on the power in the Mackinnon to make a new record score of 1173.140 (Luckman D and Barnett G made 100s) with Australia second on 1154.104. Ireland were third on 1147.104.

Then it was the turn of the 100 finalists in the Queen's Prize, using the new squadding system that swapped the shooters at the extremities of the range and gently shuffled those in the middle after the 900 yards shoot. The winds were going to treat people relatively calmly at 900 and blow about at 1000. The leaders at the break were Underwood and Barnett each clean, with a gaggle on two off.

At 1000 yards it all changed with both Luckman and Barnett dropping away as the wind played tricks. David Calvert of the RAF, Jim Corbett of Australia, and James Bullock of Langar came to the fore with Paul Kent starting a charge. Matters were slightly confused by the fact that Ross McQuillan showed as



"Hands off – she's mine!" Robert Stafford and Arthur Clarke fight over Jane Messer's affections.

Photo: Tony de Launay



leading on two off when Calvert dropped to three putting his final shot into the inner. The fact was that Ross was already three off even though in finality he too lost his last into the inner to finish on four off, but with one more central than Calvert. Corbett, who was here in a private capacity, had a hatful of centrals more than anyone else but could not match Calvert's score, finishing in the silver badge position after a tremendous fight.

The man from the RAF had it, with Corbett second and Paul Kent third. With three second places already in his history book Calvert was greeted with a tremendous roar from the RAF scoreboard team of "About time too", as he approached the scaffold to collect his gold badge. In the far distance a wartime Lancaster bomber seemed to salute him as it circled above the crowds at Farnborough.

### **Sunday 26 July**

Sunday dawned fair with sun and some overcast, but altogether a very agreeable day for the Australia Match. At 300 yards the Australians gave notice of what appeared to be a resurgence, pipping GB by one point with the Channel Islands snapping at the two pairs of heels.

At 600 yards something of a minor calamity hit Australia, losing 17 more points to go 20 off while GB lost six for 10 off. The Channel Islands moved up into second place losing just nine at 16 off. Lunch followed. By 900 yards the breezes were fooling around enough to warrant a stop by GB. Others were not so prompt and lost a few more points. When all had steadied a bit GB had carded eight scores of 50 and two 49s for a total 12 off. Australia lost 22 to go to 42 off with CI just ahead on 36 off.

At 1000 yards an initial flurry with the wind was followed by an almost dead flat calm. Teams had to hit it then and GB took the opportunity. Six scores of 50, a 48, two 47s and a 42 (with a shot on the other team target) was the outcome, for a total of 1972 with 207 centrals. Tom Rylands, called from the reserve list to shoot, made a new record top individual score with 200.26. In fact all the scores are new records because this was the first time the smaller ICFRA target has been used in this match. Perhaps they should be known as the new benchmark scores at least for a year.

Australia bit back to depose CI by just one point, in the process putting in a protest at some of the marking values given by the butts. The protest was rejected after the officials had travelled down to the butts after shooting finished to examine the target. So it was Australia on 1943.179 in second with the Channel Islands on 1942.181 third. Canada took fourth spot on 1928.166 followed by Germany and the Malaysia, Holland and Japan alliance.

Down at the Under 25 Australia Match it was very different. Australia led GB by five at 300 after going clean on their target, held their lead at 600, dropped

three points behind at 900 and finished early with a fine recovery at 1000, to set GB's last man down to make a 50. A 49 would be useless: GB were too far behind on centrals. Tom Hunter shot. Sandy Walker coached the wind. In a gripping finish Tom fired straight and Sandy steered them all into the bullseye. Cue much whoopin' and hollerin'. The Australian Under 25s helped to make the match what it was, impressing many during the Meeting with good humour and wearing their 'baggies' with pride.

So it remains to thank all those who made this meeting enjoyable, from front counter to bean counter, from admin to range staff and the excellent markers, from ground crew to stats. While the swan's legs may have been paddling like fury underneath, the outward look was of reasonable calm.

We had another batch of excellent ammunition from RWS/RUAG. Inevitably there was some muttering about a smaller central bullseye of the sort enjoyed elsewhere or even tighter scoring rings but I am not sure about the wisdom of such latter prattle. There is a worry about the effect of an overall tighter target on participation. The prospect of an 'impossible possible' and escalating costs could well knock a large hole in the flagship fund raiser. A national meeting with 1000 competitors may be a viable undertaking but what if a quarter of those entries were lost?

There is a critical point at current entry fees at which the Meeting starts to make a profit. The consequences for viability if any significant numbers of entries were lost as a result of tighter rings, and the knock-on loss of participants if costs rose yet further as a result, could be dramatic. It would be interesting to see the income and expenditure account for this last July TR Meeting as a stand-alone set of figures.

My view: let us have one more year in this five-year ammunition contract as we are. However, take sensible soundings on the options and participants' preferences. Then reflect and come up with reasoned proposals on whether the time is right for a change, and if so – what sort of change. There is nothing to stop the tigers having their competitions on the tighter target and, as the Australia Match shows, it brings out top performances. As it is, the number of people in the ties seems manageable, and tie shoots do add interest. Even the Times and the St George's I figures have explanations of a sort, such as not very difficult conditions this year.

What do you think? After all, you are the shooters that compete and you do have a voice.

And so as the Vulcan of time speeds over the sands of Century, and the misfire of fate burnishes the tin badge of history, we say *au revoir* to the 150th Anniversary Meeting. We shall regather next year for the Algerrhythm of accuracy to meet the pedant of percussion with its cartridge of perfection, and we wish ourselves a happy return.





David Calvert concentrates.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



A very happy Barbara Calvert congratulates her husband.

*Photo: Tim Webster*



The Calvert family.

*Photo: Tim Webster*



Major General John Hartley of Australia and Robin Pizer congratulate the winner.

*Photo: Colin Scales*



"Quick lads there's champagne in the NRA offices!"

*Photo: Colin Scales*



The traditional cannon firing at Canada House.

*Photo: Alan Keating*



David swaps the Canadian Stetson for a more devilish look at the British Commonwealth Rifle Club.

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



Carried away by the Irish!

*Photo: Tony de Launay*



# SOME FACTS FROM 2010 GRAND AGGREGATE COMPETITIONS

## Possibles and Winning (and Tie Shoot) Scores and Highest Possible Scores

Competition	Yards	HPS	Entry	Score to win	No	Tie	HPSs 10	HPSs /entry	HPSs 09	HPSs 08	HPSs 07
Alexandra	600	50.10	1097	50.9	6	25.3	99	9%	45	12	77
Conan Doyle	900	50.10	1055	50.9	5	25.4	41	3.8%	45	97	43
Corporation	1000	50.10	1055	50.10	2	24.4	23	2.1%	24	0	40
Daily Mail	500	75.15	1096	75.13	3	25.4	61	5.6%	16	22	97
Daily Telegraph	500	75.15	1090	75.13	2	25.4	36	3.3%	69	4	83
Duke of Cambridge	900	50.10	1076	50.9	4	25.4	82	7.6%	36	12	41
Prince of Wales	600	75.15	1066	75.14	1	-	69	6.4%	90	30	31
Queen's I	3,5,600	105.21	1101	105.19	1	-	25	2.3%	8	26	26
St George's I	300	75.15	1079	75.15	2	24.3	146	13.5%	129	31	69
Times	300	50.10	1079	50.10	2	25.3	200	18.5%	163	39	204
Wimbledon	600	50.10	1074	50.8	2	23.3	46	4.3%	99	11	159

E&OE

## SQUADDING THE FINAL OF HM THE QUEEN'S PRIZE

by David Calvert (GM SC QM)

A brief analysis of the 2009 Queen's Prize Final results versus squadding prompted a revision of the butt allocation for finalists in 2010. In 2009, eight of the ten top places were achieved by those who shot on Butt 0 at 1000 yards. It had generally been accepted that a 2-0 draw conferred significant advantage with a wind from the left (a 'traditional' West/South Westerly). There has also been a perceived, if reduced, advantage when shooting on Butt 4 with a right hand or easterly wind, due again to shelter from the trees reducing the horizontal spread due to the wind.

For 2010, the Shooting Committee modified the squadding in an attempt to even out the advantages enjoyed by shelter towards the edge of the range. The five possible draws in 2010 were: 1-4, 4-1, 1-3, 3-1 and 2-2.

Average scores by butt and distance were as follows:

	Butt 0	Butt 1	Butt 2	Butt 3	Butt 4
900 yards	72.3	72.5	70.7	70.6	70.2
1000 yards	72.1	71.1	70.3	69.9	69.5

As may be seen, the average score over Butts 0 and 1 was nearly two points higher than the average over Butts 2, 3 and 4, at both 900 and 1000 yards (difference of 1.9 and 1.7 points respectively). However, the attempt to provide a fairer squadding seems to have been largely successful in 2010 as indicated by the average scores over the revised butt pairing options as follows:

Butt Pairings:	0-4	4-0	1-3	3-1	2-2
Average score:	141.8	142.3	142.4	141.7	141.0

I will leave it to the statisticians to determine whether the differences are statistically significant. However, from a layman's perspective it seems that there was little significant difference between the five draws, except perhaps that the 2-2 draw provided an average one point penalty compared with the average of the other four options!

# GB UNDER 25 TEAM TO JERSEY 2010

## *Captain*

James Lothian      GBU25, England & Surrey

## *Vice-Captain*

Stuart Young      GBU25, England & Lancashire

## *Adjutant*

Ed Dickson      England U25 & Hampshire

## *Shooters*

Harry Ball      GBU25 & Wales

Tom Drysdale      England U25 & Durham

Holly Foster      England & Norfolk

Sam Harley      GBU25

Sam Hunter      GBU25 & Scotland

Tim Keen      Somerset

Matt Millar      England U25

Chris Mitchell      England U25 & Berkshire

David Nuthall

Dannica O'Kelly      Ireland & Gloucestershire

Georgie Ogden      Yorkshire

Tim Roberts      Sussex

Isobel Stevenson      GBU25, England & Derbyshire

Helen Taylor      Ireland & Northumberland

## **A message from the Captain**

Back in the autumn of 2008 I was honoured to be given the Captaincy of the Great Britain Under 25 team for the 2011 Under 25 World Championships. At a meeting in early 2009, my committee and I came up with the idea of doing a pre-tour somewhere with selected members of our training squad in order to aid our team selection process. After much discussion of when and where we were going to tour, we agreed on Jersey (mainly as the Captain and Vice-Captain fancied returning there!). We invited all twenty four members of the training squad on the tour, seventeen were able to take up the offer. Huge credit must go to the squad's performance both on and off the range as this tour has actually made our selections for Australia harder. We had a hugely successful and enjoyable tour and we all hope that this will be the start of a much more extensive Under 25 touring programme in years to come.

I would like to say a massive "thank you" to all of the JRA members who were so friendly and hospitable to us throughout our time in Jersey, especially to Cliff Mallett, Bruce Horwood and Richard Benest who helped me out so much in the organisation and preparation for the tour. I am also hugely grateful to my team and especially to Stu and Ed, who on my first experience of being in a position of responsibility on tour made my life as Captain relatively easy and uneventful.

And so I leave you in the (hopefully) capable hands of the tour diarists to tell you what happened . . .

## **Monday 23 August**

The team arrived at Poole harbour (despite one car's efforts to go elsewhere) to sunny skies and a brisk wind. Rumours of cancelled ferry crossings had fallen on worried ears, but within a couple of hours into the crossing, all was forgotten as we enjoyed a rare illness-free voyage on what security had informed the team was nicknamed the 'vomit comet'! Sleeping seemed to be the activity of choice and we arrived in Jersey an hour or so late before realising that all the local shops were shut for the evening. After parking up at the Trinity youth centre (some later than others after the earlier mentioned car's attempts to go elsewhere again!) we settled in and got stuck into a wide variety of takeaway food. The day was Isobel's 21st birthday so after the traditional cake and singing, much merriment and 'team bonding' was had by all until late into the night.

## **Tuesday 24 August**

"Bright eyed and bushy tailed" would have been an optimistic way to describe the state of the team but nevertheless some still managed to extend the previous night's celebrations to fit in a morning trip to the beach. However, the majority opted for what could only be described as a gigantic lie-in in preparation for the week of early starts. The Captain's reluctance to book any sort of team activity for the day paid off as the day was spent relaxing and recovering at the accommodation, stocking up on food while some managed a small excursion to town. After a fabulous mountain of spaghetti bolognese mid-afternoon, we felt suitably refreshed and set off for the JRA reception (all in a spectacular array of mis-matched chinos and skirts!). Here we met our hosts, caught up with the UK Cadet team and consumed our fill of excellent canapés before heading back home to a film and an early night. Bring on the shooting!

## **Wednesday 25 August**

After a slightly more painful start to the morning, the team arrived at the range with all their kit (well, almost all the team) to begin the shooting. First up was the Bisset starting at 200 yards. A solid start to the championships was had with several 35s and many 34s. As the first detail of 500 yards settled down ready to shoot, the heavens opened and unlike the Bisley that we all know and love, the winds actually picked up, blowing the driving rain straight at the target faces. A mid-shoot cease fire ensued but by then we were all so wet there seemed little point abandoning the detail. Further shooting did however seem fruitless as the forecast was bleak, the targets were falling apart



and visibility was almost nil so after a JRA committee meeting, the day's shooting was abandoned. After coating the entire youth hostel with many moist articles of clothing and shooting kit, the team ventured into town for a pizza and cinema trip. We retired for the night hoping that the next morning would bring some more appropriate August weather.

### **Thursday 26 August**

Another day and another less than pleasant weather forecast for the afternoon. The cancelled shoots from the previous afternoon were scrapped and plans to make these missed shoots concurrent with the first seven shots of the oncoming 2+10 shoots at each distance put into place . . . if we ever managed to actually shoot them. First up was the Rive, another shoot at 200 yards – the pick of the team scores were supplied by Stu Young and Sam Harley's 50.9s, only to be denied a tie shoot by a very respectable 50.10 from the Jersey cadet Ed Egre. After falling back to 300 yards for the next range, the shooters on the earlier details were very amused by the sight of a certain team member's car being pushed the 100 yards between the firing points; the team's regular 'Mug of the Day' winner managed to leave his radio on during his shoot causing him to return to his car to find a flat battery. The Seymour competition at 300 yards was then snuck in before the heavens opened yet again – a special mention goes to Dannica O'Kelly who shot a 50 with an adjustable foresight iris which was neither adjustable nor circular by this point!

After another extended lunch break, the JRA committee decided that shooting through the very heavy rain wouldn't be suitable or wise, and so the afternoon's competitions were postponed yet again. Cliff Mallett, a notable regular in the JRA Open Meeting for many years commented on how he had not seen weather as bad as this in August in Jersey for many, many years; it was nice that Mother Nature had prepared something special for our visit. For the afternoon activities, the team split between another cinema trip and a visit to the swimming pool in St Helier to try out the finest water slides that Jersey has to offer – an enjoyable, if slightly reckless time was enjoyed by that half of the squad. In the evening, great food at the local pub was demolished by the team before a relatively early night in preparation for the long range shoots in the morning.

### **Friday 27 August**

The team enjoyed an even earlier start this morning in order to help set up the butts at Les Landes, the long distance range in Jersey which, apart from the two days a year when shooting occurs there, is part of the racecourse and is home to much wildlife. A cold, windy, drizzly morning made a four hour stint in the butts a little bit uncomfortable for the team but our fortitude was rewarded when we escaped and were let loose at the other end of the range. At 900 yards,

the winds were making everyone's lives' hard. On the final detail Sam Harley put in a very impressive 75.9 (the only 75 of the morning) to take the Sirrett Bowl (however the Captain is still adamant that he wound himself out of the bull for a 74.10 to allow another member of the team to win). After moving back to 1000 yards, the conditions were still tricky and anything above 70 was a good hit. One of the team made it even harder for himself and others around him by managing to shoot off the pulley of the target with his first sighter causing the unfortunate competitors on that target to retire temporarily before spaces freed up elsewhere.

Driving back towards Crabbe for an afternoon at short range, the sun finally decided to put in an appearance, raising everyone's spirits after our damp, windblown morning's work at the longer distances. The Mourant at 500 yards brought our second win of the day with Isobel Stevenson's very handy 50.10. The sun still shining, we shot the final distance of the Le Riche competition, a 2+7 at 600 yards – with over half the team shooting possibles, we left the range satisfied. At this point we also discovered that our very own Vice-Captain was leading the Grand.

We made the youth centre look vaguely respectable before the UK Cadets came over for a takeaway in the evening. After finally getting a full day's shooting in, the team had now remembered why they were here, and everyone was looking forward to another full day's worth of shooting and sunshine. Fingers crossed!

### **Saturday 28 August**

Due to the slight misfortune of the less than pleasant weather earlier in the week, today was always going to be full on as everyone played catch-up in an attempt to finish the individual competitions before the planned team match on Sunday. First up was the Pool at 600 yards. A seven-way tie shoot for 50.8s was needed to decide the victor (including Ed Dickson, Sam Hunter and Tom Drysdale from the GBU25s), which was eventually won by Oscar Ryndziewicz of the UK Cadets with a very tidy 25.5. The team all let the Adj know what they thought of him converting a bull 5 sighter for a 25.4 as he rose sheepishly from the point. We then moved forward to 300 yards for the first of the four short range 2+15s which would conclude the Grand Aggregate. Another tie shoot was then required to decide the winner of the Shipstone with Dave Nuthall and Isobel putting in 75.12s – both got 25.5 in their first five shots (including Dave very honestly challenging one of his Vs for a lower score). Sudden death shots eventually gave Isobel her second win of the meeting. However the afternoon belonged to Jersey's Andrew Le Cheminant who won both the Gallichan at 500 yards and Macartney at 600 yards with 75.12 and 75.13 respectively. With only one shoot to go, Richard Benest had taken a two point lead at

the top of the Grand having not dropped a point at short range.

After an incredibly tasty barbecue at the range (organised by Peter Norman who along with his team in the kitchen had kept us fed with scores of bacon and egg rolls throughout the week), the team headed back to the youth centre and prepared for the final shoot of the Grand Aggregate and the team match the following day. The team was announced, and we all retreated to our luxurious camp beds for the night.

### **Sunday 29 August**

This morning we woke to the familiar sight of cloud and, with the weather from earlier in the week in mind, the team descended on the 200 yards firing point with as much waterproof clothing as they could find; luckily this was only a classic show of British pessimism as the rain never arrived. The winner of the Grand was already decided after the first target of the first detail finished with Richard Benest putting in an incredible 75.15, capping off a wonderful week's shooting to secure his unassailable lead and gaining a new Jersey Open record of not dropping a single point at short range. This was despite the Captain getting lost on the register card and trying to convince himself that Richard had finished after his 14th V bull – Richard still claims that this helped distract him just enough! With the final placings sorted, the GB Under 25s featured highly at the top, occupying six of the first eight places; second Sam Hunter, third Stu Young, fourth Sam Harley, sixth Georgie Ogden, seventh Dave Nuthall, eighth Harry Ball (including a cross shot!): this pleased the management greatly. Prizegiving followed and as well as the competitions won by Sam and Isobel, Sam Hunter won the 600 Yards Aggregate and the highest O class. The team's trophy haul was nowhere near the slightly less than modest one of Richard Benest but the Captain was happy with the individual performances nonetheless.

After an early egg and bacon roll lunch break, the team got their game faces on ready for the match against the Jersey Rifle Association in the afternoon. Just as the match started, the winds picked up, and 300 yards brought about the some of the worst buffeting that the team members (and several Jersey shooters) had ever experienced. Scores suffered – the GBU25 team of eight dropped 15 points, but luckily Jersey struggled just as much to go into the second range a point behind. Credit must go to the UK Cadets who were ahead of both of the senior teams at this stage of the match in their battle against the Jersey U19s. After a very honest and to-the-point team talk from the Captain, along with ideas from the Vice-Captain and other team members about how best to deal with the awkward conditions, the scores improved at 500 yards to put us four points ahead of Jersey going into the final range. We were by no means home and dry

yet, so after another discussion from the Captain about what was required, the GBU25s outscored the Jersey team again with fine performances from the coaches to take the match by six points with a score of 1169.139.

After presentations by the Captains and with thank yous and goodbyes said to our hosts, the team returned to base for debriefing and cocktails. A vague attempt was made to make a dent in the amount of packing and cleaning that was needed before leaving the next morning, but a very kind invitation by Richard Benest to go round to his house with the UK Cadets for some drinks was much more appealing. We returned to the youth centre sufficiently watered before heading out to St Helier to make the most of the final night of a very enjoyable tour. By late evening the team realised that they hadn't actually had dinner yet so some fine cuisine was sampled from the Burger Palace before the festivities were carried on late into the night. This proved too much for some, as a couple of the squad returned to the accommodation to find the Adjutant asleep on the floor of the bathroom!

### **Monday 30 August**

It's safe to say that the team were not overly impressed when the Captain and Adjutant woke them all up before 08:00 this morning! There were definitely some parallels to Tuesday morning but this time the recovery periods were not as generous. We actually managed to finish off the packing and make the youth centre spotless before heading off towards the port. When arriving at the port we were greeted by a very lively team of UK Cadets who decided that it would be a good idea not to pester the slumbering Under 25s too much in the queue for the ferry. As soon as we boarded, most of the team decided that more sleep was required and several members discovered that the spaces underneath the rows of chairs were much more comfortable to sleep in than the camp beds we had had throughout the week. Cue much bemusement from other passengers when spotting the Captain's size 13 feet protruding from under the seats! Luckily for the team members who didn't fancy a nap, the crossing was completely flat so the fragile states of mind were not made too much worse.

After departing the ferry, we had the standard kerfuffle with security before we fought our way through the bank holiday traffic and made it back to Bisley with the same number of people as we had left with a week before – always the sign of a successful tour! After a wash-up from the Captain and Vice, we said our goodbyes and headed off our separate ways looking forward to the mammoth sleep which was required and deserved by all. An incredibly enjoyable tour was had by everyone, and we eagerly await our next chance to travel overseas to participate in the sport that we love with the good friends that we have already made and with those we will inevitably make.





The GB Under 25 Team to Jersey.



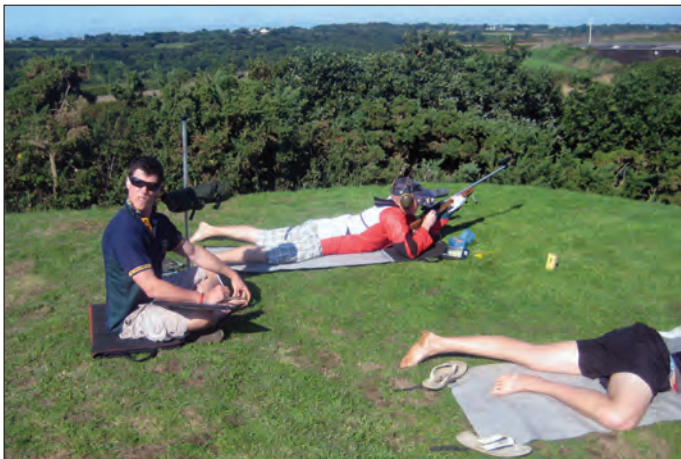
Some team members were happier to be on the ferry than others.



The excitement of range officering was just too much for some!



The Adj showing the rest of the team how the Mug of the Day hat should be worn.



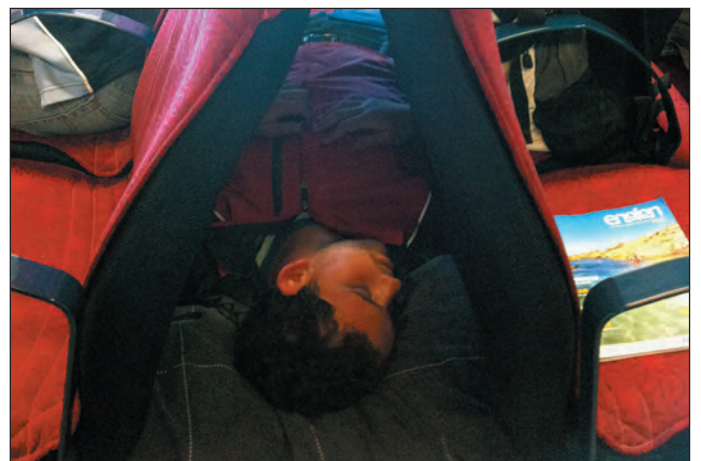
Tom Drysdale tie shoots whilst Stu focusses on register keeping!



The team in action at 500 yards.



Sam, Isobel and Sam with their winnings.



Students can sleep anywhere!



## JERSEY RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the recent Jersey Rifle Association Open Championships Jersey target rifle shooter Richard Benest became the first person ever not to drop a point at the shorter ranges of competition. In the 149th year of competition Benest achieved a maximum 675 over 13 individual courses of fire – a feat that has not been achieved despite the championships having attracted some of the world's best rifle shooters over the years. Benest scored a remarkable 135 consecutive bulls eyes.

For organisers what was meant to be a dress rehearsal for the 150th Open Championships during 2011 became a nightmare following almost continuous rain and very poor conditions during the first two and a half days of the Championships leading up to the August Bank Holiday weekend. With an entry of 75 competitors, including the Great Britain Under 25 squad who were using the event as a selection event for next year's world championships in Australia, organisers faced an uphill battle rearranging all the competitions so that the programme of shooting finished on the Sunday.

Wednesday morning began in overcast conditions with the Bisset competition at 200 yards which all the competitors manage to complete. After the completion of this range the deluge began and, with shooting suspended for an hour to review the conditions of the targets and let the rain ease off, all competitors were found to be enjoying the superb catering courtesy of Peter and Mary Norman. Following a three hour delay, shooting was suspended for the day with only one range out of the five scheduled for the day complete.

Thursday began much the same as Wednesday – overcast with strong south easterly winds – although swift progress was made with shooting commencing again at 200 yards for the Rive Challenge Cup. A fine maximum score of 50.10 by Victoria College and Jersey shooter Ed Egre won the trophy with four other shooters following with 50.9. Moving back to 300 yards for the Seymour Trophy saw India-bound Daniel Richardson fire a maximum 50.10 to win the trophy. There were thirteen scores of 50 with V bulls separating the competitors. During the 300 yards shoot it again began raining although the significant amount of rain made the organiser's task easier in that at lunch shooting was cancelled for the day.

The organisers were faced at the end of day two with only two competitions of the six scheduled completed, however, after some long deliberations by the match committee it was decided to run, where possible, matches concurrent with others to ensure that all competitions were completed.

Friday began with an early start for all competitors at the Les Landes range for shooting at 900 and 1000

yards. With exceptionally strong northerly winds and rain being directly in the face of the firers this was always going to be an exceptional challenge and it was obvious that the leader board would be juggled during these two shoots. The first and second details certainly bore the brunt of the difficult weather with many elite shooters commenting that the wind was unreadable and a complete lottery. One of the better scores from these two details was from Andrew Le Cheminant who managed to fire 14 consecutive bulls only for his last shot to miss the 8' by 6' target completely. With winds slowly receding and rain stopping it was always going to be a shooter on the last detail who would pick up the spoils and this proved to be true. At 900 yards Sam Harley from the Great Britain Under 25s scored the only 75 on the range to win the Sirett Bowl. At 1000 yards Alex Langley scored a 73.5 to win the Cotillard Trophy and together with a solid 73 at 900 yards take the Mallett Long Range Aggregate Trophy for the mornings shooting.

With shooting moving back to the sunshine at Crabbe late in the afternoon there was now enough time to shoot for the Mourant Challenge Cup at 500 yards which was won by Isobel Stevenson of the Great Britain Under 25s with a maximum 50.10. The last shoot of a very long day was to be the 600 yards section of the Le Riche Challenge Cup, the other stage having been fired concurrently with the Seymour the day before at 300 yards. With a plethora of maximum 35 scores it was left to V bulls to ascertain the winner. Daniel Richardson of Jersey won without any of his shots falling outside of the central bull for a maximum aggregate score of 70.14.





Saturday, although still windy, turned out to be pretty dry. The organisers by this time had decided to shoot throughout the day without breaks in order to complete the shooting schedule. The day commenced with two sighters and 10 counting shots at 600 yards for the GH Pool Trophy. Conditions being easy to read made high scoring the order of the day. A total of seven shooters scored a maximum 50.8 leading to a tie shoot for the trophy. Seventeen year old Oscar Ryndiewicz from the UK Cadets team held his nerve during the five tie shots to win the trophy ahead of Edward Dickson of Great Britain Under 25s.

Next on the day's programme was the Shipstone Challenge Cup at 300 yards and the first of the marathon 15 shot competitions. The windy conditions did not stop a number of maximum scores being obtained however, after scoring 75.12, Isobel Stevenson won after a tie shoot against her fellow Great Britain Under 25 team member David Nuthall.

At 500 yards with calmer weather visiting the range Andrew Le Cheminant and Richard Benest both scored 75.13. The subsequent tie shoot between the two saw Le Cheminant put all five of his shots into the bull with Benest dropping a shot into the four ring.

Le Cheminant's confidence was riding high after winning the previous competition and he managed to

outscore everyone with a 75.13 to win the Macartney Challenge Cup, the last shoot of Saturday.

The final shoot of the Open Championships on Sunday morning was for the Jesse Boot Challenge Bowl. The two foot diameter rose bowl is one of the most impressive and sought after trophies to be shot for in all Jersey Rifle Association competitions. All competitors were fancying their chances on a dull morning with good light at 200 yards to get a maximum score of 75 points.

With the range only large enough to accommodate 24 competitors at a time it was necessary to have three details to ensure all competitors shot. Those on the second and third details knew that they would have to pull out all the stops when Richard Benest scored a magnificent 75.15. At the same time Benest also won the Grand Aggregate and set a record of being the first shooter not to drop a single point at the Crabbe range over the Championships. Only Daniel Richardson could get close to Benest with 75.12 to take second place.

The Jersey Rifle Association would like to thank all the residents of both Crabbe and Les Landes, all volunteers who assisted with the running of the event and all the competitors for being understanding in very difficult conditions.

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Bisset Challenge Vase	2+7 at 200, 500 & 600	105.16	Richard Benest (JRA)
Le Riche Challenge Cup	2+7 at 300 & 600	70.14	Daniel Richardson (JRA)
Ann Street Brewery Agg	Agg of day 1	175.25	Richard Benest (JRA)
Rive Challenge Cup	2+10 at 200	50.10	Ed Egre (JRA)
Seymour Challenge Cup	2+10 at 300	50.10	Daniel Richardson (JRA)
Mourant Challenge Cup	2+10 at 500	50.10	Isobel Stevenson (GB U25)
GH Pool	2+10 at 600	50.08	Oscar Ryndiewicz (UK Cadets)
Crill Memorial Agg	Agg of day 2	200.32	Richard Benest (JRA)
Townsend Trophy	Agg of day 2 & Bisset	305.48	Richard Benest (JRA)
Sirett Bowl	2+15 at 900	75.09	Sam Harley (GB U25)
Cotillard Trophy	2+15 at 1000	73.05	Alex Langley (JRA)
Mallett Trophy	Long range agg	146.16	Alex Langley (JRA)
Jesse Boot Challenge Bowl	2+15 at 200	75.15	Richard Benest (JRA)
Shipstone Challenge Cup	2+15 at 300	75.12	Isobel Stevenson (GB U25)
Gallichan Challenge Cup	2+15 at 500	75.13	Andrew Le Cheminant (JRA)
Macartney Challenge Cup	2+15 at 600	75.13	Andrew Le Cheminant (JRA)
Wagstaffe Agg	200 yards Agg	160.31	Richard Benest (JRA)
MJ Amy Trophy	300 yards Agg	160.26	Mary Norman (JRA)
Stark Cup	500 yards Agg	160.25	Kate Le Quesne (JRA)
PE Amy Memorial Trophy	600 yards Agg	195.31	Sam Hunter (GB U25)
Upton	Agg of 2+15 shoots	300.50	Richard Benest (JRA)
Le Gresley Agg	Short range agg	675.107	Richard Benest (JRA)
Killian Bowl	Jersey resident	405.60	Richard Benest (JRA)
Axis Challenge Cup	Highest class O or T	812.103	Sam Hunter (GB U25)
Maj FAL De Gruchy Trophy	Agg of first 7 shots	209.28	Andrew Le Cheminant (JRA)
Jersey VIII	Jersey Championship	300.45	Richard Benest (JRA)
Grand Agg	Agg of all comps	815.116	Richard Benest (JRA)







# **ATHELINGS CENTENARY TOUR 2010**

### **Commandant**

Major JRW Postle      Blundell's School CCF

### **Adjutant**

2Lt CE Huxter      Epsom College CCF

### **Cadets**

LCpl JW Alexander	Wiltshire ACF
Sgt JW Ball	Epsom College
Cpl HCM Bennett	Gresham's School
Cpl AW Boyd	Cheltenham College
WO2 LAE Crowson	Sedbergh School
FS GW Davies	Gresham's School
WO2 AW Dowle	Epsom College
FS WBP Hutton	RGS Guildford
PO MJ Lidgitt	Clifton College
Cpl HP McCullough	2390 Sqn ATC
Sgt CS Milton	RGS Guildford
CSgt MJG Neal	Victoria College
Cpl ADP Poulter	Dorset ACF
Sgt MJ Purdy	Gresham's School
Sgt T Smith	Warwickshire ACF
FS CA Staples	2381 (Parkstone) Sqn ATC
WO2 NM Taylor	Somerset ACF
Cpl ER Torrance	Dollar Academy

In 1910 the first British Cadet Rifle Team set off by boat for Canada to compete at Connaught; 100 years later, the 2010 team set off from Heathrow this August on the 21st Century version of the tour. This was to be a very successful trip with the team returning victorious and having impressed everyone they met with their conduct on and off the range during the Centenary Athelings Tour.

The team had already had enjoyed some stunning performances in the Imperial Meeting; Matthew Purdy won the Wimbledon; Holly McCullough finished ninth in the Queen's Final and four others had qualified. We had enjoyed a splendid dinner in the Pavilion to mark the Athelings Centenary and arrived back at Bisley a few days later ready for our adventure. The check-in and flight went very smoothly (with help from our man at British Airways, Peter Turner) and we arrived in Canada on schedule. After introductions and administration, we spent the next week on our touring phase where we visited many interesting sites such as Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Kingston penitentiary museum and the local Waterpark 'Calypso'. At the historic Fort Henry, Athelings dressed in authentic red woollen army jackets and watched 18th Century drill. We visited the Royal Canadian Air Force Museum at Trenton followed by the Parachute Regiment's warehouse where military parachutes are packed. We made a trip to Niagara Falls, where we went on the obligatory Maid of The Mist after which a surprising number of the team kept the blue plastic rain coats to become wet weather gear for shooting! The team got very wet jet-boating, then spent a day in Toronto,

followed by white water rafting in the Canadian wilderness: it was a super tour.

On our return to Connaught, Matthew Purdy was voted to be Captain, with Nathaniel Taylor as first Vice-Captain and Jack Ball as second Vice-Captain. We were then issued the Canadian C12 rifles (RPA Quadlocks) and spent time fitting, cleaning, adding butt spacers and lots of other extremely exciting stuff. That afternoon we experienced our first big storm which put paid to the Commandant's plan for a dry firing exercise on Alpha Range. We had the rest of the afternoon for R&R, with plenty of time to freshen up and get ready for Boston Pizza in order to celebrate Matt Purdy's 18th birthday. All-you-can-eat pizza was the order of the day, plus a Dairy Queen ice-cream cake courtesy of our Escort Officer, Captain Antonio.

Once the shooting began in earnest we were delighted to find that we would be using RWS throughout the Cadet Meeting and the DCRA, giving the Athelings a chance to compete on more even terms with the hand-loaders. It was ferociously hot for the Cadet Meeting, but despite this, many members of the team produced some excellent scores with Matt Neal, Matthew Purdy, Tom Smith and Will Hutton each winning one of the matches.

The Rex Goddard Match Stage 2 took place on the Thursday. We were quietly confident going into this match, as we already had a six point lead from the first stage at Bisley and the team once again put in a great performance although after 500 yards we only had a narrow lead of just one point. The arrival of the senior GB team provided some welcome support and more high scores at 600 yards meant that we went on to victory, taking the match by just three points, putting in a record score in the process. After a speedy lunch, we went straight to the prizegiving where the team were presented with the trophy by Rex Goddard himself. Rex had travelled out especially as it was the Centenary tour and his presence did much to boost team morale; it was super to see him taking the salute at the Canadian Cadet Graduation parade the next day.

Four of the team kept their C12s for the DCRA Meeting, which started with a delayed Ottawa Regiment match in which 72 was the score achieved by almost everyone except Will Hutton (75.8) and Murray Lidgitt (74.5).

On the second practice day before the start of the Grand Aggregate, it was the 500 yards and 900 metres Gooderham with the Commandant finishing 22nd and Andy Poulter the highest cadet in 26th. After the 900 metres Army and Navy (in which Matthew Purdy scored 74 to finish fourth) the team went to the excellent DCRA 'Meet and Greet' dinner and mingled with the Great Britain team.

The Sunday was a complete wash-out with heavy rain and lightning causing the competitions to be cancelled (including the first two Grand shoots); however, the morning was well spent with the cadets sitting in the lounge area and watching 'The Hurt Locker'. As much as we'd love to reassure our readers that this rifle team wasn't this lazy for the next five hours, we're afraid film-watching did set the tone for the entire day. Well, except for the touch rugby game in the rain and standing water and the brutal, yet entirely necessary, dunking of dry innocent bystanders in brown, foot-deep puddles; the Canadians looked on amazed!

On Monday we each fired four relays at 300 and 800 metres and 500 and 600 yards. In the evening, we went to the Great Britain team's hotel where we were greeted with chips and pop and we then tucked into copious amounts of pizza. The GB team hospitality was superb and, after the feast, the team descended on the hotel pool, filming the whole thing on Nat's über-water-proof-HD-camera-machine.

On the Tuesday we had a high and a low when it came to shooting. On the plus side, the Athelings as a team excelled in the Letson (Queen's I), where the performance of the Athelings almost matched that of the GB team, with five Athelings plus the Commandant scoring 105s. However, in the afternoon we were confronted by the infamous Alexander of Tunis match – known as the Corporation of Canada!

The following day it was the President's Match (Queen's II for all) and some outstanding results were achieved with four Athelings (Jack A, William, Gareth and Tom) and the Commandant subsequently getting through to the Governor General's Final; this was impressive indeed considering that the cut off was with four points off out of 255 with a strong international field competing. The day was then rounded off with the GB team reception, which the Athelings were invited to; here we had glasses of non-alcoholic punch thrust into our hands in good spirit. The evening was enjoyable, with toasts being made by Jane Messer (GB Captain) and others. The evening was capped off with a team meeting to decide the squad for the all important team match for the following day: the Michael Faraday.

There followed an early morning for some, with A-level results becoming available at 2am; nearly all were successful in obtaining their required grades for a university place and so the Athelings were prepared for the Michael Faraday, brimming with confidence over their certified intelligence. We were delighted to welcome Lt Col Nigel Suffield-Jones who had flown over to support us in his last year as the Athelings Honorary Organiser. In the afternoon the team assembled behind the firing point and waited while the rolling black clouds assembled overhead accompanied by thunder claps and forked lightning. We were swiftly told to race back to our classroom and keep our equipment dry as the rain pelted down outside. We waited, watching the downpour until we learnt that one of the distances would be cancelled and we would have to eat before shooting at 500 and 600 yards. We therefore had the unusual experience of eating the Michael Faraday team dinner at 16:30 before the shoot (it was an excellent steak by the way). The entire team shot exceptionally well at 600 yards dropping just five points in very difficult conditions compared to the Canadians 25 – a very dominant performance. At 500 yards the team carried on as before and had we shot all three distances we are sure it would have been a record score. Much credit must go to the coaches Jack, Gareth and Chris; special mention also to Angus Boyd who shot two 35s for a 70.6 using his middle finger as his trigger finger was injured!

The last shoot of the Grand Aggregate was the Gatineau which was 2ss and 15 to count at 900 metres. Lunch came and passed very quickly as we had to get back on the range promptly for the U25 International Long Range Match. Our team looked strong despite being an U19 team versus an U25 Canadian team. Andy Poulter stepped into the coaching chair to join Jack Alexander; they coached very well indeed and we were up after 800 metres. We carried on strongly at 900 and picked up a few to win by nine points – yet another success for the Athelings! In the evening it was cinema for most of us; but for the Officers, Captain



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and the Vices there was a posh dinner at Chateau Laurier in No 1s to celebrate the MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate winner, Kent Reeve from the USA.

The following day it was the Great Britain Under 25 Short Range Match. The match consisted of a team of eight shooters, two coaches and two plotters, all under the captaincy of Natty Taylor. We were joined by three of the U25 eligible members of the GB team (Alex Bryson, Henry Day and Steph Ward). We started off well at 300 yards where we managed to gain a six point lead over the Canadians. Due to the indomitable wind coaching at 500 and 600, the Athelings kept their lead throughout the match, which led to a fantastic win for us as GB U25/ Athelings.

After packing and cleaning all the rifles, Jack Alexander, William Hutton, Gareth Davies, Tom Smith and Major Postle prepared themselves for the Governor General's Final. A difficult shoot of 2 and 15 at 800 and 900 metres in wet and changing wind conditions tested our judgement, however, some good scores were still put in with the Commandant finishing a place ahead of Gareth, who was a place ahead of Tom. After the Final, it was a quick change in time for the DCRA prizegiving where the Athelings collected the Michael Faraday Trophy and U25 Long and Short Range medals. Tom Smith also collected two cadet prizes, as did Gareth who was also the highest Atheling in the Grand Aggregate and the Governor

General's Final. Jack Alexander was awarded the Suffield-Jones Tray for the best coach.

It was then three days' relaxation in the Canadian wilderness in Algonquin Park where the team camped, canoed, cycled and sat around the camp fire (or made bows and arrows).

Our last day was in Montreal before changing to head to the airport. After bidding a fond farewell to our superb Canadian Escort Officer, it left one final task to complete before boarding the plane: a final toast to the success of the unbeaten 2010 Centenary team. Seven or so hours later an only mildly-dishevelled team emerged from Heathrow Terminal 5 to be greeted by Nigel Suffield-Jones and Steve Ellis. We boarded the coach and returned to Bisley for the final farewells after a tremendous tour.

We would like to thank all those who helped make this splendid trip possible, especially our hosts in Canada, and Simon Fraser and the team at Derby Lodge. Special mention and tribute must be paid to Nigel Suffield-Jones for all his work for the last 16 years as Honorary Organiser of the Athelings; he has been an outstanding guardian of the Athelings and has devoted many hours to ensuring the smooth running of the tours since 1994. On behalf of all the former Athelings and their officers we would like to sincerely thank him for all that he has done for us.

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# BISLEY GENERAL MEETING – 21 JULY 2010

## **Speech by Dr Robin Pizer, Chairman**

I welcome you all to this Bisley General Meeting, which is taking place at 21:00 in the Umbrella Tent on Wednesday 21 July 2010.

I would like to start off by saying a few things about what has happened in the last few days and then comment on four items before opening the meeting to all your questions. The notice of tonight's meeting was in the Summer Journal, the Agenda is on Glynn's notice board and I hope you are all happy to take both the notice and the Agenda as read.

*Agreed.*

Thank you. We had, of course, our AGM on Friday 11 June and a copy of the proceedings is on our website and the Minutes are available upon request from Glynn's office. There is also a copy in the Front Office reception.

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

Now I move on to the competitions.

We started with the Service Rifle events, which were supported by overseas teams from Australia, Canada, the Falkland Islands, New Zealand and Oman.

The winners of Her Majesty the Queen's Medals were: for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines, Lt D Anderson RN; the Territorial Army, L/Cpl A Chapman; the Army, WO2 M Cook; the Royal Air Force, Sqn Ldr LF Smith RAF.

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

The Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting was very successful; there were 663 cadets from 131 teams, including the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team and the Australian Army Cadet Rifle Team, present. The winning team was 126 (City of Derby) Sqn ATC with a score of 952 and 63 V bulls and Sgt C Atherton of B Coy Durham ACF won the Bossom, the individual prize, with a score of 248 and 20 V bulls. The prizes were given by Air Chief Marshall Sir John Cheshire KBE, CB, FRAeS, RAF, the President of CCRS.

At the Schools' Meeting there were 49 teams, from 47 schools, including two new schools, Royal School

Armagh and Pate's Grammar School, and there were 560 cadets. Thirty-seven of those schools participated in the Ashburton Shield which was won by Epsom College with a score of 763.42, beating Gresham's School into second place by one point. Epsom also won the Garry Trophy and the prizes were given by Lt Gen Sir Robert Fulton KBE.

The Historic Arms weekend was again run by David Gregory (Match Director), Phil Wikeley (Staffing Officer) and David Mumford ably assisted by volunteers to whom our thanks. There were 204 competitors, a further increase on the number in 2009, who fired 829 match cards over 98 different matches and the good weather helped to swell the number of day entries.

There was a small increase in the number of competitors shooting at the Imperial Pistol and Gallery Rifle Meeting. Team and aggregate entries remained obstinately the same, however, considerably more medal cards were shot. Overall takings have increased, figures are still with accounts and there were 1,130 individual entries. The number of school cadets and teams competing on Melville Range was up for the second year running due to evening range opening on Monday.

The Hopton was won by Angus McLeod, beating Jim McAllister by four points, on 987 with 106 V bulls.

The Elcho was won by Scotland beating England by 19 points and I am told it is 30 years since Scotland has won twice in a row.

Overall Target and Match Rifle has shown 1326 entries just 14 up on last year and 252 of those are from overseas, 36 up on last year. The Grand Aggregate has had 1043 entries which is up by ten on the preceding year and we have seen teams and individuals from Australia, Canada, the Falklands, France, Germany, Guernsey, Guyana, Japan, Jersey, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. A total of 375 under 25s were present including 287 under 21s. The oldest competitor was John Wright at 87 and the youngest was Cadet Harry Swindon who will be 14 on Sunday.

We wish all the best on Friday to Jeremy Thompson with his Kolapore team and Sandy Walker with his Under 25 team and we wish Jane Messer every success in Canada next month.

Now to my thank yous. To Mick Barr of the Bisley V Club for holding their annual long range shoot. To our Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century, Doug Watt on Stickledown and Chris Webb on Melville. To our Chief Butt Officers, Peter Allis on Century and Paul Hendrie on Stickledown. To our Range Officers



and our Stats Staff; to all our volunteers; to Jeremy Staples and his team of permanent staff; to all of those who have run competitions; to SO1 Lt Col Paterson and Maj Peter Cotterill and their team at the ARA, who produced military range teams; to the 2 SMIs who gave up leave to help run events.

Last Friday the NRA was presented with three gifts from the DCRA and the Canadian Rifle Team to mark our 150th Anniversary. There was a generous cheque for £600 towards the Clock Tower Appeal, and a framed photograph of the shoe tree that once grew at Connaught Ranges together with a plaque. I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their gifts.

*Applause.*

There are four topics I would like to talk about briefly as things have moved on since the AGM in June. They are finance, firearms legislation, the Olympics and reduction of bureaucracy.

Firstly on finance. As many of you will know, Bruce Pollard was taken ill in April, and a few days after the AGM in June he resigned as our Director of Finance. We are currently advertising for a replacement and expect to interview in early August.

In the meantime we have been relying on temporary help, and I would like to thank Michael Blythe, our previous Finance Manager, for all the assistance he has been able to give us. Additionally, our Treasurer has been performing a rather more executive role than would normally be the case.

As a result of this hiatus, many of the rental and other invoices were sent out much later than normal. I would urge you to pay these invoices as soon as possible as it has given rise to a cash flow problem requiring us to seek a temporary increase to our bank overdraft facility.

One beneficial side effect is that we are learning much more about some of the detail than before, in many areas, and we should be in a much better position when it comes to setting pricing and budgets for 2011.

One area where this is particularly so is the various camp charges, which we incur and recharge, and which we know is of concern to many of you. NSC will be undertaking a complete review of this area to see how these gross charges can be minimised, and how they should most fairly be recharged, and we hope that a number of stakeholders will be involved in this review. We already have some volunteers, but if any of you would like to be involved could you please see Jeremy Staples.

Secondly on firearms legislation I have asked members with expertise in firearms and firearms legislation and its impact on clubs and individuals and who can make time available over the next year to contact the NRA. Currently the various shooting organisations

are working through the British Shooting Sports Council to anticipate proposals for changes to firearms law and its administration and to prepare reasoned responses. Members of both Houses of Parliament are being briefed and a further opportunity will arise on Friday during the Vizianagram match. It seems possible that changes will be made and it is essential that we are ready to put our case.

Thirdly on the Olympics, the new Government is committed to the use of Woolwich for the shooting events. If there were some last minute change of heart, this would impact very severely on our use of Bisley Camp in 2012. This is because the Security Authorities wish to take over control of all Olympic sites two months before the Games start and not release them until one month after they finish. In the worst case scenario this would mean the closure of Bisley Camp from mid-May to early October. In addition a World Cup event will be held in the spring to test the shooting facilities and train Olympic staff and that will also cause disruption. While some compensation would be offered, it is not clear whether it would be sufficient to cover the loss of income of the NRA, clubs and businesses that operate on Camp.

Fourthly on the reduction of bureaucracy, 30 years ago I became honorary secretary of a club with 1200 members. I did that job for eight years. Today five people are required to do the same job. I recently heard that one club has decided to test the competency of each of its members on an annual basis. This is a quite unnecessary overreaction. The officers of small and medium sized clubs will know whether their members are competent and remain competent. New members who are already members of other clubs will have current competency certificates and their behaviour can very easily be observed. Newcomers to the sport do, of course, need proper instruction in safe behaviour concerning the use of firearms. The MoD wanted the bureaucracy reduced to a minimum so please do bear this in mind.

During this meeting I have had discussions with some of you over other bureaucratic problems due to the way the NRA implements some processes. I would like to see a working group of club representatives and NRA staff talking through the problems that are occurring and recommending ways in which the burden can be reduced. The burden may be worse for non-Bisley clubs so two groups may be needed.

The NRA has only had limited success in helping clubs to work co-operatively together to maximize the reduced amount of range time available to civilians on MoD ranges. Feedback from clubs appears to be sporadic or non-existent. Please tell us what is working and what is not. Without this knowledge it is difficult to help. I would like to see an annual report detailing successes and problems with each MoD range used by NRA clubs. Only with this

information can one go back to MoD or Landmarc to try to ameliorate the situation.

That is enough from me and I invite questions and comments from the floor. Please wait for the roving microphone to be brought to you and give your name and club. Thank you.

*Applause.*

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Deitra Kimpton – Mars & Minerva Club**

First of all, I've had a new nickname attached to myself recently, its called Loo Lady, and I actually wanted to come to the Umbrella Tent Meeting tonight to dispel that term. I do take it as a term of endearment but I would rather not be referred to that way. The main reason is that I took 350 photographs last year of everything on this camp, and yes, there were a lot of pictures of some very dire looking facilities when it came to ablution blocks. But there is an awful lot of other things out there that need to be dealt with and they have got absolutely nothing to do with toilets and as a matter of fact they have got absolutely nothing to do with the NRA or the NSC, they have got to do with us. You drive into camp today and you drive by all the tents that have gone up in front of Canada House and in front of the NSRA building and you look at the detritus that is rolling like tumbleweed. The NRA and the NSC didn't put it there, we did, and that's the collective we. We are all members here. The last time I looked, this is the Imperial Meeting, the people that are on this camp are either shooters, families of shooters, or working towards helping shooters, like my husband and myself in our business, or they are staff in the NRA offices, but everybody on this camp at this time is actually in some way connected to shooting. So how's all this garbage appearing on the lawns, and the beer bottles in the mornings and everything else like that and expecting the NRA to pick all this up. Why? I am asking you, as the membership. Why? I think we should be out there picking it up. It doesn't matter who put it there, do we want the camp to be what it could be? I mean, I think the NRA has taken a step forward. OK there's a lot to go and I don't begrudge that, I mean Jeremy knows that I still think there's a lot to be done, but a step forward has been taken. They have made great inroads in doing two of the ablution blocks up, I've been around to see them and they look absolutely fabulous. OK they're not perfect, there's still a few things that need to be done, but boy are they a step forward from what we had so far. But I also heard a very sad story from one of the shooters that somebody has actually gone into one of those brand new ablution blocks recently, I don't know whether this is true but Jeremy might be able to substantiate, and actually defaced the walls with human excrement. That really doesn't fill me with great warmth as a member of the NRA and I think we, as a collective, need to start doing something about it.

They're starting to do their part, we need to start doing our part. They've got a Clerk of Works now which is a step forward, you go into the main office, you go into the NRA armoury, you get really prompt service and they're really working hard to do that customer service thing so I think all of that's very positive on their side. Now we need to do some positives from the membership side so when you pass by trash on the road or whatever, don't pass by, pick it up and put it in the litter box. You see someone throwing stuff, I think we need to stop them and say "Oi, excuse me we're not tolerating that any more". We show a zero tolerance on what's taking place on the garbage that's rolling around on the camp. The other thing is, you know those 350 photographs. There were also some of the clubhouses and I think I have spoken about that before, I think I spoke at the AGM, and they still need some work done on them and that's not the NRA, that's not the NSC, that's us the NRA members. Some of the clubhouses are making great strides ahead in making them more attractive and fixing up everything and not making it look so sad. Wood falling off etc etc. I'm not naming names, because that's not fair, but I think we all know the clubhouses that need a bit of tender loving care and the ones that are actually putting on a really good show particularly when we have got all these visitors literally from all over the world on our camp right now. I don't really know how to finish off; I don't know what to say about the problem we are facing right now with the way I see the rubbish and everything taking place. One final thing on a totally different note that I do want to say, for those of you that actually missed the presentation last night, it was a bit sad as John Deane did an excellent presentation on giving some history of the start of the NRA at Wimbledon and I was really disappointed, as a member, that there were only about ten people showed up and you really missed something and I wanted that for the record so it shows up in writing that he did a very good job and you all missed a fabulous presentation and I thank you for listening to me right now. Thank you.

*Applause.*

### **Chris Law – North London Rifle Club**

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to echo some of Deitra's comments on the domestic front. For several years I've banged the drum on if it were possible for the NRA to provide a launderette facility on the camp and I was deflected by saying that there are local launderette facilities in Brookwood so why should we install them? The simple fact is that we have overseas visitors who don't have transport available and may be here for several weeks and it is for their benefit, as well as our own members, that such an installation would be extremely helpful I believe. We also have a large contingent of markers on camp and I wonder if you could tell me when they are likely to be able to get to a launderette in Brookwood?



The second point I would like to comment on is that we have been fortunate to have the supply of RUAG ammunition again this year. There may or may not be some faults with it but I would ask you to consider in future years the use of alternative methods of providing ammunition, including handloaded, to a prescribed specification. I believe that as costs are rising for shooters in general this is something that should be borne in mind and is quite successfully used on other continents.

The third and final more serious point I would like to end on is that I was disappointed to find that some target frames, particularly on Century butts are in an improper state of repair. They have been in place for about twenty years now and I was not one of the General Council members who was in support of using a replacement of the old high frame system, some of us supported the cantilever system in use on Short Siberia but there were working reasons why that might not have been appropriate. These very substantial frames on Century in particular have not been properly maintained to the standard that you would find on military ranges. They have accumulated detritus, grease and dust and what have you to the extent that when I went to the butts on Monday afternoon I could hardly physically move one of the frames that had been in my butts during my range officer work that morning. For a butt marker to have to pull this frame up to two hundred times in the morning and in the afternoon is really quite beyond comprehension. You may also be aware that the marker compliment during the Meeting is approximately 35% female and 65% male and in my particular butt on that morning there were seven females and five males working twelve targets. What I believe may have to be done is a long term process of reconstitution of these frames and it may be that our own maintenance staff are in such short supply that it may not be able to be done in house and I would ask you to consider, if necessary, bringing in a task force to get these remedied for next year in particular. I was disappointed to talk to some of the St John's Ambulance Brigade who have been here this week and they have dealt with strain injuries from markers which may come under the heading of repetitive strain injury under Health and Safety terms. So I would ask that this be addressed as a matter of some concern and hope it may be remedied at least by next year. Thank you.

*Applause.*

#### **Chairman**

I think I would just like to pick up on one point you made there and this was the future for the ammunition. We do have a contract with RUAG for five years and this has seen the first year so we have another four years to go and if we were to do something along the lines you're suggesting then we would need to get our act together pretty soon so that when we came to

the situation of having to re-negotiate a contract we would know what our options were. So I just make that point only.

#### **Chris Law**

Thank you for that update but I would like to respond by saying that a number of our overseas visitors have expressed disquiet in the past with the supply of ammunition to the extent that they have said that they would just not come back to Britain again, this may change in the light of the use of RUAG but I am disappointed that the image of Bisley can be tarnished by the fundamental machinery that people are coming here to use. If I travel halfway round the world and pay however many dollars of your currency only to get an unsatisfactory supply.

#### **Chairman**

I guess I ought to say another word on the ammo. So far as I am aware the RUAG we received last year, and we have been using this year, has been considered significantly better than anything that RG ever produced.

*Applause.*

So I take it from your clapping that by and large you agree with that statement. Thank you.

#### **Ian Brown – Wandsworth Rifle Club**

I didn't plan to speak tonight but I do agree that the current RUAG ammunition is very good but the decreased entry in view of the very significant milestone of 150 years is probably indicative that people cannot afford to pay 75 pence per round for ammunition and the penalty is caused by our insistence in using an obsolete calibre, and I have banged on for years and many people have had a lot of amusement out of it, in that the last five Palma Matches could have been shot with 5.56mm ammunition, probably the best military ammunition that could have been obtained on the open market, for about half the price we are paying for this RUAG stuff and younger people, I don't mean the wealthy university, public school people who can afford to pay 75 pence per round through their parents, I am talking about ordinary people who want to start target rifle shooting. You are looking at a decreasing market apart from age, people with hair colour like this, I am talking about people who just cannot get into the sport because it is not worth it compared with air rifle pellets, .22" ammunition for small-bore, you cannot seriously think that you can pay 75 pence a round and expect a mass market, "it aint gonna work" and you are looking at a decreasing market. It's all very well for all you wealthy people here, to stand here, to sit here and think that's all right we can have wonderfully accurate ammunition. You might have to put up with a slightly less accurate ammunition without flyers but without absolutely supreme accuracy you have now.

If you are continuing your sport you had better think seriously about whether you want to continue with what is the equivalent of .577" or .303" because that is now 7.62mm: you had better be looking a little bit further ahead. Thank you.

*Applause.*

#### **Ken Shorthouse – British Snipers Club**

A lot of you here are probably unaware that the McQueen's shoot goes on throughout this meeting. It does make a lot of money but this year there's been people coming up to our table and turning away because of the price of the ammunition. I do disagree with the comment earlier on that RUAG is not as good as RG. In our case we are using standard service issue weapons and standard issue ammunition ie RG. The amount of people and the amount of money you have lost because people are turning up over there Mr Chairman and being told how much they've got to pay £16. We are now in a situation where if somebody turns up and pays their £16, and there is one mishap these men out there shooting, or the shooters and the ladies out there want the best butt markers and the best ROs we've got. One hitch and there's a reshoot – the person who is firing is then given another twelve rounds free of RUAG ammunition at that kind of money. There is one competitor out there who put in a protest three times, so at the end of the day, Mr Chairman, it would be nice to see how many shooters shot and how much ammunition was used to see whether it's viable or not to go back to RG. I think you're wasting a lot of money in this particular discipline of shooting. Thank you Mr Chairman.

*Applause.*

#### **Chairman**

As I understand it we can't go back to RG because RG will not, or Radway Green will not, sell their ammunition any more to civilian organisations so yes we could go to something cheaper and there are cheaper ammunitions on sale through the NSC and maybe, after this meeting is over, we need to look at the things you have talked about and decide what would be the best thing to do for the future. So thank you.

#### **Emma Nuttall – Cheltenham College**

Hi, I am sorry to backtrack a little bit but I do feel quite passionate about a subject that has already been brought up with regard to the targets. I have two sisters who are markers and it breaks my heart to see them at the end of the day and how physically drained and exhausted they actually are. I have done a couple of days marking myself and I can honestly say, and I am quite a fit person, that after one day of marking I ached for about two or three days afterwards. The minimum age for people to mark is sixteen so down in the butts we have got sixteen year olds, and some of them are only about yea big and I have heard quite

a few shooters be quite cruel about the markers. Generally there are some who are lazy little sods but there are some who are working their socks off and trying to pull down targets that just do not want to move. I'm not going to disclose my weight but when I did mark, the one day over Easter, I had to use my entire body weight to pull one of those targets down and my little sister was literally hanging off it and jiggling about until the target came down. So just giving compliments to a marker, who is even just above average, does enough to boost their motivation to make them mark a little harder but genuinely they are working so hard and those targets are so stiff and so incredibly hard to pull down that they are doing their best and I really do think that something should be done about those targets because there are young kids there and you are not going to get grown men who are really physically strong down there doing this. The market for markers is young students who want to make a bit of cash over the summer. Having marked out in the USA, where you can pull the target down with your pinkie and put it back up again and mark it on the bounce, I just think that as the shooting Mecca of the world we are really falling down on that and there are quite a few comments about how dilapidated the facilities do appear in comparison to other countries, in particular the targets and the toilets. Thank you very much.

*Applause.*

#### **Ken Shorthouse**

I do apologise Mr Chairman for my interruption before that young lady spoke. I would like to go back to what I was saying about the ammunition in the McQueen. There's been a discussion amongst the shooters out there that the actual whole McQueen's shoot goes back to your own loads or home loaded ammunition because we are seeing the lack of use of this ammunition at this price. Thank you Mr Chairman.

#### **Bill Richards – Surrey Rifle Association**

I am distinctly worried about the state of the range, on Stickledown in particular, the cover on mainly the left is such that the NRA has been compelled to change something that has been in place for all the time I would imagine that the Queen's has been shot here, namely the Queen's Prize Draw for the Final, which is reflective of how bad the cover is on the left hand side and how much shelter it gives to competitors on that end and the range which is frankly unfair at this point. We had a fire earlier this year but regretfully it did not take out the left hand cover. Please could we endeavour either to make sure that the Surrey Fire Brigade are told to, maybe, basically put in a serious firebreak between the copse, which is inevitably going to stay there, and basically raze the thing to the ground by fire or preferably by going in there with some severe bulldozers and just clear that left hand



side because if we continue to let it grow the range will become increasingly unfair. As the person in charge of administering the squadding for the NRA I can absolutely state that I have had to avoid using Range 0 for the very obvious reason that is simply unfair to competitors. If they're on Range 0 as they will be in the Queen's Final and the George's Final, any one who gets to the George's Final this year on Range 0 having gone through with 75 will be quids in if the wind is coming from the left because frankly they will not have to change their sights and will be using half the wind that the people on Range 4 will. It's got to be dealt with.

*Applause.*

#### **Rae Wills – NRA General Council and Army**

I just want to return to the ammunition question. I am a great believer in the Meeting of the common ammunition. But we obviously need to keep that under review. To put the other side of the coin, I have seen no evidence that those countries that allow handloading have increased their membership or their competitions at any improvement over our status. If anything it has been the other way. Because if you introduce handloading you get another competition cost, it's not the cost of the ammunition it's the cost of the kit that produces the ammunition. In a situation where your target rifle costs several thousand pounds plus your scope and everything else you then add a further cost on of the neck reamers and the special presses and the special dies and whatever, there's another couple of thousand pounds goes out the window. So you have got that to think about.

#### **Karen Robertson – RAFTRC**

Hello, Karen Robertson, I work at the NRA so I don't get paid very well! I would just like to say that I've shot in several countries around the world which allow handloads and the main thing that you find in these countries is that they have no cadets, no youth shooting at all, because they cannot afford to handload, they do not know how to handload and allowing handloads does put off the youth of each country. Currently, in this Imperial Meeting, at least a quarter of our competitors are under 25. Now those under 25s are not going to come if they have to handload because they won't feel competitive against those people who can handload and for that reason I think allowing handloads is a very bad thing, especially when we have got RUAG, which is such absolutely brilliant ammunition. Thank you.

*Applause.*

#### **Graham King – Ibis & Kent**

I am an F Class shooter and I lived in Australia for some sixteen years where we handloaded and I have been back in England for eight years and have been an F Class shooter. My equipment for reloading is

something in the region of about £100 to £150. I don't think I can load .308" ammunition any better than the superb RWS that is on sale today. It costs me 50 pence to load a round and to me, a pensioner, that makes an enormous difference. Thank you.

*Applause.*

#### **Ken Shorthouse**

Mr Chairman, once again the difference between a handload and the ammunition issued was demonstrated by a gentleman up there with F Class in St George's I today, the person that won got that score with 15 V bulls and with handloaded ammunition, done with Lee Loaders, for those of you who know what they are, probably the cheapest dies and products on the market and the group was very tight so I cannot see what the gentleman says about the thousands of pounds it takes to reload, it doesn't. Thank you Mr Chairman.

*Applause.*

#### **Charles Kennish – Isle of Man & Middlesex**

You said earlier that the overdraft was quite high, how many thousands of empty cases have been sent back for reloading?

#### **Chairman**

The cases, yes, they are a problem for us. We have tried very hard to sell the cases that we have collected from RUAG and we are continuing to try very hard to sell them but we have not sold any significant quantities so far. It clearly worries me, and the Treasurer and the Trustees and we decided, when we produced the accounts, to write down the value of the cases to 5 pence rather than the 10 pence that we were handing back to people who returned their cases. Whether we will get more than 5 pence each when we do come to sell them remains to be seen. It is a matter of considerable concern to us and will no doubt affect the way we price the ammo in the future.

#### **Charles Kennish**

Wasn't it stated originally that you were selling the cases back to RUAG to be reloaded?

#### **Chairman**

Iain would you like to answer? You probably know the details more than I do.

#### **Iain Robertson – Chairman Shooting Committee**

No, we never intended selling the cases back to RUAG. RUAG's quality control insurance process would not accept fired cases back into their manufacturing. What we had intended to do was to sell them on to a secondary reloader who would produce, for want of a better word, plinking ammunition that we could sell at prices comparative to RG, and turn a profit on the deal. Unfortunately because of the time that it took us to put the deal in place with RUAG, for a variety of

contractual reasons, the provisional deal we had with the supplier to do just that fell through and we have not yet managed to put together an alternative deal.

**Charles Kennish**

Well that's what the indication was in regard to RUAG that they would be sent back there,

**Iain Robertson**

Excuse me, that's simply not true, it was never said.

**Charles Kennish**

Well, it may not have been said but we were told it's what was happening. It was the impression we had.

**John Carmichael**

If I might make a point about reloading returned cases. It has been my experience in my business that the worst thing you can do is actually ask people to send the cases back to you in bulk and trust that what they have sent back to you are safe to return. I have experienced over the years, despite my best efforts in issuing ammunition in particular plastic blocks of new cases and asking people to return those cases so that I can reload them once only safely, people have taken it upon themselves to shove their rubbishy old ruined cases inside my packs and claim their money back thinking they are being very clever and keeping some of their unfired rounds and that has left me in a position where I could, if I had not checked each cartridge as it came out, with a head stamp for every one, have found myself with some ruined cases being loaded on my machinery and finding myself in Court over an accident that would occur and there is no way in which the NRA can put themselves in that position by actually sending cases back to RUAG and that's why RUAG won't take them back. In fact RUAG can make a new case for less than they can rework an old case. I didn't actually come up here to talk about that but it is something that I do know something about.

*Applause.*

*Interruption from Charles Kennish*

**John Carmichael**

I didn't hear that I'm sorry. I don't believe anyone should be led to believe what you are saying. I've never heard it mentioned at all and I don't think anybody else has. Sorry but it hasn't been said.

Anyway I want to talk about what I've come to talk about just quickly and it was raised by another person earlier on that we were using an obsolete calibre. Sorry we're not. We are using the most commonly used calibre for target shooting worldwide. It is the cartridge that is made in the greatest quantity after the .223", the .223" is made in the largest quantities sold for military purposes and no military ammunition is particularly accurate. Plus of course the fact that in this country we cannot actually buy Radway Green

ammunition because they will not sell to the civilian market at all and, in fact, .308" worldwide is the main target shooting cartridge and it will remain so and it is in fact the cheapest of all the cartridges made to buy. For example, those who buy from LAPUA, and have looked at LAPUA's prices in recent times, will find that it costs more to buy a LAPUA .223" cartridge than it does to buy a .308" simply because of the sheer huge volumes that are made worldwide. On the matter of handloading, I handload, I handload in F Class and I do all sorts of fancy things to try and make my cartridge and my rifle shoot better which it does. And that does cost me quite a lot of money to do if I want to be very competitive and we have a lot of people who will come here to be very competitive and they will spend a lot of money on their handloading equipment which a lot of the other shooters won't want to do and can't afford to do. Handloading can actually cost you more to make a cartridge than to buy a commercial cartridge. You can do it on the cheap, you can have your Lee Loading and you can use your case thirty or forty times if you're really careful and know your neck size. But are you, at the end of the day, going to be at the top of the list, rarely, very rarely, and I am sorry to say that. Now, the other point about handloading was that, and I believe I am right in saying, from my visual experience in Canada when they decided in the end of 1995 to go to handloading was that a vote was taken and I was asked to be present as an observer in the tent at their meeting. The majority of people who voted were already handloaders so they all voted to go handloading and there was a majority on that one and I actually think it affected Canadian shooting because it has prevented a lot of the younger ones coming through because they don't want to get involved in handloading as they want to have some ammunition put in their hand and the problem is if you don't have a large enough supply of ammunition coming in and being available then the price goes up. You go and try and buy LAPUA ammunition on the open market, ready loaded, and see how much you have to pay for it. This RUAG is cheap in comparison, it's not cheap as an ammunition, but it's cheap in comparison to ammunition you buy on the open market if it only comes in, in small quantities. The other thing that people don't know about and don't understand, unless you have been on a touring team for overseas and you go to a country that actually has to have handloaded ammunition because they don't provide it, is you've either got to ship your ammunition out there by air freight, or you've got to take all your reloading kit with you and also all your cartridge cases and you've got to freight your bullets or perhaps take them as luggage, which these days is going to cost you a lot of money. You then have to buy your powder and primers out there and load it in the hotel room or some other special room. You've got to mess around doing all of that. So the touring teams that leave here and go over there are now air freighting



their ammunition out at huge cost. It would be much cheaper if everybody had the same ammunition in that country and everybody shot the same. I, as a handloader, thoroughly enjoy handloading when I have time to do it and I thoroughly enjoy shooting it but I am shooting now in a class where we need to do it because we cannot buy the ammunition at all. But where ammunition can be bought it can be provided then more people that use a standard ammunition, and I am not saying that because I am an ammunition maker, I am saying it because I support what the NRA has been trying to do over here in that we should actually be sticking with issued ammunition where possible and use as much of it as we can in order to keep the cost down. Now the other thing I heard Mik Maksimovic mention briefly was that when South Africa went to handloading ammunition they lost a very large number of their shooters, a very large number of them. Do we want that to happen here? I'll leave it to you to think about.

*Applause.*

**Richard Bailie – Member of the General Council and Chairman of the Irish Rifle Club**

First of all I should like you to know that you should trust your Chairman entirely. I have seen personally how much hard work he has put in since he became Chairman and I think you should all recognise that.

*Applause.*

Secondly, because he can't do everything, I would like to ask the question when it comes to the refurbishment of the lovely ablution blocks that we have could we possibly have some consultation. I have heard from a number of colleagues, one or two of whom are building surveyors, that in fact the design and cost elements have not been to, shall we say, built to a maximum performance. Whilst the improvements that have been carried out are much appreciated there are a lot of criticisms that arise from the completed works and I would ask that the membership is consulted before further expenditure is incurred at the level we have already incurred. Thank you Mr Chairman.

*Applause.*

**Chairman**

I would guess if you can persuade the friends that you have been talking to about improvements to the ablution blocks to identify themselves and talk to Jeremy Staples and his staff it would be helpful. Yes there have been some problems with the two that have been done and we need to learn those lessons, and if there are other things that a layman like me would not know about, because I am not an expert on everything, and certainly I'm not an expert on toilets despite the very colourful pictures that Deitra gave me. What I really want to get across is if any of you, if any of our members, can see something which perhaps you think we are not doing efficiently or effectively

please do come forward and explain what you think is wrong and we will discuss with you how we might change what we're doing. We've got a huge burden of maintenance on this camp and we need to cut our costs as much as we possibly can. So if any of you have got good ideas on your speciality come forward please.

*Applause.*

**Richard Bailie**

Thank you Mr Chairman, thank you. I do believe there has been some detailed correspondence with your Secretary General on the matter and I believe it is continuing and I look forward to further correspondence with the membership. Thank you very much.

**Ian Brown**

Ian Brown Wandsworth Rifle Club in case you've forgotten. I would like to pick up on a point made by John Carmichael, a great friend of mine who knows more about handloading than I'll ever know, but he does make the point that 7.62mm is the most widely used target rifle calibre throughout the world. That's absolutely true but target rifle is dying and the reason is it's too damned expensive and it's an obsolete calibre and ipso facto point made thank you. Anyway I'd really like to go back to a point made by Emma Nuttall about the state of the target frames and it comes back to a more general point about levels of service. Throughout the world, and I know as the ex owner of a service business, throughout the world levels of service, possibly driven from the state of it elsewhere are going up and up and up and it is a very competitive business and the levels of service in this place are dire. Not only the toilets, which Deitra should never have had to raise two years ago, but a particular point of mine is the roads. How on earth can a calculation have been done that more damage was going to be done to the business by not doing the roads or less damage was going to be done to the business by not doing the roads than to have a 150th Anniversary or whatever the hell it is by leaving them in the state they are so we can hardly drive our cars over them. Somebody doesn't care, the stuff that's done in the camp, look at the plumbing in the toilet blocks, look at everything that is done, it is done to the bare minimum possible standards, somebody doesn't care and as a service business operator, ex, I'm afraid I deplore it. It has to improve because people are voting with their feet and it's not just the cost of ammunition, people don't want to come here any more because it's bloody awful. Thank you.

*Applause.*

**Roger Mullen – Canada**

Good evening, my name is Roger Mullen, competitor number one and I would like to thank the NRA for placing me first in the only thing I've ever been placed first in. However, I'm from Canada and I'd

like to address some of these ammunition issues that you're speaking about and I'm glad to see that you are discussing this. It is a controversy in this country as we are aware. In Canada, as you know, we do use handloads but we have been forced into it by the removal of the ammunition supplies from our armed forces which is what we were issued before. I might remind those Britishers that came over when we shot IVI for many years that you complained bitterly about that ammunition and I personally complained bitterly about RG in this decade when you were firing it, several times; having to have a quiver of rifles is as expensive as having one rifle with handloading equipment. Some of the comments made, I think, are quite correct. Handloading is not expensive and you can be very competitive without attempting to spend a lot of money. Point two, if you want to look at the dollars and cents of it you will pay off your investment in reloading equipment within eighteen months of buying it and you won't then go ahead significantly on every shot you fire compared to purchased ammunition. The next thing is this thing about membership reductions caused by the increased cost of handloading and so forth causing young people not to enter the sport. I can't comment about Britain, this may well be the case here, but frankly your shooters here are filthy rich compared with North American ones and our membership was declining in any case and our young people cannot buy a firearm let alone ammunition so while it was presented as a black and white issue by two speakers it is far from black and white, it is very greyish.

*Applause.*

#### **Graham King – Ibis Rifle Club**

Mr Chairman I'd like to change the subject slightly. I'm a member of the Mendip Clay Pigeon Shooting Club and we've got very fancy machines that scoop the earth, take the lead out and recycle it, and there's quite a lot of money I understand involved. I know nothing about the Bisley side of clay shooting but are we recycling the lead shot which must mount

into tonnes? I don't know the price of lead but I understand it's very, very high. Thank you.

#### **Chairman**

I'm told we're not doing anything on that at the moment but I am certainly aware that overseas you can have some sort of matting on the area where the shot falls and that will allow one to very easily sweep up the lead from the shot but I think we haven't actually gone that far.

#### **Paul Cutts – Croydon Rifle & Pistol Club**

A lot has been said tonight about the ablutions and nothing has been said about the admirable way the ablution cleaners at this Meeting have been conducting themselves.

*Applause.*

The ablution blocks that I have used this week have been cleaned at least once a day and yesterday they were cleaned twice, once in the morning and once about half past five, which I thought was absolutely cracking. To go in there and smell disinfectant was wonderful. Thank you.

*Laughter and applause.*

#### **Deitra Kimpton**

I'll do what Ian did, Deitra Kimpton, Mars & Minerva in case you've forgotten. Paul, you're quite right and we need to point out that I don't believe it's still a company doing it and we've got some young lads going around, Jeremy's nodding his head, that had to sort of step in at the eleventh hour. So whoever those young lads are, and ladies perhaps as well, should be definitely given a bonus at the end of this meeting because I too agree with you, they've been going in the blocks which been very well looked after. The other thing that I actually came up here for was because of what Robin was saying about trying to keep costs down and things like that and picking up on what Emma had said about the targets. It's a thought that's always been on my mind that there's a lot of talent in the shooting community, and I see a few nodding heads, and I know there are issues of liability and I understand that but surely there must be a way of dealing with this as a private club in a way of members who can come here with their talents in plumbing, perhaps cleaning and people who know how to do maintenance on things like targets and what not that can give of their time to help keep the costs down and help get Bisley back on its feet a lot faster so maybe that's something for consideration, seeing if we can work something out quickly, because I for one, as you already know, am willing to roll my sleeves up and do what I can. Thank you,

*Applause.*

#### **Emma Nuttall**

Hi, it's Emma again, one last comment about the standard of all the facilities on camp. The firing points,

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personally I have struggled with, on one point my feet were higher than my head and another firing point I've shot on today didn't have a blade of grass on and in the wind I got a face full of gravel and grit and dirt. That is all thank you.

*Applause.*

**Iain Robertson**

Mr Chairman, if I can take the opportunity to make a couple of announcements, slightly off the top of the meeting. Firstly, as Captain of the Great Britain Team to South Africa 2012, I am still open to applicants for the team please and secondly as Match Director for the Australia Match on Sunday, I rather badly need some volunteers to be the register keepers for this prestigious event. There's a free lunch in it, see me afterwards.

**Rosemary Meldrum – National Rifle Club of Scotland**

A very trivial matter after all the ablutions and ammunition, but could the Umbrella Tent be moved back to somewhere more in its rightful place in the centre of the camp. You'll get a better attendance at this meeting; you'll get a better attendance at John Deane's meeting, which I did miss, and at the prizegivings. Instead of having it down here in the sticks it should be at the centre of the camp. Thank you.

*Applause.*

**Tom Harrison – London & Middlesex**

Two questions. Why are we bothering to put all of the cases back into the ammunition boxes when, obviously, we've got no contract to get rid of the things and secondly, I would like to reinforce the state of those target frames down on Century. I had to operate one earlier in the year, and as you can see I am a fairly hefty lad, and it was bloody hard work, excuse the language ladies, your comments please.

**Chairman**

I have to admit that I haven't been into the butts to try butt marking for a year or two (*laughter*) but when I was forced to do it, because we didn't have any butt markers, I did find it very enjoyable and you're quite right one or two of the targets were a little bit difficult from time to time. Clearly, from what you and Emma have raised we need to have those targets identified so the staff, in the next day or two, can go and see what they can do to make life easier on these difficult targets. We shouldn't have a situation where it's hard to pick up the target and lift it up and pull it down. Cases, why are we doing this? Well I may be your Chairman but I haven't the faintest idea. (*Laughter*) There is an answer at the back.

**Matthew Ensor – Assistant Director of Operations**

As John Carmichael rightly pointed out about ten minutes ago, damaged cases and the wrong cases

being put back in to the supply would severely undermine our ability to realise any potential resale value that we are currently trying to realise. We are asking for the cases to be returned into their boxes because with around 330,000 brass cases loose you could probably assume that the bottom third would be quite damaged by the time we were able to re sell it.

**Mike Gregory – RAFTRC & North London**

Picking up about the point on the state of the firing points, I believe it might be helpful if we could enter into the spirit of the members, rich or otherwise, who have something to do with golf clubs if they could persuade the experts who are responsible for maintaining greens and fairways to come along and advise us on how we could get a really high standard of firing point and maintain it year to year despite whatever the weather throws at us.

*Applause.*

**Chairman**

Are there no further questions?

*No, No, No, Laughter.*

**Chairman**

Do you all want to go and have a drink?

*Yes Yes.*

**Chairman**

Then I think there is one further piece of information that's probably been keeping you here for some time. I think there is a messenger approaching.

**Tony Clayton – CRO Century**

Mr Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to give you the results of the shooting that took place on my range today

**Chairman**

Thank you Tony. The message says the winner of the NRA Bronze Medal and NRA Bronze Badge is Sgt SJ – what does that say – OK right – Hier of the ATSC with a score of 105.19.

*Applause.*

I do apologise to Sgt Hier – I used to think I was good at deciphering handwriting but I regret I have failed on this occasion.

Now, the scores of 102.6 finishing with 34.2 at 600 yards are in the Second Stage, does that make sense or are you all stunned? *Laughter.*

In that case, can I thank you for the questions and comments you have raised which will be taken into account by the Council and the various committees of the NRA and NSC and I wish you, for the last few days of the Meeting, good shooting and an enjoyable time. Thank you.

*Applause.*

# GREAT BRITAIN MATCH RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2010

## THE FIFTH WOOMERA MATCH

by William Mott

### Captain

Loulou Brister                      Wales

### Vice-Captain

Nick Tremlett                      England

### Adjutant

Richard Whitby                      England

### Shooters

Andrew Burgess	Wales
Alex Cargill Thompson	England
Ted Hobbs	Wales
Aled James	Wales
Gareth James	Wales
Tim Kidner	Scotland
Derek Lowe	England
Jim McAllister	Scotland
Will Meldrum	Scotland
Paul Monaghan	England
William Mott	England
Julian Peck	England
John Pugsley	England
Tom Smith	England
Simon Whitby	England

In the words of Captain Henry William Heaton of the 1865 English VIII Team *"I must ask my readers to be lenient in their criticism on this my first appearance before the public, in print, for I am bound to confess myself more au fait in the use of the rifle than the pen."*

After approximately 30 hours travelling the team arrived bleary-eyed at Brisbane airport for the three hour drive to Noosa. There was a clear demarcation between the groups as those who had flown business class had benefited from showers in Taipei, whereas those who had flown economy clearly had not! Also, it was noted that a state of emergency was declared in Thailand just as the GB Match Rifle Team, stopping off in Bangkok en-route, arrived sporting their red team shirts. The official line remains that this was purely coincidental.

### Noosa R & R

Noosa has a little something for everyone. Head outdoors into the beauty of the Noosa region and you will find reefs and beaches, islands, lakes and rivers, as well as mountains covered in rainforest. Further and much to the delight of Loulou and Nick the manicured beauty of more than one golf course! Four days later and we were all ready to get cracking with the serious business of shooting.

### Brisbane

The Belmont Range complex is situated approximately 12 miles south-east of Brisbane. Cannon Hill is the

match rifle range. The range is sheltered on all sides by dense woodland which provides a very picturesque setting.

On arrival we were all pleased to find that our rifles, ammo and kit had safely turned up, in no small way due to the organisation of Jim McAllister.

The first day's practice went well with shots being fired at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards in glorious Australian sunshine, although with temperatures in the high 20s coupled with high humidity it promised to be a long week.

On our second full day in Brisbane the English weather caught up with us. The overcast conditions gave lower temperatures and more comfortable shooting conditions, although the rain was slightly less welcome. Fortunately, this cleared up by midday. The shooting consisted of an individual practice at 1000 yards with a coached practice at 1200 yards. In between, some keener (and less hungry) team members had a play at 1100 yards, while others sloped off for lunch at the local garden centre café, where our horticulturally minded Captain took the opportunity to search for plants (presumably to brighten up the team firing point).

The first day of competitive shooting started early, with some of the party departing for Belmont at 06:30. Gareth James and others were surprised to know that there were two six o'clocks in a day.

A total of 64 shooters including a few F Class shooters had entered the Grand. Prior to the first competition the rules of engagement were explained. Shooting is on a string shooting basis with a scorer register keeping and also a check scorer recording the scores on a blackboard behind each target. The system not only allows for quick shooting but also for a degree of socialising and so the team spread themselves evenly amongst the locals and battle commenced.

Nick Tremlett set the early pace with 75.10 only to lose on countback to Barry Southern, with Jim McAllister and Alex Cargill Thompson not far behind. At 1100 yards Simon Whitby won with 74.06 with Jim McAllister and Will Meldrum in second and third places.

We then retreated to 1200 yards. The sun beat down on us but the wind remained innocuous compared to Bisley. However, it was sufficient to catch out the unwary. Mark Walters from Tasmania led the way with a 74.06. In fact Mark had been consistent all day and led the Aggregate from the Reserve section, with another Australian Reserve, Graham Mincham, taking second spot ahead of Nick Tremlett.



Following shooting we congregated in the Queensland Rifle Association bar for a "Meet and Greet". After a few sociable drinks, supper was eaten on the range before returning to the hotel in preparation for another early start, this time at 1200 yards.

The first day's shooting had shown the team just how tricky the range could be. It appeared that the later in the afternoon you shot, the more your shots dropped low. Nobody claimed to know what was causing this although many theories were advanced well into the night.

Day 2 started at 1200, falling forward to 1100 and finally 1000 yards. We started with much calmer weather due to the tropical rain showers. It rains properly here and shooting waits for the skies to clear – very civilised. The forecast was for showers all day but luck was with us and we completed the day's programme. At 1200 Alex scored a neat 75.6, sadly, beaten for top score of the day by a single V bull by Graham Mincham. Loulou made 1100 yards look easy with 74.9, but Simon pipped her with 75.5 meaning Simon led the 1100 yards aggregate.

Day 3 and as we lay down to shoot at 1000 yards a threat of rain delayed the start by some 30 minutes. However, the calm conditions that followed a brief shower had a strange effect. Some fooled by the benign conditions slipped down the leader board while others made the most of it and put in some very good scores. Tim Kidner, Gareth James, Gil Walker and Adrian Abbott came out on top each with 75.12.

Back at 1100 with the rain still failing to make an appearance, Barry Southern took the lead with 75.5. Then Julian Peck achieved the same score to win at 1200 yards.

Day 4 and the final day of the individual competitions which consisted of a single 20 round shoot at 1200 yards. Conditions were cloudy and cool at the start with light winds and scoring was high.

Ted Hobbs won the shoot with a 99.11 having started with an inner followed by 19 bulls. Adrian Abbott (Australia) was second with 99.8 and Simon Whitby was third with 98.11. The result for the Championship was in doubt until the very end. The top two places were taken by Australians, Graham Mincham the winner with a score of 755.61 followed by Barry Southern with 754.67. Barry Southern had been in the lead before the final shoot but suffered a magpie towards the end of his shoot to finish on 95.12 and Graham scored 97.7 giving him the Championship by one point.

Top GB shooters in the Championship were Julian Peck in third place with a score of 751.61, Alex Cargill Thompson fifth on 750.65 (Julian and Alex were both shooting in the back position) and Tim, Nick, Si and Loulou seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth respectively.

GB shooters took six of the top ten and 12 of the top 20 places.

The team matches started next with the Freebairn Match comprising teams of four, made up of the top and bottom scorers in the Championship shooting 15 to count at 1200 yards. Shortly after the start the heavens opened and the match was postponed until the rain cleared.

The match was won by the Peck Team – Julian and Ted with John Oddy and Kerod Lindley from Australia – achieving a record of 291.18, seven points ahead of the competition.

Day 5 and the heavens opened. Brisbane received its first real rain for six years and it seemed set in for the day. Many of the Australians were seriously disappointed not to be able to shoot their Interstate Match, which for non-Woomera shooters was the highlight of their year. By early afternoon there appeared a small window in the gloom and it was decided to shoot the match with the course of fire reduced to 1+10 at 1200 yards for a single nominated firer. Top scorer was Tom Smith with 49.5. However, the match was won by Barry Southern with 49.4 after the GB Team were disqualified for not being Australian!

Early evening, 18:00 to be precise, prizegiving began. Many of the squad wondered why so early? All was revealed! The prizegiving and speeches started before dinner, continued through dinner and went on late into the night. It was a complex affair with the provenance of each prize and its recipient detailed extensively to the assembled shooters and guests. There were first, second and third prizes for each shoot, for each daily aggregate, for each distance aggregate and the Grand Aggregate for Open class, Reserve class and F class not to mention the team matches. Furthermore all those who had helped in running a most successful meeting (and there were many) were individually thanked, and deservedly so.

Finally the day of the Woomera Match arrived. It was wet at dawn and 19°C. Team GB set up on targets 6 and 7 and the match started on time at 09:00. A light easterly wind had set in, the clouds had risen and thinned and the temperature moved up to 23°C. The Australians started before GB and made 595 ex 600. However, match rifle matches often depend upon how disasters are managed and Paul Monaghan did just that. After dropping his first three shots he noticed a light strike on his primers. Following a quick change of ammo he put the next 12 shots in the bull; an excellent recovery and disaster avoided – team GB 596 ex 600.

After the traditional Aussie smoko (tea break), the match really started at 1100 yards with the temperature rising to 24°C and the humidity starting to kick in after the heavy rains of the day before. The winds

remained very light but were sufficient to start to push the teams out. Australia shot very quickly and after 35 minutes had cleared six shooters to GB's four dropping 11 points to GB's 15 over their first four shooters. Australia finished after 48 minutes with GB still two shooters to go. With the wind dying, Tim Kidner and Paul Monaghan needed 74s to level the range. In the event they made 74 and 72 respectively to put Australia one ahead going into the last distance.

During lunch, whilst the team tucked into Subways and fruit provided by the team victualler, Chris Law, the rain came down. The match restarted at 13:30 in a brief shower. The wind flags fell and clung to the poles. Coaches maintained concentration looking for signs of movement in the flags and particularly mirage whilst the plotters worked hard keeping the groups central as the strange phenomenon of the low shots, mentioned above, reappeared.

Alan Blain started well for Australia by putting down a 75.4 in seven minutes, backed up with a 73.9 by Shane Courtney. Jim McAllister for GB started very well but took an inexplicable low magpie at shot 10; he didn't let it affect him and made a solid 73.11; Ted Hobbs made 73.4. Australia had taken two more points out of GB.

The two back gunners then started: Alex CT remained rock steady and shot a fine 74.6. Meanwhile Phil Bain for Australia put in another 75 followed by a 73 from Lew Horwood. Julian Peck for GB had a worrying couple of sighters but stuck to the task to put in an excellent 75.8. One back for GB – Australia two ahead.

The wind then reappeared gently in from the right. The early pace slowed. Barry Southern for Australia shot a 74.8 but David Freebairn had a low magpie, like Jim, but could only manage a 70.6.

In response Tom Smith for GB made a 72.2. If our next shooter could make 74, the match would be even. However, our team paused as the Australians started their last two. Paul Monaghan finished with a 72.4. Australia still two ahead.

Rob Halloran lost a few shots in the middle of his string to end with a 71.2. Adrian Abbott was 'tail end Charlie' for the Australians and slowly and solidly notched up a brilliant 75.10. GB couldn't win. Tim Kidner finished proceedings and although by this stage the die was cast he finished an excellent meeting with a lovely 75.6 and top gun for the Brits with 224 ex 225.

There it was; Australia won with a record-equalling score of 1762 beating GB by a mere three points. It was a quick match but Australia shot extremely well to hold off GB and take a well-earned win.

In conclusion, the team would take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the National Rifle Association of Australia, the Queensland Rifle Association, the Queensland Match Rifle Association and the

Queensland Match Rifle Team for a most enjoyable week's shooting, and we look forward to the return match in 2012.

### **Coonabarabran**

After Brisbane a majority of the team headed off on the eight hour drive to Coonabarabran. Those of the team who managed to get to the range on Saturday afternoon were treated to the rare chance of being the first to fire on a new range. Set in rolling farmland this is a stunning new range with firing points back to 1500 yards.

Sunday morning started at 05:55. Yes, that is correct; 05:55, with the team assembled in the dark at the clock tower in the centre of Coonabarabran for the ANZAC Day service. Australia takes the remembrance of its servicemen and women very seriously and it was a moving experience. Later a similar short service of remembrance was conducted at the range.

Unfortunately, that morning the rain that had dogged the shooting at Brisbane caught up with us. However, it had cleared by lunchtime leaving behind a stiff breeze. Because of the delayed start it was decided to shoot the first competition at 1500 yards. First down on target 3 was Aled who managed to put in a stunning 68 ex 75. We all thought this must be good for first place, but Shane Courtney had other ideas and beat him with an amazing 72!

Overall 1500 yards turned out to be difficult and as the author discovered not the place to zero in! There were times when the bullets went approximately where they were pointed and then there were periods when the elevations went completely haywire.

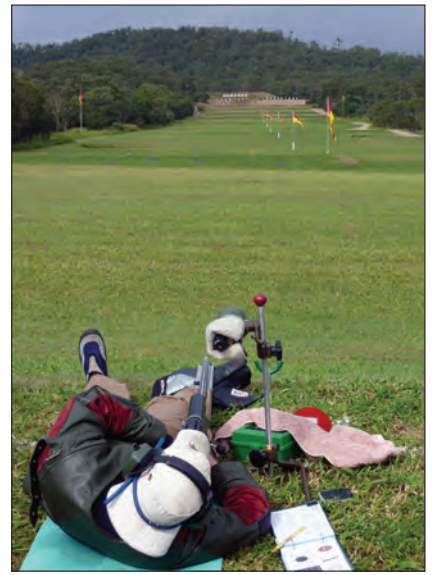
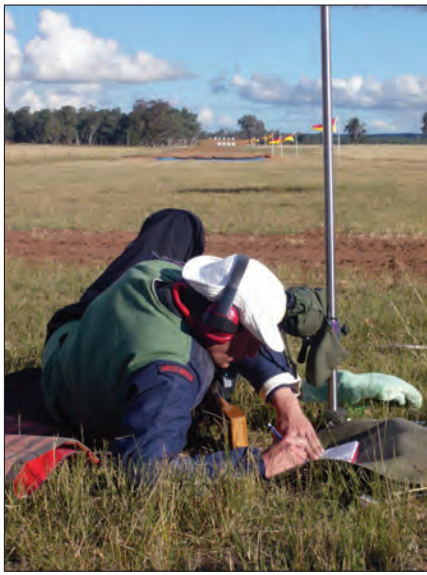
In the evening the team visited a small observatory in the Warrambungle region. The night skies are particularly clear for stargazing in this region as there is minimal light pollution. A short talk by the aptly named astronomer Peter Starr reminding us how insignificant we are was followed by viewing a number of stars, planets and galaxies through various sized telescopes.

The final day's shooting was in bright, warm, sunny but windy weather. The course of fire was 2 sighters and 15 to count at 1100, 1200 and 1500 yards. Some had trouble at 1100 yards as the range at Coonabarabran required several minutes less elevation than was required at Belmont, and there was a tricky, sometimes strong, fishtailing wind to contend with.

We had come to Coonabarabran to shoot for the Coolabah Trophy presented by Phil Bain. It is a trophy for international pairs (one Australian and one from an overseas team). Pairs were drawn at random, so we were told, although there were some suspiciously good pairings!

However, many pairs were out of the match even before we started shooting at 1500 yards, sadly







including Phil himself owing to a trigger failure which forced him to retire.

Performances at 1500 yards were very mixed. Some seemed to be able to hold an elevation of about two minutes and made reasonable scores, especially when the wind eased. However, many of us found our ammo would not group well enough to make sense of the shoot. Having said that, we all agreed it was great fun. There were many scores over 200 and some around 210. The competition was won by the pairing of Si Whitby and Lew Horwood.

Describing the inaugural shoot on the new Box Ridge range at Coonabarabran as a big event for the town would be a gross understatement. The crowd that watched us complete the final shoot at 1500 yards was bigger than any that gathers at Bisley, save perhaps on Queens Final day. It included not only local dignitaries, and interested parties, many of whom had driven hundreds of miles just to see the place, but also many people who had given up their Saturdays for the past six months to build this superb new range.

Credit must not only be given to Phil and Susan Bain for providing the impetus and to Mick and Kate for providing the land, but also to all those volunteers who have given so much of their spare time. The facility they have created is of superb quality, with six targets, mounds, including positions for back gunners and flags virtually every hundred yards, plus

an enormous open shed to protect shooters from the elements.

Following the match there was talk about extending the range to a mile, and many of us expressed enthusiasm for a return visit for a 'one mile shoot' if they do it. From what we saw of the people of Coonabarabran it would be surprising if work has not started already!

The evening rounded off with a barbecue of spit-roasted lamb done to a turn and served in generous quantities, washed down with a few beers. As night fell and the temperature plummeted we were kept warm by a huge bonfire whilst we drank many a toast to the new range and to the health of our friends, both old and new. It was a fitting end to a very enjoyable and generally successful tour.

Finally, and I believe a first on any touring team, one of the squad managed to get married whilst we were there!

On behalf of the whole squad, I wish Tom and Annie Smith health, wealth and happiness. I would also take this opportunity to thank Annie's parents, family and friends for their generosity and for making us so very welcome at the wedding.

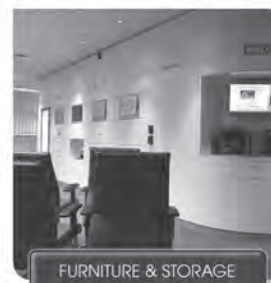
#### Footnote

*The Author recognises the contributions from the daily blog which greatly assisted in the writing of the above.*

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# COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2010

*by Gaz Morris*

The 2010 Commonwealth Games held in Delhi held a huge amount of promise for our sport, with a new country being introduced to fullbore shooting at a purpose-built and allegedly state-of-the-art facility; however your author is deeply saddened to report that the outcome was ultimately unsatisfying for medallists, also-rans, officials and organisers alike. Significant issues with the electronic targetry and an inadequate response from the competition's organisers lowered the competition to the level of farce.

## **The Journey Out and Arrival at the Athletes' Village**

Team Wales travelled by coach from Cardiff to London Heathrow airport on Tuesday 28 October to fly to Delhi on Air India, with this correspondent, his shooting partner and their manager joining the convoy at the airport directly from Bisley Camp. The usual niceties of international air travel with firearms aside, it was a pleasant farewell to the UK, involving a glass or two of champagne and a very good seafood salad. After an uneventful flight, our arrival in Delhi was accompanied by the kind of crosswind-induced return to earth that brings to mind the wise words of a stalwart of the RAFTRC, "If you can walk away from it, it was a good landing. If you can re-use the aircraft afterwards, it was a great landing."

It was at this point that we received a reminder of one of the signature motifs of the test event in April; bureaucracy, and lots of it. No examinable document was left uninspected, nor was any piece of paper which could be written upon or embellished left unadorned with scrawl or unstamped. Indeed, the usual drill seemed to be for one official to examine the document, another to stamp it and a third to sign that it had been stamped; all supervised by a fourth, more senior, official to ensure that the entire process was adequately completed. Any deviation from this routine produced much head scratching and a flurry of requests for clarification sent up the food chain. Fortunately, being equipped with all of the correct paperwork, it took us only three hours to make it through immigration control, customs and finally onto the bus to the Athletes' Village. Our manager took one for the team by volunteering to accompany firearms and practice ammunition down to the fullbore range at Kadarapur, where further paperwork was to be completed, stamped and signed.

After a 45 minute ride on a brand-new and air-conditioned bus, we arrived at the Athletes' Village, which was situated to the east of the city of New Delhi, on the flood plain of the Yamuna River. Having read the news reports and seen the photos of squalor on the BBC, we were very pleasantly surprised by the state of our accommodation. To be sure, the wireless

network connection didn't work (and never would) and the finish was a bit rough around the edges; however the apartments were in a habitable state: clean, weathertight and appropriately plumbed. Much gratitude is due to our team managers for complaining, arguing and eventually when all else failed, getting on their hands and knees and cleaning the tower block from bottom to top. We were also delighted to find that the food on offer in the canteen was excellent and none of the teams suffered from the sickness which affected the vast majority of the field in April's CSF Championship test event. In this regard, we were very well prepared. To stave off Delhi-belly Team Wales were taking prebiotics and probiotics to build up beneficial gut flora as well as daily prophylactic doses of the antibiotic ciprofloxacin to ensure that all gut flora were appropriately massacred. Despite this somewhat contradictory medical regimen, few significant digestive issues were reported.

On a more delicate note, all travelling "athletes" had some concerns about importing into the Games Village those small pleasures that make a tour abroad into a holiday. We need not have been so concerned. After a small incident involving one of our esteemed friends from the southernmost isles of the Caribbean, the precedent was set and the availability of Trinidadian rum (or London gin or French brandy, for that matter) was assured.

## **Acclimatisation, Practice and a Taste of Things to Come**

On team orders, we waited two days after our arrival before making the 90 minute bus journey to the fullbore range at Kadarapur to practice. Sited within the Central Reserve Police Force training campus, the 1000 yards range was of an innovative design, albeit one with some tragic flaws as it turned out. Extending the idea of a baffled range to its logical conclusion, it had no danger area; however this necessitated all opening and closing of the bolt on a loaded round to take place in the shoulder. Additionally, it had only a single firing point and the Sius Ascor electronic targets would be moved down the range as the days progressed.

During each of the six practice days, targets would be set out at various distances, which could be booked from the Chief Range Officer John McDiarmid in 30 minute details between 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00. Later in the pre-event training programme, longer details for extended pairs practice would also be made available.

The short range targets appeared to be more or less reliable and some excellent results were achieved in practice; however at the longer ranges results were





Daniel Richardson of Jersey with Sri Lankan friends at the Opening Ceremony.



The fixed firing point with target monitors and remote control cameras.



Gaz Morris demonstrates perfect butt placement.



Des Vamplew catches up on some Seinfeld episodes while Jim Paton shoots.



Bob Oxford (Wales) awaits the order to commence.



David Calvert and Ross McQuillan of Northern Ireland.



Scots Angus McLeod and Ian Shaw in training.



Scotland is looking forward to hosting the 2014 Games.



much more variable with a wide range of scores and group sizes being reported. In particular, after a singularly bad shoot at 900 yards your correspondent needed to return to a 300 yards target to reassure himself that he still could shoot a group of less than two-and-a-half minutes and read wind. Following V5 sighters and five consecutive scoring V bulls, his concerns were laid to rest. Unfortunately such problems were common and presaged the debacle which was to emerge during the long range competition. It appeared that the lessons learned at the test event had not been taken to heart by the competition organisers; for example, the competitions were scheduled during the 40 degree heat of the day rather than in the cool of the morning, despite this being associated with failures. Furthermore, the evident and absolute requirement for backing cards was ignored.

Sandwiched neatly between informal practice and the formal pre-event training was the Opening Ceremony, with all its riotous shows and television coverage. Our Indian hosts put on a magnificent display; although the air conditioning was vented into the corridors under the stadium which made for some uncomfortable moments. Your correspondent still contends that this is one of the most glorious experiences that any shooter can enjoy.

### **Competition, Trial and Error**

In order to manage timings and reduce the likelihood of targets being broken through a rushed distance change, it had been agreed that all shoots at each distance would be completed on consecutive days, starting at 300 yards before moving back to the longer ranges in sequence. Although this had the disadvantage that a single bad day could wipe out a team's medal chances in both the individual and pairs competitions, it was a necessary evil to enable rapid progression of each day's competition, given the fixed firing points arrangement of the range.

Day 1 at 300 yards saw light winds from the right and a very slight haze, both of which conditions would predominate for the short range competition. Some excellent scores were fired; however at the end of the day it was Gaz Morris of Wales who prevailed in the

Individual with an aggregate score of 85.14 on the tight ICFRA targets, closely followed by James Corbett of Australia on 85.11 with Bob Oxford, David Calvert and Jim Paton also clean but a single V bull behind. In the Pairs, only South Africa and Scotland hit a brace of 50s for perfect scores of 100, chased by Guernsey, New Zealand, Canada and Northern Ireland all having lost a single point.

The 500 yards stages on Day 2 continued in the same vein as Day 1, with further light winds from the right although the visibility seemed marginally better. Owing to the very fine soil and high air pollution, too little wind would result in smog clinging to the range; however too strong a wind would lift significant amounts of dust into the air. At the short ranges, these conditions would only result in a slightly murky sight picture but at long range the target could be nearly obliterated. Those with large 30mm foresights and eagle eyes seemed to fare the best. Only three shooters remained clean at the end of the day, with Dave Calvert and Gaz Morris both on 170.19. Jim Paton held onto third place a single V bull behind. In the Pairs competition, a large number of teams continued to jockey for position with some fine scores: Canada led the field with 199.21, followed by Scotland on 199.16 and South Africa on 198.20.

The light "summer pattern" winds continued on Day 3 at 600 yards favouring a strategy of finding the mean of the bracket and avoiding making too many bold changes. Many shooters appeared to wind themselves out of the bullseye; however there were mutterings in the camp about strange results. Some shooters were starting to see shots land in unexpected places, with their coaches having seen the trace strike nearer the centre of the target than the electronic systems would subsequently indicate. Certainly your correspondent can relate seeing a highly respected shot receiving a very wide inner, nearly two minutes clear of the compass point, for no readily apparent reason. Wishful thinking or not, the field started to spread out, leaving Gaz Morris the only shooter with a clean 255.30 ex 255.51 at short range. James Corbett of Australia, Bob Oxford of Wales and Petrus Haasbroek of South Africa all finished up a single point down going into the long range final.

The penultimate day, shot at 900 yards, saw more of the controversy which would ultimately result in a near-walkout of the competitors. Significant problems with targets failing to register shots, anomalously placed points of impact, and large, strangely shaped groups plagued the competition. In one instance, a shooter was obliged to fire 22 shots for record before a full complement of 15 had been registered. As a result of these technical failures, there were protests and reshoots in both the Pairs and Individual competitions although some of the jury's decisions were somewhat bizarre. In the Pairs competition, for example, it was decided that the first shooter from each pair should



The Range Officers had their work cut out.

reshoot at the end of the day despite the fact that each pair shot consecutively on the same target. Ultimately, the results of all of the Pairs reshoots were deemed the following day by the Jury of Appeal to be outside the rules of the Commonwealth Games, leaving Australia in the lead on 446.48, followed by New Zealand on 445.45 and Scotland on 443.40. In the Individual competition one or more of the individual reshoots was allowed to stand, despite a contradictory ruling in the Pairs, with the result that James Corbett took the top spot on 326.37 followed by his countryman Geoff Grenfell on 326.28, and Petrus Haasbroek on 325.29.

On the final day of competition, the tensions in the air brought about by the previous days' issues were to come to a head and very nearly resulted in a boycott of the event by the teams. Slightly stronger and trickier winds contributed to generally lower scores; however it also appeared that the curse of the targetry bit deeper and more savagely, with one or two notable teams being completely wiped out in the ensuing carnage. Most notably, the Australian pair of Corbett and Grenfell, who had hitherto been deservedly enjoying the fruits of some fine shooting dropped an incredible 40 points between them; incredible in the literal sense that your correspondent (and many others present) simply cannot believe it to be an accurate reflection of their shooting and windreading ability. With subsequent reshoots denied, they were forced to accept their slide from 1st in the competition to 14th place. When the dust had settled, many hours after the original shoot, it became clear that New Zealand had taken the Gold, followed by Scotland in Silver position and England in Bronze.

Over lunch, it was clear that there was trouble brewing; the shooters held a crisis meeting away from the television cameras to debate the issues thrown up and what responses may be appropriate. After much impassioned debate which encompassed a broad spectrum of views, three options were identified from which shooters should choose: a) walk out and accept the consequences for fullbore rifle shooting in the Commonwealth Games; b) stay and appeal all decisions as they felt appropriate; c) stay and accept what you are given without demur. No consensus was reached although in the event no shooters walked out of the competition.

The Individual shoot was only marginally less fraught than the Pairs, with numerous cases of apparent target failure and shooters being moved to apparently functioning targets, in some cases only to be moved again when their backup targets failed. Indeed, at one point there were fewer targets operating than were judged by the range officers to be inoperable. With the winds slightly more readable than in the Pairs match but still moving from 2 to 5½ right, there was ample opportunity to drop points on the incredibly tight ICFRA targets. Parag Patel led the way with a storming 73.6, three points clear of the next highest

score, to take the Gold with an aggregate score and new Commonwealth Games record of 396.42 (this was a new record due to the change to ICFRA targets). James Corbett's solid 69.3 allowed him to make 395.40 and take the Silver. David Calvert scored 68.1 to take the Bronze. Popular and deserving winners who should be congratulated on some fine shooting.

### Aftermath

All were delighted to see that a chair had been arranged for the winner, surely a fitting end to what could, should, have been a fine Commonwealth Games and a just reward for a superb display of long range marksmanship; however many competitors were left frustrated by what appeared to be eminently avoidable targetry and management failures. Had the organisers taken a few precautions after the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in April, then the competition could have been held on a fair and level playing field.

Old friendships renewed and new ones forged, it just remained to attend the Closing Ceremony before flying home to family and friends after 18 days of crushingly emotional practice and competition. The flag was handed over and Glasgow put on a proud display which revives our hopes for a friendly, honourable and above all fair 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

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# COMMONWEALTH GAMES FULLBORE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

				300	500	600	300	500	600	900	1000	Total
1	Patel	Parag	ENG	34.3	35.6	35.3	49.6	50.7	47.6	73.5	73.6	396.42
2	Corbett	James	AUS	35.5	35.4	35.4	50.6	49.5	50.6	72.7	69.3	395.40
3	Calvert	David	NIR	35.2	35.2	35.4	50.8	50.7	48.6	72.5	68.1	393.35
4	Collings	Mike	NZL	35.5	35.4	35.3	49.5	50.5	49.2	72.3	67.3	392.30
5	Horwood	Bruce	JEY	35.4	35.3	35.3	47.5	50.6	49.3	72.5	68.3	391.32
6	Grenfell	Geoffrey	AUS	35.4	35.2	35.5	48.2	50.3	49.4	74.8	65.4	391.32
7	McLeod	Angus	SCO	33.3	35.4	35.4	50.6	50.4	50.4	69.7	69.0	391.32
8	Morris	Gareth	WAL	35.6	35.2	35.4	50.8	50.3	50.7	66.2	69.2	390.34
9	McQuillan	Ross	NIR	35.2	35.6	35.3	50.5	49.5	48.3	72.7	66.2	390.33
10	Oxford	Robert	WAL	35.4	34.3	35.4	50.6	50.6	50.5	67.2	69.2	390.32
11	Haasbroek	Petrus	RSA	35.2	35.2	35.4	49.5	50.6	50.6	71.4	64.3	389.32
12	Md Zain	Zainal	MAS	34.4	34.2	35.5	49.5	49.5	47.4	71.8	69.1	388.34
13	Snowden	John	NZL	35.4	35.1	34.3	50.6	49.3	49.6	68.3	68.5	388.31
14	Breedt	Tielman	RSA	34.3	35.2	35.2	47.1	49.7	50.3	71.5	65.2	386.25
15	Shaw	Ian	SCO	30.2	35.4	35.4	50.5	49.5	48.4	71.4	67.3	385.31
16	Hamsan	Zulkeflee	MAS	34.2	35.2	34.3	49.5	49.6	48.2	66.1	70.3	385.24
17	Richardson	Daniel	JEY	34.4	35.1	35.5	50.8	50.6	48.3	70.7	61.3	383.37
18	Goodluck	Ransford	GUY	34.3	35.4	34.3	49.4	49.5	49.2	69.3	64.1	383.25
19	Jory	Adam	GGY	33.1	35.3	34.0	50.4	49.5	48.3	70.4	64.2	383.22
20	Iriga	Peter	KEN	35.3	35.3	34.4	49.5	49.5	48.4	72.4	60.2	382.30
21	Paton	Jim	CAN	35.4	35.1	34.2	50.6	50.7	48.6	69.4	60.0	381.30
22	Jory	Peter	GGY	34.2	34.1	35.3	48.3	48.3	50.2	62.1	67.4	378.19
23	Persaud	Mahendra	GUY	34.3	34.2	34.3	49.4	48.3	47.3	68.2	63.1	377.21
24	Gomez	Norris	TRI	34.1	32.3	34.3	47.3	46.3	50.5	71.6	62.3	376.27
25	Vamplew	Des	CAN	34.3	30.3	34.3	49.9	50.5	48.3	63.1	67.3	375.30
26	Underwood	Jon	ENG	35.5	32.2	35.7	48.4	50.7	48.7	69.6	57.1	374.39
27	Nunez	Jose	JAM	35.3	35.4	35.5	47.3	47.4	49.4	64.2	62.2	374.27
28	Sehmi	Satiender	KEN	32.3	34.1	32.2	48.1	49.6	45.3	71.5	63.3	374.24
29	Ghaley	Sushil	IND	35.2	34.2	34.3	49.5	49.6	47.3	59.1	60.1	367.23
30	Lall	Justin	TRI	33.3	33.3	35.4	49.4	50.5	48.2	71.2	46.0	365.23
31	Cousins	Jennifer	BAR	33.3	34.6	35.3	48.5	50.6	46.1	62.6	52.1	360.31
32	Dahiya	Praveen	IND	31.0	35.2	33.4	46.3	47.3	48.5	63.4	57.1	360.22
33	Rickman	David	JAM	33.3	34.2	31.3	48.3	46.0	47.5	60.2	59.4	358.22
34	Greenaway	TWC	ANT	32.2	31.3	29.1	47.3	45.2	45.2	62.3	60.4	351.20
35	Goodwin	Gareth	FLK	32.1	32.0	30.0	46.2	43.2	44.1	65.3	58.1	350.10
36	Goodwin	Derek	FLK	30.0	33.1	33.2	44.0	46.1	41.1	61.1	55.3	343.09
37	Rayner	Sinclair	BER	32.1	32.4	30.2	43.1	46.2	43.0	59.1	55.0	340.11
38	Maile	Desroy	ANT	28.1	34.0	33.2	44.1	46.2	43.0	54.0	58.0	340.06
39	Murrell	William	BAR	32.2	32.0	31.1	43.2	43.0	48.1	53.1	50.1	332.08
40	Simons	Nelson	BER	29.1	31.1	34.1	44.0	37.0	45.3	56.1	54.1	330.08
41	Knipe	Colin	SHN	24.1	26.0	28.1	41.1	40.1	42.1	50.2	52.0	303.07
42	Leo	Cyril	SHN	21.0	32.0	30.0	32.1	39.0	38.0	53.1	39.0	284.02

# COMMONWEALTH GAMES FULLBORE PAIRS RESULTS

			300	500	600	900	1000	Total
1	<b>NZL</b>		<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.13</b>	<b>148.14</b>	<b>143.8</b>	<b>588.53</b>
	Collings	Mike	50.5	50.6	50.5	74.8	71.5	
	Snowden	John	49.4	49.3	49.8	74.6	72.3	
2	<b>SCO</b>		<b>100.7</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.11</b>	<b>144.13</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>587.46</b>
	McLeod	Angus	50.3	50.6	50.5	73.6	71.2	
	Shaw	Ian	50.4	49.3	50.6	71.7	73.4	
3	<b>ENG</b>		<b>98.7</b>	<b>99.10</b>	<b>99.10</b>	<b>146.13</b>	<b>142.8</b>	<b>584.48</b>
	Underwood	Jon	49.4	49.4	50.6	74.7	70.4	
	Patel	Parag	49.3	50.6	49.4	72.6	72.4	
4	<b>GGY</b>		<b>99.11</b>	<b>97.12</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>149.12</b>	<b>139.11</b>	<b>580.51</b>
	Jory	Adam	50.6	49.7	50.4	74.6	71.5	
	Jory	Peter	49.5	48.5	46.1	75.6	68.6	
5	<b>GUY</b>		<b>96.8</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>97.10</b>	<b>144.11</b>	<b>143.6</b>	<b>579.42</b>
	Persaud	Mahendra	48.5	50.3	48.6	72.4	73.6	
	Goodluck	Ransford	48.3	49.4	49.4	72.7	70.0	
6	<b>CAN</b>		<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.12</b>	<b>100.10</b>	<b>138.5</b>	<b>137.8</b>	<b>574.44</b>
	Vamplew	Des	49.4	50.3	50.5	70.4	72.4	
	Paton	Jim	50.5	50.9	50.5	68.1	65.4	
7	<b>RSA</b>		<b>100.15</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>99.10</b>	<b>139.4</b>	<b>135.4</b>	<b>571.38</b>
	Breedt	Tielman	50.6	48.0	49.5	73.3	66.2	
	Hassbroek	Petrus	50.9	50.5	50.5	66.1	69.2	
8	<b>NIR</b>		<b>99.8</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>137.7</b>	<b>138.12</b>	<b>570.44</b>
	Calvert	David	50.6	49.5	50.6	67.5	69.5	
	McQuillan	Ross	49.2	49.3	48.3	70.2	69.7	
9	<b>JER</b>		<b>98.9</b>	<b>99.14</b>	<b>98.10</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>569.47</b>
	Richardson	Daniel	49.5	50.8	49.7	71.5	68.3	
	Horwood	Bruce	49.4	49.6	49.3	70.4	65.2	
10	<b>MAS</b>		<b>97.12</b>	<b>100.12</b>	<b>99.11</b>	<b>145.12</b>	<b>127.3</b>	<b>568.50</b>
	Hamsan	Zulkeflee	50.8	50.4	50.5	74.7	64.3	
	Md Zain	Zainal	47.4	50.8	49.6	71.5	63.0	
11	<b>IND</b>		<b>92.8</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>143.10</b>	<b>141.8</b>	<b>565.41</b>
	Ghaley	Sushil	44.5	50.6	47.1	71.7	73.3	
	Dahiya	Praveen	48.3	43.3	49.5	72.3	68.5	
12	<b>KEN</b>		<b>96.8</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>142.12</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>564.40</b>
	Iriga	Peter	49.5	50.6	48.3	72.7	65.3	
	Sehmi	Satiender	47.3	47.3	44.3	70.5	72.2	



<b>13 WAL</b>			<b>98.11</b>	<b>99.13</b>	<b>100.10</b>	<b>129.3</b>	<b>133.2</b>	<b>559.39</b>
Morris	Gareth		50.7	50.8	50.7	67.2	66.1	
Oxford	Robert		48.4	49.5	50.3	62.1	67.1	
<b>14 AUS</b>			<b>98.13</b>	<b>99.13</b>	<b>99.11</b>	<b>150.11</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>556.50</b>
Corbett	James		50.9	50.7	50.6	75.3	57.1	
Grenfell	Geoffrey		48.4	49.6	49.5	75.8	53.1	
<b>15 TRI</b>			<b>98.9</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>133.7</b>	<b>130.7</b>	<b>548.34</b>
Lall	Justin		50.6	49.4	48.3	68.4	69.4	
Gomez	Norris		48.3	45.2	45.2	65.3	61.3	
<b>16 JAM</b>			<b>90.3</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>131.4</b>	<b>547.26</b>
Nunez	Jose		44.1	46.2	48.5	70.2	69.2	
Rickman	David		46.2	49.3	47.2	66.5	62.2	
<b>17 FLK</b>			<b>94.2</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>140.11</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>530.25</b>
Goodwin	Gareth		48.1	48.4	49.3	73.4	58.0	
Goodwin	Derek		46.1	46.2	45.1	67.7	50.2	
<b>18 ANT</b>			<b>88.4</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>135.6</b>	<b>525.21</b>
Greenaway	Thomas		46.2	44.1	43.1	64.2	69.2	
Maile	Desroy		42.2	45.2	45.2	61.3	66.4	
<b>19 BER</b>			<b>87.3</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>132.1</b>	<b>522.10</b>
Rayner	Sinclair		48.2	46.1	46.3	61.0	65.0	
Simons	Nelson		39.1	46.1	48.1	56.0	67.1	
<b>20 BAR</b>			<b>93.3</b>	<b>98.10</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>122.5</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>516.23</b>
Jordan Cousins	Jennifer		47.1	50.7	49.3	65.3	58.0	
Murrell	William		46.2	48.3	45.2	57.2	51.0	
<b>21 SHN</b>			<b>59.1</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>423.10</b>
Knipe	Colin		37.1	45.3	36.1	59.0	39.0	
Leo	Cyril		22.0	46.2	37.0	52.1	50.2	

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES DELHI 2010

### HOME COUNTRIES MEDALLISTS

Gold Medals	10
Silver Medals	9
Bronze Medals	13
Total Medals	32

Trap Women	Gold – England Anita North	Silver – Scotland Shona Marshall
50m Rifle Prone Women Pairs	Gold – Scotland Jen McIntosh Kay Copland	Silver – England Michelle Smith Sharon Lee
50m Rifle Prone Men Pairs	Gold – Scotland Neil Stirton Jonathan Hammond	Silver – England Mike Babb Richard Wilson

<b>Double Trap Men</b>	<b>Gold – England</b> Stevan Walton	<b>Bronze – IOM</b> Timothy Kneal
<b>50m Rifle Prone Women</b>	<b>Gold – Scotland</b> Jen McIntosh	<b>Bronze - Wales</b> Johanne Brekke
<b>50m Rifle Prone Men</b>	<b>Gold – Scotland</b> Jonathan Hammond	<b>Bronze – Northern Ireland</b> Matthew Hall
<b>Open Full Bore</b>	<b>Gold – England</b> Parag Patel	<b>Bronze – Northern Ireland</b> David Calvert
<b>Double Trap Men Pairs</b>	<b>Gold – England</b> Stevan Walton Steven Scott	
<b>Trap Men</b>	<b>Gold – England</b> Aaron Heading	
<b>Skeet Men</b>	<b>Gold – England</b> Richard Brickell	
<b>50m Rifle 3 Positions Men Pairs</b>	<b>Silver – England</b> James Huckle Kenny Parr	<b>Bronze – Scotland</b> Jonathan Hammond Neil Stirton
<b>Open Full Bore Pairs</b>	<b>Silver – Scotland</b> Angus McLeod Ian Shaw	<b>Bronze – England</b> Jon Underwood Parag Patel
<b>50m Rifle 3 Positions Men</b>	<b>Silver – Scotland</b> Jonathan Hammond	<b>Bronze – England</b> James Huckle
<b>10m Air Rifle Men Pairs</b>	<b>Silver – England</b> James Huckle Kenny Parr	
<b>10m Air Pistol Men Pairs</b>	<b>Silver – England</b> Nick Baxter Michael Gault	
<b>Trap Women Pairs</b>	<b>Silver – England</b> Abbey Burton Anita North	
<b>25m Pistol Women Pairs</b>	<b>Bronze Medal - England</b> Julia Lydall Gorgs Geikie	
<b>50 Rifle 3 Positions Women Pairs</b>	<b>Bronze Medal – Scotland</b> Kay Copland Jen McIntosh	
<b>10m Air Rifle Men</b>	<b>Bronze – England</b> James Huckle	
<b>Trap Men Pairs</b>	<b>Bronze – England</b> Aaron Heading Dave Kirk	
<b>Skeet Men Pairs</b>	<b>Bronze – England</b> Richard Brickell Clive Bramley	
<b>25m Standard Pistol Men Pairs</b>	<b>Bronze – England</b> Michael Gault Iqbal Ubhi	



# ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2009/2010

**by Elected Ordinary, Regional, Shooting Discipline and Co-opted Members  
of the General Council from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010**

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

x = not a member of that committee

(C) = Co-opted Member

(O) = Ordinary Member

(SD) = Shooting Discipline Member

(T) = Trustee

(R) = Regional Member

# NRA COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## The Council (Board of Trustees)

Dr R Pizer	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Vice-Chairman (Elected)</i>
Mr DGF Evans	<i>Chairman Disciplinary Committee</i>
Mr DT Frank	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr PH Hobson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr D Mabbott	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mr JC Ragg	<i>Treasurer</i>
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Chairman Shooting Committee</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Chairman Membership Committee</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Elected</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>Secretary</i>

## Remuneration Committee

Mr CJ Murton	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr JC Ragg	
Mr R Pooley	

## Investment Committee

Mr JC Ragg	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr D Mabbott	

## National Shooting Centre Limited

### Board of Directors

Mr R Pooley	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr R Boyd	
Mr AJ Cornwell	
Mr M Maksimovic	
Mr R Neighbour	
Mr JE Staples	<i>Managing Director</i>

## The General Council

Dr R Pizer	<i>Chairman</i>	
Prof AR Horrocks	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Mr JA Ragg	<i>Treasurer</i>	
Mr GK Alexander	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr HRM Bailie	<i>Regional - Northern Ireland</i>	
Mr GV Barnard	<i>Regional - East Midlands</i>	
Mrs ID Bennett	<i>Regional - West Midlands</i>	
Mr MJM Black	<i>Regional - Northern</i>	
Mr JPS Bloomfield	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr T Bobbett	<i>CPSA</i>	
Col (Ret'd) WGC Bowles	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>	
Mr CM Brooks	<i>Elected</i>	
Flt Lt DP Calvert	<i>Elected</i>	
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson	<i>Discipline - Match Rifle</i>	
Mr JH Carmichael	<i>Elected</i>	
Lt Col ARK Clayton	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr PR Coley	<i>Regional - South Western</i>	
Mr DGF Evans	<i>Chairman Disciplinary Committee</i>	
Maj MG Farnan	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr CN Farr	<i>Discipline - Gallery Rifle and Pistol</i>	
Mr EJ Gardener	<i>Elected</i>	
Mr GMLN Gilpin	<i>Elected</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain</i>	

Mr PH Hobson	<i>Discipline - F Class</i>
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	<i>Welsh Target Shooting Federation</i>
Maj A Higham	<i>Army Rifle Association</i>
Mr JA Horton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr P Hunter	<i>Discipline - Practical Rifle</i>
Mr MD Jones MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr TLW Kidner	<i>Regional - Scotland</i>
Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Discipline - Sporting Rifle</i>
Mr GAE Larcombe	<i>Regional - Southern</i>
Lt Col CST Lehmann	<i>Co-opted</i>
Cmdr MJC Magan	<i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i>
Mr M Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mr HJ Malins MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr CC Mallett (Jnr)	<i>Jersey Rifle Association</i>
Mr MF Martel	<i>Guernsey Rifle Association</i>
Mr CJ Murton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr K Nash	<i>National Small-bore Rifle Association</i>
Col WG O'Leary	<i>Territorial Army Rifle Association</i>
Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Discipline - Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Mrs KD Robertson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr AJD Saunders	<i>English Target Shooting Federation</i>
Miss J Scrimshaw	<i>Regional - London &amp; SE</i>
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>Discipline - 300 Metres</i>
Brig JR Smales	<i>Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting</i>
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Discipline - Muzzle Loading</i>
Wg Cdr M Symonds	<i>Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee</i>
Sqn Ldr P Upham	<i>Royal Air Force Small Arms Association</i>
Dr JD Warburton	<i>Regional - Yorks/Humberside</i>
Mr MP Watkins	<i>Regional - Wales</i>
Mr JA Watson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr J Watson	<i>British Sporting Rifle Club</i>
Mr DD Watt	<i>Regional - Eastern</i>
Mr WDC Willcox	<i>Elected</i>
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Discipline - Classic Arms</i>
Mr MJ Wood	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr DG Young	<i>Regional - North Western</i>

## Committees of the General Council

### Shooting Committee

Flt Lt IW Robertson	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Target Rifle/Elected</i>
Mr GV Barnard		
Mr JPS Bloomfield		
Flt Lt DP Calvert		
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson	<i>Match Rifle</i>	
Mr JH Carmichael		
Lt Col ARK Clayton		
Maj SH Cox	<i>Schools</i>	
Mr A Duffy	<i>Co-opted (Target Shotgun)</i>	
Mr CN Farr	<i>Gallery Rifle &amp; Pistol</i>	
Maj A Higham	<i>Army Rifle Association</i>	
Mr PH Hobson	<i>F Class</i>	
Mr P Hunter	<i>Practical Rifle</i>	
Mr JM Kynoch	<i>Sporting Rifle</i>	



Mr GAE Larcombe	
Mr P Quilliam	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	<i>300 Metres</i>
Mr DE Spittles	<i>Muzzle Loading</i>
Mr MK Townsend	<i>Teams Finance Committee</i>
Mr RHF Wills	<i>Classic Arms</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Mr GWJ Alger	<i>NRA Secretary General</i>
Prof AR Horrocks	
Maj (Retd) SB Fraser	<i>TARA/CCRS</i>

#### **Target Rifle Sub-Committee**

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

#### **Match Rifle and Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee**

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

#### **F Class Sub-Committee**

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

#### **Pistol and Gallery Rifle Sub-Committee**

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

#### **Classics Sub-Committee**

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

*Representatives invited from:*

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

*Other Co-opted members by invitation*

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

#### **Schools Sub-Committee**

Maj S Cox	<i>Chairman</i>
Lt Col ARK Clayton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Capt PJ Farnan	<i>Co-opted</i>

Lt ADE Grounds	<i>Greshams</i>
Lt S Heard	<i>Clifton College</i>
Capt AR Penfold	<i>Tonbridge</i>
Maj JRW Postle	<i>Blundells</i>
Maj O Shepard	<i>CCF Association</i>
Capt CA Stewart	<i>Dollar Academy</i>
SSI A Reece	<i>Ampleforth College</i>
Brig JR Smales	<i>Chairman CCRS</i>
Lt Col NS Suffield-Jones	<i>Athelings</i>
Maj NE Topham	<i>Oratory</i>
<i>In attendance</i>	
Maj SB Fraser	<i>Secretary</i>

#### **Teams Finance Sub-Committee**

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

#### **Membership Committee**

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

#### **Disciplinary Committee**

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

#### **Bisley Facilities Advisory Group**

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

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



## T REX – PREPARING FOR HIBERNATION

badly enough by themselves without any contribution from me.

However, it is not a comfortable feeling being grilled by a group of MPs all of whom have their own prior prejudices on any subject and who, through the Select Committee structure, have enormous powers to exercise in support of their instant infinite wisdom. But, intimidating though the prospect may seem, you just have to pucker the old sphincter and get on with it. The only good news at the time was that the Committee Chairman was absent on holiday.

### Home Affairs Committee

One hopes that shooters will have taken the trouble to offer carefully considered advice to this Parliamentary committee as they look at firearms' licencing procedures. Like it or not, shooting is where it is and realistically the target shooting sports may not be served well by taking this as an opportunity for an indignant rant against restrictions.

However, what does seem to me to be blindingly obvious is that it is difficult to see how the committee can reach any sensible conclusion ahead of a proper report on the details of what happened in the Bird and Moat cases. One hopes that this is also evident to the Home Secretary and that she can resist the temptation for any further knee jerk reactions of the 1997/98 sort.

It is also not beyond the bounds of possibility that the committee will call for witnesses to give live evidence to their investigation, a doubtful pleasure that I once enjoyed in a previous existence. My organisation was called to give evidence to the HoC Select Committee on Employment at a time when journalists from one of the major dailies were in the process of a lengthy strike over something or other, and as the industrial relations buff I found myself in the witness box along with my bosses. We were all a touch nervous at the prospect of suffering the inquisitorial style of the chairman, Greville Janner QC MP (now Lord Janner of Braunstone).

One of the committee members asked, hoping that the answers would show up the newspaper management in a poor light, what advice we would give them. An elbow in my ribs from my Director indicated that I should field that one. To the questioner's obvious irritation I told him that it would be entirely impertinent for me, from outside the newspaper industry, to offer gratuitous advice to the newspaper's board of directors. The peculiarities of the newspaper industry differed sufficiently from the industrial dark satanic mills for me to be able to decline his offer of instant punditism.

Strangely my reply seemed to get nods of approval from both sides of the dispute. Presumably management felt that they did not need my advice and the journalists believed management were already doing

### A Good News Recovery

I was delighted to receive recently news of Peter Bramley's progress after the appalling accident in which he so badly damaged his back. You will recall that this column mentioned Chris Watson's initiative in seeking voluntary donations to help Peter in his recovery treatment. Over £4000 was received and has been well used for physiotherapy and related work. Peter has written to Chris to tell him of his somewhat creaking return to the firing point

*Dear Friends*

*First to count at 300 yards a bull, surprise – 75.6! 500 yards fighting a persistent cant – 75.8. On to 600 yards by now having to accept the cant due to aches and pains. Please shoot faster! Do markers always mark so slowly? Having to work out the effect of the cant on the 1 left - 4 right nippy wind took its toll – 73.5. Calls for a drink, "and I will have two of those big white pills, thanks". I need major reshaping on my old Musgrave stock or something totally new and adjustable. The old body ain't the same after 11 months. That sums up my anxious wait and return to the firing point.*

*I had a great day, and that far sooner than expected, thanks to a really good rehab program (three sessions a week) very kindly sponsored by shooting pals. It is greatly appreciated and I am humbled by the gesture. That so many care worldwide really shows what an incredible family of friends shooters really are, one minute fighting a gruelling match, and then, when one is down, opponents come to the rescue.*

*All the generous support truly got me through a rough time. Thank you for all the calls, cards, e-mails, visits, good advice. Especially all the prayers. By God's grace only can I thank you all. Many thanks from Lexie and myself 'baie dankie'. I wish you all the very best for the 2010 Meeting.*

*Regards*

*Peter B*

Well done and thank you from Chris to all those friends. Keep them in the bullseye Peter.



## Spot the No Ball

Recent alleged happenings in the cricket world prompt me to consider a new venture. Bets may be placed to identify correctly the number of the shot (first, second etc) in the Corporation by a named competitor that arrives in the "hit scoring one" zone of the target. I shall be instructing appropriate gaming experts from Multinational Organised Betting (MOB) to conduct this skill-based competition and to fix – I mean establish through scientific methods – the odds.

All proceeds generated will be forwarded to my old favourite, and thoroughly charitable, T Rex Dotage Fund. As they say, piously, charity begins at home.

## Priceless

The less said about the apparent experiences of our fullbore shooters on the Kadarpur Range at the Delhi Commonwealth Games the better, apart of course from congratulations to the Home Nations medal winners. So I am indebted to the Hindustan Times of 21 October for the report of the exchanges between Australian Jim Corbett and the Indian authorities under the heading "Oz shooters recall journey through hell".

Corbett, who with Geoff Grenfell suffered dramatically in the Pairs event, wrote with some feeling to the Indian Prime Minister seeking an apology for the tribulations inflicted upon all shooters with the persistent failures of the targetry on the range. We will spare you a lengthy account but one well-placed source has it that one of the alleged early failures was because of a termites' nest in one of the targets. Anyway, Corbett suffered like most and as we know was pipped for the individual gold at the last hurdle by Parag Patel, who shot out of his medical stockings at 900 and 1000 yards.

Delhi's response to Corbett, from TS Dhillon, sports manager at Kadarpur, said, "Australians are bad losers. They are crying foul because they finished below the Indians." The report added that the hosts had finished 11th while Australia came 14th in the Pairs. Ouch!

One's sympathies perhaps lie with the shooters and not with the authorities. Hibernation beckons.

See you in the New Year

T Rex

## HOME AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE SHOOT AT BISLEY



Aiden Burley MP (HASC), Anita North (Commonwealth Games 2010 gold medal and Commonwealth Games record holder), Keith Vaz MP (Chair, HASC), Charlotte Kerwood (Commonwealth Games gold medallist 2002 and 2006 and Commonwealth Games record holder) and Bridget Phillipson MP (HASC).

*Photo: Mike Wells*

The British Shooting Sports Council invited Chairman Keith Vaz and other members of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee to visit the National Shooting Centre at Bisley on Monday 8 November 2010.

Instructors and Commonwealth games medallists demonstrated rifle and air pistol at the Lord Roberts Centre. The delegates also participated in shooting, in some cases with evident ability.

At the Clay layout coaches instructed the MPs in the techniques needed to break clays with over and under and semi-automatic shotguns and even a flintlock!

Back at the Lord Roberts Centre Graham Downing of the Countryside Alliance gave a presentation on game shooting, stalking and vermin control, to be followed by John Batley of the GunTrade Association on deactivated firearms, paint ball guns and on the impact of the Violent Crime Reduction Act on realistic imitation firearms.

The morning finished with a question and answer session which allowed the Committee members to explore further aspects of the impact of legislation on the shooting sports.

On behalf of the Home Affairs Committee Keith Vaz thanked everyone for a most informative day and for the opportunity to experience our sport.

# MEMORIES OF SHOOTING ON HAWKSWORTH RIFLE RANGE

*by John Holmes of Leeds Service Rifle Club*

As a keen interest in rifle shooting swept the nation in the latter half of the 19th century many ranges were built across the country and the West Riding of Yorkshire (as it was then) was no different. A number of ranges were built on the moorland around the large industrial centres of Leeds and Bradford. One such range was Hawksworth, on the edge of Ilkley Moor. Such was the popularity of the sport in those days that there were two further ranges on Baildon Moor some two to three miles distant. Many clubs and individuals shot at Hawksworth for over 100 years right up to its closure in 1987.

I have been lucky enough to enjoy shooting at Hawksworth from the 1950s to the range's closure in the late 1980s (albeit with some breaks to serve Queen and Country, raise my family and earn a living).

My first memories of Hawksworth Rifle Range are from 1952 when, as a sixteen year old I became a member of Leeds Service Rifle Club and first shot fullbore rifle. This was a real adventure firing .303" calibre service rifles after only previously having used .22" rifles. To feel the power of the recoil was fantastic. With the help of a very understanding Inspector Cartwright of Ilkley Police who endorsed my application, I soon acquired my own .303" rifle. My lifelong involvement in fullbore shooting had begun.

In those days not many of the members had their own cars and shooters arrived at the range for our club shoots using various forms of transport. To get up to the range I pedalled and pushed my cycle there all the way from Guiseley with a rifle on my back (uncovered in those days). It was hard but the effort was worth it. Some of the shooters from Horsforth were transported there on the back of George Hartley's coal wagon, they arrived a bit dusty but not out of breath, as I was. Others came from Leeds, Baildon, Shipley and Bradford in various vehicles, of particular note was the lovely Daimler owned by William Bottomley.

Our club shooting took place on Sunday mornings and, in summer, some Wednesday evenings. We usually had up to six targets shooting at 200 and 300 yards and occasionally back to 400 yards. It was the summers that were most enjoyable. One memorable summer's day Dennis Neen arrived with a picnic hamper packed with a wide selection of food and bottle of wine. In the 1950s this was setting a new standard in sophistication as wine was only really drunk in restaurants or on very special occasions at home, and very rarely if ever on a rifle range on Ilkley Moor. For most, lunch was sandwiches, a flask of tea and possibly a bottle of beer on a hot day.

We shot mainly in our own club competitions, though occasionally we went to Strensall for a big shoot. Sometimes we ended our shoots at Hawksworth with a run-down and fired at falling plates set on the stop butt

above the targets. Many bullets were heard ricocheting off these steel plates and whining off over Ilkley Moor. It was all good fun.

The weather was not always kind. One time when we were rained off we all crowded into the corrugated iron shed alongside the range. Everyone was wet through and someone lit a fire, where the fuel came from I don't know, but it was very welcome. One keen member, Ralph Murgatroyd, stripped off his wet clothing down to his underpants, vest, socks, heavy boots and shooting hat. Ralph, determined to keep shooting even in the atrocious weather, took out a pistol from his shooting box and started firing out of the door towards the stop butts. It all seemed so normal in those days!

In the 1950s the rifles we used were mainly P14s, SMLEs and No 4s fitted with standard military fixed blade foresights and push up ladder backsights without any wind adjustments. We allowed for wind by aiming off and in seriously strong winds this could be at the edge of the target frame or even beyond in extreme conditions. Eventually we fitted Parker-Hale adjustable backsights on to our rifles which made coping with the wind a little easier.

We did at least use two point slings but our shooting jackets usually consisted of an old tweed jacket or converted army battle dress top with a bit of a butt patch sewn on to the shoulder. Elbows were protected with elbow pads purchased from Parker-Hale. If you were lucky you lay on an ex-army rain cape otherwise it was the grass, come rain, snow or shine. Telescopes were the old three draw type mounted on three legged stands.

Cleaning rods were an item of the future. We all used rope "pull throughs" with a brass weight on one end and a loop on the other to take a piece of "four by two" soaked in Youngs .303" cleaner. What a lovely distinctive smell that was.

Ear defenders had not yet been invented or at least information about them had not reached us. It's a wonder that more of us did not become deaf.

Windmill targets were used at Hawksworth in the 1950s. When the strong west wind blew they seem to have a mind of their own and were very difficult to operate. Sometime in the early 1970s pulley target frames were fitted replacing the rotating windmills. The new frames came from Rolston, an army range on the Yorkshire coast south of Hornsea.

During my two years of National Service I trained as an armourer. Once I had completed the training at Kirkham I applied for a Far East posting to see a bit of the world. I was indeed posted to the east, but only as far as Driffield, East Yorkshire and then to Swinderby in Lincolnshire. Not quite what I had expected. Fortunately most weekends I was able to get home on



weekend leave and I brought home my service issue No 4 .303" rifle fitted with a Parker-Hale 5c adjustable back sight that I used at camp along with plenty of service issue ammo to use at Hawksworth. By the end of National Service I had accumulated enough ammo to give me cheap shooting for the next year or so.

I doubt if Hawksworth Range in those days would have passed the strict present day range safety regulations although I am not aware of any accidents occurring right up to the closure of the range. But there were some interesting incidents.

Whilst shooting one Sunday morning a family appeared around the left hand side of the stop butt and they all sat down on the edge of the butts next to the targets. Naturally shooting stopped and we went to inform them they were in the danger area of a rifle range, "oh yes" they replied "we thought we would have our picnic and watch you all shooting". They eventually moved off and shooting restarted.

A more serious incident happened one long hot summer when large areas of the moor were on fire. We arrived on a Sunday morning for our usual shoot. Because of the fire the Army was camping on parts of the moor in large tents. They had many men there tackling the fire and using bulldozers to gouge out earth to make firebreaks. The range warden assured us they were all well towards Ilkley and that it was safe for us to shoot. Noticing that the red danger flag in the danger area was at half-mast I climbed to the top of the hill and raised it to the top of the pole. We started to shoot. Some time

after starting a figure appeared over the top of the hill by the danger area flag. It was Walter Flesher a well known local gamekeeper. Firing stopped immediately and a very distressed Walter came staggering down the hill, over the stop butts and onto the range and the poor man collapsed in front of us on the firing point. Gasping for breath he called us all murderers and other far from polite names. Apparently the range warden had agreed with the Army to use the flag to signal if fire broke out again near the range. If the flag was raised from half-mast the Army would rush back to fight the fire. Unfortunately the range warden forgot to tell us of this arrangement and by raising the flag I had managed to send a signal for the Army to return and now the danger area was teeming with soldiers and the rather annoyed local gamekeeper.

Shooting continued at Hawksworth until the range was finally closed in 1987. Fortunately the club was able to hold the 40th Anniversary shoot shortly before the range closed. It is now slowly disappearing into the hillside. If you walk up there you can still find the remains of bullets of various calibres in the soil. The outlines of the firing points are still visible and in the butts the remains of the target frames are slowly rusting away. It is now a very sad place for those of us who remember it as it was.

These are my own personal recollections of my early days on the Hawksworth Range coupled with memories of many members who are no longer with us. Oh happy days!

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## OBITUARIES

### Geoff Hart

Gunsmith and rifleman Geoff Hart of Gloucester died on 14 October 2009. This obituary appears late but an unselfish life should not go unrecorded.

Geoff was 92 when he died. He had been ill for some time and had not been at Bisley for a while. His last active year was in 1998 – at the age of 80 – having been coming to Bisley for 40 years. Indeed, Geoff and Iris were able to celebrate that occasion with a celebratory tea and a cake adorned with windflags, instead of candles, at the IBIS RC.

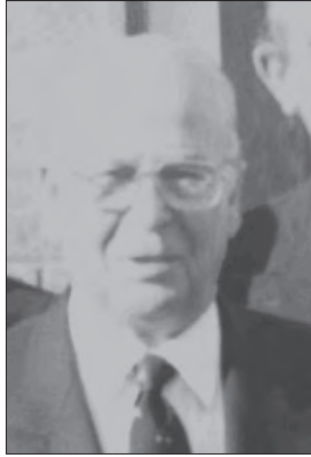
Geoff was a genuinely friendly man, always ready to help a shooter who believed they had a problem. His approach with many of them was to apply his great perception, take away their rifle overnight, give it a thorough examination, and return it the next day with the assurance that it was now fixed. Very rarely did the shooter not return a good score with their next shoot. Geoff might have done something, or often – if he could find nothing wrong – do nothing other than have a good look over the item and possibly even give it a clean. But it seemed to work.

He knew, as so many know, that so many of shooting problems are in the mind, that curious mix of confidence in the hardware and self-belief. Geoff provided that boost and that special support.

But he was no slouch at all with the construction of some fine target rifles in the early days of the conversion to 7.62mm and the years thereafter. He had many customers and one of his Shilen actioned rifles was used by the Queen's Prize winner in 1991. Geoff was in that prize list once in 1971 and in the St Georges Final in 1974. Others had his No 4 conversions, one of which remains a prized possession in the hands of a current GB shot even though it has not been used for some years!

He toured with the GB Team to Canada in that same year and with the NRA team to the Channel Islands. A regular member of the Gloucestershire county team he was also a member of Dean RC and latterly the Dursley RC.

What endeared Geoff to so many was his never ending patience and friendliness. Whether at his workshop at Warden Hill in Cheltenham or at his caravan at Bisley, the anxious customer was assured of a warm welcome and friendly help and advice. One GB shot recalls that in the mid-1970s, when he was a relative novice aspiring to greatness, he was lent a rifle by Geoff (was



it a Mauser action?) while his ailing P14 conversion was taken in to be 'made better' in the middle of the Bisley Meeting.

Another shooter clearly recalls just how impressed he had been by a Geoff Hart No 4 conversion and his ability to maintain the Whittaker Special. According to one tale it was Geoff who also assisted John Light with the manufacture of springs for his Brindles sights, unselfishly doing himself out of profitable work!

Those of you who have been touched by his friendship, and his and his wife Iris's hospitality, may like to know that plans are being made to install a plaque at Bisley in the Memorial Garden at the Clock Tower. Any donations towards the cost should be sent to John Deane at 24 Harvesters, Jersey Farm, St Albans AL4 9QU (cheques payable to JR Deane). Any excess will be donated to the Young Shooters Fund of the NRA which we hope will be welcomed by Iris and the family.

*JRD, MK*

### John Edward Horn

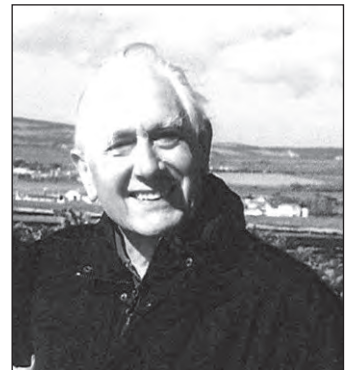
John was born on 29 July 1941. He passed away on 23 June 2010 – just short of his 69th birthday.

John was one of three children with one brother and one sister. Although his parents lived and worked in south London, John was

born in Blackburn in Lancashire, his mother having been evacuated there from London during the war. During the war the family returned to south London. John grew up here and subsequently trained as an electrician, starting his own electrical contracting business in the 1970s.

John was diagnosed with a lung disease – a form of asbestosis – early in 2008. No doubt this was as a result of his trade as an electrician, which frequently involved drilling or boring through unspecified materials. In the days that John was in business nobody had realised the dreadful health threat posed by asbestos in its many forms.

John met his wife Sylvia at a ballroom dancing school in 1961 and they have been together ever since. John and Sylvia were both keen dancers and maintained their love of dancing throughout John's life. They were successful in ballroom and Latin American dancing competitions in the late sixties and seventies, reaching some senior county championship finals. John still enjoyed social dancing right up to Christmas 2009





and they were learning the Argentine tango when his illness took hold and prevented further participation.

John was a rifleman and he enjoyed target shooting and Bisley itself immensely – mainly, I think, for the camaraderie and the friends that he made here. John was introduced to smallbore rifle shooting by Sylvia's brother in the early 1980s, shooting at Cobham. Later in the 80s John progressed to fullbore target rifle shooting and joined Wandsworth FBRC, City RC, Club 25 and Surrey RA. John was a competent club shot and although he had to wait some time for his first 50 it was worth the wait – it was with 10 V bulls. He kept that score card.

John was initiated into Freemasonry in the Sit Perpetuum Lodge at Bisley on 14 May 1993. John was a founding member of Windlesham Dawn Lodge and became their Worshipful Master. John was a genuine and enthusiastic Freemason working tirelessly in the cause of charity. While being treated for his illness in Noble's Hospital on the Isle of Man he noticed a shortage of blood pressure monitors on the wards. He was told that the monitors needed servicing on the mainland and the hospital could not afford this. John

raised £2,373 and donated an ambulatory monitor that enables patients to have blood pressure monitoring in their own homes, thus reducing waiting times.

John and Sylvia had moved to Worcester Park in Surrey in 1971. In 2000 they decided to retire and to move to the Isle of Man where they had enjoyed two very happy holidays. They bought a property in 2001 but due to various problems with the sale of his existing properties and with his finances that were tied up with Equitable Life, were not able to move to the Isle of Man until 2007.

John approached everything in life with determination, enthusiasm, dedication and great humour, and he fought his illness, right to the end, with the same qualities. He will long be remembered and missed by all those who knew and loved him.

*Peter Smith*

*The NRA are sad to announce the deaths of Vernon Carpenter of Lloyds TSBRC, Dudley Turner of Marquis SC and Marion Cantlay of Zimbabwe. It is hoped that obituaries will appear in the Spring Journal.*

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

The GBTSF Whole Sport Plan which is funded by Sport England has many interventions which revolve around regional development.

To implement the plan two Regional Development Managers are required, one to work in the South East and another in the West Midlands. This is a part-time, paid post which will require around 15 hours per week

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This is an ideal opportunity for an enthusiastic, energetic, self-motivated organiser and communicator to be the liaison officer, ambassador, and champion of the sport within the region.

Interested parties should contact Phyllis Farnan NRA Director of Training by e-mail at [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk) for a full job description and more details of the post.

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