

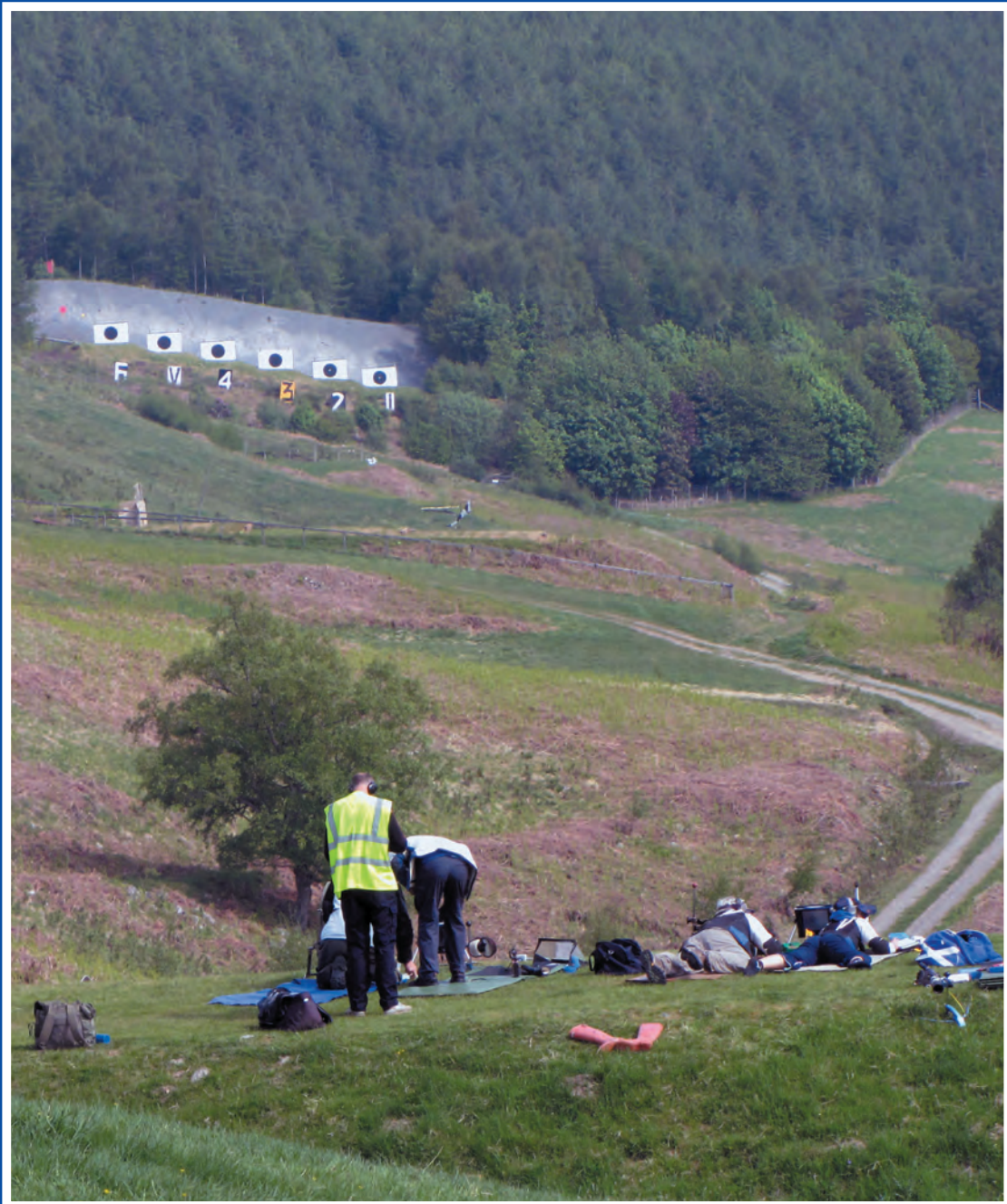


National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2011

Volume XC

Number 1



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Cover photo: The Scottish Long Range Championships at Blair Atholl by Phil Leslie.

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Spring End of February
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CHARGES FOR 2011

by James Ragg, Treasurer

The NRA is a charity which, as has been highlighted in previous statements by the Chairman and the Secretary General, has incurred a substantial loss in 2010. It needs, over time, to make good that loss and build financial reserves which will allow it to weather the storms that the future may throw at it.

Hard work by Graham Gold, the new head of finance, and his staff, has resulted in an improved position with the bank and I applaud them for all their efforts in resolving the short term cash flow shortage which we experienced in the second half of last year.

It is, however, essential that we address the underlying capability of the NRA group to generate a sustainable surplus which will safeguard its future and allow it to continue to play a key part in preserving and developing shooting in the UK as well as running the major shooting events at Bisley which are so important to us.

Whilst our executive team continue to make every effort to keep costs down, the fact is that there is no material scope for reducing expenditure without major reductions in the range and quality of services provided to our members. It is apparent to me that the financial improvement which was seen in the years leading up to 2010, although partly arising from improved revenue-generation, was largely achieved at the expense of long, mostly unpaid, overtime hours put in by our dedicated staff and by postponing maintenance work on the fabric of Bisley. This approach has now reached its limit and our facilities and our staff need greater resources applied to them.

Work on improving the long-term ability of the NRA to generate income from its assets at Bisley is well advanced but will take some time yet to come to fruition. In the meantime it is the members and other users of Bisley who need to support our charity by each paying a little more for our membership and our use of the ranges.

Some of the charges for activities or entries to competitions have remained static or increased only slightly for a number of years, falling well behind inflation. We cannot, in all fairness to you, address the need to catch up with two, three or even four years-worth of inflation in one go but we do need to make a start and have therefore increased most charges by a minimum of 5%.

The entry fees for flagship shooting events have been set in previous years without taking into account the costs of permanent staff who administer these events. This needs to change over the course of the next few years so that the subsidy for those shooting these events is gradually withdrawn. For this year the increase will be 5%.

Some items, such as the charges for markers, were failing to cover even half of the associated administration costs and were therefore making a loss. The increase here is just over 7% which means that this area should now at least break even.

The cost of a Grand Aggregate Imperial Meeting entry has gone up by around seventeen pounds which is just over 5%. This is, however, largely driven by increased ammunition costs, without which the increase is 2.8%, kept low for this year because we are keen to ensure that as many of you as possible continue to participate in our most important event.

Some will doubtless say that shooting with the NRA has now become too expensive and give up or go elsewhere. Others will undoubtedly chastise the trustees for not increasing charges further in order to generate funds for developing our sport. I hope however that the fairly modest increases for this year, coupled with our ongoing efforts to secure long-term income sources, meet with the approval of the vast majority of you.



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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

by
Glynn
Alger



Cumbria and Northumbria Tragedies

As you are aware, the NRA has engaged directly with Government, the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers working through the British Shooting Sports Council as the lead for the target shooting bodies, to ensure our sport is protected from the worst excesses of the anti-gun lobby following the tragedies of Cumbria and Northumberland.

Despite the fact that the Parliamentary debate in December was largely positive, and the Minister James Brokenshire has to date 'held the line', insisting that the Government will not 'knee jerk', there is still the potential for some quite fundamental changes to legislation relating to:

- Medical checks with GPs
- Changes to ages that young people can shoot
- The reclassification of shotguns as Section 1

The Association discussed these matters with the Minister on 22 February 2011 in company with BASC, the Gun Trade Association and the Secretary of BSSC. As a result of the current approach, the original arguments for tough law changes are now understood by the authorities leading to a more balanced approach. Despite this we still need to defend the right of the young to shoot under supervision, against the ill-informed, as recently demonstrated in the Welsh Assembly.

The other issue that is facing us is the move to make shotguns Section 1. For current firearms users who also own shotguns a single licence could prove to be beneficial in both administration and cost. However, for the 750,000 shotgun users the requirement to meet similar conditions to that for a Firearms Certificate may prove onerous. At the same time the increase in workload for the police has all the potential of going into an overload situation, where the current problems in service delivery from a number of forces will become acute in the short to medium term.

Under the radar ACPO have made several proposals that, if unchallenged, would have the potential to cause considerable problems for rifle and pistol clubs. The matters of particular concern are:

- Home Office approvals – to allow clubs to hold a wider classification of firearms types, to enable them to ensure new members are adequately trained and confirmed as safe and competent in their chosen shooting disciplines.
- Club FACs - these are traditionally issued to an individual. The police are concerned that it was not feasible for the FAC holder to be present whenever shooting takes place. In a club environment our position was that it is unrealistic to expect the FAC holder to be present on all occasions. Our proposal is to allow clubs to notify to the police a number of named club officials able to open and run the ranges, allowing members to shoot club firearms using the club FAC. In this way the spirit of the law is maintained.
- Miniature Rifle Ranges – there is an ambition to increase controls in relation to Section 11(4) of the 1968 Act, which allows a person managing or conducting a miniature rifle range or shooting gallery to possess rifles and ammunition without the need for a firearms certificate. The proposed solution is to restrict the organisations able to issue these authorities to the Showman's Guild, the NSRA and the NRA, thus ensuring the correct conditions to run this type of range are in place. The bodies concerned would supply the police with details of any applicants so that adequate checks are carried out prior to issue.

In principle these matters have been addressed and agreed with ACPO for discussion with the Minister and the Home Office.

Politics

During the post Cumbria period the NRA has been far more politically active.

In the recent past we have developed political contacts that have intervened on our behalf in relation to the Olympics and other shooting matters as issues arose. These contacts have proven invaluable in recent months making direct interventions on our behalf and giving advice on how to proceed procedurally and politically.

A key issue for the NRA was that the target shooting bodies should be represented appropriately during negotiations with politicians, Government, Home Office and the police to ensure more requirements were not forced upon us to appease public opinion.

As a result of this the NRA, working with the NSRA and CPSA, arranged a visit under the BSSC banner for the Home Affairs Committee to visit Bisley and learn

about the sport and the existing law and requirements that we have to meet.

The NRA, on behalf of the other target shooting bodies, put together 'The Facts on Firearms' document that went to every MP to brief them in preparation for the debate on Cumbria just prior to the Parliamentary Christmas break.

As a result of these interventions we have learnt that a targeted political approach works.

The NRA is currently looking at ways that it can better inform MPs in relation to firearms legislation and use.

It is our intention to advertise a 'help desk' for MPs which they can telephone or e-mail for routine advice in an attempt to improve relationships and some Parliamentarians views of the sport.

At another level we will be looking for 'ambassadors' working for the NRA working at local level. In our discussions with our advisors, they have stated that the best place to make an impression on an MP is in their constituency.

The NRA intends to produce a newsletter on firearms issues for delivery to MPs on a half yearly basis. This document will be sent to our 'ambassadors' for personal delivery to their MP. In this way we hope to build relationships at a local level with MPs that will enable better informed debate at a national level going forward. We will be in contact on this matter

with members when we have decided upon the detail of how this process will run and be managed.

MoD Ranges

There has recently been a rumour doing the rounds that the move to restrict military use of ranges to one or two weekends each month means that ranges are closed for the rest of the time and thus not available to clubs to book.

This is incorrect. Those ranges that are not restricted by by-laws which require the military to be present, are open for business. In reality if clubs take advantage of this position they should have greater access to ranges. If they also co-operate, having agreed courses of fire beforehand, a number of clubs could book a range together thus reducing costs and increasing access.

If a club or clubs does book a range and they find they have spare capacity I would encourage you to contact local cadet units and offer them the opportunity to shoot alongside as they have been badly hit by the new regime of reduced weekend shooting for the military.

Club Affiliation Costs 2011

As you will be aware by now, the costs of being affiliated to the National Rifle Association have risen in 2011. The reason for this is that the Association's costs have increased, thus membership and affiliation fees have had to reflect this. There is also an element of catch-up in the rises as well, because the actual

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affiliation fee has not risen since 2006. In addition, the cost of club insurance from our supplier has risen and so this has been passed on directly at cost as part of the Range Pass.

You might ask what the NRA has been doing on your behalf that has increased costs?

As you are aware the Association absorbed all of the staff and administration cost when the MoD introduced the requirement for safety certification to use their ranges. This issue has played into the recent budget deficit suffered by the Association.

In an effort to keep shooting costs as low as possible, to encourage participation in the sport, the NRA cut its membership subscription rates by a third and kept its affiliation rates and associated costs as low as possible.

In cost terms the NRA has seen increased activity, post-Cumbria, by the authorities when dealing with its members and clubs. As a result we have engaged increasingly in representing members of affiliated clubs and members to protect them from the often excessive zeal of some licensing departments.

At another level, the Association has been involved in regular correspondence and meetings with ACPO and Government to protect the wider interests of clubs relating to:

- The ownership of Section 1 shotguns and long-barrelled pistols
- The proposed requirement for the club FAC holder to be present whenever shooting is taking place
- The threat to restrict youth shooting
- The proposal to revoke the conditions under Section 11.4 to run Miniature Rifle Ranges

The NRA has also invested an increasing level of resource in UK clubs to enable them to buy, build, develop or maintain their ranges in support of the wider sport.

The NRA has provided certification/build/improvement advice at nil cost in support of clubs.

Unfortunately, we have had to review the level of charges to our members and clubs against an increasingly challenging financial situation and have decided to introduce the minimum rise in fees to clubs and individuals reflecting our commitment to keep shooting costs as low as possible.

Price Rises for 2011

Club Affiliation	£70
Club Capitation (<i>paid by shooting members of an affiliated club who are not individual members of the NRA</i>)	£7
Range Pass (<i>including insurance</i>)	£215

General Notices

Discipline

Mr Edward Jeens has been fined £250 for breach of Rule 255 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

Annual General Meeting

The 2011 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 10 June at 17:30 in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2011 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 21:00 on Wednesday 20 July.

Team Captaincies

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

GB Kolapore Team 2011

Jane Messer

GB Team to West Indies 2013

Nigel Penn

GB Team for the Woomera Match Bisley 2012

Alex Cargill Thompson

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2012

Garnett Faulkner

GB Gallery Rifle Team 2011

Ashley Dagger

Nominations

The request for nominations for a Captain for the following team in the last Journal received no replies and is therefore being re-advertised. Nominations are therefore required for a Captain for the following target rifle team:

GB Team to Canada 2013

Nominations should be received by the Secretary General by 17:00 on Friday 6 May.

Onwards and Upwards

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SHOOTING MATTERS – COMPETITIONS

Open Days

The NRA will hold the next Open Day at Bisley on Saturday 30 April. NSC runs the admin for the Open Days, but all the shooting is under the supervision of NRA-appointed coaches. A dispensation under the Firearms Acts allows anyone who registers (subject to age limits) to fire under supervision. A registration fee of £15 (over 14 years of age) or £5 (10 to 14 years of age) will be payable. Sheets of tickets (ten £1 tickets) may then be purchased, which may be used around the ranges to shoot a number of different firearms ranging from air pistol to all varieties of fullbore rifles.

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

Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting is being held over the weekend of Friday 27 May to Monday 30 May. We are delighted that Midway UK are continuing their headline sponsorship of this NRA flagship event. You can find Midway at the Trade Fair during the weekend.

The Phoenix Meeting has something to suit everyone – from pellet pistols to solid slug, from 7 metres to 1000 yards, this flagship Meeting has something to suit everyone's tastes.

You can enter online via the NRA website from 14 March or download an entry form to post from 26 March. Early online entries will be entered in a free draw to win a refund of your entry fee. The NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol and Phoenix Meeting Handbook is available free of charge from the NRA offices, or will be available to download on the NRA website from the end of March. Copies can also be posted for £1 post and packing.

Inter-Counties Meeting

The Inter-Counties Meeting has been reformatted after valuable input from competitors. The individual competition has been expanded, and the team competitions will commence after lunch on Saturday 11 June.

The first match, held on the Saturday morning, is the R Jarvis, which has been opened up to all target rifle shooters, not just those competing in the Inter-Counties Team Matches. This individual match now follows a Queen's I format of 2ss and 7 to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

For those not involved in the team matches, there will be another individual competition at 900 and 100 yards in the afternoon. Entry forms will be available shortly. This is an ideal opportunity for the inexperienced shooter to compete at Bisley under formal match conditions and gain some experience before the Imperial Meeting.

After lunch, the Lt Col H Jones Memorial Trophy is the first part of the team match with eight firers from a squad of ten shooting a Queen's II. The top twenty-five teams from the H Jones qualify to continue on to the NRA Long Range Team Match on Sunday morning. This is shot on Stickledown following the Queen's Final format of 2ss and 15 to count at 900 and 1000 yards. Those teams who don't qualify will compete in the Counties Short Range Match held at the same time on Century under Queen's II conditions of 2ss and 10 to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

NRA 300 Metres Championships

The NRA 300 Metres Championships will be held over the weekend 14 and 15 May. The Championships include prone and three positional competitions for TR/Standard Rifle and Free Rifle. Entry forms are available on the NRA website and from the NRA Offices.

Imperial Meeting

Dates

This year's Imperial Meeting will run from Wednesday 29 June to Saturday 23 July starting with the Civilian Service Rifle/Practical Rifle events and ending with HM The Queen's Prize Final on Final Saturday.

Entry Forms

The individual TR/MR and F Class entry forms may now be downloaded from the NRA website. However, online entry is easier, quicker and more accurate and will save a postage stamp! All online entries are uploaded directly to the Imperial Meeting entry and stats database, saving many hours of manual entry, reducing errors and making your entry more secure. If you are able to enter the Imperial Meeting online please do so.

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

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

Entries

Aggregates

TR and MR competitions are grouped into blocks as follows:

Block A is the squadded competitions making up the TR Grand Aggregate.

Block B is the squadded competitions on First Friday and Middle Saturday, other than the Daily Telegraph competition, which is part of the Grand Aggregate.

Block C is aggregate competitions including Grand Aggregate matches only.

Block D is aggregate competitions including Middle Saturday matches.

Block E is aggregate competitions including First Friday matches.

Block F is the MR squadded competitions.

Block G is the MR aggregate competitions.

This enables competitors to enter in blocks which will fit their arrival date at Bisley. Competitors arriving on First Friday are therefore encouraged to enter Blocks A, B, C, D and E. Those arriving on the morning of Middle Saturday should enter Blocks A C and D plus the Donegall and Lovell competitions and those arriving on the afternoon of Middle Saturday should enter Blocks A and C only.

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

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

A 10% surcharge will apply for entries to individual TR, MR and F Class events after 31 May with 25% extra payable after 30 June. It is unlikely that entries for any squadded competition will be accepted after 12:00 the day before that competition.

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

Individual Entry Fees

After maintaining the entry fees for the last three years we regret that the cost of each individual squadded competition has been increased by 5%. The price per shot will now be £1.05 per round plus the cost price of the ammunition issued for target rifle events. The entry fees for aggregates and sweepstakes will also remain exactly as for last year, £4.40 and 50p respectively.

Ammunition

Ammunition will once again be RWS, at a special Imperial Meeting price of 80p per round. Competitors using .308"/7.62mm rifles in Match Rifle or F Class will be able to purchase RWS ammunition at the Meeting price on application with their entry. Ammunition will be available for the McQueen on the range at the Meeting price.

Competitors in Match Rifle and F Class provide their own ammunition. To reduce complexity, F Class has a separate entry form, similar to the TR/MR entry form, but with their own ammunition-free entry fees shown. Please contact the Squadding Department for an F Class entry form if you cannot enter online.

Subsequent Stages of TR Competitions

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

Markers

All marker fees are included in the entry fee. Competitors will not be required to mark in any of the competitions on the main TR/MR or F Class Individual Entry Forms.

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

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

Service Rifle

Entry forms for Service competitors may be obtained from the NRA website or NRA offices and should be returned by 23 June 2011. There have been changes to the match conditions for some competitions so please refer to the relevant section in the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) for full details. This can be downloaded from the NRA website.

The NRA matches may be shot concurrently with Matches 46 and 47 during the various Service SAMs. The squadded team events will still be shot as stand-alone matches on 7 and 8 July. Any further information will be published in the Summer Journal.

Civilian Service Rifle/Practical Rifle

The Civilian Service Rifle/Practical Rifle programme is shown below and will be shot on Bisley, Pirbright and Stoney Castle Ranges. However, please check the Summer Journal and the website for any further changes.

Wed 29 June	Imperial Match
Thu 30 June	100, 200 & 300 Matches Urban Contact Match
Fri 1 July	Long Range Rural Contact Match Short Range Rural Contact Match
Sat 2 July	Rural Contact Match Falling Plates Match
Sun 3 July	NRA Methuen Cup Team Match

Civilian competitors may compete in four classes:

- a Historic Enfield
- b Any Iron
- c Optic Service
- d Optic Practical

For a full description of these classes and other regulations specific to the Civilian Service Rifle/Practical Rifle discipline see the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) Section 65. Para 389 specifically applies to classes.

Entry forms may be obtained from the NRA Offices or NRA website.

Target Rifle

There have been some changes to the TR and F Class programme this year, mainly to the scheduling of events on Second Thursday with the aim of improving opportunities to compete in the post-Grand Aggregate events.

A new trophy, presented by the Jersey Rifle Association to commemorate their 150th Anniversary, will be

awarded for the highest score in the Third Stage of HM The Queen's Prize. Many thanks to the Jersey Rifle Association for this generous gesture.

The Chairman's Prize has its own Final on Second Friday open to the top 50 in each of class T and O in the Grand Aggregate. Unfortunately, many who could have shot in this Final last year, did not do so. If you are Class O or T please remember to check on Second Thursday afternoon whether or not you have qualified. The start time for this Final has been changed to 10:15 to allow competitors more time to collect their squadding cards.

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

F Class

As described in the F Class report in the Shooting Discipline section, the target sizes for short range will be reduced to half minute V bulls with more regular outer rings.

F Class scoring will be scoring a V as a V and not as 6. HPS crosses will be issued for every competitor scoring a 75, 100 or 105 irrespective of the V bull count.

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

An FTR Class International Match has been added alongside the F Class International Match on Second Friday. The start time for both matches has been brought forward to 08:00.

Schools

The Schools Meeting Entry Form and Instructions will be sent out to schools before Easter. The entry fees, which have not changed for the last two years, have been increased this year by an average of 5% in accordance with the instructions of the NRA Trustees. The shooting programme for the Schools Meeting remains unchanged from 2010. It is expected that both the Schools Meeting and the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting will again be shot using the Lynx back sight.

Schools Veterans

The Schools Veterans teams match will be shot at 500 yards commencing at 17:15 on Thursday 14 July. The Ashburton 500 yards is now fired from 13:15 to 14:50, giving Old Boys time to visit their old School team in the final stages, whilst still allowing time for practice between 16:00 and 16:45 for the Schools Veterans match.

We have made some changes this year. Participants will remember the requirement to supply the names and addresses of team members on the back of the card. We aim to streamline the administration whilst still fulfilling the legal requirements. To permit full

participation, the Schools Veterans event, including pre-match practice, legally must be a Guest Day. **Old Boys who hold a Certificate of Safety and Competence and who either are members of the NRA or are members of an Old School club that is both Home Office Approved and affiliated to the NRA may shoot without any additional requirements. All others must be registered as guests.**

To register a guest, team captains must provide to the NRA Team Squadding Officer, no later than 1 July, the guest's name and address. Registering a guest creates no commitment, so if captains are unsure of the make-up of their team or the status of any individual they should register all likely guest members. Team captains will then be required to certify on the team register only that all members of their team either have a Certificate of Safety and Competence, or will be coached on a one-to-one basis by the holder of such a certificate.

Match Rifle

No changes are currently planned to the Match Rifle Meeting. Please check the Summer Journal for any updates.

Pistol and Gallery Rifle

The programme for this meeting will be much the same as last year except that matches that were previously shot with MLP will now be shot with GRCF; re-entry medal competitions will remain the same.

Matches will be run specifically for cadet competitors during the Schools Meeting on Monday 11 through to Wednesday 13 July. The main Pistol and Gallery Rifle Meeting will be shot from Wednesday 13 July to Sunday 17 July. All the squadded events will be shot during the Middle Weekend. Entry forms are available from the NRA website or offices.

However, due to the relatively low numbers of entries year on year, the future of the Imperial Pistol and Gallery Rifle Meeting is not secure. If this meeting is not supported there is a very good chance that it will be discontinued.

Prize Lists

All competitors in the Grand Aggregate or the Hopton Match Rifle Aggregate, and all Schools competing in the Ashburton, will receive a free Prize List CD provided they request one on the entry form. If you do not tick the correct box on your entry form we will assume that you do not want a Prize List CD. Additional CDs will be available at a cost of £5.00 to all those not eligible for a free copy.

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

Medals and Bars

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

Sponsorship

There are still many competitions available for sponsorship. You may know companies or individuals who might like to sponsor, or present a trophy for, a competition in the Imperial Meeting. Full details of the advantages for sponsors and the packages available are available from Amanda Vaughan on ext 135 or e-mail accommodation@nra.org.uk.

Range Conducting Officers (RCOs)

There is a continuing annual requirement to augment our Imperial Meeting RCOs. The Imperial Meeting cannot be run without competent RCOs and we welcome applications from all prospective RCOs who hold the NRA RCO qualification. If you would like to be considered for this important position please e-mail sally.agnew@nra.org.uk for an application form.

NRA Handbook 2011 Rules of Shooting & Programme – the Bisley Bible

The Bisley Bible has been further revised, however the changes this year are much less extensive than the major re-structuring for 2010. Your attention is drawn to the following changes in particular:

- The eligibility rules for Home Nation representation (Section 10; paras 22-25) have been amended. It is intended to pursue harmonisation of these rules with the eligibility rules for the National and Elcho matches; this may require amendment to all three rule sets and will take some time.
- The Code of Operation of Disciplinary Matters (Section 11; paras 33 and 34) has been extensively revised.
- Bisley Camp Standing Orders and Bisley Range Safety Regulations (Appx I and II) have been revised. Note that the Bible is not the definitive source for these orders and regulations; users of Bisley Camp should check the latest version displayed in the Range Office. In particular, it is now mandatory to wear hearing protection in the butts.
- Para 103, detailing powers of the Shooting Committee, has been expanded.
- Reference to the L98A1 variant of the Cadet GP rifle has been removed. In consequence of the change to the A2 variant, the wording of para 264 concerning carrying the GP rifle has been amended.
- Rule 278 has been changed to require a competitor to stop after 2 misses rather than 4.

The conditions under which a competitor may subsequently continue have been tightened.

- Appendix IV has changed as regards F Class target dimensions and F Class scoring.
- Section 71 – Ties (paras 501-511) has been extensively rewritten.
- Part J – Penalties (paras 542-552) has been amended in parallel with the Code of Conduct of Disciplinary Matters.
- Para 718, dealing with TR classes, now contains a concession to young competitors using the Cadet Target Rifle.
- Prize lists have changed in a number of Pistol and Gallery Rifle competitions.
- In the Conditions, the eligibility conditions for the Junior Kolapore, Junior Mackinnon and Junior Overseas have been amended.
- The competitions making up the Donaldson Memorial Stage 1 have changed.
- Permitted classes of firearms in the NRA Methuen competition (Practical Rifle) have changed.

Other Competitions

Historic and Classic Firearms

The NRA Percussion Revolver Championship will be held this year on 11 June, immediately preceding the "1910" Meeting on 12 June.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol

A full programme of events for Gallery Rifle and Pistol, including the Phoenix Meeting, Action Weekends and the National Championships, can be found on the NRA website. Online entry is quicker and squadding is sent by return. Entry forms are available to download approximately two weeks after the online entry has opened. Entry forms will only be posted out by request. Each of the competitions in 2011 will have a free draw available for early online entry with the winner receiving a full refund of their entry fees.

Ages Match 2011

The Ages Match is now a popular annual event especially as it includes the fantastic Fireworks Display by Dragon Fireworks on the Saturday night. The Ages Match will be held over the weekend 29 and 30 October 2011 and follow the same programme as previous years. Please note this weekend in your diary.

Marksman's Calendar

The full Marksman's Calendar 2011 is available on the NRA website. This version is regularly updated, with new or amended events, changes of date etc. If you have events that you would like included on this calendar, or notice any events missing, please send details to karen@nra.org.uk.

If you do not have access to the website please contact Karen Robertson on 01483 797777 ext 146 who will be happy to post a copy to you.

Congratulations Piet Welgemoed



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All ammunition available in minimum lots of 50 rounds, 400, 500, 800 or 1000
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NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



by
*Jeremy
Staples*

Since the start of the year we have been working very hard on two exciting projects.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Most members will know that we have been working with the CNC for over eighteen months with a view to redeveloping Cheylesmore range to meet their long-term training requirements.

This work includes finalising the specification, obtaining high-level construction costs and detailed discussions with the Guildford Borough Council Planning Officer together with negotiations of the terms.

This work is, we hope, now nearing completion and we are in detailed negotiations with the CNC. Terms will need to be approved by the Trustees and the Department of Energy and Climate Change before we progress to the planning stage.

In the short term the CNC have substantially increased their range usage mid-week for the remainder of this year, which is extremely encouraging.

Bisley Live

Bisley Live, the Gun and Country Sports Show was launched at the House of Lords in mid-January and was very well received by the fantastic turnout spread broadly amongst the world of shooting.

Bisley Live will be a unique and highly focussed event catering exclusively for the target, hunting and game shooting fraternity and will include shotgun, air rifles and .22" firearms. The event will comprise a tented village, utilising the 300 yards firing point on Century and wrap around to include both the NCSC and the Bisley Shooting Ground. Manufacturers and retailers will showcase the very latest guns, ammunition, clothing and accessories. Working with Surrey police, we envisage that, with limited restrictions, the visitor who wishes to try before they buy will be able to test-fire selected guns.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be shooting competitions and displays, gun and deer dog

demonstrations by the renowned trainer Howard Kirby, fashion shows, talks on all matters shooting related and other attractions that will be advertised in due course. There will also be extensive catering facilities available as well as the opportunity for corporate entertainment.

We welcome not just the experienced shooter, but also their families and novices where there will be plenty of opportunity to "have a go".

Bisley Live will take place from 30 September to 2 October inclusive. More information will become available on the website www.bisleylive.com.

The event will generate a substantial profit for the NSC and NRA which we hope will be a fun event well supported by the membership. There will be a number of restrictions placed on members at Bisley over the weekend, which we hope to be able to keep to a minimum. Full details of these restrictions will be available nearer the time.

NRA Open Day

The next Open Day is on Saturday 30 April 2011 and we will once again be looking for members to volunteer their services to help coach and act as support staff on the day. We are expecting in the region of 1000 visitors. If you are able to help please contact Karen Robertson on 01483 797777 ext 146 or Amanda Vaughan on 01483 797777 ext 135.

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30th September to 2nd October 2011

SHOOTING MATTERS

RANGE OPERATIONS



by Matt Ensor
Assistant Director
- Operations

2011 Pricing

Following the Trustees' announcement on pricing in 2011 the Range and Marker Hire, Accommodation, Firearm Hire and Firearm Storage fees are now published on the NRA and NSC websites. Copies can also be obtained from the Range Office.

Please go to either website and look for Bookings/Range, Storage and Accommodation charges.

2011 Bookings

We have seen another year-on-year increase in priority bookings from NRA affiliated Clubs, Associations, Schools and official teams. As of 1 February we have taken 345 extra bookings for 719 targets over this time last year.

May I remind you that anyone booking online as an individual must enter their name and membership number in the appropriate boxes to allow the Range Office to process their booking

Stickledown Range Allocation Trial

First impressions of the results of the Stickledown range allocation trial are positive. We have already accepted bookings for an additional 200 targets from June to September. Weekend capacity has increased dramatically and we have fewer weekends that are already 'full' at this early stage in the year. On those full weekends we have been able to fit more bookings onto the safety template and some weekends have 100% paid use with no space set aside for safety gaps or free movement.

Thank you to those clubs who have adapted their bookings to suit the trial format. Thank you also to those who have provided us with feedback on the initiative, which has mostly been positive. We are interested to hear about your experiences. Please get in touch with me at matthew.ensor@nra.org.uk

Cheylesmore Availability

We are currently planning to close Cheylesmore range for refurbishment in the summer and are taking bookings up to the end of May 2011. You are welcome to make bookings for Cheylesmore until this time through the Range Office on 01483 797777 ext 152. As the timing of the redevelopment is not yet finalised, this date may change.

We would like to thank all clubs who have agreed to adapt their bookings to fit with the reduction in availability whilst the refurbishment takes place.

RESULTS OF THE NRA CLUB 100 THREE POSITION POSTAL SHOOT 2010

For the Swanston Challenge Cup

	Name	Club	Prone	Standing	Kneeling / Sitting	Total
1	KB Hill	Wandsworth FBRC	96	78	76	250
2	A Rowlinson	32nd/61st Surrey HG RPC	94	51	84	229
3	PG Kelly	Warwickshire FC	91	44	81	216
4	CA Painting	Pumas RC	99	38	66	203
5	J Dohoo	Surrey County Scout Rifle Club	89	43	69	201
6	J Wilson	32nd/61st Surrey HG RPC	91	44	63	198
7	M Mercer	32nd/61st Surrey HG RPC	90	46	51	187
8	M Pearson	27th London (Putney) RC	94	32	55	181
9	S Wilson	32nd/61st Surrey HG RPC	88	34	57	179
10	DF Robinson	Pumas RC	97	34	46	177
11	P Diprose	Surrey County Scout Rifle Club	72	28	70	170
12	J Thurley	27th London (Putney) RC	84	31	43	158
13	J Mitchell	Surrey County Scout Rifle Club	86	23	16	125
14	S Fedyk	27th London (Putney) RC	71	11	14	96
15	P Ewen	27th London (Putney) RC	63	9	24	96

For details and entry forms contact Kevin at club100.nra@ntlworld.com

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



by
*Phyllis
Farnan*

Sport England Development and the Shooting Whole Sport Plan

As reported in the Winter Journal, the NRA is planning to offer subsidised RCO courses and Club Instructor courses in the North-East during 2011. The RCO Course at Ponteland Range will be held on 14 and 15 May. Affiliated clubs in the North-East will be contacted with details about applying for places on this subsidised course very shortly. There are similar plans for a subsidised Regional Club Instructor (General Skills) course in the North-East later in the year. Details will be circulated to affiliated clubs as soon as possible.

The project will be extended to cover other areas of the country in due course, so a rolling programme of subsidised training opportunities will be available for many clubs over the next two years.

Under the Whole Sport Plan, funding is also available for training development; the Training Department plans to offer training and advice for target rifle shooters and club instructors using the SCATT trainer system. More details will follow in the Summer Journal.

Annual Club Audit

During the next few months the NRA will be conducting an annual audit of affiliated clubs that use military ranges, to comply with the 2008 NRA / MoD agreement. Clubs selected for audit in 2011 will be contacted individually to make the arrangements for a document check to take place.

Probationary Training

The new modular Probationary training course is now being offered at Bisley. Probationers complete an initial introductory module on safety and a general introduction to target shooting, followed by one or more discipline specific skills modules. They must also shoot under supervision with the NRA Shooting Club for a period before they can become full members of the NRA. Probationary training is scheduled at

weekends, but individual mid-week lessons are also available on request.

Copies of the new Probationary Training Manual will be available from the Training Department from the end of February. Instructor packs which include lesson plans and copies of the PowerPoint presentations to accompany the new modular courses will also be available to club trainers. Please contact the Training Department to order your copies.

New Modular Skills Courses

The modular skills courses at Bisley are also open to NRA members who want to take up a new shooting discipline. The courses offered include: target rifle, gallery rifle, F class/scoped rifle and service (iron sight) rifle. These courses, which run in conjunction with the modular probationary training programme, include basic instruction up to the standard for a shooter's Certificate of Competence. If you are interested in learning about a new shooting discipline 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 and are designed to improve knowledge and shooting skills in fullbore target rifle shooting. Courses are offered twice a year at Bisley and can also be run regionally by qualified NRA coaches.

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 for competition shooting. Expressions of interest should be sent to the Director of Training.

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 for fullbore target rifle specialists.
- 2 The General Skills Instructor course for shooters of other disciplines eg gallery rifle, telescopic sighted rifle and iron sighted rifle (excluding target rifle).

Club Instructor candidates must be experienced, competent club shooters and must have a recommendation from their club Chairman or Secretary. Applicants for the TR Club Instructor course should have completed a TR Skills Enhancement Course.

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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 can also be run regionally on request. Candidates should have good instructional skills and should already have experience as TR Club Instructors. Candidates without a formal teaching or instructor qualification must also attend a Methods of Instruction (MOI) workshop.

Reloading Course

Fifteen NRA members completed the annual basic reloading course at Bisley on 4 and 5 February. The next course will be held in Spring 2012.

RCO Courses

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, oral, practical and written assessments. Candidates will be sent a copy of the RCO manual for pre-course study.

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

RCO Renewals

RCO qualifications gained in 2005 will run out in 2011. The qualification, which is valid for six years, may be renewed on application to the NRA. Renewal forms, which must be endorsed by the RCO's club Chairman or Secretary, are available from the Training Department or may be downloaded from the NRA website. The NRA cannot generate renewal notices from its current RCO database so individuals should check on their own run-out date which is printed on their RCO photo ID card.

RCO Endorsement Courses

NRA RCOs may apply for the following courses to extend their current range qualifications:

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

Fourteen NRA RCOs completed an MLAGB RCO Endorsement course at Bisley on 8 January. A second course will be run at Bisley later in the year (date still to be confirmed). Expressions of interest in this course should be sent to the Director of Training as soon as possible. Please note: the course is only open to qualified NRA RCOs who already have experience with muzzle loading firearms. It is hoped

that a system for offering regional MLAGB RCO Endorsement courses will be set up later this year.

RCO Assessor Training

This course is 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.

Bisley Course Dates – 2011

Please note that a number of course dates originally published in the Winter Journal have now changed.

Probationary Courses (Introductory Module)

- 2 Course 2011/2: 21 May, 4 Jun
- 3 Course 2011/3: 17 Sept, 24 Sept
- 4 Course 2011/4: 5 Nov, 12 Nov

Novice Skills Modules

- 1 12 Mar, 19 Mar, 9 Apr, 10 Apr
- 2 12 Jun, 18 Jun, 19 Jun, 3 Jul
- 3 8 Oct, 9 Oct, 23 Oct, 6 Nov
- 4 26 Nov, 27 Nov, 3 Dec, 11 Dec

TR Skills Enhancement Courses

- 1 7 - 8 May
- 2 15 - 16 October

Wind Coaching Courses

- 1 Date tba - weekend course
- 2 15 July (short course – pre-TR Meeting)

Club Instructor Courses

- 1 2 - 3 April – General Skills (*fully booked*)
- 2 7 - 8 May – Target Rifle specific
- 3 25 - 26 June – General Skills
- 4 15 - 16 October – Target Rifle specific

Club Coach TR Course

19 - 20 November

Methods of Instruction & Assessment Workshop

22 October

RCO Courses

- 2 16 - 17 April
- 3 14 - 15 May
- 4 3 - 4 September
- 5 19 - 20 November
- 6 10 - 11 December

RCO (HME) Courses

- 1 5 June
- 2 4 December

All NRA training courses at Bisley for 2011 are shown on the NRA website: www.nra.org.uk

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

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

NOTES FROM THE NRA FIREARMS LIAISON OFFICER



by Geoff Doe

By the time you read this article I will have worked for the Association for nearly nine months. During that time there have been a number of recurring questions which I will briefly touch upon.

Most clubs affiliated to the NRA are Home Office Approved. This places upon them the responsibility of conforming to a number of criteria. The two that I find are often not followed are notifying the police when a person applies for membership and keeping shooting records.

Criterion number 9 states 'the club will inform the police of any application for membership, giving the applicant's name and address, and the outcome of any application'. This includes those persons who only intend to shoot with airguns.

Many clubs read into this that they only have to inform the police after a person has completed their probationary membership period and become a full member. Not so, you need to ensure that you do not have an undesirable in your midst from the beginning. It is easier to refuse membership than to expel.

Criterion number 6 requires 'the club will maintain a register of attendance of all members with details for each visit of the firearms which they used and the competition, if any, in which they took part'. It would appear that this is not happening in all instances. It is the responsibility of the shooter to ensure this information is available to the police should they require it. When your certificate comes up for renewal you will have to show 'good reason' for all of the firearms listed. If you do not have a shooting record then you may lose your guns. Many of you nominate the NRA as your primary club and should be keeping details of your visits to Bisley on our computer. Do not forget to go to the Range Office and register your activity.

The point I have made about 'use it or lose it' also applies to ammunition. I know that it is common in

clubs that ammunition issued on the range and used immediately tends not to be noted in the shooters Firearms Certificate. This is perfectly legal. It does mean however that when the police come to review the ammunition holdings they will try and reduce the figures allowed, again because you have not demonstrated 'need'. My advice is to ensure you have ammunition entries in your certificate.

During the war there was the phrase "careless talk costs lives". In today's hype, following the Cumbria tragedy, that could be reworded to say "careless talk costs firearms certificates". There have been at least two cases recently where a person expressed their frustration by uttering the words "I will shoot the b*****" or similar and has had their certificate revoked. I think we have all been in a situation where we have made throw away comments that are an expression of anger rather than ever intending to follow through the threat. If you have not got a firearm then it is difficult to complete the task. However, if you are a certificate holder and colleagues know this then they could believe your threat to be real and report their concerns to the police. This is what has happened in these cases.

You could, of course, appeal the revocation but this can be stressful and expensive. You will not have access to your firearms pending the case and you may not win your appeal and therefore lose your sport.



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This brings me onto my final point. Appealing a revocation is expensive, in the order of £10,000 or more. If you are an individual NRA member you are automatically covered up to £25,000 'for legal fees and expenses relating to the suspension, revocation, curtailment, variation or refusal to renew the member's firearms certificate, under current legislation, subject to NRA approval'.

In the last three months two members have been supported by the policy and won their cases. Although, even if you win a case, it is seldom that the appellant gets costs.

If you are reading this as a non-member consider your situation. Do not come running to us after the event because there is nothing we can do to help.

Crime and Security Act 2010 (Commencement) Order 2010: Air Weapons

In recent years there have been a number of accidents where young people have handled an air gun unsupervised not realising that it was loaded. This Act now makes it a criminal offence if you fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorised access. The requirements are sensible and I expect most members will already be taking care of airguns in a similar manner to cartridge firearms or shotguns. The following has been issued by the Home Office.

Crime and Security Act 2010 (Commencement) Order 2010: Air Weapons

- 1 This circular advises recipients of the commencement on 10 February 2011 of Section 46 of the Crime & Security Act 2010, which relates to the safe-keeping of air weapons.
- 2 Section 46 inserts a new section 24ZA into the Firearms Act 1968, which makes it an offence for a person in possession of an air weapon to fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent someone under the age of 18 from gaining unauthorised access to it. A defence is provided where a person can show he had reasonable grounds for believing the other person to be aged 18 or over. The maximum penalty for someone convicted of the new offence is a level 3 fine (currently £1,000).
- 3 New subsection 24ZA(2) makes it clear that the new offence does not apply where a young person is permitted to have an air weapon with them under one of the exceptions set out in section 23 of the 1968 Act. These are:
 - where they are under the supervision of a person aged 21 or over (section 23(1));
 - where they are a member of a Home Office approved club and are engaged as such in, or in connection with, target shooting (section 23(2)(a));
 - where they are using an air weapon at a shooting gallery (section 23(2)(b)); and

- where they are aged 14 or over and are on private premises with the consent of the occupier (section 23(3)).

- 4 Young people aged under 18 can therefore continue to be given controlled access to air weapons in the same circumstances as previously.
- 5 The provisions of section 58(2) of the 1968 Act mean that the new offence does not apply to an antique air weapon held as a curiosity or ornament. It would nevertheless be advisable for owners of such items to follow the safety advice which follows in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

Reasonable precautions

- 6 The new offence requires people to take 'reasonable precautions' to prevent unauthorised access to an air weapon by young persons aged under 18. What will constitute 'reasonable precautions' will depend on the particular circumstances in each individual case and it is therefore not possible to be prescriptive. However, the simple steps set out below are a useful starting point. The guidance which follows has been drawn up in consultation with ACPO, the main shooting organisations and others to help everyone make informed and consistent decisions about the safe-keeping of air weapons.
- 7 Different considerations will apply depending on whether an air weapon is in use or not, and it is helpful to look at these scenarios separately.

Storage at home etc when not in use

- 8 A key issue is the presence, or likely presence, of young people under the age of 18. Many people either have young children themselves or are visited by friends and relatives with young children. In order to comply with the new provisions they will therefore need to take reasonable precautions to prevent those children gaining unauthorised access to any air weapons stored in their home.
- 9 In many cases, this can be achieved by using an existing, suitably robust, lockable cupboard and by keeping the keys separate and secure. Alternatively, they could use a lock or locking device by which an air weapon can be attached to the fabric of a building, or to a fixed feature, or a security cord, lockable chain or similar device attached to a point of anchorage within the building.
- 10 Where children are very young, it might be sufficient simply to store any air weapons up high and out of their reach, but some form of security cord or similar device would be preferable to guard against a climbing child or older children. This also applies where someone lives alone and they are not normally visited by children.

- 11 If someone keeps a number of air weapons, perhaps as tools of their job, it might be useful to look at some of the security measures set out in the Home Office's Firearms Security Handbook 2005. Although that publication is aimed at the security of licensed firearms, they might find some of the Level One security measures suggested for certificate holders equally relevant to the safe storage of air weapons.
- 12 Anyone who already holds other firearms could use their existing gun cabinet for their air weapon, provided this did not compromise security of those other firearms.
- 13 Air weapons should be stored within the occupied part of a building and not in an outbuilding, such as a garage or shed, where there is no regular presence to check that the weapons remain secure.
- 14 Air weapons should always be unloaded when stored. However, this would not be sufficient in itself since the new offence relates to unauthorised access to the weapon. Neither could it be relied on to be safe since air weapon pellets can be accessible to young people and they could be in possession of some at the time they gain unauthorised access to an air weapon.

Safekeeping when in use

- 15 As above, a key issue is the presence, or likely presence, of young people under the age of 18. They might be accompanying an adult or someone else who is authorised to use an air weapon, but are not authorised to use it themselves, or they might be in the vicinity when one is being used. The most basic precaution would be to keep the air weapon under close supervision and never to leave it unattended.

- 16 Where a person using an air weapon has no option but to put it down for short periods, they should unload it and gather up all ammunition. Steps should then be taken to prevent someone under the age of 18 from gaining unauthorised access to the air weapon. Where practicable, this could include attaching it to a fixed object using a security cord or similar device, or locking it out of sight in a car.

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Firearms Licensing Unit

From 1 March 2011 Bedfordshire Police & Hertfordshire Constabulary are establishing a joint FLU. All correspondence relating to firearms licence applications should, with immediate effect, be sent to the following address:

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Firearms Licensing Unit
Harpenden Police Station
15 Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Herts
AL5 4GZ

E-mail: firearmslic@herts.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 01707 806126

Fax: 01707 806140

Further information regarding the service provided by the joint unit can be obtained by visiting the force websites: www.bedfordshire.police.uk or www.herts.police.uk

To contact the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer

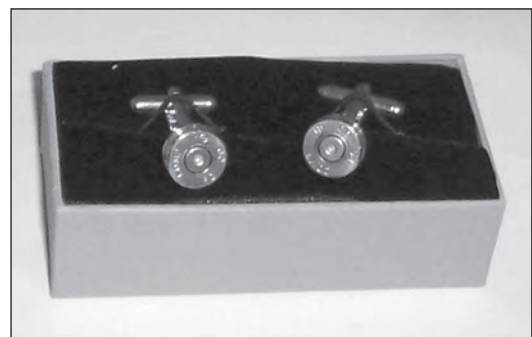
Tel: 07738 730419

E-mail: firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk

NRA Overseas Teams Fund Cufflinks

A classy set of shooter orientated fired 7.62mm cartridge case bases transformed into the elegant mans accessory, cufflinks.

Be different with an original gift for you or the man in your life.



Price £20 with a £5 donation from each pair sold donated to the Overseas Teams Fund.

Orders to njb5010@gmail.com

SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Historic & Classic Firearms

from Rae Wills

Whether one can still be Janus looking back at the old year and forward into the new after the end of this month I am not sure, but I will try.

First the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, with the new team under David Gregory, is now well established. My litmus test, that I have often quoted, is the less radio traffic there is between the ranges and control the better things are running – most of the time was total silence. I was constantly switching my radio off and on to get the “beep” to tell me it was still working. Well done all!

The Trafalgar Meeting administration was successfully taken over by Brian Thomas and the NRA Shooting Division and all went very smoothly but I think he would be the first to admit it was a steep learning curve. This success was also a reward for a tremendous amount of work by him, Sally Agnew, Sally Philcox and others in the office, backed by an improved Stats system under David Gregory, that got the results out in time for the posted time of the prizegiving (which was something of a first!).

It was also the last time for Jim Quinlan as Match Director: very sincere thanks, Jim, from all of us for your many successful years minding the Trafalgar. At the prizegiving we were able to present him with his own copy of the Trafalgar Letter as a memento of the occasion. But do not worry, we have not seen the last of him yet!

One point soon became crystal clear – there is no way Shooting Division can assimilate and keep up to date knowledge of all the many facets and complexities of our discipline. Therefore a new post of Deputy Match Director has been agreed for the Trafalgar. The job will entail acting as understudy to the Match Director, advising the Match Director on all the technical aspects of the Meeting, such as match rules, eligibility of firearms for each event etc and also generally acting as a liaison between the NRA staff and the members. During the Meeting he will also act as Match Referee. Jim Quinlan has agreed to take on this task and who better than the former Match Director of so many years experience.

And so to a new year, and plenty of good things to come. I will regretfully miss the Phoenix this year, as with luck and a favourable rate for my Euros, I will be at the FESAC conference in Belgium. However two weeks later, on Saturday 11 June, is the NRA Percussion Revolver Championship with classes for Standard, Target, and Nitro Percussion revolvers, followed on Sunday 12 June by the HBSA 1910 Meeting. The NRA Inter-Counties Meeting is also on

that weekend so book any accommodation in good time as the old place will be fairly buzzing.

Often in the past, and probably justly, the NRA has been accused of not having its eye on the ball, and being unconcerned with members' needs and views. Not so now and there has been a tremendous amount of work done recently by the NRA analysing the needs of the members and range users, against the very important point of increasing income. This latter we often overlook, but remember 'nowt is for free'; just think how are the increases in fuel and energy costs alone to be met? And timber, and glue; yes glue! We get through buckets of the stuff and when our usual long standing supplier went out of business, the next best cost was about double.

So it may be that at times in the future, so that more people can get a shoot and so bring in more money, we may have to fit our needs around range timetables rather than the other way round. For example, on Century every time you have targets at different distances, some targets are sterilised by the need for safety angles and cannot be used; but if at the busiest times say two butts were used at 300 yards in the morning and 600 yards in the afternoon, all those targets would be available. However, whether or not that is ever going to happen is a decision that lies in the future, but that I hope that gives you a little insight into the complexities the Range Office handle on a daily basis.

But one change will soon come from this exercise. The 100 yards distance on Short Siberia is very popular and often more than full, especially on sunnier weekends. But often there are only one or two at 200 yards which sterilises more than half the range including the existing permanent gap where there are no targets. So it is planned to make the whole range predominantly a 100 yards facility, but with the proviso that 200 yards would still be available on a flexible basis and occasionally for special events when required, such as the 1910 this year. This I think is generally good news for the historic and classic shooters but we will have to see that any ousted 200 yards users are still accommodated – this will usually be on Century Butt 19.

The smooth running of our Meetings has been greatly facilitated by much work on simplifying our procedures and this is continuing. A review has been undertaken by Jim Quinlan and David Gregory of all the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting and Trafalgar matches to ensure that when they are of the same type, both events have the same targets and match conditions. Also both events will use the Trafalgar match numbers: this move was well overdue as the

old R20-C or whatever system was creaking, even in my time, and it was getting harder and harder to add new matches in any sensible sequence.

So this new system will be in place for the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting on 9 and 10 July: also look out in the Programme for new matches, especially at 100 yards. But sadly it is not all good news; entry fees will have to go up, but where possible you will get a little more for your entry, such as moving target events will be 20 shots not 10, and advancing target events will get an extra run.

The work on our Handbook of Rules and Conditions is continuing but much work is required to ensure it is compatible with the Gallery Rifle Handbook and the applicable parts of the Bisley Bible. The target date to have it in use is for the Trafalgar Meeting on 22 and 23 October – another date for your diary.

I know things will be tough this year and with petrol now costing £60 or more for a fill-up adding to the cost of just getting to Bisley; more misery on top of other increased shooting costs. But, nevertheless, I hope to see you all at Bisley in the coming year.

FORTHCOMING HISTORIC AND CLASSIC MEETINGS 2011

The NRA Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

9 and 10 July 2011 at Bisley

Entirely *"In The Spirit of the Original"*

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

Enquiries to David Mumford 01483 797777 ext 151 or e-mail info@nra.org.uk

The NRA Percussion Revolver Championship

Saturday 11 June at Bisley

Melville Range

Entries permitted in more than one class

Class 1 – Standard Percussion Revolver

"Spirit of the Original", shot offhand

Class 2 – Target Percussion Revolver

Black powder only, metallic adjustable sights permitted, shot offhand

Class 3 – Open Percussion Revolver

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

Enquiries to David Mumford 01483 797777 ext 151 or e-mail info@nra.org.uk

HBSA 1910 Service Rifle Competitions

Sunday 12 June at Bisley.

200 yards: For Breech Loading Service, Target, Miniature and Sporting Rifles: dateline up to 1946. Deliberate, Snap and Rapid practices

Practice targets available on Saturday 11 June

Enquiries to: range.practice@hbsa-uk.org

The NRA Trafalgar Meeting

22 and 23 October 2011 at Bisley

Entirely *"In The Spirit of the Original"*

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

Enquiries to: Shooting Division/Competitions 01483 797777 ext 160
or e-mail shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

Gallery Rifle and Pistol

by Chris Farr

The last international match of the year took place at Leitmar in Germany. The meeting was hosted by Dietmar Hönersch, BDMP Bundesreferent for Gallery Rifle and President of the International Gallery Rifle Federation.

I am pleased to report that a keenly fought competition resulted in a narrow win in the centre-fire event for the GB team led by Ashley Dagger. GB won by a more convincing margin in the small-bore event.

Ashley Dagger has been appointed Captain for 2011 and I hope he and his team, who will have been selected by the time the Journal reaches you, build on past success. An invitation to attend our first international in South Africa has just been received from SA Hunters, the governing body.

While on the subject of teams, now would be a good time to remind all members whose main discipline is GR&P of the processes involved in team selection. I am aware that not all GR&P competitors may know how the system works.

First of all, I will address the appointment of the team Captain. Unlike other GB teams, we select one for the whole year rather than for single tours. The process follows exactly the NRA policy with an advertisement in the Journal followed by consideration of the candidates by the GR&P Sub-Committee. They then make a recommendation to Council who make the appointment.

As a database is kept centrally of all scores recorded in the centre-fire and small-bore 1500 events in the UK and elsewhere, it is a relatively straightforward matter to identify those competitors who are likely to be suitable for selection. Not only are ability and consistent scores taken into account but also demonstration of commitment to the events. For the aspiring team member this is most easily shown by competing in as many open meetings as possible throughout the year.

You must also qualify for the team by nationality, residence or parental descent. The Association policy on this can be found in Part B of the Bisley Bible.

The other essential requirement is full individual membership of the Association. This is a requirement for all GB team members and if you feel you are in with a chance for the 2012 team, join this year if you are not already a member. The captain and discipline representative will always be happy to discuss performance criteria and other matters of eligibility with anyone who wants to get in touch.

International matches are held at the NSC and in Ireland, Germany, and South Africa.

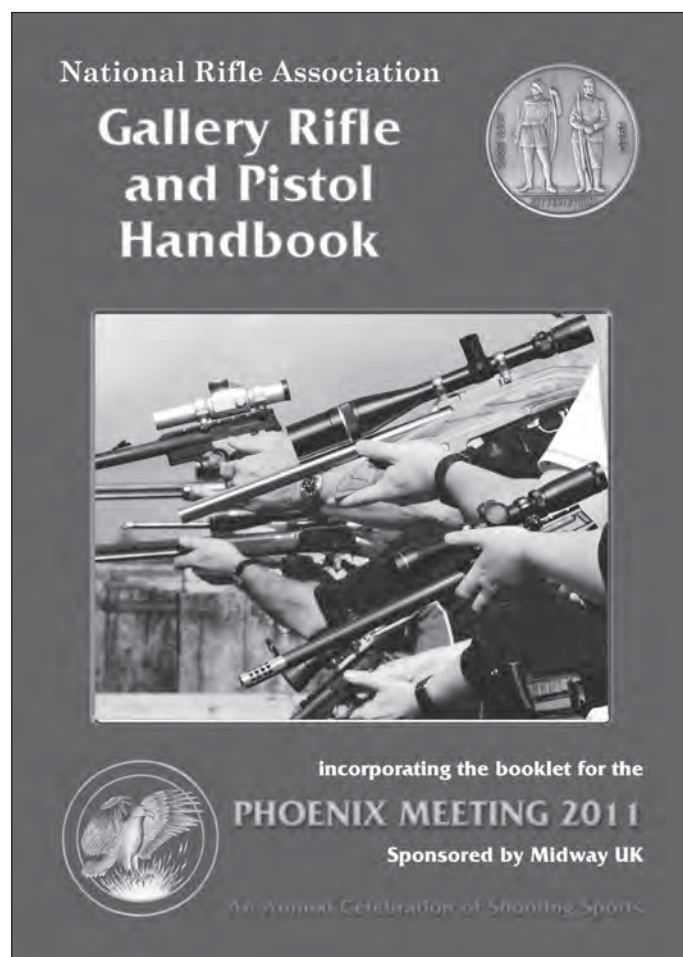
There are also teams for the 'Home' Countries and they are controlled by their national governing bodies. For England, this is the English Twenty Club, for Scotland, the Scottish Pistol Association and for Wales, the Welsh Rifle Association. These teams compete in both the centre-fire and small-bore Short Events primarily at the Phoenix and National Championship Meetings. At the latter, the GR National Match, the premier match of the season, is held on Melville. More matches are arranged between the countries at other venues around the country.

If you want to know more about these or any other GR&P matters please get in touch via e-mail at gallery@nra.org.uk.

NRA GALLERY RIFLE AND PISTOL HANDBOOK

The NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Handbook (which includes the Phoenix Meeting Programme) is now available free of charge from the NRA offices (or by post for £1 postage and packing). Alternatively both sections may be downloaded from the NRA website.

Why not pick up your free copy at the Spring Action Weekend on 26 and 27 March.



F Class Round Up and Looking Forward to 2011

by David Kent

F Class Association and League

The F Class Association is now six years old and held seven league events last year for its F Class Open and FTR members. Mik Maksimovic, Des Parr and Les Holgate were very busy organising their events at Bisley, Blair Atholl and Diggle respectively. Our thanks go out to them for organizing flawless events.

Additionally various clubs held F Class competitions at Bisley, Diggle, Blair Atholl and Altcar throughout the year. On top of those opportunities to shoot F Class, there were F Class shots competing in the Match Rifle events during the Imperial Meeting at Bisley. If there were other F Class competitions taking place around the country please let us know.

The 2010 League season started with a training weekend in March which was well attended and very well run. A shame the weather wasn't a bit better but you can't have everything!

The League started in earnest at Diggle with a full complement of shooters in April in driving rain especially for the FTR guys. For a beautiful picture of Diggle in the sun, please see the F Class UK website organised by Les Holgate at www.f-class.org.uk. It was shot on a 500 yards half minute V bull and the same target at 600 yards! Very exciting, as with the wind changes there were many fours, threes, twos, hits and a few misses. The ultimate winners at Diggle in April were Mark Daish (FO) four points ahead of Des Parr and Adam Bagnall (FTR) three ahead of Russell Simmonds.

Next was Blair Atholl where it kept fine and we shot our usual five matches at 1000 yards. The real challenge was 10 to 20 miles an hour gusts which kept us all guessing. We had sun on the Saturday but it turned windier and much colder on the Sunday. John Campbell shot magnificently to win with yours truly second. Ian Dixon won FTR with Russell Simmonds second.

A return to Diggle in May saw Grant Taylor in fine form beating Gary Costello into second place and in FTR Ian Dixon again shining to beat Russell Simmonds into second. For detailed accounts please go to the F Class UK website. It really puts you there alongside the firers.

The League moved to Bisley in June where it was very, very hot. This was for the long range match going back to 1200 yards. As it was hot, the wind got stronger and as it got stronger still it danced around as did the mirage. Peter Wilson shot magnificently (after being told how to fill in a score sheet and plot his shots) and proved what he could really achieve. His 82.3 at 1200 was three ahead of Mick East and they were way ahead of the pack.

In the end on a cooler Sunday the scores sorted themselves out and (not surprisingly) Peter Wilson won the day ahead of Gary Costello in FO and in FTR Adam Bagnall won by eight points ahead of Russell Simmonds who had a disaster by his standards in one of the shoots.

Match Rifle at the Imperial Meeting

Some F Class shots attended the Match Rifle competitions. The little band of brothers had a great time but there was no distinction made between FO and FTR. Perhaps this could be rectified another year? Overall winner was John Carmichael in the Hopton beating Des Parr for the second year running!

Main Imperial Meeting

F Class Open

There were up to 30 FO competitors, with a few less in FTR, in 2010. After the World Championships last year the reduction in numbers was to be expected and the other teams were missed.

Notwithstanding this, for me it is still the most exciting week of competitions in the world. More so this year as all shoots were (thanks to Iain and Karen Robertson and the Shooting Committee) extended to 2ss and 15 to count each, apart from the Queen's First Stage. I certainly wasn't aware of any detail slowing the TR shooters so I would have to say it was a rip roaring success, if even more wearying and involving a lot more loading.

In FO overall honours were shared between the following with one win each in the minor competitions: Olivier Larrue from Group Mike, Peter Medhurst, Dr David Lloyd (*see his article elsewhere in this magazine*) and Armel Papezyk of France. Two wins each went to Mik Maksimovic, who also won the Stickledown Aggregate, and three wins to Horst Mitera who finished the Times with one of the only maximum possible scores of the meeting. The others were shot by Dr David Lloyd and David Pickering. Well done lads!

In the major competitions I won the Donaldson Memorial (*see below*), Darren Stewart won the St Georges counting me out, and I also won the 2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate, the Queen's and the Grand Aggregate; second in the Grand Aggregate was Horst Mitera and third Dr David Lloyd.

FTR at the 2010 Imperial Meeting

In the minor competitions there was a struggle for supremacy between Paul Eggemann from BDMP Germany and George Barnard from Leicester and Northants RC.

In the end Paul had won seven competitions to George's six. Nick Hinchliffe had won one

competition (using issued ammunition), along with Andrew Penfold, Nick Steadman and Patrick Gregorio from Toulouse.

The FTR 2010 St George's was won by Nick Hinchliffe with his factory issued ammunition ten points ahead, yes, ten points ahead of his nearest rival! Who says you can't shoot factory issued ammunition and be competitive?! George Barnard won the Queen's and Paul Eggemann the Grand ahead of George and Nick. Well done Paul and well done to everyone!

International Match

This fiercely competitive, needle match between countries for the Normandie Trophy was won this year by Scotland. They beat England by two V bulls. Enquiries continue! However they were just better on the day. Well done lads.

Further League Matches

And so to Blair in August where a smaller turn-out saw John Carmichael put in a 100.6 which is now the league record at 1000 yards. Shooting at Blair is never easy so John's achievement is something very special indeed.

In the end of the two days Peter Hunt shot remarkably well to win with Daniel Brough second in FO. In FTR Stuart Amselm carried the day with Ramon Foto second. It is a wonder they shot at all as on the Friday mist and rain had been obscuring the targets.

September saw us all back at Diggle. Torrential rain again and mainly on the FTR detail again! Scores were really tight with a stupid wind call or a loose shot making the difference. In FO Andy Massingham won with his home-made rifle counting out Grant Taylor and in FTR Adam Bagnall won one point ahead of the slimmed-down Steve Donaldson.

Lastly to Bisley for the European Championships in November. This is the largest meeting in Europe with 151 competitors and run by the ever-present, ever-inspiring Mik Maksimovic who this year wisely felt he couldn't shoot as well. It is worth saying that this is becoming a major event on the calendar. It comprises a practice day at all three ranges on the Thursday and then competitions on the Friday and Saturday with team matches on the Sunday adding up to four great days of shooting. Also present were enough trade stands so that you could almost kit yourself out completely if you were beginning the sport.

The Friday was mixed – the wind died a little with the onslaught of torrential rain and the targets became obscured. Was it just the young who thrived? Anyway you had to be lucky with your detail and once again FTR had the worst of it. Sorry guys!

Overall Grant Taylor won the Grand Aggregate and became F Open European and League Champion for the second year running. Well done Grant, fantastic shooting!

Russell Simmonds (the FTR World Champion) won the Grand Aggregate to become European Champion again for the third year running. However this year Adam Bagnall, who shot unbelievably well throughout the year, became League Champion.

Thank you all who came, it was a fabulous meeting with high spirits all round

The Teams Match

Few people left on the Sunday so we had a full set of 19 teams competing in a mixture of F Open and FTR full teams and nine Rutland teams.

It was cold, so very cold.

In the end GB A and B beat Germany and Republic of Ireland to win the FO European Cup, and the same happened in FTR against full teams from Germany, Spain, Republic of Ireland and Holland.

In the Rutland a multi-national group of 6mm users beat the rest with one Mr Jacobsson scoring two 75s.

Thank you to everyone for coming and to Pat Hannan for her sponsorship. A great time was had by all. We even had fireworks on the Saturday night! Full details and scores can be found on the F Class UK website.

The Donaldson

I was told that in last year's article I had omitted any personal record of my own shooting last year. So here goes and please ignore this if it is self-serving, which is my worry.

For me the Donaldson during the Imperial Meeting at Bisley was the most challenging of the shoots in the year. It is a Final being a shoot of 2ss and 20 which in F Class you qualify for out of an aggregate of three shoots at 900 and 1000 yards during the Imperial Meeting. This was its first year and Peter Hobson had very kindly donated a challenge cup to commemorate it.

We got down to a steady left wind on Range 4 so any protection from the trees on the left was absent. About 2½ minutes I reckoned. Des Parr was to my right and Darren Stewart to my left on the target one down. I'm not sure with whom I was shooting on my immediate left. Sorry, I often don't remember, as Gary Costello has chided me on several occasions when I first shot with him. What a nice chap by the way!

I remember being alarmed that the wind started dying after my second sighter so it was relatively useless except for elevation. There followed a period of about two shots with the wind ebbing away. By shot 10 I had lost two early on and I knew I was trailing against Des. The wind had died almost completely and I had reckoned that there was still some there when there wasn't!

But I was to get back in. Shot 10 or 11 was the turning point. At shot 10 I saw Des go out left, far left. I knew

the wind was beginning to come from the right and we were protected by the trees on the left but Des was a long way out and so was Darren. Were they bad shots? No, on the water line. I could see the right hand flags showing the beginnings of right wind. I made the correction of a minute and a half and fired thinking I might clip the right hand bull line. I knew it was the turning point. At this stage I should point out that the trees on the right partly obscure the right hand flags which never show true wind because of the trees. A left hand bull! I was lucky and correcting again with another half, before my next turn. More magpies from Des and Darren! And by now I had hit the V again whilst the wind continued to strengthen from the right. After that I don't remember much. I had scored 95.8 with Des 91.4 and Darren 88.3 beaten by one V by Wolfgang Scholze.

The moral of the story is that, just like Peter Wilson at 1200 yards at Bisley (*see above*), I didn't fire quickly (although well within the allocated time) and I was alert to what was going on around me. Yes I was lucky too of course. The wind changes went through 180 degrees and a bracket of 7 minutes.

The Future – 2011

We have an exciting time ahead of us.

There are seven League shoots planned for 2011 and another traditional Training Day at Bisley was held over the weekend of 19 and 20 February for newcomers and those who just wanted to have their skills brushed-up.

The first league shoot at Diggle in April will again be at 500 and 600 yards. With the spring wind it really does feel longer.

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

There are also some exciting changes to F Class in the main Imperial Meeting:

- 1 For 2011, again all F Class shoots will be 2ss and 15 rounds, with the exception of the Queen's First Stage which will remain at 2ss and 7 rounds at each of the three ranges.
- 2 We are keeping the new Weekend Aggregate called the 2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate. It will consist of the usual weekend competitions being at 300, 500 and 1000 yards on the Saturday, and 500, 600 and 900 yards on the Sunday (all 2ss and 15 round shoots).
- 3 There will again be a Donaldson Memorial Final of 2ss and 20 rounds.
- 4 All F Class shoots will be on the same butt for each particular competition thus lessening the chance of marker confusion.

- 5 The target sizes for short range will be reduced to half minute V bulls with more regular outer rings. Also HPS crosses will be available for every competitor scoring a 75 irrespective of the V bull count. In addition we will be scoring a V as a V and not as 6.
- 6 Finals will be open to the top 25% of competitors in each class in the First Stages with separate FO and FTR Finals.

Further improvements to the F Class section of the Imperial Meeting are in the pipeline for implementation in 2012.

What else to look forward to?

- All the F Class League shoots.
- We have the European Championships in November to work for again. GB teams will be selected in FO and FTR.
- There is also an F Class European Match planned in the Republic of Ireland for 2011.

For all information on the F Class Association and the League please check out the UK F Class website at www.f-class.org.uk and then e-mail Mik Maksimovic on mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk.

Wishing good, enjoyable shooting to you all!

300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

The last event of our 2010 calendar was the annual championship match of the GB300M Rifle Club. The weekend proved to be interesting for various reasons but there were some high scores in the Sunday prone match with eight shooters breaking the 590 barrier. The cup and medal went to Tony Lincoln with 595.

The 2011 season will start on 19 and 20 March and already our TR friends are coming to run some of their club matches in dry stable conditions but there is still room for others!

Our first overseas match is with our friends in Clermont (France) on the last weekend in March. This sets the scene for the first of the European Cups where the GBR team will visit Denmark, Sweden, and southern France before the full European ISSF Championships in Serbia. The Final, when we qualify, is back in Switzerland during mid-September.

The British 300m Championships are being held in May (please see the advert in this Journal) and we would like to see more of our TR friends competing in the Saturday match. Remember, we use electronic targets with a flat firing point so why not have a try!

For all our results, training, match and competition dates please visit our website: www.gb300m.com

REGIONAL MATTERS

Shooting Programme for Scotland in 2011

by Tim Kidner

The shooting programme in Scotland for 2011 will be similar to last year with most of the championship events taking place at the Blair Atholl range using electronic targets. West Atholl Rifle Club, which runs the range, has significant experience in running electronic targets at all distances back to 1200 yards. The benefits of electronic targets are the speed of shooting because the scores are displayed within two seconds of firing the shot and the savings from not requiring markers, or anyone at all, in the butts. However, there is a significant cost in time and money to ensure that the targets are properly maintained. Because the targets at Blair Atholl are used for long range as well as short range shooting, they are prone to damage to the frames, including the wiring which is embedded in the frame, and on occasion to the sensors which are in the corners of the targets. If there are enough shots hitting the frames they have to be repaired because of the size (10 feet x 6 feet) and weight of the targets which is around 80kg. Because of the amount of shooting at Blair Atholl, the target centres become shot-out, requiring annual repairs to the self-sealing rubber sheeting, which creates the noise chamber for the microphones in the target, and to the polystyrene heat shields on the front and back of the targets. All these repairs result in a significant workload for a dedicated team of club members through the year. When the targets were installed three years ago, the life of the targets was expected to be seven years before complete replacement would be required but that has now been reduced to five years despite the routine annual maintenance, so sufficient funds have to be set aside to cover the replacement costs for the targets. The Club still believes the benefits of electronic targets to be worthwhile but now has a better understanding of the real costs involved in keeping the equipment properly maintained.

The 2011 shooting programme starts with the West of Scotland Championships on 30 April and 1 May followed by the F Class League competition on 7 and 8 May. The Scottish Open Championships are on 17 to 19 June, which includes the Lawrence Trophy international match between Scotland and England, and the Scottish Long Range Championships are on 2 and 3 July. An American team of FTR shooters will be taking part in the Long Range Championships and there will be a Scotland v USA team match on the day after the Championships. A USA team shot at Blair Atholl in 2007 and this is a return visit to have an official FTR international match.

The Invernessshire Championships, which is now the only Scottish championship event which is not shot at Blair Atholl, are on 6 and 7 August – it is shot on

the Cawdor range which is a three target range on the estate of Cawdor Castle just south of Inverness. The Tullibardine Championships are on 13 and 14 August and then there is a gap until the National Rifle Club of Scotland Open Match Rifle Championships on 10 and 11 September. The East of Scotland Championships on 17 September are now held at Blair Atholl – until three years ago they were held on Castlelow Range near Edinburgh but problems with range bookings have resulted in moving to Blair Atholl. The final shoot of the season will be the F Class League competition on 1 and 2 October. Details of all these events are on the NRA Marksman's Calendar on the NRA website.

All these championships events include F Class sections and F Class shooting is becoming more popular in Scotland, particularly FTR which does not have some of the costs associated with shooting the F Open discipline. F Class scores continue to improve and some new records were achieved in 2010. In the Match Rifle Spring Meeting the first daily score of 225 out of 225 at Blair Atholl was achieved, firing 15 to count at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards, by Des Parr shooting F Open which beat the previous record score of 224 achieved by Allan Campbell-Smith shooting a match rifle in 2006. At the East of Scotland Championships Paul Crosbie shooting FTR achieved a maximum score of 330.63, only dropping three V bulls shooting at 400, 500 and 600 yards – this was one point higher than his score in 2009 which was 329.57. These scores were achieved on the standard NRA targets but four new National records were established in the GB F Class Association league shoot in August at Blair Atholl, shooting at 1000 yards using the smaller F Class targets. In the F Open class, shooting 20 to count, John Carmichael achieved a record score of 100.6 and in FTR John Cross scored 96.3. The following day, shooting 15 to count at 1000 yards, Dan Brough shooting F Open scored 75.10 and Stuart Anselm shooting FTR scored 75.4. At 1000 yards the bullseye on the F Class target is only ten inches which is just under one minute of angle and the F Class shooters are showing what can be achieved on these targets.



Northern Ireland

by Richard Bailie

Two major events to look out for this year are the 150th Irish Open Championships on 4 and 5 June and the Comber Open/Northern Ireland Championships on 24 and 25 September, both being held at Ballykinler. We would be delighted to see as many visitors as possible at both events. There are plenty of team prizes to be had at the Irish Open, shooting concurrently with the individual matches. Full details and entry forms are available on the NRA Marksmans Calendar.

Visitors two years ago will recall that the first day of the Irish Open was held at Magilligan Ranges in the north of the Province. At the end of last year, a great deal of work was put in by members of Comber Rifle Club and others to try and establish long range facilities there but unfortunately economics went against us with government cuts and range staff redundancies, though the possibilities were very real. We did however receive significant assistance from the NRA Secretary General for which we are most grateful.

Whist access to ranges still remains difficult, every effort is made to try and ensure that we have access on a regular basis, but this is, like most other MoD range bookings, subject to cancellation due to military operational requirements, sometimes at very short notice.

The NatWest Island Games 2011

from Barry Hall and Derek Toms

Joint overall Target Shooting Co-ordinators

On 25 June to 1 July 2011, around 3,000 competitors will be descending upon the Isle of Wight for the NatWest Island Games. They will come from 25 islands and will be taking part in 14 different sports. The target shooting co-ordinators are offering a wide range of disciplines, mostly ISSF based but with a local flavour, on three ranges. All competitions will be shot as Pairs and as Individuals. Where possible, men's women's and open competitions are being offered.

On the Newtown MoD ten point range there will be 300m prone rifle. It is thought that fullbore rifle can be shot by six other islands – Gotland, Falklands, Guernsey and Jersey, St Helena and the Isle of Man.

The Haseley Manor Air Arms Range will be created for the Games in an indoor tennis court, previously an agricultural barn, and will have twelve 10m lanes, all fitted with Dical target changers. Scoring will be done with Rika scoring machines, courtesy of the Welsh Airgun Association, who are also sending down two scorers.

Downend Range is only half a mile away on the top of a chalk ridge and is the home of Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club, which has used the range since 1966. It

was used for the 1993 NatWest Island Games. The short range has a 25m lane pistol range, fitted with two banks of five RX turning targets, where we shall shoot Standard Pistol, Sport Pistol and Centrefire Pistol. Lack of range time precludes Rapid Fire Pistol. The long range has 12 lanes on which will be shot 50m and 100 yards Prone Rifle and 50m Free Pistol.

Occasions when Section 5 pistols are used in competitions in the UK are few and very far between. Needless to say, negotiations are delicate but the event will be keenly watched with interest. As the Club, like most other onetime UK pistol clubs, is out of touch with the rules for ISSF Cartridge Pistol shooting, welcome assistance is being supplied by Olympic training officials who will run the shoot for us.

In addition to assistance being given by various people, Eley Ltd is providing all the rimfire ammunition needed, viz Eley Tenex and Eley Pistol Match.

Please visit the NatWest Island Games 2011 website at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk where you can see the long range firing point cover as rebuilt. The long range has also been totally regraded. The short range firing point cover is similar.

The International Island Games were established in the Isle of Man in 1985 and today include 25 member islands in, or associated with, the nine sovereign nations of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK plus the Caribbean:

Aland (<i>Finland</i>)	Alderney
Bermuda	Cayman Islands
Falkland Islands	Faroe Islands
Froya (<i>Denmark</i>)	Gibraltar
Gotland (<i>Sweden</i>)	Greenland
Guernsey	Hitra (<i>Norway</i>)
Isle of Man	Isle of Wight
Jersey	Menorca (<i>Spain</i>)
Orkney	Prince Edward Island (<i>Canada</i>)
Rhodes	Sark
Saareema (<i>Estonia</i>)	Shetland
St Helena	Western Isles
Ynys Mon	

In 1999, NatWest became the title sponsor of the Island Games which has become one of the largest participation events in the world behind the Olympics and Commonwealth Games. The 25 member islands compete every two years around the world in a range of up to 14 sports chosen by the host island from a list of 18. The NatWest Island Games were last held on the Isle of Wight in 1993. The NatWest Island Games 2011 are being run by the Island Games Association (Isle of Wight) supported by the IW Council, which is also a sponsor.

www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk

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Carol Beecher RHAD FSHAA
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FORTHCOMING TOURS

NRA Channel Islands Team 2012

I am both honoured and delighted to have been selected as Captain of the NRA Channel Islands Team for 2012. This tour is expected to take place from Wednesday 23 to Tuesday 29 May 2012 with matches against both Guernsey and Jersey. As these particular tours are designed to aid development of those shooters who have attained, or are close to attaining, county level status at target rifle, I would be keen to invite applications from shooters who aspire to be considered for forthcoming GB tours or national team selection along with applications from more experienced shooters who, preferably, have never toured overseas and who are willing to pass on their shooting knowledge.

I would plan to organise training days and fundraising events, including at least one corporate day, the first of which could be late September, to keep tour costs down in these financially stringent times. Team members would be expected to attend both corporate days and training days.

I am placing this notice somewhat earlier than was previously the custom to give prospective applicants plenty of notice and to give them the opportunity to make themselves known to me, and to ask any questions about the tour, during the forthcoming shooting season particularly during the 2011 Imperial Meeting. My caravan is on Marjorie Foster Way.

I would ask that applications be submitted to me either in writing or by e-mail along with a shooting CV, with emphasis on short range performances, by 31 July 2011 and I envisage that the team would be announced by 1 September.

It would be my objective to lead a successful and enjoyable tour combining competition at a senior level, with a relaxed social content, amongst our many friends in the Channel Islands.

Looking forward to hearing from you in due course.

Garnett Faulkner

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THE AUSTRALIA MATCH 2010

by Nigel Ball and Martin Townsend

The year 2010 was the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain and several events were planned to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Foremost amongst them was the hosting of the highly prestigious Australia (formerly Empire) Match. This match is considered by shooters to be second in ranking only to the Palma and is one of the Big 5 that GB shooters aspire to, the others being the Palma Trophy, the Kolapore, the Mackinnon and the National Match. A person who has represented his country in all five of these matches is then entitled to wear the Big 5 tie and badge – there have been only 92 people since 1860 eligible to bear this honour.

Nominations for captaincy of the team were called for in early 2009. Someone who was currently involved in GB teams and who had the strategy for winning was needed as the Australians were the current holders of the match, having won it in Brisbane in 2005. The successful candidate was Martin Townsend, many times Captain of Ireland and leader of the phenomenally successful 2006 team to Canada and the 2007 Palma Captain; he did not entertain any ideas of losing such a match. He was duly appointed and selected Nigel Ball, his faithful Adjutant from 2006 and 2007 to be at his side. So the work began.

The match was originally scheduled for the Monday following the 2010 Imperial Meeting. It soon became apparent that several of the visiting overseas teams would be unable to extend their stay for those extra two days; months of negotiations eventually changed the day to the Sunday after Queens Final – at least there would be spectators that day! It was also decided that everyone would use an issued batch of the extremely good RUAG ammunition rather than their own loads meaning that visiting teams did not have to worry about the expense of transporting ammunition to Great Britain.



Major General John Hartley and John Fitzgerald of the NRA of Australia kept a careful eye on the proceedings.

The match was to be shot on the ICFRA target, tighter in dimensions than the NRA target and with smaller aiming marks – only the best GB shooters who were on form would make the team. Selection was left as late as possible to allow performance over the 2010 Imperial Meeting to be taken into account and although a training squad had been formalised, anyone who performed well was also considered. A main coach was chosen reasonably early to assist with selection and monitoring of performance; it was decided to give the job to Bill Richards, veteran of many fine GB winning teams and as dedicated to winning as the Captain and Adjutant. The hierarchy met frequently before and during the 2010 Imperial but final selection was eventually decided on Second Friday, the day before the Queen's Final, and the team announced. Several new caps had made it, Gaz Morris of Welsh Commonwealth Games fame and Chris Watson of Surrey clubhouse Doom Bar fame.

One day to go and all looked fine until one of the selected ten, David Calvert, won HM the Queen's Prize. Would he elect to celebrate his longed for Sovereigns Prize or desist for Australia Match glory? He chose the former and who could blame him! The reserve, Tom Rylands, was therefore shooting and a new reserve, James Watson, nominated.

So to Sunday and match day. There were six teams in all: Great Britain, Australia, Canada, the Channel Islands and Germany with the final team being a mix of Malaysia, Holland and Japan, henceforth known as MaHoJa. It was dry but cool and overcast at times with the odd patch of sun, a typical British summer day.

The Australians under the captaincy of Rick Scoones opened up in great style with only three points off, winning 300 yards by a point from GB with Channel Islands a further three points behind. There were 23 possibles at 300 yards from 60 shooters and with a 50.10 from Dan Richardson of Channel Islands which is no mean achievement on an ICFRA target.

Were GB fazed? Not at all – the target at 600 yards was significantly tighter and confidence in the coaching group, Bill Richards, Jeremy Langley and Jane Messer was at a high. And so it proved: under particularly variable conditions GB dropped only six points at 600 yards with the Channel Islands dropping nine. Australia had a very trying time losing 17 points at this range, three more than Canada and falling to third place overall.

Lunch called with short range finished and the current positions being, GB – 10 off, CI – 16 off, Australia – 20 off, Canada – 25 off, Germany – 38 off and MaHoJa – 49 off. Predictions about 600 yards being a true test of marksmanship were proven when only nine of the 23 possibles from 300 yards went on to record a second

SCENES FROM THE AUSTRALIA MATCH 2010



one at 600 yards. Dan Richardson went from a 50.10 at 300 yards to a 50.2 at 600 yards but at least he was still clean.

Following lunch at the Central Bankers hut provided by Pearl Townsend, Gwynne Jarvis and her friend Sarah, there was a good team talk about complacency and the job being only half done; GB then returned to the fray and the afternoon began at 900 yards. Team wind coaching was the major factor here and with the vagaries of Stickledown to contend with, Bill, Jane and Jeremy had their work cut out. This was probably the defining moment of the match as the GB shooters went on to record a massive 498 out of 500, eight possibles and two 49s – a superb team performance enhancing how main coach/target coach and coach/shooter integration is so important in big matches. The best of the rest were the Channel Islands again but a massive 18 points behind GB, an unexpected bonus for the GB hierarchy who had considered 900 yards to be a pretty even range on the ICFRA target. Even the best get it wrong.

GB (12 off) now had a 24 point advantage over the Channel Islands (36 off) who were six points ahead of Australia (42 off). Behind them was Canada on 48 off with Germany 69 off and MaHoJa on 95 off. Just 1000 yards to go and as has been proved many times in the past, you must keep the momentum going and not rest on your laurels.

Going into 1000 yards there were only four shooters who were still clean, David Luckman (GB), Tom Rylands (GB), John Warburton (GB) and David Le Quesne (CI).

Stickledown at 1000 yards has a way with shooters, usually for the worst. Bill and his coaches started in style with several possibles from the opening shooters but the chasing teams were not beaten yet and followed suit. Disaster for GB, a cross shot and five points lost, luckily the shooter was a very experienced GB shot and did not lose his nerve. Australia were storming up the rankings until they had several peculiar high shots in the lower scoring rings. A protest resolved the issue but it meant they had come from behind to

take second place, one point ahead of the Channel Islands. GB meanwhile had won the match but not the 1000 yards distance, that honour went to Australia who finished the range 15 off.

Final placings were:

GB	1972.207
Australia	1943.179
Channel Islands	1942.181
Canada	1928.166
Germany	1901.134
MaHoJa	1848.102

The four shooters who carried clean scores into 1000 yards all converted them into 200, the HPS for the match. Tom Rylands, formerly the reserve and obviously proving a point, set the top score of 200.26.

David Luckman shot 200.22 meaning he had completed four matches for England or GB in the last four days with a clean sheet. He shot 105.21 in the National Match, 150.27 in the Kolapore and 100.14 in the Mackinnon, in addition to winning the Grand Aggregate for the second time. John Warburton shot a 200.20 and David Le Quesne of the Channel Islands shot a 200.19.

All in all a most satisfactory day for Martin Townsend and his GB team and thanks must go to all those behind the scenes from the various NRAs and ICFRA who were involved with organising or staging the match.

The Captain would like to thank in particular Nigel Ball his Adjutant and the whole team for being dedicated to the cause. He also wishes to thank Anton Aspin for being close by with his tool box as well as John Webster, Nick Brasier, David Rose, Henry Day, Alex Bryson, Ken Willingale and Simon Harding for looking after the team score board and our many other needs. Finally a big thank you to all the NRA staff for their hard work in organising the match, the volunteers who helped with register keeping and other duties and all the supporters who stayed on to watch the match when they were probably desperate to go home!



GB Captain Martin Townsend receives the picture of the trophy.



Tom Rylands – reserve to top score in 24 hours!

THE NRA IMPERIAL MEETING ONLINE SURVEY

by Iain Robertson

Back in November, Karen and I were considering how we could help the Association solve its latest financial crisis. In particular, we were worried that the financial side of the business was going to insist on a big rise in entry fees. That led us to wonder how else to make the Imperial Meeting more profitable, which led to the obvious thought that it costs very little extra to accept more entries, which got us wondering how to get more entries. Now, there are about 6000 individual members of the NRA, but barely a fifth turn up at the Meeting. Speculation was taking us nowhere, so Karen decided we would just ask people. And so the Imperial Meeting online survey was born.

It was done in a bit of a rush in early December so as to provide input to some important decisions to be taken by the Trustees. Although it asked several questions about the Meeting, the critical one was targeted at people who said in an early question that they attended rarely or not at all (676 of you). That asked **What reasons do you have for not competing in the Imperial Meeting (click all that apply)?** and offered 13 alternatives and space for comment. Now we had our suspicions about what the common answers were likely to be, but we were seriously wrong. The two most common reasons were **Do not know enough about it** (259) and **Do not consider myself good enough** (211).

So we were a bit surprised, firstly by the sheer size of the response (nearly 20% of the membership) and secondly by the major factors. It is good to know that so many of you care enough to respond – most marketing analysts would kill for a 20% return rate – but it has given us a problem in simply dealing with the number of people we said we would reply to. In an odd way, we were pleased by the primary reasons, since both are things we can do something about without spending large amounts of money, which right now the Association doesn't have.

The response is under way. We have a one-page article entitled "The Imperial Meeting – What is it?" (*reproduced on the following pages*) to answer the most basic questions, and in preparation are a series of factsheets covering things like how to participate in each of the disciplines, how to book accommodation, how to fill in the entry form and so on. These will appear on the website shortly and we will announce that with an e-mail to members. We had intended a more targeted response to those who were kind enough to include their e-mail addresses in their survey response, but the numbers involved make that impractical for this year.

One misunderstanding that I can dispel right here is the notion that there is any performance standard to enter the Imperial Meeting. You need to be safe, and

certified as such through holding a Certificate of Safety and Competence (certified by the NRA, your Club Chairman, or your own governing body for overseas competitors), and you need to actually hit the target somewhere. Other than that, turn up and enter, and you will find lots of people (too many, sometimes!) very willing to explain how it's done.

Also published here is the Target Rifle factsheet. Not because TR is the boundary of the NRA's universe, as some of our critics allege, but because Karen and I started this and I am the TR rep so I was the easiest target for Karen to bully into producing one factsheet to use as a model for the others. Other factsheets will appear in due course.

We will of course try to address the other significant factors identified by the Survey. Surprisingly, **Too expensive** (125) was only sixth on the list, and **Lack of accommodation** (72) was eighth. These two were our original prime suspects. In a sense, the whole process was intended as a means to keep cost to the minimum possible, so we are tackling that one, and we do have some relatively straightforward measures in mind to improve the accommodation situation. Other big issues – **Live too far away**, **Do not know anyone else who competes** and **Work commitments** – are less tractable. But I have some ideas even for these, ideas which are currently so lightly baked I'm not letting them out on their own.

So, if you responded to the survey, thank you. You have helped to change the way the Association does business. If you did not respond, the survey is now closed, but we will be using the same technique to approach other issues in the future. Please help us by answering the next one.



THE IMPERIAL MEETING – WHAT IS IT?

The Imperial Meeting is alternatively titled the Annual Prize Meeting of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain. It is probably the biggest, and certainly the most varied, competitive shooting festival in the world.

The Meeting dates from the formation of the NRA in 1859, with the first celebration being held at Wimbledon in 1860. The NRA moved to Bisley in 1890. The Meeting reflects this long history in its organisation and language. To participate fully, one needs time at Bisley Camp for a period during the Meeting to savour the atmosphere and camaraderie as well as the competition.

The Meeting is held annually starting in late June and continuing until the climactic event on the last Saturday in July (occasionally a week earlier), the Final of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, shot at 900 and 1000 yards between the 100 qualifiers (The Queen's Hundred) from a competition that starts with around 1100 entrants. Along the way are awarded Her Majesty's medals for Champion Shots of each of the Armed Forces, the Hopton Trophy for the winner in the Match Rifle Grand Aggregate, the solid gold Entente Cordiale trophy for the best competitor in the sniper (McQueen) competition, the Ashburton Shield for the winning School, the magnificent National Challenge Trophy, six feet long and three feet high in solid silver, for competition between the Home Countries at distances up to 600 yards, the great hammered iron Elcho Shield, six feet high, for competition between the Home Countries at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards, the British Running Deer Championships shot on a moving target, and about 300 other competitions varying from turn-up-and-shoot air rifle events to the target rifle Grand Aggregate, widely regarded as the most stringent test of target rifle shooting. To enter all the events of a single discipline will require, at most, a commitment of one working week plus the weekends at either end. Other than target rifle and F Class, most disciplines are organised so that the full course of fire can be completed in at most four working days plus one weekend.

The Meeting was originally designed to encourage the 19th Century Volunteer movement to practise marksmanship. As such, there has never been a performance bar to entry, and one of the great attractions is that the most junior cadet may be shooting alongside the World Champion (currently David Luckman of GB). Provided that you are safe, can actually hit the target somewhere, and have read and are following the Rules, you will be welcome. Performance is honestly not a bar. If you are involved enough to be reading this, you are almost certainly good enough.

There are difficulties. To enter the full course for any discipline is not cheap. Given the scale of the event, some entry forms are necessarily complex, though if you are entering TR, MR or F Class then enter online via the NRA website as it is very difficult indeed to get it wrong. To get the best out of the Meeting you really do need to stay on Bisley Camp, and accommodation is at a premium. If you are past the age for a tent and do not have connections on Camp, your options on site are to hire some of the NRA accommodation (which is expanded for the most popular dates by hiring in portable but comfortable facilities) or borrow a caravan. There are also hotels and bed and breakfast establishments within easy driving distance of the Camp.

If you wish to participate, the first thing is to pick your shooting discipline. Then go to the NRA website and look in the NRA Handbook (online at <http://www.nra.org.uk> and click on the Downloads tab) at the competitions applicable to your discipline. Most competitions are named in memory of the past heroes or officers of the NRA, so you need to actually read the competition conditions to establish what is being done. If that doesn't make sense, and we do understand that it can be confusing, please phone Karen Robertson, on 01483 797777 ext 146 from 12 April onwards. Karen will either know the answer (she has been shooting the Meeting for nearly 30 years) or will know who you need to talk to. Alternatively e-mail your question to karen@nra.org.uk.

HOW TO COMPETE IN THE TARGET RIFLE EVENTS

Welcome to the biggest and most prestigious of the disciplines at the Imperial (but I would say that, wouldn't I!). The problem with explaining the Imperial Meeting is that it just doesn't make sense on a first pass. If there is something here you don't understand, please just keep reading – the explanation should follow later. If it doesn't make sense second time round, e-mail me at target@nra.org.uk and I will try to explain. The information here is specific to the Imperial Meeting. Other target rifle competitions may differ in some details.

Target rifle (TR) is the discipline in which the most important events of the Meeting are shot. These are (explanations to follow):

Her Majesty the Queen's Prize
The Grand Aggregate
The St George's Vase

There are another 20 or so squadded TR competitions for individual competitors, and competitions for teams from clubs, counties, the Home Nations and international teams.

To compete in TR you need a target rifle (a single-loading 7.62mm/.308" rifle with adjustable non-magnifying sights - see NRA Rule 150), and the kit to go with it. Minimum: sling, glove, ear defenders, spotting scope, scorebook and pencil (though I scored my first competition literally on the back of a fag packet). Highly desirable: shooting jacket, mat, hat, waterproofs, ammo box, small clipboard, rifle tools and a bag to carry it all in.

TR competitions are shot at some combination of 300, 500, 600, 900 and 1000 yards in the prone position at a static round-bull target. Each shot is fired in a 45-second time bracket and each shot is scored separately. Competitors shoot two or three to a target and keep score for each other. A single competition normally consists of two sighting shots and ten or fifteen scoring shots, though there are exceptions. Ammunition is provided – everybody shoots with the same ammunition. Each competition has its own prizes, and there are prizes for groups of competitions taken together – aggregates. The biggest of these is the Grand Aggregate, widely regarded as the most stringent test of target rifle shooting anywhere.

There is no qualifying standard to enter. The only limitation comes from one of the safety rules, which broadly requires you actually to hit the target (anywhere on the paper will do) from the first shot. So you do need to have done enough shooting to understand how to set your sights correctly for each distance.

The individual TR events of the Meeting start on Friday 15 July 2011. This is known as "First Friday" in Imperial Meeting speak. The main events in several disciplines are spread over two weeks plus the preceding weekend, and referring to the days in this manner saves renumbering as the actual dates shift from year to year. Before First Friday, other disciplines including Match Rifle and Schools have completed their events. The TR events are organised so that on First Friday and the next day ("Middle Saturday") you will shoot once at each of the five distances. Thus, before the really important stuff begins, you should have a zero for every distance. Then, over the next five days, you will shoot a series of events, usually three each day, that make up the Grand Aggregate, and include the first stages of the Queen's and the St George's.

Although full participation involves the entire series of eighteen competitions, which consist of twenty-one individual shoots plus the subsequent stages of the Queen's and St George's, you can enter as many or as few of the competitions as you wish. So the first step in making an entry is to decide how much time you can spare. There are broadly four groups of events, which overlap to a degree. The five events leading up to the Grand Aggregate have individual trophies, and together form the Tucker Aggregate (named after Andrew Tucker, who sponsored the competition, as

well as winning HM the Queen's Prize twice). The six competitions on 16 and 17 July (Middle Saturday and Middle Sunday) form the Weekend Aggregate. The eleven competitions from Middle Saturday afternoon to Second Thursday morning form the Grand Aggregate, as well as having their own trophies and making up several lesser aggregate competitions. And there are a series of individual competitions on Second Thursday afternoon, all day Second Friday and Final Saturday morning for those that are not involved in the international team matches or subsequent stages of the Queen's Prize and the St George's Vase. You can see the full timetable in the NRA Handbook (online at www.nra.org.uk and click on the Downloads tab) on pages 349 to 357. This shows everything that's happening – the TR events are held on Stickledown Range shown across the centre of the pages and Century range shown at the bottom of the pages.

Because there are over 1000 competitors in the TR events, it is not possible to let people randomly choose their time of shooting – the ranges are fully utilised throughout the day. Also, there is a perceived (and sometimes actual) advantage in shooting at certain times of the day or on certain parts of the range. In a single competition there is nothing that can be done about that. As a result, there is an element of luck in the result of each event. However, the allocation of competitors to times and locations on the range is planned so as to even out the luck over the course of the major aggregates. As a consequence, the flexibility to offer specific times of shooting is rather limited.

Competitors shoot in four Classes. This should not be confused with F Class, which is a separate discipline shot with a rifle with a scope sight and supported on a rest. The four classes are X, A, O and T. The precise definitions are in the NRA Handbook, but loosely they are as follows:

- X someone who has placed in the top 50 of the Queen's, George's or Grand Aggregate in the last three years. This is one reason why these three events are particularly significant.
- A someone who has placed 51-100 in the Queen's or George's, or 51-200 in the Grand Aggregate, in the last three years.
- O everybody who isn't X, A or T.
- T somebody who has never placed in the prize list of any single competition at the Meeting ie usually those attending for their first few visits.

The significant thing about the Classes is that for each event there is a prize list of 100, but the list isn't simply the top 100. The list contains competitors from each Class in proportion to the number of entries from that Class. Also, there is a separate competition, the Chairman's Prize, for the top competitors in each of Class O and Class T, and in many competitions there is a prize for the top scorer in each Class.

Exceptions to the Class system are the Queen's, George's and Grand Aggregate. These events are all shot regardless of Class, thus giving a clear indication of where you came against everyone else. Another reason why these three events are particularly significant.

Some explanation. Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1860, is without doubt the most prestigious individual rifle competition anywhere in the world. The format is copied in the national championships of many countries, and by organisers of events ranging from club championships to the Commonwealth Games. The event is structured so as to cope with the huge number of competitors in the fairest way possible. The First Stage (Queen's I, in the jargon) is shot in multiple details at three distances (300, 500 and 600 yards) over the course of a day, with competitors firing two sighters and seven shots to count at each distance. This serves as an eliminator for the Second Stage (Queen's II), so scores are not carried forward. Queen's II is shot in an afternoon, with 300 qualifiers from the First Stage on the same detail at each distance, the number of qualifiers being limited by the physical dimensions of Century Range. The scores for Queen's II are processed on the range, and the cut-off for a place in the final Third Stage is announced within a few minutes. It is usual for there to be a tie-shoot for the last places in the Final. This third and final stage is the last event of the Meeting, shot at 900 and 1000 yards on Final Saturday afternoon between the 100 competitors making the highest score in the Second Stage. The scores in the Second and Third Stages are added together to decide the winner, who is then carried shoulder-high from the range in procession led by a military band, and subsequently carried round all the Clubhouses on Bisley Camp in an evening of celebration. So if you only enter one competition, this should be the one! It's also the best value for money, as the entry fee is based on the First Stage only – if you get through to the subsequent stages you have won, amongst any other prizes, a free shoot and there are many subsidiary prizes decided on the Queen's Prize scores.

Once you have decided which events you would like to enter – the main constraints being your resources of time and money – you need then to make an entry. This is a subject all by itself – see the factsheet "Imperial Meeting – Making an Entry". Whether you enter online (easiest) or on paper, the staff will prepare an envelope with all the essential documents that you need in order to participate, and you pick this up on arrival at Bisley in exchange for the receipt they have sent you. For what to do with all the documents see the briefing sheet in the envelope. And having arrived at Bisley you will need somewhere to stay. With approaching 1500 competitors across all disciplines, accommodation during the Meeting is at a premium. You can camp on the site, or park a touring caravan.

You may be able to hire one of the static caravans from the owner if he isn't at the Meeting. Most of the various clubhouses have accommodation available to their members. The NRA has dormitories and huts to rent, and brings in portable cabins. Check prices and availability on the NRA website, or talk to the Accommodation Manager Amanda Vaughan. There are also hotels and bed and breakfast establishments within easy driving distance of the Camp.

To participate in the competitions you have entered, you need the most important item in your envelope of paperwork – your squadding cards. These show you where and when you have to go for your slot on the ranges, and are your scorecards. Things to do:

- Get there with at least 20 minutes to spare.
- Keep an eye on the queue at the ammunition point – pick a quieter moment to save time. The squadding card is your authority to draw ammunition – take it with you.
- Double check you are in the right place and time on the range.
- Set up your equipment behind the firing point, making sure that everything is properly attached to your rifle and that the sights are correctly set for the distance at which you are about to shoot.
- Move on to the firing point when the range officer tells you to.
- Introduce yourself to the other competitors on your firing point. Do tell them it's your first Meeting – almost everybody is only too willing to help you with anything you are unsure of.
- If you are unsure, ask. Everybody had to do this for the first time. There is a lot to take in and you can't be expected to know all the ins and outs just by reading about it.
- Wait for the order from your own RCO before you load and carry on.
- Keep an eye on everything that happens on your target – you need to notice if someone crossfires, or fires out of turn, or challenges the marking, so you don't compound the problem.
- Keep score for one of your companions on the firing point, as laid down in Rules 341-349 in the NRA Handbook.
- Ensure they do the same for you.
- At the end of the shoot, wait until everyone on your target has finished, then check your rifle is clear and present it for checking as laid down in Rule 263. Without disturbing competitors around you who may still be firing, exchange scorecards and vacate the firing point.
- Hand back any unfired sighters and your empty cases. Sign your scorecard and hand it in. If you

made the highest possible score – well done, now present your rifle to the RCO to have the trigger checked.

The scorecards are collected after each detail and scores go into a computer record. Between one and two hours after the competition finishes, stats will publish a provisional prize list which is displayed on noticeboards beside the main NRA building. If you think you may have shot well enough to make it on to the prize list, you need to check the provisional list – mistakes do get made, and you have until lunchtime the next day to point out any error. If you have shot really well, but haven't won the competition outright, you may find yourself in a tie-shoot. The date and time for the tie-shoot will be published as soon as the prize list is final. Tie-shoots are one of the very few elements that are a spectator sport – there will be a few of the very best competitors firing only five shots to count, so it is usually possible to keep track of exactly how the event is progressing. If those five shots don't settle the match, it goes to single shots – no pressure!

After the Grand Aggregate finishes on Second Thursday, if you are not involved in the team matches or the subsequent stages of the major individual competitions, there is a series of additional competitions that you can enter at short notice over the counter in the NRA main building. Also on Second

Friday is the Final of the Chairman's Prize, contested between the top 50 competitors in each of O and T Class in the Grand Aggregate.

Final Saturday is very much a party atmosphere for those not competing. After lunch, most people on Camp will go to Stickledown Range to watch the Final of the Queen's Prize. Scores are collated in near-real-time by a team of volunteers, and the progress of the leading competitors is displayed on a large scoreboard for all to see. The winner will be identified within a few moments of the competition ending (and often before the last shot is fired). The winner is presented with the Gold Badge on the range, then carried off led by the band.

The Imperial Meeting closes officially with the Presentation of Prizes at 18:00 on Final Saturday, at which the major trophies for the first place in each competition are presented. If you have won a medal or prize for a lesser place it will be posted to you a few weeks after the competition.

If you have any questions on entering the Imperial Meeting in the target rifle events please e-mail Iain Robertson on target@nra.org.uk or Karen Robertson on karen@nra.org.uk or ring 01483 797777 ext 146 (after 12 April).

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AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME – 2011

A reaction to the NRA Survey

I need urgently to address the responses concerning the Aunts and Uncles Scheme contained in the recent survey – to which there were over 1,200 replies. Necessarily, this relates only to MR, TR and F Class in the Imperial Meeting, Aunts and Uncles all being volunteers and the Scheme being specific to those disciplines in the Imperial Meeting.

I would like to thank those who made specific reference to the Scheme. I was gratified that none of the comments was critical of it and, from the survey, I resume the two main points which arose, the first major and indirect and the second minor and direct:

- 1 The survey shows very clearly that it is not generally known that, as a spin-off from the Aunts and Uncles Scheme, there are two Guides to the Imperial Meeting on the website, one for Cadets and one for Adults, both updated annually.

They cover not only the administration of Bisley, but also, and for instance, where you can buy groceries, what you might wear in a clubhouse of an evening, accommodation options, firing point etiquette, radio messages and so on.

Go to the website, highlight the Competitions tab, highlight Imperial Meeting 2011, left click on Imperial Meeting Information and, in the bottom right of the main box which comes up on screen, select whichever download (The Guide for Cadets or The Guide for Adults) that you consider appropriate.

I have repeatedly sought advice and suggestions about how to improve these Guides as to content and structure and have, in the many years that I have been producing them, received almost none.

- 2 The second point to arise is a difficult but emotive one. One voice – and one voice only – expressed minor disquiet about the name of the Scheme, thus echoing a similar minor disquiet which has recently been expressed within certain sections of the NRA. Like the name of the Imperial Meeting which came under scrutiny a while ago, the name 'Aunts and Uncles Scheme' has, like 'The Imperial Meeting', acquired its own recognisable and stand-alone identity and thus dilutes any unfortunate contemporary connotations that might otherwise cling to it.

I should welcome any views before we consider a change: one single member-opinion and some anonymous disquiet within the NRA is not enough. Please contact me about this and, most particularly, if you wish there to be a change, put forward a suggestion as to what that change should be.

Thank you.

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The Bisley Clubs' Easter Meeting 2011

Open to All Comers in Target Rifle and F Class

Are you a newcomer to the sport? Are you worried about entering an official competition because you don't know how it works? Would you like to try a formal event with all the features of the Imperial Meeting but in a controlled setting?

The Bisley Clubs' Easter Meeting offers ten shoots making up five events and nine aggregates over the Easter Weekend. All for £96 plus your ammunition (131 rounds). It is run, not by the NRA, but by the major resident Clubs on Bisley in turn. This year the London & Middlesex Rifle Association are the organisers.

The NRA will have expert competitors on hand to talk newcomers through the process and practice targets available on Saturday morning. Download an entry form from the NRA website (look for 23 April on Upcoming Events on the left side of the homepage), and book assistance on the day with an e-mail to karen@nra.org.uk.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM TO CANADA 2010

by Jane Messer

Captain

Jane Messer GB, England & Sussex

Vice-Captain

Nigel Ball GB, England & Norfolk

Adjutant

David Armstrong GB, England & London

Coaches

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland & Hertfordshire

Dominic Harvey GB, England & Surrey

Shooters

Gary Alexander GB, Ireland & Tyrone

Alex Bryson*

Henry Day* Suffolk

John Deane GB, England & Gloucestershire

Charles Dickenson GB, England & Berkshire

Peter Griggs GB, England & Kent

Chris Haley GB, England & Cambs

Simon Harding* England & Kent

Kitty Jack GB, Scotland & Kent

David Luckman GB, England & Somerset

David Rose GB, England & Surrey

Bruce Roth* Scotland & Kent

Paul Sykes GB, England & Sussex

Steven Thomas GB, England & Hertfordshire

Stephanie Ward* Wales & Gloucestershire

Archie Whicher* England & Berkshire

* new cap

Scarcely had the Imperial Meeting finished than the team was assembling again at Bisley – the following day for those who were involved in the Australia Match – necessitating a quick turnaround at home and work. The team was to be accompanied on the first part of the tour by a select group of 'WAGs', including Kitty Jack's husband of three weeks James Thomas (soon to be christened 'the Honorary Wag'). We flew uneventfully into Vancouver and headed up the Fraser Valley to Chilliwack, after considerable difficulty trying to collect the pre-booked people carriers that Hertz had decided we didn't need (after all, why would we need so much luggage space?!).

Chilliwack and BCRA Meeting

All the team members were impressed by the beauty of the General Volkes range where we were to compete in the British Columbia Rifle Association Championships – our only complaint being that it only went back to 600 yards. The BCRA programme involved several individual shoots followed by one stage of the International Teams Match each day, a pattern which, while unusual, accustomed us to

moving quickly from individual shooting into team mode. We entered two teams, our competitors being British Columbia, representing Canada, and a US team consisting of shooters from the Western states, both teams being sprinkled with well-known international shots. The winner of this match would not be a foregone conclusion.

The results of the individual BCRA competitions showed GB shooters in the ascendancy with various individual successes, the most noteworthy being a win in the Grand Aggregate by Nigel Ball, who had shot four scores of 50 in the last day of the Grand to overtake renowned local Don Pitcairn. Kitty was runner-up two points behind Nigel, with David Armstrong in third place, a further point back. The final individual competition, the Norm Beaton, was also the final of the Lt Governor's and the only 15 round shoot of the meeting. David won it with 75.10, with Jane Messer in second place with 75.7. This resulted in Jane being declared the outright winner of the Lt Governor's Match with a score of 378.42, with Nigel second with 377.36 and Archie Whicher fourth with 373.32. Jane was duly chaired off the range to the strains of "Scotland the Brave", played by a lone piper in full highland regalia.

This was quickly followed by a short lunch break and then the third and final range of the International Teams Match shot under Kolapore conditions. GB Red Team had edged the 300m and 500m ranges each by one point from the US team but a two point lead could hardly be described as a cushion. The Captain made it clear to the team that real focus was required if disappointment was to be avoided and the 600m leg of the match got underway in tricky wind conditions with sudden changes of both strength and direction and occasional dust clouds raised by the gusts. Dropping five points, GB progressed to a clear win with a score of 1185 ex 1200, with the BC (Canada) team on 1176, the US team on 1168 and the GB Blue team on 1166.

The prizegiving followed and a high proportion of the fine silver trophies were claimed by GB team members. It should be noted that, overall, Nigel won the BC Open TR Championship and Jane was runner up. None of the visitors had ever shot on such a pristine range in such spectacular surroundings. The organisation by Bob Pitcairn and his team had been flawless, a tribute to all their hard work. After farewells on the range, the GB team celebrated their successes with an excellent dinner at the local steak house. Some then retired while others, mindful of the rest day to come, returned to the pub before, in the small hours, serenading a sleepy Captain – and no doubt all the other hotel guests – to the strains of



The stunning view from General Volkes Range.



The team waiting to start at General Volkes Range.



The Chilliwack River en route to the range.



The team with their haul of BCRA trophies.



Homestead Range, Alberta.



The successful Commonwealth Match team.



The Captain follows tradition at the Shoe Tree!



The successful America Match team with the trophy.

Hail the Conquering Hero, thus rounding off a very good day.

The Rockies

The team had a day to recover and see the local sights and then we set off for the drive up to Jasper and a whistlestop tour of the Rockies for rest and recuperation in the mountain air. The latter turned out to be rather less healthy than expected, due to the number of forest fires burning across the Province! After a day in Jasper, spent by many of the team admiring the somewhat hazy views over the area from a nearby mountaintop, we travelled down the scenic Icefield Parkway to Banff, stopping off en route at such spectacular tourist spots as the Athabasca Falls and Glacier and Lake Louise. David Luckman and Dominic Harvey joined the team at Banff and it was good to meet up for a few days with the team physio, Jackie Davis and her husband Gareth, now Canadian residents.

Banff is a lovely town in which to spend some time and we certainly made the most of it, enjoying high level mountain walks (while watching out warily for bears), wildlife safaris, golf – and of course the local restaurants, bars and nightclubs. But for the shooters, the highlight of our stay there was our visit to the nearby Homestead range for a friendly match against the local Albertan shooters.

Homestead Range

On arrival at the range we were welcomed by Frank Lalear, Henry Rempol, Peter Redstone, Peter Papasideris, past Queens Prize runner-up, and introduced to the other Alberta shooters, a number of whom were shooting F Class alongside us and who very kindly also did most of our marking for us.

After 600m two of the three GB teams had dropped three points, and the Adjutant's team only two. At 800m a diversion was caused by a small bird which decided not only to fly right in front of the firing point during the shooting, but also to land on a shooter's barrel for a short rest, much to the latter's confusion. After 800m the scores remained close, but, as is invariably the case, it was 900m which provided the sternest test for both shooters and coaches. By the end the Captain's team proved to be in the lead with 991 points ex 1000, with the Vice's team on 987 and the Adjutant's team third with 985. The Alberta team scored 905.

The only highest possible score of the day, 200.23, coached by Martin Townsend, was shot by Alex Bryson, at 18, the youngest member of the team.

Following the match which had taken place to a backdrop of dark skies and light rain at times, the sky brightened and, in glorious sunshine, Frank Lalear presented prizes and the Captain thanked our hosts with some reciprocal presentations, including a

team photograph to add alongside the 1998 GB team photograph already on the clubhouse wall. The team was then entertained by the Alberta shooters to an excellent barbecue followed by home-baked cakes and cookies. As clouds gathered again and the heavens opened, we were all heading back down the dirt road and back to Banff. Meanwhile, Frank and Peter were preparing for the three day drive across the Prairies to Ottawa, laden down with the team's excess baggage, for which assistance we were most grateful.

Following a farewell dinner for the WAGs who were leaving us at this point, the main team flew from Calgary to Ottawa, to be joined by latecomers Chris Haley and Paul Sykes – and rejoined by Charles Dickenson, who had taken three days out to attend his son's wedding in the US. With the team complete, we settled down to the serious business.

Ottawa and the DCRA Championships

Our first few days on the ranges at Connaught showed promise.

In the Gooderham, the Adjutant, David Armstrong was able to put together a very good score to win despite turning up to shoot without any ammo.

The Army and Navy Veterans followed, a 2ss and 15 at 900m. In a changeable wind, most of the team averaged around 72, but David Luckman came through with a 74.9 to win the match.

Both the Captain and Scott Fulmer of the US team had scored 75.14 in the opening match, the Ottawa Regiment, Jane having converted her '5' sighters. The whole team turned out to watch the ensuing tie shoot and were shocked to see Jane again convert a 5. Fortunately, following a further tie on 25.3 Jane's subsequent V to Scott's 5 won her the match to cheers from the team.

The DCRA 'Meet and Greet' (or 'Meat and Greet' as it appeared on the GB team notice board) gave everyone a chance to meet old friends and make some new, while enjoying a fine beef dinner.

The first day of the Grand shoots dawned wet. The team huddled in the clubroom using the chalkboard to indicate the delay forecast by the DCRA, in the same way Tony Clayton predicts the cut for Queen's III back at Bisley. Following news that the morning's shooting had been abandoned the team returned to the comfort of the hotel. By midday the rain seemed to be easing. However, by the time we arrived at the range again there was a steady downpour with thunder and lightning all around. On safety grounds the DCRA had no option but to abandon all shooting for the day.

Disappointed, the team headed back to the hotel and used the opportunity to catch up on domestic activities (for some it provided a chance to learn about them!). To brighten an otherwise dull and damp Sunday afternoon, the Captain arranged a tea party with

all 21 members of the team proving how spacious the rooms are by fitting into one for tea and cakes. For the evening the majority of the team headed to a local Italian restaurant to celebrate Alex Bryson's 19th birthday.

On the Tuesday afternoon, the Alexander of Tunis lived up to its (and its British cousin the Corporation's) reputation by blowing an absolute gale. Winds ranging from 10 to 15 left proved challenging to read on the flags and large gusts caught many out with 46s being a standard score and only one 50 in the whole competition achieved on the last detail of the day. The late afternoon gave us the excitement of not one but two tie shoots with Chris Haley shooting for the Norman Beckett and Steve Thomas for the Brick. Despite a valiant effort at 800m, Chris came a close second. Fortunately Steve's shoot had got off to a rather slow start, enabling those who had watched Chris's shoot to get to the 600 point in time to see Steve's go to sudden death. After three further shots, Steve's calm measured approach came through giving him a V to Fazal's 5, winning him the Col John Brick. The team wrapped up the day with an excellent corn boil and sausage barbecue at the NCRRA clubhouse.

On Wednesday, David Armstrong won the President's with 150.25, followed closely by Paul Sykes in second and Gary Alexander in third, both on 150.23. Henry Day and Nigel Ball were seventh and eighth, both with 150.20. The day was rounded off by a reception hosted by the GB and USA Teams in the Mess, at which the quintessentially British Pimms was served to some initial suspicion and subsequent delight of many guests. Speeches were made by both Captains and mementos presented to the backdrop of a beautiful sunset over the ranges.

Outlander

David Luckman having put in a tidy 150.25 to win the Gibson, GB entered two teams into the Outlander. After 2ss and 15 at 600 yards, the Captain's team led. All then retreated into shelter. After a two hour break for the forecast torrential rain, the match resumed with the evening 900m shoot reduced to 2ss and 10 to count. The Captain's team were worthy winners with 978.88, whilst the USA scored 976.80 and the Vice-Captain's team 974.90.

Grand Aggregate

Friday morning's competition, the Gatineau (2ss and 15 at 900m), was the last one in the MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate. Arriving at the range in bright sunshine, David Luckman was disappointed to see the flags hanging limply by the side of the flagpoles, indicating that the task of catching up the two points and six V bulls he was adrift of Grand leader Kent Reeve of the USA was unlikely to be achievable.

However, the fishtailing wind and deceptive mirage meant that many struggled to obtain small groups

and only ten competitors managed a 75 in what had appeared to be relatively easy conditions. David's 73.7 was sufficient to secure second place and the Silver Medal in the Grand on 724.94 (ex 730.146), three points behind winner Kent Reeve. David Armstrong had a 73.6 for 722.88, which was enough to keep him in third place. Overall, pleasingly, the team had 11 members in the top 25 of the Grand.

Amongst the other aggregates, Alex Bryson won the Russell G Potter Memorial, the Harrison, the Cadet/Junior Open Target Rifle Championship, and, along with Steve Thomas, the Senior/U25 Pairs event. The Captain made up for a cross shot in the President's by winning the Short Range Aggregate, dropping only four V bulls throughout the 300m shoots, and the Tess Spencer trophy for the highest lady in the Grand Aggregate.

Commonwealth Match

Friday afternoon saw the first of the big three matches to which the team had been building: the Commonwealth Match, equivalent to our Mackinnon (international teams of 12 shooters, 2ss and 10 at 800m and 900m). After a team brief and pep talk by Jane and the Match Captain (Nigel Ball), the whole team moved out onto the range. In bright sunshine, the winds remained similar to the morning, light and variable, with the mirage giving often the only indication of strength and direction.

After 800m, GB were nine off, with Canada hot on our heels on 12 off and USA just a further point behind. The winds got no easier as the match progressed, and by the time the last three GB shooters got down it was clear that nothing short of three possibles was going to secure the match. Paul Sykes, Kitty Jack and Gary Alexander and the coaches duly rose to the challenge and delivered just that, to give the team a score of 1173.112. The Match Captain then nearly had a heart attack when a total of 1175 appeared on the Canadian scoreboard. Fortunately this proved to be a mathematical error, and the correct score of 1171.113 was eventually recorded. The USA had had a few problems at 900m and ended up in third place on 1167.98.

Canada Match

The final day of the DCRA Championships dawned cloudy and dull, with the threat of rain. The Canada Match started at 0800, so wagons rolled at 0630 to ensure the team was fully breakfasted and ready to start at the appointed hour. In gloomy light, the GB team settled into the process of establishing a lead on the extreme right hand side of Connaught's A Range. By the end of 300 yards, GB were on 398.57, Canada were on 397.51 and the USA were on 395.52.

At 500 yards all teams moved to the extreme left side of the 40 target range as very light rain started to fall intermittently. This rain wasn't heavy enough to



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provide any advantage and GB dropped three points to Canada's two and USA's one. Going into the final range, scores were thus finely poised at GB 795.110, Canada 795.97 and USA 794.95. The team huddle provided inspiration and renewed determination, and GB consolidated with just a further three points lost. Unfortunately both Canada and the USA managed one point better, to give final scores of USA 1192.154, GB 1192.164 and Canada 1193.142. A very close match and disappointing to have been beaten at the final hurdle, but credit must go to Canada who held it together to record a narrow victory.

Alongside the Canada Match, Henry, Alex and Steph were shooting with a number of Athelings in the Under 25s International Short Range Match. The GB U25 team had more success here, posting a score of 1186.155 to the Canadian Under 25s' score of 1182.119. This completed the shooting part of the Athelings' tour, which was extremely successful. We were fortunate to be able to build strong links to the Athelings and greatly enjoyed their company on and off the ranges. Hopefully they will all go on to great things in their future shooting careers.

The Governor General's Final

As forecast, the rain proper arrived during the lunch break, and the few team members who had failed to qualify for the Final breathed a collective sigh of relief that they didn't need to get wet.

Before the start, David Armstrong led the field of fourteen 150s with 150.25, two Vs ahead of Paul Sykes, Gary Alexander and Grand Agg winner Kent Reeve of the USA. After 800m, David, Paul and Kent, along with Des Vamplew and 2005 Queen's Prize winner, James Paton, had still not dropped a point, thanks to the steady winds that accompanied the rain. However, 900m was a different story, as the rain passed and the wind, initially strong from the right in the wake of the rain, died and changed angle part way through the shoot. Many caught magpies! Paul Sykes and David Armstrong were beaten into fourth and fifth places respectively by James Paton on 298.40. All three were, however eclipsed by Des Vamplew on 299.36 and Kent Reeve on 299.43, who thereby claimed the Governor General's Prize to add to his Grand Aggregate win and was duly chaired from the range, preceded by a band playing familiar tunes.

After a quick shower and change, the team reassembled in No 1s for prizegiving, where we scooped an impressive haul of silver, to be held momentarily, photographed and then handed back for safe keeping until next year.

The Captain announced the team for the America Match during supper at the hotel, and the team retired to bed to prepare for one last early start, with dreams of taking revenge for the Canada Match.

America Match

Conditions for the America Match are similar to an Australia (Empire) Match – teams of eight shooting at 300 and 600 yards and 800 and 900 metres but with 15 shots rather than 10 at each range. The day was overcast with plenty of wind to lift the flags off their fat poles, and a forecast of rain – all factors that should be to the GB team's advantage, particularly with a strong coaching team of Main Coach Martin and target coaches Jane and Dom.

As with the Canada Match, we were on the right hand side of Connaught's A Range. This time, despite the longer course of fire, the team only dropped one point, compared with eight dropped by Canada and the USA. As well as the seven point advantage, we had also built up a healthy lead in V bulls.

At 600 yards the teams once again moved to the extreme left side of the range. The light rain that had accompanied the start of 300 yards had quickly stopped, and continued to hold off through 600 yards. The wind was fairly steady and Canada moved up a gear to post a 599.79 but were left wondering what they had to do to catch GB who had a superb shoot, going clean to post 600.89. The USA had also improved, but still lost six points to trail Canada by five and GB by 13 as the teams broke for lunch.

After further motivating briefing from Jane and Nigel, Team GB came out very hard at 800m posting 599.76. The USA had clearly also received some effective motivation over their lunchtime sandwiches as they went clean with the same number of Vs, to claw back a point on GB. Canada posted the highest number of Vs, with 86, but lost a further two points. Going into the final range, scores were finely poised at GB two off, Canada 11 off and USA 14 off, by no means a safe margin at this longest and most difficult range.

The team set to work and were quickly posting steady high scores. So too were both Canada and the USA in relatively steady wind conditions, but with plenty there to take you away from the bull if you did not take care. By the end of the range, it became apparent that all three teams had posted the same score, nine off, with only two Vs between top and bottom score. The final scores were thus GB 2389.315, Canada 2380.287 and USA 2377.280. Yet another very close and hard fought match and one that GB were delighted to win, this having been the Captain's prime shooting objective throughout. Mention must be made of David Armstrong's 300.42 and Paul Sykes who shot superbly throughout, including a 75.15 at 600.

After the farewell reception and match prizegiving the team retired to Mamma Theresa's restaurant in downtown Ottawa for a celebratory dinner, master minded by the team's social secretary Dom Harvey – a fitting end to a very enjoyable and successful tour.

THE BISLEY V CLUB MATCH – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Mick Barr

Back in 1987 a small band of well travelled experienced international TR shooting friends decided they wanted somehow to repay the always very generous degree of hospitality they received when GB teams visited their respective countries.



This resulted in a long range team match for the visiting teams including a lunch or dinner, following the match. A silver rose bowl trophy was awarded to the winners. The Bisley V Club was thus born – the V perhaps now more obviously, stands for Visitor.

This match event continued for some ten to twelve years but faltered as visiting teams toured around Britain and found difficulty in fielding a team.

In 2000 the current BVC President, Arthur Clarke, suggested a team match for Schools and Cadet Units at long range. The Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting was consulted and they responded with great enthusiasm offering to supply the ammunition.

The match has prospered, even accelerated, to now be considered a major event in their shooting calendar. Alas too, it has far outgrown the BVC!

Match conditions are teams of four (from schools and Cadet Units only of course) and also permit use of an outside coach. The Cadet rifle as issued must be used and all ammunition is as supplied. Up to 3 sighting shots and 10 to count at 900 yards followed by 2ss and 10 at 1000 yards.

The date for the next match is Thursday 7 July and in the afternoon only.

In order to give these youngsters the best possible experience of long range shooting, many volunteers are required to assist. We currently use around 30 targets. The competing teams provide all markers and six or so volunteers are used in the butts to supervise and encourage good and accurate marking.

A further ten to twelve experienced volunteers with scopes, are then required to assist behind the firing line, overseeing three or four targets each by watching their specific teams and targets and giving help and/or advice wherever thought necessary.

This match now in its eleventh year, has proved to be a real challenge for the young shooters and seen to be enjoyed very much by them and the volunteers alike.

The organiser, Mick Barr, is therefore again looking for extra willing volunteers to expand his usual enthusiastic band of helpers!

All costs for the youngsters are kept to the absolute minimum and the fee for volunteers is a free lunch, courtesy the BVC, from 12:00 on the day of the match.

Stats are compiled on the day and an enormous Silver Challenge Shield and special medals are presented to the winning teams.

Why not adopt a School or Cadet Unit from your county? You may benefit sooner than you could imagine . . .

Please contact Mick Barr on mickbarr@talktalk.net for further details.

SHOOTING MENTORS (AUNTS AND UNCLES) SCHEME 2011

Preliminary Notice

For 2011, I have been asked by the NRA to take the scheme (back) as Chief Uncle, or whatever you care to call me, and to organise things.

My records are complete up to and including 2008 and are reasonably comprehensive for 2009. Because I would hate inadvertently to fail to contact someone from 2009 and 2010 who expects to be contacted, I should be most grateful if he or she could e-mail to me his or her details.

A fuller article will appear in the Summer Journal. Essentially, there will be no changes in the way the system operates.

Please remember that requests for an Aunt or an Uncle must be made, either using the entry form (online or paper) or by contacting me direct as below, for choice by e-mail.

Tim (TJ) Elliott

Lark Hill, Haynes West End,
Bedfordshire MK45 3RB

Telephone: 01234 740334 Mobile: 07932 706171

E-mail: tje@easynet.co.uk



WE'RE GOING GREEN - DO YOU KNOW WHAT DMR IS?

by John Gardener



From mid-January 2011 the NSC changed its waste contractor and with it the whole policy of waste management. We used to spend £50,000 a year getting rid of our waste, most of it going to landfill. This wasn't good for either the bank balance or the environment and it had to change. There can't be many of you who, at home, don't have at least two receptacles for waste and will be used to separating your rubbish. We here at NSC now have two bins where there used to be one. There are bins for Dry Mixed Recyclable, and for landfill (waste food etc). We have a centrally located bin for your old laptops, televisions etc, as well as strategically placed bottle banks and bins for your old batteries, fluorescent tubes etc.

The NSC old-fashioned bins have disappeared and we are asking you to 'go the extra mile' (well a few yards actually) to find the right bin to put it in. With your help we can save over 30% of that 50k!

The new scheme will save the Association a considerable sum of money. There are penalties of course if we get it wrong but with your help we can move forward into a greener future which can't be a bad thing. We will be asking you to use clear bags for your DMR and black ones for the landfill. The clear ones can be emptied (preferably) into the DMR bin and used again. We will have a container sized bin for all your large rubbish which is currently being dumped anywhere.

The new waste company, Biffa, have worked hard in preparing a scheme to suit our needs and which, barring the inevitable teething problems, is of financial benefit and, most importantly, is more environmentally friendly.

If you have any questions please e-mail john.gardener@nra.org.uk who will be happy to help.

Dry Mixed Recycling	What We Want	What We Don't Want
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardboard Office Paper Newspapers Magazines Tin Cans Plastic Bottles Plastic Wrap <div> ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN, DRY & Empty</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polystyrene Glass Bottles Hand Towels Carbon Paper Wood Food Waste Contaminated Packaging Garden Waste Video/Audio Tape Wire Textiles Strapping or Banding

www.biffa.co.uk Biffa www.biffa.co.uk Biffa www.biffa.co.uk Biffa

A RESPONSE TO RANGE CLOSURES: LONG RANGE SHOOTING WITH THE .22" LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE

by Richard Kenchington

Range Closures and Future Prospects

Those who have been involved in fullbore rifle shooting since the 1970s will be only too well aware of the loss of MoD ranges which has taken place in the last 40 years. At least two thirds of the ranges accessible to civilians in 1970 have since been closed. For example, in the West Midlands and Gloucestershire, the loss of Pilning and Tyddesley Wood has left just one operational range, Kingsbury, which may yet be vulnerable if the High Speed 2 railway is built. The requirements of the military for range space at Kingsbury and the nearest range to the south-west (Severn Tunnel) mean that civilian use is severely restricted and liable to cancellation at short notice, whilst the continued cuts in defence spending can only squeeze civilian fullbore shooting further out of the MoD's future concerns.

These political changes have made it increasingly difficult for clubs to find anywhere to practise using service calibre rifles. In addition, over the same 40 year period, the cost of fullbore shooting has risen much faster than inflation and is now a significant discouragement to individuals from starting, and perhaps from continuing, to take part. These factors need to be addressed realistically and practical solutions found, otherwise the prospects for provincial open range target shooting, which are already very poor, are likely to deteriorate further.

Essentials of Target Rifle Shooting

The enjoyable thing about fullbore rifle shooting at the relatively long ranges customary for Target and Match Rifle is the sense of achievement when winning the battle with the elements, above all the wind. At long range, the large wind allowances often needed and the risk of making low scores are essential components of the enjoyment of taking part. Whilst the recoil and noise of discharge of a service calibre weapon are, at least initially, another important part of the experience, as one grows used to them, it is the train of observation and thought ("how much wind do I allow?") and the

result at the target which contribute most to the sense of enjoyment.

In these times of contraction in the military, financial stricture and greater general awareness of safety and the environment, it makes sense to use the cheapest and least violent means to puncture the bullseye, commensurate with acceptable accuracy. One possible way forward, which I feel deserves serious consideration, is the use for long range shooting (relative to its ballistic parameters) of the .22" Long Rifle (.22LR) cartridge.

.22LR Ballistics

Although I have been interested in ballistics for several decades, it was only last year that my eye fell upon the chapter on .22LR ballistics in Geoffrey Kolbe's excellent "Ballistics Handbook", published in 2000. Kolbe's condensed ballistic table indicates that if fired at an angle of elevation of 115 minutes, the 40 grains .22" bullet would travel 514 yards in 1.95 seconds, with a remaining velocity of 600 ft/s. It was the remaining velocity which impressed me. After nearly two seconds in flight, it still retains 55% of its muzzle velocity of 1100 ft/s; in comparison, a Match Rifle bullet fired at 2750 ft/s only retains about 40% of its muzzle velocity after two seconds in flight, although by that time it has reached 1200 yards.

Perhaps the ballistic performance of the .22LR cartridge is not quite as poor as is commonly supposed. At 100 yards, the angle of elevation is 16 minutes and the wind deflection in a 20mph cross wind is 4 or 5 minutes, which are about the same figures as for a 7.62mm TR at 450 yards. Going further back, at 300 yards the .22LR requires an elevation of 63 minutes and a 20mph wind allowance of about 20 minutes, not dissimilar to a 7.62mm MR at 1100 yards. These figures suggest that one could successfully engage in "long range" shooting using the .22LR cartridge at distances of up to 300 or perhaps even 400 yards.

Some History

A long time ago, there were some who did try shooting the .22LR at these long distances – indeed, around 100 years ago, competitions for .22" rimfire at up to 200 yards were included in the July NRA Meeting. Older competitors will remember that these rifles were allowed in the Donegall, then fired at 200 yards, until 1967. I am told that a Col Turbutt of Derbyshire presented a series of cups for shooting with the .22LR at 200, 300 and 500 yards in (respectively) 1947, 1953 and 1960. The late Colin O'Brien won these trophies several times. For his attempt at 500 yards he used a BSA International Mk II fitted with a cut down blade



Anschutz Model 54 rifle fitted with Leupold 12x scope.

foresight and a vertical extension to the rearsight, and was able to hit the target using a 6 o'clock aim. He carried out several ammunition trials in the quiet of the evening on the Belper range and found that the then new Eley Tenex grouped just inside the outer, but Winchester EZXS and Remington Super Match would hold the magpie. One evening, when there was very little wind, he made 45 out of 50, a record which is believed to have stood as recently as 2002.

As all of this happened a very long time ago and ammunition quality has improved since then, I felt the need to explore the current performance of the .22LR at these distances. I therefore fitted a scope sight to my Anschütz .22" rifle and during 2010 embarked upon a series of experiments at distances of up to 300 yards. Groups and scoring strings were fired with various brands of ammunition, some of which performed surprisingly well. The results have enabled me to draw up a practical elevation table and to suggest appropriate target dimensions.

Shooting Ground

Permission was obtained from a local farmer to shoot over his land and the Firearm Certificate varied with that in mind. Authority was granted to possess the rifle for "vermin control and for zeroing on ranges, or land over which the holder has lawful authority to shoot."

In effect, a private hill-foot range was created. The field in question is large enough for shooting at up to 250 yards. At the receiving end, there is a steep bank about three metres high, beyond which the ground rises fairly steeply by another 20 metres, acting as an effective and safe stop butt.



Private range viewed from 200 yard "firing point". The nearest flag is 150 yards from the target.

Rifle and Sights

Shooting was carried out using an Anschütz Model 54 target rifle, fitted with a Leupold 12x scope sight. Some adjustment to the mounting of the scope was required but easily achieved to enable proper sighting at 250 yards. A zero was obtained by bore sighting, and proved to be very adequate.

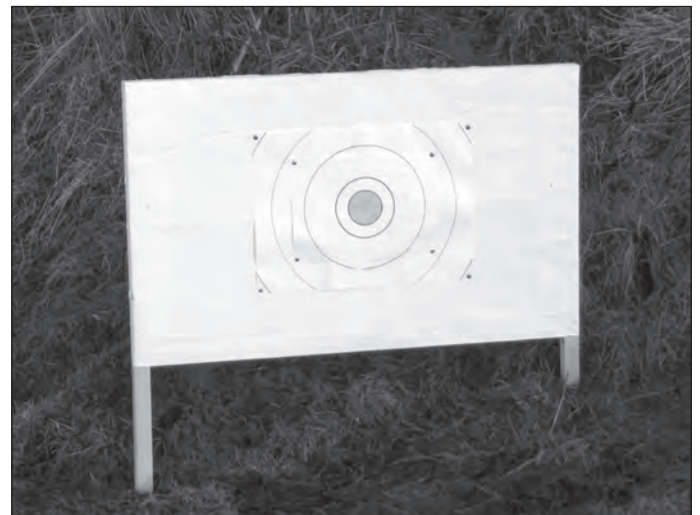
The rifle was fired using both a sling and a rest, in the manner of a Match Rifle. Contrary to typical miniature

range practice, the barrel was cleaned before and after every outing which equated to about every 50 to 100 shots. After use, it was cleaned with a bristle brush and left to soak in dissolving oil, muzzle down. It was noticeable that it took about two to four shots to settle down when first used again after being cleaned.

Target and Flags

The target frame was made from softwood with a corrugated cardboard backer, with home made target faces pasted on.

Initially, the target centres were marked with minute-of-angle squares, with a red fluorescent aiming mark, one minute square, placed at the centre of the target. Later, once typical group sizes had started to emerge, a bullseye target consisting of V, 5, 4 and partial 3 rings was drawn out on a piece of A4 and photocopied. A black aiming mark was not used but the V ring was coloured fluorescent red with a felt marker, and this proved adequate as an aiming mark for the scope sight. Nearly all the shots fired, even from 250 yards, landed within a "landscape" A4 area at the centre of the target, so it was only necessary to patch a small number of holes outside that area.



Target set up for shooting at 250 yards. Target 36" x 22" approx. V (pink) 2.8" diameter, bull 4.8", inner 9.8".

Two combination wind and danger flags were made up using red cotton fabric in the shape of a long triangular pennant, about 1.8m long and 0.5m at its widest. In use, these flags tended to indicate a "strong" wind in Bisley terms when in fact the wind strength was no more than "gentle". The fabric thickness was later doubled, which improved matters but may need to be doubled again in order to produce the correct sensitivity.

Grouping Performance

In February, the first shots were fired with Eley Match ammunition at 50 yards, where it was expected that an elevation of about eight minutes would be needed. The scope was wound down five minutes from the initial zero position and a shot was fired, which struck well within the target. After adjusting the scope, the

next strike was within half an inch of the target centre and grouping then proceeded. A ten-shot group of about 0.75 minutes was obtained. A number of other brands of ammunition were then fired to obtain approximate elevation zeros. These included RWS R50 and R100, Lapua Midas and X-Act, and SK Rifle Match. All struck near the point of aim within an overall vertical spread of about 1.5 minutes.

At 100 yards, Eley Match was used and a 12-shot group fell within a corrected elevation of one minute. The rise from 50 yards was 8.25 minutes and there seemed little need to do any more at that distance.

At 150 yards, Eley Match and Tenex were used. Both produced corrected elevations of one minute but Tenex required about 0.5 minute less absolute elevation. A month later, in slightly colder conditions, RWS and Lapua ammunition were tried at the same distance. Only four or five shots were fired with each brand, the main purpose being to confirm the correct elevations. RWS R100, which has a faster muzzle velocity than standard, required about 2.5 minutes less elevation than the other brands. Again, the corrected elevations obtained were about one minute, with occasional shots (probably due to firer error) increasing the spread to 1.5 minutes.

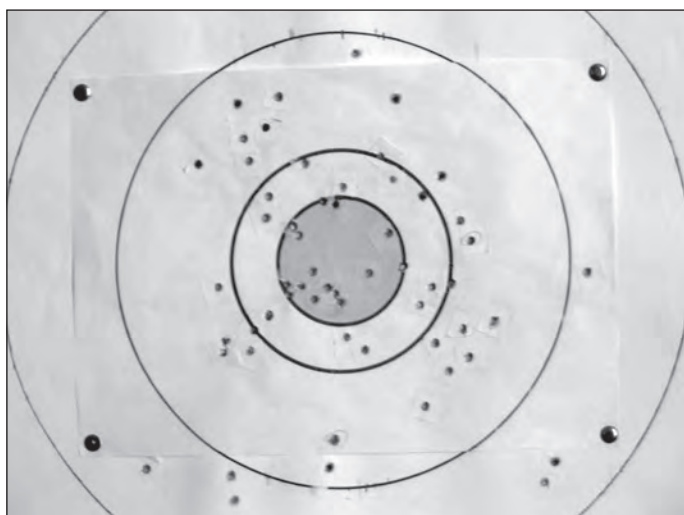
The first attempt at 200 yards followed immediately. An astonishingly small eight-shot group was obtained with RWS R50, seven shots falling into less than 0.5 minutes vertically. More dispersion of about 1.3 minutes was obtained with RWS Special Match 4*. A week later, a similar group was obtained at 200 yards with Special Match. Eley Club, which had been sorted by overall weight beforehand, was also tried and produced a group of six shots within 1.5 minutes.

The first shots at 250 yards were fired during March with RWS R50 and again produced a one minute corrected elevation group over seven shots. RWS Rifle Match 3* was also tried. This had been sorted by overall weight beforehand and produced a corrected elevation of about two minutes over nine shots.

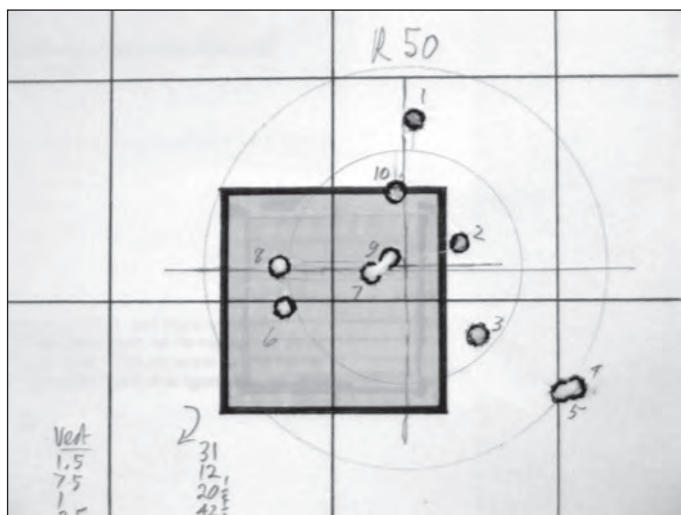
On two subsequent outings in April and May, groups were fired at 175 yards, the reason for shooting at this distance being that an A4 sheet just accommodates four minutes of angle vertically and six minutes laterally. Brands of ammunition tested included Eley Tenex, Team and Club; SK Rifle Match; Lapua Midas and X-Act; RWS R100, R50, Special Match 4* and Rifle Match 2*. On the second occasion, there was time to move back to 250 yards and fire groups with RWS R50 and SK Rifle Match (weight-sorted), plus a few shots with Lapua Midas. Most brands produced groups around one to two minutes of angle, but the performance of SK Rifle Match was particularly impressive – a group with an extreme vertical spread of 1.5 minutes was obtained, with most of the shots concentrated within 0.25 minutes.

Whilst at Bisley in May, the opportunity was taken to try the .22LR at 300 yards. The wind was varying about a minute either side of zero and twelve shots were fired using RWS R100, followed by ten with R50. There was initial concern that the marker would not be able to see or hear the shots from the .22", especially with 7.62mm rounds coming over on either side, but this was not the case. On the standard Bisley target, an initial magpie was safely marked and a corrected elevation of about one minute was then obtained over the ten shots with R100 for a score of 46.2. With R50, slightly more elevation was required than the scope could provide, so the aiming point became the 12 o'clock edge of the black. After adjustments, a one minute corrected elevation was obtained, with two flyers high and low, for 43.2. For these ten shots, the target was shared with a 7.62mm TR, firing alternate shots, but the marker still had no trouble in picking up the quieter shots coming from the .22LR.

Back on the private range, three outings in May, August and September were used to test further the performance of different brands of ammunition at 175 and 250 yards. The star performers again seemed to be RWS R50 and Lapua Midas, both of which usually produced one minute corrected elevations. Eley



58 shots fired at 250 yards (including sighters and shots which required adjustment). 15 Vs, 14 bulls, 23 inners, 6 magpies.



10-shot group fired with RWS R50 at 175 yards. Grid lines are 1 true minute of angle apart.

Tenex, Match and Team also performed well, generally under two minutes at 250 yards. Of the cheaper brands, RWS Special Match 4* and Rifle Match 3* did not impress, but SK Rifle Match again proved capable of groups under 1.5 minutes.

Marking

Marking remains something of an issue as it is only just possible to spot the shot holes, even in the white and with a high power spotting scope, at 250 yards. However, the bullets clearly make some noise as they come over and thus normal marking is quite possible on a gallery range, as I found in my shoot at 300 yards at Bisley. If new ranges of 300 or 400 yards are constructed, it would be much less costly to dispense with gallery butts, but as targets no larger than 1.2 metres square would be needed, the cheaper type of electronic targets would be suitable.

Disciplines

Backsights typically fitted to fullbore target rifles have a range of elevation adjustment of about 60 minutes. These could no doubt be adapted to fit the receiver of .22LR rifles. Thus rifles fitted with aperture sights and slings could be used at up to 300 yards ("TRSB"), whilst rifles fitted with scopes and fired off rests would be appropriate at 200 to 400 yards ("MRSB" - I think 500 yards is a step too far for regular competitive shooting with this cartridge). Schools remote from military ranges could be encouraged to practice at 50 to 200 yards (possibly within their own grounds) as a supplement to shooting TR. No 8 rifles fitted with TR sights will already possess sufficient elevation adjustment.

Summary

The .22LR cartridge is capable of making groups of one to two minutes diameter and acceptable scores on Bisley targets at distances of up to 300 and possibly 400 yards. In general, there is a reasonable correlation between the cost of the ammunition and its performance. For consistent accuracy, expensive brands such as RWS R50, Lapua Midas and possibly X-Act and Eley Tenex are worth paying for. Cheaper brands are less successful at 250 and 300 yards, although they may perform well at shorter distances. The one exception appears to be SK Rifle Match (made by Lapua), which seems to shoot much better than its price would suggest, especially if it is sorted by overall weight.

Apart from the lack of recoil and noise of discharge, the general sense of enjoyment and satisfaction at hitting the bullseye is almost the same as that experienced when shooting a match or target rifle at three or four times the distance. Thus as well as continuing to promote traditional TR and MR, I believe the NRA should consider encouraging the use of the .22LR cartridge for competitive outdoor shooting at distances of up to 300 or 400 yards. The main advantages of so doing would be:

- As the .22LR has a muzzle energy of less than 150 Joules, open ranges restricted to the use of this cartridge would enjoy much smaller (or possibly no) danger areas, perhaps opening the way for some closed ranges to be re-opened as well as for new ranges to be established (the Range Safety authorities take a much less rigid view of the backstop heights and danger areas necessary for safe shooting with the .22LR, commensurate with its much shorter extreme range (1500m) compared with about 6,000m for the 7.62mm service cartridge). Such developments would conform well with the NRA's desire, expressed several times recently by the Chairman, to see a network of 300 metre no-danger-area ranges established as an answer to the problem of MoD ranges being closed or no longer available, and could provide useful common ground between the NRA and the NSRA – possibly resulting in joint ventures for the purpose of range construction or reclamation.
- Firing .22LR out of doors generates comparatively little noise, to the benefit of firers, markers, spectators and the general population nearby.
- It has a low environmental impact, since only 40 grains of lead is discharged per shot, compared with 155 to 200 grains per fullbore shot. Pollution due to the products of combustion is very low too, as a .22LR cartridge only contains about 1.2 grains of explosive (compared with 40 to 50 grains for service cartridges).
- There is virtually no recoil, making it comfortable for the firer, especially newcomers, youngsters and those getting less fit with age.
- Round for round, .22LR ammunition costs less than 25% that of 7.62mm. The best quality match brands are currently 12 to 25p a round and Club ammo is obtainable for less than 10p.
- .22" LR barrels wear at a very slow rate. I believe that they frequently reach 50,000 rounds without appreciable deterioration in accuracy.

Given appropriate support by the NRA and NSRA, there are grounds to believe that such a development at a number of locations around the country would encourage the participation of new competitors, many of whom may have found it difficult to make a start hitherto. That difficulty is likely to stem from the cost of transport to remote ranges as well as from the high cost of 7.62mm ammunition. Such participants would naturally be attracted to marksmanship as an interesting and enjoyable challenge, but would welcome the benefits of a similar level of enjoyment, at much lower cost and more favourable environmental impact, inherent in the use of the smaller cartridge.

Comparative ballistic tables for the .22LR and Sierra 190 are attached. Thanks are due to Robin Pizer for providing the historical data included.

Practical Elevation Table

Distance	Standard Velocity Ammunition (all except RWS R100)	High Velocity Ammunition (RWS R100)
Yards	Minutes	Minutes
0	0.0	0.0
50	8.0	7.5
100	16.0	15.0
150	25.5	24.0
200	36.5	34.5
250	49.0	46.5
300	63.0	60.0
350	*78.5	*75.0
400	*95.5	*91.5

* Elevations at 350 and 400 yards are estimated but have not yet been checked in practice. Elevations generally vary by up to one minute from brand to brand of standard velocity (1080 ft/s) ammunition. RWS R100 has a higher muzzle velocity of 1130 ft/s and requires perceptibly less elevation as distance increases. Jump needs to be allowed for when determining the zero setting for an individual rifle.

Ammunition Cost and Performance

Brand	Cost per 100 rds	Corrected elevation at 250 yds
RWS R50	£15.64	0.5 – 1.5 minute
Lapua Midas	£17.60	0.5 – 1.5 minute
Lapua X-Act	£25.50	0.5 – 1.5 minute
SK Rifle Match	£8.60	1.0 – 2.0 minutes
Eley Match	£12.90	1.0 – 2.0 minutes
Eley Tenex	£18.94	1.0 – 2.0 minutes
RWS R100 (higher MV)	£16.35	1.0 – 2.0 minutes
RWS Rifle Match 3*	£10.73	1.5 – 2.5 minutes
Eley Team	£11.04	1.5 – 2.5 minutes
RWS Target Rifle 2*	£8.18	2.0 – 3.0 minutes
Eley Club	£8.24	2.0 – 3.0 minutes
RWS Special Match 4*	£12.93	2.0 – 4.0 minutes

Suggested Target Dimensions

Ring	Diameters in inches							
	50 yds	100 yds	150 yds	200 yds	250 yds	300 yds	350 yds	400 yds
V	0.35	0.94	1.52	2.1	2.7	3.3	4.0	4.8
5	0.70	1.64	2.57	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.7	8.0
4	1.55	3.37	5.2	7.0	9.0	11.0	13.5	16.0
3	2.4	5.1	7.8	10.5	13.5	16.5	20.3	24.0
2	4.0	8.0	12.0	16.0	19.0	22.0	27.0	32.0
1	5.2	10.5	16.0	21.5	24.5	27.5	33.7	40.0
1				46 x 46		46 x 46		46 x 46

Bold dimensions for 200, 300 and 400 yards are those of the standard Bisley TR targets. Other targets are proportionate, taking into account the diameter of the .22" bullet for distances less than 200 yards.

.22LR and 7.62mm Ballistics Tables

.22 LR Long Range Ballistic Table

Distance Remaining (Yds)	Velocity (ft/s)	Mach No	Time of Flight (sec)	Angle of Elevation (mins)	Angle of Fall (mins)	20mph Wind Deflection (mins)	Firing Range (yds)	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	350	400
0	1080	0.959	0.000	0.0	0.0	0.0													
25	1040	0.923	0.071	4.0	4.0	1.9	25	0.00											
50	1010	0.896	0.144	8.0	8.0	3.5	50	0.09	0.00										
75	983	0.872	0.219	12.0	12.0	5.0	75	0.17	0.17	0.00									
100	957	0.850	0.297	16.0	17.0	6.4	100	0.26	0.35	0.26	0.00								
125	933	0.828	0.376	20.5	23.7	7.8	125	0.36	0.55	0.56	0.39	0.00							
150	909	0.806	0.458	25.5	30.9	9.2	150	0.47	0.76	0.88	0.83	0.55	0.00						
175	885	0.785	0.541	30.8	38.5	10.6	175	0.58	0.99	1.23	1.29	1.12	0.69	0.00					
200	862	0.765	0.627	36.5	46.8	12.0	200	0.71	1.24	1.60	1.79	1.75	1.44	0.87	0.00				
250	818	0.726	0.806	49.0	66.0	15.0	250	0.98	1.79	2.42	2.88	3.11	3.08	2.78	2.18	0.00			
300	776	0.689	0.994	63.0	88.8	18.0	300	1.29	2.40	3.34	4.10	4.64	4.91	4.92	4.63	3.05	0.00		
350	737	0.654	1.192	78.5	113.4	21.1	350	1.63	3.08	4.35	5.45	6.33	6.94	7.29	7.33	6.44	4.06	0.00	
400	699	0.621	1.401	95.5	142.3	24.4	400	2.00	3.82	5.47	6.94	8.18	9.16	9.88	10.30	10.15	8.51	5.19	0.00

Calibre 0.222
Bullet Weight 40 grains
Muzzle Velocity 1080 ft/s

Barometer 29.53 in Hg
Air Temperature 20 deg C
Wind Strength 20 mph at 3 or 9 o'clock

.22 LR Long Range Trajectory

BALLISTIC TABLES FOR SIERRA MATCH KING 190 GRAIN BULLET

Since 1980, the Sierra Match King 190 grain .30 calibre bullet has become the benchmark for Match Rifle shooting. Velocity tests, using chronographs at the firing point and target, were carried out by J H Carmichael in 1995-96. The drag function deduced from the results was utilised by R S Kenchington in a program to calculate the velocity decay down range and other parameters of the trajectory.

The tables are based on a muzzle velocity of 2725 ft/s. This is close to the maximum obtainable from a 30 inch barrel, chambered for the standard 7.62mm NATO / .308 Winchester cartridge, without developing unduly high breech pressures.

Standard Firing Conditions

Air Pressure 1000 mb (29.53 in / 750 mm Hg)
Air Temperature 20 deg.C
Wind speed 20 m.p.h. at 3 or 9 o'clock
Propellant temperature 20 deg.C
Relative humidity 70%

Numerical Firing Table for Standard Firing Conditions

Range Yards	Remaining Velocity Ft/sec	Mach Number	Time of Flight Secs	Angle of Elevation Minutes	Angle of Fall Minutes	Wind Deflection Minutes
0	2725	2.419	0.000	0.0	0.0	0.0
100	2564	2.276	0.113	2.3	2.6	1.1
200	2407	2.136	0.234	4.9	5.7	2.4
300	2253	2.000	0.363	7.8	9.1	3.7
400	2103	1.867	0.501	10.9	13.4	5.1
500	1958	1.737	0.649	14.4	18.4	6.6
600	1815	1.611	0.808	18.2	24.2	8.3
700	1676	1.488	0.980	22.4	31.8	10.0
800	1539	1.366	1.167	27.2	40.2	12.0
900	1416	1.257	1.370	32.4	49.8	14.2
1000	1303	1.156	1.591	38.2	61.9	16.5
1100	1198	1.063	1.831	44.7	75.1	19.0
1200	1113	0.988	2.091	51.8	89.8	21.6

Effect of Deviations from Standard Firing Conditions

Change in Firing Conditions	Required Correction in Elevation at each Distance (minutes)						
	Range, Yards						
	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200
Barometric Pressure 20mb	0.11	0.17	0.25	0.35	0.46	0.60	0.74
Barometric Pressure 1 in Hg	0.20	0.29	0.42	0.58	0.77	1.01	1.25
Air Temperature 10 deg C	0.13	0.19	0.29	0.42	0.58	0.77	0.98
Propellant Temperature 10 deg C	0.39	0.55	0.61	0.75	0.89	1.07	1.24
Muzzle Velocity 25 ft/sec	0.36	0.50	0.56	0.69	0.82	0.98	1.14
Head or Tail Wind 20 mph	0.15	0.24	0.34	0.48	0.66	0.88	1.12

Within the limits normally encountered, these corrections can be considered proportional to the deviation and additive to each other. e.g. at 1100 yards, an increase in air temperature of 5 deg C combined with a decrease in barometric pressure of 10 mb would require a reduction in elevation of about 0.7 minute.

Trajectory Heights (at Standard Firing Conditions)

Firing Range Yards	Height of Trajectory (feet) over Line of Sight											
	Distance down Range, Yards											
	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200
200	0.23	0.0										
300	0.48	0.51	0.0									
400	0.75	1.05	0.81	0.0								
500	1.06	1.66	1.73	1.22	0.0							
600	1.39	2.32	2.72	2.55	1.66	0.0						
700	1.75	3.05	3.82	4.01	3.49	2.20	0.0					
800	2.17	3.89	5.08	5.69	5.59	4.71	2.93	0.0				
900	2.63	4.80	6.44	7.51	7.85	7.44	6.11	3.63	0.0			
1000	3.13	5.81	7.96	9.53	10.4	10.5	9.65	7.68	4.56	0.0		
1100	3.70	6.95	9.66	11.8	13.2	13.9	13.6	12.2	9.66	5.67	0.0	
1200	4.32	8.19	11.5	14.3	16.3	17.6	18.0	17.2	15.2	11.9	6.82	0.0

100 YEARS AGO

by Ted Molyneux

The New Year dawned with the whole nation eagerly anticipating the great celebration to be held on 22 June in Westminster Abbey of the Coronation of HM King George V and Queen Mary.

January saw the infamous Sidney Street Siege, when troops were employed to resolve the situation after armed anarchists had murdered three policemen. Winston Churchill, then of the Home Office, was famously present.

Several attempts to break the world absolute airspeed record were made; the last successful attempt being made on 21 June at Chalons, France, when Edouard Nieuport, in his Nieuport biplane, raised the record to 82.73 mph.

Also that January, Norwegian Roald Amundsen landed on Ross Ice Barrier to begin the 788 mile trek to the South Pole, which he reached on 13 December. He had beaten Captain Robert Scott by 35 days.

From the wider world to that of Bisley Camp and matters shooting, there was lively activity. Only two weeks before his Coronation, King George had motored from Aldershot to review the special reservists on camp at Bisley. It had been decided that, for the first time, there would be a Miniature Rifle Shots Meeting in addition to the Imperial Meeting. This proved to be a great success.

Attracted from overseas were individuals from Australia, Ceylon, Egypt, Hong Kong, Sudan, the USA and the West Indies. In addition, there were teams from Canada, the Channel Islands, India, the Natal Police, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. There was also a contingent of overseas cadets.

For individuals, two classes were declared, namely Class A "for expert shots" and Class B "for previous non-winners, in the last five years, of more than five pounds". There were 1066 entries for HM the Sovereign's Prize which was won by Private WV Clifford of Canada by six points from Lt J Grant, late of the Cape Town Highlanders. The silver medal was won by AG Garrod of Oxford University OTC who finished sixth in the Final.

A total of 541 competitors shot the Grand Aggregate which was won by Sgt JE Martin 9th Highland Light Infantry, by five points from Sgt H Ommundsen (*GM SM*), 4th Royal Scots.

In Match Rifle, the Hopton was won by Maurice Blood of the Irish Rifle Association by 23 points from Sgt J Tippins of the 5th Essex Regiment. There were 50 entries.

Her Majesty Queen Mary had graciously presented a gold medal for a Service Rifle competition in two stages open to Class B Territorials actually serving on the active list of a home territorial unit. This was won by Lance Cpl JA Clarke, 5th Lincolnshire Regiment, by two points from Cpl Gebbie, 4th Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Results of team matches shows the Ashburton to have been won by Edinburgh Academy, six points ahead of Repton and Charterhouse in third. The National was won by England, 28 points ahead of Scotland with Ireland placed third. The Mackinnon saw the Canadians triumph over England by 12 points, with Ireland again in third place. In the Kolapore, Canada almost made it a double but were counted runners up to the Mother Country by virtue of the highest score at 600 yards rule which applied in the case of a tie.

The Bisley Meeting closed with the distribution of the prizes by Field Marshal Viscount Kitchener KP.

At the close of the year 2352 rifle clubs had affiliated to the NRA representing a total membership of 129,962 indicating a great enthusiasm for the sport so sadly to be dampened by the horrific events of the two World Wars that followed.



Private WV Clifford of Canada - winner of the Sovereign's Prize.



LCpl JA Clark, 5th Lincolnshire Regt.

F CLASS AT THE IMPERIAL – A NEW SHOOTER REPORTS

by David Lloyd

I have been shooting most of my life as my father was very keen on his country sports. During my time at university I shot a lot of small-bore rifle and was privileged to represent my university on many occasions and was awarded university colours for our team successes.

I moved to Swansea in 1988 and started clay pigeon shooting. I entered Welsh Olympic Trap team selection shoots and between 1990 to 1995 I represented Wales on seven occasions. I was high gun for Wales at the Home International in 1992 and captained the Welsh team at the Home International in Ireland in 1994.

So how did I get into F Class? Well by luck really. I was having a rifle rebarreled by Neil Mckillop and he invited me to attend an F Class shoot run by the Dorset Riflemen club. So my first taste of F Class was on a wet Sunday morning in January 2009 and despite the weather I was hooked! I subsequently joined the club, incidentally the same one that was the springboard for our current World FTR champion Russell Simmonds. I did well at club shoots throughout the year and won the clubs Hallamshire Cup with a perfect score of 180.

This got me thinking and doing some research and, chatting to friends, I decided to have a go and entered the F Class events at the 2010 NRA Imperial Meeting.

The time went quickly up to the Meeting, what with load development for my new rifle and hours at the loading bench producing enough ammunition for what is a gruelling week of competition.

The kit I selected to use was my new rifle built by Neil Mckillop, which is a straight .284" Win built on a Barnard P action with a 32" Bartlein 1 in 9" twist barrel bedded in a Shehane Tracker stock. The scope is a long time favourite of mine a Night force NSX 12-42x56 with the NP-2DD reticule which I find perfect.

Ammunition wise I chose 175 grains Sierra Matchkings over the 180 Bergers as they were just so much more accurate. After a lot of testing Reloader 17 came out top powder giving a healthy 3000 fps with the Sierras, so I had a good feeling I would be competitive.

The front rest I use is a SEB co-axial with a SEB rear bag. The rest is a superb piece of engineering and is a delight to use.

I arrived at Bisley with high hopes and nervous anticipation of what was to come. I got my HME test done and collected my squadding cards – tomorrow would be the day!

First Friday is when the F Class events start with the Century competition in two stages of 2ss and 15 at 500 and 600 yards and also the Admiral Hutton up on Stickledown with 2ss and 15 at 900 yards. Squadding is mixed up so you don't tend to shoot with the same

people all the time, which is great as you get to meet a variety of people. The wind was strong and cut across Century left to right and thankfully it was fairly constant. I had a good shoot at 600 and a steady one at 500, the nerves were calmed and I started to get in the zone.

Middle Saturday dawned – a busy day with three competitions – two at short range and one at long.

The first of the day was the Donegall shot at 300 yards and this was probably the finest of the shoots. I was squadded with David Pickering and David Kent, so the three Davids were ready to do battle with the 2.25" F Class V bull! Well what fine shooting – David Kent dropped his first to count in the 5 ring and then shot clean with David Pickering and myself getting all 15 shots in the V bull. A top squad indeed with just one point dropped. It proved later, as this was how it finished with the three of us taking the first three places in the competition. The other shoots went well and I was enjoying myself immensely.

A gruelling Sunday and Monday, again with three shoots a day, saw the aggregates start to build and shooters jostle for the top places.

Thankfully my consistent shooting saw me in joint third place at this point sharing the honours with ex World Champion Wolfgang Scholze, with David Kent leading the Grand Aggregate.

Now for an important couple of days with the qualifying shoots to get into Friday's finals. This was my one aim to try and shoot well enough to get into the top 25% and qualify. The two important shoots were the St George's qualifier shot at 300 yards and the Queen's qualifier with 2ss and 7 at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Thankfully my shooting was good enough to make the cut for the finals.

My aggregate was building nicely and I now had third place to myself with Horst Mitera in second and David Kent in first. I must say it was a real kick to see my name up on the leaders board outside the NRA Office.

Wednesday evening saw the Conan Doyle the final shoot for the Stickledown Range Aggregate. It was tight at the top with only a few points between myself, Mik Maksimovic and David Kent. I was squadded with David Kent for this final shoot so I new exactly how things lay. I was three behind with four shots to go which left me a buffer of one point, David dropped an uncharacteristic magpie which meant my silver medal place was safe in the long range aggregate. David Kent won the Conan Doyle and I took the silver medal.

In the Stickledown Range Aggregate the final results were:

1	M Maksimovic	Stamford School	371
2	Dr D Lloyd	West Wales ML	369
3	DN Kent	Old Epsomians	366

Friday was Finals day with the F Class International shoot in the morning. I enjoyed this shoot immensely, sadly Wales are a bit thin on the ground with F Class shooters so we brought up the rear. A great result for the Scots who won the event but I must say I'm glad some of the Match Rifle shooters they had in the team don't shoot F Class regularly!

The St Georges Final was first with 2ss and 15 at 900 yards. A tricky wind blew across Stickledown which was somewhat awkward to read. I didn't shoot badly but not good enough to win, not really getting to grips with the wind which for the first time in two weeks blew right to left!

The Queens Prize F Class Final followed. This was a two leg shoot of 2ss and 15 at 900 and 1000 yards. I shot a poor 900 yards stage with fish tailing wind making me play ping pong with the 4 ring, the 5" V bull being elusive to say the least!

We fell back to 1000 and I don't know what happened – I got into the zone and bar three shots in the 4 ring in the first six to count the rest went into the 5 or V. I still thought I had blown it but had the satisfaction of finishing on a good shoot. I was about to pack my stuff up when they announced the winners. My friends

reckoned my jaw hit the floor when Mik Maksimovic announced the results with me in silver medal place!

HM Queen's Prize F Class Final 900 1000 Total **F Open Gold Medal**

1	DN Kent	Old Epsomians	79	74	153
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F Open Silver Medal

2	Dr D Lloyd	West Wales ML	66	78	144
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Next Best Scores

3	DA Stewart	Marquis	71	73	144
4	HJ Mitera	BDMP Germany	71	72	143
5	M Maksimovic	Stamford School	73	67	140

Well what a fantastic end to my first Imperial, winning a silver medal in the Queens Final. I would not have reckoned on that result when I planned to enter some six months earlier. I was immensely proud to have won a bronze medal in the Grand Aggregate, a bronze in the Century Aggregate and a silver in the Stickledown Aggregate along with medals in the individual competitions, especially the gold in the Donegall.

What a fantastic experience the Imperial Meeting was – a friendly well-run event allowing me to meet a host of new people and importantly making new friends. The question is will I come back? Of course I will, I'm hooked!

Now, how many weeks to go and how much ammunition will I need?

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MY BISLEY CAMP

by Alan Keating

The greatest of British Heritage, the stuff of Empire, unique National Treasure, period Victoriana, an absolute living gem. That's my Bisley Camp.

I'm captivated with the concept of an organisation and land set aside to foster marksmanship within the masses. The Volunteer Movement, the Wimbledon years that panned-out to be the current Imperial Meeting, culminating in Her Majesty the Queen's Prize.

In the modern age, Bisley Camp is the keeper of gentler times, more halcyon days gone by, a respite from the whirlwind toils of 2011.

Arriving on Camp, the ambient stress levels just drain away. A genuine green and pleasant land adorned with the most friendly and courteous of people.

A visit to the NRA Museum, a convivial chat with Ted and Eric, is always a great highlight. I enjoy the written style of Tony de Launay. I applaud all the members' efforts to squeeze out that extra V bull. Bisley Camp is a grand place, on a grand scale.

I decided, with a request for just a few pics from Karen Robertson in 2004, and the blessing of the NRA, to chronicle the events and minutiae of Bisley Camp. You'll see me around and about, taking pictures of just about everything and anything. The cost to the NRA, absolutely nothing, they're a registered charity. I was most surprised to find my Jim Paton picture on the



front cover of the Journal 2005. Now it's a competition but how do you better a "Front Cover". Well, in the best of shooting psyche, do it again. Suffice to say, I've had a few "Front Covers" over the successive years.

The next photographic step, in the wider world – is my photographic technique and style, of any real value? I set out to find out. I live on the A23, the London end: the first weekend in November every year fires up the London-Brighton Veteran Car Run. Fall out of my front door, I'm on the course. The hardest part, these days, is the rising at 06:00; the cars start passing by at 07:30.

So, I end up with a hard disc of veteran car pictures. I notice that there is a photographic competition run by the sponsors for spectators to enter. Now's my chance to find out where my pictures fit in the order of things. I select a picture, using my Bisley criteria (fill the frame and fit as much in the picture as you can) and duly enter it in the competition.

January 2011 and I receive an e-mail from the sponsors of the London-Brighton Veteran Car Run 2010: "Out of 200 entries, you've won! You are the London-Brighton Veteran Car Run Photographer of the Year 2010!"

The prize? I get a trip in one of the cars in November 2011. I won't be at Bisley that Sunday, for sure.

So, thank you Bisley, the NRA, and Karen Robertson, who set me off; for letting me accrue the skills to take competent pictures. I've been taking pictures for 40 years and this is my first win.

I'm Alan Keating, 62. Member of Marylebone Club and NRA. Retired, self financing, living the dream.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES ROBERT CROSSE CMG MVO (PAST NRA SECRETARY 1899 TO 1920)



On Thursday 17 August at the North London Rifle Club, Chairman Dr Robin Pizer hosted a lunch party for a small gathering of friends and relatives of the late Colonel Crosse. The occasion was the presentation of a large and splendid oil painting of Colonel Crosse to the NRA by his family, which Robin was delighted to receive. It was presented by Mrs Angela Strong who is a cousin of Charles Oliver-Bellasis who was also present. For them it was quite a reunion as they had not met since they were children! Others present were Brigadier Bill Strong, Derek Stafford, Ted Molyneux and Elaine Buttle.

Pictured left: Mrs Angela Strong presents the portrait to Robin Pizer.

Before becoming Secretary of the NRA, Colonel Crosse had lived a very active life in the Army. He was born in India on 19 November 1851 and commenced his military career from the Royal Military College, becoming an Ensign in the 97th Regiment of Foot on 15 February 1871. From June 1875 to August 1880 he served as a Lieutenant Instructor of Musketry in the 97th, being promoted to Captain also in August 1880. By 1881 he was serving with the Natal Field Force in South Africa and from August 1881 to December 1884 he was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal West Kent Regiment, being then promoted to Major. In May 1885 he transferred to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion and was their Adjutant to May 1890. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, on half pay, in November 1892.

In 1896 he became Brigade Major of the Portsmouth Brigade of volunteers.

In 1909 he was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) whilst serving as Secretary of the NRA from 1899 to 1920. He was also made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) which he received on 30 June 1917 from HM King George V.

He died at the Secretary's Lodge on 13 February 1920 so ending a career and full life of dedicated service in both the military and the NRA. His portrait is now exhibited in the NRA Museum.



The portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Robert Crosse CMG MVO (past NRA Secretary 1899 to 1920) can now be found in the NRA Museum.

SCOTTISH RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2010

by Alan Haggerty

Captain: David Hossack
Adjutant: Alan Haggerty
Treasurer: Hamish Hunter
Shooters: Rupert Elvins
Sandy Gill
Jo Hossack
Kenny McDonald
Dave Parkinson
Jacqui Rankin
Richard Scott
Eilidh Stewart
Chris Sutherland
Henry Watson
Mark Wrigley
Honorary Scot Mick Barr

The New South Wales Rifle Association kindly invited a team from Scotland to compete in a special match to help celebrate their sesquicentenary in 2010, an invitation which was keenly taken up with the appointment of David Hossack as Captain, as he had had some experience of team competition with the Chairman of NSWRA, it being exactly ten years since he led a winning team of Scots to Sydney.

For travel purposes we split into two main groups setting out from London and Glasgow due to meet up in Dubai, although such is the diaspora of Scottish shooting that some joined us from their homes in Bahrain, Singapore and Australia itself.

Saturday 28 August

The London party arrived at Bisley and began the tedious process of weighing and packing bags. After exchanging views on baggage allowances, much use of bathroom and other sorts of weighing technology, a consensus was reached and all the cases, boxes and bags came in just under the magic figure.

Sunday 29

We were collected from the North London Rifle Club by a coach to take us to Heathrow, where our first candidate for the seemingly inevitable Prat Hat was not long in revealing himself; Henry got off the bus but his carry-on bag didn't. Sadly his pursuit of the coach, arms akimbo was not caught on film. Happily, the bus company answered the phone and Henry and his bag were soon reunited.

Monday 30

There wasn't one; mostly boredom and sleep on the massive Airbus A380 apart from the Captain having been observed dancing in his seat to Baloo's song in the film of the Jungle Book!

Arrival in Melbourne was uneventful, the bags were efficiently located and taken off while two of us went off with the first batch of rifles to smooth the way

with Customs who only had one qualified inspector at 02:00. We were then met by Greg Phelan who had very generously driven all the way down from Stawell to meet us, and by Rupert and Chris, our 'native' guides.

Tuesday 31

Total number of the team who made it in time for breakfast? Three! The Captain clearly thought this not enough and managed to set off the fire alarm to rouse the others, either that or he has a thing for firemen with big axes! Otherwise, it was a day of relaxation, recovery and a delightful team lunch on the pier.

Wednesday 1 September

A day of leisure followed by meeting up with Rupert and his wife, formerly Juliet McEachran, daughter of Colin (and of course another Scottish shooter), and our first team dinner. After dinner some addressed the jet lag issue by dancing, having met up with Jennifer Charlton, another shooter who happened to be on a layover from her work as an Emirates Air hostess; some drank a tinny or three and some went to bed early.

Thursday 2

Breakfast was well attended with only Sandy failing to appear, and he had gone to bed earlier than anyone! The afternoon was spent ten pin bowling. Eilidh confidently announced that she was quite good at this, and so she was, with top score by one from Sandy and the Adj. Mick captained the winning side, and was duly presented by the captain with a magnificent and tasteful gold trophy, thoughtfully procured by Dave Parkinson (a pack of three for a dollar!)

Friday 3

Set out early for Ballarat, only leaving one bag behind! At Sovereign Hill we had to change into our Victorian costumes for our night in the museum. Chris joined us there, plus the missing bag.





The teams and supporters after a good day's sport.



Beautiful range but the ground was like soup!



The Adj and his stranded vehicle.



The painting of the Captain's toes. Why?



Some of the team prior to the prizegiving.



Relaxing at Broken Bay where there was plenty of drink, good food and excellent company.



A good use for bin bags. Who had the presence of mind to have a supply about his person? Bizarre!

This must be the most photographed shooting team ever. We shall be appearing in countless Japanese homes and photo albums following our walk round the goldfields. The team photograph was taken after tea and will be the first such team photo since the real Victorian era to hang on the hallowed walls of the NLRC, and certainly the museum's redcoat is unlikely to be asked to repeat his pose with any other visitors.

We were royally entertained by our guide who not only cast gold for us but spun so many yarns through dinner that it was soon apparent that he was inventing many of them! We had our own back when Dave explained that the Apple Charlotte was named after the wife of George III, Queen Apple. Jacqui was completely star struck that he was really an actor and had played six parts in Neighbours.

A quiet drink completed the evening for most, although some were persuaded by Chris to sample the local nightlife and Jaeger bombs in downtown Ballarat and where Baloo was unleashed on the dance floor.

Saturday 4

We awoke to find that David the Rain God had struck again. Four inches of rain fell overnight and it continued through the morning. After breakfast we departed for Stawell and the rifle ranges. We drove there through the worst floods they had seen for at least ten years, coincidentally the last time a Scotland team led by David visited Australia!

Sunday 5

Early-ish start – at least by previous standards. The main thing was that the sun was shining, not particularly warmly, but it was at least sunshine. Lew Horwood guided us to the range and we split into groups based on a return match of the bowling teams. It was wet though, and more than one van had to be rescued from the mud.

While one group went off to find a zero at 300, the others were to have a go at pistol shooting. Then we swapped over during which our hosts provided a splendid lunch. After lunch the process was repeated, only with larger calibres of pistols. Alan's beginners luck proved the strongest, just pipping Jo, finishing with an average of 8.5 to about 6.5 for the rest of the team, but unfortunately not enough to carry the rest of Mick's team so David's team levelled the series. With the rifle shooting being such a varied affair, some zeroing two rifles, some shooting 2+7, others just a few rounds, there was no reporting of scores, but it was noticed that Kenny had 103 ex 105 at 3, 6 and 9.

Monday 6

A day of proper shooting! A one day individual competition at 300, 600 and 700 (the 500 point was flooded) especially arranged by Stawell to get us used to the local way of doing things and to see the sort of competition we can expect. Well, the answer

to the last one is stiff. Competing for five badges generously sponsored by the Goldfields Motel, local shooters took the top four. Our blushes were slightly spared by Jacqui, who took the badge for fifth place. It was valuable practice however, as the Range Officer gathered us all together several times to explain that "they won't let you get away with doing that at Sydney".

The day concluded with a visit to a local winery in the evening, beginning with sparkling wine, then a barbecue and finally one of the most unusual wine tours anyone has ever been on. When invited to tour a winery, how many of you would expect to be wandering about a graveyard in the pitch black night, in the rain, and considering yourself lucky that you had a bin bag to wear! We never did discover why someone came on the tour with a roll of binbags in their pocket, but those that got one were very grateful. Bizarre, but fun!

Tuesday 7

Arriving for the team match, we discovered that they were preparing us for some Australian tactics: the match would be at 700, 800, 900 and 1000, when we had reasonable elevations for only two of the distances. We were piped onto the firing point by the son of the hotel owner, and we formed two teams, Thistle and Saltire. Our organisation was sadly lacking and a slow start was made, our better team dropping 23 from seven firers. The Captain and Adj offered some quiet(ish) words of 'encouragement' and at 800 we finished within time and dropping ten points. Richard was top score in one team with 196 and Mark in the other with 194. Jacqui and Alan also had 194 and with identical V counts. There were also an alarming number of low magpies appearing. Wimmera No 1 team won and we were second and third.

A splendid evening supper and prizegiving was held on the range and all were agreed that the hospitality we had received here was second to none; nothing was too much trouble for our hosts, even the markers drove further to pull targets for us than we usually consider driving to shoot at them!

Wednesday 8

We left Stawell very early and arrived in Sydney some 13 hours later. A very long drive, but we all arrived safely with all the three vans no more than 20 minutes apart.

Thursday 9

We went out to the range in the morning to see and explore it in daylight. Then we split into two main groups, one went off with Mark Buchanan, a well known local shooter, for a driving tour of Sydney, stopping for a very impressive lunch of oysters and Barramundi, the local fish delicacy. The other party walked over to Coogee and had a liquid lunch, liquid

tiffin, liquid dinner and liquid nightcaps. They assured us that the karaoke was impressive.

Friday 10

An early start for the one day of practice which our hosts allowed us before the big match. After a somewhat slow start at the first distance, the scoring was better than previously. Fairly benign conditions allowed us to sort out good wind zeros.

At 600m there was always the threat of rain in the air. We shot 700m after lunch and then curtailed our 800m to only a few shots each to confirm elevation as the rain seemed about to pour down. The rain front was preceded by a strong wind which came up very quickly. Some found that between the "Go On" and firing the wind had come up enough to blow the shot clean off the target. Sadly Dave's rifle succumbed to a failure and although he found the target at 800m with Mark's spare, he was unfortunately destined to be plotting the following day.

Saturday 11

The day of the match. Regrettably we did not acquit ourselves very well at 300 as we dropped 30 points to NSW's ten, so the match was effectively over there and then. The only highlight was Jacqui's 50.7. We fell another seven points behind at 600, but won 700 by a point with both David and Richard making 50.6. It was very difficult at 800m and the Australians waited a very long time before starting, which clearly paid dividends as they again beat us by some nine points. Hamish and Jo did a marvellous job coaching in what were at times, to us, bewildering conditions. It was as well to have the next firer in position as we made use of several sighters out of sequence, and Jacqui and Sandy definitely took one for the team by leading off. The overall lesson is that one day's practice on a range like this is nowhere near enough. Final scores: NSW 1930.159 Scotland 1895.135

We were piped in to the presentation dinner and spread ourselves around the various tables. The evening ran along the usual lines with good food and drink in plentiful supply. After dinner and the speeches there was music for dancing. It started with an attempt at an eightsome reel where the dancers quickly exhausted the piper and he ran out of puff! There followed much, much more regular dancing and I doubt if the NSW presentation dinner has ever seen a night like it. John Killian's dancing is a wonder to behold!

Sunday 12

We were very generously taken to Broken Bay, where we were treated by John Fitzgerald and his cousin Pam at her lovely waterside home to a long and delicious barbie lunch in a beautiful spot. A wonderfully relaxing day in good company. Sadly we bade farewell to Jo and Jacqui who both had to return to work and

whose presence had so added to the team's wellbeing both on and off the range.

Monday 13

Another split-party day. Some went off with Mark Buchanan for more shooting, some got up late and played beach volleyball and some went for a day out in the Blue Mountains and some kangaroo spotting in the outskirts of Sydney, returning for the world's fastest change into No 1s and out again to the ladies team's presentation dinner. Not as late as on Saturday but great fun all the same.

Tuesday 14

The shoot alongside the NSW v Queensland match was cancelled as there was no Queensland team. Our disappointment was soon assuaged as the heavens opened again. The cultural quotient of the tour increased enormously when a party took in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro at the Sydney Opera House. The hard work quotient increased as well as two volunteers weighed and batched all 2460 rounds of ammo.

Wednesday 15

The individual shooting began in earnest. Sadly no-one from the team finished high enough to get a medal. Alan was best placed and won \$5 for team funds finishing 13th in the daily aggregate with two off.

Thursday 16

Yesterday's gentle breezes were replaced with fiendish winds, which even a local described as the most brutal he'd seen. At 600m there was only one 50 on the whole range; it would have been two had Alan not wound out his last for a 49, but still enough for second place. It just got harder at 700m, and at 800m it was positively cruel. Even one of the Aussie Palma team was blown off the target. The better scores appeared later on in the detail, but a magnificent effort by Mick, our very popular honorary Scot, to finish with 72.3 dropping a magpie for his last to count was the star shoot of the day. The magpie was a costly error as he finished fourth at that distance. Richard made the next highest score in the team with a 70 to climb up to 17 on the leader board, just behind Alan on 14.

Friday 17

Start of the Queens and the sun was still shining even if the winds still ranged from the gentle to downright diabolical. Alan was still leading our charge with a 146, but only by a point from David, Richard and Kenny. There was an afternoon club team match and we found sufficient members of each to field teams from the North London, London Scottish and West Atholl. London Scottish was top of our trio, but we were all well beaten by the locals.

Saturday 18

Second day of the Queens. A bit tricky again this morning and Sandy was our leading light, having

avoided all opportunities for losing points by cross firing or mysteriously being given misses that he had previously encountered. Also avoiding the many pitfalls was Hamish who was third among us today and Richard finished second by continuing his steady shooting.

Sunday 19

Final day of shooting. The battle at the top was tight, as was the battle for top score in our team. In the Grand Agg it had boiled down to Alan and Richard. Richard had caught Alan on Friday and was in fact a few V bulls ahead. At 600m it seemed done and dusted as Richard had 50.7 to Alan's 47.6, however 800m is never easy. Alan shot first and managed a respectable 71 with a mysterious crow. Richard seemed to be throwing it away with a mysterious crow of his own and an outer, finishing with 68.3. It was however enough, finishing four V bulls ahead of Alan in the Grand and a point clear in the Queens to take the overseas award. In honour of our hosts, many of the team had shot in their kilts, and the captain took pleasure in showing off his painted toenails to all who could bear the sight. The prizegiving was completed with a presentation by the Scottish Rifle Association of a large, slightly bent, quaich for NSW to allocate to an annual competition. A pipe band was on hand and a young girl did a beautiful Highland sword dance in our honour.

Monday 20

A free day in Sydney to recover and to catch up with present shopping (or peace offerings) for those left at home. Also we discovered that there is considerable paperwork involved in leaving the country with your rifle which they don't tell you about when you arrive and Hamish and Alan spent a long time at Customs.

Tuesday 21

Our last day saw a team celebration cruise with some of our hosts aboard a yacht in Sydney Harbour. The sun shone, the wine flowed – a perfect finale to a fantastic tour. Proceedings were completed by our own awards ceremony conducted by Dave, ensuring that no-one went unpunished! A suitable end to a wonderful day in marvellous company. Our hosts had been generous to a fault and we had all had such fun. There is most definitely a very strong bond between the Scots and our Australian friends.

Wednesday 22

Pack up and go home. Apart from a small hiatus at check-in where the amount of baggage was questioned by the agents and negotiated away by the Captain, we arrived home on Thursday, quite exhausted, but delighted to have been on what was generally reckoned to have been the most enjoyable shooting tour ever. This report can barely do it justice, and there is only one possible word to describe it. Fantastic!

.....

THE ENEMY

by Nick Halford

Having recently hit three score years my thoughts have been turning to my own mortality. Working in the NRA Membership Department it is a sad duty to have to write to friends or relatives of recently deceased members on behalf of the NRA offering our condolences. The majority of elderly members will usually have divested themselves of their own firearms and either do not shoot or will use club firearms.

As the years roll forward I have noticed a reluctance on my part to shoot when snow is on the ground which I used to love as the sight picture is very clear and the sound quality is different too; I have never liked shooting when it's wet although I attended one of the NRA's instructor courses when stair-rods of rain were almost horizontal. In high summer climbing in to a restrictive jacket and sling with sweat burning my eyeballs does take the gloss off a bit. I guess if I was a good shot I might have a different perspective but I am quite clear why I shoot; I love the company, the bangs and the smell of the cordite. I try to improve my shooting as the years go by but it is really the company of other shooters that I enjoy.

The hard reality is that the majority of used firearms have a market value well below their actual worth and may

not realise a good price but passing them on for other shooters to use could be a more valuable legacy. If you have a firearm that you consider may have significant value then do bring it to one of the valuation days held here during the year by a well respected specialist auction house (contact us for details). They can appraise most firearms, shotguns, edged weapons and general shooting paraphernalia and give good unbiased advice.

However, and back to the point, please give some consideration to what will happen to your kit when you are gone. Local firearms enquiry officers also have the awkward task of contacting the family of a recently deceased shooter if provision has not been made to surrender firearms or a relative or shooting friend has not been tasked to arrange matters. You could donate your equipment to your club, a shooting friend or relative or to us at the NRA. We could use your equipment in many ways: training new shooters attending probationary courses, helping young shooters via the Young Shooters Fund; or for the use of the recently formed and highly successful NRA Shooting Club (membership is now approaching 1000) which will help the finances of the NRA in a very direct way as well as helping others to enjoy the sport that you have enjoyed for many years.

LETTERS

Umbrella Tent Meeting

from Maurice Ayling

For the first time in many years, I was unable to attend the Umbrella Tent Meeting in 2010. However, having read the account of it in the Journal, I am prompted to comment on the subject of handloading. Before doing so, it might be appropriate to state my credentials.

I began my training as a RN aircraft armament engineer in 1940 at the age of 15½.

In the ensuing 32 years, I learned my trade, practised it, spent a considerable time in the further development of it, taught it to others and, as a member of an independent examination board, examined others in their fitness to practise it and to be promoted in it. On leaving the RN, I was deeply involved in the development of underwater weapons until I retired. From 1946 until the present day, I have participated in competition shooting with a variety of rifled weapons.

During all those years, I relied for safety with explosives, and explosively operated devices, including ejection seats, supplied to me and by me, on the rigorous inspection procedures as defined by Quality Assurance, Quality Control checking that they were met.

There are no such inspection procedures applied to independently handloaded ammunition.

I will concede that the majority of handloaders are responsible and conscientious persons, but even they are not infallible. However, there is a minority which, probably not fully understanding what it is about, experiments to the point of folly. This may be compounded by a lack of understanding of metal fatigue, which is undetectable unless the metal is cut through and its crystalline structure is examined. The effects of fatigue may be manifested by cracks, distortion, and fractures. These effects may be detected, as in the aircraft environment, by such methods as X-ray. We have been fortunate in that most of the rifle designs in common use are robust enough to have stood the test of time with few failures but there have been some failures of more modern designs.

When an action is proof tested, it is overstressed and, if it survives, it is deemed serviceable. However, all that is proven is that it was serviceable that day, and its eventual failure is advanced, however remote that might be. It could just as well fail at the next use, a possibility enhanced by the use of experimental ammunition by an irresponsible handloader. Guns are most unlikely to either crack or distort, they fracture, usually violently.

There will inevitably be some who will say that the failures I imply, are only remotely possible. Maybe,

but I defy them to say that they are impossible. If something is possible, sooner or later it will happen and I do not relish it happening alongside me on the firing point. I have survived too many explosives incidents to succumb to one at this stage.

Should any reader, unfamiliar with metal fatigue, wish to learn more, I recommend Neville Shute's book "No Highway". As Neville Shute Norway, he was an aircraft designer, and in that book, he uncannily foreshadows the De Havilland Comet disasters. Not only is the book instructive, it is a jolly good read!

On a separate subject. The target frames on Century range which attracted comment in the Umbrella Tent, are nowhere near as old as those they replaced which, I believe, came from Wimbledon, and should not be in the reported state. I do not know how they have been maintained hitherto, but I suggest a programme of planned maintenance whereby they are taken out of service, one butt at a time, for a few days, for inspection and, if appropriate, rectification. I suspect that hitherto, it has been a case of 'if it breaks, mend it'. Any retired senior NCO aircraft maintainer would find such a scheme a doddle to implement.

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OBITUARIES

Vernon Carpenter

Vernon, Clive or "Chippy" as some called him, was born in Ilminster, Somerset in 1929. Vernon's father was Headmaster of Ilminster Grammar School which was, unsurprisingly, the school that Vernon attended. On leaving school he joined the Army for his National Service, being posted to Singapore at the age of 19; on his return he joined Lloyds Bank where one of his early appointments was at Tiverton and it was also where he became involved with the Young Conservatives and the Operatic Society. He met his first wife, Anne, in Tiverton, both of them were keen golfers, and they were married in 1957. Sadly, in 1973, Anne died which meant that he and his two children had to manage on their own.



Vernon was a great sportsman, playing golf with a handicap of 5, and cricket where he once bowled out all ten batsmen in a single match! He also played snooker with Ray Reardon; on his retirement in 1987 he took up bowls. In the 1980s Vernon met Christina who was also an avid bowler and she became interested in his other sport, rifle shooting – she was his number one supporter. When Vernon was shooting, Christina would be either sitting or standing behind him, watching his every shot down the range through her binoculars. In 1988 they were married and toured on the 1988 Great Britain Palma Team to Australia as their honeymoon!

At shooting, Vernon was a natural having started in the Cadets; he was a very successful small-bore shot, shooting for Devon as he did later when he took up fullbore having been introduced to Bisley in the 1960s.

Always a very reliable and consistent team shot, Vernon represented Great Britain seven times overseas including the 1988 Palma Match and two Australia Matches in 1979 and 1992; he shot the National for England in 1979 and 1990 and was England Captain in 1998; in 1986 he was Reserve for the 1986 England Mackinnon team and shot the match in 1990; in 1992 he was Adjutant in the Kolapore. Vernon was very proud of the fact that he had achieved the Big 5. Individually he was equally successful too, shooting in the Queen's Prize eight times between 1973 and 1994, his highest finish being ninth in 1992, and finishing six times in the top 50 of the Grand Aggregate with the best of these being 13th in 1984.

In 1993, Vernon captained the NRA Team to the Channel Islands. He let Christina choose the colour of the sweatshirts – canary yellow. It wasn't difficult to locate team members although some of us only wore it for the match photo!

Vernon was a staunch member of Lloyds Bank Rifle Club and was their Treasurer for many years which was a

job he was invariably given on touring teams for Great Britain. He was also a member of the NLRC and City RC as well as other clubs, where his name is on many of the honours boards. He was always a willing helper and advisor to those having problems, especially the youngsters. Vernon was a regular "Uncle" in the "Aunts and Uncles" scheme organised by Tim Elliott. Tim says, "I, for once, am breaking my rule of anonymity because he was one of the finest "Uncles" I have ever had the pleasure to work with. For years he was a lynch-pin coach for my Athelings training weekends and was one of the most talented coaches we used. His quiet, understanding, but ruthlessly honest approach gave many a future international shot a model to copy. His fine qualities as a marksman gave instant credibility to what he preached. His clarity of analysis was as kindly as it was sometimes devastating."

Vernon was a regular bridge player on tours. In Canada he apparently used to play wearing his ear muffs so that he could concentrate when there was other activity going on around him and was heard to cry "I feel a rubber coming on" when he had a good hand.

Vernon was a gentleman, a good friend and a well-known face at Bisley. He developed a loss of memory; however, for his wife Christina, his daughter Penny and son Mark together with his four grandchildren and his many friends, Vernon's memory will live on forever.

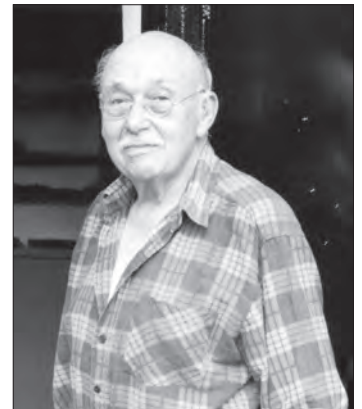
Martin Townsend and Robert Stafford

Frank Bampton

I cannot do Frank's memory justice for his shooting life, but I do know how much he has done for Isis Rifle and Pistol Club over the many years since being a founder member.

I first met Frank in 1978 when I was transferred to Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force. He was a Commissioned Officer with the ACF and the long standing Company Shooting Officer for Quebec Company, based in Oxford. From my contacts I discovered that Frank never missed any of the Shooting Committee meetings. Upon his retirement from ACF duties, he was Range Warden for Otmoor. As a firearms dealer, he was a skilled gunsmith and remained connected with the cadets, doing the job he loved as Cadet Armourer, servicing our rifles. During the 1970s he provided the armouring service for the United Kingdom Land Forces Pre-Bisley Courses endlessly stripping down and re-bedding our .303" rifles for cadets at Pirbright.

Buckinghamshire ACF had strong links with Frank. I discovered that some of the private .22" rifles of their



Swans Rifle Club came through Frank who serviced them all those years ago and are still in use which shows testament to his skills. This year one of my cadets achieved third place in the National Cadet 100 using one of those rifles. To quote one of my ACF officer colleagues, "Frank was one of those individuals who give enormous amounts of their time to the Cadet Movement, without whom we could not survive."

Frank had started a family tradition of service for our youth as his son Stuart became an Adult Instructor and Alec his grandson was a cadet in the County Cadet Force.

Frank was born 22 Jan 1918 at Littlemore, Oxford. After leaving school he became an apprentice plumber. He then went to work in a garage the other side of Kidlington where he got an interest in stationary engines. He acquired a Petter engine and restored it, using it to make some pocket money by charging up batteries. Another interest was his shooting hobby and guns. During the War he became an aircraft fitter at Marshalls of Cambridge. He and a friend went south and joined the Fleet Air Arm. This lasted for three days as, when they found out what his civilian job was, they sent him back home. It was here that he and his future wife Joyce met.

I heard of some antics they used to get up to – buzzing POWs and people fishing on the Fens and rivers around Cambridge, some illegal poaching and shooting for the pot. One day Frank came back with a cut head after his mate buzzed his Tiger Moth with a Lancaster bomber. Another of his antics was one Christmas in the George pub, with the consent and backing of the landlord, he fired his old blunderbuss (just powder!) in the bar bringing down the decorations. To cap it all, he served in the Home Guard – always busy.

After the War he started his own plumbing business and in 1946 he married Joyce at Oxford. From his work he often brought back home gifts in lieu of payment – one day he came back with a parrot!

In 1948 Lesley was born and Stuart in 1950 followed by Margreate in 1952, sadly losing Lesley in an accident in 1954. The family then moved across the road to the old farm for a few years. Frank then broke his leg playing cricket with the youngsters out in the yard putting paid to his plumbing business. Frank then got a job in Maintenance at Littlemore Hospital.

One of his many interests was his old MG sports car, one of only six ever made for racing. In 1955 he won the Home Guard individual shoot also winning the machine gun team shoot. Later Frank moved to Morris Motors as a storeman where he joined their rifle club winning the Club Championships. He was the only person to win the Oxfordshire Rifle Association small-bore and fullbore championships. When he retired from Morris Motors he started yet another business/hobby of firearms dealer converting many .303" rifles to 7.62mm target rifles and then becoming Range Warden of Otmoor Rifle Range. He was a founder member of a rough shoot syndicate still going after nearly 50 years of which his son Stuart is still a member. Frank helped to start another club – the Hand Loaders Club which is now the present day Isis

Rifle and Pistol Club. Isis Club has been going now for over forty years. Frank did not forget his engines and models. Devoting days and nights in his workshop on his models, he would spend many weekends away showing them at rallies.

He joined the Army Cadet Force as an Instructor teaching many cadets how to shoot, being rewarded with many a winning cadet and team shoots. His expertise was recognised as he instructed adults on courses at the National Cadet Training Centre Frimley Park.

Yet another sad loss, Frank's grandson Alec died in a road accident on his way to Cadets one night.

During his last year, Frank was getting frail, falling and breaking his hip which put him in hospital. He came home just before Christmas 2008 falling again, sadly not recovering enough to come home. Stuart and his wife Rose pass on their thanks to all the nurses and doctors who looked after him till the end especially the Triangle Home at Wheatley.

In life Frank is remembered in 2003 when he had the honour of being one of ten recipients since 1862 of the coveted Oxfordshire Rifle Association (ORA) Gold Medal presented for exceptional service to the Association and Oxfordshire shooters.

May Frank now rest in peace.

Mike Vince (Chairman) and Stuart Bampton (Treasurer) Isis Rifle & Pistol Club

Dudley Norman Clifford Turner

It is with a heavy heart that I have to report the untimely death of a good friend Dudley Turner.

Dudley, like most of us, first shot with an air rifle when he was a youngster.

His interest in the sport grew with him as he progressed to shooting shotguns and rifles. He became quite the proficient shot and was a regular at game shoots from a young age.

His work for Shell Petroleum took him to Australia for several years, where along with his wife Jenny, had their family, of a son and two daughters. Dudley was very proud of his children, and often talked of their achievements.

Whilst in Australia, Dudley continued his interest in game shooting and helped the local farmers with pest control. On his return to the UK, Dudley continued with pest control and crop protection but after suffering a heart attack had to stop for a while. Dudley took up other interests like sailing and goldfish showing; he owned a motor cruiser which he regularly skippered on Calais rallies. His goldfish regularly took him to the USA and to Japan where, as a member of the Goldfish Society of Great Britain, was known for his "fancy"



goldfish, I'm told the particular variety he specialised in were 'Ranchu', in case you wondered.

After being medically retired, Dudley took up clays again and was a member of several clubs, stretching from Essex through to Berkshire and Surrey, he soon got his eye in and competed in many Inter-Club and Club Beretta shoots. Dudley enjoyed the competition and camaraderie of like-minded individuals and would talk to anyone that would listen, not just about shooting, but life, and the trials and tribulations thereof, always ready to offer advice and to put a positive slant on things.

He joined Marquis Shooting Club in 2002 which is where I really got to know him. Forever helpful and thoughtful of others, Dudley looked out for bargains and used his influence to save his friends a few pounds – he helped our club members save a lot this way.

When I was asked to help run the F Class discipline on the NRA Open Days, Dudley was the first to offer his support, giving up his time to come down a couple of days early to help zero the rifles so that our guests wouldn't be kept waiting too long at the start. Dudley was well known, and trusted by the staff at the NRA, who were shocked and saddened to hear of his demise. A great help to his fellow F Class coaches and an inspirational coach himself, we will really miss his help at future Open Days.

On a crisp October morning Dudley, his son and a group of friends were on a regular pheasant shoot in Essex, we'd enjoyed a great morning and were settled into the afternoon. Unfortunately Dudley suffered a massive heart attack and, despite the best efforts of his friends and attending paramedics, Dudley died at the scene. Small comfort can be gleaned from the fact that he died, with his son and friends surrounding him, and doing something he loved.

As was seen by the large attendance at his funeral and the stories recounted thereafter, Dudley will be greatly missed by everyone that had the good fortune to know him. I feel privileged to have been able to call him my friend.

Darren Stewart

Lionel Albert Dunk

Lionel was born in Lambeth, London and attended local schools. He left school at 15 years old and commenced work in a jewellers shop in Morden. That was his trade for many years to come. He was quite an accomplished jeweller and was always prepared to help anyone in his Club with such matters.

He was called up in 1947 and eventually joined the Parachute Regiment, during which he spent some time



in Palestine. He could tell some very interesting tales about it and was immensely proud of his Red Beret!

On being demobbed, he joined the firm of J Richard Attenborough, Jeweller of Oxford Street, London and it was there that he met Vera, a co-worker. They courted and eventually married in 1957, and after a very successful marriage resulting in two children, Claire and Guy, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2007.

He subsequently became a committed shooter joining the National Rifle Association in 1971 and competed very often at Bisley. He also joined Ham and Petersham RPC, near Richmond, and was a member there for forty years or so supporting their shooting calendar at every opportunity. A stickler for rules and discipline, he did his best to encourage new and young shooters.

Unfortunately Lionel developed cancer of the throat which severely restricted him and his activities. He lost his voice through operations but still maintained his dignity and verve for life, only too willing to engage in conversation via his little notebook! He was much admired and very much 'one of the lads' – always willing to give advice if needed. He will be very much missed.

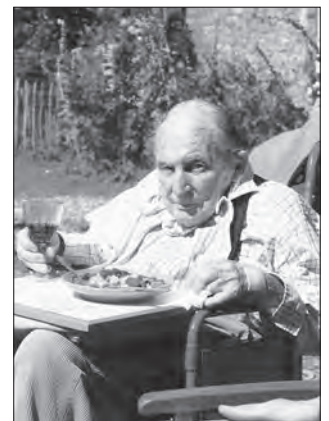
His life came to an end through this dreadful illness and he was cremated at Whitton Cemetary on 26 January 2011. The funeral was attended by many people and a lot of his friends.

Rest in Peace old friend.

Kenneth R Beecham

Lt Col Laurence David Ozzard-Low

David Ozzard-Low was born in the Royal Naval Hospital Bighi, Malta on 16 August 1909. He died peacefully at his home in Pluckley, Kent on 8 September 2010, just over three weeks after his 101st birthday. The picture here shows him on his 100th birthday.



David was a man of many parts having been a soldier, diplomat, yachtsman and shooter. He pursued this latter activity into his nineties and was a familiar sight on Camp, where he kept a caravan; he was a regular competitor in the Pistol Unlimiteds at Imperial Meetings.

In the late twenties he had also a keen interest in flying but that came to an abrupt end when his father forbade him to continue after his instructor was killed.

His military career spanned 28 years. In 1927 he received a Governor's Commission into the King's Own Malta Regiment (Reserve) and, on coming to England, a Commission from HM King George V in 1931 into the

Prince of Wales's Volunteers, later the South Lancashire Regiment. In 1937 he was seconded to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and saw service in the Khyber Pass area of the North West Frontier. He transferred into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in May 1939. During 1941/42 he was a Senior Bomb Disposal Officer in Liverpool and the Midlands before serving in Algeria, Tunisia and Italy. When WWII in Europe ended he returned to the UK and was awarded a Mention in Despatches in 1946. He held an appointment in Burma during 1950/52. In 1953 he was appointed a Chief Ordnance Officer, based at Ashford in Kent, and retired in 1955. He was then placed on the Regular Army Reserve of Officers until 1966.

After military service he was an official with the Suez Base Contractors and, as such, was interned in Egypt at the time of the Suez Crisis. That was followed by work in the UK, mainly in connection with the boating industry, before moving to Malta. After a spell with the Malta dry docks, he established the first office for Camper & Nicholson (Yacht Builders) in Malta.

In 1968 HM Queen Elizabeth II appointed him Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Malta to Libya, Tunisia and Egypt; a position he held until 1971 and of which he was justly proud.

A keen yachtsman, he sailed in the Dragon Class as a younger man and won the Army Sailing Association Championship in 1953 and 1954. When he finally retired he kept a seagoing boat in Malta, which he visited often, until his early nineties.

But shooting was his abiding interest and he enjoyed both target rifle and pistol disciplines. In later years, due to a back problem, he was restricted to gallery rifle and black powder pistol events.

As well as entering Imperial Meeting pistol competitions, he was often invited to participate in Police Sport UK competitions at Bisley. It is not known how many shooting organisations he was, or had been, a member of but it is known that he was still a member of the NRA, the Army Target Shooting Club, the British Alpine Rifles, with whom he achieved a medal winning score very late in life, Thanet Pistol and Sporting Gun Club in Kent and was an Honorary Senior Member of the London and Middlesex RA.

Family and many friends gathered on 27 September 2010 for his Funeral Mass at the Roman Catholic Church of St Theresa, Ashford, Kent which was followed by his burial at St Nicholas' Church, Pluckley alongside his wife, Mary, who predeceased him in 2006.

David Ozzard-Low was a colourful and forthright character with an impish sense of humour. He was also a gentleman of the old school. Well into his nineties pub lunches were still one of his favourite pastimes, which he described as "Boys' Days". On those occasions, with the "home front" thinking he had given up smoking, he would enjoy a surreptitious cigar. He will be missed.

P O-L, RJGN & IMS

Philip Saul

Philip Saul was a shrewd lawyer who, after an early career with solicitors in Lincolns Inn and Essex and as Company Secretary of the



Triumph Trust, joined the Mayfair firm of Eric Levine & Co. There he practiced commercial law in the mid 1970s, and it was there that he met Geoff Stringer. Together they founded their own firm, Stringer Saul, in 1978.

Under his watchful guidance Stringer Saul developed into a well-respected practice. However, dogged by bouts of ill-health in the 1980s and 1990s Saul took early retirement (even though he remained a partner until 1998) and concentrated on secretarial and treasurer duties with a number of other organisations.

The son of a Lincolnshire lawyer, Philip Bycroft Saul was educated at Dover College to which, after his father's premature death and the entreaties of his mother to the school to consider her son, he won a scholarship. He excelled academically achieving Higher School Certificate a year early and passing the new A level exams in the first year of their existence - while also holding the position of Head Boy. After National Service in the Royal Engineers he went up to St Edmund Hall, Oxford in 1953, winning half blues at both sailing and shooting and also meeting his wife to be, Jane May. He served in the Territorial Army for ten years, reaching the rank of Captain.

In his earlier years was an accomplished sailor and, having learned the skill at the age of 29, also a fearless skier. But throughout his life he was a top quality rifle shot. It was in this sport, long range rifle shooting, that he made his mark, specialising in the Match Rifle discipline that shoots at distances from 900 to 1200 yards. He was a well known and respected figure on the Bisley Ranges in Surrey and a member of the prestigious English Eight Club. Between 1956 and 1992 he was selected by that Club to represent England on eleven occasions in the annual Elcho Match against Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

In keeping with his sense of duty and service to others he took up the position of Treasurer to the National Rifle Association, serving from 1990 to 2001 under the then chairmanship of John de Havilland. This was no easy task. It was a time in which central Government grants and support were vanishing for all sports and the NRA, like many other sporting national governing bodies, was facing a starkly different economic future.

He was known for his calm advice and attention to detail, and for a witty, dry sense of humour tinged with a 'nonsense' flavour - inspired by the Goons, Edward Lear, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. He enjoyed music, singing with the South-West London Choral Society as well as being Treasurer of the Wagner Society for many years.

A stickler for the correct use of the English language he sharpened his own mind and vocabulary through the medium of the Times crossword and other puzzles, also becoming a regular correspondent to the letters page. Even in his final ambulance journey to the hospital where he was to be operated on, following complications after fracturing a hip, some of his last requests were for his dictionary and pencils to put the giant crossword to bed. It was a task that, sadly, he never completed.

His wife of 50 years, Jane, pre-deceased him and he is survived by his five children.

Philip Bycroft Saul was born on 19 February 1933. He died on 15 November 2010, aged 77.

Tony de Launay

This obituary appeared in the Times of 19 January 2011 and is reproduced here with their kind permission.

Derek Fuller

The Muzzle Loaders' Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) is sad to report the loss of Derek Fuller who, over a long shooting career, made a major contribution to the study and continued legal use of muzzle loading firearms in this country.



As a shooter, Derek competed at both national and international levels, especially with handguns. Being skilled in languages – especially French – he was also able to help build links between UK shooters and their counterparts overseas. One important consequence of this work was the development of matchlock pistols (tanzutsus) as a competition discipline; in the 2010 MLAIC World Championships, 54 competitors used such guns.

As a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, Derek excelled in the technical side of shooting, using his skills to bring old guns back into action and to design new tools and gadgets. One of these, a tool designed to tune revolver triggers, is described in his book *The Definite Guide To Shooting Muzzle Loading Pistols* – just part of a body of academic work on firearms.

Perhaps his greatest contribution, however, was the work done behind the scenes – often unobtrusively, but always effectively.

The muzzle loading appreciation courses that he ran introduced many people to the sport and also educated them about the particular issues associated with such guns. In particular the courses he ran for a number of the Police Firearms Licensing Departments have given delegates a greater understanding of muzzle loaders.

Derek will be greatly missed by his shooting friends.

James Walton MLAGB

John Pollard

John passed away peacefully after a short illness on 24 December 2010 at Emsworth Nursing Home.



John was introduced to target rifle during his time in the Royal Navy. After leaving the service with the rank of Petty Officer, he became involved briefly with pistol shooting, until returning to fullbore rifle. A member of the City, North London and English XX clubs, he also represented the Civil Service, Hertfordshire and Berkshire, which County Championships he won.

Other individual successes included six appearances in the Queen's Final, one appearance in the St George's Final and two Grand Aggregate crosses. He shot for England in the National in 1946 and in the Mackinnon in 1979. He was proud to have represented Great Britain on the Canada tour of 1979.

He is survived by his wife, Betty.

Brian Stewart Hornsby

Brian was born in Stafford on 13 February 1939. At the age of 11 he went to the Royal Masonic School as a boarder. It was here that he took up photography. He then moved to Stockport and then the Wirral.

His National Service was at Lydd in Kent in REME – just down the coast was a lighthouse which Brian liked to take potshots at.



He moved to the Wirral when he got a job at RAF Sealand as a civilian working as a radar technician. When he left there he went into photography and micro filming. He became a Managing Director before retiring at 65.

His shooting life started in 1956 with small-bore before moving onto fullbore. He was a member of 101 RC and Manchester RC at Altcar as well as a member of the London and Middlesex RA, the English Twenty and the British Commonwealth RC. He shot for his country many times with four appearances in the National Match for England as well as shooting for Great Britain in eight overseas teams including two Palma Matches, New Zealand in 1979 and Canada in 1982. He was a regular face on the GB teams to Canada and won the Canadian Grand Aggregate in 1977; he was also Adjutant for the 1981 Canada Team. He also shot in Australia, Hong Kong, Kenya and Zimbabwe. As Brian loved taking photographs he usually ended up as the team photographer.

Individual successes included six Queen's Hundred Badges, seven St George's Final badges and eight Grand Aggregate crosses. He won the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Gold Medal in Jersey in 1977.

Brian loved his coaching – especially younger shooters. A lot of people knew him as Uncle Brian. Around Bisley he was always seen with his Weimaraner dog called Beth – he loved his dogs! Unfortunately in 1998 he had to give up shooting due to ill health.

He leaves his wife Marion, sons Andrew and Bruce, step-children Melanie and Michael and grandchildren and is greatly missed by all.

Tom McGill

Cas Le Roux

Col Casper Hendrik le Roux was born on 8 May 1927 and died on 19 January 2011 in Number 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, RSA. He is survived by his wife Beatrice, son Charles, daughter Riëtte, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He will be remembered with deep affection by all who knew him.



A career soldier, Cas retired from the SA Defence Force in 1987 with the rank of Colonel. In the Army, he was respected for his outstanding organising ability, which led to his appointment as Small-arms Training Officer, a post he held from 1953 until his retirement. As a member of the responsible committee, he played a large role in the rewriting of the various training manuals. Then, as a member of the SA Army Shooting Committee (and later its Chairman for several years), Cas was deeply involved in the process that led to the foundation, in 1974, of the SA Service Shooting Association as a national sporting body. He then played a huge part in the writing of a constitution, rules and regulations and the development of an official programme for conduct of championships. He was appointed as official statistician for the Association – a task he carried out with significant efficiency and enthusiasm. In 1983, Cas was elected unopposed as Chairman of the Association. Subsequently, he managed many Springbok service rifle teams and was tour leader of teams to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Argentina and Taiwan.

But service rifle was only one of several irons Cas le Roux had in the fire of target shooting. His primary discipline was target rifle (TR), now known in South Africa as Bisley shooting. He started in 1953 and earned his first fullbore cap as a member of the 1960 Springbok team to Bisley. He again won national colours in 1962 and 1969.

Cas suffered from skin cancer, which cost him an ear (and ultimately, sadly, his life). On medical advice, he

was forced in the Seventies to abandon open range TR in favour of smallbore, with its covered firing points. He soon proved his expertise, gaining provincial colours, particularly at ISSF three-positional shooting. The photograph alongside was taken during this period. This 3-P training led to Cas' selection for the 1985 Springbok 300m team that competed against a visiting team from Chile. With this achievement, Cas became one of the first members of the elite band of shooting triple-discipline-Springboks. He was a long-serving member of the Council of the SA Smallbore Rifle Association (now the SA Target Rifle Association) and was Chairman of his provincial Gauteng North Smallbore Rifle Association.

Cas couldn't however be kept away from his first love, TR. In the early 1990s, probably without medical approval, he returned to fullbore, now as a Veteran. He was soon involved in administration at both provincial and national levels. He served with distinction on the SABU Council, ultimately, from 2000, as Chairman of the Veterans Club. He was a regular member of SABU Veterans teams from 1996 to 2005, as Team Captain in the later years. In 2003 he was selected as Captain of the SA Veterans Team for the World Championships at Bisley. Just prior to the event, he was appointed as the first Chairman of the Veterans Committee of the newly established International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA). In this capacity, he had the honour of officially opening the event in a ceremony on Stickledown Range. His committee made significant proposals relating to future Veterans shooting at an international level, which were approved by the ICFRA Council.

Cas enjoyed his shooting, at a high competitive level, virtually until the end. In November, just weeks before he died, he won the long range aggregate in the Pretoria Defence Club Championships!

Apart from shooting, Cas was a devoted family man who, amongst other activities, enjoyed caravan holidays with his offspring. He was also passionate about his life-long hobby of woodworking. The furniture in his home and the many beautiful shooting trophies and souvenirs he created bear testament to his extraordinary skill!

Cas' funeral service took place on Monday 24 January 2011. The church was packed with family members, friends and a large number of shooters, representing all three disciplines. After family tributes, SABU Chairman, Bernand de Beer, on behalf of all SA shooters, spoke of the loss to our sport and expressed condolences to the family. Johan Prinsloo, Vice-Chairman of the Pretoria Defence Rifle Club, delivered a moving eulogy, detailing Cas' many shooting achievements. He read out some of the many messages from shooters across the world. Particular mention was made of close family friend, Roger Mason, Simon Fraser, Colin Cheshire (Secretary General of ICFRA), Glynn Alger (Secretary General of the GB NRA), Stan Frost of Canada, Deon Gouws of Namibia and Eric Stuart-Bamford of England, who succeeded Cas as Chairman of the ICFRA Veterans Committee. All the shooters present formed a guard of honour to bid farewell as the hearse drove off. One shooter was

heard to remark that there were more shooters present than one would expect at a major club prizeshoot! It was doubly sad that Cas and his buddy and long-term caravan partner at the SA Championships, Abie Greyling, should pass away within months of one another.

A humble man, Cas was one of life's true gentlemen. Quietly spoken, but sincere in every word, he was universally respected for his integrity and consideration for others. It was a privilege to be numbered amongst

his friends and, for me, a great honour to serve as team manager under his able captaincy in 2003.

Cas le Roux will be sorely missed!

Richard van Lingen

The NRA are sad to announce the death of James Spaight (GC4). An obituary will appear in the Summer Journal.

PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2011

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid-up their subscriptions for 2011 by 31 March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

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

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

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2011.

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

Curriculum Vitae

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

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

The Programme of key dates for Elections

31 March 2011

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

30 April 2011

- a) Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Secretary General by 17:00 on this date.

- b) Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.

- c) All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

27 May 2011

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

18 July 2011

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

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 14 April 2011.

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2011, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

JPS Bloomfield
Flt Lt DP Calvert
Maj MG Farnan
Flt Lt IW Robertson
GMLN Gilpin

Three Regional Members

HRM Bailie – Northern Ireland
GV Barnard – East Midlands
TLW Kidner - Scotland

Four Shooting Discipline Members

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle
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