

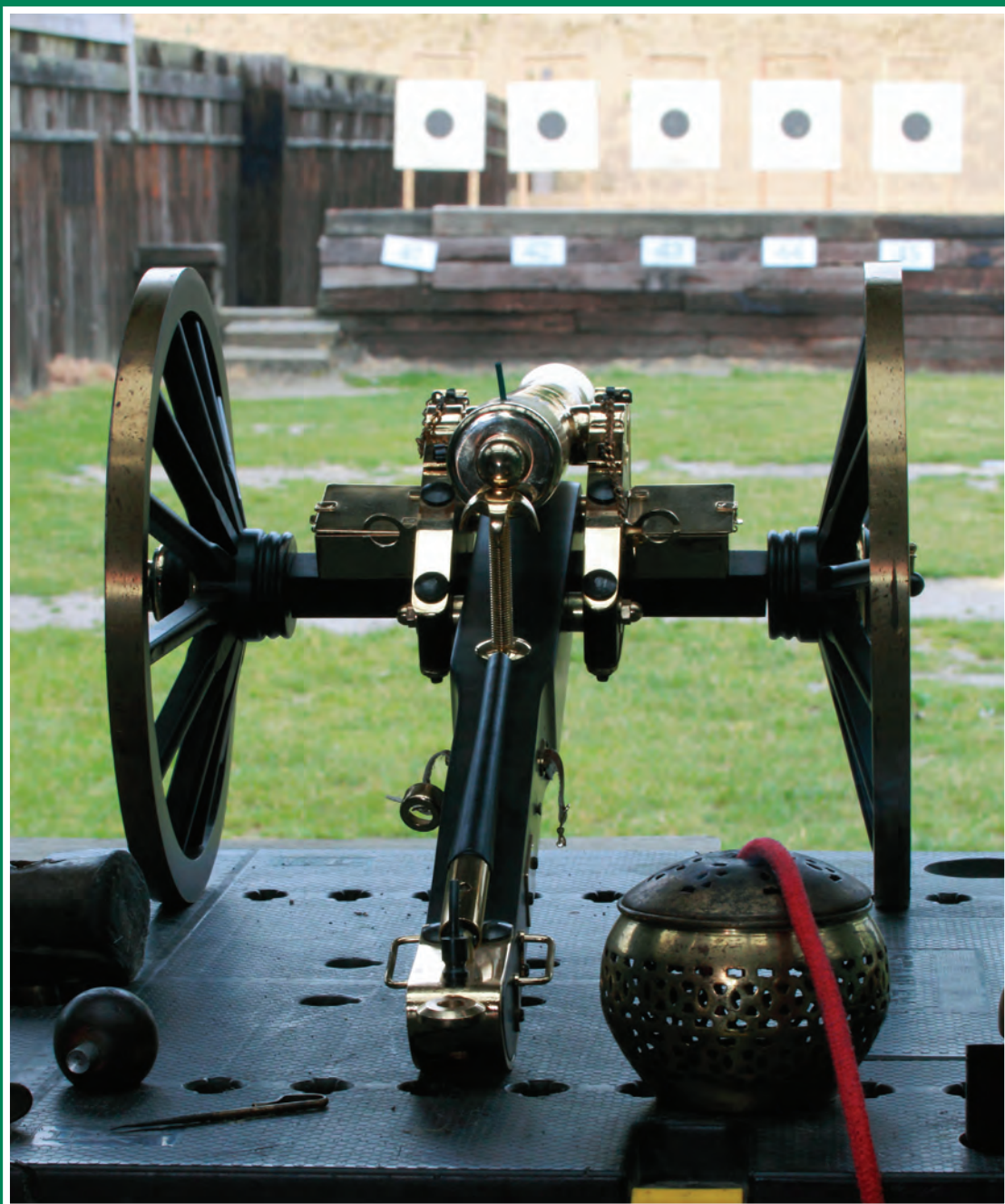


# National Rifle Association Journal

Summer 2011

Volume XC

Number 2







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*30th September to 2nd October 2011*



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL SUMMER 2011 VOLUME XC NUMBER 2

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*Cover photo: Miniature Cannons on Melville – Photo by Alan Keating.*

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Spring End of February  
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Winter October/November

# NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

by  
Glynn  
Alger



## **NRA Survey on FAC Renewals**

As you are aware, the National Rifle Association conducted a survey amongst all of its members asking if and what problems FAC holders were having with police forces in relation to initial issue and renewals.

The expectation, based upon anecdotal evidence, was that we would find a number of police forces that routinely failed in their obligations to renew firearms certificates.

The survey results were unexpected, thanks to a number of members who ignored our criteria and reported in the positive rather than the negative.

Accepting that many people did not make any response, the overwhelming weight of opinion was that most police forces were doing a good or adequate job. There was the odd reported incident of bad practice which the NRA is pursuing on a case-by-case basis but on the whole we did not receive large numbers of reports about regularly named forces such as Thames Valley or Sussex.

The results have been fed into a wider survey being overseen by the British Shooting Sports Council which may reveal different trends. We will report further when that wider survey matures.

The NRA wishes to thank all of those members who took part in the survey.

If you wish to see the results of our survey please go to the NRA website.

## **Police Certification of Civilian Ranges**

A number of police forces across the UK use civilian ranges on which to train. As the service have introduced common standards nationally, they have demanded that the environment within which all forces train are of a standard and are certified as such.

The National Police Improvement Agency is in charge of this process. They have over the last two years been inspecting ranges and asking clubs to make

improvements to their ranges to meet the required safety conditions for the police.

This process has naturally led to some misunderstandings over how this process would affect the safety certification of club ranges. When the police issue safety certificates for ranges, they are certifying them for use by themselves. Any existing Safety Certificate issued by an appropriate authority will remain in place following this process.

In relation to who pays for any improvement to ranges, that is a decision for the club. In most cases, if the changes to a range are for the direct benefit of the police, they will need to pay in one of two ways. The police should either pay directly for the improvements or the work should be costed and the club charge an increased range fee to recover their costs over an appropriate period.

It has to be said that during this process a number of rumours and conspiracy theories have developed. They include "the police are angling to take over certification of all ranges", "new safety requirements have been developed quietly by the MoD working with the HSE, which when imposed through the Home Office will close civilian ranges or require them to carry out a lot of work to meet new requirements".

To give you some comfort we are currently talking to the MoD, Home Office and ACPO. There is no indication that any of these stories have any basis in fact.

## **Long Barrelled Pistols**

As you are aware, if you are an LBP user, new generations of these firearms are being developed which are lighter and more usable in a competition environment. The NRA will be looking to broaden the appeal of this type of firearm by developing new competitions and promoting existing events more heavily.

To this end we have negotiated recognition from ACPO and the Home Office that, for safety and training reasons, LBPs ought to be held on club FACs going forward. It is hoped that ACPO will issue the appropriate guidance in the near future.

Unfortunately we have recently heard that the MoD have banned the use of Long Barrelled Pistols from their ranges. Investigation reveals that basically they do not understand the firearm type or its use. The NRA has commenced talks to get this decision reversed.

## **MoD ranges in the West Midlands**

The following is a response from Defence Training Estate (DTE) referring to an article in the Spring 2011 Journal entitled "A response to Range Closures: Long Range Shooting with the .22 Long Rifle Cartridge" (page 48).

Mention was made of the possible threat of the HS2 (High Speed Railway) development plans to MoD ranges in the West Midlands. DTE can confirm that the Safe Guarding Team of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), formerly Defence Estates (DE), is undertaking a formal appraisal of the impacts of these proposed plans on MoD sites along the route. This includes Whittington Ranges near Lichfield and Kingsbury Ranges near Tamworth. This is part of the consultation process initiated by the DfT on 28 February 2011. Details of the HS2 development plans can be found on the internet at [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk). The DTE, as an arm of DIO, is actively involved in advising the DIO Safe Guarding Team on the impacts on its ranges and training areas to Defence outputs. Indeed, DTE is acutely aware of the importance of these two range complexes in serving the expanding defence community, as well as other users such as the cadets, police and NRA Clubs based in the West Midlands. HQ DTE will advise the NRA of any further developments on this particular issue.

### **Altcar Open Day 2011**

The NRA Open Day is due to take place again this year starting at 08:30 on Saturday 27 August 2011.

The event will be promoted through the local press in the Manchester and Liverpool region, plus we intend to mailshot people who have been before plus all the clubs in the North West.

The contact with clubs has two aims:

- 1 To ask clubs to volunteer their help in running the event. We need assistance to run Target Rifle, Scoped Rifle, Gallery Rifle, Black Powder Pistol and Small-bore ranges.
- 2 To offer club members the opportunity to try shooting disciplines under one-to-one supervision that they have not tried before.

The primary aim of the event is to promote target shooting in the North West, to increase the opportunities for clubs to attract new members and to promote the NRA.

If you wish to offer assistance as an individual or a club at the Open Day please contact Chris Webb on 01483 797777 ext 156 or e-mail on [regman@nra.org.uk](mailto:regman@nra.org.uk)

### **Adjournment of AGM**

Due to a delay in the preparation of the National Rifle Association accounts for 2010, it has been decided by the Council that the Annual General Meeting should be adjourned until 18:00 on Wednesday 29 June 2011.

To allow this to occur, the previously notified Annual General Meeting due to take place at 17:30 on 10 June 2011, will be opened and immediately adjourned until 29 June 2011.

When the Association's accounts have been finalised they will be sent to all members via e-mail. If you

require a printed copy of the accounts please contact the Secretary General's office so that they can be sent to you as soon as they are produced.

The Council of the National Rifle Association apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause to its members.

### **Congratulations**

The NRA would like to congratulate Iain Robertson on his recent MBE which was announced in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

### **NRA General Council Elections**

#### **Ordinary Members**

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

JPS Bloomfield

Flt Lt DP Calvert

Maj MG Farnan

IW Robertson

GMLN Gilpin

#### **Regional Members**

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

HRM Bailie Northern Ireland

GV Barnard East Midlands

TL Kidner Scotland

There will be an election for the Northern Region Representative.

#### **Shooting Discipline Members**

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson Match Rifle

I Shirra-Gibb 300 Metres

RHF Wills Historic & Classic

There will be an election for the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Representative.

### **General Notices**

#### **Discipline**

Mr Frank Fletcher, on 1 February 2011, breached the following Bisley Ranges Safety Regulations as set out at Appendix II of the NRA Handbook 2010: Reg 3(b) (Use and zeroing of an HME rifle), Reg 3(d) (Prohibition of .338" HME rifles); and Reg 4(b) (Authorised range users).

The Disciplinary Committee imposed the penalty below:

- 1 Suspension from membership until 7 August 2011;



- 2 payment of a fine of £250; and
- 3 that before being allowed to shoot at Bisley should demonstrate a working knowledge of the Range Regulations.

### **Bisley General Meeting**

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

### **Imperial Meeting 2011 Prize Givers**

#### **ISCRM**

Lt Gen MFN Mans CBE

#### **TASAM**

Lt Gen MFN Mans CBE

#### **Ashburton**

The Duke of Westminster

#### **Imperial**

Sir Timothy Ruggles-Brise Bt (Master, The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers)

### **Team Captaincies**

The following is congratulated on his appointment as Captain for the following team:

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

Chris Fitzpatrick

We send our best wishes for success to:

Jane Messer	Kolapore, Bisley
James Lothian	GB Under 25 Team, Bisley
David Richards	GB TR Team to Canada
John Webster	GB World Championships Palma Team, Brisbane, Australia
Eric Stuart-Bamford	GB World Championships Veterans' Team, Brisbane, Australia
James Lothian	GB World Championships U25 Team, Brisbane, Australia
Ashley Dagger	GB Gallery Rifle Team
Charles Dickenson	NRA TR Team to the Channel Islands

### **Nominations for Team Captains**

Nominations are required for Captains for the following teams. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General and received by 14 August 2011:

**2012 GB Kolapore Team – Friday 27 July**

**2012 GB Under 25 Team Match – Friday 27 July**

Onwards and Upwards.

**BEFORE...**



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**...AFTER**



**TWP  
DESIGNS**

# SHOOTING MATTERS – COMPETITIONS

## Imperial Meeting

### Certificates of Safety and Competence

Please remember to bring your Certificate of Safety and Competence with you to the Imperial Meeting. You will not be able to collect your squadding cards without one. If you are a member and have shot in an NRA competition in the last year, you can get a certificate through the NRA – check on the website or contact Sarah Wells at the NRA (contact details below). Certificates are issued free to qualified NRA members. During the Meeting there will be assessors available to assess shooters who have forgotten their card but this will be subject to staff availability and will cost £15 for non-members or £10 for NRA members.

Overseas competitors should complete the form available on the website or contact Sarah Wells on memadmin@nra.org.uk or telephone 01483 797777 ext 162.

### Schools Veterans

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 team register. We aim to streamline the administration whilst still fulfilling the legal requirements. To permit full participation, the Schools Veterans event, including pre-match practice, must legally be a Guest Day. Competitors who hold a Certificate of Safety and Competence and who are either members of the NRA or are members of a 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.

### Ashburton Scoreboard

In the wake of decisions taken by the Schools Committee, the scores on this unofficial scoreboard are to be changed.

The scores displayed will be for the Ashburton Shield, the Ashburton Fours, the Cadet Pairs (Closed) ["A" teams only] and the Cadet Fours.

The scores will consist of the top few interim scores after 600 yards and the top few final scores after 500 yards.

A dedicated single card will be issued to all competing teams in their squadding envelopes. This is to be completed for the relevant total interim and final team scores and taken to the scoreboard after 600 yards and again, as and when teams complete their various matches, after 500 yards.

- These scores will not be collected from the firing point: they must be sent to the scoreboard;
- These scores will be team totals only;
- V bulls will not be included.

### Ammunition for the Imperial Meeting

RWS ammunition to the same specification as the last two years will be issued for all TR events at the Imperial Meeting. The first 100,000 rounds of the 2011 batch was delivered on 13 June; the remaining rounds will follow shortly. RWS inform us that all the ammunition comes from a single production run. The changing lot numbers on the individual boxes of 20 only serve to indicate the points at which samples were taken for testing. Acceptance checks will be run under the control of the Chairman of the Shooting Committee. Statistical data will be made available before the TR Meeting starts.

Competitors in Imperial Meeting events other than TR who wish to use RWS 155 grains .308" ammunition may purchase it at cost for their events. Please advise the Squadding Department, who will inform the Range Office so that you can purchase your ammunition over the counter at the reduced rate.

Please remember that in all MR competitions all competitors must supply their own ammunition (including those competitors using RWS ammunition in the RWS Aggregate). Ammunition will not be available on the firing point but will be available from the Range Office. Competitors entering the RWS Aggregate will automatically be added to the list of competitors entitled to purchase ammunition at cost, but only for the quantity required for the RWS Aggregate. If such competitors require RWS ammunition for other MR events or other disciplines except TR they must notify the Squadding Department.

### Equipment Checks at the Imperial Meeting

This year there will be the usual equipment and ammunition checks during the Imperial Meeting except that the ammunition check has been extended to cover fired cases as well as live ammunition.

Scrutineers will pre-select TR events, details and positions on the firing point to give a random selection of competitors for checking. Additionally, CROs, their deputies and Wing Officers may nominate specific competitors for checking if observation gives them cause for concern that a competitor may be breaking the technical rules.

In all cases, suitable measures will be taken to minimise the disruption and inconvenience caused to competitors being checked and to others on the same and adjacent firing points.

For shooting equipment, including rifles and accessories, the same scrutineering system will be used as in 2009 and 2010. Compliance with Rules 132, 150, 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 211 and 288 may be checked. Details of the procedure to be followed will be published on the Secretary General's notice board. No serious breaches have been detected in two years of scrutineering and it is hoped the possibility of a check will encourage competitors to continue ensuring their own compliance with the rules.

The Shooting Committee has also appointed Ammunition Officers who are authorised under Rule 287 to take up to three rounds from those a competitor is about to fire and also take three fired cartridge cases after a competitor has completed firing. Ammunition and fired cartridge cases will subsequently be examined for compliance with Rules 150, 151, 156, 256 and 288. Please note that Ammunition Officers are authorised to check any competitor's ammunition; they are not limited to TR competitors.

The fired cases taken from TR competitors will be checked to determine if the chamber in which they were fired complies with the minimum dimensions set out in Rule 150. The check is non-invasive and the intention is to check a significant percentage of target rifles in use. The primary aim is to determine whether there is, in fact, any real issue with undersize chambers, in light of which either a smaller percentage check will be continued in the future or a more rigorous procedure may be instituted.

### **Ties**

After two years of using extra tie shots, the Shooting Committee has decided that the occurrence of scores of 50.10 is sufficiently infrequent that there is no significant gain from using extra tie shots rather than subsequent shoulder-to-shoulder tie shoots. Accordingly, there will be no requirement to fire extra tie shots in TR events in 2011.

The rules on breaking ties have changed substantially. The count-out rules have been rewritten so as to ensure to the greatest extent possible that ties are broken in every circumstance that the Shooting Committee could identify. Also, the procedure for tie-shoots has been simplified. See NRA Handbook Section 71 paras 501-511.

### **Competition Changes**

Toye, Kenning and Spencer have withdrawn their aggregate sponsorship, unfortunately after the Bisley Bible went to press. Accordingly the prize list for the Toye, Kenning and Spencer Aggregate will revert to Prize List A for 2011. Any competitor who wishes to

withdraw from this aggregate should apply in writing to the Squadding Department for a refund before 08:30 Middle Saturday. It is hoped to reintroduce a sponsored prize list for 2012.

### **Programme Changes**

A reminder that 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. A list of the top competitors in each class will be posted on the prize list boards alongside the Grand Aggregate throughout the Meeting so competitors can see how they are progressing during the week.

The Donaldson Memorial First Stage will now be the aggregate of the Lovell, the Corporation, the Duke of Cambridge and the Conan Doyle. There are some detail changes to event timings on Second Friday. Please see the NRA Handbook page 356.

### **Rule Changes**

The rule changes introduced in the 2011 NRA Handbook were outlined in the Spring Journal. Of particular significance are:

Para 278, requiring a competitor to stop after two misses rather than four.

Para 718 (classification) now includes a concession to young competitors using the Cadet Target Rifle.

### **High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearms**

All competitors shooting HME firearms (mainly Match Rifle, Sporting Rifle and F Class) must zero their rifles, and obtain a certificate that zeroing has been completed successfully, before collecting their squadding cards. If your rifle and ammunition combination produce a muzzle energy (ME) exceeding 4,500 Joules (3,319 ft lbs) then you must follow the special zeroing procedure. Please refer to the NRA website or the Range Office for full instructions on this zeroing procedure.

### **Dates for the Imperial Meeting 2012 to 2014**

The dates for the Imperial Meeting for 2012 to 2014 are as follows:

**2012** 14 July (First Saturday) to 28 July (Queen's Final)

**2013** 13 July (First Saturday) to 27 July (Queen's Final)

**2014** 5 July (First Saturday) to 19 July (Queen's Final)

Please note that the dates for 2014 have been brought forward as they will be followed by the Glasgow Commonwealth Games which are being held from 23 July to 3 August.



From 2015 onwards the intention is that the Queen's Final will normally be on the Saturday of the last full weekend in July.

### **Shooting Mentors (Aunts and Uncles) Scheme**

All those attending the Imperial Meeting may request the assistance of an experienced shooter who will be happy to assist them. This may take the form of assistance with the mysteries of decoding the information in your squadding envelope, discussing the day's shooting, or how to complete your score sheet or wind graph. Any competitor who would like such assistance should complete the relevant request box on the main Individual TR & MR Entry Form or contact [squadding@nra.org.uk](mailto:squadding@nra.org.uk) and Tim Elliott, who administers the scheme, will then allocate the competitor concerned a Mentor.

### **Early Entry Draws**

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

- |   |                             |                     |        |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | Alastair Kinross            | Northamptonshire RA | No 271 |
|   | (100% refund of entry fees) |                     |        |
| 2 | Simon Dickson               | NLRC                | No 167 |
|   | (50% refund of entry fees)  |                     |        |
| 3 | Eric Adams                  | Lloyds TSBRC        | No 173 |
|   | (25% refund of entry fees)  |                     |        |

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

The winner of the £100 Online Early Entry Draw was Mick Place of NLRC.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **September Open Day**

Please note that the September Open Day has been cancelled due to the Bisley Live Gun and Country Sports Show being held from 30 September to 2 October. The next Open Day will be held on Saturday 5 May.

### **Gallery Rifle and Pistol National Championships**

Held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, this meeting has a similar format to the other Action Weekends and Phoenix Meeting but here you can compete to be crowned a National Champion. This event is for Gallery Rifle (centre-fire and small-bore), Long Barrelled Revolvers/Pistols and solid slug firing Target Shotguns. Competitions include Multi-Target, Advancing Targets, 1500 Match, Timed and Precision and the Speed Steel Challenge. Also, catering for the fullbore shooter, we have some short range competitions for older military firearms and the McQueen shoot for Any Rifle.

### **Trafalgar Meeting**

Held over the weekend of 22 and 23 October, the Trafalgar Meeting should be firmly in the diaries of all Classic and Historic enthusiasts. There are enough competitions to keep all competitors busy. If spare time is available, why not visit the Classic and Historic themed Trade Fair held in the Bisley Pavilion?

### **Autumn Action Weekend**

The weekend of 29 and 30 October hosts the last of the 2011 Gallery Rifle Action Weekends that encourage 'Action Shooting' and a final chance to win some medals this year.

### **The 2011 Ages Match**

The Ages Match is also held over the weekend 29 and 30 October. Teams will be of 12 firers, and the match conditions will be a Queen's II on Saturday afternoon followed by a Queen's III on the Sunday morning. The age brackets will be:

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

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

Captains will be appointed by the NRA (unless already appointed within their own age group) who will then contact all those whom they wish to invite to join their team. A list of all those eligible in each age group will be provided to each team captain.

This has become an extremely popular end-of-season event and you are encouraged to attend. There will be dinners on the Saturday evening preceded by the now traditional Dragon Fireworks Display on Stickledown range.

### **Target Shotgun**

Target Shotgun involves shooting at a variety of static targets with multi-shot shotguns using solid slug, or in some events large shot. Target Shotgun events have been run on Bisley ranges for a number of years. In order to place Target Shotgun on a more formal basis, the participants have developed a rule set (heavily based on the Gallery Rifle rules) and have requested recognition as an NRA discipline. The Trustees recently approved this in principle, leaving detailed administrative arrangements to the Shooting Committee and the Association's professional staff. It is likely that the discipline will formally be established by an action in General Council in the autumn.

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NSC



*by  
Jeremy  
Staples*

### **NRA Open Day**

I would like to express my thanks to all members that once again provided first class coaching and help on the Open Day in April this year.

It was another very successful day with over 1000 registered guests shooting on the ranges and positive feedback has once again been received. The feedback has been full of praise for those coaches that spent their time instructing guests during the course of a very long day.

### **Civil Nuclear Constabulary**

Those of you that have visited Bisley on a week day will have noticed the increase in CNC training personnel as the CNC have substantially increased their usage of our existing ranges during the course of this year. They utilise up to 28% of the range capacity, all of which is mid-week. The CNC generates substantial income for the NRA and we are currently providing temporary classroom accommodation and other facilities to ensure that their use continues.

The long-term plan for the redevelopment of Cheylesmore is also moving slowly through Government and we are hopeful that approval will be given by the Department of Energy and Conservation within the next two months.

Once this approval has been granted then legal documentation can be finalised and the planning stages progressed. I would hope that there will be a start on the redevelopment of Cheylesmore in the third/fourth quarter of the year.

### **Bisley Live**

Plans for Bisley Live are progressing well. A number of the key manufacturers and distributors have now been signed up and as a result the planning can start in earnest.

We have retained G4S to co-ordinate the car parking together with a professional traffic management company who will be co-ordinating the traffic flows and liaising with Guildford Borough Council in respect of the signage requirements etc.

We are finalising plans for members to be granted free access to the exhibition which now has Open Day status for three days to allow both experienced shooters and novices to try different types of rifles including sporting rifles at the National Shooting Centre.

Full details of arrangements for members will be available during the Imperial Meeting this year and we hope that the majority of members will visit Bisley during the course of the event. There will be some restrictions in respect of access and car parking during the build-up and the three day event but we aim to minimise this for our members.

### **Roads**

We have received a number of comments in respect of the state of the roads at Bisley. As I have mentioned before the road to Short Siberia has to comply with environmental restraints and does need constant "patching". The Trustees have however just recently approved the re-tarmacing of the road at the back of Century, which I am sure all members will appreciate. I hope this work will be completed before the Imperial Meeting. This road will also prove of great benefit to the Harley Davidson Rally and the Hot Rod Rally together with Bisley Live. By using Queen's Gate, which has now been approved by Guildford Borough Council, we will reduce the impact and noise to a number of our neighbours at the front of the estate and allow quick and easy access to non-shooting events, which contribute substantially to the profit of Bisley.

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## SHOOTING MATTERS RANGE OPERATIONS



*by Matt Ensor  
Assistant Director -  
Operations*

### **Cost of storing firearms in the Armoury during the Imperial Meeting**

The cost of storing firearms in the Range Office Armoury for the Imperial Meeting will be charged at £21 per rifle or shotgun. Shorter term storage will be charged at the daily rate of £3.50. Please ensure you have the required documentation, including your Firearms Certificate, when collecting your firearm each day.

### **Payment in advance for Range Hire**

As of Monday 9 May 2011 all range hire must be paid in advance of shooting, in the Range Office. Payment for multi-day events can either be paid in advance of the first day or at the point of signing in at the Range Office on each day of shooting.

Failure to pay for range use in advance will result in forfeiture of the booking which will remain subject to NSC cancellation charge policy in place at the time. An administration fee will also be payable.

Official NRA teams using the NRA teams training grant will not be required to pay in advance of shooting and the normal invoicing process will apply. Each official team will be given a unique account number (eg GBC011) to which all invoices will be posted.

A small number of NRA affiliated clubs, associations and schools will be able to pay in arrears but only after a written agreement has been entered into, stipulating payment terms. This arrangement will be by prior agreement only, based on usage and payment history. Please contact Matthew Ensor at [matthew.ensor@nra.org.uk](mailto:matthew.ensor@nra.org.uk) to apply.

May we remind all customers that we no longer accept personal cheques as a form of payment for range hire. Cash and credit/debit card payments are the preferred form of payment and Club cheques will be accepted.

We understand this change in policy will require some adaptation on our customers' part. We thank you all for your understanding and co-operation.

### **Late return of equipment and keys to the Range Office**

Some customers are not returning firearms, range radios and accommodation keys until well after their period of use. May we take this opportunity to remind you that the Range Office closes 30 minutes after shooting ends and all firearms and radios must be returned beforehand. Any radios or firearms not returned may be subject to late-return fees.

Please return your radios as soon as possible after the shooting period has ended. If you are shooting all day your radio must still be returned to the Range Office at lunchtime before 12:45. This ensures batteries can be recharged and radios re-issued to all customers for the afternoon period.

### **Police training and range availability at Bisley**

Some customers have the impression the ranges are being used for police firearms training to the extent that there is no availability for NRA members and associated clubs on weekdays. This impression is incorrect. We have maintained access to Melville and Short Siberia ranges for over 90% of weekdays and will continue to process bookings on weekdays for members and clubs in 2011 and beyond. Please contact the Range Office, or submit your bid online, if you would like to make a booking to shoot during the week.

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## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING



*by  
Phyllis  
Farnan*

The spring half term and Easter holidays were a busy time again this year for several school and cadet units around the country and a number of regional NRA Target Rifle Skills and Club Instructor Courses have taken place. Many other cadet units would appreciate some assistance and guidance from experienced NRA Target Rifle Coaches to help them improve the shooting standards of their cadets. So, if you think you can give a little of your time to assist with cadet shooting in your local area, please contact the Director of Training.

### **Probationary Courses**

Ten probationary members completed the new NRA modular training course before Easter and are now finishing their probationary period by shooting with the NRA Shooting Club. Twelve new probationary members have started the second probationary course and they will complete their training just before the Imperial Meeting in July. A number of probationary members have also attended individual mid-week training sessions.

### **RCO Courses**

Three standard RCO courses have been run at Bisley so far this year and several regional RCO courses have also taken place. On 14 and 15 May twelve candidates from clubs in the North-East completed an NRA RCO course at Ponteland. This course was sponsored by Sport England under their Whole Sport Plan. Clubs will be contacted directly about arrangements for future sponsored regional courses.

The dates for the RCO Courses at Bisley for the remainder of the year are: 3 and 4 September, 19 and 20 November and 10 and 11 December. Regional RCO courses are available on request to the Training Department.

A new Heritage Pistol "bolt on" RCO Endorsement Course was held at Bisley on Sunday 22 May and further courses are planned for later in the year.

The date for the next RCO (HME) "bolt on" course at Bisley is 4 December. Note: This course, like all the "bolt-on" courses, is only open to qualified RCOs.

A second MLAGB RCO Endorsement Course is planned for this autumn. Clubs will be informed directly as soon as a date has been confirmed. It is also hoped that a number of NRA Assessors can be trained to run the MLAGB Endorsement Course regionally. Any RCO Assessor who would like to be considered for this training should inform the Director of Training as soon as possible. Note: Assessor applicants must be experienced black powder shooters who already hold the MLAGB RCO qualification.

### **RCO Renewals**

You are reminded that all RCOs who qualified in 2005 are due to renew their qualification during 2011. The exact run-out date is shown on each RCO ID card.

Contact Maureen Peach (RCO support) on ext 149 or e-mail [maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:maureen.peach@nra.org.uk) for RCO and RCO (HME) application forms, RCO renewal forms or to book a regional RCO course for your club.

### **TR Skills Courses**

Eight shooters attended the NRA TR Skills Course at Bisley on 7 and 8 May. This course is designed to enhance individual knowledge and skills for fullbore target rifle shooting. The next TR Skills Course will be held on 15 and 16 October and is open to NRA members and members of affiliated clubs.

### **Club Instructors' Courses**

Eighteen shooters successfully completed a Club Instructor (General Skills) Course at Bisley on 2 and 3 April. A second course will be held at Bisley on 25 and 26 June; there are still places available for this course.

Five shooters completed the Club Instructor (Target Rifle) Course at Bisley on 7 and 8 June and this course will also be offered again on 15 and 16 October.

Club Instructor Courses are open to NRA members and members of affiliated clubs who wish to help with the training and assessment of probationary members and new shooters at club level. Candidates must be very experienced shooters and recommended by their club chairman.

### **Wind Coaching Course**

This annual short course offers advice about reading the wind at Bisley. It will be held as usual on First Friday (15 July) for the benefit of those attending the Imperial Meeting. Further details will be found in competitors' envelopes and all proceeds will go to the OTF.

It is hoped that a full weekend Wind Coaching Course will take place at Bisley during the autumn (date tba). The course is for target rifle shooters of all abilities and will involve practice at both short and long range. If



you would like to attend a weekend wind coaching course please contact the Training Department to register an initial expression of interest. This course will be open to NRA members and members of affiliated clubs.

### NRA Club Coach Course

A Target Rifle Club Coach Course will be held on 19 and 20 November. This course is only open to NRA members who have completed the TR Club Instructor Course (or equivalent). Candidates must also attend a Methods of Instruction and Assessment workshop unless they hold a teaching qualification. The club coach qualification is valid for five years. The next Instruction and Assessment Workshop will be held on 22 October.

### Bisley Course Dates 2011

The following courses will be held during the rest of the year.

### Probationary Courses

#### Course 2011/3:

17 July, 23 July, 31 July, 6 Aug, 13 Aug

#### Course 2011/4:

4 Sept, 10 Sept, 17 Sept, 18 Sept, 24 Sept, 16 Oct

### Course 2011/5:

23 Oct, 5 Nov, 12 Nov, 26 Nov, 27 Nov, 3 Dec

### RCO Courses

3 - 4 Sept

8 - 9 Oct (extra course)

19 - 20 Nov

10 - 11 Dec

RCO (HME) 4 Dec

### Club Instructor Courses

Gen Skills Club Instructor: 25 - 26 June (extra course)

TR Club Instructor: 15 - 16 Oct

TR Skills Enhancement: 15 - 16 Oct

### Club Coach Courses

Methods of Instruction/ Assessment: 22 Oct

Club Coach Course: 19 - 20 Nov

For further information about NRA courses or training matters, or to organise an individual training session with an NRA Instructor, contact the Training Department on 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk).

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Imperial Meeting, Bisley 7th—23rd July  
CLA Game Fair, Blenheim Palace 22nd—24th July

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**For further details on the show don't hesitate to contact us.**

# SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MATTERS

## Historic & Classic Firearms

*from Rae Wills*

If I have read the runes right, about now the two hundred or so who come to the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting (9 and 10 July) will be in the last stages of preparation and anticipation of another visit to this now classic event. If you have never been before, or are thinking of coming for the first time, do not be put off by the seemingly intimidating paperwork and instructions; 99% of it is what you normally do on the range anyway.

Also the more experienced will be there to help you, and the Range Officers, whilst there to ensure all the safety rules are obeyed, are not there to make your life a misery. So do not hesitate to ask if you are not sure of anything. This platitude, when I was a beginner, worried me even more! But we mean it, caring for the newcomer is all part of the job. Even if you find your pride and joy is not eligible under some technicality you will still get your shoot, just that your card will be cut at the corner and will not count for the prize list.

David Gregory, the Match Director, and his team have done an enormous amount of work on the programme. The most noticeable result is the old match designations have gone and been replaced by the Trafalgar Match numbers and the Match Conditions have also been harmonised. So farewell R9-C, Classic Rifle 200 yards, old friend, you are now Match 406!

Another innovation is the replacement of the old just-for-this-IHAM competitor numbers by a permanent GRID number; this will give you a permanent unchanging number valid for IHAM, the Trafalgar, and also other events such as the Phoenix and the Action Weekends.

On top of this we now have the use of Butt 0 on Stickledown so at last matches for Patched Ball and Musketoons and other 100 metres matches are available; other new events cover Flintlock rifle, Rook

and Rabbit deliberate and, on Melville, the Long Range Advancing Target which starts at 50m. That's around 30 new events in all.

Now, unfortunately, more matches need more staff; far too few come forward to help. I can tell you that you are missing out; it is a fantastic way to learn more about shooting, get to know the top shooters and learn their lore. If you would like to just come and help and not shoot, most of your costs will be covered; details and contacts are on the entry form. By the way, being an NRA qualified RCO helps but it is not essential.

One thing is certain, and not before time, is that the public view of shooting has changed for the better from the mad days of the Pistol Ban. Yet all too often I hear the cry "the NRA does nothing to help us to stop all the regulations that bear down on us". But much goes on behind closed doors; quiet diplomacy may not be so exciting as loud protest, but that is how, after so many years of talking to a brick wall that always said "No!", progress is being made. That the HAC, the Commons Committee looking into shooting after Cumbria, made a visit to Bisley to look and learn, was something impossible to imagine a short time ago and I believe much good was done by it.

But can we ourselves do anything? Yes we can! Here is the tale sent to me by Alan Kirk and the good members of the HBSA Wessex region, who have put us to shame with their efforts and shown that the Historic and Classics can present a most favourable picture to the uninitiated or the sceptic.

They decided that with changes in legislation a distinct possibility this year, their new local MP should have some first hand experience of what target rifle shooting involves and also to experience using Historic rifles.

A small delegation went along to the usual Saturday surgery of Mrs Caroline Nokes, the newly elected





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If so, then you may possibly have a hearing loss and should have your hearing checked by a qualified professional.

If you do have a hearing loss, A1 Hearing can offer advice as to the options available to you both privately and on the NHS. There may be other issues which can affect your hearing, such as excessive wax build up or other medical conditions, in which case you will be referred to your doctor for further attention.



Carol Beecher RHAD FSHAA  
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Conservative Member of Parliament for Romsey and Southampton North, in January. They discussed shooting sports in general and the enthusiasm for Historic arms in particular.

It transpired that her husband is a clay pigeon shooter, and their daughter competes in the Pony Club pentathlon with an air pistol, so Caroline was already familiar with shooting as a sport. They then invited her to try her hand at rifle shooting on the Moody's Down MoD range just north of Winchester in her constituency, which she accepted with much interest. The only diary date that fitted was for a shoot at 300 yards – it was explained that a beginner would normally start at 25 yards rather than 300!

On the day in mid-April the weather was bright and sunny with absolutely no wind. Caroline fired ten rounds with a Savage 99 .22" High Power, hitting the target with all shots, and with the last three in the black, with open sights. She then tried a 1904 SMLE .303" and a Sharps .45-70 black powder rifle, finding them less comfortable but enjoying the smell of black powder. She seemed genuinely impressed with the



camaraderie of the shooters, and of the controlled yet enjoyable atmosphere.

Well done Wessex! So how about you? If you do consider any such initiative, but are worried on how to proceed, remember every help is available from the NRA Secretariat. They can give you much advice on how to present topics and have much useful experience to impart.

### 300 Metres

*by Ian Shirra-Gibb*

Our 2011 season opened in mid-March with a training weekend at Bisley before our first visit to France. This was the first half of the bi-annual match with the Clermont and Creil clubs.

We fielded two teams of four over the weekend. On Saturday the French led by four points but on Sunday the NRA team performance level rose to win the two day aggregate by over forty points. Top two day aggregate winner was Simon Aldhouse on 1190. The return match will be at Bisley on the first weekend in September.

Moving on into mid-April the first NRA trial and BFRF competition was held – the winner was Tony Lincoln with a fine 596.

Overseas travel started in early May with the first round of the Lapua European Cup circuit in Aarhus,

Denmark. A men's prone team of three competed and I am pleased to report that they secured bronze team medals with an average of 592 per shooter – these are the first circuit team medals for some years.

In the individual event, the best result for Great Britain came from Simon Aldhouse on 597.39 having the equal highest X count of all competing. It is worthy of mention that the prone winner, Richard Dietzsch from Germany, made a perfect score of 600.

The circuit now moves to Elkistuna in Sweden, then onto southern France, before the full European Championships in Belgrade. From the points gained at the circuit events, a Final will be held in Switzerland for those qualified in late September which is heavily sponsored by Lapua in goods or cash prizes.

The NRA British 300m Championships were held on 14 and 15 May. Saturday's TR event had a disappointingly low entry but the winner, with a creditable 583, was Dick Horrocks. Sunday's Free Rifle event was a near full house with three relays being run. Sunday's wind conditions were very difficult, to say the least, therefore scores reflected this but the winner Simon Aldhouse managed a respectable 587 in the conditions and retained the Accuracy International trophy for the third year. Tim Hammond was second and Richard Fowke third. Dick Horrocks also competed in this event winning the combined aggregate for the two days with 1164. Full results are available on the following page.

For more information, results, etc, follow our progress on [www.300m.com](http://www.300m.com)





## NRA 300 Metres Championships 2011

### Free Rifle

								<b>Total</b>
1	SK Aldhouse	97	98	99	97	98	98	587.28
2	T Hammond	97	96	98	98	99	96	584.22
3	RM Fowke	97	96	94	100	98	98	583.11
4	T Lincoln	99	95	96	99	99	94	582.20
5	AR Horrocks	96	95	96	96	98	100	581.22
6	H Creevy	96	96	96	96	100	96	580.21
7	P Scanlan	98	96	96	95	97	98	580.19
8	JHM Rennie	96	96	95	94	98	97	576.18
9	DP Calvert	95	95	98	97	97	93	575.16
10	AM Reeve	99	97	95	94	96	94	575.13
11	MJ Scrivens	95	95	95	98	94	96	573.12
12	SW Maris	96	95	93	95	96	96	571.14
13	R Kitson	96	94	91	97	95	97	570.15
14	H Pugsley	95	94	93	95	97	94	568.16
15	R White	93	97	94	92	95	96	567.13
16	AT Campbell	98	93	94	87	93	92	557.07
17	R Conway	92	94	92	90	90	93	551.03
18	G Hawarth	98	96	96	93	24	0	407.03
19	M Pearse	95	89	9	0	0	0	193.05

### Target Rifle

								<b>Total</b>
1	AR Horrocks	95	93	99	97	99	100	583.14
2	CA Painting	98	94	99	97	98	95	581.18
3	G Alexander	97	98	88	97	97	97	574.18
4	T Hammond	97	93	96	98	93	95	572.16
5	R Kitson	95	91	95	95	98	97	571.11

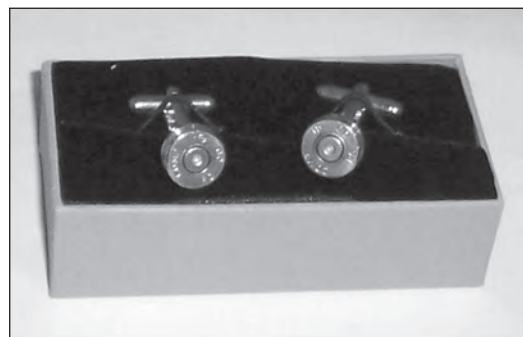
### Combined Aggregate

	<b>TR</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 AR Horrocks	583.14	581.22	1164.36
2 T Hammond	572.16	584.22	1156.38
3 R Kitson	571.11	570.15	1141.26

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## Match Rifle – NLRC opens MR for MMXI

*by Chris Boylan*

Having had a practice session in March, the North London Rifle Club opened the Match Rifle 2011 season by hosting a match on 2 April. For the uninitiated, Match Rifle distances are 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards; telescopic sights are permitted as is the delightful supine position. The description of the MR rifle is not quite the same as TR but a target rifle will qualify. The rifle must be supported by the body but a rest is allowed for the forward hand or the knee. Handloads are permitted; it is normal to use bullets that are heavier than the standard TR loadings. The Bisley Bible gives all the details.

On the morning of 2 April, NLRC entered three teams of four; the Welsh Rifle Association entered one team; Cambridge University Rifle Association entered one team; Oxford University Rifle Club entered one team. The Welsh and the OURC had a few late entries and these four formed a hybrid team. We thus had seven teams of four, seven targets and three distances to shoot between 08:30 and 12:30. The course of fire was 2ss and 15 at the three distances, to give a highest possible individual score of 225 or 900 for a team. Team captains were able to decide whether to shoot in pairs or to string shoot with individual coaching.

Those using High Muzzle Energy ammunition must arrive at the range with rifles zeroed. For the rest of us, it is usual to have a practice shoot immediately before the match. With a full programme for the morning, there was no time for a practice so English VIII sighters were adopted; this means that, at 1000 yards only, up

to five preliminary shots are permitted (including the two convertible sighters) with the first to hit the target counting as the first convertible sighter. A few of the visitors had completed a range safety course but had not yet been granted a shooting certificate so they had to shoot under one-to-one supervision. For the most part, the match ran smoothly. The markers did a competent job and it did not rain. By my estimate, true winds were between 4 and 6 minutes at 1000 yards, 6 to 10 at 1100 yards and 10 to 12 at 1200 yards.

After the siren signalled the end of the morning's shooting, we gathered at the North London where lunch was provided. The Welsh set out their stall for the season to win with a score of 855 and 81 V bulls. Top scorer for the team and for the match was Ted Hobbs with a splendid 221.20. Second was Richard Whitby's NLRC team with 852.86, including Richard's own top team score of 216.22. Third was Simon Whitby's NLRC team with 830.65; Alex Cargill Thompson's fine score of 217.20 was tops for his team and for NLRC and second overall for the match. CURA was next with 789.49, including 207.15 from Douglas Phillips. Silke Lohmann's NLRC team scored 777.44. OURC had been delayed by rifle problems and had only shot 2ss and 10 at all distances; the hybrid team did not submit scores. Top shots for Wales, CURA and OURC all received a bottle of wine.

With scores such as these in April, 2011 should be a great season for MR.

Happy shooting!

## AUNTS AND UNCLES SCHEME 2011

I need to address the situation which recurred last year – and has been really quite a serious problem in the past – whereby a shooter who has asked for help and guidance for the Imperial Meeting does not make electronic and then personal contact with her or his allocated mentor.

- 1 The procedure, as laid down in Note 13 to the entry form, asks you to complete the appropriate box on the form. (This must be done before Thursday 30 June. After that date, only requests made direct to me can be met.)
- 2 Once you have done this, the member of staff in charge of squadding will pass your details to me.
- 3 My initial e-mail to you will confirm to you that your request has been noted and will seek a little further information from you.
  - If you do not hear from me, then please contact me (details below).
  - If you do not reply to my e-mail, then I will assume that you have ticked the relevant box in error.
- 4 Nearer the time, I will e-mail to you full details of who your Aunt or Uncle will be and ask you to make direct electronic contact.
- 5 It will then be up to you. Do, please, make sure you make contact with your Aunt or Uncle electronically at that point and then in person as you arrange between you.

Tim (TJ) Elliott

Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB

E-mail: [tje@easynet.co.uk](mailto:tje@easynet.co.uk)

Telephone: 01234 740334

Mobile: 07932 706171

# BISLEY LIVE

## THE GUN AND COUNTRY SPORTS SHOW

Have you ever wished you could test fire several different makes of rifle before deciding which one is best suited to you? With new rifles starting from around £1,000, it is a big investment and one that requires careful deliberation and homework. Prospective buyers normally rely on recommendations from fellow shooters and reviews in magazines, but it is hardly the same as lining up on a target and squeezing the trigger yourself.

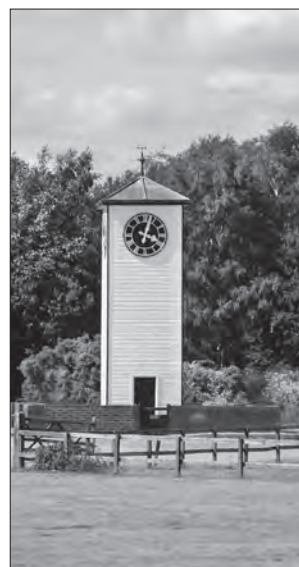
With this in mind, a new breed of shooting show called Bisley Live is being held at the National Shooting Centre in Surrey from 30 September until 2 October 2011, which will give visitors the opportunity to test-fire some of the latest rifles, shotguns and air rifles from the leading manufacturers.

"As well as catering for seasoned shooters, the show is designed for complete novices," explained show organiser Roger Marriott. The show will be officially opened on Friday 30 September by George Digweed MBE – who was recently crowned world clay pigeon champion for the 19th consecutive year. "Could there be anyone more inspirational than George to motivate people into the sport?" added Roger.

Bisley Live will offer so much more than just the usual trade fair. Manufacturers and retailers of guns will have the opportunity to access not only the 300 yards rifle and running deer ranges but also the clay shooting pods plus the air gun and .22" ranges. Exhibitors will therefore be able to fully demonstrate the capabilities of their guns to visitors under the guidance of fully qualified NRA instructors. No other game fair offers this exciting facility covering

so many different shooting disciplines.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be numerous other features to entertain the visitors. A charity fashion show, in aid of Help for Heroes, featuring top brands from all over the world, will be taking place throughout the three-day event. Gundog demonstrations from renowned trainer Howard Kirby of Mullenscote Gundogs will also be showcased at the show and



to give parents a little respite, Julie Elborough of Woodruff Gundogs and game cookery teacher Kathy Martyn will be holding special taster sessions of their popular 'Hunt, Cook, Eat' course for children. The one and a half hour course, which will be free of charge, includes basic gundog training, followed by a game cookery lesson.

For those that require something special, there are VIP corporate packages available on the Friday and Saturday of the show. The day starts with a delicious breakfast prior to honing their shooting skills with shotgun, rifle, both target and sporting, and black powder pistols. The VIPs and their guests will then return to the VIP marquee for champagne and canapés to be followed by a gourmet three-course lunch hosted by world champion George Digweed MBE.

After lunch there will be time to view the exhibition and other attractions before rounding off the day with traditional English tea, scones and cakes.

This innovative show has attracted much media interest and many shooting organisations are fully supporting the venture. The Countryside Alliance's shooting campaign manager, David Taylor, said that the south-east of England has needed an event like this for years. "Bisley's access and proximity to London will give many thousands of visitors the opportunity to visit the historic home of shooting. A large number of people are unable to visit the summer game fairs because of holiday commitments; however the timing of the Bisley Live event in late September will still allow visitors the opportunity to include a game fair in their annual calendar."

One of Britain's best known shots, sporting journalist Mike Yardley, who has been target shooting at Bisley all his life with rifle, pistol and shotgun said "The concept of Bisley Live is so exciting and seemingly obvious – it's amazing that it has not been done before" adding that the Camp at Bisley is a unique national treasure. "The marvellous imperial atmosphere is unmatched.







To create and launch a show specifically for sporting shooters and their families is something that should have been done long ago. I am sure the inaugural event will attract enormous interest and support with the many exhibitors and visitors."

The National Shooting Centre's Managing Director Jeremy Staples said he was thrilled to be involved in the project. "The National Shooting Centre at Bisley is the only venue in the UK that can host a show like this. In the past, I have been approached by numerous event management companies, but I was particularly impressed with the Bisley Live concept. The organising team understands exactly what visitors want – the opportunity to break into and participate in one of Britain's most popular sports."

For more information, visit: [www.bisleylive.com](http://www.bisleylive.com) or tel: 01892 548136.

For regular updates on Bisley Live – follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Bisley\_Live.

## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### **Great Britain Rifle Team to the West Indies 2013**

I am honoured and delighted to be appointed, by the National Rifle Association, Captain of the Great Britain Rifle Team to the West Indies 2013. Charles Brooks has accepted my invitation to be Vice-Captain.

The tour will be approximately four weeks in duration in April/May 2013. We expect to visit Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and Guyana, and we will participate in the West Indies Regional Championships. Details are to be finalised.

The team will be 16/18 strong comprising both experienced shooters and some new caps.

Shooters of county standard and above are invited to apply by e-mailing or writing to me at the address below before the end of the Imperial Meeting 2011. The team will be announced in October. Spouses will be welcome to join the team for at least part of the tour.

Nigel W Penn  
18 The Terrace, Little Shelford,  
Cambridge CB22 5ET  
E-mail: [nigel@nwpenn.net](mailto:nigel@nwpenn.net)  
Tel: 01223 842899

### **Great Britain Match Rifle Team for the 2012 Woomera Trophy Match at Bisley**

I am deeply honoured to have been appointed Captain of the GB Match Rifle Team for the Woomera Trophy Match against the Australians during the Imperial Meeting in 2012, and am very pleased to say that

Nick Tremlett has agreed to be my Vice-Captain. We propose to assemble a squad for team training, with training most likely starting in early spring 2012. We therefore invite applications for consideration for selection to the training squad, which should be made by e-mail to me at [match@nra.org.uk](mailto:match@nra.org.uk) by 30 September (I will aim to acknowledge all applications following their receipt). Applications should include a brief statement of how you would be prepared to contribute to the squad (as shooter and/or coach, and in any organisational roles), supported by a short summary of relevant experience and achievements.

We hope to announce the squad this Autumn, and would encourage all involved then to use the winter months as an opportunity to prepare themselves, their equipment and ammunition for 2012.

Alex Cargill Thompson

### **NRA Channel Islands Team 2012**

Following on from my original notice in the Spring Journal, this is just a reminder to all those interested in applying for this team that applications should be submitted by 31 July 2011, either in writing or by e-mail, to

Garnett Faulkner  
38 Rosemont Road  
London NW3 6NE  
E-mail: [frichardg@aol.com](mailto:frichardg@aol.com)  
Tel: 02077 942 835  
Mobile: 07885 604915

# MINIATURE CANNONS ON MELVILLE

*by David Spittles*

Following an innocent enquiry from Peter Luton asking if there was any section that catered for these cannons, I conducted a survey of our members and was surprised at the number who responded. Many already had cannons and many from an engineering background wished to build one but needed a good reason to possess and a place to fire them. It just goes to show that lots of smoke and noise brings out the small boys in grown men.

To cover the good reason to possess, the Muzzle Loaders Association of GB produced a protocol for owning and shooting miniature cannons. We used the basic definition for a miniature cannon as having a maximum bore of 0.79" (20mm) and a maximum barrel length of 32" (800mm)

This was new ground for us and the first meetings were held at our home range of Wedgnock near Warwick. This enabled us to practice the protocol to ensure that the procedures provided a safe shooting environment while retaining the fun.

The firing of miniature cannons at Bisley was approved by the NRA Shooting Committee and we booked a space on Melville to demonstrate our procedures. Five members attended the meeting, all with their Certificates of Competence in muzzle loading, and

proved that hitting a PL7 at 25m was a challenge but not impossible with many of the shots in the black.

The cannons fired were two ship's versions – one in .44" calibre firing a 0.433" ball with a 0.015" patch and 30 grains of powder, the other a .69" calibre firing a 0.670" ball with a 0.015" patch and 50 grains of powder. The other three were artillery models in .69" calibre firing a 0.670" ball with a 0.015" patch and 50 to 70 grains of powder.

The main manufacturer of a wide range of miniature cannons is Ardesa in Spain and all but one of the cannons were of their manufacture. Henry Krank are their import agent for the UK.

Following the demonstration it is hoped that the section will grow and more bookings can be made at Bisley. It must be stressed that individuals cannot just turn up at Bisley and shoot cannon. The meetings have to be authorised by the NSC to ensure that there are qualified staff present. The MLAGB insurance specifically includes miniature cannons for its members so there are no worries there.

Finally we wish to thank Brian Thomas and the staff of the NSC for providing us with the opportunity to have such an enjoyable morning.

## RAISE MONEY FOR THE GB U25 TEAM TO AUSTRALIA

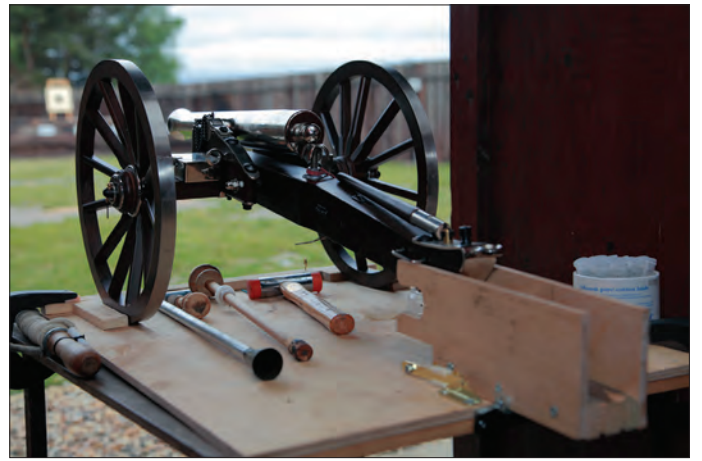
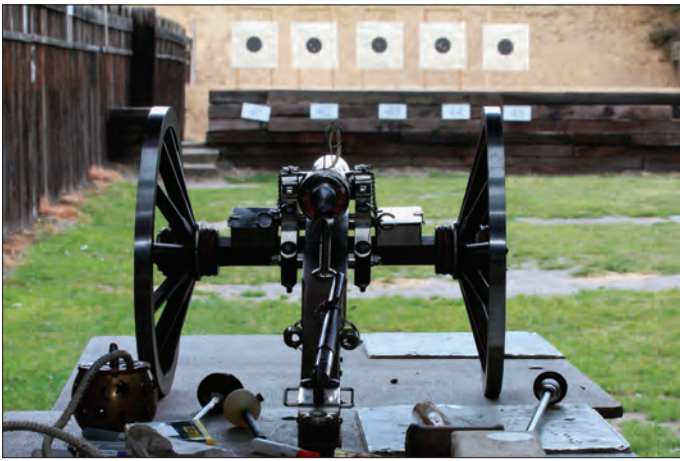
### GET YOUR CARAVAN CLEANED!



Spend £20 and get your caravan cleaned by the Great Britain U25 Team. Not only will you have a sparklingly clean caravan, you'll have helped raise money for the U25s to go to Australia and defend their World Championship title.

Please contact Henry Day: 07753 210 913,  
[henryshootingstuff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:henryshootingstuff@hotmail.co.uk)







# PHOENIX MEETING 2011

*by Alan Whittle*

The background music to the Phoenix, like the other Gallery Rifle (GR) Meetings, seems to me to be the intermittent, “plink, plink, plink, plink, plonk” of the Steel Plates Shoot resident at these events on Stickledown but heard all over the Camp. But the Phoenix is much more than just a GR Meeting. The history of the Phoenix, rising out of the ashes of the Anno Domini Meeting following the handgun ban in 1997, needs no repetition here, but it has now grown to be an all-embracing event that encompasses virtually all shooting disciplines.

At time of writing the ink is barely dry on the scorecards, of which there were a record number shot, so I cannot provide a full analysis of individual performances but I do have a few highlights.

I helped run the Butt Zero Bianchi Cup Complex on Stickledown so, as for many of the outdoor Range Conducting Officers and shooters, the weather is always significant. Following the record-breaking dry spell this spring many of us expected a balmy Bank Holiday Weekend but alas no. However it did stay dry and the light to moderate winds with overcast skies for the most part provided enough of a challenge without need of an overcoat.

Many shooters commented that it did not seem as “busy as usual”, perhaps testament to the efficiency of the squadding team keeping shooters moving around the seventy-odd available events; certainly the Bianchi Cup had just a single un-squadded shooting slot over the entire weekend. At the well-attended prizegiving there was scarcely an event that did not have multiple entries, again perhaps testament to the insight of the Match Director and his team for selecting the right balance of matches for the Meeting.

The precise magic that made 2011 a Phoenix year to remember we may never discover but this ever-growing event is likely to continue to expand in popularity, sitting in the calendar as it does near the beginning of the year when we are all keen to get out shooting after a cold winter.

There were 38 new Phoenix records set at the 2011 Meeting. A couple of things I feel of particular note this year are the increased frequency of the use of long barrelled pistols (LBP) and a couple of individual performances, which can never be eclipsed, in the traditional Gallery Rifle Centre Fire (GRCF) event.

Having tracked the rise in popularity of the LBP in other GR matches this year, I feel certain that the proportion of matches shot with this class of firearm will reach 15% of all the scorecards submitted. The attraction of these guns seems obvious; the cheap and readily available ammunition, their suitability for rapid fire events, nostalgia for former pistol shooters

and, for those new to shooting, the excitement of discovering pistol style shooting for the first time. If there are any negatives I can't think of them. With more models of LBP coming onto the market and the availability of light weight scopes and red dot sights they are probably becoming the most flexible firearm for GR-type shooting – GR being the umbrella discipline under which they are shot. I even saw a couple of shooters, to the amazement of a South African visitor on the range, trying their luck at 100 and 200 yards and when I say luck it could just have been good judgment that turned in some top class scores.

The individual performances that I mentioned were in the 1500 and Bianchi Cup matches. The Bianchi is an event in four stages: practical, barricade, mover and falling plates. These test speed and accuracy at distances between 10 and 50 yards. With each 48-shot stage having a possible maximum score of 480 points, the theoretical overall match score is 1920. Even if another shooter equals the performance of Chris West, or perhaps better it with a higher “X” count, he will always be the first man to record a maximum with an under-lever rifle. Remembering that some of the stages require shooting six shots in six seconds with a manual action rifle, I feel this is quite an achievement for a young shooter who is still on his first issue FAC!

Another Bisley first was a maximum score in the under-lever 1500 Match by Gwyn Roberts. In the history of 1500 shooting, a perfect score has been achieved on only a few occasions and Gwyn was the first to achieve it at Stourport a few years ago – replicating this achievement at Headquarters completes a fine personal double!

The full match scores are now on the NRA website and the record breakers are highlighted – congratulations to all of them!



Chris West – the gold medal seems small reward for the first perfect score in a Bianchi Cup Match.



## Phoenix goes truly International

At the end of a busy Phoenix Weekend comes the Phoenix International GR Match on the Bank Holiday Monday morning.

For some time there has been a hotly contested European International 1500 Match, shot on the Monday following the Phoenix Meeting. Initially Phoenix teams vied with GRCF teams from Ireland and Germany for the Phoenix Trophy and the Phoenix Cup. This grew into a representative UK team in 2009 and in 2010 full GB status was awarded to the GB Gallery Rifle Team. The question was, "where would this event go to next?"

The answer is that it went fully international in 2011 and it added a Gallery Rifle Small-bore (GRSB) event. The South African Hunters Association visited the Phoenix in 2010 and reported favourably on what they saw, they then invited a GB team member to visit them in South Africa to coach them on the etiquette of 1500 shooting. Despite a shortage of suitable rifles, the South African team took the field with a mix of individually owned, club and borrowed guns in two GRSB teams and one GRCF team (of five shooters each with the best four scores to count).

The event has been increasingly closely contested and the resident teams didn't know what to expect from the newcomers! The effort that the South Africans had put in by way of preparation paid dividends and it is obvious that the standard of international competition is going to be greatly enhanced by their presence.

The result in the GRSB Match was:

GRSB	Score	"X" Count
Great Britain	5917	386
Ireland	5860	309
South Africa	5785	282
Germany	5763	220

Scores in the GRCF Match were:

GRCF	Score	"X" Count
Great Britain	5965	442
Ireland	5940	402
South Africa	5916	326
Germany	5904	348

Picking out individual performances from such a high scoring match is difficult but John Robinson for Ireland top scored in both matches, with 1488 (101X) in GRSB and 1497 (126X) in GRCF. Two South Africans scored "X" class (1490+) scores, JP Wessels and Heinrich Strauss, a great start to their international GR careers.

With just 154 points separating all four teams in the small-bore and a mere 61 points in the centre-fire matches out of an available 6000, competition remains



The South African Team with the Chairman of the International Gallery Rifle Federation Dietmar Hönersch.

tight and it would not take seismic change to see any of the competing nations top the table.

The next outing for the GB Gallery Rifle Team is in Ireland at the Fermoy Open Gallery Rifle Match in July. Germany hosts their Open GR in November at Leitmar and in between the two there is the tempting proposition of a trip to South Africa as the guests of the South Africa Hunters Association. Lucky as the GB team members may seem, all these events are open matches and as such any GR shooter can enter: full details on [www.galleryrifle.com](http://www.galleryrifle.com). The GB Gallery Rifle Team has appointed a Communications Officer who will be travelling (and shooting) with the team on their excursions abroad and he has promised to submit progress reports for future issues of the Journal.

Like all good things the Phoenix Meeting has come to an end for another year, but it will be back next spring and there is plenty to look forward to both at Bisley and in the regions before the season comes to a close.

Finally I noted that there were several spectators on the ranges who expressed interest in trying Gallery Rifle. The NRA can provide a club finder magazine and links on the [galleryrifle.com](http://galleryrifle.com) website will help, but the best way to try GR is to get a suitable rifle and make an entry to one of the meetings around the country. The range staff are eager and willing to help all newcomers get started so why not have a go?



The successful GB Gallery Rifle Centre-fire Team with Captain Ashley Dagger holding the Phoenix Trophy.





Fred and Ian having fun!



A very busy Trade Fair.



Charles Bestwick rings the Phoenix Anthem on the Speed Steels with his Long Barrelled Pistol.



F Class at the Phoenix.



Action on the Running Deer Range.



Melville Bay C - Timed and Precision.



Shooting Committee Chairman, John Bloomfield, might have won HM the Queen's Prize twice but he didn't win anything here!



It was all too exciting for some!



# THE IBIS OPEN – SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2011

by Frank Harriss

Three days before, the good weather started. Surely, it couldn't stay like this until the weekend? Yet it did and the Ibis Open Meeting was shot under wonderful sunny, warm Spring conditions. There were 36 competitors, including four F Class.

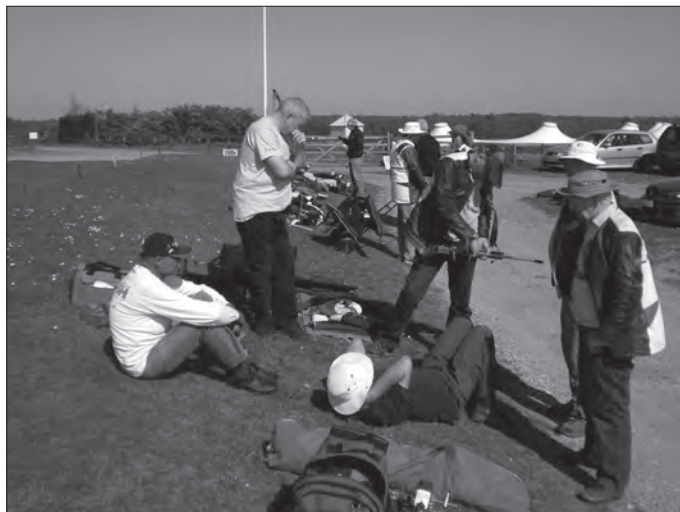
There was very little wind at 300 yards and the scores reflected this – nine 50s including a 50.10 from Andrew Wilde of Somerset. At 500 yards, the wind was more tricky but the experts kept them in and there were five 50s. The trickiness continued at 600 yards and, though there were still four 50s, scores dropped off quite steeply below this. Andrew Gent of Dorking scored 50.8 at each range and won the Short Range Aggregate from last year's overall winner, Graham French of Lydgate with 150.11. Andrew Wilde was the top 149 of three, one of whom was Gresham's pupil Chloe Evans – a fine achievement.

The afternoon was spent at the right-hand side of Stickledown where screening from the trees meant that several shooters were way up-wind with their first sighter. Even though the shooting started at 1000 yards, the Range Officers (David Stevens and Brian Hulatt) reported no initial misses. There were no possibles, the highest score being 49.5 from Peter Griggs, Ibis Captain, followed by 49.4 from Robert Shaw from Sheffield. However, the wind was fickle at 1100 yards and these two fell away slightly. Not so Andrew Gent, who had been tucked in behind with 48.5 after 1000. He came storming to the finish with a 48.6 at 1100, winning the Long Range Aggregate by two points from John Stirland of Club 25 with two 47s. Kevin Wilson of Ibis was third with 91.04. Shooting at 1100 yards is a feature of this competition and it is recommended for psychological reasons as it makes 1000 seem the 'easy' range!

It does not take much acumen to spot the overall winner – Andrew Gent, who was on sparkling form



Peter Griggs presents the prizes.



Waiting to shoot at 1100 yards.

and won with 246.35 by six clear points from Gareth Davies (OGRE). Andrew Wilde was third with 239.28. The prize for the winning under-19 shot went to Chloe Evans of Greshams, who found things more difficult at long range but was carried through by her excellent morning's score.

This year an F Class competition was held for the first time. The numbers of entrants were sufficient for them to have their own 'new' F Class target at short range. The TR shooters gasped at their tiny aiming mark, but they were unfazed. The Short Range was won by Graham King of Ibis, one point ahead of Katherine Fitton of Dorking. At long range, the F Class shooters had to make do with a TR target with a white patch. Katherine took the lead here and, with 49 at 1000 and 48 at 1100, won the F Class Aggregate.

Another feature of the Ibis Open is 'spot' prizes down the list after the top scores have been suitably rewarded. This keeps the rest of the prizegiving audience awake as their name may be called at any time! We are grateful for continued sponsorship from HPS Target Rifles who provided a number of vouchers for use as prizes. HPS also supplied their PalmaMaster ammunition for issue to those using Meeting ammunition. In presenting the prizes, Peter Griggs thanked Bill Rowland for organising the meeting so efficiently and, in anticipation, thanked him for the dinner that was to come. This turned out to be thoroughly up to standard, as ever. Peter also thanked the Range Officers for their hard work.

Why not join us next year for what might be the first competitive shoot of your season? Indeed, why not consider joining the Club if you need a Bisley base with good facilities, friendly faces and frequent club days?

Visit our website at [www.ibisrifleclub.co.uk](http://www.ibisrifleclub.co.uk)



## T REX – AWAKE AT LAST!

from my smaller friends and relations. Of course I mean Aleksandr Orlov of the legendary Eastern Meerkat family, who was recently up there in the top selling literature list. Here is a tail – sorry – tale of pioneering spirit in the face of oppression, of a rising and shining reluctant star that sparkles grit and bewilderment in equal measure. I feel inclined to start a website called [comparethetrex.com](http://comparethetrex.com) to introduce you to a tale about a family's struggle to escape dangerous meteorites. Seemples: Alekseisaurus, pass the gin.

### Awakening

The truth is that I am not a good early riser, so my apologies for having slept through the Spring Journal. Clearly I sleep too well during my scheduled winter hibernation, perhaps because there is nothing much going on. Possibly that is what hibernation means – a sensible way to spend the boring part of the year. When I did venture out from the cave strange white scenes confronted me.

Enough of that: I am looking forward to the season. In the break I have been dwelling on some thoughts that concern me. We are in a time of financial difficulties generally. It follows that leisure activities tend to feel the pinch, and family expenditure has to be prioritised. This of course brings conflicting pressures on those that run sporting venues.

The dilemma is how to meet increased running costs but at the same time keep prices to customers at acceptable levels. In an ideal world the answer is to find some immediate means of increasing the numbers who are participating in the core activities as well as utilising the facilities to the full in other ways. When the cost per shot to the customer seems to go on rising, at a time when incomes are static or even falling in real terms, the dangers are obvious. Customers will naturally pace and ration their expenditure.

This is where innovative thinking by both operators and customers is at a premium. It is as much up to us the customers to make those suggestions as it is to the management to listen carefully to the shooter. So if the Chairman of the Association asks for assistance from people with specialist skills let us do him the compliment of responding in a helpful and positive manner if we can.

I have often thought that there are so many areas of management where the membership has day-to-day skills, from personnel to finance, from gardens to mechanics, where just passing on experience might be useful. If you do not ask you do not get. Or is that too simplistic a thought?

### Literary Corner

With the aid of benefactors I turned to reading the autobiography of a small creature that has developed

### Legacy

You may have noticed the debate on the sports pages in the early months of the year over the use post-2012 of the new Olympic athletics stadium in the East End of London. I don't know about you but I have an increasing feeling of bewilderment about the whole thing. Billions of pounds will have been spent for a month of opportunity for decent folk to win medals: for a dislocated London to suffer Moscow politburo type traffic controls; for a raft of temporary facilities; for highly selective permanent benefits; and for a passing feel-good factor.

“Mon chapeau, par grace de Dieu viens moi”, j'écoute les cris Parisiennes. (T Rex will be having extra French lessons after normal school – Ed). We shall see what we shall see and we will just have to lie back and enjoy – for Britain.

### Summer Time Blues

It is not often that we have to turn to the columns of another journal to find one of our shooting brethren, but the eagle-eyed among you may have spotted and marked the splash that alumni of the Oxbridge universities received in a recent copy of 'The Field'. Among the various blues offering their views was our own Henry Day.

The overall gist of the article was of the effect that winning a 'blue' has upon an individual. In short, it reflected the positives and negatives that sport generally has for those that excel in their lives thanks to the opportunities afforded by secondary and tertiary education. Some have their moment of glory and then just fade away. Others are bitten by the bug and catch a life-long disease. The spoils in the early stages are badges and blazers and five minutes of fame. For those that stick at it – in our sport – the long term rewards are badges and blazers and being a well known fish among like-minded brethren. For some there are occasional moments of greater glory.

Thank you Henry – a fine job of extolling the virtues, and in particular of putting the shooting history of Oxford and Cambridge into perspective. Cambridge University Rifle Association is, in fact, older than the better-known spheroid Varsity match. I look at



the modest collection of badges in the niches on the cave wall and slip back dreamily into triumphs past. Perhaps we would not have it any other way.

### **Nature Notes**

Apropos of nothing in particular, summer arrived on 2 April this year with the pathfinder swallow doing his customary six laps of the cave garden and zipping off to return a week later with pals. By 24 April they had finished squabbling over mates and old accommodation and were nesting, with every sign that they intend to break last year's production record of thirteen broods from eight nests.

The very vociferous cuckoo has been at it too, judging by all the shouting that she has been doing. What with all that, lots of tadpoles, some multiplying deer, the buzzards, plus a glimpse of a kite, nature is alive and well around the cave. Very encouraging.

### **Stop Press**

#### **A New Competition?**

Is there any truth in the rumour that the Duke of Cambridge match is to be renamed 'The Princess William'? I think we should be told.

Toodle pip!

.....

## **AND YOU THOUGHT SHOOTING SPORTS HAVE A BAD TIME**

*by Alan Keating*

A quarter of a century ago, I managed a range build for Croydon Rifle and Pistol Club. Hand-mixed concrete, tons of steel, yards of timber; the whole shooting match; but then, it was the whole shooting match. Eventually, through the good offices of the Club and members and by sending progress photographs to TAS Warminster, the range was completed, inspected and passed for a Safety Certificate. Still in use today – build big, build tough – it lasts. The hands-on approach worked, it got things done. Now time has moved on and currently a guiding hand and a word of advice are more appropriate.

The 2012 Olympics are coming to London. The biggest ISSF range complex in Britain will be built and, sadly, demolished on Woolwich Common. Being a London Council Tax Payer, paying for the Games, happily not exclusively, I thought I'd go and check it out.

My Freedom Pass conveyed me all the way to Woolwich Common, just like a magic carpet but much smaller. The perimeter weatherboarding of the building site was in the process of being erected. In at the start, now let's see how it's done. The thought of taking photographs of paint drying held no appeal whatsoever. It soon became apparent that the bit of the build that would interest me would be some time in the future.

The Woolwich Olympic Shooting Facility is being sold as the historic 'Royal Artillery Barracks' venue. With that thought in mind, I wandered over Ha-Ha Road to Barracks Field. The historic George III Royal Artillery Barracks fascia opened out in front of me, a must for any promising photojournalist and me. There appeared to be no 'No Photography' signs so I started taking pictures of the fascia hoping, in the extreme, for a glimpse of George III.

I made the mistake of getting too close to the George III fascia. I noticed some movement out of the corner of my eye. On turning my head, I was being approached by three Royal Artillerymen and a Policeman. I opened up with "I guess I'm doing something wrong?" I produced my Freedom Pass as ID and had my particulars taken down. I was requested to delete the photos of the fascia; "You're not allowed to photograph military installations." They're only pictures so I deleted them. The Royal Artillerymen and the Policeman were at all times professional in their approach but then, I wouldn't know to the contrary, being a law abiding person. I haven't a clue about my rights in this sort of situation. I was searched by the Policeman and was informed that my name may be circulated to the ODA for taking pictures of an Olympic site. Finally, I was requested to leave the area immediately. I complied with the request. At times like these, I'm ashamed to be English. George III was unavailable for comment.

I will not be revisiting Woolwich Common as I can take a hint. So, my Olympic journey is over.

My greatest concern is that the Olympics will generate a myriad of people, most of who have little command of the English language. The people attending the Olympics will be all over Barracks Field and Woolwich Common. What sort of treatment will be meted out to the visitors to the Games? Simply, crunching the numbers on security, it appears from my experience to be 4 to 1. The Woolwich site has an indicated capacity of 7500, that's a lot of security personnel!

While the 2012 Olympics are in full swing, I'll be ploughing through my VHS/DVD collection, a much safer pursuit. What you'll glean from what I found to be an unpleasant experience is that I'm not the sharpest tool in the box (that's probably illegal). Most will comment "You deserved all you got." But then "that's me."



## WEBBO (AKA JOHN WEBSTER)

*Talking with Tony de Launay*

It is customary, as the Palma World Championship events approach, to have a little chat with the GB skipper who, this year, is one John GM Webster. A word of advice: do not argue with a prop forward. They are masters in the dark arts of the front row, as being a double Oxford Blue (1980, 81) evidences.

"I also played for Leicester Tigers and then Coventry for a couple of years. Both teams were leading clubs in the days before the current professional set-up, but an earlier back problem suggested that it was time to stop. If you are propping against the likes of Fran Cotton and Phil Blakeway you have to be 100% sound." I detected a degree of wistfulness and recollections of mud-spattered days.

We then reverted to his other sporting prowess. As with so many, for John shooting gathered its pace at school, in this case Uppingham, at a time when they were looked after by Simon Pattinson. Ashburtons and the captaincy of the Athelings in 1974 were part of the learning curve, John being one of Pattinson's 30 cadet caps in 30 years. A first GB tour to Canada with Andy Chown in 1987 led to nine further overseas tours. "The first was memorable for one of the best tie-shoots I have ever shot, against – among others – Australia's Stan Golinski for the Tilton Trophy. As the new cap, I beat the man then at the peak of his international form: a good result for the team."

It is part of a formidable list of fullbore shooting honours including the big five (National, Mackinnon, Kolapore, Empire and Palma), the Empire Match being the last one shot under that name before the contest became the Australia Match (John having shot two others since then).

In the real world he went from Oxford into a family pottery business, at a time when traditional stoneware cookware producers were struggling against the effects of an uncompetitive pound, emergent eastern competition, energy prices and general moves towards very different customer demand. "The business was in serious difficulties: eventually, and sadly, we took the only sensible course and sold it. I then moved into the city, James Capel, a traditional stockbroking company in which the CEO wanted me to act as his assistant. I asked what the job entailed: he said he did not really know but I would be kept busy. I was!"

Asset management followed via companies in the USA, leading to his current post as CEO of Altima Partners. He was invited by a group of former colleagues from Capel's (or Deutsche Bank) to join them to manage the firm's overall business. We entered the realm of asset management, hedge funds, high value investments and – somehow – the price of tomatoes. I think he was explaining the principles of the business, an impossible task when talking to a financial dummy.

So what about Palma prospects? "It is", he mused, "an exceptional challenge. No one has won three in a row in the modern series. GB came close in 1999 but the home team and their local knowledge (South Africa) ruined that for us." We discussed the opposition. "If you look at GB's record in Australia in recent years it is not one of outright success. Both Australia and New Zealand beat us in our last two attempts to win the Australia Match there. The Aussies will always produce a special performance at home – it is a matter of dogged Aussie pride." He does not under-estimate any other team, but if asked to say which of them represents a similar challenge to the Australians he has no hesitation in identifying the USA.

"They have a new sense of team purpose and some very good leaders in both the coaching and management areas. They also have people who can access good technical support and take the admin burden away from the shooters in the run-up to competition." It is clear that he has put a similar amount of thought into the GB preparations. It is a strategy of putting in place the essential building blocks: main coach, target coaches and target groups of shooters who will work well together. "It is the way that the SAS and the American Special Forces build their small and highly effective teams from their pool of candidates."

"You have to match the skills so that the trust and confidence runs both from main coach to target reserves and back again. That was behind the selection policy and I had to take some hard decisions. Some people were very disappointed: I'm sorry, but that is the way it worked out." It is as near as I was able to get to exposing the steel fist inside the affable and amusing smooth velvet glove. His parting shot: "We have set standards of excellence for the team as a whole. It is up to us to maintain them."

I and all shooters wish him the very best of luck. I hope that we will hear the standard Webster cry of success "Sacre bleu – mon chapeau – ce n'est pas une oiseau." I refuse either to translate or explain!



# GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 19 RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2011

## *Commandant*

Neville Stebbings      Durham ACF

## *Adjutant*

Simon Fraser      CCRS

## *Lady Officer*

Susan Stebbings      Durham ACF

## *Shooters*

Rebecca Argo      Aberdeen University

Connor Atherton      Durham ACF

Bryan Boyle      Warwickshire ACF

Lauren Crowson      formerly Sedbergh School

Henry Howard      Gresham's School

Murray Lidgitt      Durham University

Matthew Purdy      formerly Gresham's School

Tom Smith      Warwickshire ACF

## **Thursday 24 March**

After breakfast we finalised packing before loading the coach and leaving for Heathrow. All was going fine until a call from CCRS confirmed that we had left the trophy behind. Eventually the rifles were cleared through Customs and the trophy was delivered by taxi in time for us to board an unusually far-from-full plane.

## **Friday 25**

After landing we quickly collected our bags and met Deon Burger and his daughter Elize before retrieving our rifles. We were escorted to our accommodation and then on to the Burger's house where we were given a welcome lunch and spent the afternoon playing in their pool.

## **Saturday 26**

After a much needed night's sleep we got up bright and early at 06:30 for a full day's activity starting with the Magaliesberg Canopy Tour experience. This involved slaloming down a beautiful gorge on zip wires up to 140m in length and culminated with lunch. Next we went to Lesedi Cultural Village, a excellent opportunity to discover the history of South Africa and learn about the different tribes and traditions that exist to this day including traditional tribal African War dances performed by the Zulus. The day ended with a fantastic cultural "Braai" or barbecue which included crocodile, ostrich, milk tart and Malva pudding, a brilliant end to a brilliant day.

## **Sunday 27**

Another fresh South African day saw us wake in monsoon rain causing serious flooding with Simon's room under four inches of water. He rescued all his possessions, we had a good laugh then 'swam' to breakfast before donning waterproofs and packing our kit. We headed for Glen Afric, a visit generously sponsored by Maj Gen Murray Wildman. Having had so much rain many of the animals were not visible and the tracks were impassable without destroying them. We did however see elephants, lions, tigers, hippos, cheetahs, warthogs, zebras, a baby hyena and a white lion

cub which we were able to "cuddle" until it got bored and punctured Murray Wildman's cheek with a tooth. Murray and Lindsay Wildman very kindly provided us with lunch in their house in the park. From Glen Afric we drove to Potchefstroom where we set up base at Manzini Wildsplaas Game Farm before going to Cedric and Bets Van de Vyver's house for a braai and a swim.

## **Monday 28**

Our first morning here was a relatively late start compared to the other ones and it would be accurate to say that the whole team enjoyed their lie in. The weather was quite the opposite to the previous morning so we enjoyed breakfast under a bright sky. After some admin and shopping, we visited a lion park with lions, cheetahs and wild dogs that were too scared to show themselves. The highlight of the afternoon however, was going inside a cage with lion cubs aged 3 to 5 weeks old. The phrase "they're so cute" seemed to occur several times and we had the wonderful experience of being able to pet, cuddle and feed the cubs.

## **Tuesday 29**

Today we were up bright and early at 07:00 ready for breakfast. We then travelled to Africa's "Stonehenge" at Parys where we took part in white water rafting. After getting all kitted up with life jackets and helmets we were given a safety brief before getting into the canoes and on to the water. We spent a few fun-filled hours on the water tackling rapids before travelling back to the game farm. The owners kindly invited us to go game shooting with them that night with a braai half way through. So after a swim and muffins we boarded two pick up trucks and headed out into the night. On our way, we stopped for a drink and to gaze at the stars. We then built a fire and chilled with cold drinks and the warmth of the fire. We drove back to camp at around midnight and soon everyone was in bed asleep.



### **Wednesday 30**

We had a relaxed start to the day following the late night. After saying our goodbyes to the owners, we set off about an hour later than planned as the cash point had swallowed Simon's bank card!

We arrived at Bloemfontein at about 18:15 meaning that the alleged three hour drive had taken us just under six! We settled into our rooms and got the rifles unpacked. After dinner at the Cattle Baron, we had a quick briefing about the start of shooting and Neville announced that Matt would be the Captain. Everyone was fairly tired so we were glad to get back to camp and get our heads down for our first night in Bloemfontein.

### **Thursday 31**

We shot the Free State Meeting individual competitions at 300, 600 and 800 metres in the morning. Average scores were low, while the temperature was high. We broke for lunch then shot again at 900 metres where everyone suffered from the wind. We finished early and had a well-deserved break until dinner. After dinner we had dessert at an ice cream parlour in town. On return to the accommodation the highlight of the evening was Connor finding a dead dung beetle on his pillow.

### **Friday 1 April**

Got up for an early start, had breakfast and met with the SA Juniors for a friendly team match which went reasonably well as we won. After our team shoot we shot the first stage of the Scottish Sword, a prize coveted by Becky who believed that it needed to return home – unfortunately no-one managed to secure a win. Lauren received several medals at the Free State prizegiving which was followed by a braai where we chatted with the SA Juniors during a huge thunderstorm which tested the roof of our accommodation. It failed in all the rooms and dampened or soaked all the beds apart from Henry's. During the braai the power cut out twice which made the evening all the more interesting!

### **Saturday 2**

Another early start for a full day of shooting. For the majority of the shooters it was a day of team competitions but for us it was the chance to get some extra practice. The morning went well for everyone at 300, 500 and 600 metres. No-one had a bad score which made us feel that we had a grasp of the wind – or so we thought! After a lunch of fish and chips we went back to the range to shoot at 800 and 900 metres. All seemed to be going well till the last pair of firers (Tom and Lauren) got down to shoot. It was only after a couple of V bulls that they both started missing the target. We found that Tom had set his 900 metres elevation for an 800 metres shoot. Once the day's shooting had finished, we headed back to our, now drier, accommodation to clean the rifles and get ready for our official Team Dinner at the Kalahari restaurant in the Mimosa Mall. At the dinner, Henry, Tom, Bryan and Connor innocently ordered the "Cheetah burger" from the menu. Unbeknown to them it was four burgers in one! Tom and Bryan managed just about to finish the monster burger in reasonable time while Henry was

defeated at the last quarter. Connor, however, would not be beaten! We were just about to leave when he managed to wedge the last mouthful down. There was a lot of groaning on the bus journey back to camp. At the end of the dinner we formally thanked our guests and made a few presentations.

### **Sunday 3**

After a nice Sunday lie-in, the team got up and went to the Sunday church service on camp looking nice and smart in our uniforms. After this we quickly got changed and headed off to Masselspoort. On arrival at the resort we decided it was time for lunch and headed to a Sunday carvery where we were greeted by the restaurant staff with an especially warm welcome from the manager who had become fond of Simon and his teams over the years. We then decided it was time for a spot of mini-golf, CCF versus Single Service. However due to some dodgy scoring the result is still undecided. No day out for the GB U19 team would be complete without some swimming so we kitted ourselves out and got into the pool. Some of the team were more inclined to sunbathe instead, but eventually we found ourselves doing team races down the water slides or attempting to fit five people down a slide at once. For one of us all this water fun was nothing compared to the trampoline! After Connor had done numerous back and front flips, Susan wandered along and found this all too dangerous and ordered him off the trampoline immediately. In true GB U19 form we were the last to leave the resort only to head for another monstrous meal, this time at a Spur. Once fed, a happy team headed back to camp for a good night's sleep.

### **Monday 4**

It was early, really early! We needed to get to breakfast at 06:00. The reason: the opening ceremony of the SABU Meeting. We then began the SABU Championships with rock bottom scores by the whole team as we battled the fierce and alien wind that the General De Wet range offers. Highest aggregate of the day over 300, 500, and 600 metres was Henry Howard with a 99.7 out of 105.21.

In the afternoon the team had an opportunity for some long distance practice shooting with some super duper awesome ammo called PMP that everyone enjoyed using. Returning to camp, tired and stressed by the heat of the day, morale was raised by laundry. As some of the team had been wearing the same polo shirts for four days this was a big morale booster. Finishing the day we went out for a meal at an Italian restaurant called Avanti which was exquisite. It had been a packed day with a lot more to come no doubt.

### **Tuesday 5**

We started the day really early again, waking up at 06:20 for an 08:00 start. Today we shot 2ss and 10 to count at 300, 500, 600, 800 and 900 metres. This was hard work and we were all very tired by the end of it.

### **Wednesday 6**

Most of us were woken up to the sound of rain beating onto the tin roof. We decided it would be best that we



got into the Kombi and drove to breakfast, 50 metres away, because of the weather. After a lot of patience, the officials eventually decided to call off the day's shooting. However, although we were all disappointed with the cancelling of the shooting, the day didn't go to waste as we went bowling and afterwards to the mall which we all enjoyed. When we arrived back at camp we attended the first prizegiving. As soon as it was finished we ate our evening meal and went straight to bed because tomorrow was another early start.

#### **Thursday 7**

The usual 07:00 breakfast and everyone was focused for the day's matches. The team once again generally put in good scores in the morning at short range. However, South Africa's phantom winds and the fact that all the flags and mirage blatantly lied ensured that generally the afternoon's long range shoots were extremely difficult. That night after cleaning rifles the team relaxed and started focusing on the rescheduled team match that we were determined to win the next day.

#### **Friday 8**

Waking up to the normal routine, we shot the State President's Stage II in the morning. It was a fairly unsuccessful morning with Simon beating everyone quite convincingly. A 10 minute lunch and then we headed out for the RSA Junior International Match. We didn't do as well as we could have done at 300 metres but still managed to get a lead of seven points. At 600 metres the SA Juniors clawed back five but at 900 metres the wind died down a bit and we shot well gaining 12 points to win the match by 14. That night we went to bed relatively early in readiness for the next team shoot, the Junior Protea Match, in the morning.

#### **Saturday 9**

Our last day of the routine wake-up, breakfast and out onto the range for an 08:00 start. The distances were 300, 600 and 900 metres. We got off to a really good start at 300 metres, averaging a loss of one point per person which put us into a lead of five points. At 600 metres we increased our advantage to 12 points and finally at 900 metres both teams struggled, the wind was constantly changing, and the SA Juniors took three points from us. However we had done enough to win, nine points ahead of the South Africans. After the customary cheers and presentation of commemorative glasses to our opponents there was just time for collective photographs before rushing back to camp for lunch. After lunch it was time for those not competing in the State President's Final to pack before going to support Simon and Matt at 900 metres. A short presentation took place on the range to thank the range officers for all their hard work. Rushing back into camp, the last rifles were cleaned and packed away before the official prize giving at 18:00. We collected medals for both matches and the Junior Protea Match Trophy along with three individual medals and then had a farewell braai with the South African Juniors. It was time for an early night because of the very early start for the 773km journey to George the following day.

#### **Sunday 10**

We woke up nice and early at 04:00 ready to set off on our long day of driving. Along the road we stopped at Meiringspoort to climb into a mountain gorge with a waterfall with a pool at the bottom, some of the team members pleaded unsuccessfully with Simon to jump off a high rock but his firm answer was no. Just before the Outeniqua Pass through the mountain the team was amazed and slightly scared of a huge cloud enveloping the road we had to drive through. However thankfully we made it to George safely and settled into the Ou Pastorie Guesthouse before going out to dinner.

#### **Monday 11**

Today we travelled to the Congo Caves for an adventure caving expedition as well as the opportunity of experiencing more of the beauty of South Africa. We learnt about stalactites and stalagmites as well as some of the history of the cave and its discovery. One particularly difficult tunnel in the cave, nicknamed the "Devil's Chimney", was a 3m climb vertically up a 30cm diameter tunnel, which left some slightly out of breath. Following the caves we visited Congo Crocodile Ranch where we saw some South African wildlife, crocodiles, porcupines, pygmy hippos, meerkats, lemurs, vultures, bats and warthogs amongst many others. This was followed by an opportunity to pet cheetahs and white tigers which was an amazing experience that we will not forget. After visiting the souvenir shop we headed back stopping at a viewing point up in the Outeniqua Pass on the mountain drive to see the most spectacular view over George, a beautiful way to end the day. Supper was at a Turkish restaurant and was another excellent meal.

#### **Tuesday 12**

Today we set off for a nine hour drive to Kleinbaai. The journey wasn't the most exciting drive in the world as everyone fell asleep as soon as their heads hit the head rests. When we finally got to Kleinbaai, everyone got ready for our evening meal at Tolbos Bistro before we went to bed in anticipation of a day in Cape Town.

#### **Wednesday 13**

Our first morning in Kleinbaai was fairly early as we were to drive to Cape Town in order to visit Table Mountain. The sight of massive shanty towns on either side of the road en route to the mountain was definitely not something you see every day. When we got to the bottom of the mountain the cloudy skies cleared putting us in good spirits for the trip to the top. It wasn't long before we were on the cable car and on our way. We had breakfast at the top of Table Mountain and then enjoyed about an hour looking at the magnificent views around us whenever the veil of cloud rolled back. Whilst there we bumped into James Lothian, a member of GB U19 in 2007, who happened to be on holiday in South Africa and also touring the mountain at the same time as us. When we got down we drove round the coast road through Chapman's Point before cutting across to Simon's Town where we visited the Boulders penguin colony of African penguins, formerly known as Jackass penguins because of the sound they make. Out of all the crazy animals

they have in Africa, we definitely did not expect to see penguins. While the team had yet another massive lunch in Simon's Town, Neville and Susan headed off to explore the Cape of Good Hope. We ended the day with a lovely but expensive dinner on the V&A Waterfront serenaded by a fantastic local male choir.

#### **Thursday 14**

Today was our first extremely relaxing day. After waking at 09:30 (a tour record) we set off for the beach. However, the wind was horrific so we ate the food in the Kombi then braved the elements to explore the beach. The team set up camp on a small sand mound not far from the ocean. Throughout the afternoon sand crocodiles were built, holes were dug and several runs made into the freezing ocean plus Howie found a sea sponge. That evening we went for a dinner at a nice little restaurant by the sea where the food was delicious.

#### **Friday 15**

We had another relaxed start to the day then drove via the spectacular coastal route, stopping several times to admire the scenery, to the Strand, Somerset West and on to the Spiers Winery for a tasting. We tried four wines; a champagne style wine, a white, a young red and a vintage red which were all fairly good. Most of us did not really know what we were tasting so just smiled and nodded.

#### **Saturday 16**

Another late start to the day with no important plans. We headed for Danger Point lighthouse but unfortunately

found that it doesn't open on weekends, so we went straight to the Birkenhead Brewery at Stamford, for beer tasting and lunch. Simon and the team went to Hermanus for a brief shop around the market while Neville and Susan visited Cape Agulhas, the most southerly point on the continent of Africa and the place where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. We then headed back to prepare for our final dinner at the local Lighthouse Tavern. Dinner was enjoyable and the team presented Neville, Simon and Susan with their personalised, team-signed, South African flags before returning home for the final briefing and the presentation of Merits from the 'Bisley'. We headed to bed with an early start and a long, tiring day ahead of us.

#### **Sunday 17**

We were mostly up bright and early and set off to the airport. Check in was eventually achieved, and we flew to Johannesburg where we met the Burgers with our shooting equipment. Finally we were on the aircraft heading home.

#### **Monday 18**

After a good flight in a full plane we were soon through Customs with minimal fuss and on the bus to take us back to Bisley. The rifles were unpacked and soon it was time to say goodbye at the end of our adventure, a tour that we will surely remember for years.

We must end by thanking all, far too numerous to name, who made it possible. Thank you one and all for a great experience.

### **Congratulations Piet Welgemoed**



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South African  
State President's  
Prize 2010**



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# NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2010

by Colin Johnston

## **Captain**

Colin Johnston                      Ulster, Ireland, Great Britain

## **Vice-Captain**

Reg Curtis                              Buckinghamshire

## **Main Coach**

David Calvert                      Ulster, Ireland, Great Britain

## **Adjutant**

Tim Brooking                      Sussex

## **Shooters**

Mike Ball                              Sussex

Elizabeth Barr                      London

Jonny Borland                      East of Scotland, Scotland

George Cotton                      Sussex, England

Henryk Golaszewski              South Wales, Wales

Lynne Johnson                      Ulster, Ireland

Alwyn Mclean                      Ulster, Ireland, Great Britain

Ross McQuillan                      Ulster, Ireland, Great Britain

Tim Roberts                          Sussex

Matthew Stewart                      Ulster, Ireland

Over the period 25 May to 2 June 2010 the annual NRA team tour to the Channel Islands took place. A great tour was had by all and we won all our matches including a record score in the Jersey Match. Below is a short overview on how it was done.

Some say that life is a box of chocolates. But not this team. Each one was carefully selected, a sweet centre added and all perfectly packaged and presented. The policy was to create a team balanced with youth and experience from each of the four home countries and to introduce up and coming shots to international match experience.

A team engine was required and I was delighted that Reg Curtis agreed to be Vice-Captain, with David Calvert as Main Coach and Tim Brooking as Adjutant, all longstanding shooting friends of the Captain. The team received three applicants for every team place and the team was announced end of September 2009.

The team first assembled on Friday 30 April at the NLRC in order to run a corporate hospitality day, which proved a great success not only in terms of fundraising but also in establishing friendships and trust. Following the corporate day, a training weekend was conducted where the coaches set out their preferred drills and procedures with firers and plotters (which went very smoothly from the onset) and these were to keep us in good stead for our forthcoming matches (and indeed was praised by several of the opposition team captains).

Point drills and shooter-coach-plotter combinations experimented with, all team members then competed in the afternoon short range competitions of the Army Open as individuals with some early team member

successes, (maybe an early indicator of things to come?) before our first formal team tour briefing and dinner in the NLRC. On Sunday 2 May a friendly match against the NLRC was arranged in order to put into practice team drills and to put the team under competition pressure for the first time. The match was to be Queen's II conditions but after torrential rain at the end of the 300 yards detail both captains agreed that the most humane thing to do would be to skip the 500 yards range and move directly back to 600 yards. With very wet weather lessons learnt and team camaraderie becoming evident we gained our first match win.

As with any tour we wanted to keep costs to a minimum and we ran two corporate days, produced a team brochure selling advertising space within and also sold direct sponsorship via company logos on our team kit. This activity kept team members busy and involved in the run up to the tour and helped further enable team bonding and friendships prior to the short tour.

The tour officially commenced on Tuesday 25 May at Bisley. Unfortunately Ross was unable to take part in the tour due to work commitments. However there were claims of sightings on both islands by team members of a bloke with a green hat and a ginger beard who seemed to take the blame for certain things. During the morning, the team went through score card plotting training delivered by David (which was to save many points in the week ahead). It was interesting to note the wide spectrum of plotting techniques used by the team members and the technique presented by David was to be used throughout the tour (and I hope by individuals still!) and became known affectionately by the team as the Reverse Dot Plot Theorem (RDPT).

Brand new team kit was issued and, following quick disappearances by all to change, the team proudly assembled on the firing point at 300 yards in the brand new kit to compete in the now annual pre-tour match against the LMRA. Match conditions were Queens II with best ten scores to count. The NRA fielded 11 firers against 13 from the LMRA captained by Gary Alexander.

With light wind conditions and bright sunshine, good scores looked certainly achievable by both teams and it was time for the team now to show what they were made of. We opted for two dedicated coaches each assisted by a plotter (rotated amongst the team) and a firer on the point either side of each coach thereby allowing pilot shots, if required, and facilitating the ability of a very quick team routine and with the entire team totally kept busy and involved in the competition at all times. After 300 yards we were 10 points off



against the LMRA's 19 so we had a small but healthy lead falling back to 500 yards. By the completion of the 500 yards detail we had increased our lead to 12 points. Though in the lead the Captain knew that the team could do better and, following a short brief before the 600 yards detail, the team put in a very good score only dropping four points.

The LMRA laid on a very fine dinner in our honour that evening, team mementos were exchanged and team Captain speeches given, Gary definitely winning the longevity speech competition!

On Wednesday the team boarded minibuses to Poole harbour, sailed to St Peter Port in Guernsey and settled in at the Cobo Bay Hotel on the north-west of the island which was fairly close to the range. A good team meal was had with maybe a taster or two of the fizzy stuff allowed as an incentive of more to come if matches were won. Thursday was billed as Strategic Team Building Module I which involved a walk and talk on the Fort Le Marchant range (the range being navigated to by two military personnel, three Blackberry sat navs and a hotel napkin sketched map), some free time in the afternoon and an informal, and fantastic, meal with members of the Guernsey Rifle Club on Herm organised by Nick Mace of Guernsey.

On Friday the individual competitions took place. Following warm and sunny weather to date the team

arrived on the range (via a new route navigated to by the two military personnel, three Blackberry sat navs and hotel napkin sketched map) to grey skies and a light but persistent drizzle. Two and ten shots over 300, 500 and 600 yards ensued and some excellent performances were put in by the team prior to team selection for the Guernsey Match on the Saturday morning. Top places in the individual competitions were:

#### Grand Aggregate

Jory P	(GRC)	198.26
Cotton G	(NRA)	198.25
Calvert D	(NRA)	198.24

#### Parker Tankard

		300	600	Total	Tie
Borland J	(NRA)	50.9	50.6	100.15	24.2
Cotton G	(NRA)	50.6	50.9	100.15	22.2
Jory P	(GRC)	50.7	50.7	100.14	

#### Guernsey Can

		300	500	Total
Calvert D	(NRA)	49.6	50.5	99.11
Mace N	(GRC)	50.10	48.7	98.17
Jory P	(GRC)	48.6	50.6	98.12

Following the individual competitions 'The Executive Team' (Captain, Vice-Captain, Coach, Adjutant and 'Experienced Seasoned Hand' Alwyn) adjourned to



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"Lynne have you ordered an ice bucket for tonight?"



"Is it my birthday today or tomorrow?" Tim Roberts ponders.



Glorious weather and setting at Fort Le Marchant range.



The Guernsey Match - ready to go!



The team and friends from Guernsey Rifle Club.



The Jersey Match - team drills now well oiled.



The team after the Jersey Match. Job done!



We did it! Do you think the Captain will let us out tonight?





The moonlit ferry back from Herm to St Peter Port proved too much for some!

the hotel to make the team selection for the Guernsey Match.

As the team needed to sail to Jersey on Saturday evening to compete in the Jersey individual short range competitions (which commenced on Sunday afternoon) the Guernsey Rifle Club kindly hosted a formal meal for both teams on the eve of the match. An excellent time was had by all (the NRA Captain even keeping his speech to less than three minutes thereby knocking the majority of the team out of the spread bet on its duration – the ‘secret’ given away by much focussing on watches and nodding!) and with the match looming in the morning the team retired for an early night (relatively speaking).

### The Guernsey Match

The morning of the Guernsey Match was overcast with strong south-westerly winds, an interesting match lay ahead!

With a strong wind blowing over our shoulders flicking between 5 and 8 o'clock the coaches were kept very busy from the off. The wind conditions remained very difficult for the entire match and this was reflected in the scores made by both teams. After 300 yards we were a few points up but at 500 yards Guernsey had pulled back and taken a one point lead

JRA v NRA 2010				
	100	200	300	600
H. GOLASZEWSKI	50 <sup>8</sup>	50 <sup>7</sup>	50 <sup>7</sup>	150 <sup>22</sup>
G. COTTON	49 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>9</sup>	50 <sup>8</sup>	148 <sup>22</sup>
M. STEWART	50 <sup>7</sup>	50 <sup>10</sup>	49 <sup>4</sup>	149 <sup>21</sup>
A. McLEAN	49 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>5</sup>	50 <sup>9</sup>	148 <sup>20</sup>
J. BORLAND	49 <sup>7</sup>	49 <sup>7</sup>	50 <sup>7</sup>	148 <sup>21</sup>
L. JOHNSON	48 <sup>5</sup>	50 <sup>4</sup>	50 <sup>5</sup>	148 <sup>14</sup>
T. ROBERTS	50 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>7</sup>	50 <sup>5</sup>	149 <sup>19</sup>
R. CURTIS	49 <sup>6</sup>	50 <sup>8</sup>	50 <sup>7</sup>	149 <sup>21</sup>
	394 <sup>49</sup>	396 <sup>56</sup>	399 <sup>52</sup>	1189 <sup>159</sup>
RESERVES: F. BARR	49 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>7</sup>	49 <sup>6</sup>	147 <sup>17</sup>
M. BALL	50 <sup>4</sup>	50 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>5</sup>	149 <sup>15</sup>
CAPT: C. JOHNSTON	99 <sup>10</sup>	99 <sup>13</sup>	98 <sup>10</sup>	296 <sup>33</sup>
COACHES: D. CALVERT				

The record winning Jersey Match score board.

before falling back to 600 yards. At 600 yards we dug in and thanks to our coaches, plotting and team drills managed to pull back into the lead to take the match by six points.

### NRA

Cotton G	143.16
Golaszewski H	144.13
Stewart M	145.13
McLean A	143.13
Borland J	141.12
Barr E	140.07
Roberts T	142.11
Ball M	141.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1139.93</b>

### Pairs

Johnson L	139.10
Curtis R	140.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>279.24</b>

### GRC

Perkins R	143.15
Mace N	140.14
Waters R	146.14
Goubert P	143.15
Ogier N	144.12
Ogier P	142.08
Cushing R	136.10
Jory P	139.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1133.98</b>

### Pairs

Creber M	142.08
Collas O	141.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>283.19</b>

After the match Guernsey provided a magnificent buffet lunch in their smart clubhouse on the range. Prizes presented, a memento group photograph of both teams taken and we were off to catch the early evening ferry. The Guernsey phase of the tour was over.

Arriving in Jersey, the team were met by the JRA President Cliff Mallett who guided us to our hotel where down time was welcomed by all.

The following morning, with kit dried out, the team headed to Crabbe range in the north-west of the island to acclimatise with the range. Here we met with the Barbarians team and the Jersey RA members who had been competing in their Spring Meeting which began with long range shooting at Les Landes range. We had entered the JRA short range individual competitions, Crabbe III (2ss and 10 at 200 and 500 yards) which took place on the Sunday afternoon and Crabbe IV (2ss and 10 at 300 and 600 yards) on the Monday morning.

On Sunday afternoon conditions were fair with light left-handed winds and bright sunshine which led to some good scores being posted with only two points separating the top ten shooters of which six were NRA team members.

### Crabbe III

1	Norman M	JRA	50.09	50.09	100.18
2	Curtis R	NRA	50.07	50.08	100.15
3	Richardson D	JRA	50.05	50.09	100.14
4	Borland J	NRA	50.07	50.07	100.14
5	Calvert D	NRA	50.08	50.05	100.13
6	Golaszewski H	NRA	50.08	50.05	100.13
7	Stewart M	NRA	50.09	49.06	99.15
8	Mallett C	JRA	49.08	50.06	99.14
9	Roberts T	NRA	50.07	49.04	99.11
10	Langley W	JRA	49.08	49.06	98.14

Based on the shoots to date the team executive announced the team selection for the Monday afternoon. The selection ensured that every team member got to shoot in at least one of the matches.

On Monday the conditions were much the same as the previous day which set the scene for more good scoring for the Crabbe IV competition with one point separating the top ten scores of which five were NRA team members.

### Crabbe IV

1	Johnston C	NRA	50.08	50.08	100.16
2	Langley W	JRA	50.09	50.07	100.16
3	Calvert D	NRA	50.05	50.09	100.14
4	McLean A	NRA	50.06	50.08	100.14
5	Harris G	JRA	50.07	50.07	100.14
6	Benest R	JRA	50.07	50.07	100.14
7	Golaszewski H	NRA	50.06	50.07	100.13
8	Norman M	JRA	50.06	50.06	100.12
9	Cotton G	NRA	50.05	50.05	100.10
10	Le Cheminant B	JRA	49.08	50.09	99.17

Five of the team appeared in the top ten of the Short Range Aggregate with Mary Norman of JRA and David and Henryk scoring commendable 200 ex 200 over the four short ranges .

### The Short Range Aggregate – the Miss Edna Parker Cup

1	Norman M	JRA	100.18	100.12	200.30
2	Calvert D	NRA	100.13	100.14	200.27
3	Golaszewski H	NRA	100.13	100.13	200.26
4	Richardson D	JRA	100.14	99.16	199.30
5	Curtis R	NRA	100.15	99.13	199.28
6	Langley W	JRA	98.14	100.16	198.30
7	Borland J	NRA	100.14	98.15	198.29
8	Stewart M	NRA	99.15	98.15	197.30
9	Le Cheminant B	JRA	98.11	99.17	197.28
10	Mallett C	JRA	99.14	98.13	197.27

### The Jersey Match

Light 7 o'clock winds and bright sunlight meant that the excellent weather conditions continued for the Jersey Match. The NRA team got off to good start with a small two point lead after 300 yards. After 500 yards Jersey had clawed a point back and it was really all to play for at 600 yards. Prior to Message One being given at 600 yards a team huddle was formed at the

back of the raised firing point at 600 yards and words were said by the Captain. The team responded to the rally and put in a brilliant score at 600 yards only one point being dropped over the course of fire to win the match by five points and set a new record score for the competition. Elated at the record win and winning all our matches from our first day's training the die was cast for a celebration!

In the evening the JRA hosted an excellent reception for all. Speeches made, trophies presented, wins acknowledged and it was time to let our hair down. And that's all I have to say about that!

### NRA

**Captain: Colin Johnston**

**Coaches: David Calvert, Tim Brooking**

	300	500	600	Agg
Golaszewski H	50.8	50.7	50.7	150.22
Curtis R	49.6	50.8	50.7	149.21
Stewart M	50.7	50.10	49.4	149.21
Roberts T	50.6	49.7	50.5	149.18
Cotton G	49.6	49.8	50.8	148.22
Borland J	49.7	49.7	50.7	148.21
McLean A	49.6	49.5	50.9	148.20
Johnson L	48.5	50.4	50.5	148.14
	<b>394.51</b>	<b>396.56</b>	<b>399.52</b>	<b>1189.157</b>

### Reserve Pair

Ball M	50.4	50.6	49.5	149.15
Barr E	49.6	49.7	49.6	147.19
	<b>99.10</b>	<b>99.13</b>	<b>98.11</b>	<b>296.34</b>

### JRA

**Captain: Mike Cottilard**

**Coaches: Colin Mallett, Alex Langley**

	300	500	600	Agg
Jones I	50.8	50.6	50.8	150.22
Benest R	50.7	50.7	49.7	149.21
Richardson D	49.5	49.7	50.8	148.20
Le Cheminant B	48.6	50.4	50.9	148.19
Norman M	48.4	50.7	50.8	148.19
Langley W	48.2	50.7	50.7	148.16
Thompson B	50.5	49.8	48.5	147.18
Cottilard M	49.5	49.6	48.4	146.15
	<b>392.42</b>	<b>397.52</b>	<b>395.56</b>	<b>1184.150</b>

### Reserve Pair

Harris G	49.5	49.7	50.4	148.16
Smith R	49.5	49.1	45.2	143.08
	<b>98.10</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>291.24</b>

The following day was deemed Strategic Team Building Module II with a fun morning on the Jersey Pistol Club range, more medals, a last team lunch, a bit of shopping and then it was time to catch the overnight ferry to Portsmouth. The tour was over. From the start, over a year and a half earlier in selecting the team, to returning to Bisley having been an unbeaten team was a satisfying feeling. Job done.



## BRITISH SHOOTING SPORTS COUNCIL

Not only do the National Governing Bodies for shooting lobby legislators, but so does the British Shooting Sports Council. It is an organisation which comprises ten shooting related organisations, the prime purpose of which is to monitor and influence legislation across a wide range of subject matters – not just the Firearms Acts as we know it. Examples of its activity cover Arms Trade Treaty and other UN issues, EU legislation, Health and Safety, Office of Rail Regulation, and the World Forum on the future of Sports Shooting to name just a few. Detailed below are the notes issued by David Penn (Secretary of the BSSC) of meetings with James Brokenshire, the Home Office Minister responsible for firearms legislation:

“Since the considerable flurry of activity leading up to the publication of the Home Affairs Select Committee’s report on firearms control and the House of Commons debate, both of which occurred on 20 December, there has been little visible political activity, in part because of the Coroner’s inquest into the shootings, which did not report until 25 March, but meetings were held with James Brokenshire, to discuss issues highlighted in the report. The Countryside Alliance attended a meeting with the Minister on 14 February, while BSSC, BASC, GTA and the NRA met him on 22 February. Concern was expressed about the resurrection of a number of long-standing ACPO proposals which were irrelevant to the circumstances of the Cumbria

shootings and about the impact of financial cuts on firearms licensing. The main points to come out of the discussion were:

### **Grants and renewals of firearm and shot gun certificates**

On ‘postal’ or ‘telephone’ renewals, despite the NRA’s advocacy of a more selective approach to target applicants about whom concern had arisen, James Brokenshire stuck to his recently expressed stance that all renewals should involve a home visit and interview.

### **Section 1 controls on shotguns**

The Minister made it clear that no decision had been reached on this and he was looking carefully at issues of commonality. We questioned whether the police could deliver, given the number of shotguns involved, but did indicate that there was room for an improvement in efficiency through the introduction of a single form of certificate which would however preserve the present differentiation between firearms and shotguns. We also pressed the case for treating Section 1 firearms more like shotguns.

### **GP involvement**

We expressed our continuing concern over proportionality and especially over confidentiality. James Brokenshire indicated that ACPO and the BMA had agreed to a system which amounted to a prompt

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to GPs to respond if they felt it necessary. The Minister also made it clear that any future move to put an 'enduring marker' on the medical record would be the subject of further discussion.

### Fees

We indicated in some detail our concerns at the inefficiency of the present system, the lack of national standards, the lack of any proper scrutiny since 1991, our view that the shooter should pay only for the core licensing costs, not that part of the process concerned with public safety, and the need to make use when necessary of Temporary Permits at renewal to avoid putting the certificate holder outside the law. Our unhappiness with the recent initial ACPO fees paper was made clear. James Brokenshire stated that the NPIA (National Policing Improvement Agency) was looking at the efficiency of a number of police forces, that it was still relatively early days in the fees discussion, that he would look at the final report from ACPO and that he would have full regard to Treasury Guidelines. He also made it clear that he would be seeking full cost recovery.

### Deactivation and blank firers

On deactivation, our strong concern was expressed that the evidence on which NABIS (National

Ballistics Intelligence Service) had based its claim regarding reactivation was not available to us and the Minister indicated that he appreciated the point and was working with NABIS to make information more widely available. He did accept the heritage and collector aspects. We pressed the point that upgrading to 2011 standards was not a practicable option and alternatives would have to be considered if the evidence justified action. With regard to blank firers the existing national and European legislative safeguards were explained, but the Minister indicated that he was still looking to introduce manufacturing specifications and subsequent Type Approval mechanisms.

### Ages

We pressed the point that there was no evidence of any problem with young shooters and supervised shooting and explained the need to involve shooters at a very early age if the United Kingdom was to be successful at World and Olympic levels, a point the Minister took. We stressed that the person supervising was the best judge of the suitability of young children to handle firearms. The Minister indicated that he was still considering the matter and favoured greater clarity with regard to ages.

### Approved clubs

The desirability of approving clubs for all Section 11 firearms to enable proper safe handling instruction was emphasised, as was ACPO's support for such a change.

### Section 11(4) miniature ranges

The need to maintain the widely-used 11(4) exemption was explained. The change of definition of a miniature rifle included in the proposed RRO was raised and the opportunity taken to press for progress on the RRO proposed by ACPO, which had BSSC's support. The Minister stated that he would give 11(4) further consideration.

Following the meeting, the BSSC sent a further letter to the Minister on the specific issues raised when a police force had not renewed a firearm certificate or shot gun certificate before the current certificate expired.

BSSC and BASC have continued to contribute to the consideration by ACPO and the British Medical Association of further involvement of General Practitioners in the firearms licensing process and BSSC has appointed a medical adviser to represent its interests.

The Government's response to the Home Affairs Committee's Report is now expected in the 'early summer'. The Coroner's report focused on the significant procedural and communications problems between the police and the ambulance service rather than firearms issues and passed no judgements on firearms controls."

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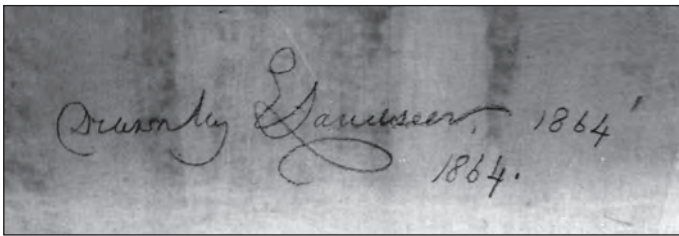
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# SPORTING RIFLE

by Steve Wallis

Far, far away, in a corner on the west side of Camp, past Stickledown and past Melville even, lies what are known variously as the 'Running Deer' or 'Sporting Rifle' ranges. In fact, the home of the British Sporting Rifle Club not only contains the Running Deer range, but also two Running Boar ranges and a static Sporting Rifle range, not to mention the clubhouse of course.

Anyone not sure what the Running Deer targets might look like need look no further than the two large white painted deer positioned outside the main NRA building – the marks on these leave you in no doubt that they are the genuine item. If you venture inside the NRA building you will find an even more important piece of history in the form of a table cloth on which is drawn the original Landseer sketch for the Running Deer target.



So what is Running Deer shooting then? Well, if you've not done it before the simple answer is challenging and very addictive! Although once an Olympic shooting event, Running Deer alas is no longer shot in formal International, or even European, competitions. However, that is not to say it is not a well-supported discipline or that it is not shot by enthusiastic shooters in various countries. The UK is certainly one of these countries where Running Deer, and for that matter Running Boar and 10m moving target, shooting is very much alive and well.

As the name suggests, the Deer target runs back and forth on rails some 100 metres away from the shooter. The idea being that during the four seconds, or thereabouts, that the target is visible crossing a 23 metres gap between two walls, the shooter fires

one or, depending on the competition, two shots at it. Shooting is from a standing position and no rests or aids are used other than a shooting jacket. Whilst like most shooting sports, rifles used can be pretty specialised, there are variations on the discipline that allow it to be shot with normal scope-sighted sporting type centre-fire rifles. The serious shooters, however, typically use either .222R or .223R calibre rifles and often customise these to meet their needs whilst complying with the various rules and criteria, laid down by the Nordic Shooting Region, under which the events are shot.

The typical course of fire for Running Deer is four sighting shots, non convertible, followed by twenty shots to count for Singles and eight sighting shots, again non-convertible, followed by twenty shots to count for the Doubles. As the name implies, the Doubles require the shooter to fire two shots on each pass of the target – that is two shots in four seconds at a target doing nearly 6 metres per second (that's just under 21km an hour or about 13mph) at 100 metres. There are variations on this but these are the two that competitors entering the British Running Deer Championships, held during the Imperial Meeting each year, will shoot. In fact they will shoot two series of each over the two days of the competition. NRA trophies are awarded for both the singles and doubles events and there are also two aggregate trophies awarded too. Although all these trophies have their own individual history, one of the aggregate trophies has only recently been brought back into circulation after having been found in a very sorry state at an auction and subsequently been presented by the family of the original recipient, who won it back in 1914, in memory of their father and grandfather. Indeed the family were not only in attendance but also made the presentation of this trophy when it was awarded at the Prizegiving in 2007, 93 years after it was first awarded.

As well as the Championships themselves, there is also an unlimited entry competition held during the





Imperial Meeting. This is shot over First Thursday and Friday and again on Second Monday and Tuesday. Competitors have two non-convertible sighting shots followed by ten shots to count, HPS is fifty and the highest score recorded each week is awarded an NRA Gold Medal. Being an unlimited entry event, competitors can enter as many times as they wish and there is often a fair amount of competition, especially during the first week, to win the Gold Medal. Anyone wanting to try their hand at the 'Unlimiteds' this year is encouraged to do so; you don't even need to have a suitable rifle yourself as these will be available and ammunition for them can be purchased on the firing point. Entries are taken on the day so there is no need to enter in advance, all you need to do is turn up and identify yourself, show your Certificate of Safety and Competence etc and if you're lucky one of the BSRC's experienced coaches, and very probably a former or current British Champion to boot, will even show you what to do.

The British Running Deer Championships and the Unlimiteds are all organised and run by the British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) and its members. The Club was founded in 1962 to safeguard the sport of Running Deer shooting and is now a popular club with a membership consisting of those who actively participate in moving target shooting, with centre-fire, rim-fire and air rifles; those who use the static targets to improve their shooting abilities in pursuit of deer and other quarry species; and those who simply enjoy using their kit to shoot at static targets.

The BSRC is a friendly and an active club and enshrined in its Constitution are a number of objectives which ensure that every effort is made to promote moving target shooting and also use of the sporting rifle for target and field shooting. There is an active shooting calendar with monthly matches and range days on weekends as well as range days on weekdays. In addition the BSRC holds two major matches for Club members each year, one in the spring the other in the autumn, as well as a number

of other annual matches. As well as the annual British Running Deer Championship, described above, the BSRC also organises and runs the British Running Boar Championship which takes place during the NSRA Smallbore Meeting in August.

Twice a year the BSRC also holds interclub competitions. These are friendly affairs where teams from affiliated clubs (there are some 16 or so clubs affiliated to BSRC at present including the NRA Shooting Club) are invited to submit teams of three or four people to shoot for nothing other than the honour of winning for their club. Whilst it has long been a tradition that the BSRC Range Officers, who hand over their duties later in the afternoon so they can shoot, win these events it looks like this might be set to change with some serious shooters now taking part for the honour of their club.



As well as encouraging affiliated clubs to enter competitions on the Running Deer ranges, the Club also shoots in a challenge match with one of its affiliated clubs, Leatherhead Rifle Club, each September. The match is based around static sporting targets which are shot under typical quarry shooting conditions with the winning club being decided on an aggregate score. The competition, whilst remaining friendly, is taken very seriously!

As part of their efforts to maintain and promote the sport of moving target shooting following the dropping of the last moving target event from the Olympics and the demise of the Nordic Shooting Region senior events, both of which sadly ended some years back, the BSRC has been involved in a number of initiatives which have resulted in 'postal' (nowadays e-mail and internet based) competitions being shot with teams and individuals in various countries in Europe, Scandinavia and further afield. BSRC members are currently competing in the International Austrian Internet League shooting in the 50m Running Boar events. This is the second year that club members have participated in this league and follows on from more informal postal events that have been shot with clubs and associations in Austria and Germany. Back at the beginning of April this year BSRC members shot their half of a friendly Running Boar match



against members of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association who had shot their half during their Annual Meeting in mid-March. Both sides are keen to continue shooting against each other so hopefully this will become another regular feature.

Continuing the theme of fostering international friendships, and hopefully increasing the awareness of and participation in moving target shooting, the BSRC ranges recently played host to a team of South African shooters who came over to Bisley to take part in the Phoenix Meeting. Having flown overnight from South Africa and arrived only that morning to be greeted by strong winds and a typical 'clearing up shower' at lunchtime, these guys had their first experiences of moving target shooting as guests of their host club and after a bit of instruction from one of the BSRC coaches were turning in some pretty respectable scores. At the end of the afternoon there were smiles all round and their team coach was busy taking photographs of the moving target ranges and trying to work out where he could get one built when he got home. Hopefully more converts to what is both a fun and challenging sport.

Probably one of the most successful relationships that has been made since the demise of moving target shooting in the Olympics and the changes to the Nordics has been that established between BSRC and the Norwegian Shooting Association. During the first week of June the club hosted the fifth exchange visit between it and members of various Norwegian moving target shooting clubs. This was the third time that a Norwegian contingent has visited Bisley since 2007, with BSRC sending members over to Norway to shoot in the alternate years. This year BSRC welcomed not only the President of the Norwegian Shooting Association, Jan Tore Berg-Knutsen, but was especially pleased to be joined by two junior shooters who showed some of our home-grown seniors a trick or two! Whilst not a junior when he visited in 2009, one young Norwegian shooter went on that year to win their National Running Moose competition, beating

several of the seniors who had been with him on his visit as well as a host of other much older and more experienced shooters too. Starting them young is obviously the way to go.

In addition to the short range (100 and 200 yards) statics shooting and the moving target shooting, what else do members of the BSRC shoot? Well, don't be surprised if you spot one or two of them shooting TR in the Imperial Meeting because as well as proving they can shoot upright, several of them are pretty adept at the prone stuff too. Perhaps because like moving target shooting there is limited time in which to take the shot, or perhaps simply because they enjoy the challenge, several BSRC members are also notable by their inclusion in the prize list for the McQueen competition held during the Imperial Meeting. In fact one is so keen on it he has sponsored a significant, and as yet unclaimed, cash prize for an aggregate of wins. In 2010 BSRC members accounted for one first place, two second places, one third place and no fewer than eighteen HPS crosses in the various McQueen classes. We'll have to wait and see what 2011 brings but if the interest is anything like that shown in previous years there will hopefully be the odd BSRC member listed in the results this year too.

Outside of the formal competitions, over the last five or six years a small, but growing, number of members have got involved in long range shooting and the club now holds a minimum of two events each year on both Century and Stickledown where competitions are held for fun and with the main challenge being to see who can read the wind properly – especially when shooting on 'Magpie Alley' or in the lee of the trees on the left hand side of the 1200 yards firing points on Stickledown. Now that makes shooting the Running Deer seem relatively easy!

If you are interested in the Running Deer or sporting rifle shooting in general then why not pop down to see what's going on over 14 to 19 July, or get in touch with the BSRC Secretary to find out more – [secretary@bsrc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@bsrc.co.uk)





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# LONDON AND MIDDLESEX IN WEST INDIES – AGAIN!

*by Phil Harrison*

The story so far. In 2008 the LMRA sent a team to the West Indies (NRA Journal Spring 2009). Paul Charlton asked the team to look out for and help the newly formed Antiguan Rifle Team. Contact was duly made and in 2009 a further LMRA Team went to the West Indies and provided a week of coaching for the Antiguan, followed by the participation in the WI Championships in Trinidad (NRA Journal Winter 2009). At the end of the Championships the Antiguan took everyone by surprise by announcing a bid to hold the WI Championships in 2010! Would the new boys succeed? Now read on . . .

Given the need to select the Territories' Commonwealth Games Pairs in 2010 following a championship held on a range with long distances, the Antiguan bid was accepted but only for 2011 as the newly refurbished Antiguan Range at Crabbs runs to 600 yards only. Dick Winney and Phil Harrison who had conducted the 2009 training week decided that it would be a good idea to go and support our Antiguan friends' debut as hosts to the WI Regional Championships, and we were joined by David Robinson from the original 2008 and 2009 teams. The London and Middlesex RA were kind enough to accredit this mini-team as an LMRA Team. As in previous years, the team was accompanied by wives Helen Winney, Jenny Harrison and Joan Robinson.

The team left Gatwick on 23 April landing in Barbados the same afternoon after an uneventful flight. Debbie Skinner and Brian Hennis of the Barbados RA were on hand to see us to our hotel and to take the rifles into secure custody and our thanks are due to them for their efficient and cheerful help. There followed a week of holiday and acclimatisation with a couple of practice shoots on Paragon Range to put us into fine(-ish) fettle for Antigua. Dick and Helen took a day out to watch the West Indies cricket team go down to another defeat by Pakistan in a one-day international at the Kensington Oval while David and Phil went to practice at Paragon and renew acquaintance with the monstrous HARP Guns nearby

(it is hoped to produce an article for a future Journal on this fascinating project). We were also invited to visit the small-bore and pistol ranges at Waterford where a vigorously-contested set of IPSC pistol matches was underway. We were introduced to the shovel-carrying Range Officer and the presentation of prize loo-rolls, both designed to inhibit the shooting of sh\*t by the contestants. This was to prove prophetic . . . The irony of the visit to Barbados was that while the UK continued to enjoy wall-to-wall sunshine, it managed to rain every single day though, fortunately, not enough seriously to inhibit our activities. Above all, it did not prevent the wives waking the husbands at 04:00 for the Royal Wedding on TV. Thank goodness, the hotel cable carried BBC TV World Service: CNN was dire!

On May Day we transferred from a wet Barbados, via an even wetter Dominica to a dry (at last!) Antigua. Our flight was delayed for nearly two hours which paled into insignificance compared with the six and a half hours for the Jamaicans. Howsoever, on Monday morning we all paraded for the practice day at Crabbs Range. In 2008, the year before our first visit, the range comprised a number of fixed targets on a derelict gallery range marked by an individual walking along the mantlet after a volley of single shots. In 2009, the Antiguan had managed to install eight target frames of which six were fully operational. But this time were greeted with a fully functioning twelve target range well capable of hosting the WI Regional Championship, complete with well grassed firing points, refurbished mantlet and well constructed butt stop. This has been achieved purely through self-help by the couple of dozen Antigua and Barbuda RA members who shoot fullbore and serves as a remarkable example of what can be achieved by an enterprising group of club members.

Three days of individual competition followed. Dick Winney was far and away the most competitive of the three LMRA shooters, coming an extremely respectable ninth in the Grand Aggregate (454.36) taking two third



The Opening Shot.



Crabbs Range Antigua.





Dick Winney advises the Trinidadians

and one second places in individual single range shoots on the way. David's progress was thrown into some disarray with a marked miss which was seen to have struck the target satisfactorily and Phil suffered an even worse fate scoring a magnificent zero at 600 yards having been well in the right place immediately previously at 500 yards. This conundrum was never solved although a strip-and-reassemble yielded a rifle firing a mere minute higher and three to the right of the previous zero. For this singular feat he was rewarded by his team mates, in true Barbadian style, with 50 sheets of best puppy-soft Andrex, designated 'bottom-prize'. The Grand Aggregate was won by Norris Gomez who went down last detail believing that he needed – and getting – a 50 at 600 yards on the tight ICFRA target in use in WI. This is the sign of a true 'Hard Man' and Norris (469.39) was a worthy winner ahead of Justin Lall (Trinidad and Tobago) (467.33) and Ransford Goodluck (Guyana) (464.32).

There were too few LMRA shooters to take part in the teams of four but there were also too few Bermudans so a scratch 'London and Bermudasex' team was formed for the purpose. Phil coached Dick and David for LMRA and guest Canadian Serge Bissonnette coached Sinclair Rayner and Nelson Simons for Bermuda. Unfortunately Dick was feeling the heat and not at his best and David parked a bull sighter on the next door target, so preventing what would have been a valuable conversion, with the result that the



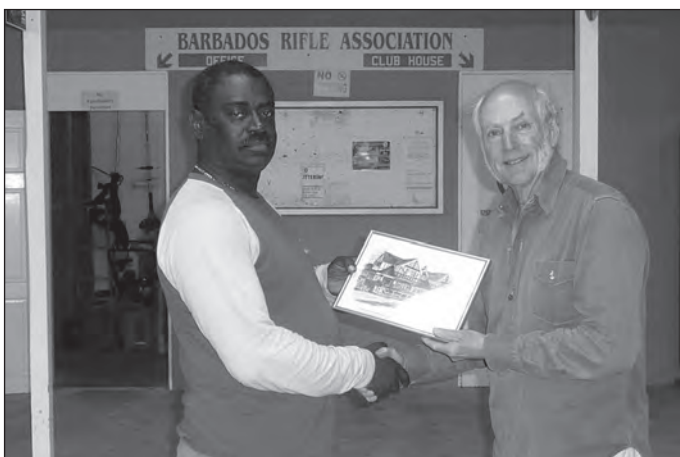
Dick and David prepare.

team did not challenge for honours. Winners were Jamaica A with 404.27 and in eighth London and Bermudasex with 373.25 (Robinson 99.7, Rayner 98.7, Winney 95.9, Simons 85.2).

On the final day Jamaica (1127.67) managed to upset the normally all-conquering Guyanan team (1125.74), helped by a Guyanan cross-shot to count, to win the WI Team Championship by two points. The Antiguan (1106.65) beat Barbados (1074.38) to come fourth, to record their best team score to date (despite the introduction of the harder ICFRA target), and to start to close in on the third-best territory, Trinidad (1109.64).

Proceedings closed with a magnificent prizegiving dinner in the Presidential Suite of the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium, at which the common consensus was that Antiguan shooting – and match management – had 'come of age' such that they could stand tall as the fifth WI FBR shooting territory on equal terms with the other four. A magnificent achievement having started from scratch barely five years ago!

There remained only a day at the beach and the day of the flight. Having held off (just) for the shooting, the rain arrived from Barbados – quite torrentially so on the final day – diverting our inbound flight to St Lucia. After a three hour delay – back to England for some sunshine!



LMRA presentation to Barbados.



The Team.

# 150 YEARS OF THE ASHBURTON SHIELD

by Ted Molyneux

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1861 when the NRA was in its infancy, one of the early competitions introduced that year was called the Public Schools Prize for which the third Baron Ashburton had presented a shield-shaped trophy then valued at £140. This competition was "open to all public schools having unenrolled Volunteer Corps" and was a team competition of 11 per team. Each competitor was to fire five shots at each distance, being 200 yards "off the shoulder" and 500 yards "in the Hythe Position" with rifles as used in the schools.

In that first year only three schools shot, being Eton, Harrow and Rugby, which resulted in a win for Rugby who were using Hay muzzle loaders.

Commencing in 1862, the competition was given the title, as it is known to this day, as the Ashburton Shield competition in honour of the donor of the splendid trophy. That year Marlborough entered, to be joined by Winchester and Cheltenham in 1863 when the type of rifle changed to the .577" calibre Long Enfield muzzle loader. Rossall entered in 1867 and Derby in 1869. For 1864 the rifle had again changed to the Navy 5-groove muzzle loader which was in use to 1870. In 1871 the .577" calibre Snider breech-loader was introduced and continued in use to 1884. Then came the .577" / .450" Martini-Henry to 1896 by which time shooting had ceased at Wimbledon in 1889.

The year 1874 saw Charterhouse enter the fray with Clifton, Whitgift, Dulwich and Glenalmond shooting in 1878 and now the size of the teams was reduced to eight members.

The first competition on the new Bisley ranges saw the numbers of competing schools rise to 21 with Charterhouse winning, having also won the previous and last competition at Wimbledon. There followed wins in 1891, 1892, 1895, 1896, 1898 and 1902 proving Charterhouse to be very strong indeed, especially as they had already won in 1882 and 1883!

In 1897 the first magazine .303" calibre rifle appeared which would have been the Long Lee-Metford. Much superior to the Martini-Henry, it marked an immediate improvement on the scores.

The number of entrants reached 57 in 1908 and around that time vernier adjustable aperture backsights were allowed.

World War I caused a four year break but the match restarted in 1919. There were 40 entries with a win for Winchester.

By 1922 the Long Lee rifle had been superseded by the Short Magazine Lee Enfield and the ball Mk VII cartridge. Scores continued to improve and 86 schools competed in 1932.

Then came World War II and another break in the matches; this time for six years. The restart in 1946 saw

only 58 schools compete due largely to the disruptions of the War. However, this soon increased and soon was over 100.

The year 1983 saw the introduction of the 7.62mm NATO calibre government rifles which were used to 1994, when they were replaced by the L98 A1 Cadet GP rifle used to 1999. In 2000 the rifle used was the L81 A2 Ashburton rifle.

Today the conditions of the match are as follows:

*Open to one team of eight from any UK or Channel Island contingent of the CCF or from any UK or Channel Island unit of the SCC, ACF or ATC providing such unit is open only to members of the school from which the cadets are drawn and that the school is affiliated to the NRA. Each competitor must be, or have been during the summer term of the current year: (a) a pupil at the school, and (b) on the strength of the cadet contingent.*

*Dress Uniform.*

*Distances 300, 500 and 600 yards.*

*No of shots Two sighting shots and seven to count per firer at each distance.*

The past 20 years have shown Epsom College as the most successful with Sedbergh, Uppingham, Stamford and Dollar Academy all securing wins in what has become a keenly contested and high-scoring competition.

Last year 32 schools competed, which is disappointingly down on more than a hundred in the 1960s, but times change and ill-informed public opinion has not helped to increase the popularity of shooting in all its forms.

The Ashburton is often the introduction to the world of rifle shooting for many young persons who, one hopes, will continue to enjoy the sport long after they have left school. Long may it continue.





# LONG RANGE SHOOTING WITH THE .22" LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE

by Dave Brigden

Having read Richard Kenchington's most interesting article about shooting the .22" long rifle at longer than usual distances, I must say I totally agree with his conclusions and would take this opportunity to enlarge on the subject.

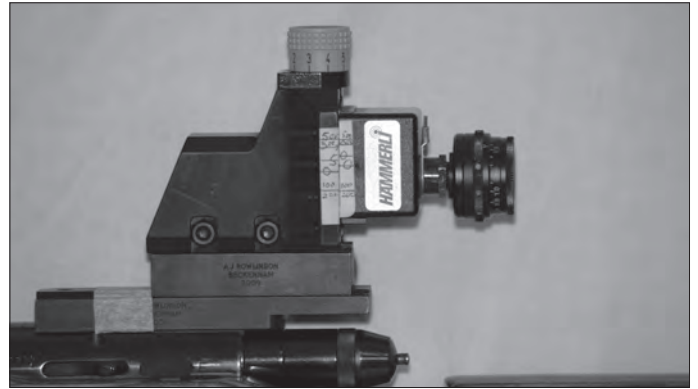
Firstly, every year on the second Sunday in May, on behalf of the Surrey County Small-Bore Rifle Association, I organise the Leslie Williams Competition. This is a 200 yards competition for teams of three and individuals, shooting .22" long rifle target rifles (no telescopic sights). The course of fire is up to five sighters (not convertible) and ten scoring shots on a standard NRA 200 yards target. The record score on current NRA targets is 49.6 ex 50 by JC Wilson of the 32nd/61st Surrey Home Guard RPC. Last year's best individual score was 48.6 by K Murray of Leatherhead RC. These scores are not flukes, 47s and 48s are common.

In the afternoon we have another competition on 200 yards metric targets. Several shooters share the record score of 94 ex 100.

Secondly, my own Club, the 32nd/61st Surrey Home Guard RPC (a 25 yards indoor club) has an annual championship shoot at 300 yards on Century Range at Bisley, also using .22" long rifle target rifles on standard NRA 300 yards targets. Scores of 43 and 44 including V bulls are commonplace.

Thirdly, the Derbyshire Rifle Association continue to run the Turbutt at Thorpe Range and, in September 2009, eight members of my Club took part. I enclose a copy of an article I sent into the NSRA Rifleman and would be delighted if you would print it since it showed the results of 15 competitors shooting in a very tricky wind on a range that acts like a wind tunnel.

The .22" long rifle is a badly under-rated cartridge and capable of good scores at very long ranges. The problem is most people are reluctant to try something different but why not go and try it yourself. If Mr Kenchington is available on the morning of Sunday 25 September 2011, I invite him to join the 32nd/61st



Multiple sight raising blocks on the rear sight.

Surrey Home Guard RPC on Century Range at Bisley for our .22" LR 300 yards Championship. We will be shooting target rifle but have no objection to him using his telescopic sight – should be fun! We have never had problems with markers finding shot holes. We tell them we are shooting .22" and they carefully watch the sand. The sub-sonic bullet makes a very distinctive sound down the butts.

## Trying Long Range in Derbyshire

*(Dave Brigden's article previously printed in The Rifleman)*

A while ago, I heard of somebody shooting .22" at 500 yards and asked if they might be interested in a challenge. A reply came from the Derbyshire Rifle Association accepting the challenge. So the 32nd/61st Surrey Home Guard took a long weekend and travelled to Derbyshire where on Sunday 27 September we met our very friendly hosts at Thorpe Ranges.

The course of fire was five sighters and ten scoring shots at 200, 300 and 500 yards, scoring 2, 3, 4 and 5 on standard NRA targets, no outer 1 or V bull used. The required rear sight-raising block dimensions had been supplied by the Derbyshire RA and one of our members, Anthony Rowlinson, made them for us (200 yards – 4mm, 300 yards – 15mm and 500 yards – 24mm). Half of us shot in the morning while the others butt marked and we changed over after lunch.



First view of Thorpe Range.



The 500 yards firing point.



The Butts.

The range runs uphill to the butts in a deep crescent-shaped valley curving to the right from the firing points and is liberally sprinkled with sheep, one of which had to be evicted from on top of the mantlet. We were lucky with the weather: no rain, not cold, however there was a very tricky wind that came from 1 to 2 o'clock and seemed to bounce from side to side down the valley.

As can be seen from the results, not unexpectedly, the 32nd/61st were well and truly beaten by a very experienced Association that has been running this event since before the First World War when Lord Turbutt presented the trophies.



Alan Pidcock and Dave Brigden exchange pennants.

Naturally, we all finished up in a bar at the Peverill of the Peak Hotel for drinks and an exchange of pennants. We had been provided with a thoroughly enjoyable day and a very interesting experience. On a personal level I found it a humbling one with only one hit at 500 yards, scoring two. Must do better next time!

For years I have been talking about .22LR at extreme ranges, mostly to people who clearly think I am daft. The results show that, even with a very tricky wind, 500 yards is not impossible. I was the only disaster of the day. This event has been running successfully for over 90 years and I wonder what rifles and ammunition were in use when it started.

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## OBITUARIES

### Bob Hawley

Bob Hawley passed away on Tuesday 12 April 2011 aged 73 after a two and a half year battle with cancer.

He was born in Nottingham in 1937 and began his shooting career when he joined the 1360 Squadron of the ATC in 1952 with Les Jones as his CO. Les was also the Range Warden at the Trent Rifle Ranges and the coaches there included Major DL Lindsay (Queen's Medal winner) and Major Harold W Smith. The squadron shooting team was one of the top teams in the country and in 1955 Bob won the Cadets Hundred at Bisley. During this time Les Jones was also Secretary of Nottingham City Rifle Club, so Bob joined the club becoming Secretary himself in 1967, a role which he filled until the day he died.

When the Trent Ranges closed down in 1963, Bob also joined Sheffield Rifle Club, shooting at Totley Rifle Range. In 1972 he made a clean sweep of the Sheffield and District Rifle Association shoots, winning all six trophies over the winter period at Totley. Between 1972 and 2000 he was Sheffield's club champion 15 times. In 1986 he became the second person to win the Sheffield Gold Medal which is presented when a shooter has won all nine of the club's handicap trophies over their shooting career. As these are won using the Macrae system it is more difficult to win when you are a good shot. Bob had been trying to win the last trophy for a number of years so when Sheffield Rifle Club put that trophy on for the Surrey Open in 1986 he made sure he was able to enter. That year he won all the open competitions at the Surrey shoot and when he got up from the firing point he was met by Carol Painting armed with a celebratory bottle of champagne with the words "Congratulations, you've won the Surrey Open".

Bob enjoyed shooting on many ranges and competed in the 'Birmingham Bisley' at Kingsbury many times, winning the Grand Aggregate in both 1977 and 1978.

Due to his studies to become a Graduate and Associate Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, it wasn't until 1970 that Bob first competed in the Imperial Meeting but he then competed every year until his death with the exception of 2003 (due to wife Marion's illness) and 2009 (due to having just had major surgery for his cancer). During his first Imperial Meeting he came second in the Corporation after a tie shoot. He was pleased to be picked as reserve for the National Match in 1976 and then as team member in



1996. He also shot in the Mackinnon in both 1980 and 1995. He qualified for the George's Final five times in 1973, 1974, 1982, 1984 and 1986, and he made it into the Queen's Final five times in 1972, 1974, 1975, 1983 and 1996. He was delighted to win the Admiral Hutton in 1989.

He was chosen to represent the NRA Team to the Channel Islands in 1994, which he enjoyed very much.

Bob shot fullbore, small-bore and pistol during his long shooting career and won a County Gold Badge in all three disciplines. He is, and will always be the only person in Nottinghamshire to achieve this, due to the pistol ban.

Bob was a great ambassador for the sport and he always had time to chat with others and give advice to them when asked. Both his daughters (Carol and Ann) shoot as well as Carols' husband John, all encouraged by him. His two grandchildren James and Laura are carrying on the family tradition. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Following his wishes his ashes will be scattered on Stickledown range at the clock tower on Saturday 16 July at 19:00 (Middle Saturday). All are welcome to attend.

*Carol Kennedy (daughter)*

### James Seymour Spaight GC4

"Let us now praise famous men" were words used by Jimmy's brother-in-law at the funeral near Kings Lynn on 1 February. Appropriate words, because if there had been a ranking system in shooting then Jimmy would have been number

one for much of the 1970s. No-one else has equalled his record of four Grand Aggregate Gold Crosses which was achieved over six years from 1973 to 1978, the last one requiring a tie shoot. And in the middle of that period he also got the Bronze Cross in 1974 with an arm in plaster.

This arose because he fell off a ladder while trimming the hedge at his home, Tuesday Cottage, near Studham, breaking his right arm. The hedge was a last minute task before going to the Meeting, so Jimmy drove to Bisley and shot in the Veterans for Uppingham before



deciding he needed medical attention. His arm was set in plaster at Frimley Hospital which Jimmy ensured was done so as to allow him to grip the pistol grip of his rifle. There was then the question of whether this was an artificial aid. After inspection the adjudicators decided it wasn't and Jimmy went on to get his Bronze Cross, shoot in the Queen's Final, and in the Kolapore, National, Mackinnon and Empire Matches.

While he never won the Queen's Prize and got a GM it was not for want of trying. His 11 Queen's Final Badges included three in fourth position, one in fifth and the Silver Badge in 1975 (after a tie shoot with six others).

Jimmy's shooting career started at Uppingham where he shot in the Cadet Pair and then in the Ashburton. In 1954 he went up to Cambridge to read medicine, probably because his father was a GP in Kings Lynn. He rapidly established himself at small-bore, representing Cambridge in the Heslop Cup against Oxford and taking part in the NSRA Meeting. After graduating he decided not to pursue a medical career and became a Patent Agent. Later he joined the public sector, NRDC, and had particular responsibility for the protection of the hovercraft developments.

In 1957 Jimmy met Annick Pavillard and in July 1961 they married and Jimmy celebrated that by shooting for England in the National for the first time. From then on Jimmy was very well looked after as Annick devoted herself to his welfare both at home and at Bisley. At Bisley Jimmy was able to focus entirely on his shooting and his success owes a great deal to the support Annick provided.

Although Jimmy and I shot small-bore together for a couple of years at Cambridge, for some reason he didn't take part in the fullbore side, my main interest. We really got to know each other when our families shared the Spott in Elcho Road for about 15 years. Between us we eventually filled the place with a total of seven children, with the four Spaights, Caroline, Sarah and the twins Patrick and William, able to converse equally fluently in French and English. The French was necessary because Jimmy didn't see why he should learn it, so they spoke French to Annick and English to everyone else. As I was Secretary for the Oxford & Cambridge Rifle Association (OCRA) at the time, the Spott was also a gathering place for many of our contemporaries in between shoots and on the way to and from Stickle-down. Jimmy, like many of our friends, shot for OCRA at Bisley throughout his shooting career. The Bisley Meeting was a highlight of the year for the family, who arrived with 13 gallons of the Tuesday Ale, Jimmy's home made beer, named after their home, Tuesday Cottage. Initially he did make the beer himself, but after catching pneumonia during the Meeting in 1967, he had to retire and go home and Annick later took on its production, so it became Annick's beer. It became quite famous in the

Commonwealth as Jimmy entertained many of his overseas friends with it in the Spott.

Apart from the Grand and the Queen's, Jimmy won over 20 of the individual major Bisley trophies, many of them aggregates which demonstrated his consistency. He also won all three of the coveted English Twenty Jewels, Gold, Silver and Bronze, the North London Championship and the British Commonwealth Championship three times.

Apart from these and many other individual successes he was an outstanding team shot representing England in the National (11 times), Mackinnon (16 times) and Great Britain in the Kolapore (10 times), Australia Match (five times) and the Palma (twice).

Jimmy's first overseas tour for GB was in 1966 to Canada with Stan Wheeler's team but from there on he went with teams to New Zealand and Australia (1968), to Canada and USA for the Palma (1971) and again to New Zealand and Australia in 1974. Here, having won the New Zealand Grand Aggregate at Trentham, he and Keith Pilcher left the team to shoot for England in the Commonwealth Games at Christchurch, where Jimmy won the Bronze Medal. They then flew to Australia to rejoin the team for the Empire Match at Canberra.

In 1978 he went to the Edmonton Commonwealth Games to shoot for England at the Calgary fullbore range, this time winning the Silver Medal, sandwiched between two Vamplews who got Gold and Bronze Medals for Canada.

With all this success some have suggested that he found it easy but that was far from the case. He was meticulous in his preparation, both of his equipment in the gunroom and on the firing point. He left as little to chance as he could and when he got down took a lot of time getting comfortable and once settled did not shift about. This probably explains a remark he made to me once when I asked how he knew he had let off a good shot and he said "my toes tingle". Having thought about this I realised it meant he was totally relaxed.

As part of this attention to detail he acquired his formidable skill at reading the wind by arriving on the range at least 30 minutes before every shoot to study what was going on. In fact this skill led to some clashes with wind coaches as at that time those past their prime at shooting often got promoted to coach. As a result he would often simply disregard the "call" and set the wind according to his own decision. Ben Wrey recalls in one match that Jimmy came off with a very good score and when complimented simply said, "Ben – you will be fine, so long as you don't take too much notice of the wind calls".

Jimmy fired his last target rifle shot at the BCRC Meeting in 1986 at 500 yards scoring a 48 with two near magpies, no doubt the result of his deteriorating



eyesight. In 1987 he took early retirement from NRDC, though he continued to look after the hovercraft development for a while, until an ongoing legal dispute was concluded.

On his retirement the family moved back to be near Kings Lynn, buying a house in East Rudham. Jimmy and Annick would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this July but sadly that was not to be. He died peacefully at home on 21 January, aged 74, with all his family there to say goodbye. Patrick and William, his twin sons, helped carry the coffin into the chapel to the traditional Queen's Prize winner's tune of Handel's "Hail the Conquering Hero". He may not have got the GM but did get the tune at the end. Annick and the family have given his medals and badges, mounted in two frames, to the NRA Museum so in a way "his name will live for evermore".

*Robert Stafford, with assistance from family and friends.*

### **Michael Hook Sinclair**

*SM*  
Michael Hook was born in 1927 in north London but he spent most of his childhood in south-west



London, where he attended King's College School in Wimbledon (for whose Old Boys he continued to shoot until he retired). When he matriculated in 1943, he was awarded the Scholl Certificate of the University of London. The War prevented him from going to university and, after leaving school, he was commissioned from the Indian Military Academy and served his country as an officer in the Army (on the North West Frontier with the Indian Army and subsequently with the Parachute Regiment).

When he returned to civilian life in 1949, he started a career at the Bank of England (for whom he also shot until he retired in 1985). It was there that he met his first wife, Pam, whom he married in 1952. They soon settled near Woking, where they had their first child Michèle. But when a second child, David, was on the way, he decided to forego the short journey to Bisley in favour of a larger house. So they moved to Horsham where the family became established. Throughout the sixties, Mike managed to balance his career, his shooting and his family life (much of which was spent at Bisley).

Mike's shooting career included one St George's Badge, five Grand Aggregate Crosses and six Queen's Final badges as well as winning the Silver Medal in the Second Stage in 1959. He shot for England in the

Mackinnon in 1961 as well as making five appearances in the National from 1960 to 1966. He represented Great Britain in the Kolapore in 1961 and toured to Canada in 1962 and the West Indies in 1970.

In 1976, Mike married his second wife, Jean, and changed his name to Hook Sinclair. This marriage brought him a much larger family of three step-children (Giles, Rosemary and Judith) and subsequently nine step-grandchildren. The family was completed in 2002 with the birth of his own granddaughter, Rebekah.

He died on 6 April 2011 with his wife, Jean, at his bedside.

*Michèle Bolt*

### **David John Le Cheminant**

David was born in Jersey on 2 March 1936 and remained a fiercely proud Jerseyman right until his death on 9 April 2011 after a short battle with lung cancer.



Shooting was to start on the indoor .22" range at Western Miniature Rifle Club in 1978 when he followed youngest son Barry into the sport. This was followed soon after by trips to Crabbe and membership of the Jersey Rifle Association of which he was captain in 1993 and 1994.

David was a frequent visitor to Bisley during his relatively short fullbore career and in the 1980s and early 90s he would normally be found on the ranges during the Imperial, RAF or inter-bank events. On these trips he was often accompanied by wife Mary with whom he enjoyed over 51 years of marriage. The Imperial Meeting was a real family occasion as sons Andrew and Barry and Andrew's wife Sue fired together in all competitions.

During his fullbore career he achieved individual success at Bisley, the highlights of which were the St Georges Bronze Cross in 1983, five Queen's Final badges, three St Georges Finals, a Grand Aggregate Cross, the Fulton Pairs and the Families, both these last two with Barry. He was immensely proud in 1988 when he and both sons Andrew and Barry all shot in the Queen's Final.

On the team front he was a member of the winning Jersey Kolapore team in 1984 and also of the winning Public Schools Veterans team representing the Old Victorians.

Away from the Imperial he also enjoyed success being the winner of the London & Middlesex

Championships, the Guernsey Rifle Club Prize Meeting, HSBC/Midland Bank champion 13 times, United Banks Champion and at the 1987 Island Games won the gold medal at both the Individual and Pairs events.

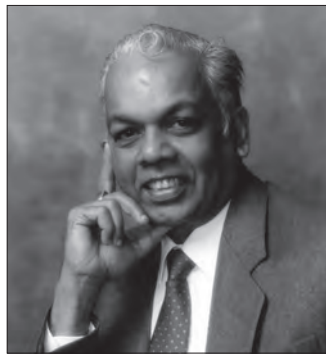
An active member of the Jersey Rifle Association many a newcomer would be encouraged by David. Not just a shooter he was proud to have made the targets and frames for the ranges at Crabbe and Les Landes in Jersey before he retired from shooting in the mid 90s to pursue other interests.

He had been a smoker for most of his life and accepted without regret or bitterness the price he was to pay for this. Instead he chose to focus on the good things he had enjoyed, saying that he had been fortunate to be surrounded by loving people and to live a full and enjoyable life.

*The Le Cheminant family*

### **Sinnadurai Somanathan**

Known to most as 'Sam', he was born on 30 March 1932 in Jaffna, Ceylon (now Sri-Lanka). Schooled at St John's College and St Patrick's College in Jaffna, Sam was the elder son of the family. He was a well known 'character' locally and a keen hunter from his teenage years. He had the local jungles as his personal hunting grounds.



On finishing his schooling, Sam worked for the Ceylon Housing Department, then came to England in 1963 and qualified as a Quantity Surveyor, working for Lindsey Oil Co and the GLC at Brent, Hammersmith and Lambeth Councils.

Shooting ran strongly in his blood and Sam was a regular member of the 1st Ealing (1945) Rifle Club. Sam also joined the NRA and he could often be found on the Short Siberia range, sighting in his latest sporting rifle in preparation for one of his hunting trips.

As a family man, Sam greatly enjoyed the company of his sons and grandchildren. He was also a keen chef, specialising in mouthwatering vegetarian Sri-Lankan curries. Despite his enthusiasm for hunting, Sam was vegetarian!

A larger than life character with a ready smile, plenty of hunting advice and tall tales of the jungles, Sam was probably happiest with a rifle in his hands. Sugi, Sam's wife accepted his urge to hunt with incredible

patience, often being left behind in England or with her family in Sri Lanka while Sam hunted. Sam was well respected by the jungle villagers in northern Sri Lanka and when the need arose he took time away from hunting to represent them at the local government offices. Sam very generously invited others to go to Sri Lanka with him to spend some 'jungle time.' I can personally vouch for many 'interesting moments' there.

With political problems in Northern Sri Lanka making his hunting impossible, Sam took to Scottish stalking. He was spellbound by the vast expanses of hills and moorland. We spent many damp hours walking and crawling through heather, burn and bog.

After retiring from the GLC, Sam wisely spent the cold winter months in Sri Lanka, Africa and India. Hunting of course!

Angina slowed him down and curtailed his activities for a while but, after a heart bypass operation in 1998, he was itching to shoot as soon as he recovered enough to hold a rifle comfortably.

Around 2004, Sam developed a progressive lung problem which made breathing increasingly difficult. Eventually the need for extra oxygen made him housebound. He took this philosophically but it was a downhill struggle.

Sam died on 1 December 2010. He is sadly missed by his wife Sugi, his sons, Lakshman and Krishna, their families and his many friends.

*Bob Stirling*

### **Bert House**

Bert was an NRA member for some years and a precision target shooter who enjoyed wringing the last mil out of his shooting abilities when shooting with his club, South East Essex Pistol and Rifle Club or in major competitions.

Sadly, after many years of battle with skin cancer, Bert passed away on 3 February 2011.

He will be remembered as a gentle man, a man who came to shooting after being invalided out of the Fire Service in London, yet found pleasure in his new pastime.

His cheerful nature will be missed on the firing point.

*Tony Walsh*

*The NRA are sad to announce the deaths of Bob Rutter of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club and Rupert Elvins of Scotland. It is hoped obituaries will appear in the next Journal.*



## LETTERS

### **Reply to Maurice Ayling's letter in the Spring 2011 NRA Journal**

*from Bryden Ritchie*

I am not someone who is often prompted to put pen to paper, however I feel I must respond to Maurice Ayling's letter regarding handloading contained in an article in the Spring 2011 Journal. I am sure Maurice's letter was prompted by a genuine concern regarding firearm safety, but seldom have I seen such a poorly argued diatribe against a perfectly legitimate and widely practiced activity.

Firearms are, as everyone involved in shooting should be well aware, potentially lethal artefacts. We achieve safety with firearms by good training and practices. This equally applies to ammunition. Just because ammunition is not loaded by a factory, there is no reason to suppose it is any more dangerous provided it has been assembled correctly. We manage to trust an individual to behave safely on the firing point. Why then should we not trust that individual to load their ammunition correctly? They are a damn sight closer to it than anyone else, so why should they not be any less concerned with its safety?

To compare metal fatigue in gun barrels with airframes is, I suggest, questionable logic. The problem with fatigue in airframes is mainly down to sustained vibration as I understand it. Proof pressure testing of barrels is a process that has been used and trusted for hundreds of years. History would suggest that this test is as valid now as in the past. Providing barrels are not physically damaged or corroded there is little evidence that there is a problem with metal fatigue over time considering the limited number of stress cycles applied, even over many decades. Evidence would seem to suggest that breech erosion would cause a barrel to become unusable long before metal fatigue sets in. If you are suggesting regular re-proofing, this is likely to do more damage than anything else (despite the not wholly disinterested view of the Proof Houses!)

Yes, poor reloading practices can lead to breech failure – absolutely! However, is the answer to this not training and education? I know that handloading has not been popular with the TR fraternity at Bisley, but times are changing, and we cannot expect a grateful nation to provide us with free factory ammunition as in the past. Handloading is not difficult, and if someone is sensible enough to be trusted with a firearm, then they should be sensible enough to understand the very basic principles needed to handload safely.

Maurice throws up a number of thinly veiled threats with hints of hoary old stories regarding mad shooters and exploding guns, yet makes no suggestion as to how the problem he alludes to should be tackled. I suggest he is trying to persuade us to ban handloaded ammunition!

I disagree fundamentally, and suggest this is a dark age, ostrich-like approach to the problem (if it exists, which I doubt)! I take the other side and ask why the NRA is not providing training courses for handloading, and why we do not see any articles about the subject in this Journal?

Everyone else outside Bisley and the TR scene seems to be able to cope with handloading, so what is your problem Maurice?

Oh, and I have been both a handloader, shooter and a fully qualified Ammunition Technical Officer for over thirty years.

### **General Council and you!**

*from Guy Larcombe, Southern Regional Representative*

I spend a lot of time on the ranges and around Bisley Camp in general, talking to other shooters, many of whom have some very good and useful ideas about how things can be improved. There is also frustration, because very few know how to feed these ideas "up the line", so I thought it would be useful to give a brief overview of how the NRA is run and how to make your views known.

The most important thing to realise is that the NRA is owned by and run for its members – so all NRA members have a say on what goes on, what should not go on and how things should go on! The representative body is the General Council. Members are either voted on (by you the NRA members) or in some cases co-opted. The make up of the General Council is designed to represent the views and concerns of the NRA membership and to this end there are Regional Representatives, Discipline (eg Target Rifle, Gallery Rifle etc) Representatives and Elected Representatives. While all the General Council members are for the most part active shooters and have a good knowledge of what is going on, they are only human and cannot know everything and so do rely on you to advise them and keep them informed. A full list of the members of the General Council can be found in the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) or in the Winter editions of the NRA Journal. Minutes of meetings can be found on the NRA website. So if you have any concerns, ideas or comments, these people should be your first port of call.

Full members also have the right to attend and voice their opinions at the Annual General Meeting held in June. Also there is the Bisley General Meeting held on Second Wednesday during the Imperial Meeting at 21:00 in the Umbrella Tent which all members are most welcome to attend.

It is important to remember that most members of General Council are elected by you, the members of the NRA. So if you feel you can do a better job – then stand for election!

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