



# National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2001

Volume LXXX

Number 3





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Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 OPB  
Telephone: 01483 797777  
Fax: 01483 797285  
E-mail: info@nra.org.uk  
Web site: http://www.nra.org.uk

**Range Office:**  
Telephone: 01483 797777 Ext: 152

**Chairman of Council:** John Jackman FCA  
**Chief Executive:** Colin Cheshire OBE  
**Shooting Manager:** Martin Farnan MBE TD  
**Financial Manager:** Michael Blythe FCA LLB  
**Membership:** Heather Doust  
**Editor:** Karen Robertson

**Editorial Committee:**  
Colin Cheshire, Robert Stafford, Colin Judge,  
Tony de Launay, Ted Molyneux, Carol Painting

**Advertising:**  
Print-Rite, The Willows, School Lane,  
Stadhampton, Oxford OX44 7TR  
Tel/Fax: 01865 400002

**Setting and design:** Karen Robertson  
Tel/Fax: 01491 824109  
e-mail: karen@bang.u-net.com

Material for inclusion in the Journal should be sent to:  
Karen Robertson  
36 Baker Avenue, Benson,  
Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 6EQ

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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S NOTES



by  
Colin  
Cheshire

### Election of Chairman of Council

The NRA Council have elected Mr JF Jackman FCA as its Chairman in succession to Mr JA de Havilland. (See profile on page 19 later in this Journal.)

### NRA Spring General Meeting

The NRA Spring General Meeting will be held on Saturday 23 March at 5pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### NRA Council Committee Elections

See later in this Journal for full details of NRA Committees for the forthcoming year.

### Bisley General Meeting

A full transcript of the Bisley General Meeting appears later in this Journal.

### Commonwealth Games 2002

The following vacancies for volunteers still exist:

Five register board keepers for the fullbore target rifle events required only for mornings of 21, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31 July and 2 August.

Lunch will be provided on each day of duty for these register keepers and Manchester 2002 will hopefully also produce items of clothing.

We would welcome the names of further volunteers willing to help with these duties as soon as possible. Letters, faxes, e-mails or telephone calls are all very acceptable.

### Ranges - delays and restrictions

#### Foot & Mouth restrictions

Due to the continuing foot and mouth crisis in the country, the disinfectant control at the Main Gate remains in force as required by MoD.

#### Cheylesmore Range

The work on Cheylesmore Range has at last been completed and the range is now fully in use.

#### 200 yards facility on old Shorts

The targetry has now been installed and the NRA awaits a Board of Officers approval from MoD.

## GB and NRA Team Captaincies

The NRA Council congratulates the following people elected as Team Captains as follows:

#### 2002 GB Kolapore Team

Dr AF Aspin

#### 2002 GB F Class Team for F Class World

Championships to be held in Ottawa  
Dr P Monaghan

#### 2003 GB Veterans Team for the World Veterans Team Championship to be held at Bisley

A St G Tucker (*GM2, GC, CSC*)

#### 2003 GB Team for the Australia Match to be held at Bisley

RP Rosling (*GM*)

#### 2003 GB Under 25 Team for the World Under 25 Team Championship to be held at Bisley

Miss JF Hossack (*GM*)

#### 2003 GB Under 25 Team for the Imperial Meeting Under 25 International Match

MJ Ensor

#### 2003 GB Kolapore Team

PN Hinchliffe QC

#### 2003 NRA Team to the Channel Islands

NW Penn

#### 2004 GB Team to tour Kenya and Namibia in April/May

JDI Hossack

## NRA Team Captains - request for nominations

The NRA Council seeks nominations for the position of Captain of the following NRA and GB teams:

#### 2002 NRA Team versus Continental Europe at Bisley in October

#### 2003 NRA Team versus Continental Europe at Bisley in October

#### 2004 Great Britain Team to Canada and USA (Raton) in August

All nominations are to be received by the Chief Executive by 2 January 2002 and nominees should have given their approval before their names are put forward. The NRA Council's election for these posts should be completed by the end of January.

## Butt Markers

The NRA is very conscious that the standard of butt marking and the availability of butt markers sometimes leave something to be desired.

The opening of so many supermarkets in the general area, which remain open at weekends, has dramatically reduced the number of young people available for butt marking duties. The supermarkets pay at least £20 - £30 per day more for stacking shelves at weekends than the NRA pays for butt marking.

The NRA has arranged, with the full co-operation and support of the Commanding Officer of the Army Training Regiment, the use of off duty Army recruits at weekends. Without these soldiers we would have an even more severe problem. Whilst the NRA does everything it can to try and get Army markers (and others) to come back each weekend, the NRA (and the markers), cannot guarantee it. Hence on some weekends there are more trainee butt markers than we would like and the marking is often slower and less accurate than the shooters would wish. However I am sure that all members will appreciate that a slow butt marker is better than no butt marker at all and we ask your forbearance in this matter.

The use of the adult markers has meant that the NRA is obliged to deduct tax for these markers and as a result the cost of butt marking has now been increased to £45 per full day.

The NRA Range Office has been in contact with all of the local establishments seeking additional young markers without much success.

May I take this opportunity to remind all those booking butt markers that the NRA does NOT and CANNOT guarantee that a marker or markers will be available. We can only provide numbers based on those that turn up for work. Priority is always given to providing markers to any major championship that may be staged on any given weekend.

May I please remind all clubs and individuals that they may, on occasions, have to be prepared to provide their own markers at very short notice should there be a shortfall from NRA resources. An example of the NRA's problem is highlighted by the fact that 21 butt markers failed to turn up on Sunday 2 September, the day after England's football success against Germany. It was only as a result of considerable ringing round and going to Pirbright, by the Range Office staff, that the NRA was able to get even an acceptable number of markers by 10am.

The NRA range staff are always aware of shortages by 8am each morning and they always do their best to try and resolve the problem if they can. The Range Office staff always book more markers than required on the basis that some markers will fail to turn up. However I am sure members will accept that there is a limit as to how many extra markers the staff should book as the NRA cannot afford to pay for those markers who may, on occasions, be in excess of the number actually required.

I would request members not to harass the staff when they are doing their very best to help you.

## **NRA Suggestions Book**

All suggestions placed in the Suggestions Book at the Imperial Meeting were related to matters dealing with shooting and these will be discussed at the next meeting of the Shooting Committee. Once the matters

have been discussed and resolved, the Shooting Manager will write an answer to each person provided the signatures can be read in the book.

## **D Lines huts for sale**

The NRA Council has decided to offer for sale two D Lines huts, namely the twin roomed hut (rooms 9 and 10) and the four roomed hut (rooms 13, 14, 15 and 16).

Any full member or club affiliated to the NRA may bid for these buildings.

No tender will be opened before midday on 2 January 2002.

- a. The NRA Council reserves the right not to accept the highest or any other tender.
- b. For the avoidance of doubt the freehold of the purchased building will be in the possession of the purchaser and the ground will be on a 21 year lease. The 21 year lease will be outside the Landlord and Tenant Act.
- c. The ground rent per annum proposed by the NRA surveyors is £580 for the twin-roomed hut and £1205 for the four roomed hut.
- d. All legal costs for both the NRA and the purchaser for the drawing up of the lease are to be borne by the purchaser.
- e. All outgoings for services are to be paid directly to the NRA.
- f. Council tax payments, if applicable, are to be paid to the local Council.
- h. Viewing of these huts can be arranged through the NRA Accommodation Manager on extension 135.

If the highest tender offered is by a member of the NRA Council, the tender will have to be approved by the Charity Commission.

The lease will be a full repairing and insuring lease for 21 years and will require the outside of the building to be kept in the same colour scheme as at present and to be painted at least every five years or sooner if the state deteriorates below an acceptable standard. Interior decoration will be required at least every seven years.

Those interested in tendering may apply to the Chief Executive's secretary for a letter with fuller tender details.

## **E-mail addresses**

Membership renewals will have landed on your doorsteps in early November. It would be most useful if you could ensure that you let us have your e-mail address (if you have one) as we can then remind you of membership renewals by this means in the future and save considerably on postage. It is hoped that online payment facilities will soon be available for membership renewals and the Membership department would like to build up a database of e-mail addresses for this purpose. The easiest way to



do this is to send an e-mail to members@nra.org.uk remembering to include your name and membership number in the main body of the message.

## **NRA Web Site**

We recognise that this site is not always updated as regularly as we would wish. However the volume of work that goes through the NRA office all year means that this site is low on the priority list whilst staff deal with other more pressing matters. If any members with experience of web sites wish to offer assistance in maintaining, updating and modernising the NRA web site, we would be very glad to hear from them.

## **Staff Redundancies**

The Finance & General Purposes Committee realised earlier this year that it would be prudent to make staff cost savings and then asked for volunteers for redundancy. On behalf of all members of the Association I should like to thank the following members of staff who volunteered for redundancy and wish them all good fortune for the future:

Barbara Dixon in the General Office,  
after 18 years service.

Harry Coleman on the Estate Staff,  
after 16 years service.

Sandy Ewing has now retired as a consultant to the NRA but retains his Chairmanship of NSC Ltd. On behalf of all members may I express our sincere thanks to him for all his hard work as a consultant for the NRA dealing with firearms legislation, as a member of the Firearms Consultative Committee (FCC) and as the NRA representative on the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR).

In addition one additional redundancy has been made:

Geoff Widders, Membership Services Manager,  
after 22 months.

Other costs savings have been made within the NRA and more are being reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

## **Peter Hicks**

Peter Hicks has now retired as Editor of the NRA Journal. I am sure that you would wish me to pass on sincere thanks to him for many years of excellent work.

Karen Robertson has now been appointed Editor of the NRA Journal and we wish her well in this appointment.

## **Estate Committee**

The NRA Estate Committee has requested that comment be published about items that go missing from the ablution blocks. The NRA spends large sums of money each year keeping these blocks supplied

with plugs, light bulbs, shower roses and toilet rolls. For general information the number of toilet rolls that are supplied during the Imperial Meeting equates to nearly one per person per day of those competing! The Estate Committee accepts that the NRA is required to supply such basic items as toilet rolls but is concerned that far too many are removed/pilfered from the ablution blocks, and are apparently used for other purposes. We would ask for members to keep a sharp eye out for those who are causing the Association this unnecessary additional expense!

## **Reminder of early dates for 2002**

Please remember that the dates for 2002 are as follows:

Inter-Counties weekend of 8 & 9 June

MR Meeting 29 June - 4 July

TR Meeting 4 July - 13 July

## **NRA Staff assistance to affiliated club members on FAC matters**

Individual members of the Association are entitled to free assistance from Doug Glaister and John Horton on any matter to do with issue, renewal or withdrawal of Firearm Certificates. This service is currently not available to non-members or to members of affiliated clubs.

The F&GPC has decided that the NRA should make this assistance available to affiliated club members. With immediate effect any affiliated club member wishing to make use of this service will be charged £20 for the initial consultation and at an agreed hourly rate thereafter once the weight of the matter has been decided.

## **NRA Disciplinary Committee**

The NRA Council has approved a change to the NRA disciplinary procedure in order to comply with the Human Rights Act. Rather than having a Disciplinary Committee, and Council as the Appeal Body, it has been agreed that in future Council will elect a panel of between 8 and 12 people, of which 50% will be legally qualified persons. In the event of a matter being put before the panel, half of that body will conduct the hearing and the other half will remain as an Appeal Body should one be required.

The NRA Council has requested me to seek, from the membership, the names of any legally qualified people who may wish to be considered for election to this panel in January 2002. Will any persons so qualified please inform the Chief Executive by no later than 2 January 2002.

## **International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA)**

The NRA Council has given outline approval for its membership of the above body of International Fullbore Federations. In the first instance this body

will be concerned only with international competitions and will have nothing to do with the autonomy of individual NRAs.

It will be open to all major NRAs, on payment of the appropriate fee, and will have sub-committees which will look after various international events such as the Commonwealth Games, Palma Match, Australia Match, World Veterans Championships, World Under 25 and Under 21 Championships, International Rules, and other such important international considerations.

### **TR Matches at Raton, New Mexico**

The NRA of America has advised us that the USA Bald Eagles Club will be sponsoring an annual TR shoot at the NRA of USA Whittington Center at Raton with the first match commencing on 2 September 2002 and at approximately the same time each year. The aim is to allow teams to travel to Raton following on from the DCRA Championships.

The programme will be:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | 2 & 10 at 300, 500, 600; 2 & 15 at 900 yards individual string shooting   |
| Day 2 | 2 & 10 at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards team shoot                         |
| Day 3 | 2 & 10 at 300, 500, 600; 2 & 15 at 900 yards individual two to a target   |
| Day 4 | 2 & 10 at 300, 500, 600; 2 & 15 at 900 and 1000 yards - teams of 4 and 8  |
| Day 5 | 2 & 10 at 300, 500, 600; 2 & 15 at 1000 yards individual string shooting  |
| Day 6 | "Palma" Team Match (2 & 15 at 800, 900 and 1000 yards) - teams of 4 and 8 |
| Day 7 | 2 & 10 at 300, 500, 600; 2 & 15 at 1000 yards individual, two to a target |

It is hoped that the GB Team to Canada will go to this event in 2004 after DCRA Championships in lieu of a normal Canadian Provincial Match.

If any teams (club or national) or individuals wish to enter in 2002 or 2003 they should contact:

Bald Eagles Rifle Club  
PO Box 20934,  
Mesa, Arizona 85277-0934,  
USA  
or e-mail baldeaglesclub@yahoo.net

### **Identification of Range Users**

The NRA Council have recently decided that it is necessary to require users of Bisley Ranges to have with them identification which proves that they are either members of the NRA (NRA membership card) or members of an affiliated club (membership card of the appropriate club that has booked the target in use). Whilst the NRA Council does not wish to be seen as Big Brother there have been a number of incidents

recently where non-members have been found to be using the NRA facilities against Range Regulations and of course the Law. We do hope the membership will understand the need to have this precaution and would ask you to make sure that you have your appropriate membership card available should you be asked to produce it.

### **Centre for Defence Studies Research Working Papers into "Illegal Firearms in the United Kingdom"**

This is a project funded by the Countryside Alliance and published by the Centre for Defence Studies, Kings College, London. The principal researcher is John Bryan, formally a Detective and Head of the Firearms Intelligence Unit of the Metropolitan Police.

The document consists of four working papers (30 page booklets) as follows:

*Working Paper 1* - Definitions

*Working Paper 2* - Identification of 'Threat Indicators'

*Working Paper 3* - Sources of Illegal Firearms

*Working Paper 4* - Possession and Use

Whilst well worth reading by those with an interest in these matters, unfortunately even the summaries of each document are too long to be included in the Journal.

A copy of the full document is held by the NRA and can be made available to anyone wishing to see it. Alternatively copies may be purchased direct from King's College, London at a cost of £25.

### **Home Countries Commonwealth Games Team Nominations**

After a season of extensive trials the team nominations have been announced for the following home countries. Please be aware that these are **nominations** only and official **selection** will be made by the relevant Governing Bodies next year.

#### **England**

*Shooters:* Jane Messer and Glyn Barnett  
*Reserves:* Parag Patel and Jon Underwood  
*Manager:* John Bloomfield

#### **Scotland**

*Shooters:* Ian Shaw and Alice Ogilvie  
*Reserve:* Iain Robertson  
*Manager:* Allan Mabon

#### **Wales**

*Shooters:* Gabrielle O'Leary and Dave Davies  
*Reserve:* Chris Hockley  
*Manager:* Paul Gray

#### **Northern Ireland**

*The team nominations will not be officially announced until next year.*

# NRA FINANCES AND THE BUDGET



*by Robert Stafford*

*Vice Chairman of  
Council & Chairman of  
the Finance & General  
Purposes Committee*

Since the letter to members in July things have moved on and I want to bring you up to date on the current position. I also want to explain the reasoning behind the budget and increase in charges approved by Council at their meeting on 12 October.

First and most importantly, we have had agreement from our bankers, Barclays, to cover our financial needs through a combination of loan and overdraft. This was based on our setting a budget which will enable us to trade out of our current deficit of nearly £2,000,000. Our charges for the coming year (2002) have therefore had to be increased to ensure this happens and that this deficit will reduce annually.

This is a worst case scenario but during the coming months we are hopeful that some major improvements in our finances could materialize. We have had fairly continuous discussions with Sport England since July over the possibility of a grant to take account of the additional costs borne by the NRA in completing the new facilities for the Commonwealth Games next year. There is no doubt that the successful running of the CSF Championships in August has helped in that respect. The climate is now a great deal more favourable than in July but we will have to wait a while to know the result of our application.

The increase in charges that you will see elsewhere in the Journal therefore include an extra element to cover our bank interest. Since this is dependent on the actual and forecast borrowing it will be reviewed and reduced should any major new inputs be received such as a grant from Sport England.

You should note that we have at last abolished the car pass (annual and daily) and incorporated a recovery of a proportion of the lost income in target hire and membership. The balance is being recovered from NSRA, BSRC, BFTO and other major users of the Camp. So do take this into account in assessing the impact of the increases. To retain control of access to the Camp we may wish to impose a gate fee from time to time when members of the public are expected and the procedures for this will be explained in due course. Members will of course have free access.

Target hire charges have been increased less for weekdays as we wish to encourage use of the ranges mid week; at weekends it is assumed that users more normally share a target between a number of firers. However we have not been recovering the cost of

targetry in our charges for some years and the increases do partially attempt to redress this. Never the less, for a club of eight to ten shooters booking two targets over three or four ranges for a full weekend day the increase per person will be about £4 compared with the saving on daily car pass of £3.50.

Club Affiliation fees have, I hope, been simplified in that all clubs will pay a basic fee and the scale is taken care of by a revised capitation fee for which clubs only need to count their fullbore active shooters who are not already NRA members. To allow for those clubs who are less likely to use Bisley because of distance, a reduced Country capitation fee has been introduced. For individual members a new outer area has also been introduced for those living more than 250 miles from Bisley. I hope these changes will be seen as positive moves. As before Clubs can help themselves and the NRA by encouraging their members to become full individual members, as we are continuing to give the £10 voucher for new members.

Since July the NRA has sold the lease for Cottesloe Lodge for a considerable sum. We were able to purchase this lease through a generous donation to the NRA by John de Havilland. This has been of great assistance in keeping us below our overdraft limit in these final months of 2001. In the near future we are also expecting to complete the sale of the old military cookhouse site (Building 103) to the NSRA for them to build a new accommodation facility. I understand that their plans are going well but they are awaiting final planning permission before going ahead. This sale will bring a useful addition to our finances. We have also been able to make a significant recovery of the cost of inappropriate legal advice.

As part of the budget process the Managers have carried out a thorough review of our costs and as a result we have made significant reductions in staff (referred to in the CE's notes) and in planned expenditure. The new clay ranges have now been open for several months and are establishing their business. This part of the operation is budgeted to make a contribution to our operating profits in the coming year of around £30,000 with it is hoped substantial growth in the following year.

Another plus item has been the good response of members to the request to sign up for Gift Aid. As a result we are likely to show an increase of £25,000 in the tax recovered in the financial year just ended; this improvement will continue in the future. The F&GP Committee are also keeping under review the possibility of an appeal for gifts or interest free loans in the light of the ongoing financial situation. However, while not wishing to put off any who might wish to assist in this way, we do not feel this is a priority at present.

All this, together with the budget set, gives me confidence that, with your support through membership and the use of the ranges and facilities at Bisley, we can look forward to a substantial improvement in our financial position by this time next year and hopefully by the Spring General Meeting next March.



# CHARGES FOR 2002

## Individual Membership 2002

Standard ( <i>under 150 miles away</i> )	£87.50
Reduced ( <i>between 150-250 miles away, over 65 years old &amp; under 25 years old</i> )	£60.00
Country ( <i>over 250 miles away</i> )	£49.00
Associate	£44.00
Heritage Pistol	£60.00

Please remember there is a £5 reduction on the membership fee if paying by Direct Debit.

## Club Membership 2002

UK Fullbore: Inner Area	£71.50	plus	£4.15 per non-NRA member
UK Fullbore: Outer Area	£71.50	plus	£1.65 per non-NRA member
UK Smallbore	£28.00		No member fee
Overseas Club	£55.00		No member fee

## Range Hire Charges 2002

All bookings for the main ranges are made by the **half-day**. Please note that the Range Office must confirm all bookings. The following charges apply irrespective of the number of **distances** booked.

### Century, Stickle-down, Short Siberia and Shorts (per target)

- i. Winter Season Weekdays am - £17.40, pm - £13.80, All day - £31.20. Weekends, am - £20.80, pm - £16.60, All day - £37.40
- ii. Mid Season Weekdays am - £21.60, pm - £17.20, All day - £38.80. Weekends, am - £25.80, pm - £20.60, All day - £46.40
- iii. Summer Season Weekdays both am & pm £27.40, All day - £54.80. Weekends, both am & pm - £32.80, All day - £65.60

### AMS (Electronic) Targets when available per half day

- i. Winter Season Weekdays - £32.00, Weekends - £38.40
- ii. Mid Season Weekdays - £34.20, Weekends - £41.00
- iii. Summer Season Weekdays - £37.40, Weekends - £44.80

### Cheylesmore and Melville (per bay, per half day) incl of machinery

- i. Winter Season Weekdays - £41.80, Weekends - £45.80
- ii. Mid Season Weekdays - £46.00, Weekends - £50.60
- iii. Summer Season Weekdays - £50.40, Weekends - £55.40

### Other charges:

- (a) Use of one lane on Winans is charged at £6.00 for one hour or £9.20 for two hours all year.
- (b) Backing boards (one target included) for pistol targets - £1.30 each.
- (c) Zero Range is charged at £1.30 per session (maximum 1 hour) including a free card.

### Conditions for use:

All users must be either **full members** or shooting on a target booked by an Affiliated Club (of which they are a member), except Short Siberia, Winans and Zero ranges which may also be used individually by members of Affiliated Clubs. Regular individual range users (not Clubs or Associations) may wish to purchase a season ticket for £65 which entitles them to a **total** discount of 25% on the range hire fees shown above on Tuesday - Friday throughout the year (a passport size picture must be provided on application.) As an incentive to young shooters, the NRA will give an automatic total discount of 25% to all schools and recognised youth organisations shooting on Tuesday to Friday inclusive.

**VAT:** Range hire is standard rated at 17.5% for Associations. Range hire for more than 24 hours is VAT exempt for all users.

### Charge for Markers

£45.00 per **day** or £22.50 per **half day**. Markers are scaled and paid at one per target in use, but the NRA provides Butt Supervisors where complete butts are booked. Markers are in very short supply - please provide your own if possible.

### Safe Custody of Firearms/Ammunition per year (Full NRA Members only)

Rifles First £30.00 Each additional £15.00 Pistols First £20.00 Each additional £15.00 Cell A part storage £60.00 Small box £15.00

### Hire of Firearms

<b>Target Rifles</b>	Half day £10.00, full day £20.00	Other assorted rifles from half day £5.00, full day £10.00
<b>Pistols</b>	.44 Uberti percussion revolver £20.00. (Each supplied with all equipment for 50 shots)	Single shot Pedersolli percussion pistol £20.00
<b>Black powder rifle</b>	.577 supplied with 25 shots £25.00	.50 supplied with 25 shots £15.00

### Accommodation Charges 2002

Huts (per person per night)	members	non-members	Dormitories (per person per night)	members	non-members
Crawford Cabins A/B/C lines (1 or 2 bedded)	£16.00	£19.00	Separate M/F (20 beds)	£5.70	£8.60
RO lines (2 bedded)	£11.50	£14.10	Dormitory Block Bookings		
D lines (2 bedded)	£10.00	£12.80	NSRA Meeting (7 days)	£575.00	£785.00
F/J/K Lines (4 bedded)	£10.00	£12.80	NRA Meeting (14 days)	£1280.00	£1705.00
<b>Caravan Sites (per night)</b>			<b>Tent Sites</b>		
Tourers & Motorhomes up to 23ft ex. tow hitch			Per tent per night up to 2 persons	£5.70	£7.85
	£11.50	£14.20	Per additional person	£2.85	£4.30
<b>Caravan sites (per year)</b>	Caravans up to 23 feet	£473.00	Caravans over 23 feet	£644.00	Winter storage £103.00

### National Clay Shooting Centre

#### NEW COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 CLAY FACILITY

Tel: 01483 797666 Fax: 01483 487255 e-mail: info@nsc-clays.co.uk

Rounds (25 clays excluding cartridges) £5.00 non-members, £4.00 members.

Contact us for details and prices for tuition and corporate hospitality

**All prices correct at time of going to press**

# SHOOTING MANAGER'S NOTES



by  
*Martin  
Farnan*

## General

### Marksman's Calendar

The proposed 2002 Marksman's Calendar has been produced and has been sent to all Club Secretaries. It is based on historical precedent and many of the dates shown are simply the equivalent dates to those in 2001. I would ask Club Secretaries to check this calendar carefully and let me have any amendments as quickly as possible. May I also request details of any other Club Championships or Meetings whether held at Bisley or elsewhere. These will be included in the final version of the Marksman's Calendar which will be published in the Spring Journal. Details must be with me by the beginning of January.

### Ranges, Targets and Markers

#### Range Closure Dates

To allow for proper setting up of the ranges, all ranges which will be used for the 2002 Phoenix Meeting (24 to 26 May 2002) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 23 May 2002. Please take note.

As detailed later in these notes (see Imperial Meeting) the 2002 Imperial Meeting will be held a week earlier than this year. The Services Skill at Arms Meetings will therefore start on Sunday 16 June. For this reason, the annual deleading of the butts, the Inter Counties Meeting and the obligatory services practice period will have to be held before this date. As a consequence, traditional Club bookings in late May/early June may therefore suffer some disruption, but we will do our best to minimise this.

So that the Estate staff do not have to work 14 hour days, starting at 6am, it has been decided that there will be no shooting on Mondays in late May/early June, as in all other months of the year, to allow for grass cutting. I apologise in advance to those Schools and military units which may be inconvenienced.

To allow for the setting up of the ranges for the Commonwealth Games next year, all ranges will be closed on Sunday 14 July 2002, the day after Queen's Final. In addition Melville will be closed from Tuesday 11 July and, in view of the dates of the Games, will not be available for normal Club bookings until Tuesday 6 August 2002. We apologise for any inconvenience.

### Use of Stickedown during the Winter Months

It has been clear for some years now that Stickedown is very little used during the winter months, and the expenses involved in keeping this range open have far exceeded the income generated from target hire. In many instances weekend bookings between November and February have been for one target for a morning only. Whilst it has been agreed that Stickedown will remain open this winter some changes will be made as follows:

- a only the line of flags between targets 36 and 37 will remain up;
- b targets to be used will be from target 37 upwards, ie Butts 3 or 4;
- c the required target(s) will be placed in the frame(s) on Friday and covered as weather protection;
- d no target shed staff will be called in on Saturday or Sunday to repair/replace targets.

A full analysis of the costs of keeping the range open during the winter and the income generated will be analysed in March next year, and a final decision will then be made about the economic feasibility of keeping the range open during future winters. In other words, "Use it or lose it (during the winter)". Midweek bookings and shooting will continue as during the rest of the year. It will, of course, be necessary to make advance bookings as normal.

### Gallery Rifle & Pistol Ranges Bidding Conference

The Annual Bidding Conference for Pistol Ranges was held on Sunday 4 November 2001. It is important for Club Secretaries to note that virtually all Pistol Range facilities at Bisley were provisionally allocated during this conference, and that there was a considerable amount of horse trading between Clubs when they swapped certain days etc. Confirmed allocations will be notified to Club Secretaries as soon as possible. In view of the tightness of the annual programme, it is unlikely that major changes to dates will be possible.

### Affiliated Club Bookings

Members will be aware that members of affiliated Clubs are not empowered to book ranges in their own name, and that all bookings have to be made by the Secretary of the Club concerned. These bookings should be for Club fixtures only, and may not be made for individual members of the Club unless they are also full individual members of the NRA (in which case they may book targets in their own right as NRA members). This policy has recently been revised and it has been agreed that members of affiliated Clubs may now, on production of their Club membership card, book targets on the Zero Range, Winans and Short Siberia.

### MoD Range Licence Fees

In a previous edition of the Journal I explained that the Head of the MoD Business Unit had written to say that the cost of the obligatory Licence between a Club using MoD ranges and the MoD was to be £50 plus VAT but would henceforth be valid for three years. This was apparently contradicted by a letter in June this year from the Army Training Establishment (East) which said that



rates could be set "at a local level to reflect the amount of work required in drawing up the licence". They promptly set the rate at £100 plus VAT, and said that it would be valid for one year only.

I wrote in early July to the Head of the Defence Training Estates Business Unit asking, among other questions, why this has now been stated, was his original advice wrong, can rates be set at local level and how such an enormous rise in the fees (if implemented this will cost Clubs more than six times the previously stated rate) can possibly be justified. No reply has been received. I therefore wrote again asking the same questions, and asking for an answer which could be published in this Journal. No reply to either letter has yet been received but I will inform Club Secretaries, as soon as possible, of any developments.

### **Bisley Range Developments**

The new Cheylesmore range (previously Rimfire) has been out of commission for some considerable time now due to the partial slippage of the upper part of the stop butt. This has now been completed using Netlon for the steeper part of the stop butt to keep it at the obligatory 56 degrees angle. At the time of writing, the range is due to be inspected within the next 24 hours, and should be in full operation by the time you read these notes.

In addition, the new Shorts range, at 200 yards on the old Butt 9, has also been completed and the targets have been installed. It is also due for inspection by the MoD Technical Advisory Section (TAS) after which a Board of Officers will convene to approve the use of this range.

### **Bisley Range Charges for 2002**

In view of the complete review of the charges for the use of all facilities at Bisley the normal notification of changes in range charges is included on a separate page in this Journal. Please read this carefully, since there are a number of important changes in weekday/weekend charges, discount cards etc.

In addition it has been agreed by Council that bookings of targets for the purpose of running Corporate Days for commercial reasons, rather than the promotion of the sport, will be charged a per capita fee for those attending the Corporate Day. This has been set at £25 per guest. As explained above this will not affect bookings made for the sole purpose of promoting the sport of shooting. Club Secretaries or individuals making such bookings will be asked to indicate, when making a booking for a Corporate Day, for what purpose the targets are being booked.

### **Range Advice**

Members will be aware that Doug Glaister spends a great deal of his time in advising Clubs on range design and in attempting to solve problems. The Hon Secretary of the Stourport on Severn Pistol and Rifle Club recently wrote to thank Doug for assisting them in clarifying which firearms could be used on their range.

Due to Doug's carefully explained letter the LTAR Officer who issues the Range Safety Certificate was happy to revise the existing certificate, allowing the use of additional firearms, thereby hopefully increasing Club

membership and also giving existing members a wider choice of firearms. He stated that the members of the Club would be happy for their thanks to be published in the Journal. It is nice to hear of one's work occasionally bearing fruit!

### **Range Fencing**

A new fence has been erected running along the side of Century Range behind the LMRA. This is a safety requirement of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) who approve all Clay Target Ranges. The erection of this fence was a prior condition set by the CPSA before they would approve the layouts on Shorts. No access to the area between the two fences, for individuals or cars, will be permitted when some particular clay layouts are in use. At all other times the gates will be open and parking will be allowed as at present.

### **Reverse Echelon Shooting - Safety**

All users of Century Range should be aware that Reverse Echelon Shooting (ie with the longer distances shot on the left of the range and the shorter distances on the right) will be used much more extensively next year. When the signs on the Century boundary fence say "Do not pass this point - Live Firing Ahead" they mean exactly what they say! The live firing will not always be rifle shooting from Century (from the right), but may also be from the Clay Ranges (from the left). Please obey the signs - they are there for your own good!

## **Firearms and Ammunition**

### **Ammunition Prices**

The purchase price from Royal Ordnance Radway Green Target Ammunition for 2002 has not yet been announced. It is therefore not possible to give the revised ammunition prices for sale to members in this edition of the Journal. These will be ascertained as soon as possible and details will be made available to individual members and affiliated Clubs.

### **Clearing of rounds jammed in the chamber**

A dangerous practice has been noted whereby rounds stuck in the chamber have been removed by forcing a cleaning rod down the barrel. Should the round, for any reason, go off there could well be a barrel explosion with injury, or worse, to the person clearing the chamber or bystanders. Any jammed round should be removed from the rear, not by using a rod from the front.

### **Use of Breech Flags**

It was recently found possible to insert a breech flag in a certain type of modern target rifle while, at the same time, a live round was retained by the flag in the rear of the action. A possible consequence could be that, when the breech flag is removed and the bolt closed, a live round could be unknowingly fed into the chamber with the obvious safety implications. You are advised to check whether this is possible or not with your rifle and, if so, to take the most stringent precautions to ensure that this is prevented.

### **Proofing of Older Firearms**

Members will be aware that the use of modern ammunition in older firearms may not always be safe.

An example is the use of modern 7.62mm ammunition in a converted No 4, where the action may only have been proofed for 19 tons psi whereas 20 tons is the presently accepted minimum. If you are using an old firearm please take into account the fact that it was not designed or built to take modern loads, so act safely. In the case of No 4 and similar type actions, you are very strongly recommended to have the rifle re-proofed before any further use.

### **Sales & purchases of firearms**

A web site has been set up by a Mr Alexander Andover for the specific purpose of allowing sellers of firearms, particularly sporting firearms, to advertise these items on a site which is available 24 hours a day. The heart of the site is a sophisticated search engine which allows potential buyers to home in on just the guns that interest them. Categories include all types of shotguns, black powder guns, rifles and air guns.

Included in the standard cost to sellers is the facility to feature up to five photographs of the gun as well as a detailed description. Details are provided to allow the buyer to make direct contact with the seller. Simple navigation aids and fast downloading of information make the site quick and easy to use. The web site address is [www.guntrader.co.uk](http://www.guntrader.co.uk), and is well worth a visit. If you require any further information, please contact me.

## **Courses**

### **Registration**

Please note that, with immediate effect, registration for all NRA courses, of whatever sort, is to be done through the NRA Shooting Administrator, Phyllis Farnan on 01483 797777 ext 150.

### **Dates**

The dates of the next Range Conducting Officers courses run at Bisley will be 17 and 18 November 2001, and 23 and 24 February 2002. Please note that these are one day courses. The next Probationary Members Course will start on Saturday 26 January 2002. For further details please contact the Shooting Administrator, Phyllis Farnan.

### **Costs**

The costs of courses have, in most cases, not been reviewed for some considerable time. As a result many of the courses no longer support themselves financially, and costs have therefore been reviewed. With immediate effect costs per person for these courses will be as follows:

RCO Courses run at Bisley	£50 ( <i>£55 if the course is to include Muzzle Loading</i> )
Probationary Courses	£60 per session
RCO Renewals	£15

### **Counter Signatures**

The Home Office have asked us to inform our members, or prospective members, that there is no longer a requirement to have a reference from a GP or to have a GP countersign an application for membership or a Firearms Certificate. This has been at the request of doctors themselves who have found that a great deal of

their surgery time is being taken up by people making appointments solely for the purpose of getting a signature. GPs may, of course, continue to sign such documents but this should, of course, be done outside surgery hours. Any required references etc may also be supplied by "persons of similar standing".

## **Imperial Meeting**

### **Dates for 2002**

All shooting events in the Commonwealth Games will be held at Bisley from 15 July until 4 August 2002. The 133rd Imperial Meeting will therefore be held a week earlier than this year, and will run from 29 June to 13 July. These events will be preceded by the Services and Cadets Meetings which will start on 15 June.

### **Programme**

The programme for 2002 will be the same as for 2001, but a week earlier as already explained.

### **Entry Forms**

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2002.

### **Service Rifle**

There will be no changes in individual match conditions next year. However it has been agreed, at the request of the Joint Services Shooting Committee, that a new match will be shot on the evening of Pre-Sunday 23 June, which will also be included in the Burdwan. The match will be an Inter-Services FIBUA Match for teams of eight, and will consist of practices 1 to 4 of Match 17.

### **Target Rifle, Match Rifle, F Class, Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol**

No known changes to date, but I will give an update in the Spring Journal.

### **Historic Arms**

It is possible that some changes will be made to the programme of this meeting but the sub-committee has not yet met to confirm any changes. I will again give an update in the Spring Journal.

### **Trade Stands**

If you plan to set up a Trade Stand during the Imperial Meeting please contact Doug Glaister as soon as possible. A standard space will be £30 plus VAT per day, with larger sites in the region of £60 plus VAT. Space is limited, and early application is advisable.

## **Stop Press**

### **F Class Team to Canada August 2002**

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) have invited the NRA to send an F Class team to compete in the F Class World Championships to be held at Connaught Ranges, near Ottawa, from 26 to 28 August 2002. This will be preceded by the DCRA TR Championships from 19 to 24 August in which F Class shooters may compete in a separate class. The proposed number in an F Class team is eight, probably with a Captain, Adjutant and two coaches.

Council have agreed to send an unfunded team to compete in this Meeting, and Dr Paul Monaghan has been appointed Team Captain. Any F Class shooters who



would be interested in membership of such a team should write to Paul Monaghan, through the NRA, as soon as possible, giving full details of their experience, scores achieved in the NRA or other Meetings and any other relevant details.

### **World Masters Games 2002**

Details of the 2002 World Masters Games have just been received. These seventh Games will be held in Melbourne from 5 to 13 October 2002. The Games are "a celebration of sport for mature age athletes", the age of "maturity" varying for each sport. For Pistol shooting the relevant age is 35, while for Target Rifle, Small Bore Rifle, Air Rifle and Clay Target the age is 30! Full details and "expressions of interest" forms are available from the Shooting Manager.

### **NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2002**

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2002:

<i>Captain</i>	Rupert Clark
<i>Vice Captain</i>	Jonathan Holmes
<i>Adjutant</i>	Ian Mollan
<i>Coaches</i>	David Calvert Alex Pilgrim
<i>Shooters</i>	Tim Bedwell Alastair Brown Mick Buckley Kris Cressy Ian Davison Rupert Dix Stuart O'Brien Richard Shouler Mike Wood

### **English Twenty Club**

#### **Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer**

In February 2002 the English Twenty Club, the governing body for English fullbore rifle shooting, will seek nominations for the key posts of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer from among its membership. The current incumbents retire at the AGM in July 2002 after a period of sterling service that leaves the administrative and financial welfare of the Club in a healthy state.

These are voluntary and unpaid positions. Potential successors should want to contribute to English fullbore target shooting and have excellent administrative skills. They will have the chance to act in a pivotal role for the Club, influencing our development for the first years of the new Millennium and beyond. Any member who would relish this challenge and who would like to know more about the roles should, in the first instance, contact Tony de Launay, Chairman of the English Twenty Club Council, at The Beeches, Mill Lane, Littleworth, Partridge Green, West Sussex, RH13 8JU (Tel: 01403 711247).

### **GB Rifle Team to New Zealand 2003**

The following have been selected for the GB Rifle Team to New Zealand 2003:

<i>Captain</i>	Bob Aitken	
<i>Vice Captain</i>	Chris Hockley	
<i>Adjutant</i>	Tim Kidner	NC
<i>Main Coach</i>	Allan Mabon	NC
<i>Shooters</i>	Charlotte Aldridge	NC
<i>NC = New Cap</i>	Duncan Bedding	NC
	Matt Charlton	NC
	Judy Farnan	NC
	Mike Fugeman	
	Peter Griggs	
	Jonathan Haward	
	Dorothy Hume	NC
	Colin Johnston	NC
	Alwyn McLean	
	Martin Millar ( <i>GM, SC</i> )	
	Simon Osmond	NC
	Lindsay Peden ( <i>GM</i> )	
	Alex Pilgrim	
	Ian Shaw	
	Tom Walters	NC

The Tour Manager will be Roger Hanley

### **GB Rifle Team to Canada 2002**

The following have been selected for the GB Rifle Team to Canada 2002:

<i>Captain</i>	John Bloomfield ( <i>GM2, CGM, SC</i> )	
<i>Vice Captain</i>	John Webster	
<i>Adjutant</i>	Jeremy Langley ( <i>CGC, CSM, CSC</i> )	
<i>Coaches</i>	Simon Cleveland Reg Roberts	
<i>Shooters</i>	Nigel Ball	
<i>NC = New Cap</i>	Mary Boston	NC
	Julie Cane	NC
	Jon Cload	
	Chris Haley	NC
	Peter Holden	NC
	David Luckman ( <i>SC</i> )	
	Kip Morton	NC
	Parag Patel ( <i>GC, SC, CGC, CSC</i> )	
	Stephen Penrose	
	John Pugsley ( <i>GM</i> )	
	Iain Robertson	NC
	Stuart Williamson ( <i>SC</i> )	

# IRISH OPEN 2001

*by Peter Campbell*

The 90th Irish Open Championship, whilst not being in serious threat from cancellation due to the foot and mouth crisis, fell victim by way of the lowest entry for many years. The field however was one of the usual high quality with no easy pickings to be had anywhere; a quarter of the entry were X or A class, and a further quarter F Class, including two who were shooting both TR and F Class. Bob Aitken returned from an enforced absence the previous year, bringing Iain Brechin, who doubtless was along for instruction after last year's Scottish Rifle Association Whisky ballot sales hit an all time low (few people can resist Bob's subtle threatening harangue). David Stevens (IBIS), personal sponsor of the 17th man prize, returned with his most welcome sponsorship, whilst Hugh Forgie (West of Scotland), last year's F Class victor, brought along Des Parr (West Lothian) for his first visit to the land of Guinness and Poteen.

Events started on Saturday with the Ballykinler Tankard, a 2 + 15 to shake the cobwebs from some and awaken others. Nine competitors were wide-awake; Alwyn McLean (Comber) dropped a solitary V bull, Mark Cardy (URA & ATRC) dropped another two V bulls for second place whilst seventh overall Ciaran Brannigan (Comber) shot 75.10 for the Tyro prize. Meanwhile in F Class, Des Parr and Pete Campbell (URA) dropped single V bulls apiece. Des dropped his second whilst Pete went next; perhaps Ballykinler wasn't that hard after all. Events tightened further with the start of the Grand Aggregate; no less than 22 shooters posted possibles, and it took a tie shoot to separate Alwyn McLean and Dave Calvert (Comber) for Alwyn's second win of the day. F Class produced a four way tie which was decided in Des Parr's favour with Michael Wentges (URA), Hugh Forgie and Pete Campbell following. Thereafter the Ballykinler wind machine was turned up and results became easier to decide. Dave Calvert and Hugh Forgie cruised to 35.7s whilst a youthful PJ Harding (Dublin) took top Tyro. Alwyn McLean finished his day's shooting by picking up honours in the Championship 600, pipping Mark Cardy, Simon Carson (Comber) and Richard Bailie, (L&MRA) all on 35.6. Meanwhile the F Class shooters were having a hiccup, Pete Campbell only managing a decidedly hollow 35.3.

With Stage I of the Championship finished, four shooters had finished clean. In front was Alwyn McLean with 105.18, Pete Campbell and Michael Wentges followed with 105.15 each whilst Gary Alexander (Dungannon) lurked close behind on 105.11 having made good use of his new RPA Quadlock. Hugh Forgie was fifth whilst Dave Calvert, Simon Carson, Ian Mollan, Martin Millar (Comber)

and Trevor Steele (URA) all waited in the wings for a mistake from those ahead. The Championship was still very much open.

The surprise in F Class had been twofold, not least for Pete Campbell who had moved to 6.5mm. Delays waiting for his new barrel had meant he was shooting the Meeting with a mix of fireforming and development loads, the accuracy of the development loads leaving something to be desired! Michael Wentges, however, was producing a giant-killing performance. A resident of the Republic of Ireland, Michael is prevented by law from reloading, so was forced to use factory Lapua 6.5 x 55 ammunition; his scores surely a testament to Lapua ammunition and the 6.5 x 55 cartridge.

Competitors on Sunday had a Queen's II course of fire starting with the URA Tankard. Pete Campbell woke up first with 50.9 whilst Des Parr, Michael Wentges and Hugh Forgie followed on 50.8. Ian Mollan, part of the RAF team, was the solitary TR shooter in the top five. With seven in serious contention for the Championship, Ian Mollan's 50.5 elevated him to second place between Alwyn McLean and Gary Alexander on 154.25, 154.20 and 154.16 respectively.

The Ballykinler wind machine continued to provide sufficient difficulty to split the competitors. The Royal Irish Fusiliers Trophy was no different - Dave Calvert and Hugh Forgie both shot 50.10s leaving the results at the top simple, however both McLean and Mollan dropped points, enabling Gary Alexander to open a slender lead in the Championship. Meanwhile in F Class, Pete Campbell opened a solitary V bull lead from Michael Wentges.

The Mourne Trophy would be the final shoot for many; Martin Millar shot a 50.10 for a clear victory from Neil Anderson (Dungannon) on 50.9, Pete Campbell and John Moran (URA) were third and fourth with 50.8s apiece. With Mollan, McLean and Alexander having all shot clean, the Championship was still very much open. Alexander was leading McLean and Mollan by a single point, while in F Class Campbell also led Wentges by a single V bull. Sandy Wilson (Fassaroe & URA) meanwhile had tied up the Tyro Championship to finish on 224.22 from Greg Kane on 221.15 and PJ Harding 240.21. Sandy and PJ dealt with the added complication of having to use borrowed club rifles, as rifles over 7mm are banned in Southern Ireland.

As the top sixteen TR and two F Class assembled at the 600 yard point to decide the Championships, Alexander and Campbell were doubtless aware that





**Left:**  
Relaxing before Message One

**Right:**  
Gary Alexander - happy to be back on form after 18 years



**Below:**  
There's a target down there somewhere!  
Martin Millar waits for the mist to clear

(Photos: David Calvert)



## eScoreBook Software Version 2.0

ScoreCard id 403 (1000yards)

A	B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
4.0R	5.0R	0.0	3.0R	3.0R	4.0R	4.5R	5.0R	5.0R	4.5R	4.0R	3.0R	46
15.5	14.5	14.5	14.0	14.0	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	V
ok	LR	ok	?	ok	ok	L	LL	?	ok	?	ok	
4	V	C	V	4	V	4	V	5	4	4	5	4

Wind Elev. Call Value

Superposition Plot

500x

ScoreBook All:All

Standard Deviations in Backplot

Standard Deviation (number)

Card Index

eScoreBook: O'Connell, Tamsin

File Edit ScoreCard Help

Year/Distance	Event	Date	Form	Score
1998				
300				
500				
600				
1000				
2001				
200				
300				
O'Connell v School	01 Jun 2001	2 & 7	35.6	
Donegall	14 Jul 2001	2 & 10	49.6	
Times	16 Jul 2001	2 & 10	48.4	
George's 1	17 Jul 2001	2 & 15	74.10	
Queens 1	18 Jul 2001	2 & 7	32.3	
Howard Wilkinson	21 Jul 2001	2 & 10	50.7	

Current Firer: O'Connell, Tamsin

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- \* 18 different grouping statistics
- \* Now with a Wind Graph
- \* Sight Radius Corrections
- \* Store bullet load info
- \* Target zoom functions
- \* Superposition plots with bull/V exclusion
- \* Replotting on different target patterns
- \* Single or Multiple card/firer stats.

- \* View backplotted group: replot fall of shot as if fired on average corrected wind & elevation
- \* Improved support for multiple firers
- \* Target Pattern Editor (presets of Bisley 98, Canadian imp/metric, Australian, UIT, Palma, US Benchrest, UK Cadet GP)

**[www.bluebarnacle.com](http://www.bluebarnacle.com)**  
(Version 2.0 shipping late November 2001)

one mistake would open the door to their respective opponents. Gary produced the only possible in the final to ensure his Championship victory. Meanwhile Pete Campbell allowed his seventh shot to slip into the inner upwind; we had a long wait until Wentges finished, but with the cards in, Michael had let another 600 yards point get away from him giving Pete Campbell his second championship in three years.

Gary Alexander had not only won the Irish Open Championship for a second time with a record equalling score but had added his name to a select band who have won a championship that Dave Calvert could almost call his own, Calvert having won nine of the fifteen events since Gary's last victory.

In the team events the URA qualified for the Astor and held onto the Belfast Lepper, the Tyro team competitions and the All Ireland Challenge Shield, whilst Dungannon won the Irish Guards Challenge Cup and Seagirt Cup. Comber had to settle for the Rangoon Shield. The RAF won the RAF/Army match for the second year running with Ian Mollan not surprisingly the top scorer for the RAF.

The Championship positions at the end were:

1st	F Class	Pete Campbell	329.51
1st	TR	Gary Alexander	329.35
2nd	F Class	Michael Wentges	328.45
2nd	TR	Alwyn McLean	327.46
3rd	TR	Ian Mollan	325.40
4th	TR	Trevor Steele	324.40
5th	TR	Dave Cumming	324.37
6th	TR	Iain Brechin	324.33
7th	TR	Dave Calvert	323.51
8th	TR	Simon Carson	322.34
9th	TR	Richard Bailie	322.33
10th	TR	Neil Anderson	321.36

Changes for 2002 include changing the course of fire to 2 + 20 @ 300 yards warm-up followed by a Queen's II on Saturday. Sunday is altered to 2+15 @ 300, 500 and 600 yards plus a final consisting of 2+20 @ 600 yards for the top sixteen in the Grand Aggregate with proportional places for F Class. Various ferry/car hire concessions are available. For further details contact Peter Campbell on telephone 028 9266 8344 or on e-mail no4t.303@virgin.net.

## INCREASE OF FACILITIES AT LEEK SHOOTING CENTRE

Leek Shooting Centre is located on Blackshaw Moor three miles out of Leek on the main road to Buxton. It is on the periphery of the Peak District Park, and the view from the outdoor ranges is very impressive. The club possesses two outdoor ranges: one 50 metre and one 100 metre. Both ranges are suitable for use with Black Powder and are authorised for .22 rimfire and pistol calibres. The centrally heated clubhouse is equipped with toilets, tea-brewing apparatus and there is a 25 yard indoor range rated for use with .22 rifles. The air weapons section of the club also use the indoor range.

One year in the planning stage and three years construction work have finally resulted in a first class 100 yard full-bore Tunnel Rifle Range. The amount of blood, sweat and tears donated by the project team is not quantifiable. Our local TA RE Regiment were heavily involved too until Government reorganisation transferred their plant troop out of the area.

The MOD gave it their blessing and seal of approval and issued a Range Safety Certificate at the end of lengthy and useful discussions which proved invaluable to the project team. Thanks go to TAS and our local Range Inspector for their great assistance in the project.

The local council sent their pollution control person to monitor sound emissions. Whilst using standard 7.62 military ammunition the noise level outside the tunnel was less than the noise level created by a passing motor car. The planning people are well



pleased with this result. The tunnel range has been covered with soil and a crop of assorted virulent weeds is busy disguising the structure.

It is anticipated that there will be a brisk demand for access by rifle shooters anxious to zero their rifles or to shoot during bad weather without getting wet.

Construction of this range has now provided a full-bore facility to disabled shooters and will also allow wheelchair users to get onto the firing point and participate in full-bore rifle disciplines, something which has been denied to them for a long time in the North Midlands.

At this time, use of the Tunnel Range is restricted to members of the Leek Shooting Centre. At £60.00 per year membership is excellent value.



# ARMY INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SERVICE PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001

The Army Service Pistol Championships was fired on Pirbright Ranges on Saturday 2 June 2001.

The Championship attracted a record entry of 106 individuals and 28 teams. Also pleasing to note was the continuing improvement in the overall standard, including record scores in both of the Individual Matches and in the Teams Match.

CSgt N Hodgson QLR, last years Champion, won Match 11 (Stage 1 of the Championship) with a score of 268, bettering the record (by four points) set by LCpl W Kennedy, R IRISH, last year, who in turn won Match 12 (Stage 2) with a score of 272, bettering the record (by five points) set last year by CSgt Hodgson; LCpl Kennedy also won the overall Championship raising the record by six points to 532. This is the third time that he has won the Championship in the last four years. Lt Col RT Hoole, R Signals, finished in second place in the Championship just three points behind, with CSgt Hodgson a further three points behind in third place. Also worthy of note was the improved standard at the bottom end of the scale with the low man score in Stage 1 being 25 points up on previous years and 21 points up in Stage 2.

Match 38, the Teams Championship was won by 3 R IRISH with a record score of 761 (previous record 730); 4 R IRISH scored 748 to finish in second place.



*Left:*  
Army Service Pistol Championships  
Individual Winners (left to right):  
Lt Col Richard Hoole R SIGS Silver Jewel  
CSgt Nigel Hodgson QLR Bronze Jewel  
LCpl Willy Kennedy R IRISH Gold Jewel

*Right:*  
Match 38 Winners: 3 R IRISH



## CORNWALL INTER COUNTIES OPEN MEETING

*by Tina Capell*

Cornwall Rifle Club held its 15th annual Inter Counties / Open Meeting over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Millpool in the middle of the beautiful Bodmin Moor.

Saturday's start was delayed by the typical Cornish weather; a low cloud insisted on keeping us company until about 11.00ish. Shooting commenced as soon as we could see the flag on St Bellarmins Tor. Event One was shot at 300 yards on the metric target, with 2 sighters and 15 to count. Some very impressive scores were obtained - Roy Jobson winning with 150.8, second was David Young with 150.7 and third Mike Cosway with 150.5. Event Two was shot at 500 yards (2 sighters and 10 to count) again won with a HPS by Robin Hallows with 50.5. Event Three was shot at 600 yards (2 sighters and 15 to count); the best score was achieved by Matthew Charlton with a 74.12. Event Four shot on the standard 300 yards target, again 2 sighters and 10 to count, saw another impressive score from Mike Cosway with 50.9

Sunday saw Bodmin Moor in glorious sunshine. The weather that Cornwall had been promised arrived and shooting was able to commence on time. Event Eight, which is shot to Queen's II rules, was won by Adrian Pettman with a 149.20, second was David Young with

a 149.18, and his son Bruce close on his heels came third with 147.15. The Inter Counties Challenge saw a combination of Somerset and Devon shooters win calling themselves Wessex.

After lunch it was time for the top twenty shooters of the Meeting to shoot the final. They had a fifteen minute delay while the markers cleared away some unwanted spectators from the range - cows from a neighbouring farm use the range to graze when shooting is not in progress. The delay at the start of the final did not deter Tony Mitchell, David Young and Brian Cambray who all achieved a 73.10. Luckily the cows did not return to see the tie shoot which was eventually won by David Young. Despite the slight delay on Saturday, it was a very enjoyable shoot and our thanks go to the organisers who did such a splendid job, Tony Mitchell, Keith Ellett and Colin Williams (stats).

The 16th Cornwall Inter Counties / Open Meeting will again be held at Millpool on next year's August Bank Holiday weekend - a splendid shoot not to be missed. We hope you will be able to join us next year not only to shoot but to enjoy our beautiful county as well. County shoots outside Bisley are becoming a rarity. Keep this one alive and join us next year.



# INTER COUNTIES MEETING 2001

by Karen Robertson



**Top:**  
Century in generally damp mode

(Photo: David Calvert)



**Left:**  
Jacqui Rankin and Erica McMullan discuss the Under 23 Prize

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

**Bottom left:**  
Surrey wrapped up warm on Stickledown

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

**Bottom right:**  
Great Britain Under 25 Team Captain Ross McQuillan doesn't let the weather affect his sense of humour

(Photo: Karen Robertson)



## **Saturday 16 June**

- 04.00: Woken by rain on caravan roof  
06.00: Still seriously raining  
07.00: I am definitely not shooting in this, where's my cup of tea, I'm staying in bed  
08.00: Rain stops, sun comes out – s'pose I'd better get my rifle then . . .  
08.45: Start of R Jarvis  
08.55: Start of torrential downpour  
09.00: Wet round, high outer, broken extractor  
09.01: Exit from firing point with soaked kit, bad language and the discovery that my waterproofs aren't  
09.02: And my wellies leak – can it get any worse?

Well yes it could actually . . .

Mid June should be warm and sunny but unfortunately the organisers had forgotten to book the weather and as a result everyone got soaked. It was some consolation to the competitors on the first detail of the R Jarvis that it rained on the second detail as well. Still, a bit of dampness didn't stop Bill Richards and John Pugsley putting them all in for 75.13; Bill won the tie shoot with 25.4 to claim the Cup and the Gold Medal. Despite the weather, twenty-four others achieved possibles, including Erica McMullan of Ulster with a 75.8 that should have won the Under 23 prize. However the Ulster team captain (due to his advancing years) had forgotten to indicate on the entry form that she was eligible so the prize went to Jacqui Rankin of East of Scotland with her 74.9. It is believed that the girls, after a short tussle, came to an arrangement regarding the prize voucher.

With everyone now thoroughly wet, the teams of eight contested the Lt Col H Jones Memorial Trophy, shooting 2 + 10 at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

At 300 yards the wind was flicking slightly from zero to ¾ left. Surrey took an early lead with five possibles, two 49s and a 48; Hampshire and Sussex were one point behind. There were sixty-five possibles from 256 firers; top scorers were David Cumming of Ulster, Marcus O'Leary of Hampshire and Steve Thomas of Hertfordshire who all scored 50.9.

Back to 500 yards and conditions improved somewhat, with the wind ranging from 1½ to 2 left and dropping steadily throughout the shoot. High scores came from Somerset with 396.52 and Ulster with 396.51 although Surrey's 395.56 maintained their overall lead. Eighty-six possibles were scored at this range with eight shooters scoring 50.9. However the most notable score was by Alice Ogilvie shooting for London; she followed her 49.9 at 300 with a 50.0 at 500. Even more remarkably, she continued with a further 49.9 at 600 yards. Whether any of the credit for this 50.0 was due to coach Matt Charlton is unclear.

At 600 yards conditions worsened considerably. The first shots had just gone down when the heavens opened and torrential rain made it impossible to see the 300 yards point let alone the targets; most shooters just stayed where they were, trying to keep their equipment dry, whilst unsupportive coaches ran for the shelters. An extra non-convertible sighter was allowed once the monsoon had passed. Several lady shooters reported that certain undergarments were filling up with water; offers of gentlemanly help were plentiful. Top score at 600 yards came from Norfolk with 395.51 with London close behind on 394.52; however a 394.50 from Ulster rocketed them into third place. The high scores at this range were 50.10s from Bruce Logan of West of Scotland and Allen Dixon of Somerset; sixty-three other possibles were achieved.

Surrey's 392.55 for a total of 1183.149 took the trophy from Sussex on 1180.151 closely followed by Ulster on 1179.148. Total scores were impressive with five shooters on 150; top of the list was Parag Patel of Surrey with 150.24 then David Hossack (Sussex), Martin Millar (Ulster) and Andy Luckman (Somerset) all on 150.21. Close behind was Paul Charlton of Wiltshire with 150.20; a much appreciated score as Wiltshire were the last team to qualify for the Long Range Match squeezing out Oxfordshire by six V bulls.

## **Sunday 17 June**

Another miserable day but at least it wasn't quite so wet. Winds were fairly tricky at 900 yards starting with 1½ - 3 right, later fishtailing to 3 left but steadying towards the end of the shoot. Out of the 200 shooters competing in the match only seven achieved possibles at 900 yards; top of the seven were Andy Luckman (Somerset), Simon Belither (Essex), Parag Patel (Surrey) and Stu Williamson (Sussex) all with 75.10. Two possibles and a team all making 72 or better gave Sussex the lead on 587.81. Running second were Yorkshire with 585.53 and third were Somerset with 582.60. Back in an unusual fourth position were Surrey on 580.63.

At 1000 yards conditions became seriously testing. The first firers suffered a fishtailing wind from 2 left to 2 right. Later firers had spreads from ½ right to 4½ right with the odd gust to enliven things and a mirage that on occasion showed left wind that didn't seem to be there; it was definitely the day to have a really good coach. The scores reflected the conditions with not one possible from Bisley's finest shooters and only one 74, from Norfolk's Nigel Ball with a 74.7. Surrey fought back hard at this range and coaches Simon Cleveland and Bill Richards kept their shooters to a steady set of scores from 69.6 up to 73.8 to finish with 1145.114. Most other teams had a far wider range as the rapid changes made staying in the black a challenge. Unfortunately it wasn't quite enough to



take the lead from Sussex whose 562.43 gave them a four-point win on 1149.114. Yorkshire's 555.47 gave an aggregate of 1140.100 and kept them in the medals in third place. Top scorer of the day was Stu Williamson of Sussex whose 75.10 and 73.4 gave him the only 148 of the day; team mate Peter Chapman and Alistair Hill of Surrey were the only 147s.

Meanwhile on Century the seven teams who missed the cut contested the Short Range Team Match. Buckinghamshire had a convincing win, helped along by Stuart Collings' fine 150.17.

It was a close call for the Aggregate Challenge Trophy – Surrey had won the H Jones by three points from Sussex but Sussex had won the Long Range by four points from Surrey. Final scores: Sussex 2329.265, Surrey 2328.263. The two tussling for the top spot had opened a considerable lead in the process; third placed Yorkshire were 21 points behind Surrey on 2307.236.

Thanks to Radway Green for their sponsorship of the event, David Mumford for his organisational skills, Tony Clayton and his team of Range Officers and Bill Richards for his fast and efficient stats.

Just sack whoever was responsible for the weather OK!

## Results

	Short Range	Long Range	Grand Total
Sussex	1180.151	1149.114	2329.265
Surrey	1183.149	1145.114	2328.263
Yorkshire	1167.136	1140.100	2307.236
Ulster	1179.148	1122.79	2301.227
Hertfordshire	1165.124	1135.111	2300.235
Berkshire	1167.141	1133.90	2300.231
Hampshire	1176.153	1117.91	2293.244
London	1172.144	1121.87	2293.231
Somerset	1176.149	1116.90	2292.239
Devon	1163.133	1122.100	2285.233
Essex	1165.131	1119.100	2284.231
Kent	1172.131	1110.88	2282.219
Cheshire	1173.136	1103.93	2276.229
Nottinghamshire	1170.124	1103.92	2273.216
Northumbria	1161.119	1112.89	2273.208
County of Lancaster	1160.118	1112.85	2272.203
Norfolk	1172.143	1097.70	2269.213
Wiltshire	1153.116	1116.83	2269.199
East of Scotland	1171.134	1097.92	2268.226
West of Scotland	1164.126	1103.81	2267.207
Tyrone	1155.105	1111.72	2266.177
Cambridgeshire	1155.120	1110.72	2265.192
Northants, Leics & Rutland	1155.115	1106.88	2261.203
Suffolk	1157.122	1101.81	2258.203
Middlesex	1162.131	1073.71	2235.202

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# INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CHAIRMAN - JOHN F JACKMAN FCA

by Tony de Launay



After a lifetime of service to rifle shooting, and eleven years on the NRA Council as its Chairman, John de Havilland announced his retirement at the Council meeting held on 12 October. There will be a full record of his contribution in the Spring 2002 edition of this Journal.

Council then approved the appointment in his place of John Jackman FCA, one of the Association's most honoured, in shooting representation terms, members. For the record, over the years since he was captain of shooting at St John's School Leatherhead in 1959, when he won the Spencer Mellish, John has been a member of Great Britain and England teams on more occasions than we have space to record here. He has also held a number of positions with prominent Clubs. He was the Auditor for both the old Surrey XX Club and the English Twenty Club, on the Committee of the North London and British Commonwealth Rifle Clubs, and a Council and Committee member of the NRA between 1975 and 1990. Currently he holds positions as a Trustee of the North London and the Surrey, and is President of the Commonwealth and the Old Johnians. His local club is Farncombe and Godalming Rifle Club.

Now, shooting representation does not of itself constitute an automatic recipe for management skills and the acumen that is essential for a successful climb back into financial and business security. However it does help when it comes to understanding what shooters want and what their concerns may be. John Jackman is under no illusions as to the size of the task facing him. He is, above all, a businessman with financial and management experience in the successful running of companies, including the resuscitation of businesses in need of an operational kiss of life. Although trained as a chartered accountant he quickly found himself involved in the world of business consultancy, allowing him to take a wider interest in a range of industries.

This change of direction did not fully take place before he had helped English China Clays to restructure its management and participated in a review of the newspaper industry with a team at the Economist Intelligence Unit. The move into consultancy offered him a wide insight into different management styles and problems – all there for the solving. His appointments have included group financial controller of Crosby House Group plc, and group secretary and finance director of Seascope Holdings plc/Henry Ansbacher Holding plc.

As well as developing and selling on as a going concern a printing and stationery company and a leisure company in the 1980s, John held various appointments at Lloyd's of London. This gave him the experience of taking ailing organisations and securing their future service provision, and also of resolving market disputes in the early 1990s. His consultancy experience has covered a vast range of industries, from light industrial to leisure and from transport to warehousing. The tasks that have confronted him have varied. Accountancy (inevitably), employment and company law, crisis and problem management, leasing and corporate recovery are all in his portfolio together with a keen feel for what is within the art of the possible. He has his Institute's Certificate of Management Information and is a member of the Institute of Directors.

He is a director of James Fortescue (Holdings) Ltd, the family poultry business run by his younger brother Graham, and both of them have been Masters of the Worshipful Company of Butchers, the City forum for the UK Meat Industry (John having just completed his term). Married to Jackie, with two daughters Elizabeth and Caroline, his sporting and other leisure interests have included horse riding, sailing, tennis, fencing, oil painting, music, bridge and chess – and of course shooting. It is earnestly to be hoped that he plays the piano better than brother Graham plays the bugle, for those who can remember the Last Post when Graham was resident at the British Commonwealth Rifle Club!

John lives on a small farm, which he bought in 1983, in the Wey Valley between Guildford and Godalming. There the family breeds Sussex beef cattle and a small flock of sheep on excellent grass pasture and water meadow. By nature a quiet and gentle man, he also possesses a mischievous sense of humour and an acerbic turn of phrase when confronted by stupidity. He is a man of utmost integrity and, most importantly, a good listener. He takes over from his predecessor with the ancient Chinese curse ringing in his ears "May you live in interesting times". His resolve is immense. He will brook no malicious interference from those out to settle scores, but he will undoubtedly welcome constructive input. He deserves our loyalty and our support.

# MUSEUM REPORT

by Ted Molyneux

Over the period of the Imperial Meeting, from Sunday 8 July to Saturday 21 July, the museum opened for a total of 98.5 hours, over 13 days.

With more than 300 people signing the visitors book, it is estimated that at least 400 visitors came to view the exhibits, which must indicate a healthy interest in the history of the Association.

Although there are some relatively minor details to be completed, comments in the visitors book indicated that the displays met with general approval, which was reflected by the generous amount found in the donations box.

For those who are not aware, the museum has been created and is manned by a small handful of unpaid volunteers, who have enjoyed many years of competitive rifle shooting. They are attempting (at no cost to the NRA) to put something back into a sport which has provided them with so much pleasure. Consequently, all donations go towards the purchase of new items for the exhibition and not directly into the coffers of the NRA!

This year, for several reasons, the number of volunteers manning the museum was down to three regulars, plus an occasional fourth, which made for quite a heavy load. Next year it is hoped that a few

more like-minded souls will offer their services to ease matters. Better still would be if they could devote two days per week, as do three stalwarts, to the general running of the museum.

The cataloguing of the archives is, in itself, a monumental task, to which is now added a large amount of correspondence relating to the identification of artefacts and family history research, the latter becoming more and more popular. The slightest mention of shooting connected to an ancestor, results in much of our time being spent researching each case. Most such enquirers have little or no knowledge of the subject but expect much. So many of their ancestors have "won Bisley" and many are convinced that medals bearing the year 1860 are both old and valuable!

On the plus side, several of these enquiries have resulted in the acquisition of some splendid new additions to the collection, which makes it all worthwhile.

With an eye to the future, should any seriously interested soul feel inclined to lend a hand and get involved, then please contact me, Ted Molyneux, the Hon. Curator. You will need the patience of Job, the detective ability of Sherlock Holmes and a goonish sense of humour!

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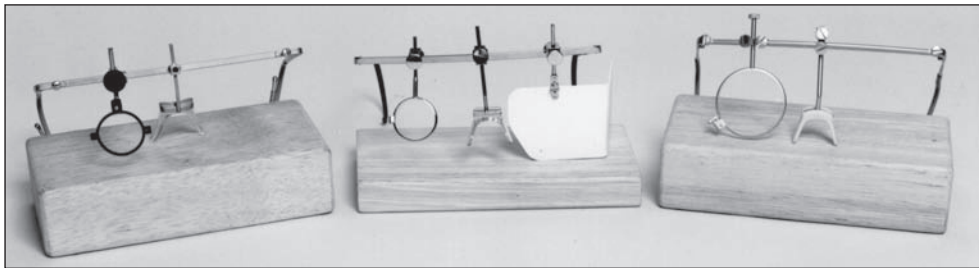
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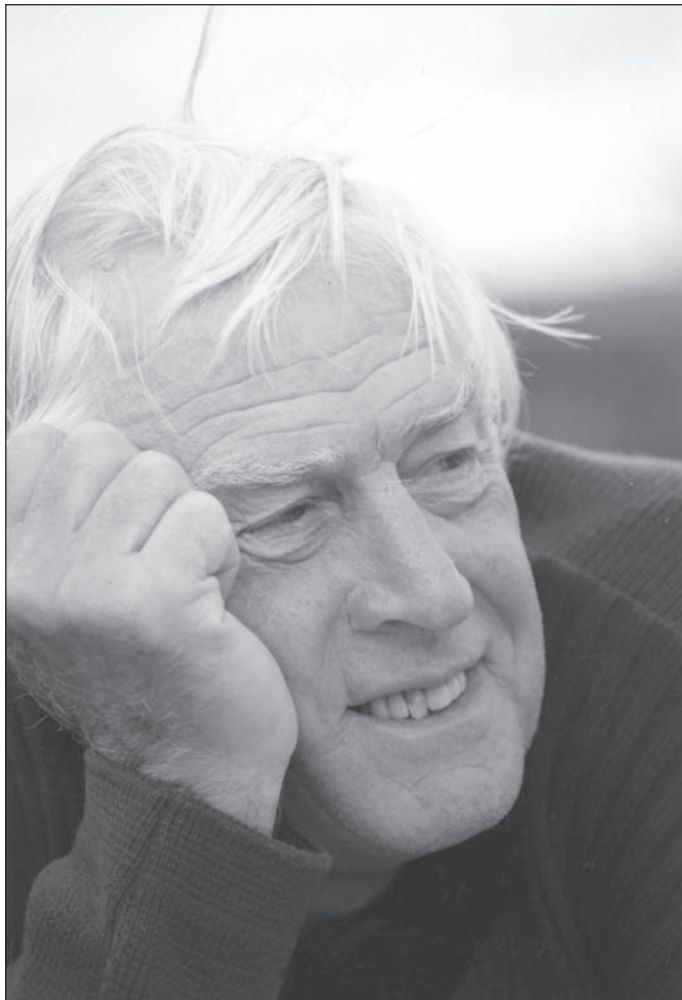


# BOB AITKEN

*talking with Tony de Launay*

It must be at least 15 years ago that I was given a lift back by air from some negotiations with TASS (not the Soviet news agency but a trade union) courtesy of British Aerospace at Warton. Behind me in the 'plane was a gentleman who turned out to be one of their test pilots, who said that he had a brother who shot rifle for Scotland, but who had just broken his ankle falling off the firing point. He had to be referring to "Big Bad Bob", known to all as Bob Aitken.

Bob admits to having been born in Kent. So why shoot for Scotland? "It was a case of nearly shooting for India - where I was conceived. I was matured on the high seas, and born in Dover Castle - untitled". Did you learn to shoot at school? "No - there were too many of them: I was a travelling child. My father was a serving officer in the Seaforth Highlanders. Eventually I was called up in 1954 to do my National Service and posted into the Cameron Highlanders. No sooner had I reported for duty than father heard about it and I was sent home to join the Seaforths and signed on for three and a half years, leaving just before the amalgamation which resulted in the Queen's Own Highlanders. What I really wanted to do was to be an architect, so when I left the Army I joined an insurance company".



This set the tone for the talk. Yes, but the shooting..... "Oh that was courtesy of the sergeant instructor. I had done some with the army cadets where as a left hander I was, naturally, taught how to shoot right-handed because it was easier for the instructors that way. In the army proper, the sergeant qualified me by getting me to shoot at five yards rather than the 25 applicable to everyone else. Incidentally, I threw the javelin left handed, the cricket ball right handed, bowled right handed and batted left handed - even then I was a mixed up kid".

Despite the obvious confusion that this caused the Regular Army, Bob distinguished himself for the regiment in the Duke of Edinburgh competition, a mixture of marching and running in full kit with shoots thrown in. His reward was to be sent to Bisley as part of the regimental shooting team where they won the Hamilton Leigh and numerous other competitions. Demobbed locally he joined Guardian Royal Exchange who had their own small-bore range. As a member of the TA he continued with his shooting and gained inter-service honours in rifle and SMG. His first mentors were Alastair Munro and David Horton-Smith, father figures of the Scottish target rifle shooting world.

Munro introduced him to a P14 and long range shooting at Barry Budden range, where his first result was a memorable score of 7 out of 50 at 900 yards, finishing 2, 5! Horton-Smith introduced him to his first ever possible.

Bob recalls with pleasure beating Colin McEachran in a 1972 shoot in Scotland. McEachran asked how on earth he had managed to see the target clearly in the poor conditions. "I had forgotten to put the foresight element in and was using the tunnel to frame the targets. Colin could not believe it". His first serious Bisley came in 1974. It was dry and hot and the 300 yards firing point had just been re-seeded. "Having shot in Egypt and Aden while in the army I had a distinct advantage, knowing how to crinkle up my eyes to keep the dust out." The crinkling experience seems to have worked and he went on to represent Scotland in National and Mackinnon matches.

Coaching seems also to have come by default - or accident. "When I started I learned how to read the wind from the elements around me. We had no wind flags on the Scottish ranges. So I found myself shooting for the United Banks at long range after the Imperial in 1979. Apart from myself my team were all smallbore shooters, and had one rifle between us - my trusty P14. I got 68: I then coached the rest of them and they got 72, 73, 74, and two 75s. Ray Miles

and Ray Bramley were standing behind us, and as I came off the point Bramley asked me if I would go to Canada in the following year as one of his GB Team coaches. I had the pleasure of coaching the likes of Bloomfield, Kent, Belither, Hatcher and Pugsley”.

Bob is noted for his loyalty at all levels, be it for Club, County, Scotland or GB. He is also well known and highly regarded for his work off the firing point. As well as being Captain of Scotland from 1981 to 1983, he was the youngest ever chairman of the Territorial Army Rifle Association. In 1982 he picked the Commonwealth Games team when Arthur Clarke won the individual gold medal. His work for the shooting events at the Edinburgh Games in 1986 is the stuff of legend, marshalling his forces to run ranges at Barry Budden, Kippen and Edinburgh, a daily round trip of 200 miles. He recalls how he had to set up a central armoury at zero notice. “We did it in the nick of time, and I personally bought some 300 padlocks and labelled all the keys. We cleaned out most of the local ironmongers to do it. One of the teams arrived with a massive container which needed a fork-lift truck to unload it from the lorry. When we opened it there was one layer of very carefully packed pistols and the rest was beer. The team eventually withdrew because of the embargo linked to the apartheid issue. We sent the pistols back”.

He readily confesses to having learned the value of exploring the contributions that others outside purist shooting coaching can make. “In 1994 for the Commonwealth Games I had my first look at psychology and the sports medicine and sciences”, he said. “Not all shooters benefit from the psychologists’ advice, but I saw how some did and how the physiotherapist can help. In one case our physio Joan Watt completely rebuilt the stance of a three position shooter, starting from the feet upwards. It may have helped that shooter to avoid severe arthritis problems in later life. She also advised a very macho skeet shooter that warm up exercises would help. He performed them in the loo, but he won a Pairs gold medal”.

Like so many shooters he is worried about the loss of ranges around Scotland. “In 1966 some 20 ranges were closed, simply because when the military ceases to have a use for them they shut. After the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games the loss of the smallbore complex, which had always been on the cards because of local authority development plans, was a blow”. He views the bulldozing of the facilities at Victoria in 1994 as an appalling act.

So what does he think of the new bureaucracy imposed by Sports Councils on all the sports? “The forms we have to fill in are a nightmare, but in this day and age we must learn to live with the requirements of those that ultimately give us the

money. We cannot expect something for nothing so performance plans have to be completed. It does teach us to structure our processes in a sport that for many years was a little random in its approach to selection and training”.

He knows that national teams need to blood new talent whenever they can and feels that perhaps we need to look at different ways of conducting our matches. He is not short of innovative thinking when it comes to making the sport spectator friendly. “I suggested some years ago that the National Match would be much more exciting for spectators and media on a match-play basis, but the powers that be have not taken me up on that one. I have also suggested that there should be an Olympic Final for the Queen’s Prize taking the top ten competitors after the third stage”. He tried the match-play idea one year in Scotland against an English team in an unofficial Lawrence Match, and the Scots won a thrilling match on the last match-play pair – an England tiger v a Scot who had never been to Bisley.

His track record for Scottish shooting sports shows that with perseverance and tact, funds can be acquired for major projects and to assist teams and individuals who are destined to represent Scotland. Indeed, he is something of a legend in his own lifetime north of the border, and the steady improvement in Scottish shooting successes shows it. They gained four gold medals at the CSF Championships in August, which bodes well for the full Commonwealth Games next year. His approach to fund raising at raffle level is simple. “If you are running a raffle you have got to have prizes that are of interest to the public, not just to shooters, or you limit your customers”. What is interesting is how the proceeds are spent. “We ensure that there are three beneficiaries, the sport, the disciplines within the sport, and the clubs. In that way we avoid accusations that the money goes solely to the elite sportsman and we help people at grass roots level”.

On the personal front he was unanimously selected for the overall Scottish Volunteer for Sport Award in 1999 ahead of the likes of Jim Telfer, the Scottish rugby international and other stars of football and athletics. Two of his sons have shot with Scottish teams and his wife Margaret has just celebrated (we toyed with the word “endured”) her 26th Bisley. His daughter Carol took her first steps on Stickledown and now takes them with grace at the Bullet Ball, whilst son Alan climbs mountains as a past (expert) butt marker.

The talent for raising money seems to be all-pervading in him. As I left his caravan I too was lighter in the pocket: he had managed to relieve me of £5 towards the Scottish Shooting Federation’s prize draw – and me an Englishman. Perhaps it had something to do with the £300 first prize.



# THE 1998 NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS FIRST REUNION TOUR, MAY 2001

*by Steve Green*

Regular readers of the NRA Journal will recall the tour report of the 1998 NRA Team to the Channel Islands, under the Captaincy of Roger Hanley. The eighteen members of that team enjoyed themselves so much that when it was suggested that we get together again as an unofficial touring team and revisit the Channel Islands, the suggestion was greeted with enthusiasm. Roger received an invitation from the Guernsey Rifle Club (GRC) to take part in their Spring Meeting, and to shoot a team match as part of that competition, an invitation which he accepted with alacrity. In the event, only fourteen of the original NRA team were able to meet at Gatwick in early May for the short flight to Guernsey, but on this occasion we were accompanied by our partners. We are unaware of any previous NRA CI Team having been on a reunion tour such as this one.

Being in the aviation business himself, the author had long been aware of the big airlines' aversion to using Gatwick rather than Heathrow. On this occasion, the team was treated to a virtuoso demonstration of mindless petty bureaucracy. Having arrived some two hours before departure time, we checked in without problem and sent our partners through into the departure area. At this point we were informed by the airport staff that HM Customs wished to verify the details of the rifles we were taking out of the country. Small problem – no-one at the Customs area. Hung around for about 30 minutes whilst a single Customs officer was tracked down. This gentleman then demanded to inspect each rifle separately, verify the details against each licence and compile his own list – ignoring the one Roger had already provided to the airline. This took nearly an hour and effectively blocked other travellers from their own Customs business until a second officer eventually arrived. We were then directed by airport staff to another area where, not content with the inspection which Customs had just performed, the Airport Authority insisted on an X-ray check of the rifle boxes after which we were then allowed back into the main departure hall! By now there were just minutes left before the scheduled take-off time, but the airport hadn't finished with us yet. We were herded into yet another area where the Airport Authority put our rifle cases through a **second** X-ray inspection, from whence they were taken away to the aircraft. We then had the usual long queue for the personal security inspection (only two gates working out of the six gates apparently available), and straight onto the aircraft to rejoin our partners, with only a minute or so to spare before the gate was closed. After the short, uneventful flight we arrived on Guernsey to be met by David Jory who took our rifles away for safe storage – no inspection required by the local Customs!

We again stayed at the Peninsular Hotel on the north coast, a short drive away from the range. On Friday 4 May the match between the GRC, the NRA 98 team and a team from the London & Middlesex RA (LMRA) took place. Because of the numbers each team had available, the Captains decided that the match would be for eight or nine shooters, best seven to count. As the LMRA squad was smaller than the NRA 98 squad, three of the latter (all LMRA members) were loaned back to the LMRA. The match was shot over 300 and 600 yards, 2 + 10 conditions. The weather was fine, with a light wind coming right to left over the headland on which the range sits, sufficiently variable to oust the firer from the bull if careful notice wasn't kept by the coach. Scoring at 300 yards wasn't spectacular, with possibles only from Toby Coleridge for the LMRA, and Simon Osmond for the NRA 98, thus showing he was still in the same good form which had made him top shooter on the original tour. After 300 yards, the NRA 98 team had a best seven lead of four points over the GRC. By 600 yards the wind had stiffened and the angle across the range was rather more variable than at 300 yards. The only possible at this range was from Nick Mace of the GRC. When firing was complete, local knowledge had won out and the GRC had recovered the earlier deficit to win by a single point over the NRA 98 team, with LMRA eight points behind. Simon Osmond was top gun in the match with 98.11. Revenge, then, for the GRC, having lost the original match in 1998 to the NRA team!

After lunch we then took part in the GRC's Spring Meeting – but that is the GRC's story, and the results can be found on their website at

<http://website.lineone.net/~guernseyrc/>

The rest of the weekend passed quickly, and our very pleasant stay on the island was all too brief. To anyone who has not yet shot on Guernsey, we can recommend their Meetings, shot in a very welcoming atmosphere on an attractive and historic range, as well as the many excellent restaurants which the team and partners managed to track down. A big 'thank you' both to the GRC, for their kind invitation, and to Roger Hanley, for doing all the NRA 98 team's organisation. The NRA 98 team enjoyed the trip very much, and hopes to have further reunion tours in future.

Gatwick? Oh, yes, Gatwick had the last word. When we returned, Customs appeared to have lost their original list of our rifles, so out they all came again for inspection. At least this made us examine the rifles and cases for damage at the airport: several hard cases had minor damage, and one case had clearly been dropped on its end since the foresight was bent over at an alarming angle. We'll be going to Heathrow next time . . .



The NRA 1998 Reunion Team aka "the Magnificent, er, thirteen . . ."

### NRA CI 98 Reunion Team

	300	600	Total
S Osmond	50.07	48.04	98.11
K Trowbridge	49.04	49.06	98.10
S Green	48.04	49.08	97.12
R Coventry	49.06	45.05	94.11
E Stuart-Bamford	46.01	48.06	94.07
R White	48.02	46.03	94.05
D Bedding	47.04	46.04	93.08
J Saunders	46.03	47.01	93.04
R Hilyard	48.06	44.04	92.10
<b>Totals (best seven)</b>	<b>337.28</b>	<b>331.36</b>	<b>668.64</b>



Shooting at 600 yards



Prizewinners at the GRC Spring Meeting 2001:  
(l to r) Jeremy Witham, Simon Osmond, Nick Mace and David Jory

### Guernsey Rifle Club

	300	600	Total
N Mace	48.04	50.04	98.08
S Rowe	49.07	48.05	97.12
R Cushing	48.02	49.07	97.09
A Jory	49.07	46.05	95.12
P Jory	46.05	48.06	94.11
P Ogier	46.04	48.03	94.07
I Donaldson	47.03	47.04	94.07
J Norman	47.02	47.04	94.06
<b>Totals (best seven)</b>	<b>333.32</b>	<b>336.34</b>	<b>669.66</b>



View across Fort Le Marchant range: shooting at 500 yards, the Martello Tower is at 300 yards

### London & Middlesex Rifle Association

	300	600	Total
P Barry	48.06	48.06	96.12
T Coleridge	50.07	46.03	96.10
P Coley	49.05	47.03	96.08
D Lloyd	47.04	48.04	95.08
M Gooden	47.04	47.07	94.11
C Mallett	47.02	45.01	92.03
R Bailie	45.04	46.02	91.06
D Hazelton	42.00	44.03	86.03
D Aldous	39.02	31.01	70.03
<b>Totals (best seven)</b>	<b>333.32</b>	<b>327.26</b>	<b>660.58</b>



View down the range: the butts are to the right of Fort Le Marchant  
(All photos: Steve Green)



# WHELLOCK FIREARMS

## A special exhibition in the Royal Armouries, Leeds

29 September 2001 to 6 January 2002

An exhibition showcasing the artistry and craftsmanship of one of the most remarkable of all historic weapons opened to the public on 29 September in the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

Forty of the finest examples from the Royal Armouries priceless collection of nearly 200 16th - 18th century wheellock firearms are on show to illustrate how art and technology combined to create a firearm that revolutionised personal weapons and armed combat.

From the elegance and exquisite craftsmanship of a German silver inlaid sporting gun to the technological curiosity of an early 17th century six barrelled combined axe-pistol, this exhibition provides extraordinary examples of artistry in gun-making.



*Wheellock Pistol  
German, about 1580*

From the first appearance of firearms in Europe in the early 14th century until the late 15th century, guns of all types had to be fired using some form of live fire, either a red-hot iron bar or a smouldering piece of specially prepared matchcord. In a sketchbook by Leonardo da Vinci, however, dating from no later than the earliest years of the 16th century, there is a drawing of a device with a spring-driven steel wheel designed to strike sparks and create fire by simply pulling a small lever. While perhaps conceived as a tinder-lighter it is clear that someone, perhaps Leonardo da Vinci himself, realised that by attaching such a device to a gun barrel a weapon could be made which could be loaded and carried all day ready for instant firing. This also meant that for the first time firearms could be made which were small enough to be carried and fired in one hand. The wheellock had arrived, and with it an entirely new weapon, the pistol, became a practical possibility.

Due to its need for very precise fitting together of its working parts, the demand for careful spring-making, screw cutting and the hardening of vital components, the wheellock mechanism demanded great skill from

gunmakers. Throughout the two hundred years when it was in use it remained a complex and expensive device. Its cost, however, was not a problem for wealthy patrons, and wheellocks were fitted to some of the most elegant and highly decorated firearms of the 16th and 17th centuries

The Royal Armouries contains over one hundred and seventy wheellock firearms, and **Wheellock Firearms in the Royal Armouries** is the first of a series of exhibitions intended to highlight this fascinating facet of its collection. Forty wheellock firearms have been carefully selected to illustrate the earliest forms of this type of ignition mechanism, the technical curiosities it caused, and a representative selection of some of the most highly decorated and finely formed examples of the art of the wheellock gunmakers in Europe.

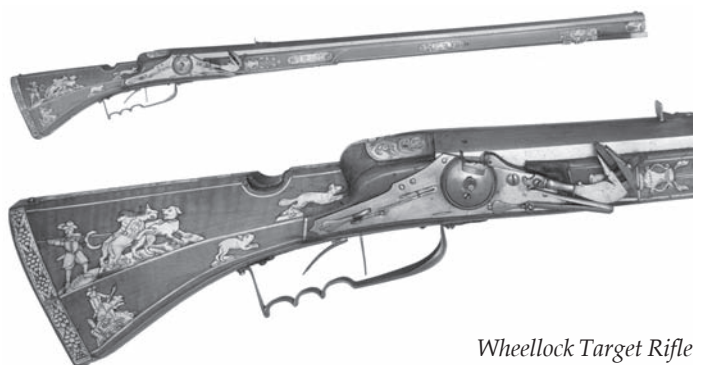
The exhibition is accompanied by a specially-prepared publication which acts not only as a catalogue but thereafter remains as a useful general introduction to the development of the wheellock, and to those in the Royal Armouries collections. An illustrated catalogue of all wheellock-related material in the Royal Armouries collections will also form a new part of the Royal Armouries web site.

**Wheellock Firearms in the Royal Armouries** is being held in the Tower Gallery, (Floor 3) of the Royal Armouries, Leeds. The exhibition opened on 29 September 2001, and will close on 6 January 2002. It is hoped the exhibition will tour to the Royal Armouries' other sites at Fort Nelson, Portsmouth and the Tower of London later in 2002.

Admission to the exhibition in Leeds is free to under 17s, over 60s and all concessions, and £4.90 for adults (subject to review 1 December 2001).

*For further information please contact:*

Nicholas Boole  
Telephone: 0113 220 1948  
E-mail: [nboole@armouries.org.uk](mailto:nboole@armouries.org.uk)



*Wheellock Target Rifle  
Swiss, about 1640*

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- 1999 - 2003 Bisley Imperial Meeting "Grand Aggregate"
- UK County Open Championship Meetings





**Left:**  
A spectacular view from the 1117 yards firing point

**Above:**  
Colin Hayes presents Alan Campbell-Smith with the Sandeman Trophy



**Above:**  
John Bridger receives the Maxwell Cup

**Right:**  
The competitors get ready to shoot at 1117 yards



**Left:**  
The 1117 yards firing point - the targets can be seen sloping down to the right

**Below:**  
Paul Tonkins, George Barnard, John Musso, John Hissey and Guy Blakeney

(All photos: Laurie Ingram)





# NRC OF SCOTLAND'S AUTUMN MEETING AT BLAIR ATHOLL

by Laurie Ingram

A trip to visit the Highlands of Scotland seemed a pretty good excuse to persuade La Bergère that we should go and visit the Malt distilleries at Pitlochry and Blair Atholl on 8 and 9 September. As there was also a Match Rifle shoot at Blair on the same date, we packed the shooting gear into the boot of the car and drove the 1,350 miles from France, arriving on Thursday evening.

The next morning, a tentative trip to the range confirmed suspicions that this was not going to be an easy exercise, as the six targets are at staggered heights on the hillside, and the firing points - dictated by the terrain - of 987, 1117 and 1233 yards, all look at the targets from a different aspect, as well as vertical angle.

Day one saw us ensconced at 987 yards and the wind seemingly coming from most directions, with 20 shots preceded by a flexible number of sighters. Among the high scorers were Des Parr with 99.14V, and Stuart Nicholl with 93.8V (both shooting in unofficial F Class) with the first match rifleman Alex Cargill-Thompson shooting an excellent 95.11V; Mike Barlow followed with 93.4V.

At 1117 yards, Alan Campbell-Smith made a most creditable 93.3V, and Des Parr (F Class) still reigned supreme overall with 89.9V and sub-total of 188.32V - Nicholl (F Class) having disappeared from the leader board with a 75.1V! Best match riflemen to date were Alex Cargill-Thompson with 183.18V followed by John Bridger on 181.12V, Alan Campbell-Smith 180.6V and Jim Bell with 183.9V.

As is often the case, the longest distance of 1233 yards on Sunday morning sorted the wheat from the chaff, with the wind now blowing with a vengeance - steady(ish) at around 15mph, but from both directions at once depending on which flags one observed, gusting to 30mph! It should be pointed out to readers unacquainted with the vagaries of Blair Atholl, that strong right wind indicates a need for a reduction in elevation, with the contrary concerning wind from the left - this being due to the ground effect of shooting along sloping terrain. When wind from both directions is indicated at various distances along the range, this tends to be tiresome.

Scoring therefore varied enormously according to skill, and not a little luck. Des Parr (F Class) scored a miserable (for him) 68.1V, which dropped him from contention. John Bridger took the honours with an excellent 83.5V finishing on 264.17V, followed by Alan Campbell-Smith with 263.9V, George Barnard 261.17V and Mike Baillie-Hamilton on 258.20V.

## Scores:

Name	987	1114	1233	Total
J Bridger	91.5	90.7	83.5	264.17
ARC Campbell-Smith	87.3	93.3	93.3	263.09
G Barnard	89.6	85.4	87.7	261.17
JMB Baillie-Hamilton	90.10	87.5	81.5	258.20
HL Hunter	88.5	85.4	85.5	258.14
D Parr (F Class)	99.14	89.8	68.1	256.23
A Cargill-Thompson	95.11	88.7	73.5	256.23
TLW Kidner	89.8	84.6	79.1	252.15
HL Ingram	85.4	88.4	79.4	252.12
IRM Brown	89.4	84.4	76.5	249.13
CN McEachran	86.5	89.5	74.1	249.11
CJF Hayes	84.7	88.4	76.3	248.14
MJ Barlow	93.4	81.6	71.2	245.12
JWH Bell	91.6	82.3	72.0	245.09
RA Meldrum	82.2	88.4	75.1	245.07
JM Campbell-Smith	90.7	72.3	79.4	241.14
JA McAllister	85.3	82.4	73.1	240.08
SD Nicholl (F Class)	93.8	75.1	71.4	239.13
J Musso	89.5	88.7	62.0	239.12
PMG Campbell	86.6	77.3	76.1	239.10
JMD Potter	86.3	82.3	68.0	236.06
BC Mackie	82.4	86.6	67.2	235.12
JC Peck	87.4	82.2	66.2	235.08
G Lane	88.7	77.2	67.3	232.12
DH Lury	75.3	84.3	73.3	232.09
PA Tonkins	86.6	71.3	68.1	225.10
AJ Munro	83.5	69.4	60.3	212.12
DK Haskell	81.1	78.3	51.0	210.04
JEB Hissey	84.4	84.5	24.0	192.09
G Blakeney	-	-	69.2	69.02

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# THE 22ND BAE SYSTEMS INTER-FACTORY TR COMPETITION

by AJ di Domenico

The 22nd annual gathering of the Inter BAE Systems target rifle shooting competition took place on 10 and 12 May 2001 at Bisley, the home of target rifle shooting. Supporting this event once more was Royal Ordnance Radway Green, part of BAE Systems, who had donated some excellent quality 155 grains match ammunition and had also sent two teams to represent their site. It is worth noting that this is the only BAE Systems corporate activity that actually uses a company made product!

The other sites being represented were BAE Systems Warton, Stevenage, Stanmore and Frimley, Astrium UK at Stevenage and ROF sites Summerfield, Glascoed and Nottingham. Regrettably, we lost the teams from BAE Systems Brough and New Malden at short notice due to work commitments, but they hope to join us again next year. Both competitions were very much team events and coaching is actively encouraged, especially if you're not an experienced shot and doubly so knowing that the opposition number some members of the Great Britain rifle team!

The first part of the event was for the recently arrived competitors to locate the organiser and find their squadding details, which also gave the organiser an opportunity to put faces to the names he'd been corresponding with for months! This year's competition began with the Short Range event on Century range for the Warton Challenge Shield. This event is for teams of four and comprises two sighters, followed by ten scoring shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards, giving an individual score out of 150 and a team score out of 600. During the day the weather remained hot and sunny, which contrasted sharply with the swampy conditions experienced on Century range, due to recent rain. Throughout the day the wind strength remained relatively gentle and some good scores were expected. At 300 yards there were no perfect scores, but a number of 48s out of 50 were

recorded, and top shot was Jeremy Langley, from Stanmore, with a 49.6. Indeed, Stanmore produced a team score of 190 out of 200 and took a slender two point lead over both Glascoed and Frimley.

Shortly before lunch the competitors waded through the mud to commence the 500 yards shoot. We knew that we could not complete the 500 yards shoot before lunch. We were able to get half of the teams through at this distance; the remaining teams would complete their shoot after lunch. During the 500 yards shoot no less than four people returned scores of 49 out of 50 and both Nick Verduyn from Stanmore and Mick Place from Frimley turned in scores of 50.9! It is always a wonder why people's scores seem to improve as they fall back. One would think that the further away the target, the harder it would be to hit, but this simply isn't the case. Again, Stanmore produced the best team score, with 194 out of 200, just one point ahead of Glascoed and seven ahead of Frimley.

This left just the 600 yards shoot to complete and again we had to wade through the mud to get to the 600 yards firing point. The weather conditions hadn't changed and the scores returned at this distance were no less impressive than before. Although no 50s were recorded at this distance no less than seven people returned 49s and three teams boasted two shooters with this score! These scores would be respectable at any level anywhere in the world. Again, the top shots at 600 yards were Nick Verduyn from Stanmore and Mick Place from Frimley, both with 49.7. Amazingly, three teams; Stanmore, Frimley and Glascoed all turned in team scores of 191 out of 200, with just 10Vs separating all three teams, with Stanmore ever so slightly extending their lead. All this meant that the winners of the Warton Challenge Shield were Stanmore with 575 out of 600, beating Glascoed by just three points with Frimley finishing third. No less than three people returned individual scores of 146 out of 150, but the best combined score, as was the case last year, was from Nick Verduyn from Stanmore with 147.19.

Saturday 12 May saw the second half of the Inter-Factory competition, the Long Range event on Stickledown for the Weybridge Memorial Trophy. This follows a similar format to the short range event with teams of four each shooting two sighters and ten scoring shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yards to give individual scores out of 50 at each distance, a total individual score out of 150 and a team score out of 600. Unfortunately, the 800 yards firing point wasn't available and so we reduced the event to 15 shots at 900 and 1000 yards to keep the total scores the same.



The Weybridge Memorial Trophy long range competition.  
(Photo: Matthew Nightingale)

The weather conditions on the day were quite amazing; it was undoubtedly the hottest day of the year and there was no hint of rain at all. However, the wind was not so kind and some tricky conditions were soon encountered. At 900 yards some excellent scores were returned and many people broke 70 out of 75, which is quite impressive considering that few of the competitors shoot regularly at Bisley. Three people produced scores of 73 out of 75, one competitor achieved a 74, but the top score was Jeremy Langley from Stanmore, with a very impressive 75.11. The best team score was Stanmore with 290 out of 300, just four points ahead of Glascoed, with Astrium in third place.

At 1000 yards it was all to play for and despite the wind becoming a little trickier the scores were just as impressive. The Warton team coach later confessed that he'd sussed out the wind; one particular flag was giving him accurate wind strength and another flag was giving him the accurate wind direction! During this shoot Glascoed made a determined challenge, but were four points behind Stanmore, who scored some 282 out of 300, with Warton again in third place. Again, there was no shortage of scores over 70, but this time no 75s, a reflection on the slightly more difficult wind conditions - or was it because of the sunburn! Top shot at 1000 yards was Alistair Bullen from Stanmore with a very respectable 73.9, which helped his team produce a total score at this distance of 282, again just four points ahead of Glascoed with Warton making a late rally in third place. The highest combined individual score was decided on V bulls, as no less than three people returned scores of 145 out of 150! The top shot was Alistair Bullen from



The BAE Systems Stanmore team receive the Warton Challenge Trophy from Major General Russell-Jones.

(Photo: Matthew Nightingale)

Stanmore with 145.18, just three V bulls ahead of his team mate Jeremy Langley and John Deane from Stevenage.

Thus, with a total team score of 572 out of 600 Stanmore made a clean sweep of the trophies by winning the Weybridge Memorial Trophy, just eight points ahead of Glascoed with Warton in third place. This is the second time in as many years that one team has taken both the trophies, this time Stanmore were first and Glascoed were second, whereas last year it was the other way around. Let's hope that the rest of us can get a shout in next year! Special thanks are due to Mike Tennant at BAE Systems HQ Farnborough, Major-General Russell-Jones and Ian Clay at ROF Radway Green for their support, without which the event would not have been the success it was. Here's to the 23rd event in 2002.

### Warton Challenge Shield (Short Range Competition)

Team	300	500	600	Total
BAES Stanmore	190.20	194.21	191.22	575.63
RoF Glascoed	188.12	193.13	191.12	572.37
BAES Frimley	188.17	187.19	191.20	566.56
BAES Warton "A"	181.12	183.13	180.09	544.34
BAES Warton "B"	171.07	178.07	172.08	521.22
ROF Radway Green	161.06	176.11	169.11	506.28
ROF Summerfield	144.03	165.10	160.09	469.22

### Weybridge Memorial Trophy (Long Range Competition)

Team	900	1000	Total
BAES Stanmore	290.33	282.18	572.51
RoF Glascoed	286.15	278.12	564.27
BAES Warton "A"	265.18	269.15	534.33
BAES Stevenage	283.14	250.10	533.24
Astrium UK	267.19	247.13	514.32
ROF Radway Green "A"	252.12	246.13	498.25
BAES Warton "B"	242.09	244.14	486.23
ROF Summerfield	242.20	238.05	480.25
ROF Nottingham	248.11	210.04	458.15
ROF Radway Green "B"	224.03	233.06	457.09



# BRITISH ARMY V ANCIENT BRITS PISTOL MATCH 2001

by John Evans

The British Army needs no introduction, but who are the Ancient Brits?

This extremely distinguished body is the product of the imaginations of John Evans and the late Wilfrid Ward (together called the Founders); it first appeared during the season 1987/88. Membership is by invitation of the Founders only (NB it is not a shooting club). Following Wilfrid's death, selection is entirely at the whim of the remaining Founder who neither represents the intention of exercising nor undertakes to exercise any degree of fairness whatsoever. Nonetheless, normally only those persons who have shot pistol for Great Britain and are over 50 years of age on 1 November in the relevant year will be selected.

In the event of a shortage of such persons; substitutes, who have shot for Great Britain, and by reason of their dissipated lifestyles or other causes, **appear** to be of such an age or older, may be invited provided always that no shooter shall be less than 50 years of age upon the relevant date in the year in which he shoots.

At the 14th Annual Pistol match between the British Army and the Ancient Brits it was agreed by the two opposing skippers, Captain Steve Townell and John Evans (non shooting owing to a hand injury) that the best five scores would count.

In the morning, a match shot with air pistols took place on Melville range, the only difference being that in the rapid fire series the target edge time was increased from 7 to 12 seconds to allow those with shot pistols sufficient time to reload. The Army team, Kerr, Hoole,



Steve Townell presenting the Army Rifle Association Pennant to John Evans  
(Photo: DC Kelly)

Whitelegg and Townell performed solidly behind a coruscating shoot of 583 by Doak.

Duckworth, new to the Ancient Brits, led the team with an excellent 577 closely followed by Abrahams and Cairns. Previous many times British pistol champions Horrocks and Killick, unused to rapid fire, were somewhat below their best.

Surprisingly, at the end of the precision stage the Army team trailed by six points, but in the duel - sorry, rapid fire! - they came back strongly to overtake the Ancient Brits by 17 points and so became overall winners; British Army 2830, Ancient Brits 2819. Ancient Brits in the know were relieved that two of the Army superstars, Nigel Hodgson and Willie Kennedy, were not due to arrive at Bisley until late Friday night!

Lunch in the Army Clubhouse was followed by the second match in the old Sergeants Mess building; 10m Air Precision. The Army overcame the Ancient Brits again, this time by 14 points. Scores by Doak, Kerr, Whitelegg, Hoole and White totalled 2750, whilst for the Ancient Brits, Duckworth, Killick, Abrahams and Horrocks managed a not unreasonable 2736. Ancient Brits who didn't quite make the cut were Glaister, Gent and Armstrong, the latter not only having to use a borrowed pistol but also clearly short of practice

Group Captain Peter Gilpin DFC CBE, President of the British Pistol Club, acted as Chief Range Officer aided by John Baggs (who had turned up to give his old chums moral support), Colonel Richard Hoole and Private Damien Stewart: Dennis Kelly was official photographer.

After tea, provided by the Ancient Brits, brief speeches were made by the two opposing skippers. Swiss Army knives, engraved glasses and special bottles of wine were presented to Robert Doak and Ray Duckworth. Army pennants were also given by Steve Townell to Ray Duckworth and John Evans, following which the official team trophy was ceremoniously handed over to Steve Townell by John Evans.



Captain Steve Townell (the Army Skipper) (Photo: DC Kelly)



# SERVICE RIFLE 2001

by Peter Campbell

It was going to be one of those years of domination; on the UK side Corporals Doak, Cullen and Cousins for the Royal Irish alongside CSgt Lalit Gurung of the Royal Gurkha Rifles were the ones to watch whilst Cpl Tremblay and Bdr Beaudry dominated the Overseas contingent albeit not without strong opposition from the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces.

Doak having previously won the Queen's Medal in 1999 and being placed third in 2000 was going to have one of those years that came nicely together, although pushed all the way to the line by Cullen and Lalit Gurung. In the Royal Navy/Royal Marines Queen's Medal Final, now shot alongside the Army Final, Warrant Officer Tommy Sands collected another Medal for his growing collection. The sight of two Charing parties bearing their Champions simultaneously from Century Range was perhaps a sign of things to come - with the current overload on the services a Tri Service Queen's Medal can only be a few years away.

After his record eighth win in the Royal Air Force Queen's Medal last year, Chief Technician John Pricor wasn't about to rest on his laurels and promptly went out and won it again.

With the move onwards to NRA events, the Sultan's Armed Forces came into their own and continued with their task of fulfilling the Shooting Manager's wish of tasty new fitted cases for the trophies the Omanis were about to walk away with. Numbers on the range fluctuated, with regiments devoting time and effort towards the Methuen Trophy on Wednesday. Many had elected to use their Association Cup scores and use Tuesday as a practice day for the Methuen.

The Omanis were to have an opening blip on the first detail of the Methuen but only by two points. The Gurkhas, Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Irish were tied on 276. The Gurkhas and Omanis continued to shoot on par and steadily moved away from the field on Practice two, but it was to be the Royal Sigs



Chief Technician John Pricor wins his ninth Queen's Medal

who were to provide the top UK score in Practice three, beating the Gurkhas by eight points. In Practice four it was the Aussie's turn to perform pulling three points in front of the Omani team whilst the first UK team was again the Royal Signals, eight points behind the Aussies.

With the final detail awaiting, the positions were pretty much decided, the Gurkhas were 21 points in front of the Royal Signals, who were providing the surprise of the match by being 22 points ahead of the Royal Irish. The Honours match was also pretty much decided with the Omani team 56 points in front of the Aussies. Match 5 wasn't to be a disappointment although the results had a feel of inevitability with the Aussies top scoring with 284 followed by the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces team with 278. The Royal Irish were a point adrift of the Omani score having recovered their composure from their earlier disappointments; the Gurkhas and the Royal Signals finished with 274 and 264 respectively.

The final scores were;

Ho	The Sultan's Armed Forces , Oman	1365
1	The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1339
Ho	The Australian Army	1315
2	The Royal Corps of Signals	1308
3	The Royal Irish Regiment	1299
4	The Royal Logistics Corps	1282
5	Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1273
Ho	The Canadian Armed Forces	1272
6	Royal Naval Air Command	1271
7	The Royal Marines	1266
8	Territorial Army (Other Arms & Services)	1257
9	Territorial Army (Infantry)	1225
10	Royal Air Force (Strike Command)	1224
11	Royal Air Force (Personal & Training Command)	1217
12	The Prince of Wales's Division	1184
13	Royal Navy (Portsmouth Command)	1183
14	The Royal Engineers	1179
15	The Small Arms School Corps	1158
16	The Adjutant General's Corps	1034
Ho	The Republic of Fiji Military Forces	973
Ho	The Falkland Island Defence Force	879

As usual the Corps provide some of the strongest results although the teachers of Small Arms continue to languish at the bottom of the field leaving one to wonder what the future of Marksmanship holds. Let's just hope the Corps continues in their quest for excellence; it might just embarrass enough to cause a rethink.



"Hail the conquering hero" Doaker urges his bearers to increase their efforts



Warrant Officer Tommy Sands receives his Queens Medal

(Photos: Peter Campbell)

## CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE 2001

by Peter Campbell

The Old and the Bold gathered for a third thrash of the NRA Civilian Service Rifle Championship and with numbers continuing to rise, some competitors were wondering how long it would be until civilian entries out-numbered those of the serving soldiers. To be fair, however, 2001 was exceptional: Foot and Mouth had prevented some of the overseas teams from travelling although the Falkland Island Defence Force were there and the American Barbecue at the L&M was still on. However without anyone there to invite guests, numbers left something to be desired. As always, all who were there appreciated their generosity.

Getting down to business, Civilian Service Rifle is dominated by two groups, the Practical Rifle shooters in the Any Optic class and the Lee Enfield Rifle Association members in the SMLE and No 4 classes. London Practical Shooting Club, South Wales Rifle Club and lastly the newly formed Highpower Rifle Association form the bulk of PR competitors, the HRA shoot the USNRA Highpower courses of fire with the UK disabled rifles we are forced to put up with.

As with last year events were split into five aggregate matches and the Championship. The first event on the Monday would be the Bisley Bullet, snap shooting from prone at 200 yards on a Hun Head window target followed by the Sitting 200 yards on a pair of Fig 11s. Bill Ellis won the SMLE on 74, whilst Paul (The Bandit) Quilliam shooting both SA80 and No 4 managed 72 to win the No 4 class, Pete Campbell won the Any Iron class with a borrowed SRb No 4 (having left the PH4 backsight for his No 4T at home) and Nigel Greenaway shot an excellent 94 to win the Any Optic class.

In the Standing, comprising five 2 shot strings, first shot standing followed by the second kneeling or squatting at a Hun Head window target, Bill Ellis again topped the SMLE class with 27. Paul Quilliam shot 28 to take No 4 honours, K98 Mauser shooter

Chris Smith shot 26 to edge Chalky White into second place in the Any Iron class, and in the Any Optic class Nigel Greenaway tie-shot his way to victory edging out Steve Rees, both having shot 39.

Monday afternoon was spent shooting the Kinnaird, Stephens and Wantage. In the SMLE class Pete Bloom had been having his by now almost traditional zeroing session with his unwilling RFI SMLE and was to change rifles on the Tuesday to a very tasty and very rare Lee Enfield No 1 MkVI. Bill Ellis continued his dominant form to win the SMLE 300 yards Aggregate having made 78 points whilst Mick Kelly was close behind on 74. Paul Quilliam again out shot the opposition in the No 4 Class with 101, Richard Seddon was in close formation on 97 and honourable mention should go to service rifle elder statesman 75 year old Reg Homard in third place having out shot many of his juniors. In the Any Iron Chalky White was making up for his frustrations of last year. After having an SLR magazine grafted onto his 7.62 Mauser, he comfortably won his class. Meanwhile in the Any Optics, Mark Bradley and Steve Sheldon had been using their straight pull AR15s to good effect having shot 144 and 143 respectively. The result of the Monday Aggregate was almost predictable within their own classes; in the SMLE class Bill Ellis and Mick Kelly were first and second on 168 and 149 respectively. Quilliam having scored 200 had the No 4 pretty well sewn up with a 51 point lead over Richard Seddon in second place. Chalky was similarly in command of the Any Iron class, but the PR shooters were packed closer. Mark Bradley, Nigel Greenaway and Steve Sheldon held a small but none the less comfortable lead on the pack having scored 268, 265 and 260.

Tuesday brought the Queen Mary - the culmination of some hard shot competition and finally the dreaded Run-down. The morning would be taken up with Sharpshooting at 500 yards and the Run-down from 500 yards to 100 yards. After the morning's exertions,





Any Iron Class winner Chalky White  
(Photo: Peter Campbell)

events in the afternoon were somewhat more restful with one detail each of rapid and snaps at 300 yards in the more comfortable prone position. Bill Ellis finished the way he had started winning his Queen Mary having almost twice the points of his nearest rival. Both Paul Quilliam and Richard Seddon had troubled shoots finishing on the same score of 94 which Paul won on count back. Pete Campbell, one of several who had skipped the run-down, was somewhat taken aback to find he had won the Any Iron Queen Mary by 12 points from Chalky. The Any Optic shooters were giving nothing away easily, and it was Steve Sheldon on 188 who won their QM albeit with a slender single point in front of Steve Rees, with Dave Green a further five off. Mark Bradley and Steve Beard finished off the top five both on 181. After the early dominance of 7.62s on Monday, it was the AR15s which came to the fore, having little difficulty in dealing with the larger calibres, although it was ironic that the best 7.62 results were at the shortest distances.

The championship places were in little doubt for the SMLEs and No 4s. Bill Ellis and Paul Quilliam had dominated their classes and carried well-deserved victories while Mick Kelly and Richard Seddon were not too far behind their class winners in second places. Chalky White and Pete Campbell had reversed their

places from last year giving Chalky a well earned win, leaving their personal Army-RAF match even on one all. It was left for the Any Optics class to supply the close finish. Mark Bradley and Steve Sheldon duly obliged with scores of 449 and 448, Nigel Greenaway in third finished on 444.

As last year, some competitors were able to shoot the Methuen the following day. The Highpower Rifle Association, South Wales Rifle Club and the Lee Enfield Rifle Association supplied teams. LERA again provided a demo team, demonstrating Martini Enfield, Long Lee Enfield, SMLE, No 4T, No 5 and XL39E1 rifles. The Royal Engineers again invited LERA members to lunch resulting in a powerful display of Service Weapons covering a century.

Not surprisingly the civilian part of the Methuen was a two horse race. On paper, Highpower were the favourites. Their six shooters had all been top ten Service Rifle Championships finalists, but, it was South Wales who drew first blood and went into a twelve point lead after Practice 1. Highpower pulled back five points on the run-down. With snaps at 100 yards, Highpower pulled back another four points, and South Wales were now only four points in front with two practices to go. The march of Highpower was relentless in the next practice, the 200 yards rapid, aided by a 10-wash from Mark Bradley, Highpower dragged thirteen points from South Wales, turning a three point deficit into a ten point lead. Although form now favoured Highpower, there was ample opportunity for South Wales to reverse the score, but it wasn't to be, Highpower shooters Bradley, Matt Greenall and Fred Cooke supplied 10-washes to a team score where a mere six points were dropped, leaving South Wales twelve points behind. The final scores were Highpower Rifle Association 1204 and South Wales 1181.

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# SCHOOLS MEETING 2001

by James Postle

Despite all the efforts of the CCRS and many supporters of cadet shooting, the L81 A2 Target Rifle was withdrawn for the 2001 Schools Meeting, after its return in 2000 following an absence of six years. Hence, the GP L98 returned to be fired at 200 and 300 yards for the majority of the competitions, whilst some TR alongside was offered to those schools who prefer not to shoot the GP. After a summer season wrecked throughout the country by the foot and mouth restrictions, many schools arrived at the start of the week still woefully short of practice. This was combined with the first year of the new lower sixth exams – for the majority of the summer term, teams are now without members from their three senior year groups. These are the increased pressures that cadets and their coaches are facing and they seem unlikely to abate in the coming years – these are not easy times for those involved in cadet shooting.

The first three days were the usual range of practice matches and snap competitions. The Marling was conducted on Pirbright ETR ranges, and some promising early form was shown by the winners, Uppingham, with a score of 315, from Oratory on 305 and Epsom and Oundle in third place on 300. The Schools Snap competition was won in very blustery conditions by Oratory ahead of Uppingham, reversing the positions from the Marling, with Sgt Fuller of Oratory winning the Financial Times scoring the only 50. After three days of shooting in the Marlborough, Sgt Hargreaves of Sedbergh emerged the winner after a tie shoot.

Wednesday had begun with a strong wind, which increased during the morning until it was a genuine gale. Shooting was eventually called to a halt for the day just before lunch by the CRO Tony Clayton, not because of any potential harm to the shooters, but because the markers were in danger of being hit by flying score panels and even whole target frames. The loss of this afternoon's shooting just prior to the Ashburton, on top of an already decimated season was for some schools the final blow! The individual Wellington at 200 yards had by this stage produced only two 35s and six 34s – the top five of these scores all from Stamford School with Sgt Beveridge emerging the winner ahead of his team mates. In the Iveagh at 300 yards, the Stamford Captain, WO2 Nelson, produced the only 35 scored by any cadet over the three days of competition, ahead of Felton and James Lawrie also of Stamford. This secured for Nelson the Cadet Rifle Aggregate. The Devon (the team aggregate of the Iveagh and Wellington) went unsurprisingly to Stamford who by this stage must have fancied their chances for retaining the Ashburton. The Devonshire and Dorset Falling Plates was a Campbell College affair, proving that team selection must have been right as the A Team beat the B team.

The winds had abated by Thursday morning and the Reserve men and women kicked off proceedings at

8.00am. Cdt Bond of Oundle emerged the winner with a 44 ahead of three 42s. The Vllls, Pairs and Fours got underway half an hour later. By the time the teams had fallen back to 300, the scoreboard was showing Uppingham in the lead on 241 with Epsom in second place on 234, ahead of Campbell and Sedbergh tied on 230. Tension grew as a battle between Uppingham and Epsom developed. After the first two shooters had finished Epsom had sufficiently rallied to narrow the gap to a single point. Runners from both camps scurried between the scoreboards and the teams remained neck and neck before the Uppingham anchormen held their nerve and finished with 235 at the longer distance for a 476 total, ahead of Epsom on 468, runners up for the second consecutive year. Sedbergh finished in third on 450 leading the chasing pack which included Stamford 449, Campbell 448, and Oratory 447. WO2 James Hodge, the Epsom Captain, felt there was still a score to be settled and sought revenge by winning the Spencer Mellish with a 47, ahead of the Uppingham Captain F/Sgt Ben Bullard who finished in second place with a 46! However, Uppingham had proved that this was their year, clinching the Schools Aggregate, the Cheltenham Cup and the Rutland – well done to them and their coach, Freddie Grounds. The Schools Hundred was won by PO Nall-Cain of Framlingham on 64, counting out identical scores by Cdt Park of Epsom and Bullard of Uppingham. Oratory performed well again in the Cadet matches, winning both the Pairs (by a point ahead of Malvern) and the Fours, with Exeter showing promise for the future in a good second place.

The Veterans arrived in the afternoon – Old Sedberghians clinching the A Team match by three Vs from the Uppingham Old Boys. Old Epsomians won the B Team match, and OGRE finished first in the C Team match. The Overall was very close, with the Old Epsomians retaining the trophy again, albeit by only two Vs from the Greshams Team. The Lucas for the combined Past and Present Aggregate was also retained by Epsom College.

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# MATCH RIFLE 2001

by Nick Tremlett

You wait all year for summer to come along and what do you get?

Rust! That's what.

For most of us the Bisley Meeting represents a significant portion of our holiday for the year, and for those of us that hand-load it also means labouring over a hot press late into the night in the weeks preceding. So we fantasise about good weather and a readable Stickledown zephyr. This year the portents were distinctly favourable. With the exception of a very wet weekend in June for the Inter-Counties, the weather since late May had been extremely clement, and the temperature up to a couple of days prior to the Any Rifle had climbed above 25°C. Was the sacrifice of burnt offerings (sausages on the barbecue!) not in vain for once? Even the local forecast, from the Met Office, based in Bracknell not 10 miles from Bisley, confidently predicted settled weather under a slow moving area of high pressure.

## Pre-Friday

However, Chaos Theory is no more evident than in weather systems, and it was clouds and a distinctly dour ambience greeting us on Pre-Friday. This was the presage for temperatures dipping to an autumnal 14°C over the weekend. It would be unfair to say that we did not enjoy some tropical conditions, it's just that monsoon and tornado were not what we had been expecting. Enough whingeing. With the Any Rifle competitions having been moved to Pre Friday last year, the NRA wisely chose to retain the format this year, and it has proved very popular. Most view it as a chance to warm up before the Hopton rather than to bring out a cannon, and so the bulk of entries consist of standard MRs. This doesn't seem to depress the scores and a benign wind this year yielded some high scoring.

In the first shoot at 1000 yards, a steady left hand wind prevailed, requiring no more than 3 minutes of allowance. The leaden sky threatened but fortunately it remained dry throughout the day. Stuart Collings kicked off in top gear with a 75.14 to give notice of his intent to challenge for a record ninth Hopton in 11 years. He was closely followed by John Pugsley on 75.13, and Jo Campbell-Smith with 75.11.

It was no less benign at 1100 yards, with a gentle left hand wind that eased through the shoot, a 5 minute allowance dropping gradually to 2 minutes. Nigel Cole-Hawkins remained well in step, and finished with a fine 75.12, closely followed by John Pugsley one V behind. Stuart remained in touch scoring 75.10, just ahead of John Knight.

As so often happens at Bisley, returning to the range after lunch you realise that conditions were just toying with you before and, even on a dull day, the slight warming of the ground creates various thermals and eddies, and suddenly malevolence takes on a new

meaning. Also, as so often happens at Bisley, shooting at 1200 yards takes place after lunch, and the one point that separated first and twentieth place becomes an irrelevance. The Any Rifle at 1200 this year proved no exception. Those of us shooting in the first detail found ourselves contending with a wind that climbed from close to zero to 6 minutes, and often required 2 to 3 minute changes to keep pace with. No one kept up with it better than Mike Baillie-Hamilton, who scored an impressive 96.10, to edge out George Barnard on 95.10, and Tim Kidner with 94.9. Mike was obviously not going to relinquish the Hopton that easily; he finished the day taking the Any Rifle Aggregate dropping only seven points.

## First Saturday

And so to Saturday, the Whitehead and the Halford, with the format reverting to that of two years ago. Time to run the gauntlet of being shown up by the supershooters, the Target Riflemen. Also time to welcome the Australian Match Rifle Team on their first ever visit to Bisley. Those of us who were fortunate enough to go to Tasmania in 1997 remembered the high standard they set then, despite using iron sights. Having had four years to upgrade their equipment, we expected them to be very competitive, and we were not disappointed. The weekend prior to the Meeting, Scotland had been given a severe fright at Blair Atholl, when Australia came close to beating them, only failing by a few points at 1200.

The Whitehead started in very hazy conditions, with high humidity and a steady wind close to zero. Scoring was high and there were 22 scores of 75, one coming from Jeremy Langley with RG. Jeremy is an up and coming young Target Rifle shooter, starting to show some promise. Conditions at 1100 were a little more taxing such that there was no score of 75, but Stuart Collings followed his 75.13 at 1000 with a tidy 74.11 for 149.24. This was sufficient to take first place from Dave Dashwood, 148.18, and John Carmichael on 148.12. Jeremy duly took RG honours with a 72.4 at 1100 for an excellent 147.14, three points clear of Jane Messer.

Saturday afternoon and on with the Halford. Starting at 1100 we came to the range to find that a moderate breeze had built up over lunch. It remained steady during the early afternoon, which ensured high scoring, Paul Monaghan taking full advantage to record 75.11, closely followed by Alex Cargill-Thompson on 75.10. An invigorated Jeremy Thompson emerged from the bushes to head the RG pack with a fabulous 73.10. So far so good. Everyone into their stride and competition joined. But no one expected the googly bowled at us at 1200. The first detail was set aside for those shooting TR and although grey in aspect the wind was anything but dull, with a bracket of 1 left to 7 right. Again Jeremy creamed it to post a 70.4, an amazing shoot with RG even in perfect conditions, and his aggregate of 143.14 was four points clear of Steve Ayres, who also had a superb shoot at 1200 for a 68.2.

Having girded our loins we got down for the second detail in increasingly hazy conditions, visibility deteriorating by the minute. The wind steadied and eased during the shoot, a correction of only 3 minutes being required at the end. Alex Cargill-Thompson came off with a lovely 74, which together with his previous 75 looked good enough to win. It certainly deserved to be. However, shortly after we finished, conditions worsened to such an extent with heavy rain and visibility deemed to be too poor for Galilean sights, that after much puffing and high level consultation the third detail was cancelled. Relief for those in that detail. But what now? A conundrum. Is it better to re-squad the third detail on a different day and let the second detail scores stand or re-squad both details? The consensus among the shooters was to re-squad just the third detail despite the possibility that the prevailing conditions may be either considerably better or worse. After all, conditions between two consecutive details can be quite different, as anyone who has shot the Corporation some years will know. Stickle-down can easily encompass the four seasons in one day! In addition there was a large body of feeling that Alex deserved to win having shot so well. Eventually, to general consternation, the decision was made to scrap all the scores in the second detail, re-squad entirely on Monday and restrict the FW Jones to one range. However despite all the huffing and puffing the match rifleman accepts his fate with equanimity, although this was sorely tested when he discovers that having had half the shooting in the FW Jones lopped off he is not entitled to a refund of half the entry fee. So the Halford remained in abeyance.

All such grievances were swiftly forgotten as the Australian Team were entertained by the squad for the Woomera Trophy Match in the evening. With LouLou Brister satisfying every carnivorous intent, and Pete Campbell generously ensuring that palates were adequately lubricated throughout, the barbecue on Saturday evening was a great success. Memories of the precise details became more blurred as the evening progressed, but the abiding recollection is that the rain graced us with its presence in abundance.

### **First Sunday**

Then all hail natural justice the following day. On Sunday morning we were greeted by a Stickle-down with a distinctly second hand feel to it – grey, hazy, muggy and capable of breaking down at any moment. Yet as often happens when the sun stays away, conditions were extremely benign and there were 22 scores of 100 in the Cottesloe. Conundrum Number Two. The conditions of Match Rifle competition state that all highest scores ignoring V bulls will tie shoot for first place. Given the prevailing conditions a tie shoot involving 22 at 1000 was likely to be protracted and brought back memories of the famous Admiral Hutton tie shoot that was only settled on about the 46th tie shot! Cue a man of reason – Nick Hincliffe QC. Having scored 100.15 he declared to the throng that he would not tie shoot against a man who had scored the maximum possible of 100.20 and withdrew. Whereupon there was much discussion and it was decided by a unanimous vote that since the tie

shoot was required by the NRA rules, 21 people scoring 100 would withdraw leaving one to tie shoot. Thus the man of the hour stepped forward and duly scored a V bull with his one scoring shot, to general acclaim. That man was Alex Cargill-Thompson, who came back from his disappointment in the Halford in spectacular fashion, to score the first ever 100.20 in competition. Continuing his good run of form Stuart had a 100.18 to come second ahead of Neil Fyfe by two Vs. Mention should also be made of Jeremy Langley who scored 99.14, with RG, dropping his first to count.

The mood lightened but sadly not the weather as we retreated to 1100. The Wimbledon was shot in similar conditions to the Cottesloe, although the wind was a little more fickle picking up from 5 to 9 minutes left, with 2 minute changes not uncommon. Neil had obviously had his shredded wheat that morning, and followed his third in the Cottesloe with a 98.11, to win after a tie shoot with Peter Chance and David Lury. Jon Cload, shooting RG, was not far behind with 96.12, counting out Ron Dawson from Canada on Vs. The Wimbledon represented the last shoot in the RG Aggregate, and Jeremy wrapped it up convincingly with a 96.7, despite dropping his last two shots, and finished six points clear of Marcus O'Leary, who was a further three ahead of Jeremy Thompson. It is a salutary fact that Jeremy's aggregate total of 412.39 was only three points behind the top MR score over the same shoots!

Back to 1200 and more grey skies and grey wind. A steady moderate wind at the start flattered to deceive, and stepped up from around 7 minutes left to 11 by the end. None of this troubled Jim Clifford, of Australia, and John Hissey, both of whom managed a fine 96. In the ensuing tie shoot John prevailed with 23.1, but Jim provided plenty of spectator interest scoring 0, 0, 1, 4, 4 for a total of 9! Nigel Cole-Hawkins took third place with 95.10, losing four points in three shots in the middle of his shoot. Mark Hasztrakiewicz was also cursing his luck after scoring 95 with a magpie last to count.

Once the dust had settled it was clear that there was also a tie for the Martin Parr (Sunday) Aggregate between George Barnard, Stuart Collings, and Rhoddy Voremberg, all three having dropped 11 points on the day. Again another stunning tie shoot, this time a chance to witness Stuart's prowess as he notched up 18 points out of 25 to come third, behind Rhoddy, George holding his nerve to win with 22.1.

With the Halford unfinished, the Saturday and Weekend Aggregate would have to wait another day before being decided. However the Hopton was starting to shape up along familiar lines with Stuart heading the pack on 512 ex 525, Nick Tremlett a further four points behind, just ahead of David Friend, John Knight and Nick Hincliffe.

### **First Monday**

In the meantime the Edge provided the entertainment for Monday morning, and those of us hoping for better weather were disappointed. Another grey start to the day, but this time a truly contrary zephyr to contend with. A bracket of 3 to 10 minutes left wind was required at 1100, which confounded many including Nick



Tremlett who dropped ten points in his last nine shots for an 88! Jim Clifford, clearly not affected by his calamitous tie shoot the day before, scored the only 98 on the range. The wind was then slightly more benevolent at 1200, requiring only a 3 minute bracket, and there were several scores in the mid 90s. Richard Kenchington made the best of it to score an excellent 98.6, for a total of 193.13, one point ahead of LouLou Brister on 192.15. For a time it looked as though LouLou was going to win, and her animated excitement was only curtailed by Richard's tardiness in finishing his shoot. Who can blame him but he still bears the dent from LouLou's handbag! David Calvert snuck in to third place a point behind LouLou on 191.17.

Richard's fine shoot then lifted him well up the Hopton list, to lie in fourth place one point behind Nick Tremlett, who was chasing David Friend and the inevitable Stuart Collings in pole position.

After lunch on Monday there was the rescheduled Halford second stage. Unfortunately the wind was not as kind to Alex as it had been on Saturday and he scored 71 to go with his 75 for one of three 146.15s on the range. However there was no tie shoot as Nick Tremlett took advantage of the reprise to put a 73 with his previous 74, and win by a point. This is the second time that Nick has won the Halford following the cancellation of the second range, the previous occasion being in the eighties when the competition was decided on one range only. With Stuart only having a 68 at 1200 the mortals were able to catch up slightly. He still led the Hopton but only by a point from Nick, David Friend being one behind that, and Richard Kenchington a further two points adrift, with just the Albert to go.

Monday concluded with the diminished FW Jones. Shot at only 1100 it proved a very close contest, the NRC of Scotland giving an inkling of what was to come in the Elcho. Headed by a fine 98.10 from Hugh Butcher, their A Team won by just two points from the Stock Exchange RC, with the B Team only one point further behind.

### **First Tuesday**

The Albert on Tuesday is renowned for turning form on its head and bowling all sorts of inswingers at us, especially at 1200. This year proved slightly different with form holding but 1200 duly provided plenty of excitement with a bastard of a wind that rent many a score asunder. The 1000 yards shoot started innocuously enough, a moderate wind building from 5 to 8 minutes left, and there were plenty of high scores despite no sighters. Rhoddy Voremberg and Colin McEachran managed the only 75s. Again 1100 gave little presage of what was to come, with a very similar weather pattern requiring a slightly higher wind allowance of 10 minutes. Hamish Hunter took full advantage to score 74.10, but unfortunately his 56 at 1000 was going to leave too much to do. There were 73s from Stuart and Richard Whitby, to leave them tying with Nick Bartlett and John Carmichael on 146 for the day so far. John Pugsley would have joined them had one of his shots not strayed into the V bull of the adjacent target at 1100. It was to prove a costly error.

This left the Hopton firmly within Stuart's reach as he now led by four going to 1200. Then someone turned the fan on and, as so often happens in the 1200 yard stage of the Albert, it becomes a matter of survival. A viciously fickle wind changing quickly between 12 and 16 minutes left resulted in only five scores over 65. The best of them was John Pugsley's 68.5, which left him in second place on 209.21, one behind Nick Bartlett, and beating Dave Dashwood on Vs. Had his V at 1100 counted he would have won by a clear margin, and was rueing the fact that he finished the Hopton four points behind the winner. He could not be described as a happy camper having also had another shot go astray over the weekend. Stuart duly won the Hopton for a record ninth time in 11 years, despite only just breaking 60 at 1200. Considering how intensely competitive MR shooting has become, this is an extraordinary achievement. And he still has a year to go before his 50th birthday! Stuart finished the Hopton with 973.98, three points ahead of Nick Tremlett and David Friend, Nick taking second by virtue of Vs, 98 to 89. John Pugsley was fourth with 969.95. It is a remarkable feature of the Hopton in recent years that the scores are very tight at the top, despite having fired 205 rounds to count, and this year was no exception with ten points between first and tenth place.

For the third year now, Sierra has sponsored the Hopton, the top ten again receiving the very handy reward of 500 bullets. With a retail cost of up to £100 for 500 this represents a generous level of support, and long may it continue. In addition, this year saw further sponsorship in the form of a new barrel awarded to each of the top three in the Hopton. This munificence came from Precision Rifle Services Ltd, a Scottish firm set up by Jim McAllister and Mike Baillie-Hamilton; and run by another increasingly familiar face in MR circles, Callum Ferguson. More widely known for his work with sporting and bench rest rifles, Callum is gaining a reputation for quality rifle work.

Several aggregates were settled with the conclusion of the Albert. After a tie shoot, George Barnard took the Councillor's for shoots at 1000 yards. Stuart won the Tribe Memorial 1100 Yard Agg, and as a small consolation for John Pugsley, he won the 1200 Yard Agg, his 68 not going completely to waste.

As the dust settled from the Hopton, thoughts began to turn towards the Elcho and Woomera matches. How much would form shown during the practice days count towards selection? Would anyone not selected for the Elcho stand a chance of getting into the Woomera GB team?

### **First Wednesday - the Elcho**

With nine of the top ten in the Hopton being English, England were odds on favourites to retain the Elcho. However in my article last year I highlighted the fact that Scotland had been nibbling away at England's superiority and "England had better watch out". An interesting match was in prospect, made more so when we convened on Wednesday morning to find a strong blustery wind coursing straight across the range. It is some years since a good score at 1000 yards in the Elcho

was 68, but so it was this year, with only six of the 40 firers breaking 70. No record score this year then. After 1000 Scotland had forged a substantial lead of 15 over England, with Wales only two points further behind. In the conditions Mike Baillie-Hamilton had a superb 72.5 for highest score on the range, whilst the man who had recorded 20 straight Vs only three days before was afflicted by a 61. Australia were shooting alongside, and put in a creditable 521.35 at 1000 yards.

At 1100 the climate became more temperate, but unfortunately the wind was anything but. An allowance of up to 17 minutes was required; usually when only 13 was on the sight! Scores reflected this, and David Friend was the only person to break 70 on the whole range. Scotland consolidated their lead by moving a further seven points ahead of England. Their range total equated to an average of 65, and included a 59, an indication of the problems the coaches were facing.

In many years the scores at 1200 are not appreciably lower than those at 1100, because the last range of the Elcho usually starts (after a leisurely, strawberry fuelled break) at 4.30pm, when the conditions start to ease, and some high scores have often been attained by the last men in the team. No such luck this year as 1200 started an hour early at 3.30pm, and the wind continued to vent its spleen in increasing intensity, requiring an adjustment of up to 20 minutes on the sights. England continued to be confounded by the mercurial zephyr, whilst the curmudgeonly Celts wrestled with it manfully, and further built on their lead at the previous two distances. Although they averaged only 60, this was still more than any of the other teams, and they emerged victorious by 34 points overall, Mike Baillie-Hamilton taking top honours with a fine 204.11. England were second and Ireland third. Australia remained in touch throughout, and finished only 12 points behind Ireland. The Woomera was by no means going to be a foregone conclusion.

So Scotland continued their trend of relative improvement and proved that winning is as much about team management as individual talent. However with a new broom sweeping through the England cupboard, Scotland's rate of progress may not go unopposed. Stuart Collings has been appointed as the next Captain of the English VIII, and with his wealth of experience coaching Target Rifle at international level will no doubt wish to reverse England's recent trend for underachievement. With SAGA on the horizon he will want to show that age is no barrier to success. Meanwhile Ireland lurk in the wings. They can now put out a team with few weaknesses, and Martin Townsend, the Captain, is a master of catching others napping. Even Wales, the traditional underdogs, are starting to show promise, boasting two Commonwealth Games medallists and corralled by the formidable LouLou Brister.

### **First Thursday - the Woomera Match**

The finale of the Match Rifle Meeting this year was to be the Woomera Match, against the Australians. A first for Bisley, this match took place on Thursday 12 July,

for teams of eight selected from Great Britain and Australia, shooting 15 to count at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards. With so many GB shots on top form, selection was always going to be difficult and could not hope to meet universal approval. It was a situation where, on paper, a GB team would have to try to lose the match whoever comprised the team, given that the top Australian in the Hopton came 20th. So does the Captain select the strongest team possible, based on individual performance, select those who have shown an ability to gel in the team practices, or take a more altruistic view to foster the development of international MR shooting? The answer, of course, is a compromise of all three. A strong team, acknowledging the performances of some in practice, with a strong mix of nationality, there being five Englishmen, three Scots, two Irishmen and one Welsh' man among the 11 shooters and coaches.

The morning of the match was fine with a very blustery left hand wind, requiring a similar allowance to the day before. Chastened after that experience, the GB coaches, marshalled by Bill Sharman, grappled more effectively and the GB range total of 568.47, at an average of 71, was a solid start and 11 ahead of the Australians; Stuart Collings set the pace with a fine 74.7. Back at 1100 and storm clouds were starting to brew overhead. There was no let up in the wind, now capricious, with up to 15 minutes required at times. This seriously unsettled GB's coaches and there was much scratching of pates. Meanwhile Australia just knuckled down and posted a remarkable 548.38 range score which left GB 11 adrift. One bright spot for GB was a stunning 74.9 from David Friend, courtesy of Martin Townsend's twiddling.

So back to 1200 with the scores all level. Not a situation GB had expected, but just a call for a change in strategy. At least that was the theory, and it seemed to be working until Alex Henderson suffered a rifle breakdown and had to retire in the middle of his shoot. Fortunately after much fettling he was able to resume, and came to appreciate the adage that it is the lowest score that wins a match, not the highest! Despite a strengthening wind the GB coaches were up to the task this time and GB finished 1200 with a score only slightly below their mark at 1100, whereas Australia found it a little too much to cope with and lost ground by 21. Appropriately the final flourish was provided by LouLou, who took top honours at 1200 with the only score above 70.

With the conclusion of these matches the only other MR competition remaining was the Maxwell. Stuart carried a three point advantage forward to the TR Meeting, but with John Pugsley, Nick Tremlett and David Calvert not far behind it was by no means a forgone conclusion. As the Grand Aggregate progressed Stuart's lead was eroded, and with just the Prince of Wales to go, he held a slender lead of one point over Nick. However a 73 opened the door and Nick almost walked through with a 74 to tie. Fortunately for him ties in the Maxwell, unlike any other MR competition, are decided by counting out on Vs. Having matched Stuart with 98 in the Hopton, he also got 91 in the Grand, to Stuart's 77, to take the Maxwell by the smallest of margins.





The quiet before the storm - not what you want to see on the first day of the Meeting  
*(Photo: Nick Tremlett)*



Alex Cargill-Thompson, winner of the Cottesloe  
*(Photo: Nick Tremlett)*



Nick Bartlett, winner of the Albert  
*(Photo: Nick Tremlett)*



The start of the Elcho  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



The Great Britain Woomera Squad 2001  
*(Photo: Nick Tremlett)*



The Australian Match Rifle Team 2001  
*(Photo: Nick Tremlett)*



The two teams at the conclusion of the Woomera Match  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



Jim Freebairn coaches the Australian team in the Woomera Match  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



# TARGET RIFLE 2001

*by Iain Robertson*

## Thursday

As the match rifle events end the mix of competitors on camp changes. The target riflemen and the small but recovering numbers in the other disciplines arrive, and the military and cadet competitors either return to units or pupate from green-brown slug to white-backed multi-coloured TR shooters. The weather is always the first consideration of the morning. Will it rain? Am I going to have to fight the wind? Will I get a lucky detail? Sometimes the weather can even be inferred from the subsequent results. Extremely difficult conditions meant that scores were low in the Opening Shot at 900 and 1000 yards. It always helps to have Bill Richards coaching and his skills gave the British Commonwealth RC their third win in four years, with a comfortable seven point margin over Nick Hinchliffe's Queen's Lodge RC in second place.

Many shooters dust off the cobwebs with the Public Schools Veterans Match in the late afternoon; Old Sedberghians were the winners of the A Team match, Old Epsomians won the B Team match and OGRE won the C Team match. Old Epsomians again took the Schools Veterans Aggregate, which combines scores made in A, B and C Teams matches, as well as the Lucas, which combines the A Team score with the results of the Ashburton. The Veterans Individual Tankard went to Chris Fitzpatrick of Old Haberdashers with a 50.7.

## Friday

A damp and drizzly day, with some fluctuations in the westerly drift through the morning, the sort of day that would be described in Aberdeen, Dundee or Edinburgh as "dreich". In these familiar conditions Bob Aitken led East of Scotland RC to win by three points in the Astor. Six shooters achieved 105 including Richard Grisenthwaite in the winning team and Nick Mace in second placed Manydown. Having swapped their GP rifles for TR, Wales again took the Cadet National.

In the Century, 26 people scored double possibles; at the top with a score of 100.16 were Charles Brooks, Jane Messer and Geoff Robinson; Charles' 25.4 in the tie shoot took the trophy. Meanwhile over on Stickledown, seven shooters made 50.8 in the Admiral Hutton. Carl Ganter of DCRA won the tie on Monday evening with the only score of 25.5. Fifty-three others had started well with possibles, but whether Gabrielle O'Leary considered 50.0 to be a satisfactory result is unclear. George Williams of Greshams took the special prize of an NRA gold medal for highest placed cadet with an excellent 50.7. In an indication of the standard to come, the Friday Aggregate went to the RAF's David Calvert with 150.19, counting out Charles Brooks on the Hutton score, and relegating Jon Underwood to third place by just one V bull.

## Saturday

Overcast again, with the odd shower throughout the day. The wind refused to settle with the light drift tending more right than left, but with corrections in the ½ minute class high scores were expected in the Donegall at 300 yards; 173 competitors achieved possibles - a record on

the 300 yards target. Surprisingly for the conditions, there was only one score of 50.10, from South Africa's David Dodds, with the last of the 50.9s in pursuit being from Peter Medhurst who dropped his last for 20th place. Not so surprisingly there were only six 50s in the Lovell at 1000 yards with Nick Brasier and Ant Ringer both scoring 50.7; Nick won the tie shoot convincingly. And so to the Daily Telegraph and the start of the Grand Aggregate; 73 scores of 75 with two scores of 75.14. Simon Belither beat Hugh Kilpatrick in the tie shoot.

Only one person managed a triple possible and so the Saturday Aggregate went to Ant Ringer with 175.23. The Tucker Aggregate, comprising all the events preceding the Grand, went to Jon Underwood with an impressive full house of 250.30, two points clear of Ant Ringer and Tom Rylands both on 248.31.

## Sunday

A warm, sunny day to start, gradually clouding over, with a moderate wind from the left, building to 7 or 8 minutes at long range, meant relatively easy conditions in the Alexandra at 600 yards. Sixty-one possibles resulted; again only one score of 50.10 which came from Robin Baker of OCRA. The Daily Mail at 500 yards was also straightforward with 112 possibles although no one went completely clean. Three scores of 75.14 from Rick Vary, David Calvert and M Garcia of Europa were at the top - Rick won the tie shoot. The Duke of Cambridge went to Stephen Penrose with 50.9 after his tie shoot against Germany's Guenter Bohme. Unfortunately Wolf Schattenberg was unaware of the tie shoot and missed out on his chance making him a very unhappy bunny; 65 others also achieved possibles including Parag Patel whose 50.8 helped him very nicely to the Sunday Aggregate with the only triple HPS, scoring 175.28. The Clementi Smith went to Simon Belither with 175.25 and the Weekend Aggregate went to Ant Ringer on 349.42.

## Monday

Summer is here. The day started warm, sunny and near calm, with mirage showing a small drift from the right for the Times. Scores were up to the developing standard with 126 possibles including three scores of 50.10. James Watson and Bruce Horwood went to sudden death in the tie shoot after both scored 25.4. James's third shot was a V bull to Bruce's 5 to take the trophy. As the heat generated more clouds, the light became variable and the wind switched sides, giving an unsteady left blow for the afternoon. In the Wimbledon there was an outright win for Mick Silver of the Royal Air Force with a 50.10. Mick was later heard complaining that his barrel was shot out as he reckoned it had fired over 11000 rounds; Martin Millar must have wondered about his after being placed 133rd with 50.1. Another sudden death tie shoot in the Conan Doyle after Tom Rylands, Jim Paton, Graham Atkinson and Doug Gass all scored 50.9. The tie shoot resulted in a win for Tom after Jim dropped his eighth out of the V. There were another 60 possibles but there was more interest at the bottom of the list where Rupert Riley was last A in on 50.0.



Remembering Alice Ogilvie's performance in the Inter-Counties, the 'impossible possibles' have been a bit like waiting for a bus – nothing for ages then three at once.

With a full house in an aggregate one might expect to be in with a good chance of winning. However, David Calvert managed to disappoint five others in the Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate with his 200.30 whilst seven shooters lost out to Jane Messer's 175.27 in the Stock Exchange. Three scores of 150 in the Monday Aggregate, and another win for Jane Messer with 150.22; South Africa's Johnnie Ahrens was second with 150.21 whilst Wales' Gabrielle O'Leary had obviously remembered the way back to the V with 150.20. The first winner of the Nine Hundred Yards Aggregate was Matt Button with 150.15 and the Young Riflemans Aggregate went to Henry Jeens of CURA with 174.19.

Over at the Grand Aggregate leader board, results showed Peter Jory of Guernsey at the top having dropped a point in each of the two 900 yards competitions. Close on his heels were Parag Patel on three off, Jane Messer and Martin Millar on four off and four others on five off. But there was a long way to go yet – at least 1000 yards and it's called the Corporation.

## **Tuesday**

Summer disappeared as the weather was again overcast, with showers for the team matches and a wind blowing lightly either side of zero resulting in hard work for the coaches in the afternoon matches. Stage I of the St Georges resulted in 68 scores of 75 but the only 75.15 came from Parag Patel, which also gave him the Gurkha Appeal. However sharp it may be, we hope that he will leave the Kukri outside the operating theatre. Smaller Kukris went to Cadet Dani Foulston, a member of this year's Athelings team, and to Steve Thomas of Central Bankers. Sgt Zainal Abidin Md Zain of the Royal Malaysian Police won the Falklands Trophy for the second year running, whilst Alwyn McLean started his collection of trophies with the Foster.

Places usually do not change much on the Grand Aggregate Leader Board after Georges I but Peter Jory had hit a bad patch, dropping five points and going down to 11th place. Parag, Jane and Martin all made 75 and moved up to the first three places; Rick Vary moved up into fourth with five off and was closely followed by three others on six off.

It is often said that it's the bottom scorer in a team who wins the match; when your bottom scorer is Ant Ringer it is not surprising that Norfolk wiped the floor with all the opposition in the County Short Senior with an astounding 790.89 ex 800, beating Surrey into second place by seven points – a huge margin in the current standard of team shooting. Simon Smallwood, Peter Holden and Charlie Aldridge all made 100 for Norfolk; Nick Mace was the top scorer in the match with a pair of 50.8s for London. In the other matches being shot at the same time, the County Short Junior went to Lincolnshire whilst in the Inter-Services Short Range the Royal Air Force were having problems – a late start due to lost register cards and a crossfire at 600 yards gave the Regular Army the chance they'd been looking for;

Angus McLeod and Charlie Sykes both helped their team to victory by just two points with a fine pair of double possibles.

Over the hill for the County Long Range – the weather threatened all through the 900 yards detail but dreadful visibility and a torrential downpour meant that the 1000 yards detail was cancelled – no barbecues tonight! Surrey dropped only two points at 900 yards making them the clear winners by four points from London and taking the Victor Ludorum for the aggregate of the two county matches. Top score in this match came from Andy Symonds of Hereford & Worcestershire with a 50.9; Alwyn McLean (Ulster), Kelvin Ramsey (Surrey) and George Cann (Devon) all shot 50.8s.

## **Wednesday**

A warmer day with lots of cloud, and occasionally threatening rain. Winds varied through the day, and the Corporation had an element of luck with some details having a much easier ride than others.

In Queens I, Alex Pilgrim and Danny Coleman tied on 105.18, both scoring a trio of 35.6s. Honours were split when Danny won the tie shoot for the Bronze Badge and Alex took the tie shoot for the concurrent OTF Short Range Aggregate to add to the Amazons for top lady in Queen's I. There were a record forty-one scores of 105, but of more concern to many was the other end of the list. This year only one score of 102 clung on to the bottom of the 300 – Simon Cox was last in on 102.16.

The Corporation (of the City of London) resulted in 34 possibles and a departure North for the trophy as teammates Dave Dyson and Dave Allen of Huddersfield RC together with Alistair Speirs of Newcastle RC tie-shot on 50.8. Dave Dyson was the eventual winner but it is certain that they all shared in the celebrations. A statistic to remember for later: the last A in the prize-list for the Corporation was Heather Doust on 49.4.

Alwyn McLean took the Loder with 105.14 in the Queens, and added 50.6 in the Corporation to win the RPA Aggregate on V bulls from Andy Luckman and David Le Quesne. In the Donaldson Aggregate there were seven scores of 180 ex 180; Alwyn and Martin Brister tied for first place with 27 V bulls. Alwyn won the tie shoot with 25.4 to Martin's 24.2 to add another trophy to his growing collection of silverware. There were six scores of 210 ex 210 in the Short Range Aggregate but Parag Patel won outright, having dropped only five shots in 42 outside the 3.3" V bull. In the Gifford Grant Aggregate there were nine scores of 185 ex 185; Miss January, Erica McMullan of Ulster, was limited to just a bottle of pink champagne with 185.25 after team mate David Calvert on 185.28 ungallantly edged her out of the magnum spot.

In the New Zealand Aggregate both Jon Underwood and Tom Rylands had full houses of 275 but a single V bull relegated Tom to second place. Perhaps surprisingly, given the conditions allowing the better of two scores at each of the five distances to be selected, this was not only the first HPS under the current conditions but also the first time since at least 1980 (and we suspect ever) that the New Zealand has seen two HPS scores in one





Cancel the barbecue!

*(Photo: Ian Mollan)*



Coaching Peter Bramley is obviously an enjoyable experience for Donegall winner David Dodds

*(Photo: Ian Mollan)*



Paul Monaghan - a man who likes to keep his wife happy

*(Photo: John Knight)*



Chief Range Officer Tony Clayton looks after the competitors on Century . . .

*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*



See the Conquering F



Sports Psychology at work - Alwyn McLean's relaxation techniques resulted in nine trophies

*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*



Last years winner Jo Hossack keeps score for father David

*(Photo: Robert Hobbs)*



Bill Richards relaxes v  
hard Meeting's Statti



England Mackinnon Captain Anton Aspin

*(Photo: John Knight)*



David Dyson winner of the Corporation

*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*





Parag Patel, winner of the Grand Aggregate, adds to his list of post-nominals  
*(Photo: John Bloomfield)*



"Oh well there's always next year" - Lynne Johnson takes on the difficult task of trying to console Martin Millar  
*(Photo: Ian Mollan)*



Hero Comes!  
*(Photo: Robert Hobbs)*



. . . while Stephen Brooks takes care of Stickledown  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



"No I can't read it either" - "The Management" try and decipher the results of the St Georges Final  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



with the family after a  
ng  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



Mick Silver "This'll take a bit more polishing than me Queen's Medal"  
*(Photo: Ian Mollan)*



The St Georges brought Steve Thomas a Kukri in the Gurkha Appeal as well as the Silver and Gold Crosses  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



Norris Gomez takes third place in the St Georges Final  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



"One Girl and her Mutt" - Alex Pilgrim puts Alwyn McLean in his place  
*(Photo: Lynne Johnson)*



year. Jon's long range shooting also earned him the Palma Aggregate on 199 ex 200 by a margin of three points, the Elkington on 149 ex 150 by V bulls and the Stickledown Range Aggregate with a 249.27 that was **four** clear points ahead of second-placed Alwyn McLean. However something (three somethings actually) went astray for Jon in the Donaldson Memorial Final, and the trophy went to Andy Barnes of Bedfordians with a 75.10.

Back at the Grand Aggregate Leader Board, Martin's 105.13 in Queens I together with 49.4 in the Corporation took him to pole position. Parag had dropped three on the day and ended up in second place one point behind Martin; Jane had dropped six and was back in 11th place. Rick Vary continued to progress to third, dropping two on the day for seven off. Will Dixon came into fourth with nine off, V count keeping him ahead of Andy Luckman and David Le Quesne whose clean sweeps propelled them from 23rd and 31st into fifth and sixth.

### **Thursday**

Thursday was overcast, with showers in the westerly wind, backing and increasing as the day went on. In the Prince of Wales, Philip Bain of Australia won a tie shoot with Mick Cotillard of Jersey after they had both scored 75.13. However the main interest of the morning centred around the Grand Aggregate. Parag and Martin are both left-handers and as a result were on the same detail, which made it all the more interesting for the spectators. Parag put the lot in for a 75.12 and third place in the Prince of Wales along the way, but Martin dropped a point for a 74.08. Think back – who had that 50.1 a couple of days ago? Who was just five V bulls off a perfect score in the 300 yards events? Final scores ex 705.141 were Parag Patel 699.104, Martin Millar 699.74 and Will Dixon three points behind on 696.88 in third place. Some comparisons: the second-highest V count was by David Luckman in 13th place on 693.93, while the highest placed competitor with less than 74 Vs was Mike Wood in 36th place on 690.67. A small consolation for Martin Millar (and a further demonstration that it really is points that matter) was the Century Range Aggregate; Martin finished on 703 ex 705, beating Parag by one point and **five** points clear of team-mate David Calvert in third place. Of the subsidiary prizes decided on the Grand, highest in A Class was Geoff Cox of the RAFTRC, 18th with 693.76; in O Class Carol Painting of Pumas RC was highest at 67th on 687.54; and two young lads blew their T Class big style – Cadet Graham Nelson of Stamford School was 158th on 681.76 taking the Admiral Hutton Tyro and the Conwey Fenton Memorial trophies, and Hugh Jeens of CURA was 164th on 681.73. The Olle Beckett for top under-23 went to Peter Holden of OGRE with 692.81 in 23rd place and the Alton for top lady went to Jane Messer with 692.84 in 21st place. Highest overseas competitor was David Dodds in 22nd place with 692.83 winning him the Kenya trophy as well as helping him to success in the Pavey. Middleton Tompkins of the USA "Young?" Eagles added the Veterans Aggregate to the Queens Veterans trophy he had won the day before. The Bank of England went to the Stock Exchange B team - Nigel Ball, Nick Brasier,

Colin Brook and Peter Barry. One wonders who on earth was in the A team?

There was a quite stunning result in the TWP Sighters Aggregate where David Luckman achieved 129.16 out of 130 - in other words only one of his 26 sighters in the Grand Aggregate missed the bull.

The new 1400 Yards Aggregate, of the Daily Mail, Georges I and the Prince of Wales, resulted in three perfect scores; Parag Patel's V count was decisive again - 225.39 edging out Will Dixon with 225.29 and Charlie Aldridge with 225.26. Parag also took the Toye, Kenning and Spencer Aggregate whilst Alwyn McLean cleaned up with the Berryman and the OTF Long Range Aggregates. In the Allcomers Aggregate, Peter Jory of Guernsey had the only complete set of possibles for a 375.50; one off in the Lord Tedder gave him that aggregate as well.

All sorts of odd teams turn up in the Fulton Pairs; Tützen-Dazs, Close but no Cigar, Pints of Gin and Tonic, Colonic Irrigation, Colemans Croutons, Togaz Party, Ferrari Wheelers, The Babe Magnets, The Darkified McNipples and Yardie Gangsters all left one curious for the deep tales behind the strange names. Many may have felt that the winning pair, One Man and his Dog, were comparatively innocuous until it was revealed that the pair consisted of amateur model Major Alwyn McLean and cover-girl Dr Alex Pilgrim – how could the Major be so uncaring of a lady's reputation? Only those who had accompanied Alwyn to South Africa earlier this year were in the know; do not worry, the name alludes more to the Major's affinity for sheep than any canine attributes on Alex's part. However, just to be sure, Alex took revenge cold during the Prizegiving - see page 45 for evidence of the fate awaiting those who dare to cross her. She rubbed it in harder in the Northland as her 180.26 put Alwyn firmly in his (second) place.

So, at the end of the events where placings are awarded by classes, the most convincing demonstrations of the standard at which this Meeting was being shot could be found in the prize lists. No X class competitor had appeared on any prize list in any squadded competition in the Grand Aggregate without making the HPS for the event. And remember that significant statistic from the Corporation? In the same group of prize lists, there were only fourteen A class competitors without a HPS; seven in each of the Corporation and the Prince of Wales. Class O broadly were granted a point; 50.2 made the list in the Wimbledon, two off made the list in the Corporation and the Prince of Wales, and one off with a moderate V count in the rest.

The character of the meeting changes at Thursday lunchtime as competitors group and regroup for the major team events. The sub-standard weather meant that there were only two scores of 105 in the National; top score in the whole match was Ross McQuillan of Ireland with 105.14, the other came from Tom Rylands of England with 105.9. Top scores in the Scottish and Welsh teams came from Iain Robertson and Gabrielle O'Leary respectively. It was England's match all the



way. An early lead, dropping twelve points at 300 yards where the others all dropped more than twenty, was extended by another twelve points at 500 yards. The wind at 600 yards, a moderate southerly causing rapid changes either side of zero, was no help to the smaller nations; England, dropping 22, again achieved the top score. The final result was England 2058.240, Scotland 2024.208, Ireland 2015.201 and Wales 1978.174. England also won the Universities National and the UK Cadets won the AG Bell. Shot alongside was the Overseas for teams of twelve; Jersey took the honours but unsurprisingly there were far fewer teams than in the Millennium celebrations last year. Twelve teams of four entered the Junior Overseas, and victory went to New South Wales.

### **Friday**

A bright clear start with a very gentle right wind gave way to increasing cloud as the morning progressed. Great Britain Captain Mick Barr picked David Calvert for his fourteenth consecutive appearance in the Kolapore. There may have been a longer record of consistently outstanding achievement, but we suspect not in many years. Jersey, Canada and Guernsey were frustrated as the GB team averaged 148.6 with 20 V bulls for a winning score of 1189.160 ex 1200.240.

A clutch of events are shot alongside the Kolapore. Great Britain won the Under 25 Team Match with a score of 885.102 ex 900.180. The Junior Kolapore went to the Lowveld Provinces of South Africa, which with their earlier win in the Junior Mackinnon gave them the Nobel Challenge Cup. In the Vizianagram, a leisurely start by the ruling classes led to some rushed legislation, with debate guillotined to get the business into the time available. Conditions were 2&7 at 300 and 2&10 at 600; the Commons won by 38 points without resorting to the Parliament Acts. No change in the Edinburgh University team from last year, and no change in the result; the Musketeers trophy would return north in company with the Universities Aggregate they had won the day before.

The Second Stage of the St Georges resulted in seven scores of 150, the Silver Cross going to Steve Thomas of Central Bankers with 150.24. Nine scores of 147.15 tie shot for the last seven places.

By lunchtime the wind was up from the left for the Queen's Second Stage, and the cloud thickened to overcast through the afternoon, giving tricky conditions for the tie shoots. As the shooters finished and the crowd began to build around Stats, scores of 150 were piling in until a total of eleven clean sweeps were listed; Jeremy Thompson's 150.26 took the Silver Medal. The forecast for last man in, having started at 147.14 or so, rapidly rose to 147.18 before settling on 147.17 with eleven shooters for one place. An extended discussion developed into a protest (which was eventually resolved on the spot), the cadet who had not realised that forecasts can go down as well as up was located and the tie shoot went ahead. After five rounds the cut fell at 25.4, a further three rounds reduced the field and on shot-for-shot Rick Vary took the place from David Luckman. Then some real luck (rather than the sort shooters like

David Luckman make for themselves) came along. Stats had miscounted, it should have been eleven to tie-shoot for two places, and Luckman was last man in.

Meanwhile over the hill, the Queens Consolation went to Ginny Measures with a 74.9; David Pickard consoled himself with the Stickle-down to add to the Barlow he had won the previous day.

In the aggregates there was another pot for Alwyn McLean who had beaten Charlie Aldridge's excellent 404.42 ex 405 by 11 V bulls in the Fulton Aggregate whilst both Parag Patel and Peter Jory had scored full sets of possibles in the Marjorie Keir Aggregate. Again Parag's superior V count was decisive.

At the Millennium Meeting in 2000, the Queen's Champion was alleged to have been at the Bullet Ball until the early hours and to have followed that with fried things at the Surrey before going on to win. With the spirit of co-operation between competitors that so characterises all that is best in our sport, she generously gave of her time and effort to ensure that the same rigorous schedule of preparation was made available to the major finalists this year. Thanks go to the ladies of Edinburgh University, and in particular calendar girls Mary Boston, Jo Hossack (*GM*) and Jacqui Rankin, for putting together the social event of the shooting year!

### **Saturday**

For many, the last day of the meeting is a time to start packing, followed by a leisurely lunch and a walk up to Stickle-down to watch the final. For a few, it is a day of the most intense challenge, with the two major finals separated by the international long-range team match, the Mackinnon. In the final of the St Georges Steve Thomas stayed on form. Carrying forward 75.11 from his Silver Cross, he added 75.12 in the final stage for a Gold Cross to complete a set begun with the Bronze Cross in 1995. There were four other scores of 150; Simon Belither took second place and Norris Gomez of Trinidad took third.

The wind developed through the morning and points were going left and right in the Mackinnon. Although Peter Jory of Guernsey was the only shooter to hold the bull all the way for 100.17, England were the leading team from the first, establishing a three point lead over Canada at 900 yards with Scotland in third place. At 1000 yards England extended their lead by another nine points to finish on 1154.120 to Canada's 1142.110. Difficult conditions always seem to bring out the best in Ireland; a fine performance at 1000 yards pulled them into third place, four points clear of Scotland. In the other match on Stickle-down, London University won the Universities Long. The Dominion Prize for the aggregate of the Overseas, Kolapore and Mackinnon went to Canada.

### **Saturday Afternoon - The Queen's Prize**

With only three points separating the entire field, and a wind freshening from conditions that had kept the Mackinnon teams averaging low-to-mid 90s, the final of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize was wide open. Jeremy Thompson led the field with 150.26, with ten others on 150. Fifteen rounds at 900 yards shuffled the pack





The RAF took seconds to get the results on the score board  
*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*



Vicky Ringer congratulates her husband on his achievement  
*(Photo: Eric McGibbon)*



The crowds cheer the Queen's Prize winner pictured here with Kate Hoey MP and John de Havilland  
*(Photo: John Knight)*



The King's Division Waterloo Band chair the Champion from the range  
*(Photo: David Pollard)*



The morning after . . . well lunchtime actually . . . and chair bearer James Lewis is nearly ready to face the day  
*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*



thoroughly. Only David Dashwood made 75, and only two of the eleven clean at short range made 73, leaving Andy Luckman, in fifth place, the highest of that group. Ten scores of 223 were on the leader board. Danny Coleman led on 223.30, followed by Richard Shouler, Cliff Mallett, Alwyn McLean, Andy Luckman, David Dashwood, Ken Day, Jim Corbett, Dick Winney and Halim Jaafar on 223.21. In close pursuit were a further 14 on 222, led by Ant Ringer with 33 Vs in the bag. One point would be enough.

The draw for 1000 yards saw Ant Ringer (twice World Champion and Queen's Prize winner in 1992 and 1997) paired with Colin Mallett of Jersey on target 50. Fully exposed to a wind now running up to 10 minutes left and swinging through 20 or 30 degrees in gusts, this was no event for those of a nervous disposition. Underway at 1000 yards, the scoreboard started tracking the leaders after the first five shots. First on the board was Ken Day of L&MRA still on two off, closely followed by Alex Pilgrim and Ant Ringer both on three off. Points were now being dropped by the bucketload, and the remaining leader slots filled with scores of four off that continued to slip steadily. Ant Ringer is well known as one of the fastest shots on the range, an attribute particularly valuable in a rapidly-changing wind. Here the speed put the gloss on magnificent accuracy as Ant was first of the 100 finalists to finish. Just two shots had escaped the bull, and with 73.8 to add to his 222.33 he was in an almost impregnable position. Alex Pilgrim had dropped two early points, and Ken Day was progressing slowly. Both finished with late points

dropped, and it was as Ken slipped to six off that Ringer became only the third person ever to win the Queen's Prize three times.

There was a huge spread of scores at 1000 yards compared with the other distances, and those few breaking 70 found their final placings dramatically improved. Ant had come from 13th to win with the top score at 1000 yards. BW MacDonald staged a magnificent recovery after a 65 at 900. His 73.6, the second highest score at 1000, pulled him up 42 places to a final score of 286.29, carefully missing X class by just two V bulls. Scores of 72.6 held Alex Pilgrim in third place, brought David Calvert up from 49th to seventh, and brought Andy Tompson from 94th to 41st. Ken Day started from 223 to take second place with a 71.6 while Scottish Commonwealth contenders Ian Shaw and Lindsay Peden both made 71 to take 11th and 12th from 47th and 64th.

In the concurrent events, the Ambala Goblet went to Alex Pilgrim in third place and the Freddy Payne Memorial Trophy went to Cpl Halim Jaafar of the Royal Malaysian Police in fifth place. Cadet Owen Vallis of this year's Athelings team won the George Twine Memorial trophy and, perhaps not surprisingly, the British Open Target Rifle Championship was won by Ant Ringer with a score of 988.124, three points ahead of Alex Pilgrim, David Calvert and Paul Kent.

Another excellent Meeting over and one can only wonder how soon Ant will become the first person with (*GM4*) after his name . . .

## **F CLASS 2001**

*by Peter Campbell*

T'was a sunny afternoon in July when the 32 F Classers started their 2001 Imperial Meeting. Would the scores improve over those of the Millennium Meeting? Most certainly they would - at short range only the Alexandra and Prince of Wales, and at long range the Lovell, Admiral Hutton and the Corporation evaded fullhouses (50.10 or 75.15); small compensation was that TR shooters were only able to better the F Class scores in the Alexandra. An added bonus would be the inaugural F Class National, the first opportunity for a team match to be squeezed into a busy Imperial Meeting calendar.

Events started with the Century which was won by EJ Hobbs with a tight 100.20, whilst John Knight and Wolfgang Scholze followed having dropped one and two Vs respectively. In the Admiral Hutton Chris Cuthbert and John Knight both shot 50.9, which Chris won on countback.

The Donegall saw Wolfgang Scholze make up for earlier disappointment by scoring a maximum whilst Dave Pickering, Des Parr, Laurie Ingram and Roly Greenwood all dropped a single V. Already it was becoming clear that there would be no free lunches this year. The Lovell started the long-range shoots, and in difficult wind Dave Pickering produced a 50.5 to take first place whilst Roly Greenwood, with four Vs, managed second place.

The Grand Aggregate began with the Daily Telegraph; six possibles were scored, and Dave Pickering put them all neatly within the V, whilst Howell Morley and John Knight dropped one V apiece for second and third respectively.

The Daily Mail saw ten possibles; Wolfgang Scholze and John Knight held them all within the V, and Howell Morley with two Vs adrift took third place. Conditions deteriorated for the Alexandra with no-one being able to clean the shoot, John Knight, however, led the field home with 50.9 while Bill Norman, Dave Pickering and Laurie Ingram followed in close formation, all on 50.8. The Duke of Cambridge enabled Tony Williamson to show his mettle with a fine 50.10, Wolfgang Scholze secured second whilst Charles Oliver-Bellasis made his first appearance at the top in third place. On the Grand Aggregate Knight dropped a point to level scores with Scholze in what was beginning to look like a two horse race, whilst Howell Morley and Paul Monaghan waited in the wings with three points adrift apiece.

In the Times Scholze asserted himself with another 50.10 whilst Des Parr, Paul Monaghan and John Knight picked up the pieces of what might have been, all with 50.9. Conditions moderated enough in the Wimbledon for eleven possibles, two with a full V count - Bill Norman

and Chris Cuthbert tied for the top honours. The Conan Doyle beckoned and seven shooters mastered conditions to varying degrees, Pete Campbell led the field home with a perfect score of 50.10, whilst Dave Pickering and Chris Cuthbert took second and third places. Scholze let Stickle-down get the better of him, dropping two points. In the Grand, this left him within easy distance of Howell Morley with three points off and Paul Monaghan with four off.

Second Tuesday was to be a lazy day for the F Class shooters with only St Georges I on the itinerary. Dave Pickering, John Knight and Wolfgang Scholze led the field by qualifying with two Vs off apiece, whilst Roly Greenwood, Roger Livett, Charles Oliver-Bellasis, Mike Lunn, Laurie Ingram and Phillippe Personne made the cut for the 1 + 15 final at 600 yards which would be shot alongside the St Georges II.

Second Wednesday brought a unique challenge for one competitor, currently third in the F Class Grand, Paul Monaghan had a choice between two Queens - Queen's I at Bisley or Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. When one's wife can participate in one, but only spectate in the other the result was inevitable and Paul missed the shooting. Those left behind had a mixed day, the top three saw a minor reshuffle with John Knight and Dave Pickering swapping places, and Wolfgang Scholze maintaining third. On Stickle-down Paul Monaghan managed to slot in an early 50.8 in the Corporation, John Knight had to make do with one V less for second place whilst Roly Greenwood shot 50.6 for third; the award for the hollow group went to Phillippe

Personne with a 50.2. In the Grand, Scholze had dropped another point and barring disaster the Grand was Knight's for the taking.

The final shoot of the Grand, the Prince of Wales, brought a surprise in that the top three in the Grand all dropped points leaving Paul Monaghan to clean up with a fine 75.14. Tony Williamson, Roly Greenwood and Pete Campbell followed the leader with 13, 11 and 10 Vs but John Knight had won his third successive F Class Grand Aggregate with 703.122. Wolfgang Scholze was three points behind on 700.111 with Howell Morley finishing in the top three on 698.115.

Events reached a climax with the St Georges and Queen's Finals shot alongside the second stages of the TR events. In the St Georges, Dave Pickering carried on from his performance in the Qualifier and shot a 75.9 to win with 150.22; John Knight with two Vs less was second, and Laurie Ingram finished the top three on 149.22. After the short sharp shock of the St Georges, Dave Pickering made it a double, shooting 150.27 to lead John Knight and Roly Greenwood with 150.24 and 150.20.

The final F Class event of the meeting was the inaugural F Class National Match, a 1 + 15 match shot at 900 and 1000 yards. The home countries all managed to field teams, England and Ireland each supplied a full team of F Class shooters whilst Scotland and Wales had mixed teams, the shortfall being made up with Match Riflemen. The final result had England the winners with a score of 596.70, followed by Scotland on 580.68, Wales on 579.59 and Ireland gathering the wooden spoon with 567.59.

## **GREAT BRITAIN VETERANS TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2001**

*by Chris Belk*

Confident that our collection of crumbies would be at least as crisp as any in the world (despite the inexperience of Colin Cheshire who only made 60 by a week), we started with a team practice at Bisley in June, notable for our only two Class X members making joint bottom score at 1000 yards with 37 each, but also for the renewing and beginning of friendships. Our second team practice, at the Lancaster County Meeting at Altcar in August, was slightly more successful. We lost our team match to Lancashire, but there were many individual high scores and some trophies (*Captain's note: the diarist is unusually modest for a Solicitor – he won the Grand!*). The weather disintegrated the targets before the last individual match (somewhat to the relief of Chris Belk who happened to be in the lead but to the frustration of John Jackman among others who were in no doubt they would have overtaken him). It was even more frustrating to think that so much suffering in the rain was quite unnecessary, as we were assured by Derek (our consultant meteorologist) that the climate in Perth would be mild and delightful.

Sadly we had to depart on 15 September without Andrew. As he said by e-mail after the Veterans match, we clearly missed him; we and our hosts and rivals indeed did, for his company at least as much as his skill.

We were flying from Heathrow only four days after the disaster in New York, and were not sure of our reception from the armed airport guards, given that we were carrying 14 rifles, two pilots (Brian and Colin O'B), and an assortment of suspicious characters, not least a Scotsman whose accent could pass for Afghan to the untrained ear. However, all went well despite the delays of extra security checks, confiscation of nail scissors, and one lady passenger who for some reason disliked firearms. Luckily she was not on our flight.

Having observed some interesting rain clouds over Langkawi, destination of the infant team the following day, and after Peter had bought up most of the Singapore camera counter, we landed in Perth. There we found the Oz Customs so hospitable that they competed for some time over who should welcome us – the standard ones, the firearms ones, or the foot and mouth ones. After they had all had a turn, we reached the Rendezvous Hotel, famous as the only high rise building for 2000 miles outside Perth centre. There Tom and Elly Lowndes were waiting, and from then on they looked after all our needs, from introductions to Australian beer to Tom's specially brewed gnome-juice for rifle cleaning (we are assured there is a difference).





The Great Britain Veterans Team pictured in Perth

**Back row (l to r):**

Tom Hembrow  
 Jim Scobie  
 John Holmes  
 Brian Lewis  
 Chris Belk  
 Eric Adams  
 Derek Painting

**Front row:**

Robin Baker  
 Peter Medhurst  
 John Jackman (Vice Captain)  
 Colin O'Brien (Captain)  
 Eric Stuart-Bamford (Adj)  
 Colin Cheshire  
 David Cole

(Photo: Hendriks)

The rest of that Sunday was somewhat blurred (jetlag of course) and two days off were needed before any shooting. The weather, being (naturally) mild and delightful, encouraged discovery of various golf courses and eating places. The golf course kangas already had their pockets full of roos, so did not pocket our golfballs, though the bunkers and lakes were less considerate.

The International Veterans match was due on the Friday, Australia match conditions, with teams from GB, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. The Americans had arrived earlier than the attack on New York, so we were lucky to have them; they were very good shots and very good company. We spent the Wednesday sighting in the rifles at all four ranges, and trying out the eagle eye lens foresights permitted under local rules. These magnify the aiming mark but not the foresight, so require a larger aperture. Some liked them but rather more did not (probably due to the fixed habits of old age). Fifteen minutes of wind at 1000 was taken in our stride, and had disappeared by the following day when we shot a dress rehearsal with coaches.

The day of the match saw the expected delightful weather, if a little warmer than mild, with a light wind rising later in the day. Conditions at 300 were suitable for high scoring, as the Australians and Americans rapidly proved, dropping five and four points between their teams of ten. Only a further eight behind, we confidently assumed that we would prevail at the longer ranges. The Kiwis unfortunately had a more disastrous time, trailing by a further 27 which they were unlikely to make up.

At 600 the wind was a little more tricky, but not really enough to excuse the over-confident Altcar champion (*Captain's further note: it's the diarist being shy again!*) firing at the target designated by the long range figures on top rather than the short range ones underneath. Even without that, however, we lost more ground, and it became even more clear after 900 that there were three distinct matches – Australia v USA, GB v themselves, and NZ v themselves. The top match had become very exciting, with two points only between Australia and

USA, USA having put on seven possibles at 900 despite the strengthening wind. Excitement was maintained until the very last shot, with the lead changing several times, and the two top teams ending with identical scores (including Vs) at 1000. So Australia emerged winners by the same two points. Both USA and Australia over-sixties beat the international record for matches under those conditions by teams of any age, despite the use of outwards gauging, so although we did not shoot too badly (as we thought) we were too late in realising the standards we needed to achieve. Prizes were presented against the fitting background of a delightful ocean sunset.

The match was nevertheless a triumph for older shooters in general, and an encouragement to repeat the occasion as soon as possible, hopefully with more teams.

**Scores in the International Veterans Match**

<b>Left target</b>	Coach: Colin O'Brien				
	<b>300</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>Total</b>
R Baker	48.2	50.6	50.3	48.3	196.14
B Lewis	47.1	48.3	46.2	45.1	186.07
D Cole	48.3	49.1	48.4	50.5	195.13
J Scobie	50.5	48.4	48.1	47.0	193.11
J Jackman	50.3	46.2	49.2	49.2	194.09
<b>Right target</b>	Coach: Derek Painting				
	<b>300</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>Total</b>
C Cheshire	48.3	49.2	48.2	49.3	194.10
C Belk	50.2	43.0	49.5	47.3	189.10
J Holmes	47.0	48.3	49.2	48.3	192.08
E Stuart-Bamford	49.5	49.5	50.5	46.3	194.18
P Medhurst	50.5	46.1	48.4	48.3	192.13

After a substantial evening smorgasbord, Saturday was notable for two events – John Jackman seen breakfasting at McDonalds and the weather becoming delightful only to ducks. A day for laundry and shopping, and commiseration with the juniors who arrived after getting very wet in Malaysia. The individual matches were not to start till Thursday, so we had five more days for exploration, golf, bridge (do not play with Robin “four hearts” Baker unless you are happy with an inferiority

complex), and food. A party drove 900km visiting Wave Rock (a rock you can wave from), happening en-route upon a splendid veteran and vintage car rally in York, and a farm lodge where Jason from Middlesbrough cooks excellent food while wearing a woolly ski hat.

Tuesday saw a trip up the Swan river to the Sandalford winery, being educated on the way on the finer points of wine tasting, including, usefully, how to tell honeysuckle from kerosene. We returned in a very happy state, in time for our Ryder Cup team to get in a little practice. The Americans had challenged us to a golf match to make up for cancellation of the other Ryder Cup, so a great responsibility lay upon us. This took place on the Wednesday, when Jack McNess, Jerry Tierney, Middleton Tompkins and Al Coots played even worse than Colin Cheshire, Chris Belk, Robin Baker and Jim Scobie (in fact Jim at least was quite good), so we achieved at least one international win.

In the evening our team dinner (smorgasbord again) was combined with Colin O'Brien's birthday party and Colin Cheshire's silver wedding. The evening was marked with various presentations unsuitable for a family newspaper; so it was in a good state of mind, if not digestion, that we left the hotel at 6.30am on Thursday for the start of individual competition at Swanbourne. We learned rapidly about string shooting (a good way to make a lot of friends) and about the good hospitality (and not least shelter) of the Subiaco clubhouse and the tireless efforts of the members' wives who constantly produced cakes and buns. Instead of having X, A, O & T classes, West Australia has ten divisions, giving as many as possible the chance to win a prize, though we found it difficult to work out how the Captain had managed to get himself into a very low division enabling him to win enough cutlery to open a restaurant. Over the meeting, Eric Adams, David Cole and Chris Belk also won their divisions in one or more shoots.

In the first competition, at 3, 5, 6 and 700, David Cole only dropped two, and Colin O'Brien, John Holmes, Derek Painting and Jim Scobie all averaged 49 or more; but it was soon apparent that dropping any points at all would put one out of competition with the open list.

On the second day the weather decided it had had quite enough of being delightful. We managed to complete shooting at 700 yards (a new experience for several)

despite some stops for rain, but at 800 only around 30% could finish before the worst storm of the year took over, and washed out shooting for the day, including the 50.8 scored by each of the Captain and Vice-Captain (or so they said) at 800. The storm continued overnight, and the following morning (start of the Queens Prize) the decision was made to start at 600 because it gave the shortest distance to run for cover. That range was completed with wind up to 10 minutes, in which the flapping of the rifle brings more difficulty than variation in wind. None of us managed more than 48, and even the junior team only had two 50s. An attempt to move forward to 300 was foiled by a squall which nearly took the roof off. A long wait was alleviated by watching the exciting Australian rules football final on TV (nothing wrong with Melbourne weather), but in the end shooting had to be abandoned for the day again, much to everyone's disappointment but mingled with relief.

Sunday provided a good shooting day, with only a moderate après-storm wind, mitigated by the fence for those lucky enough to be on the left of the range. (The very left hand target is reserved for F-Class, who erect little windmills in the lee of the fence which go round in circles and appear to be useless). On Monday the weather recovered its delight, so the Queens was completed over the rather unusual combination of 600, 300, 700, 800, 900 and 900. Brendan Thompson from Victoria won with 300 ex 300: Chris Belk (294), Peter Medhurst (293), David Cole and Robin Baker (292) and Colin Cheshire (290) were our highest, but none made the top 50.

The International Veterans Championship was concurrent with the Grand: in this the pattern of the team match repeated itself. Johnnie Franklin of USA won with 498 ex 500, and of the top thirty, USA and Australia had eleven each, New Zealand three, and Great Britain five. David Cole had been our most consistent shooter throughout, and came eighth with 490.

It remained to watch the Australia match on the Wednesday (see main team's report in the Spring Journal) and to say goodbye to many new and old friends in Australia, though six of the team were staying on for further holiday. We had a wonderful time in a wonderful country and will hope to return while we are still up to holding a rifle.

# TWP DESIGNS

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# BISLEY GENERAL MEETING - 18 JULY 2001

## **Chairman**

"Good evening everybody. Thank you for coming.

In recent weeks two very distinguished members of the NRA have died. In their different ways both Ronnie Melville and Malcolm Cooper contributed substantially to the affairs of the Association in particular, and to shooting in general. I think it would be superfluous for me to give any sort of eulogy on either now as you all knew them, but, as a mark of respect, may I ask you to stand for a moment or two in their honour?

I shall now turn to the formal business of the meeting. First, we have the election of a President. And I have the honour from the Chair to propose HRH The Prince of Wales as our President. May I have a seconder please?" Robert Stafford, Vice-Chairman of the NRA, seconded the proposal.

The meeting re-elected His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, as the Association's President by acclamation.

The Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected en bloc.

Honorary Life Memberships were awarded unanimously to Major RJ Hutchings and Wg Cdr RAB James.

Messrs Baker Tilly were unanimously re-elected as Auditors

## **Chairman**

"That concludes the formal business so I come to the next item on the Agenda. The main topic I want to talk about this evening is, of course, finance. As members, you will all have received a note dated July 4, signed by Robert Stafford as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and myself as Chairman, giving an update on the financial position. The salient point of where we are now is that the NRA's projected overdraft is approaching £2m following the continued refusal so far of Sport England to consider producing further funding for the NRA's part of the Commonwealth Games installations and the MoD's statement in early July that any "indications" by the Service Chiefs on the provision to the NRA of £221,000 partnership funding did not constitute a commitment binding on the MoD. As an aside, I should say that earlier indications given by Manchester of a substantial contribution to the cost have also similarly been confirmed as being "non-binding".

So recoveries of costs from the various major directions that I reported to the Spring General Meeting as being possibly or probably obtainable have so far resulted in nothing. The NRA is, right now, left holding the baby. Later on I am going to tell you what we propose to do in these circumstances, but first I must remind you why Council decided the baby was worth even contemplating in the first place, since holding the Commonwealth Games shooting events at Bisley did nothing directly for fullbore rifle shooting which already had, uniquely amongst the shooting sports, adequate facilities at Bisley.

Council, as a body, has long accepted the concept that the NRA, being the only landed Governing Body among the shooting sports, should be the benevolent landlord to the other sports if that was what those sports wanted. There was, for the NRA, both an economic and a political dimension. On the one hand the NRA needed more use of its range space to give it additional income above that generated by rifle and pistol shooting; on the other hand there was the political angle: for a very long time none of the shooting sports have been politically correct and I have said, at Meeting after Meeting, that if the shooting sports did not hang together they would certainly hang separately. No one minded the extra income once it started being earned. In the 1990s this income enabled the Camp to remain a magnet for shooters, rather than rotting to the ground, without an excessive and possibly self defeating increase in charges for fullbore shooting; and few spoke

against the idea of shooting sports hanging together if only by rubbing shoulders at Bisley. The traumas following Dunblane made these twin concepts all the more necessary; we lost substantially all our income from pistol shooting and the perceived political incorrectness of each and every remaining permissible form of shooting had redoubled by 1997. So it was a relief from the widespread criticism of all forms of shooting as being undesirable when Manchester, following a vote of the Commonwealth Games Authorities in Bermuda in 1995, was contractually obliged to include the usual shooting events in the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

KPMG, the accountants retained by Manchester, calculated, not surprisingly, that very substantial cost savings were inherent in the use of a site which already had the basic infrastructure for all the shooting events and especially when ranges up to 1000 yards were already in place. And so Bisley, not surprisingly, was recommended by Manchester and Sport England as the site for the Games.

The NRA Council, not without debate, agreed to make Bisley available. The debate centred first on whether it was proper to add to Bisley rather than form a new Shooting Centre for the benefit of a region away from Bisley. But what is one to do if that region cannot comply with essential lottery funding conditions? The point here is that the prime condition with Lottery Funding requires what is built to remain as a permanent legacy for the sport after the Games and that dismantling ranges, as happened with the Edinburgh Games, is not permissible. Second, the debate focussed on the question of whether it was appropriate for there to be any form of co-operation with a Government which had knee jerked into a pointless reprisal against pistol shooters. The argument for refusing Bisley found little sympathy: Manchester and others could then have maintained that the shooting sports themselves did not think that international competition was worthwhile and so might have kept the Games without shooting: this would have been shabby treatment by the NRA of all Commonwealth shooters and a most undesirable precedent for future Commonwealth or Olympic Games let alone the future of the shooting sports in Britain. It might perhaps be put more simply: it rarely pays to cut off one's nose to spite one's face.

That is the background to why Council contemplated the baby. And it did happen to fit the NRA's philosophy of encouraging the other shooting sports to flourish at Bisley. I think this fundamental decision was, as a concept, impeccable. But its execution has, for the NRA, produced an intolerable burden.

Members will know from past reports that the "authorities", except for Kate Hoey while she was Minister for Sport, have throughout proved difficult to deal with. I see no reason at this stage to weary you with the details of the negotiations other than to say that £6m of Lottery Funding was eventually allocated (with a requirement for £680,000 of partnership funding) to all the shooting sports when building time was getting short even before the wet weather began. We should have been warned by the fact that the Olympic shooting ranges at Sydney cost double that amount in a country where building costs are lower. We were obliged, of course, to accept the lowest tender for the works. In round figures, of the £6m lottery money, £4.1m was allocated to meet the NSRA small-bore and air ranges specifications, £1.7m to meet clay shooting specifications prepared for the NRA by the CPSA, while the NRA itself handled the specifications for the relatively small works of £150,000 needed to upgrade the pistol ranges at Melville.

Our £1.7m plus the accompanying requirement of some £300,000 partnership funding would indeed have provided

state of the art clay shooting installations as such. But the NRA appreciated far too late in the day that bare installations do not of themselves make workable ranges in the middle of a rifle range complex and certainly not one that can be used for 50 years afterward. So a stream of extra works had to be undertaken ranging from moving Cheylesmore and incorporating much additional safety work on the clay layouts to producing a more sensibly sized Clubhouse on Shorts partly to accommodate Bisley Gun Club whose seventy year old facility was being displaced, and partly to accommodate our own clay customers who, as shooters with other grounds to choose from, could not be expected to flock to a ground where they could not assemble under cover from the weather nor eat on the spot. I stress the obvious when I say that, after the Commonwealth Games, shooters will be far less likely to come to a ground that is not user friendly.

The additional cost of these extra works was ghastly. Leaving out the burden of having to move Cheylesmore to Rimfire Range at a cost of £140,000, but including having to stump up the £221,000 we once thought the MoD would provide as partnership funding, the NRA, in making Shorts workable for the clay disciplines, has in fact had to find around £500,000 above the Lottery Grant allocated.

Though we had already earned some £500,000 net from sporting clay pigeon shooting in the 1990s, I have to say that it is anathema to me that the shortfall on our latest clay pigeon effort may have to be found even in part by riflemen, and it is doubly galling as we might have seen this coming and considered very hard the wisdom of even starting the Commonwealth Games build. Maybe, in the event, we would have come to the same conclusion and gone ahead with the build for the greater good of the shooting sports: I hope so: but as none of us will ever actually know what decision Council would have taken, had it known what it knows now, and as the buck stops with me, I intend to give up the Chairmanship at the next meeting of Council in September, or earlier if Council thinks there is anything to be gained thereby.

In the meantime, we have to consider very carefully how a prospective £2m debt is to be funded and reduced. £1.2m of this is attributable to the Commonwealth Games build in all its aspects. We shall therefore make a new bid for further Lottery Funding; members will be aware that the Lottery has recently found another £30m for the other Manchester Commonwealth Games projects and that the taxpayer has added three times as much again. Jeremy Thompson, David Hossack and Sandy Ewing will put to the Chairman of the Sports Lottery Board a week from today our case for additional funding towards those costs which were not reasonably foreseeable. Given the amount of the extra money recently committed to Manchester to meet a whole series of similar situations, I hope that the justice of our case is self evident. We lost a great ally when Kate Hoey was reshuffled, but the new Minister for Sport was heavily involved in bringing the World student games to Sheffield and is on record as saying that it is disgraceful that one city should bear the risk of staging a national event.

The recovery of even half the figure of £1.2m would make a huge difference; and we have recoveries of perhaps £250,000 also in prospect for matters not directly related to the Commonwealth Games over spend. That prospectively takes us down to a debt of £1.2m which is £500,000 higher than the figure of £700,000 that Council agreed in May 2000 to be an affordable level of borrowing bearing in mind the prospective new income stream from the National Shooting Centre.

Whether or not these recoveries come in whole or in part, the NRA must clearly make economies in its own operations. The Finance & General Purposes Committee has recently reviewed proposals whereby nearly £100,000 pa can be saved by staff

cutbacks. We have it within our ability to earn in future years a similar sort of sum from our clay operations on Shorts. Obviously Council will wish to increase charges for rifle shooting as little as possible but they will have to ensure that the budget and charges set for next year allow us to finance the debt we have, that is to say before recoveries. This could mean substantial increases in the short term until the actions referred to earlier can reduce the borrowing.

When we know the outcome of the new lottery bid and have a firm rather than subjective view of the earning power of New Shorts I believe Council will consider making an Appeal in the hope that some well disposed and better off members may feel inclined to respond. But in saying this, I do not wish to commit my successor or the new Council any more than I wish to let Sport England think that they now have a soft option in our membership stumping up.

After all this angst on how we pay for them, we have in fact started an unofficial opening of the Clay facilities and, though parts of the site still look a mess in the aftermath of the builders, it is clear that they are indeed going to prove a magnet for clay shooters whose comments have been universally favourable. The Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in late August will be a rehearsal for the Manchester Games next year. There are bound to be teething troubles, and there are the obvious cosmetic improvements yet to be made, but for one of the few times I can remember all the shooting events of a World, Olympic, or Commonwealth Games can be held on the same site, and unlike the Games in Edinburgh the facilities will stay as the legacy. So we finally have a National Shooting Centre which is not merely a name, but is something which holds the shooting sports together at Bisley and which will be a significant money earner for the NRA and fullbore shooters. In the meantime I must say again how much I regret that there has been so great a hiccup in getting to this position.

The Association continues to play a leading part in making the process of administering the firearms laws work properly, and in countering the often ill founded initiatives which threaten the law abiding user. I am happy to report that the police service is coming to accept the importance of good practice and consistency. In part this stems from the leadership of James Hart, formerly Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey, who chairs the ACPO policy committee, and it is helped by the realisation that the Human Rights Act will expose a maverick chief constable who acts high handedly. We also owe a considerable debt to Sandy Ewing, Doug Glaister, and John Hoare for their patient and systematic work in this field.

And now I can deal with matters more to our liking for we are, after all, here to shoot.

We expected this Imperial Meeting to be fairly quiet. Last year we had the largest number of competitors since the Wimbledon era, and we thought that numbers this year might therefore be down. In the event, MR and TR entries were up by about 50 overall compared to a normal year such as 1999.

Entries for the Service Rifle events were down by some 18% at 236, but perversely team entries were up by 16%. In addition, and firing alongside, we had some 50 civilian competitors. They fired identical matches with bolt actioned rifles and produced a number of impressive scores including six possibles. The GB Team were beaten by a new record score in the International Service Rifle Match by the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces who again won most of the service rifle silver.

The entries for the Ashburton were a few down on last year, but a large number of schools again entered the TR events alongside. We hope that the L81 A2 cadet target rifle will be reissued next year. Uppingham won the Ashburton by eight



points from Epsom. The entries in the Devonshire and Dorset Falling Plates totalled 58 compared to an entry of only 20 five years ago. The match was again spread over two evenings and Campbell College A won the Challenge Cup in a splendid final run against Campbell College B. The Simon Pattinson Challenge Plate was won by the Old Sedberghians.

In the Cadet National Match, Wales won for the second time in three years. I wonder how long it will be before this translates into a Welsh victory in the National Match itself.

The Historic Arms weekend was organised by Rae Wills and the HA committee with much help from many volunteers. The individual entry was slightly up on previous years and there were in excess of 1000 match entries. It was a successful and enjoyable weekend, run and staffed entirely by volunteers, to whom we are all very grateful.

Entries in the Match Rifle meeting were slightly down with 132 firing the Hopton, mainly due to fewer overseas entrants. The total entry for the MR meeting was 203. Stuart Collings, now Captain of the English VIII, again won the Hopton, for the ninth time, equalling a number of wins notched up once before, though that took 25 years rather than Stuart's 12. Scotland won the Elcho Match by beating England by 34 points in the most exacting wind conditions for many years. Alex Cargill-Thompson won the Cottesloe with the remarkable score of 100.20; the twenty or so others who tied with him, because in Match Rifle V bulls do not determine the tie, declined to shoot a tie against him in the circumstances but he was allowed one token tie shot to show what might have happened, and that scored a V bull. Great Britain won the Woomera Trophy which is the relatively new match started by our ancient and friendly rivals, the Australians. They only just won it and for a moment it looked as if Australia would carry the day. For a time it was a matter of some debate as to whose rifle stock should be sawn off and burnt so as to constitute some latter day Ashes.

In the Pistol and Gallery Rifle events entries were on a par with last year, and we look forward to greater numbers of entries in future years. A revised programme and greater advertising will be implemented next year.

In the Target Rifle Grand Aggregate events Martin Millar now leads by one point from Parag Patel as the final fence is approached. Royal Ordnance Radway Green have produced another vintage batch of 155 grain ammunition, and scores of 50 have been more numerous than ever at all ranges. There were 173 such in the Donegall, 133 in the Wimbledon, and 126 in the Times, and no fewer than 112 scores of 75 in the Daily Mail. Even at long range all matches have had at least 60 full scores of 50, and virtually every aggregate has also been won with a full score. In addition there have been several scores of 50.10V and Parag himself has made a score of 75.15V. I am sorry for Parag that technically that ranks just a little bit behind Alex Cargill Thompson's 100.20V.

Now finally I have the results of the first stage of the Queen's Prize. Again, just about every record has been broken. There were 41 scores of 105 and two competitors tie for the Bronze Badge: Alex Pilgrim and Danny Coleman. The lowest score qualifying for the second stage is 102.16V finishing 34.5 at 600 yards. I am afraid there is only one firer with a score of 102 in. I cannot read the rest of the Chief Executive's writing but I have said all that I wish to at this stage. I shall, as usual, be pleased to take questions after Item 6 on the Agenda which I shall now ask Mr Hinchliffe to deal with."

#### **Mr PN Hinchliffe QC**

"At the Spring General Meeting it was announced that the

Disciplinary Committee would be asked to undertake an Inquiry as to what had gone on between the NRA and BSG (the Bisley Shooting Ground) and to look into allegations that had been made and, if appropriate, make recommendations, in respect of disciplinary action. I wish to make it clear that the Disciplinary Committee were not asked to deal with the general financial situation.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee I was sent a large amount of papers from the NRA. The other legally qualified member, Jonathan Holmes, was also sent the same documents. Robin Pizer has also provided Jonathan and myself with a private and confidential report prepared by him from documents he has been given by some of the people concerned with this matter.

The documents studied so far run into hundreds of pages. They include correspondence with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Charity Commissioners. I have no doubt that any formal Inquiry would require the production of many more documents.

Having given the matter considerable thought the Disciplinary Committee has decided that it does not believe it to be appropriate for it to hold a formal Inquiry. The reasons for this are:

Firstly, a full Inquiry, as envisaged by Council, would take a considerable amount of time. There are practical difficulties in members of the Disciplinary Committee giving up time from work and families, and meeting at one location with sufficient time to undertake any meaningful Inquiry involving the examination of witnesses and the taking of evidence.

Secondly, we do not believe we have any legal power to compel the attendance of witnesses and call for the production of documents.

Thirdly, there is a strong feeling amongst the Disciplinary Committee that any Inquiry undertaken by it would not be seen to be sufficiently independent to satisfy all concerned. Many of us could not, in all conscience, proceed with such an Inquiry without first declaring personal friendships with many of those individuals concerned.

Allegations of impropriety have been investigated by the Charity Commissioners who have taken this matter very seriously and their conclusion is that there has been no impropriety. I will say more about this later on.

One of the conclusions reached by the Charity Commissioners is that a lack of transparency resulted in suspicion leading others to question the reasons for decisions. It is clear to me that a lack of accurate information has fuelled suspicion and rumour. It is also clear that it is all too easy to start with a conclusion and seek to justify that conclusion with a selective interpretation of evidence. This is a human failing and it is, for example, why juries are warned at the beginning of trials that it is important to keep an open mind throughout the trial and not reach conclusions too soon.

Having regard to the general concern of NRA members I do believe that it would be helpful if I were to set out as briefly as I can some relevant information in respect of the events which led to the complaint to the Charity Commission. Without some understanding of the events, the conclusion which they reached would lack meaning.

I therefore propose to set out what I believe to be the relevant sequence of events, and would stress this is my personal assessment, but I hope members would accept that I have tried to be as neutral as I can.

I propose to deal with the events in chronological order.

In early 1998 the owners of BSG decided that they wanted to sell the business. At that time the NRA received income from BSG by way of rent and a royalty based on the number of shots fired.

Mr Anthony Roupell agreed to provide the purchase price of £260,000. The agreement between the NRA and Mr Roupell provided that the NRA held 51% of the shares and Mr Roupell held 49%. There were to be four directors, two nominated by the NRA and two by Mr Roupell. The NRA directors were Colin Cheshire and Michael Blythe; the Roupell directors were Mr Roupell, and an accountant Mr Shah. The casting vote was given to the chairman who was Colin Cheshire.

Thus the simple position was that whilst Mr Roupell provided the money to purchase the business, the NRA had overall control.

The NRA was to receive income by way of rent together with a share of profits. The original agreement provided a formula for the distribution of profit and the repayment of a loan made available by Mr Roupell acting as guarantor.

During 1998 BSG traded, although the agreement was not formally executed. The primary reason for this appears to be that it was the intention of the BSG to operate on Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia. Permission had to be obtained from the MoD to use Long Siberia and this was not obtained until some time later.

By the end of 1998 it was evident that BSG was in a serious financial position. Considerable expenditure was not matched by the anticipated income and there appeared to be a number of problems related to marketing, managerial roles and areas of responsibility. Different people will have different explanations as to how this situation came about and it would be wrong for me to attempt to apportion blame.

The fact is by the end of 1998, unless there was some prospect of further funding being made available, there was a substantial risk of BSG trading unlawfully.

It was this financial situation which led to the investment loan of £260,000 made by Mrs Schroder. This was the so called blind trust investigated by the Charity Commissioners. Mrs Schroder wished to remain anonymous as she considered her action to be of a charitable nature intended to help BSG get back on its feet.

John de Havilland is a trustee of Mrs Schroder's trust funds. Once Mrs Schroder made it known to Mr Roupell that she made the investment loan, a suspicion arose that the money had in some way a connection with those trust funds.

Mrs Schroder wrote to Mr Roupell in September 1999, making it clear that this was her own personal money. There is no evidence which suggests otherwise. For my part, I would be more than happy to accept that this was an act of considerable generosity by Mrs Schroder and it prevented BSG from going under at that time.

At this time, in March 1999, money also had to be found to purchase traps for Long Siberia. This need resulted in the angelling agreement which has also been investigated by the Charity Commissioners.

The purpose of the angelling agreement was to shift risk from BSG to the investor. In exchange for the money, the investor would receive a royalty based on the number of shots fired. The more successful the operation, the greater the royalty and return on investment, but the greater would be the profit for BSG.

Whether or not it was a wise decision to obtain investment money in this manner is a matter of debate; there are arguments for and against, and the merits for the decision are perhaps a matter for commercial judgement.

The complaint in respect of the angelling agreement is not that the funds should have been raised in this way, it was that it was wrong for Mrs Cheshire to be an anonymous investor.

Legal advice was sought as to whether it was lawful for the investment to be made on an anonymous basis. The advice

was that it was lawful for Mrs Cheshire to be allowed to act as an anonymous investor. It seemed clear to me that the advice received was wrong. It is perhaps arguable that in so doing there was a breach of the Companies Act, but the Subscription Agreement prohibits the company from entering into any contract or arrangement with any director or associate of a director without the prior unanimous agreement of all the directors. The solicitors have apologised in writing about the incorrect advice they provided.

During 1999 in particular, there is no doubt that the relationship between the NRA and Mr Roupell deteriorated. Again, different camps will no doubt express strongly held views as to who was to blame. I am not in any position to make an adjudication as to where blame should lie, if at all.

In July 1999 Mr Roupell expressed a desire to sell his interest in the business. In August 1999 Mr Shah, the director nominated by Mr Roupell resigned and he was subsequently replaced by Peter Hobson.

After Mr Hobson's appointment an alternative plan was proposed whereby the NRA would transfer its shareholding in BSG to Mr Roupell. One of the problems that had arisen related to a restrictive covenant in the subscription agreement.

The essence of the restrictive covenant provided as follows: "with the exception of all activities related to the Commonwealth Games the NRA shall not establish or run or permit anyone else to establish or run any new clay target shooting business". This created problems with the funding of the Commonwealth Games development in particular with the legacy principal required for lottery funding.

The Roupell/Hobson plan was to separate BSG from the NRA and alleviate potential problems from the restrictive covenant.

At this time, in late 1999 the NRA rejected that proposal.

We now move into an area of some controversy and which is the subject of litigation.

The NRA sought legal advice as to whether they would be in breach of the restrictive covenant if they provided clay target shooting for the benefit of the community. That is to say the NRA asked whether they could operate a clay target operation without being in breach of the restrictive covenant.

Legal advice was received that the NRA could proceed and not be in breach of the restrictive covenant.

By then it seems that the relationship between the NRA and Mr Roupell had broken down irretrievably. The NRA strategy, again with the benefit of legal advice, was to proceed to acquire Mr Roupell's shareholding. Mr Roupell countered this by taking legal action to protect his position as a minority shareholder.

Fresh legal advice was taken which significantly altered the NRA's position. In addition Sport England were made aware of the problems and in June 2000 they informed the NRA that no money would be provided until the dispute was resolved.

Thus it was clear that Mr Roupell now had the upper hand. Negotiations were started which led to a settlement of the dispute.

That settlement provided that the NRA transfer its shareholding to Mr Roupell.

The essence of the legal action against the solicitors who advised the NRA is that had appropriate advice been received in late 1999 the NRA would have entered into negotiations with Mr Roupell to settle the dispute at that time. Considerable time and, more importantly, money had been expended pursuing a strategy which had to be abandoned.

As I mentioned at the outset, the Charity Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry were both approached and undertook investigations. The DTI investigation appears



to have been limited to the question of Colin Cheshire's failure to disclose to the other directors the fact that it was Mrs Cheshire who entered into the angelling agreement. The DTI have been informed of the circumstances and of the advice received from the solicitors and their apology for giving incorrect advice. The DTI have confirmed that they propose to take no further action.

In respect of the Charity Commissioners their investigation began in April 2000 and was concluded in March 2001. I propose to read relevant sections of their letter of 24 March 2001.

"I am writing to let you know of the outcome of our evaluation of concerns about the National Rifle Association.

The evaluation case was opened to consider the following concerns.

1. The Angel Agreement and Blind Trust in respect of the charity subsidiary, Bisley Shooting Ground.
2. That these gave rise to a conflict of interest and personal gain to both a charity trustee and an employee.
3. Allegations that one of the trustees and an employee make decisions without the knowledge and agreement of the full trustee body. This gave rise to concerns regarding the effective management and administration of the charity.

During the course of our evaluation we also received allegations that Sport England were withholding funding and that this would have a detrimental effect on the charity's ability to meet its commitments.

In considering the concerns raised we have received the full co-operation of the trustees who through Wilsons, the charity's solicitors, have provided us with all the information requested. It is our understanding that all the trustees have had the opportunity to consider and comment on Wilsons' response to our correspondence. We have considered in detail all the information that has been provided, and also sought advice from the Commission's lawyers and accountants. In addition we met with representatives of Sport England to discuss how their concerns may impact on the future of the charity.

Having considered all the concerns in detail we wish to make the following observations:

1. In respect of the Angel Agreement and Blind Trust the full trustee body should have been briefed at every stage, the degree of transparency should have been more open. This lack of transparency resulted in suspicion leading others to question the reasons for these decisions. The trustees have now been made fully aware of these particular transactions and we do not intend to pursue this matter further.
2. The evidence provided shows that there is no conflict of interest, or personal gain to any of the charity trustees or employees. This concern has therefore been cleared.
3. It has been stated that the decisions made in respect of the Angel Agreement and Blind Trust contravene the provisions of s317 of the Companies Act 1985. We are told that the charity's solicitors advised that the arrangement was permissible. If this advice was incorrect it would be a matter for the trustees to take up with the solicitors direct. As the trustees have all now been made aware of the situation the Commission will not be pursuing this further.
4. The trustees sought advice from their solicitors in respect of the decisions that have been made. Where the same firm of solicitors has acted for any of the respective parties different partners have dealt with the issues but where possible independent firms of solicitors have been used."

The position we have therefore reached is this:

BSG is now an independent trading company trading at arms length.

A year long investigation into serious allegations has been undertaken by the Charity Commissioners and you have heard the gist of their conclusions.

The Disciplinary Committee would find it difficult to undertake a formal investigation for logistical reasons and a lack of appearance of impartiality. Whatever view we would reach runs the risk of being seen by some as lacking sufficient independence.

We, that is to say the Disciplinary Committee, have come to the view that if it was now felt necessary to have an Inquiry as suggested, it should be undertaken by an outside person or body. This would no doubt cost a great deal of money and take a considerable amount of time.

Speaking for myself and having regard to the result of the Charity Commissioners investigation I see no useful purpose in undertaking such an Inquiry particularly when we need to conserve such financial resources as we have. People may quite legitimately have a different view, but I believe it to be appropriate to draw a line in the sand and accept that the BSG saga is history.

We cannot turn the clock back. We have to look to the future. I believe that Council should get on with the job of restoring our financial position. I cannot see how any investigation will help that cause."

#### **Chairman**

"Can I, on behalf of Council thank Mr Hincliffe very much indeed for the immense amount of his own time, when he is probably busier than most of us put together, that he has spent on this.

I am not, as a matter of protocol, taking any questions on BSG. And if in fact any questions are asked, then they will be answered by Mr Hincliffe.

May I go back for a moment, please, to Item 5 at the end of the Queen's Prize results. The Chief Executive is now going to read his own writing."

#### **Chief Executive**

"The only point which I would want the Chairman to state is that the number of possibles is a new record of 41, the previous being 33.

This is the first opportunity I have had to speak to members and I would just like to add a few personal words to those of the Chairman on the way in which we have found ourselves where we re.

As Chief Executive I obviously carry a responsibility for the decisions made and for their implementation. It is quite obvious, as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have said, both at the Spring General Meeting and now, that, with the benefit of hindsight, I was over optimistic in expecting the true cost of the changes we have to make at Bisley to be covered by lottery funds, Manchester 2002 Ltd, and MoD. I played a major role in convincing Council that this would be so, and it was not only a shock but a crushing disappointment to discover the reality, but by then we were already committed.

The NRA and NSRA, during many meetings, were given assurances of substantial funding and I bitterly regret being taken in by people in supposedly influential and responsible positions."

#### **Chairman**

"The Meeting is now what you might call in open forum and if anyone would like to ask questions on anything to do with the affairs of the Association then I will do the best I can to answer them. Or if I cannot answer then myself, I shall pass the question sideways or downward."

**Wg Cdr Michael Gregory**

Asked for a show of appreciation for all the many years service John de Havilland has given to the Association with its best interests at heart.

LOUD APPLAUSE

**Lt Col John Hoare, Secretary NSRA**

Said that he had been involved in all the discussions concerning the Lottery Funding Agreement and he wanted to confirm the statement that the Chief Executive had just made in that it could not have been foreseen how badly the two Associations would be let down by Sport England and MoD.

**Mr Jonathan Custance-Baker**

Asked that Council think very carefully before accepting the resignation of the Chairman.

APPLAUSE

**Mr John Hissey**

Referred to a circular sent out to Members on 4 July giving an update on the NRA's financial situation, and also read out a letter that he had sent to the Chief Executive in March expressing concern over the reduction in fullbore facilities with the advent of the Olympic clay range. He said he and, he suspected, others were under the impression that the clay ranges were to be fully funded by the Lottery Grant and accounted for separately with no risk to NRA funds. Mr Hissey referred to the fact that the NRA Royal Charter refers to marksmanship in the Defence of the Realm which cannot cover shooting at imitation birds with firearms that had never been used in combat. Yet it was proposed to lease NRA property in order to repay the overdraft brought about by the building of the clay facilities. He said surely if there was money to be made available it should be used to improve fullbore and camp facilities. He also said that he felt the suggestion of an Appeal to rifle shooters for money would not be well received in light of the loss of Shorts and prospective increase in charges for rifle shooters. Mr Hissey proposed that, in view of the fact that Manchester and Wembley were not complete yet the new clay ranges at Bisley were open for business, that the clay facilities were not made available for use for the Commonwealth Games until the NRA had been repaid for the outlay in providing these facilities. Finally Mr Hissey said he felt sadness that the NRA Chairman had seen fit to bear some of the financial burden himself, which he said he did not feel was right, and suggested that once the NRA finances were on an even keel once more, that his gift should be repaid. Mr Hissey also felt that in the meantime it might be helpful to form a committee of non-Council members with relevant business experience.

**Chairman**

The Chairman thanked Mr Hissey and said that Council in general, and he himself in particular, would welcome any constructive advice but that the Council, under Charity Law, was entirely responsible for the Association's affairs. He also said that he was not inclined to consider any repayment of the contribution he had made, and said what he was trying to do was reduce, as much as possible, the burden on riflemen's funds from the overspend on the new facilities on Shorts. He went on to say that the whole idea of New Shorts was to provide serious income for the NRA and that we had a grant of some £2m of lottery money invested in the facilities which must be made to work profitably. The early indications had been encouraging. In only three days, even when not being officially opened, they had turned over £3000. The Chairman also said that when clay pigeon shooting was started 10 years ago the objective, by providing a subsidy to rifle shooters was to keep the costs of rifle shooting down, and although the shortfall in funding the new facilities may mean an increase in costs in the short term, he was determined it would be beneficial in the long term.

**Mr R Pratt**

Explained that he was an expatriate American, and quoted from Oscar Wilde, expressing his concern at the fact that the British shooting disciplines were not being seen to be united, were in a weak position, and if we did not stick together then we would hang alone.

**Mr JDI Hossack**

Said the clay ranges had had a soft opening in order to test the facilities that were now up and running well, but no competitions had as yet been staged. He also said whilst this was not an advertisement, he would encourage people to please go and sample the wonderful breakfasts and other food available in the new clay pavilion, and, whilst there, have a go at shooting.

**Mr P Hobson**

Introduced himself and said that he had great respect for the Chairman, and that the Chairman's passing would be a loss to the Association. He continued saying that, however, those who had advised the Chairman had not seen fit to take the same road, and that should be put right for the future of the Association by the Chief Executive and his management team doing likewise.

**Mr N Wells**

A member of the UK Police Fullbore Target Rifle Club gave his support to the Chairman and Mr Stafford saying that they had had his admiration for a long time and he was sorry that matters had ended up as they had. He spoke about his pistols being taken away from him and commented that more crimes were perpetrated with two barrels rather than with one. Mr Wells commented on the circular letter of 4 July that was sent to members and said he was not happy about increased range hire charges to pay for somebody else's mistake. He asked whether the report of the Spring General Meeting was a full and accurate report from the tape recording of that meeting; the Chairman confirmed that it was. Mr Wells said he believed the NRA should make more effort to encourage junior shooting numbers for the Grand Aggregate. He said that Cadets paid more for marker fees than they did to enter the competition and that should be redressed.

**Mr M Townsend**

Commented on the large number of members of the NRA Council and said he felt there were far too many, making Council an unwieldy body. He suggested the Council be drastically reduced to around five to eight members and these members should be accredited businessmen with experience as was John de Havilland with his years in the banking world and as was the Chief Executive with his commercial background. He suggested that this reduced Council should be responsible for the financial decisions. Mr Townsend suggested that the Council should continue to have sub-committees ie Shooting, Estate and Membership, to make suggestions in these various areas, but members of these committees would not be responsible for financial decisions. Mr Townsend concluded by saying that he had the utmost respect for the people sitting up there but that there was a need to go forward.

**Chairman**

The Chairman confirmed that the structure of Council was in fact under review and that Mr Charles Brooks, as a lawyer, was heading a working party in that respect and that hopefully within the next year or so, proposals for the formation of an alternative Council structure would emerge, as it had become obvious that in its current format it was far too large.

**Dr R Pizer** spoke as per the following extract which had appeared over the Internet.

"I am Robin Pizer, English XX Club. In the circumstances, John, I welcome your decision to stand down. However, you



are by no means solely to blame for the £2 million overdraft and the consequences. Colin Cheshire has accepted his share of blame and should stand down too. The Finance & General Purposes Committee have also failed us. The full Council of 62 people should now accept personal responsibility and between them refund the £2 million pounds - that's roughly £35,000 each. There should be no golden handshake - I heard talk of £140,000 suggested for Colin Cheshire.

A corporate service recovery specialist is now needed. We need a board of charity trustees. As Martin suggested they should be few in number. I would suggest no more than nine NRA members. A board of directors of NSC - perhaps, no more than seven. These sixteen must all be elected by the full NRA membership, rather than co-opted. They should not be on both boards. They must be professionally qualified in running a small business, with turnover from five to twenty-five million, to include managerial expertise, customer focus, marketing, legal and accountancy experience, especially in the leisure industry. All committees must consist of elected members. Of course the NRA charter must be amended

I am astonished that the contents of a letter from Sport England, faxed to Colin Cheshire on 28 March, 2001 was not reported in NRA council or the Spring General Meeting on 31 March 2001. That letter said NO to funding for the following items:

1. Legal fees
2. Re-siting of Cheylesmore Range
3. Re-siting of building 64
4. Additional cost of clay pavilion
5. Other work related to clay ranges
6. Financing costs to end of June 2001.

The grounds were that they were ineligible for grant. Later in June 2001 I am told the NRA got further refusal pointing out that work started before agreement on funding was assumed to need no funding.

I no longer know when NRA spokesmen are giving all relevant and significant information. I expect that significant facts have been withheld and I expect very worrying discrepancies between what is said in public and what actually happens in practice.

I find the BSG story deeply disturbing. Anthony Roupell and Peter Hobson have produced extensive evidence to back their claim and have been quite unjustly blamed for the situation that developed. The NRA directors of BSG now need to explain their actions. If the NRA Council had known what was actually going on, then it is likely that the present overdraft of the NRA would not have been so bad.

The decision not to answer my questions of 18 March 2001 that refer to the Disciplinary Committee made me wonder what has been hidden. In order to learn lessons for the future I have written a 55 page report detailing the sequence of events from 1997. I have asked Anthony Roupell, Peter Hobson and Jim McAllister to read and answer my questions.

There is evidence that Colin Cheshire and his wife did seek financial advantage. I now ask you John and Colin to answer the remaining questions so that a version can be released to all members. If I have no comment within two weeks, I shall assume that you do not dispute what is written. I will also ask John that you give me access to documents needed, as you promised last March. I will not be at Bisley tomorrow, but I am available on Friday and Saturday to read relevant files. The BSG story may be history, but understanding what happened is vital if we are to avoid similar problems in the future. I give you here, John, a copy of my report and ask for your response."

#### **Mr M Townsend**

Made the point that the NRA had four or five members who willy nilly pick pick picked away at the NRA. Mr Townsend

agreed that things had gone wrong and had to be sorted out. He said the NRA needed people to be positive, and that already legal fees of £200,000 had been spent in answering questions mainly from that small minority of peckers.

*APPLAUSE*

#### **Col RH MacKeith OBE**

Said that he had wanted to thank the Chairman for all his support and care for Cadet rifle shooting over the years that he had been in the chair, both in hidden and in public ways. He said both he and the Chairman believed the future of the NRA is dependent upon strong cadet shooting organisations and without that continuous support the CCRS and all the cadets in the country would not have progressed as far as they have. Col MacKeith recounted a story of a conversation with Sir Ronald Melville in July 1990, when Col MacKeith was on Council. Sir Ronald Melville had said "We have done it" and when asked "done what?" replied "We have persuaded John de Havilland to become Chairman". He went on to say that he had been Chairman of the 2010 Committee 11 years ago when the NRA was in a poor way financially and looking for ways to survive. He concluded by saying the tribute to the Chairman is the Camp and Ranges and the good state of repair they are in today and although we are, again, nearly bankrupt, the NRA has the future. He said this was thanks to the Chairman who has been the best Chairman since about 1860.

*LOUD APPLAUSE*

#### **Chairman**

The Chairman thanked Col MacKeith, said he blushed at his generous remarks, and closed the Meeting

*APPLAUSE*

#### **Afternote**

1. Dr Pizer's request to examine "all the evidence in the NRA's files" was referred by the Chairman to Council. The overwhelming consensus was that a particular letter or section of a letter might be taken by Dr Pizer as a stand alone piece of evidence and yet another conspiracy theory be developed; many members recalled Mr N Hinchliffe's point "It is all too easy to start with a conclusion and seek to justify that conclusion with a selective interpretation of evidence". Dr Pizer's request was therefore refused.
2. The Chief Executive, in answer to Dr Pizer's charges, wrote to each member of Council with the following observations:-  
Any suggestion that he was headed for a pay off of £140,000 of members' money was ludicrous.  
The suggestion that Sport England's refusal to meet the NRA's claims had been withheld from Council or the Spring General Meeting was wholly false. Dr Pizer had apparently obtained the letter dated 28 March from Sport England which repeated an earlier refusal duly reported to the February Finance & General Purposes Committee and thence to Council, and the matter was also made clear to the SGM in the Report of the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Indeed there was detailed discussion at the SGM on the aggregate amount involved. This illustrated how a false position could be depicted by quotation in isolation from one of a series of letters.  
Examination of the facts (detailed to Council) shewed that neither he nor his wife sought any financial advantage from BSG
3. Members will be glad to hear that legal action against the NRA's former solicitors has been settled out of court following the offer by Wilsons of just over £100,000 plus payment of the major proportion of the NRA's legal costs. The NRA has accepted this offer. Members will doubtless consider this to be a telling commentary on the various accusations against the NRA and its officers.

# THE COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

by John Bloomfield

The Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships provide the shooting sports with a major event in the years between Olympic and Commonwealth Games. The events mirror those shot at the Commonwealth Games and so include non-Olympic events such as fullbore rifle. In the year preceding the Commonwealth Games, the CSF is held on the ranges to be used for the Games, allowing potential competitors an early chance to shoot competitively on the ranges where they will be going for gold the following year. The four home countries take part rather than a Great Britain team and unlike the Commonwealth Games where there are two competitors from each country, the CSF allows three competitors in each discipline.

The fullbore rifle competition includes a Pairs event, this year expanded from the normal course of fire by the addition of a Queen's I to the normal Queen's II and III. The third competitor from each country shoots alongside as an individual in the Badge Match. The Individual Championship follows Commonwealth Games practice and is a full Queen's course of fire spread over three days.

## Friday 24 August

The first day of the Pairs and Badge Match dawned bright and sunny, but with the flags hanging limp against the poles, where by and large, they remained for the rest of the morning. In spite of the easy conditions (at least when viewed from behind the firing point) there were only three 105s in the Pairs, David Calvert (NIR), Chris Hockley (WAL) and Jane Messer (ENG), and one in the Badge Match, Parag Patel with the best score of the day, 105.17. Four pairs came back to 600 yards clean but none managed to convert this into a full score. Prompt stats behind the firing point by Martin Farnan showed the Welsh pair of Chris Hockley and Gaby O'Leary in the lead with 209.32 closely followed by England and Northern Ireland with 209.29, with Scotland fourth as the best of four scores of 207.

## Saturday 25 August

Pairs Stage II, and similar conditions to Friday, at least to start with, and possibles a plenty at 300 yards; South Africa, Jersey and Guernsey all went clean. South Africa and Jersey did it again at 500 yards joined by England. At 600 yards the wind, up to 2 right, suddenly arrived to spoil the party, taking everyone by surprise at least once; none of the teams managed to keep them all in the bull. More rapid stats showed South Africa's pair, David Dodds and Peter Bramley, with 299.69 to have made the top score of the morning. Added to their 207.28 from the day before, their total of 506.69 put them into second place behind England.

Glyn Barnett and Jane Messer had both made 149.23 for a total of 507.75 and a one point lead. The Jersey pair of Bruce Horwood and David Le Quesne had put together 298.42 to claim third with 505.69. In the Badge Match, Parag Patel with 149.22 had taken a one point lead over Deon Burger of South Africa.

## Sunday 26 August

A dull and misty morning with a heavy overcast and the possibility of rain greeted the move to Stickledown for Stage III of the Pairs. Some wind had appeared too: 2 to 4½ right at 900 yards, however the changes were gentle and readable. South Africa only strayed out of the bull once; two off for England left them holding the smallest of leads (one V) over South Africa both one point ahead of Northern Ireland who were staging a good recovery with a pair of possibles after their below par five off the day before.

Back at 1000 yards the squadding added some more spice to the proceedings, England and South Africa on adjacent targets. Nothing like a bit of added pressure to add interest for competitors and spectators alike. Jane made a solid start for England with the first five in the bull, however disaster struck next door. David Dodds failed to connect with his sighter and despite careful checking his first to count suffered the same fate. More checking of sights revealed 5 left on the sights instead of 5 right. A low magpie second to count was followed by thirteen bulls for a fine recovery. Jane meanwhile struggled a little towards the end of her shoot to finish with a 72, however David Calvert's 73 brought Northern Ireland level. All on the last firer!

Glyn Barnett (ENG) finished first with 74 for an England total of 801.107, but had to stand and watch as Martin Millar (NIR) added 75.7 to his 75.9 at 900 yards and clinch the Gold Medals for Northern Ireland with 802.98. Iain Robertson's 150.19, the highest score of the day, hauled Scotland up into the Bronze Medal position, one point behind England. South Africa on 796.107 claimed fourth place counting out Jersey into fifth by four Vs.

In the Badge Match Parag Patel added a pair of 74s to his overnight 254 for a total of 402.58 to win by two points from John Howard Davis (WAL) with Alwyn McLean (NIR) third.

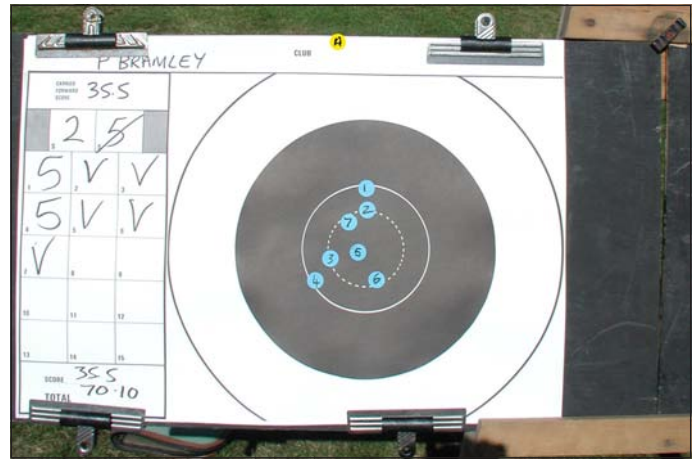
## Monday 27 August

Back to 300 yards for Stage I of the Individual Championships. Another bright sunny day, but this time with some movement in the flags, though not enough to make life difficult. The ¼ to ¾ right at 300 yards increased to no more than 1 right at 500 yards.





Peter Bramley of South Africa contemplates the wind . . .  
 (Photo: John Bloomfield)



. . . but maybe he should have concentrated on his elevation settings at 500 yards  
 (Photo: Karen Robertson)



The new shotgun layout provided lots of interest for spectators  
 (Photo: John Knight)



"So that's three coffees and a hot dog" - Peter Page, Colin O'Brien and Bob Aitken make executive decisions  
 (Photo: John Bloomfield)



Jane Messer starts the Individual Event at 300 yards  
 (Photo: John Bloomfield)



"Didn't we do well!" - David Calvert and Martin Millar display their plotting sheets in the Pairs Event  
 (Photo: John Knight)



The Individual Event Medal Ceremony  
 (Photo: Karen Robertson)



The Pairs Event Medal Ceremony  
 (Photo: John Bloomfield)

At 600 yards up to 2 left was needed at times with just enough change to catch out the unwary. Four scores of 105 headed by David Calvert's (NIR) 105.19, followed by Glyn Barnett (ENG), Parag Patel (ENG) and John Snowden (NZL) with 18V, 16V and 14V respectively. Lindsay Peden (SCO) 104.16 had the best of seven scores of 104.

### Tuesday 28 August

Little wind again but cloudy and rain forecast. At 300 yards no more than ½ right was needed and anything less than 50 was below par. At 500 yards 1 right was needed at times, but the changes were seldom more than the odd ¼ here and there, and more 50s appeared all along the range. Mitchell Maxberry, ex patriot American now shooting for New Zealand, made no mistakes for the only 50.10. At 600 with the clouds building, the wind increased too. Half way through the shoot one 2 minute change fooled most people who thought it was only about ¾, and a row of right hand inners appeared. Several of the following shooters were too clever for their own good and wound their shots out of the left hand side. The more knowledgeable spectators looked smug, but then the wind is always easier to read from behind the firing point. Mitchell Maxberry (NZL) had 24Vs with his 150 for top score, closely followed by Christie Honey (NAM) on 150.23. Parag Patel put in 150.19 to go with his Stage I score of 105.16 to lead the field by one point. The other three 105s from Monday all made 149, whilst Jane Messer added a 150.18 to her 104.13 to move up into fifth.

### Thursday 30 August

Stage III and 900 yards needed 1 to 3 left, however the changes were slow and easy to read. Half the field made 75 and those that didn't kicked themselves. Anything less than 74 was a major disaster. Of the leaders after Stage II, only Glyn Barnett dropped a point. Parag Patel made 75.14 only to be told off by his manager for shooting a hollow group - Parag's version of events was that his scorer was mean!

Back to 1000 yards and the firers needed 2 to 4 left, but with the changes no more than a minute. Enough to just drift you past the line if you were not paying attention. Parag lost his fourteenth shot just out at 5 o'clock for 74.8 and a new Commonwealth record score of 404.57, and thought he had the Gold. David Calvert however shot superbly for 75.10 to add to his 75.12 at 900 yards and a total of 404.62, to relegate Parag to Silver Medal position by five Vs. Jane Messer made her second 75 of the morning for 150.21, a total of 404.52 and the Bronze Medal.

All three medal winners broke the Commonwealth Record score set by David Luckman at Trentham in 1999, a fine advertisement for the superb quality of the ammunition made by Royal Ordnance Radway Green for this event and for the Commonwealth Games next year.

## Results

### Pairs

<b>1. Northern Ireland</b>	<b>802.98</b>			
David Calvert	105.16	150.19	148.18	403.52
Martin Millar	104.14	145.16	150.16	399.46
<b>2. England</b>	<b>801.107</b>			
Glyn Barnett	104.15	149.23	147.17	400.55
Jane Messer	105.14	149.23	147.15	401.52
<b>3. Scotland</b>	<b>800.114</b>			
Lindsay Peden	103.17	148.18	147.20	398.55
Iain Robertson	104.17	148.23	150.19	402.59

### Badge Match

1. Parag Patel				
ENG	105.17	149.22	148.19	402.58
2. John Howard Davies				
WAL	104.10	148.20	148.16	400.46
3. Alwyn McLean				
NIR	103.17	150.22	145.11	398.50

### Individual

1. David Calvert				
NIR	105.19	149.21	150.22	404.62
2. Parag Patel				
ENG	105.16	150.19	149.22	404.57
3. Jane Messer				
ENG	104.13	150.18	150.21	404.52



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# DESTINATION AFRICA - SOUTH AFRICA

by Iain Robertson



General de Wet Range at Bloemfontein

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

## Playing Away

Almost since firearms were invented, men have been competing to see who was the best shot; as a result, competitive shooting takes place, in some form or another, in most countries across the globe, and our sport provides an unrivalled peg on which to hang a life of world travel. However, the number of shooters who venture abroad to compete, other than with recognised national teams, is very small indeed. That exotic group should beware – the hitherto well-kept secret that shooting away from base is dead easy is about to be exposed.

Not only is it easy, it is hugely enjoyable. Shooters tend to be like-minded wherever you go and in most countries competition is organised to give achievable levels for everyone. This point needs emphasising – you do not have to be a star to shoot abroad. If you read their rules and are friendly, open-minded, competent and above all else safe, you will be welcome anywhere. The subtle shifts in the challenge, as you cope with a new range and conditions, only sharpen your wits for your return. You will broaden your experience of far more than shooting in ways unimaginable when you try it.

All very well, but how to organise a trip overseas? What follows is the first of an occasional series of articles on the practical aspects of touring as an individual or Club-level group. While we do not guarantee the information, it has been checked for accuracy to the best of our ability.

## Destination Africa - South Africa

As a touring destination, South Africa has unique attractions. Time-zone changes are small, minimising jet-lag. The country itself is stunningly beautiful. In terms of infrastructure it bears a closer resemblance to much of Europe than to many other African states. It has an extensive tourist industry with huge overcapacity in most areas. Its economy is frankly in trouble, making it ridiculously cheap. The National Championships of SABU, the South African NRA, are held in late March or early April, giving tourists a flying start for the UK season. Firearms laws are straightforward and unobtrusive. On the downside, getting there is moderately expensive, there are





physical hazards with both weather and disease, and some areas are unquestionably highly dangerous.

### **Bloemfontein**

General de Wet ranges are about ten miles west of Bloemfontein; they comprise a single stop butt housing over 150 targets, with over half usable back to 900 metres. Take the Haldon Road west out of Bloemfontein, turn right at the Abrahamskraal turn after 7km and follow the road for about 6km to the ranges. Bloemfontein is four to five hours drive from Johannesburg.

### **First Step**

The 2002 event will be staged at Bloemfontein between 3rd and 13th April. Contact SABU if you are considering the trip. Executive Officer Jeanette Burger has prepared a comprehensive overseas competitor information document which she will e-mail or post to anyone interested. If entries are received well in advance, SABU will handle firearm import permits and associated admin. (For those who decide at the last moment, it is possible to do the necessary paperwork at Customs on arrival, but it wastes a lot of time). SABU has also negotiated discounted car hire rates with Avis.

### **Medical**

South Africa has some excellent medical services (and Bloemfontein houses a major teaching hospital). Obviously you need insurance. Malaria is endemic in the Lowveld and Northern Kwazulu-Natal regions but not around any of the ranges. The dangers more likely to ruin your holiday are the usual range of insect bites, guppy tummy, and sun-induced malaises. The sun in particular is a big danger. Apart from the obvious – it's a sub-tropical area and sunny nearly all the time – you are about 5500 feet up at most of the ranges, which reduces the UV protection by about 20%. Sunglasses, a hat with a big floppy brim, long sleeves on your shirt and long trousers are a must, as is high-factor sun cream and **lots** of fluid throughout the day.

The Department of Health issues a booklet, *Health Advice for Travellers* which can be obtained by phoning 0800 555 777. Updated information is available on CEEFAX pages 460-464.

### **Travel**

British Airways, Virgin and SAA all offer direct flights from London. A taxi from Bisley to Heathrow costs about £25, which is by far the simplest way of solving picking up kit and parking the car. The most convenient point of arrival is Johannesburg, although either Cape Town or Durban offers exciting possibilities for acclimatisation in idyllic holiday surroundings. The flight schedules are usually overnight both ways, with departures between 7 and 10pm and arrivals between 6 and 9am. Over the years, SAA have demonstrated a more flexible attitude than the others to carrying sports kit as free excess baggage.

However, any concession you get from them will be just that. With careful planning it is perfectly possible to get all the kit you will need into 23kg (honest, I've done it). The method is simple: get a soft bag, not a suitcase. Use your mat to line the bag to give a bit of additional protection. Pack all the breakable bits in your rifle case, but make sure you have your full 6kg plus a camera plus a (shooting) jacket as hand baggage. Get a camera bag with room for (shooting) accessories and use it for just that. Only take light waterproofs; it can rain very hard, but the rain is almost always accompanied by spectacular lightning, so for safety reasons shooting almost always stops. Even if soaked through you will dry naturally in an hour or so when the rain passes. Don't take shampoo, sun cream, toothpaste, soap, batteries – you can buy it all there and even in the airport terminal it is cheaper than in the UK. Same goes for drink – SA duty paid is substantially cheaper than UK duty free. Go light on clothes, you can buy more there for very little if you need to – certainly for a lot less than the £17/kg the airlines will charge in excess baggage. Dress standards are informal throughout SA, and as an individual competitor it is unlikely you will need a club blazer.

On arrival at Johannesburg, steer clear of the baggage porters. Your baggage will disappear ahead of you in a forest of hands, and when you get to where they take you, (which may only be a few yards) you will be subject to aggressive mass requests for tips from a host of people, most of whom will have had nothing to do with moving your kit. Johannesburg is a modern, well-laid out airport with plenty of trolleys; all the arrivals facilities are on one level with the courtesy buses and hire car parks. Theft of baggage has become a serious problem; the golden rule is never let your kit out of your sight. This also applies in hotel lobbies, and any other public space where you are surrounded by too much kit to carry.

You will need a hire car when you get there; both for safety and convenience public transport is a non-starter. Car hire is probably the biggest single expense you will encounter in SA – it comes out at £20 - 25 a day for a four-seater. Fuel is typically half the price of the UK. A connecting flight is of little benefit compared with driving – go for the car unless the connection costs you nothing. Before you accept the car, make sure your gun, in its case, will fit out of sight in the boot. For some reason many of the smaller models in SA, although they have big boots, have a small and awkward opening that it is not possible to get a biggish gun case through. As in the UK, South Africans drive on the left. Many junctions use the four-way stop arrangement (indicated by a conventional stop sign with a figure 4 on the post underneath). You must stop, but whoever reached the junction first has right of way – if you sit there trying to figure out what's going on and don't move when you should

you will cause large amounts of puzzlement at least. Another odd feature is that many single carriageway roads have more or less continuous hard shoulders; it is conventional to pull over to the hard shoulder when a faster car comes up behind. Major roads are a pleasure to drive on but many smaller roads are badly maintained. Potholes can be large and vicious – avoid them. South African road safety is reputedly appalling; a lack of lane discipline is a particular problem with the worst offenders being the minibus taxis. In my experience most of the driving is unaggressive by M25 standards and the roads are generally pretty empty; however, drink driving is fairly endemic and officially severely frowned upon. Do not do it. Speed cameras and radar traps are widespread so keep to the speed limits. Congested traffic in major cities also puts you at risk of attack; always keep the doors locked and the windows shut when there are people around. Leave enough space to drive round the vehicle in front, keep the engine running and keep your eyes open.

### **Firearms Law**

As a visitor, you need a permit issued by the SA Police. SABU will have organised this for you if you are shooting the Championships. When you come to Customs on arrival, explain who you are and why you are there. They will probably want to look at your gun and do a serial number check (but they quite likely won't know what they are looking at). They should have your permit ready in the back office, but getting the front office to go and find it can be a minor bureaucratic problem. They can actually write a permit on the spot – do make sure, if they do this, that the details are correct (although, in four tours I have never been asked for any paperwork anywhere other than on arrival). A single A4 sheet with all your details – name, address, address in country, passport no, sponsor name and contact details, firearm make model and serial no, UK FAC serial no and issuing authority – may be handy. The only significant restrictions on guns are that they must be declared on entry to game parks. However, running around with your gun in a car is generally to be avoided. If you can, make contact with one of the SA shooters and ask them to lock your gun up while you go off and enjoy their country, and get them to bring it along to the Championships.

### **Accommodation**

Unless you are into bunkhouses or military tents, there is virtually no accommodation on the ranges themselves; South Africans are camping fans and the Meeting will see a substantial trailer city assemble in the grounds of the adjoining military base. Bloemfontein has a number of hotels, guest houses, chalet parks and suchlike (well-known to shooters) scattered along the road from the town centre to the range. Accommodation ranges from the European (Holiday Inn at £40 per room per night) through the

basic hotels (City Lodge is clean and simple at £30 per room per night) to self catering chalets (Reyneke Park charges £30 per night for a chalet that will sleep two adults plus two children). Food is extremely cheap (steak, sausage, chicken and burger braai (barbecue) with all the trimmings including the wine, the barbecue fuel and the paper plates cost less than £5 each in 2000). Restaurant meals are also extremely cheap – the RAFTRC on tour in 2000, not noted for their abstinence, routinely failed to break £10 each for a full evening meal including drinks. Breakfast and midday meals are available on the range for around a pound.

### **Shooting**

SABU stands for South African Bisley Union; NRA Target Rifle shooting is known there as “Bisley Shooting” and any *Schutzenfest* is known as a “Bisley”, such is the grip of our home range on the sport worldwide. It will come as no surprise that the pattern of events, and the manner of shooting, will be immediately familiar to anyone who has attended the Imperial Meeting, although somewhat compressed. The programme for 2002 will include practice targets and various team shoots from Wednesday to Saturday (including a fun team shoot on Friday where individual visitors will be accommodated in other teams and a Mini-Palma International Match on the Saturday). No shooting on Sunday, then the individual events will start on Monday. With four events each day (no butt duties), the full Grand Agg plus QI, II, III plus team events are completed in 5½ days. You do need some sort of acclimatisation shoot. The whole experience of shooting in the heat needs a bit of practice; you have to try it to find out which bit of gear is still in the bottom of a carrier bag in the hotel, and your elevation will be significantly different – different ammo plus different altitude adds up to a big change. If you are moderately serious, or if you just want an excuse to see a different bit of the country, ask for a contact at one of the many regional rifle clubs for a day's shooting the weekend before. This then gives you four or five days for a true holiday before the meeting starts.

### **Costs**

The price will seem laughable – about £100 to enter the whole Meeting, including temporary membership of SABU and any necessary passes etc. However, this does **not** include ammunition – see below.

### **Admin**

SABU historically have accepted entries in just about any format; see Jeanette Burger or one of her staff of four or so when you get there and sort out the fine detail on the spot. You should be prepared to pay cash or SA Rand Travellers Cheques on arrival for your entry. Try to check in a day ahead of the match – it gets very busy on the morning of day one and you do not want to spend lots of time in a queue and then hold up lots of people while you ask the inevitable



string of silly questions. You will get an envelope of paper and tickets very similar to at the NRA Meeting; you sort out the information and personalise your tickets. There is a rifle check which you have to get done before the first shot of the Grand; the armourers can be elusive – get your gun(s) checked at the first opportunity.

### **Classification**

Shooting in SA is in two classes, A and B; broadly X, A and experienced O are in A and the rest are in B. The South Africans are scrupulously fair and unflinching – if unsure where you belong, discuss it when you get there and they will probably come to a sensible decision on the spot. They also have a rather more developed F class than the UK.

### **Ammunition**

This is possibly your biggest organisational headache. You will need about 300 rounds (or up to 400 if shooting in team matches) which weighs about 8.3kg packed. This will not fit within your 5kg civil air allowance (and while I can get my kit down to 23kg checked baggage, I can't get it down to 18kg). The availability of good-quality commercial 155gr ammunition in SA is poor and most SA shooters load their own. Unquestionably the simplest solution is to take a non-shooting partner and use their 5kg ammo allowance as well (they don't need a rifle and rifle case so there should be plenty of spare baggage allowance). This also forces you to go on holiday as well as to go shooting. The alternative is to buy ammo in country; while this is perfectly possible, it does need a degree of advance arrangement simply to ensure supplies. Ask SABU at an early stage for a suitable contact. Note that SABU rules allow handloads but specify that target rifle ammunition must be .308W/7.62 x 51mm calibre with a maximum bullet weight of 155gn.

### **Miscellaneous Admin**

The South African Rand continues to fall through the floor. The current exchange rate is over 13R = £1 and it has never gone up in my experience. Consequently pay for everything as late as possible and pay in SA rather than in advance. Credit cards are accepted for accommodation and in restaurants, and are essential for car hire. Usually, by the time the bill hits your card, the exchange rate will have dropped again. Curiously, it is usually necessary to pay for fuel in cash. Expect attended service, and to have your windows cleaned, oil checked and so on. A small tip for the attendant is normal.

Expect to find official security guards in most car parks. Again, a tip (protection money?) is normal; 50 cents to the scruffy kid who offers to guard your car is also probably a good investment. Be highly defensive about parked vehicles – make sure they are locked and don't leave anything in them you cannot afford to lose. Work hard at finding shade to park in (many car parks do have canopies).

Central Bloemfontein is civilised by SA standards, and can provide a very pleasant location for an evening out on the waterfront (yes it is 500 miles from the sea, but architectural/landscaping ingenuity knows no bounds).

### **Having a Good Time**

There are innumerable opportunities for a holiday in South Africa. Contact the South African Tourist Board for all sorts of ideas and free brochures and buy a good guide book to make the most of this wonderful country. Adventure holidays, safaris, diving, sightseeing, lazing by the beach, lazing by the pool, gambling, nightlife, cabaret, wine, golf, battlefields, culture, art . . . The choice is endless, cheap and available all across this vast and fascinating land. Allow a long day and you can drive anywhere in the country from Bloemfontein (though it is a hard day to Cape Town, the Natal/KwaZulu game parks or the Kruger). Costs are mostly silly. Hilltop Camp in the Hluhluwe - Umfolozi Game Park is situated on a mountain miles from anywhere in Natal, and has simple but comfortable accommodation at £12 per person per night (with zebras in the garden) and a full dinner for about £9 in a restaurant with a view across 100 miles of the most spectacular countryside anywhere. In Tsitsikama National Park you can hear the surf booming three miles from the waterfront; this wildest of coastlines at the mouth of Storms River has chalet accommodation thirty yards from the Indian Ocean. The waves and storms can be awe-inspiring, but the water comes warm from around Madagascar by the Mozambique Current, so a swim is not ruled out. In Stellenbosch we found a hotel at £12 per night where we could walk to a vineyard for free samples, and both the indoor and outdoor swimming pools were less than 10 yards from the suite. A stay at Sun City, 120 miles north-east of Johannesburg, is an amazing experience, though you should expect to pay European hotel prices (around £55 per night). Couple this with a visit to the Pilanesburg Game Park which is just down the road from Sun City; accommodation at about half the price and wildlife on tap.



The awe inspiring Sun City

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

## Useful contact information

### Shooting

South African Bisley Union (SABU)  
Jeanette Burger, Executive Officer,  
South Africa Bisley Union,  
PO Box 52090, Wierda Park 0149,  
South Africa.  
Telephone/Fax: 00 27 (0) 12 654 0308  
E-mail: [sanra@sanra.org.za](mailto:sanra@sanra.org.za)  
Web site: <http://www.sanra.org.za/>

### General Information

#### South African Tourist Board

Telephone: 0208 944 8080

#### AA Travel Guides - South Africa

Web site: <http://www.aatravel.co.za>

#### Expedia for accommodation, flights and car hire

Web site: <http://www.expedia.co.uk/>

#### South Africa Online

Web site: <http://www.southafrica.co.za>

### Flights

#### British Airways

Telephone: 0345 222111  
Web site: <http://www.british-airways.com>

#### Virgin

Telephone: 01293 747747  
Web site: <http://www.virgin-atlantic.com>

#### South African Airlines

Telephone: 0207 312 5000  
Web site: <http://www.saa.co.za>

### Accommodation

#### Johannesburg International Airport Holiday Inn

PO Box 388, Kempton Park 1687  
Telephone: 00 27 (0) 11 975 1121 ext 2091  
Fax: 00 27 (0) 11 975 5846  
E-mail: [gmhijohannesburgairport@southernsun.com](mailto:gmhijohannesburgairport@southernsun.com)  
Web site: <http://www.basshotels.com/holiday-inn>  
Shuttle bus available from airport



A safari is a great way to spend a few days

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

#### Bloemfontein Holiday Inn Garden Court

Corner Zaaron Street & Melville Avenue  
PO Box 12015, Brandhof, Bloemfontein 9324  
Telephone: 00 27 (0) 51 444 1253  
Fax: 00 27 (0) 51 444 0671  
E-mail: [higcbfn@southernsun.com](mailto:higcbfn@southernsun.com)

#### City Lodge Bloemfontein

Corner Voortrekker Street and Parfitt Avenue  
PO Box 3552, Bloemfontein 9300  
Telephone: 00 27 (0) 51 444 2974  
Fax: 00 27 (0) 51 444 2192  
E-mail: [clbloem.resv@citylodge.co.za](mailto:clbloem.resv@citylodge.co.za)  
Web site: <http://www.citylodge.co.za/>

#### Reyneke Park

Brendar Road, Bloemfontein  
Telephone: 00 27 (0) 51 523 3888  
Fax: 00 27 (0) 51 523 3887

### Car Hire

#### Avis

Web site: <http://www.avis.com/>  
Telephone: 0870 6060100

#### Hertz

Web site: <http://www.hertz.com/>  
Telephone: 0870 8484848

### Tourism

#### Sun City Resort

PO Box 2, Sun City 0316  
Telephone: 00 27 (0) 14 557 1000  
Accommodation Reservations: 00 27 (0) 11 780 7800  
Web site: <http://www.suninternational.co.za/>

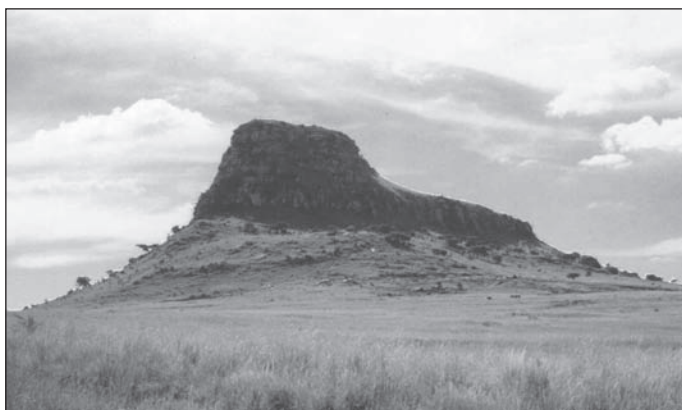
#### Pilanesberg National Park

Telephone: 00 27 (0) 14 557 5380

#### KwaZulu Natal National Parks

Web site: <http://www.natal.co.za/>

*This article was written by Iain Robertson of the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club based on his experiences of four tours to South Africa, with assistance from Richard van Lingen. All facts are as correct as possible at the time of publication but may be subject to change at any time. It would be advisable to double check this information before making any definite bookings.*



Isandlwana - one of the battlefield sites (Photo: Karen Robertson)



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*Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998*



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# THE MAKING OF THE MARKSMAN'S CALENDAR

by Iain Robertson

Members may have noticed various scantily clad young ladies in odd places and odder situations during the Meeting. Why was Mary Boston being sprayed with water from a hosepipe early on Sunday morning? Why was Sarah Rennie wrapped in a flag? The answer was the making of the 2002 Marksman's Calendar.

It started as a joke after a couple of G&Ts one evening, but after some discussion and more gin the idea that it might be practicable set in. We had several potential models and poses in mind - obviously including some that cannot be mentioned in a family publication. What we needed was a plan of action, enthusiastic models and a photographer, and who better than international glamour photographer and top shooter David Dodds? A few e-mails to and from South Africa confirmed David's essential participation. Models were also surprisingly easy - Alice Ogilvie, one of our first choices, heard about the project before the organisers could ask her and turned up demanding to know why she had been left out. She hadn't - see December.



David Dodds takes a break from winning trophies; Iain Robertson looks forward to assisting Miss November

The organising committee of Judy Farnan, Jeremy Langley and Karen and Iain Robertson soon learnt that David's ideas of what makes a good photograph were quite different from our own; our original ideas were given new depth and artistic qualities, or in some cases short shrift, and the results show that he was invariably right. Watching David at work was an education. A tweak here or a turn there or an additional prop turned a good photo into a great one. We also learned that there is a surprising amount of hard work in the modelling business; despite our forward planning there was much last-minute rushing to borrow shotguns, hoses, dogs, step-ladders and suchlike.

First of our models was Jon Cload (well we had to have something for the ladies!) who didn't seem to mind baring his body on the 1200 yards point as his

fellow shooters strolled by. Next was Jo Hossack who in our original idea would replicate the Christine Keeler pose with the Queen's Prize winners chair; David turned this clichéd concept into a stunning photo with the chair highlighted by a sunbeam in the background. Judy Farnan had wanted to pose in the China Cup but unfortunately she didn't quite fit. After perusing the Silver Exhibition we borrowed the Junior Mackinnon and the Scott Cup instead and set the picture up on the verandah of Cottesloe Lodge. Meanwhile Jacqui Rankin calmly waited in Kennedy's car park wearing a man's dress shirt and not much else, generating both stares and sales from the passing traffic. We ventured out of the public eye for our less forthright models - how many people can claim to have taken Alex Pilgrim and Sarah Rennie down to Stickle-down Butts at the same time?

Meanwhile the production team - Karen - was working to make the boring bit with dates and things more attractive. All the major UK competitions are listed, as are overseas national championships, weekends have been given more space than weekdays and the Imperial Meeting and the Commonwealth Games have their own pages. The 2002 Marksman's Calendar is full colour, printed on high quality paper, measures 230mm by 315mm and contains fourteen stunning photographs. All profits will go to support the 2002 Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada, and the team members are most grateful to the people who made the Calendar a reality: David Dodds and his assistant Pieter de Jager, the models, the sponsors and everyone who assisted in some way.

To order the Calendar please see the enclosed leaflet, ask any team member, or contact the Editor. Calendars will also be on sale in the NRA and can be purchased online at <http://www.nra.org.uk>

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GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM  
  
CANADA



Cover girl Alex Pilgrim finds that being a supermodel can be quite uncomfortable  
(Photos: Karen Robertson)



# FIVE YEARS AFTER DUNBLANE

## TRENDS IN LEGISLATION AND FIREARMS LICENSING

*by Sandy Ewing*

During the aftermath of Dunblane political opportunism and media bias combined to demonise the legitimate shooting community, and the shortcomings of the Central Scotland Police, which Lord Cullen exposed, caused other constabularies to take a very defensive approach to licensing. Many shooters still feel beset by uninformed criticism and unsympathetic policing but there are grounds for optimism in at least two areas.

First, there is growing recognition that illegal guns are the real threat to public safety, not the legitimate shooting community, and that the impression which both Governments gave during the passage of the 1997 Acts was at best naive. What price now Alun Michael's 1997 comment "We have taken the guns off the streets".

Answers to Parliamentary Questions, studies by the Firearms Consultative Committee, and the Home Office's own statistics show a 40% increase in armed crime concentrated on drug-related incidents. The police are making inroads into the inner-city gangs, but the existing law is not effective in preventing criminals gaining access to their weapons of choice, notably handguns and sub-machine guns. Although there have been well-publicised examples of unlawful conversion from the legal sector such as reactivation of imported deactivated Taurus pistols and Mac 10 type automatics, and chambering of air guns for cartridges, these cases must not obscure the fact that the great majority of real guns used in crime are modern and have never been licensed in Great Britain.

Although some politicians still cling to the illusion that the pistol ban had a serious impact on armed crime, witness Simon Hughes on Frost on Sunday and the junior Foreign Office Minister Ben Bradshaw at the United Nations, all serious research, typified by the papers from the Centre for Defence Studies at King's College London in July, points otherwise. The message is getting through to the media. Almost every major newspaper made space to cover the report and David Bredin, spokesman for the Countryside Alliance Campaign for Shooting, which commissioned this research, took part in over 30 television and radio interviews. The next task is to ensure that politicians who seek restrictions on legitimate shooters on the 'something must be done' principle, recognize how futile and ill-directed were their previous efforts.

The second cause for encouragement is in relations with the police. Like any regulatory system, the administration of firearms licensing must be fair and consistent. Until 1996 there were regular formal discussions between shooting associations and policy makers and practitioners in the firearms licensing

system. These formal contacts dwindled at the very time police practice changed, and there was a lack of firm direction from the Home Office. The result was inconsistent under-resourced administration, and a widespread breakdown of trust between certificate holder and licensor. During the past 18 months many fences have been mended due largely to initiatives from the shooting associations represented on the British Shooting Sports Council and a positive response from Charles Clarke while he was a Home Office Minister, and James Hart who leads on firearms licensing for the Association of Chief Police Officers.

BSSC officers discuss policy with ACPO, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, and other licensing authorities. There are regular meetings at practitioner level to resolve matters of practice, and ACPO have offered shooters' representatives the chance to attend a seminar of licensing officers at Wakefield in November.

The issue that has caused most case work for the NRA, like other associations, has been delay in renewal of certificates, and both the Home Office and ACPO are under pressure to provide a proper service and may well fall foul of the Human Rights Act if they fail. The advice to members on this issue, as with any licensing problem, is get it in writing. If a police officer is reluctant to confirm a conversation make your own written record and send a copy which will be part of the police file.

There is an encouraging increase in the number of cases where liaison with the police is paying dividends. For example, Surrey Police, the firearms officer at Heathrow, and the NRA worked out a procedure to let competitors at the Commonwealth Shooting Federation use Section 5 pistols under dispensation by the Home Secretary. There was goodwill all round and the lessons learned will benefit the Games next year.

For several years the shooting organisations have been closely involved in the redraft of Home Office Guidance to the Police, last published in 1988, now in final draft. This matters because it is the handbook of good practice. It matters more now because the Human Rights Act should make it easier for those aggrieved by decisions of Chief Officers to get satisfaction more easily than under judicial review. The Act puts a premium on consistency and good practice, and will increase the pressure to give reasons.

Meanwhile the Firearms Consultative Committee struggles with the issues raised by the Home Affairs Committee, and with problems referred by Ministers and from the shooting community. There are working groups on a range of detailed issues, most of which have managed to hammer out workable procedures.

The most obvious remaining difference is good reason for shotguns. It seems that those who persuaded the Home Affairs Committee to recommend extension of the test for firearms to shotguns had not thought through the practical consequences of their proposals. There may be room for rational change but if Ministers do decide to drive ahead regardless, we face years of muddle and fudge.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Joined up Government?**

The Public Sector Team in the Cabinet Office created to ease the burden of red tape has issued *Making a difference: Reducing General Practitioner Paperwork*. It recommends that GPs should no longer be required to counter sign applications for Shotgun Certificates. This comes within a year of the regulations which increased GP involvement in issue of FACs.

### **Control of Ammunition Components**

The police have raised recent cases where criminal gangs are using the Firearms Act definition of ammunition, which does not include components, to further crime, by delaying the final assembly of individual rounds. It seems reasonable that anyone in possession of propellant or primers should be able to explain why, and the 19th Century Explosives Substances Act (made to counter Fenian bombers) appears to cover the point but for procedural reasons may not be usable. It may be necessary to make an

offence of possessing the explosive components of ammunition without reasonable excuse. If so, possession of a FAC would be a statutory reason, as would other activity in connection with target shooting. Any general move to license components would only inconvenience the legitimate user without bearing down on the criminal.

### **Forms in Welsh**

The Welsh Language Act provides that forms etc must be available in both languages. Neither lack of demand nor cost are criteria for non-use. In the past five years there have been 365 applications for firearms forms in Welsh, 350 of which were to the North Wales Police. Several Welsh forces have produced back to back dual language forms and certificates although this may not be strictly legal. The situation is complicated by the rule that Welsh versions of Statutory Instruments and like documents are only valid if made at the same time as the English version. The great majority of shooters inclined to view this as a mere curiosity will wish to know that we have impressed on officials that the extra cost involved in this exercise must not be passed on to the generality of certificate holders.

### **Referees**

ACPO have asked for views from all forces on what, from first principles, they need from a referee and a reference form. This should lead to good practice and avoid some of the annoying anomalies which members have reported.

## **NATIONAL CLAY SHOOTING CENTRE AND LORD ROBERTS CENTRE GRAND OPENING CEREMONIES 10 AUGUST 2001**

*by Karen Robertson*

A bright sunny day greeted the crowds who had been invited to witness the Grand Opening ceremonies of the new facilities at Bisley.

The day began with coffee and a demonstration of the clay range layouts by instructors David Dale and Barry Desborough.

Speeches were made by David Hossack and Robert Stafford who introduced Ian Coley, the Team Coach of the English Clay Team. Ian officially opened the facilities and declared that on his travels around the world he had not come across a better set up. He stated that the clays seemed to be flying beautifully from state-of-the-art traps and that the background was superb.

The staff had worked extremely hard to get the range up and running in time despite long delays in the construction due largely to appalling weather in the critical phase.

It must also be mentioned that the NCSC Clay Ranges are now open to everyone and already the excellence of the food in the NCSC Pavilion has been commented upon by all who have tried it!

Following this, the guests made their way down to the new Lord Roberts Centre where lunch awaited.

The Chairman of the NSRA, Graham Pound, welcomed everybody to the new facilities and introduced Sarah Cooper who unveiled a memorial plaque to her husband Malcolm. He announced that the new 50 metre range was to be named in Malcolm's honour.

Mrs Unni Nicolaysen, President of the European Shooting Confederation, then made a short speech in which she praised the new facility at Lord Roberts Centre calling it a world class facility. She said that the ISSF would be waiting for bids to host major internationals in the future.

A delightful buffet lunch, expertly prepared by the staff of the L&MRA, was followed by further short speeches and demonstrations of the new ranges and equipment.

To anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to visit the new NCSC Clay Ranges or the NSRA's Lord Roberts Centre, please go and see all that they have to offer - you are guaranteed to be impressed!





*From top left:*

**National Clay Shooting Centre Opening Ceremony**

The new National Clay Shooting Centre Pavilion

The view towards the Clock Tower

David Hossack, Ian Coley and Robert Stafford at the NCSC Opening Ceremony

Clay Complex Manager Sarah Bunch

**NSRA Lord Roberts Centre Opening Ceremony**

Graham Pound and Sarah Cooper at the NSRA Lord Roberts Centre Opening Ceremony

The new state-of-the-art gymnasium at Lord Roberts Centre

The new 50 metre range

*(Photos: Karen Robertson)*



# THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM ATHELINGS

## TOUR TO CANADA AUGUST 2001

by Major Hylton Adcroft

Nothing runs smoothly...

We arrived at the gate ahead of time. The near new Boeing 767 taxied on schedule but broke while queueing for the runway. Engineers did their bit and an hour later we left a dark rain-swept Heathrow and climbed into the sunny stratosphere above the Berkshire clouds.

We were still an hour late at Ottawa where we met our liaison officer Captain Maureen Hayes, newly posted in from Nova Scotia. Canadian Army QM staff pulled our rifles directly off the apron and saw them though to storage at Connaught Camp. Our priorities were simple: Denny's for our first taste of Canadian food, then our luxury coach. On arrival at Connaught, a noisy reception committee supplied by the 2001 Bisley Team awaited; the RCACNRT Coach, Captain Craig Bawden, excelled in sorting our tented accommodation. The officers were introduced to Major Lloyd Sainsbury and other key personnel, but it being 3.30am UK time we made our excuses to retire.

We departed Connaught at 8.30am, and went via Montreal to Camp Valcartier in Quebec, our base for two days exploring Quebec City. We had supper at the base before taking the 25-minute drive to Chateau Frontenac in the heart of the old walled city. In the three hours we had to wander and explore the shops, cafes and markets we were introduced to the wonderful atmosphere. A professional folk singer and his band in concert playing free to hundreds of attentive listeners was the highlight of street music and theatre that surprised everyone. Despite the distractions, all the team reported on time at the rendezvous and we returned to Valcartier by 10.30pm.

On Saturday 4 August, after an early breakfast, we departed for La Citadelle to witness the Changing of the Guard, performed expertly by the highly trained guardsmen and musicians. A tour of the Citadelle was followed by lunch in the canteen. The coach took us through the Plains of Abraham, which we had previously seen on a display model.

With friends gained and farewells made we departed Valcartier for Montreal. Three and a half hours later we arrived at CFB St Jean near Montreal. Accommodation was in a tower block with a maze of corridors and individual rooms. The tenth floor, although not the highest, provided a view and a breeze sufficient to cool the rooms through the mesh mosquito screens. We soon headed for downtown Montreal, where we were amused and enlightened to find ourselves in the midst of a gay rights carnival. At 4.00pm we met to ride the Lachine rapids by jet-boat; the experience was enjoyed and appreciated by all the cadets (and that's official).

We departed CFB St Jean on Monday morning. After a stop at the Montreal Olympic stadium for a guided tour

and ride to the tower top, we drove to Upper Canada village. This tourist trap replicates an early Victorian village with people dressed in the costume of the day - a very interesting experience (honest). Afterwards we headed west towards Trenton, arriving in time for supper in the very modern mess at Trenton Air Force Base. Our accommodation, directly adjacent to the mess, consisted of five-star serviced en-suite rooms with TV and video, fridge, microwave, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, bath and shower, towels and even hair dryers. A relaxing evening at the 'hotel' was no hardship at all. Some of the party went for a walk after supper, and half a dozen managed a swim in Lake Ontario.

The next morning we set off to the RCAF Museum. Of special interest was the visit to the hangar where a Halifax bomber is being restored. This will become only the second complete Halifax in existence, the first being in the RAF Museum at Hendon. We moved on to visit 424 Search and Rescue Squadron RCAF where we had the chance to view the twin rotor Labrador helicopter ready for operations. It was unusually hot - the temperature was in the upper nineties - and it was a relief to return to our air-conditioned coach. En-route to St Andrew's College, Aurora, we took a small detour for a half hour at the beach. Most of the party swam and found the water a pleasant 10 degrees cooler than last evening. We arrived at St Andrew's College in time for supper. Some of the group wandered into Aurora after supper, while others stayed to watch the Ontario Girls soccer team preparing for the Summer Games. Pizzas were ordered later as most watched television before collapsing into their beds.

Wednesday 8 August was a relaxing day. Options were to sleep in or go on a shopping trip at the Mall - most chose to sleep in. Supper was at St Andrews; we watched the Disney film crew building a set in preparation for filming *Cadet Katie* to be shown on the Disney Channel in a few weeks time. St Andrews looks a bit like a Military Academy at present. The evening was free to relax and play ball or swim in the indoor pool.

After breakfast on Thursday we departed for Wonderland. The day was an exciting action packed adventure. The number of rides taken varied, but there was still enough time for everyone to get into the water and get sunburned as temperatures remained in the upper 90's.

On Friday we went to Toronto, a drive of about 45 minutes. On arrival at the CN Tower, we made our way to the lifts and ascended to the observation point in less than a minute! The tower was not so busy at this time of day and we managed to have a good look around while standing on the glass platform. The film about the building and the tour of the Sky Dome that followed were very informative and thorough. The afternoon was



free time in the Eaton Centre, and we arranged to be picked up outside the main door. With all on board, we returned to Aurora.

Saturday 11 August was another beautiful sunny day, the weather greatly improved without the excessive humidity of the last eight days. We left St Andrew's College to go to Niagara but stopped at Fort George en-route. Here we were shown a film on the history of the Fort before being assigned a Corporal from the 74th of Foot who talked us through the Musketeers' drills, their accommodation and the firing of the cannon. We then headed for the *Maid of the Mist*, the boat which goes right under Niagara Falls. Unfortunately group tickets cannot be bought in advance and we found the queues were VERY long. The queue, the trip under the Falls - wonderful - and the return left little time to walk to the bridge and cross into the USA or do any souvenir hunting. However, we did delay our return a half hour to give us time to do some karting about 10 minutes from Niagara Falls. We bought 60 tickets and had an enjoyable hour burning rubber. Back at St Andrew's the day ended with a team talk about the conditions we could expect shooting at Connaught.

Monday 13 August was a practice day - practice targets, the range officer and the RG ammunition were all in place as promised. The C12s were fitted to the cadets and items changed and swapped accordingly. Training continued with the C12 at long range in the afternoon under the watchful eye of Peter Medhurst.

Monday night was very cold but Tuesday morning soon warmed until a baking hot sun at midday made shooting a little uncomfortable. The Canadian Forces Ombudsman came to address the cadets after lunch. This was a PR exercise designed to let all cadets know that, in the unlikely event of their being bullied or unhappy with their treatment in the cadets, they have someone who they can ultimately turn to with their complaint if all other avenues fail. Of more interest were the results after the first days competitions: David Lynagh in third place, Graham Nelson sixth and James Lawie in eighth place in the Tuesday Aggregate.

On Wednesday Chris Dawes shot the only possible of the day at 300m, although the C12 seemed to be shooting fairly straight for everyone. Chris Cherry was the top scorer of the day, finishing sixth in the Wednesday Aggregate. Graham Nelson was the Atheling lead scorer holding fifth place overall in the Cadet Meeting with James Lawrie seventh and Chris Cherry eighth.

The Rex Goddard Match on Thursday 16 August was the final inter-Cadet team event with service rifles and the team were looking forward to it. It was a great pleasure to have Colonel Goddard (in Canada on holiday) present for the whole match. The Athelings led by three points after 500 yards but RCACNRT recovered the deficit at 600 yards to give them a win by two points. That, together with the ten points they achieved in Stage 1 at Bisley gave a final victory to the Canadians by 12 points; 1499.47 to 1487.41.

*Norman Clark*

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The Athelings at the awe-inspiring Niagara Falls



The five Governor Generals Finalists - Lt James Postle, Steven Howard, Dani Foulston, Chris Dawes and David Lynagh



The Athelings enjoyed their food



Canoeing didn't come easy . . .



The 2001 Athelings Team meet HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh

(Photos: Athelings)



On Friday 17 August we drew our own rifles; there was an excitement in the camp with anticipation of shooting even better scores. Practice targets were booked through an obliging DCRA. In the first competition, the Ottawa Regiment, James Hodge shot a 75.9.

The Gooderham and the Army and Navy competitions were shot on Saturday 18 August. The team were pleased with Chris Dawes possible in the Gooderham; his total score of 120.8 put him in 17th position. Graham Nelson's 70.7 put him in 13th position in the Army and Navy competition; James Forsyth on 70.5 was 15th.

On Sunday, team members made eight possibles at separate distances in the Tilton but still our highest placing was Peter Medhurst in 32nd place with 99.8 followed by James Hodge and Owen Vallis who both dropped two points over the two distances. There were seven possibles in the Macdougall; Peter Medhurst took second place with a fine 100.14. The evening was spent socialising with our friends in the RCAC and their officers who, along with Major Adcroft, had hired a Karaoke system - the party was a great success.

The heavens opened on Monday - rain had been forecast but it was hard to imagine the extent that it would fall. Shooting in the afternoon was cancelled as the targets could not be seen, everyone on the point was drenched and the lightning was close enough to be dangerous. The only scores counted were the 300 yards scores in the Norman Beckett, which included five Atheling possibles, and the 500 yards scores in the abandoned Col John C Brick in which three possibles had been shot; Lt Postle was placed fifth in the Beckett with 50.8. The tents were dripping and all the equipment needed to be dried. After supper a trip to the wave pool was organized together with the ACF course and the RCACNRT. At least the water there was under some control.

On Tuesday the weather was much better. Nineteen possibles were shot by the team in the Letson and nine members made the prize list; eight members were on the prize list of the Alexander of Tunis although scores were generally low across the board. It had become overcast and warmer but there was still a tricky wind and everything was still drying out after the previous day's downpour.

Chris Dawes, Dani Foulston, Steven Howard, Graham Nelson, Owen Vallis and Lt Postle all shot possibles in the Presidents at 300m; Steven, Owen and Lt Postle repeated the feat at 500 yards together with Jerry Grant-Jones and James Lawrie. Only Dawes went clean at 600 yards to gain eighth place overall in the Presidents. There was a tricky wind at 800m for the start of the Gibson, and scores were only fair to middling. Possibles came from Dawes, Hodge, Lawrie, Lt Postle and Peter Medhurst at 300m and as the temperature rose, 600 yards HPSs came from Hodge, Howard and Lawrie. It was good to see Major Jean-Louis Diamond who visited Lt Col Rex Goddard and Major Adcroft, especially as Jean-Louis was Major Adcroft's liaison officer in 1982.

The Gibson continued on Thursday morning. Dawes, Hodge and Lawrie joined the Adjutant and Armourer



Lt Col Rex Goddard presenting the Goddard Trophy to the Royal Canadian Army Cadets Bisley Team *(Photo: Athelings)*

who shot possibles at 300m; at 600 yards, Hodge, Howard and Lawrie also achieved clean scores. The Michael Faraday, our main team match, was shot on the Thursday afternoon. We trailed by two points and 12 V bulls after the first distance; despite a much improved score at 500 yards, the Canadians held a lead of one point. It was all on the 600 yards shoot and we felt that the Faraday could be ours, but RCAC shot 410 giving them an all time record score of 1225.107 to our 1213.87. We congratulated them on a magnificent performance, feeling that there was no shame in losing to such a gifted team. The Faraday dinner was at the Army Officers Mess in Ottawa where an excellent meal was followed by speeches from Major Sainsbury, Major Adcroft and Lt Col Goddard.

The team had mixed and generally disappointing results in the Gatineau 900m shoot on Friday in difficult conditions. Scores ranged upwards from Noble's 44 with only David Lynagh and Peter Medhurst making over 70. Qualifiers for the Patron's 900m shoot were Jerry Grant-Jones, James Hodge, Steven Howard, David Lynagh, Graham Nelson, Alexander Woodward, Lt Postle, Peter Medhurst and Chris Dawes who came 29th. Chris was selected as our Captain for the Under 25 Long Range Match in the late afternoon. The Canadian team finished 16 points and 6 V bulls ahead of our 734.39.

The Atheling Captain and Vice-Captain accompanied the Commandant and Adjutant to the Macdonald-Stewart Dinner at the Chateau Laurier in the evening. Graham Nelson and Christopher Dawes, the team's highest scorers in the GrandAggregate, also attended.

The Under 25 Short Range Match started at 8am on Saturday with Chris Dawes again in charge. The Canadians, on 1180.115, took the match by just nine points. The remainder of the day was tightly scheduled; the Adjutant and four Athelings, Dawes, Foulston, Howard and Lynagh were all in the Governor General's Final in extremely hot sunshine. Chris Dawes was holding sixth place after 800m but dropped a few places at 900m.

At the Prizegiving the Athelings were present in No 1 uniform to see Chris Dawes collect the Bond and Waller medals. The Atheling Appreciation Dinner was held in the Mess starting at 9.00pm. There were 20 guests who had been enormously helpful and hospitable to the

Athelings during our stay; Major Lloyd Sainsbury and his wife Elaine; Captain Maureen Hayes, our escort officer; Major Kate Debreuil, the officer i/c exchanges; Major Paul Bawden who ran the Cadet Meeting and is Commandant of the Bisley Team 2002; Major Sam Meckbach, the Bisley 2001 Commandant; Captain and Mrs Craig Bawden; Captain Len Skinner, the Camp Adjutant, who received a Bisley badge; Lt Laura Lapansee, the transport officer; Captain Bill Currie, officer i/c support and stores; Major Liz Hailstone; RSM Neil Lester; Lt Col Ian Purdie, range officer; Mr Ron Surette, armourer; Captain Al Henshaw who compiled the stats; Lt Marc-Andre Verreault and Lt Jessica Bruggess who were the assistant coaches to the Bisley team; together with Lt Bart Yarmoshuk and Mike Melnichuk who were both good friends. The invitation and words expressed were hardly any reward for the kindness, hospitality, support and friendship shown by all these wonderful people toward the Athelings team.

With the shooting over, we could be more adventurous in our relaxation. A canoeing and camping expedition was in store, and departure to Algonquin Park on Sunday was scheduled for 8am. Rain had been forecast and the whole day was overcast but we didn't expect the major storm that greeted us at Lake Oeneonga as we were kitted out by the Algonquin Outfitters Company. The heavens opened and the lake whipped up which delayed our departure in the canoes. However, with the team in canoes and the Commandant and boat skipper James Lawrie in the power boat, we set off for

the 90 minute paddle to the three camp sites. Steaks were grilled over an open fire and we all watched the sun go down over the now calm and peaceful lake before putting up our 'bear bags' of food and retiring to our tents.

Monday was a relaxed day on the lake; the weather was better and the lake was quite warm for swimming. Some success was had with the fishing tackle and there were some fish caught which were grilled in the evening to supplement our re-hydrated rations. The Jersey boys showed that they were really at home on an island. More story telling and fire watching passed another very pleasant evening.

On Tuesday the Athelings packed up and cleared their camp sites. The motor boat, driven by the Adjutant, towed the Atheling canoes back to base - six canoes seemed to be the maximum at any one time! From Oneonga it was back to Connaught in time to settle in to the dormitory accommodation. The school bus, complete with crying 18 month old and his granny as driver, arrived at 6.45pm to take us to The Station in Hull, Quebec, for our final social gathering of the tour. It was a very pleasant evening in the presence of the Escort Officer and her husband Mike, Major Kate Debreuil the Exchange Officer and Gary and Betty Lacey who had been the hosts to Lt Col Goddard while he was at Connaught.

Clearing up and final admin filled Wednesday until the coach arrived at 5.00pm to take the party to Ottawa Airport. Air Canada had already prepared the boarding cards as requested and the two containers for the rifles and our private cases were waiting just a few feet behind the check-in desk. After a smooth and uneventful flight, arrival at Heathrow Airport on Thursday was slightly early. Lt Col Suffield-Jones, the Atheling Hon Organiser and Major Simon Fraser of CCRS were present to welcome us as we exited the arrival section. Home with all hands!

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to:

- Lt James Postle for his school-mastering professionalism and coaching expertise. He led the team from the front with his shooting ability and made many friends among our hosts.
- I also thank Peter Medhurst for his patience with us and in particular with the Commandant. His attention to every detail is to be admired.
- For all our hosts in Canada - the word 'no' does not exist in their vocabulary. I found each person so willing to please us, pleasant in the execution and friendly beyond the call of duty. Words cannot express my sincere thanks to all of them.
- I thank all members of the Athelings team for their dedicated efforts, friendly co-operation and cheerfulness when the chips were down.
- To everyone who has helped us, the Canadians already mentioned, the members of the Canadian Matches Committee of CCRS, the organiser and coaches for 'Maple Taste' training, the staff of CCRS, my grateful thanks.



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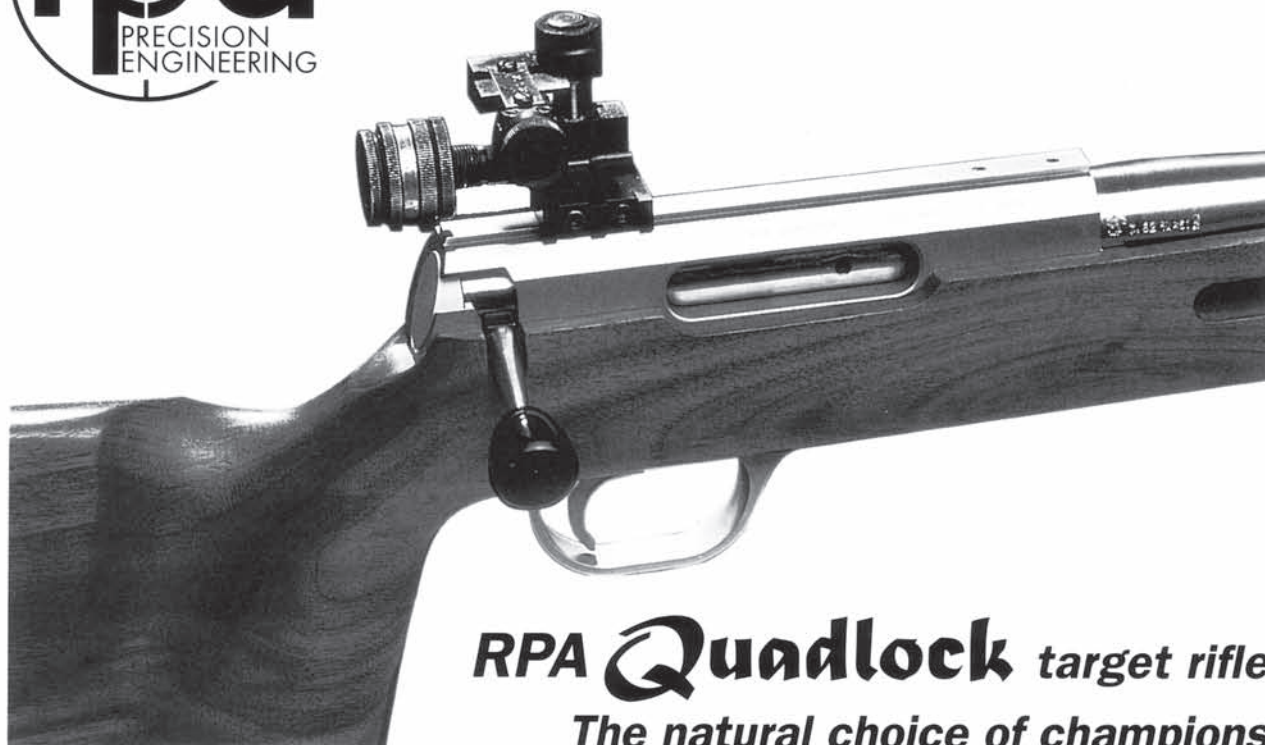
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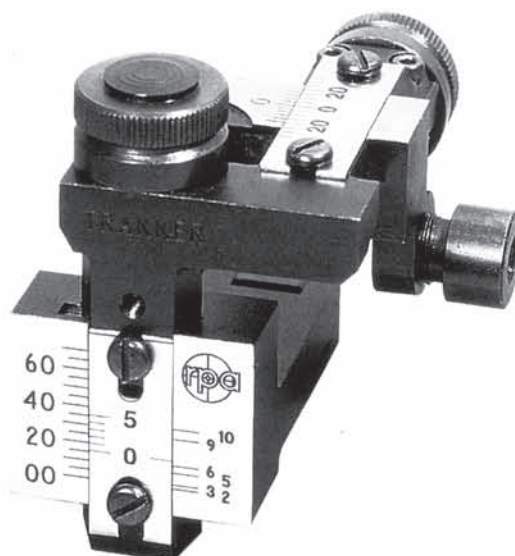
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## OBITUARIES

### Sir Ronald Melville KCB

Ronnie started shooting a long time ago whilst a student at Cambridge and he soon found his way to Bisley. Match Rifle appealed and it was not long before the Scottish Captain became aware of his skill. He was invited to shoot in the Elcho, as a new boy, at the tender age of 22. This was to be the first of



many appearances for Scotland, in a career that extended over 50 years. Ronnie favoured the supine or back position; these shooters use all kinds of positions and devices to support the head. It is thought Ronnie was the last exponent of the rubber ring device. This was a dog's toy in the form of a rubber ring attached by a strap to his left wrist, with which he held the top of the butt. Once in the aim, the ring was held between the teeth, thus keeping the head in a steady position until the shot had been fired. Sounds incredible? Ronnie's prowess in advancing years proved that it worked. The position is rarely seen now.

Meetings convened at inopportune times to suit Ronnie's shooting programme were not rare. On one occasion, during the time when Concorde was being developed, there was a complete impasse between the British and the French on what the aircraft should be called. The name Concord was on the table but this was not French enough for the French. Ronnie was at the centre of this debate; he said if they couldn't agree by that evening he wouldn't be able to go to Bisley. At the last minute someone suggested that Concord be spelt with an 'e', which was no problem for the British; the French agreed and Ronnie got to Bisley!

Back in the seventies when the Central Bankers had the idea of running a Grand Aggregate Leader Board and later, the Kaltenburg World Championship, they expected and got, all sorts of resistance from the NRA. There were huge objections but once they had convinced Ronnie, all the doors opened. One of his greatest attributes was that he never closed his mind to a new idea. He was also very approachable and those youngsters in their twenties were delighted when they found this 60 year old so flexible. What was even better, was finding that Ronnie then used the magic key of his charm and persuasion to open all the remaining closed doors. The Leader Board is now an established item of the Bisley scene viewed by thousands during the annual Imperial Meeting.

He was also an accomplished artist and retained his curiosity and desire to go on learning to the end of his days. He was the oldest student to be enrolled at St Martin's School of Art in London and is suspected of having adjusted his age in order to be admitted! He had

a particular interest in still-life paintings of fish and crustaceans. On one occasion he was staying at a hotel by the sea and was working on a painting of a particularly fine lobster. It took some time to finish, so to keep his room habitable, Ronnie hung the lobster outside his window overnight. History does not relate what the hotel management or passing public made of this. Despite finding life-classes really tricky, he produced some fine work and was proud of a handsome nude, which was displayed in his studio at home. A visitor remarked that she really was rather lovely, to which Ronnie replied, "Yes, I did that at my weekly lesson and it has been suggested that she bears a great resemblance to our next-door neighbour. There is even talk in the village that we are having an affair! I am very much enjoying saying nothing so that the gossips can have their fun, while improving my notoriety."

Ronnie frequently displayed evidence of a mischievous sense of humour. He and his brother Alan were identical twins and often exploited this to tease other people. At a time when they both commuted to London on the same train, there are stories of passengers looking for an empty compartment, seeing one man seated in it, trying another compartment and finding the same man apparently there too. When Ronnie's son brought his fiancée to stay, without telling her that his father had an identical twin, Ronnie and Alan would leave and re-enter the room alternately, one wearing long trousers and the other wearing shorts, causing the young lady to wonder why on earth this strange man kept changing his clothes every few minutes.

Shooting, in particular Match Rifle, was his greatest love. He shot for Scotland in the Elcho for near 50 years, was President of the Hertfordshire Rifle Association for 35 years and was Captain of the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada and the USA in 1976. This particular team will be always remembered as the one where members traditionally wear a small elastic band on their team ties, just below the knot!

Ronnie, to his friends, was laid to rest in the village churchyard of Braughing, where he lived in Hertfordshire. His family, friends and representatives of all UK shooting nations attended the memorial service. Ronnie will be remembered with respect and affection especially for his dry wit and exceptionally quick mind. He will be sadly missed by his shooting friends world-wide.

It seems fitting too, that Ronnie should have the last word. At his funeral, whilst the congregation was assembling, piped music was being relayed around the church. During one particularly rousing piece, which gradually got louder, came a whistle. The organist, who was ringing the church bells at the time, came running down the aisle and reduced the volume. The whistle stopped. There was no denying the whistle came from an electronic gadget but was it the tape deck or was it a hearing aid? We were not alone in thinking it was the latter.

To his wife Enid and her family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

MEB, CH, TRW



## Malcolm Cooper MBE

Malcolm was Great Britain's leading marksman in three different shooting disciplines, air rifle and three positional (prone, standing and kneeling) shooting in both .22 at 50 metres and fullbore at 300 metres. He died on 9 June, aged 53, after a long and painful struggle with cancer. Between 1977 and 1990 he won many World, Commonwealth and European Championships, but the summit of his achievement was the winning of Olympic Gold Medals (for .22 PSK) in Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988.

He was born in Camberley, Surrey, in December 1947, the son of a naval officer. His first experience of shooting, at age 13, was not auspicious - he missed the target with all ten shots. This, however, was the sport he wished to follow. By the following year, when the family had moved to New Zealand, he had thought how to achieve the best possible results; think about the fundamentals of technique and how to apply them, then make sure that your body is able to fulfill the demands you make on it. Well before returning to Britain, at age 16, he was shooting for Auckland City.

After leaving school, Malcolm worked in the naval dockyard and qualified as a naval architect. Meanwhile his shooting progressed and he was soon a member of the county team. By 1970 he had won the GB PSK Championship, something he did with regularity for the next twenty years. In 1977 he won the European 300m Championship setting a standing world record with a Grunig. Next year he won again at the 300m World Championships in Korea, with a borrowed rifle, beating its owner into third place in the 3x20 at 300m.

In 1982, during the Commonwealth Games at Brisbane and the World Championships at Caracas, Malcolm won gold medals at both, setting a 300m world record at prone in doing so. It was good preparation for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, where he had a stiff tussle with 'Jock' Allan before winning his gold. With Jock, Barry Dagger and Mike Sullivan he brought back the best ever collection of GB rifle shooting medals, and the first golds since 1908.

The following six years were a continual run of success at the highest level, with gold medals in the World Championships in 1986 and 1990, the European Championships in 1985, 1987 and 1989 and of course the Seoul Olympics in 1988. The Swedish World Championships in 1986 showed his will to overcome all obstacles; the entry form did not indicate the number of eliminator relays to be fired, so he did not have enough ammunition. He begged and borrowed components (and a portable press) from other competitors and produced some test rounds in his hotel bedroom. After selecting a compromise load he went on to make 599 in the prone event and 400 in the 3x40, making 1174 to equal the world record.

In all this effort and sacrifice he was supported by Sarah, who shot alongside him and sweated with him in his



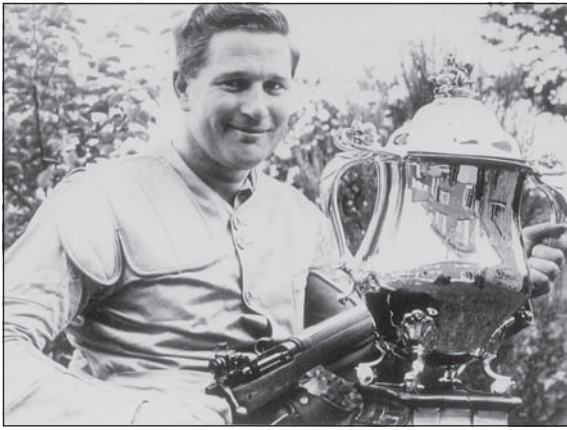
physical exercises. She was also an outstanding air rifle and PSK shooter and they jointly won the small-bore pairs event for England in the 1986 Commonwealth Games. Together they were an asset to their team both on and off the range. Impressive calm was their keynote, they even slept through an earthquake in Athens in 1981 during the European Air Weapon Championships.

In 1991 he was found to have a diseased pituitary gland. After the operation he had to have hormone therapy, which took some time to balance. He retired from competition and turned his talents toward the production of a target rifle of his own design. After a lot of development, it became the short receiver version of the now famous AI action in 1981. Somewhat late in the day he had entered a bid for the production of a sniper rifle for the British Army in 7.62NATO. Innovative in concept (for a single-shot magazine-fed rifle), he and his design team, working under high pressure and building on existing work, produced the winning design. They did not rest on their laurels, and continued the design's development to win the contract to supply the Swedish Army. A later long-range longer receiver version in .300 Win Mag won a hotly contested contract for the German Army, and the firm gained the Queen's Award for export achievement in 1998. A more potent version in .338 Lap Mag was produced.

Malcolm packed more into thirty nine shooting years and achieved more, purely by the application of thought, hard work and guts, than most could in five lifetimes. He will be remembered as one of the all time greats. Europe will remember him forever for his 300m supremacy, all of us will remember him as the first man to win two successive Olympic golds for 3x40 at 50m. Worldwide he will be missed; sympathy for Sarah is likewise worldwide.

PFH

## Roy Barnard



Roy was born in Coventry in January 1929. His father was a coachbuilder in the City's car industry, having moved there after WW1, in which he had served as a Sapper. He was also a keen wildfowler and rough shooter, hence one can see where two of Roy's main interests – shooting and blowing things up – came from.

During WW2, Roy's secondary education was interrupted by the Blitz and he went to work with his father, building Mosquitos in one of Coventry's shadow factories.

Roy's shooting interests extended into .22 and .303 rifle shooting when he joined the local Cadet rifle team who, in the next few years, won just about every Cadet shooting trophy that was going.

After WW2, he entered an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery, on completion of which he proudly exercised his right to become a Freeman of the City of Coventry. Then followed three years in the Royal Air Force in the 1950s, mainly with 74(F), the first Tiger Squadron, whose motto was "I Fear No Man". They were then based at Horsham St Faith, now Norwich Airport, flying Meteor Mk 8s.

He made the most of the many opportunities then available for rifle and pistol shooting and spent many weeks of each summer encamped at Bisley, where he won his colours, shooting for Fighter Command and RAF Teams in both SR(a) and SR(b) competitions.

He regularly kept in touch with his old Squadron, and attended the ceremony at RAF Valley when it was disbanded last year.

On leaving the RAF, Roy took on the task of building his own house in Coventry using his carpentry skills. He obtained a position with Dunlop Aviation Division as a Test Engineer, working on many prestigious development projects including the Concorde braking systems, until taking early retirement to concentrate on his ammunition business, which he had been pursuing part-time for many years.

He produced a large variety of special-purpose shotgun loadings for Eley Ltd, and test loadings for several ballistic armour manufacturers. He was particularly proud of his development of a unique, totally waterproof, blank cartridge for the Tornado Amphibious

Cartridge Hammer, a fearsome-looking device that, underwater, fires a steel stud, of 4-ton shear or extraction strength, into 1" thick naval-quality steel.

Roy continued competitive rifle shooting all his life and rarely missed the Imperial Meeting. He won the Alexandra in 1963, as well as many other competitions over the years. He shot in the 1992 Palma Individual Championships in Raton, and in recent years made several trips to South Africa, where he had many friends, to compete in the SA Bisley Meeting. This year he was scheduled to tour with the NRA F Class Team to South Africa.

Roy joined the Sealed Knot Society before their first battle re-enactment at Edgehill in October 1968. Having held explosives licences for many years, he was recruited into the Trayne of Artillery to provide the black powder. During this first 'battle', he was the 'enemy'; firing strings of detonators to represent musketry and bags of gunpowder to simulate cannon and shot-fall.

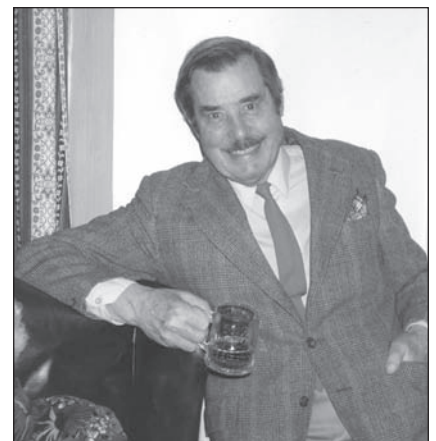
Over his years with the Sealed Knot, he enabled the musketeers and gunners to fire off thousands of kilos of gunpowder safely, as well as ensuring that all the necessary paperwork was in order. To some he appeared an irascible character, hell-bent on spoiling their fun by insisting on strict conformity to the law and to safety drills. To those of us who knew him well, this was just part of his personality; he always meant well and always did his best.

At his funeral service, Ron Hill, a fellow Knotter said of him: "He must be in Heaven – he would have condemned the other place on health and safety grounds".

Roy Barnard was a one-off. Anyone who spent time in his company will have a story to tell, but none could tell it like Roy. His tall stories were legend, but were not always as tall as they seemed - they were always based on fact. It was the way he told 'em!

GVB

**Squadron  
Leader  
Albert (Alf)  
Beebe  
MBE RAF (Retd)**



Alf was a man of Kent born of a Service family whose father competed at Bisley with the Regular Army. He enlisted in the Tower Hamlet Rifles TA as a boy soldier and when eighteen in November 1934 transferred to the Royal Air Force.



He served in Palestine from 1937 to 1941, much of the time in Jerusalem. He returned to Palestine in 1946 and left following 'Partition' in 1948. He also experienced service in Egypt, Germany, Bahrain and Singapore. Troopships took him to Aden, Durban and Capetown and Air Transportation took him to Tripoli, Kenya and Kuwait. Involvement included Air Movements, rehabilitation of Luftwaffe airfields and most aspects of RAF supply work. As a Warrant Officer he was mentioned in dispatches in Palestine in 1948 and was awarded the MBE in 1959. He was commissioned the following year.

Alf shot at Bisley in 1935 for Halton Command and it was twenty years before he was able to take up shooting again. He subsequently attended Bisley regularly from 1955 except when overseas. Alf represented the RAF in twenty five Inter-Services matches up to 1972 shooting the Sten, Stirling, revolver, 9mm pistol and small-bore rifle and pistol. He shot at command level with fullbore rifle until stopped by a complaining spine. He also shot competitively with Vickers MG and Lewis Gun at Pirbright. He was selected and shot for Great Britain in the 1960 Free Pistol Match. Alf shot for Norfolk County, Yorkshire and North Wales and spent much of his spare time developing and running shooting clubs.

Alf retired from the RAF in 1972 after 38 years service. Within six months he joined the staff of the NRA at Bisley.

Alf was responsible at Bisley for planning accommodation allocations and looked after the NRA trophy collection. He controlled both these functions from an office at the side of the NRA HQ in Century Way.

He is survived by his wife Molly and his son Michael.

MB

### **Stewart Albert Calder**

We will miss this stoic supporter of our sport who had an untimely passing during the Imperial Meeting this year. He was one of the nicest guys anyone would wish to meet; we will miss his dry humour and the stories of his adventurous past.



Stu was born in Invercargill, New Zealand on 21 May 1923.

During World War Two he joined the RNZAF, was trained in Claresholm, British Columbia, Canada, and obtained his wings in 1944. He was stationed in Scotland with 489 Squadron, Coastal Command, during 1944/45 and flew sorties in Beaufighters and Mosquitos over the North Atlantic. During 1946 he served in India dealing with a multitude of post war logistic problems. During

that year he met with VIPs such as Mahatma Ghandi and The Earl Lord Mountbatten.

In 1947 he returned to New Zealand and became an airline Captain with NAC Airways. He returned to the UK in 1953, joining the Silvercity Group as an airline Captain. He also married his wife Ngarie.

After 10 years service he left to join Caledonian Airways (later to be called British Caledonian). During his time there until his retirement in 1982, he achieved recognition from the Queen for his services to the airline industry.

His hankering for the sport of fullbore rifle shooting started in 1968 when he was introduced to it by Don Tindal and Graham Pittaway, both members of the Reigate Club at that time.

Stu made the Queen's Final in 1979 and the St George's in 1982, but his greatest sporting honour was to tour in 1993 to New Zealand with the Great Britain Veterans Team.

Additionally Stu was the Sussex County Treasurer from 1983 to 1990. He represented the County on many occasions as well as winning numerous range and aggregate competitions.

His presence on Bisley Common will continue. Reg, his son-in-law and Nick, his grandson, are avid participators in the sport, and hopefully, there will be a few more to come.

RMR

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

***Qualified to shoot for the County?***

***Resident in Gloucestershire or Bristol?***

***At school or university in the area?***

The County of Gloucester Rifle Association offers a programme of practices and competitive target rifle events at Pilning (to the north of Bristol), Bisley and other ranges. The County regularly enters major target rifle team events and has a number of active affiliated clubs.

### ***Interested?***

Contact the County Secretary Rob Lygoe

Tel: 01242 516260

E-mail: fiatx19@hotmail.com

or John Deane

Tel: 01727 859434

E-mail: jrdeane@netcomuk.co.uk

Alternatively, see us at Bisley at Caravan JJ3 (adjacent to Atholl Row/RAF Club).

# NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2001

by Roger Moncur, Nick Tremlett and LouLou Brister

After a splendid breakfast in the North London, the team departed on Wednesday 23 May for Poole Harbour, and boarded the SeaCat to Guernsey. We had a good crossing and decided it was the best way to travel to the Channel Islands.

We checked into the comfortable and friendly Cobo Bay Hotel where we were met by David Jory. He very kindly took our rifles to store in a safe place and promised to deliver them on Friday for the start of shooting. Thursday was a day off for the team and most of us went sightseeing, golfing or go-karting.

An early start saw us on the rifle range at 9.00am Friday. The range is delightful, situated on a headland alongside a Martello tower, with the targets sitting to the right of a small coastal fort. There was a slight haze and very little wind, unusual for Guernsey. We all shot 300 and 600 yards, and either did sentry duty or some butt marking. Top shot that day was Peter Jory, although only on Vs, as Robin Hatcher, Mervyn Newman and Chris White all went clean with 100s. With all but one of the team scoring 97 or better over the two ranges, it was an encouraging start to the tour. Following lunch on the range with the GRA, the golfers were out again while the rest did some sightseeing at Cornet Castle and some souvenir shopping. Paul Cann and Judy Farnan decided to add to the bruises collected while go-karting by switching to four-legged means of transport.

A reception that evening hosted by the Deputy Bailiff at the Royal Courts gave us a fascinating insight into the legal and legislative processes of the island with a visit to the main court room.

## Saturday 26 May

It was another fine misty morning on the range with a slight breeze from the west. The morning shoots at 300 and 500 yards were individual competitions. The standard was again high and a tie shoot was needed to separate room-mates Roger Moncur and Mervyn Newman after they each scored 100.16. Roger was halfway through his lunch when he was called back



The two teams at the end of an enjoyable match

to the firing point to shoot and subsequently win the tie 21.4 to 21.3. In all, seven members of the team scored 100 with Mervyn and Robin having not dropped a point both days.

The haze lifted somewhat during the afternoon for the teams match. Guernsey went into a lead at 300 yards which they retained at 500 yards. Although the NRA team made the higher score at 600 yards, the damage was done. Guernsey had put in a fine display of shooting, winning the match with a record score. The NRA equaled Guernsey's old record, the final scores being 1178.143 vs 1173.134.

## Scores

NRA Team	300	500	600	Total
M Ball	50.6	49.6	50.5	149.17
R Moncur	49.2	50.7	49.6	148.15
J Farnan	49.7	48.7	50.7	147.21
M Newman	49.4	49.7	49.6	147.17
C White	46.5	50.7	50.5	146.17
P Holden	50.4	47.5	49.6	146.15
M Button	48.5	48.7	49.8	145.20
T Walters	49.4	48.5	48.3	145.12
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1173.134</b>
<b>Guernsey RA</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>1178.143</b>
<b>Reserves</b>				
P Cann	50.5	49.7	50.8	149.20
D Davies	49.7	49.7	49.7	147.21
			<b>Total</b>	<b>296.41</b>
<b>Guernsey RA Reserves</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>288.31</b>

The disappointment of losing the match was outweighed by the opportunity to shoot in spectacular surroundings, in unusually benign conditions, at one of the world's most attractive rifle ranges.

In the evening the Guernsey Rifle Association hosted a splendid prize giving dinner in St Peter Port. After a very enjoyable meal, Peter Jory was presented with the trophy as top shot on Friday, and Roger Moncur was presented with the Edna Parker Vase for the individual competition that morning. Mike Ball, top scorer in the NRA team, was presented with a print



View from the firing points in Guernsey



of the rifle range, painted by one of the members, as were LouLou and Tom to mark their visit. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the delightful hospitality of the Guernsey Rifle Association both at their charming clubhouse and at the evening reception.

**Sunday 27 May**

A calm sunny crossing by SeaCat to Jersey. Bert Amy met us at our hotel and guided us to Crabbe Range. That afternoon we shot 200 and 500 yards individually. The standard was very high and our coaches, Nick Tremlett and Robin Hatcher, boosted team confidence by only dropping a point between them all day. Nick won Crabbe III with 100.16, the only team member to score a possible. However, the team averaged over 98, an indication of how well everyone was shooting. The trouble in Jersey is that the standard is so high that it takes more than just good shooting to win matches, as we were to discover the following day.

That evening we were honoured to be invited to a reception by the Lieutenant Governor at Government House. Our luck with the sunny, warm weather so far lasted for the reception in the garden. It was very pleasant to wander round and enjoy the impressive views over St Helier.

**Monday 28 May**

The day dawned very hot again. However our provisions officer, Jane Messer, had kept us well supplied with water and crisps, the visit to a supermarket being an educational experience for some of the men on the team.

The day started with Crabbe IV, the last individual shoot before the team matches. Again the weather was blisteringly hot, and a gentle breeze ensured yet more high scores. This time it was Robin's turn to go clean, with 100.14, proving the coaches to be on top form. Hopefully the team would take up the baton that afternoon. Always a doubtful selection, Jane Messer secured her place in the team with her first 50 of the tour, in the last shoot, the Captain again doing the honourable thing and declining to select herself.

The team shoot in the afternoon was keenly fought, but a disappointing start at 300 yards meant that from then on we were trying to catch up. Although we



Crabbe Range, Jersey

made the higher score at 600 yards, we were beaten by a very fine performance by the Jersey team which included two 150s. Peter Holden shot a 150 for the NRA team, his first in a representative competition. The more laid back atmosphere of the Reserve Match resulted in a win for the NRA with a 150 from Mervyn Newman.

One possible factor explaining the performance was the unusually quiet demeanor of our Captain. The usually irrepressible LouLou was very restrained, and she wondered afterwards if she had 'psyched out her own team!'

That evening after some initial dissent in the ranks over what was correct neckwear, we spent a very sociable evening at the Windmill Restaurant. Trophies and mementoes were presented to David Le Quesne, top scorer in the match for JRA, Peter Holden top scorer for NRA and Andrew Le Cheminant for the week-end aggregate.

We might not have won the matches but the tour had been very successful in many other ways. It was a real team effort with much good shooting and many friendships forged. Every spare minute was occupied and our hosts were tremendous. Special thanks must go to David Jory on Guernsey, and Cliff and Nora Mallet on Jersey for looking after us so well.



"Say cheese" the team smile for the camera

(All photos: Nick Tremlett)

**Scores**

NRA Team	300	500	600	Total
P Holden	50.9	50.5	50.7	150.21
R Moncur	50.6	49.5	50.6	149.17
M Ball	49.6	49.5	50.8	148.19
J Messer	48.5	49.3	50.9	147.17
J Farnan	48.5	50.4	49.6	147.15
C White	49.5	50.7	47.5	146.17
D Davies	47.5	49.3	50.7	146.15
P Cann	48.5	48.3	48.7	144.15
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1177.136</b>
<b>Jersey RA</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>1181.143</b>
<b>Reserves</b>				
M Newman	50.5	50.8	50.4	150.17
T Walters	48.7	49.6	50.9	147.22
			<b>Total</b>	<b>297.39</b>
<b>Jersey RA Reserves</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>289.34</b>

## LETTERS

*From Ted Molyneux*

### **The Dewey Trophy**

The Museum has had an enquiry regarding the Dewey Trophy. Unfortunately we can find no record of any trophy with this name. If any members or clubs have any information regarding a trophy with this name, could they please contact the Museum staff at the NRA. Thank you for your help.

*From David Friend*

### **Eagle Eyes**

I have just fired a shot and I am waiting with interest to see where the marker puts the spotting disc as I have no idea where it will be. My shooting has been like this for quite a while now, but it was not always thus.

Having good eyesight does not mean that one will ever be a good shot but if one has all the right co-ordination between sight picture and trigger, can read the wind and hold the rifle, then all this is useless if one has poor eyesight.

It was of great interest to talk to the Australian Team this year at Bisley and hear about the Eagle Eye. The Eagle Eye is a low power, 0.3 or 0.5 dioptré lens which fits in the foresight. The Australians originally allowed this for older shooters and those with poor sight. This became difficult to administer and it became legal for all. Many older shooters use them and some young ones. When I discussed this with one of our Council members his initial reaction was that this gave an unfair advantage to the younger shooter. I am not sure that I agree with this. If young shooters can get a good sight picture at the moment then I doubt if an enlarged aiming mark will help them much, whereas a shooter with poor sight may well become more competitive.

I have given the Eagle Eye a brief test, and I cannot claim that I put all my shots in the V, but at least I could see my wobble and call my shots.

NRA rules allow the variable dioptré in the back sight but not the Eagle Eye. I would ask our Council to allow the Eagle Eye for all shooters and bring us into line with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA. If this keeps people shooting for longer then all to the good. We need the money.

*From Maurice Ayling*

### **Council Matters**

Without being privy to correspondence and minutes pertinent to the current unsatisfactory situation of the Association, one does not know precisely who said or did what to bring it about. It is nevertheless quite clear that the Council *en masse* bears collective responsibility.

The Council is, however, elected by the membership - or some of it. It has been said that the electoral turnout for the last Council election was not much more than 25%. If that is correct, it demonstrates that the NRA is as much beset by the national disease of apathy as the remainder of the population. Voters and non-voters

alike have only themselves to blame, the only difference between the two being that the non-voters have no right to complain of subsequent events.

Of those who did vote, what decided them to cast their votes as they did? Was it because candidate X is a nice chap they have known for years, or because candidate Y is a splendid shot who has represented us in Timbuctoo umpteen times? Or did they trawl through all those all too scanty CVs for traces of attributes which would be of use in the administration of the Association, irrespective of candidate identity?

It may be safely assumed that any person who volunteers and is sponsored for Council membership is a sufficiently interested shooter. His prowess at shooting is irrelevant to the administration of it.

The Council itself is far too large with over 60 members. The Chairman stated in the Umbrella Tent that over 30 of them never attend. That being so, they should be deposed without replacement. The remainder should be culled to no more than 20 and they should be divided into a Shooting Committee and a Management Board.

The following suggestions are therefore offered for consideration by the readership which is hereby urged to not only vote, but to re-consider how it does so.

1. CVs should exclude all reference to shooting such as club membership, team representation, or individual prowess, and should include more details of managerial skills and experience, thus enabling the electorate to form an opinion of the candidate's ability to run a business, which is what the NRA is. Blow thy trumpet!
2. The elected Council should appoint from itself a Committee to run the shooting, for example the programme, the rules, competition conditions etc, which would have no input to the general administration of the Association.
3. The elected Council should appoint from itself a Management Board which would decide on how the money is to be spent, the general running of the Association, and the Bisley site.
4. The meetings as in 2 and 3 should be attended by the Chief Executive as a non-voting, salaried, servant of the Association, who would nevertheless advise on such matters as feasibility and ways and means, if necessary.
5. The Council, via the Board and Committee, would then instruct the Chief Executive of its requirements in the way of action, and henceforth confine itself to monitoring progress and introducing new ideas. The work of Board and Committee should be subject to discussion and agreement of the full Council at least twice annually.

The foregoing is, of necessity, only a broad outline of suggested future management, but its implementation should ensure that the Council retains full control as a properly working organisation, and eliminate the often



heard assertion that membership of the Council is, for many, a mere status symbol. Neither should it be implied as ungrateful criticism of those members of the Council who do attend and give their time, to whatever effect. It always appears churlish to poke Charlie at willing volunteers, but if the cap fits, it must be worn. The late President Truman of the USA had some pertinent comments about kitchen hands and their working environment!

If the current constitution of the Association would not permit implementation of something similar to the foregoing, then it is suggested that the first move is to appoint a committee, preferably of non-Council members, to propose the changes which would be required which could then be put to the whole membership to accept or reject. We will not survive if we continue to regard ourselves as a gentleman's club. We are a business, and the business world is a hard one, as I know only too well having spent my civilian life as one of the Lord Weinstock's slaves. At least he didn't throw me out!

*From Tim Elliott*

### **NRA Aunts and Uncles Scheme 2001**

This was again a success this year. I am most grateful to those who so willingly gave of their time and expertise. The feedback I had from many quarters was almost embarrassingly effusive as well as being invariably positive. I have already been receiving requests from would-be Aunts and Uncles for 2002, which is a new and most welcome turn of events.

The knowledge that this service is available to *any firer* (and not just newcomers) is spreading. I write to all first-timers, but, obviously, cannot write to everyone. So, if you would like help, contact me as below and at any time. The concept is the envy of all the other shooting countries and I frequently hear from them.

The fact that a guide for novices to the Imperial Meeting is available from me electronically elicited multiple requests. It covers a far wider range of topics than would be appropriate in the NRA's Information Guide as issued to all firers in the squadding envelopes. It is updated annually, once the Bible is published, and will, for 2002, be totally overhauled. Again, send me an email.

But the downside I commented on last autumn persists: there are still one or two Nieces or Nephews who do not respond to their Aunt or Uncle. I hugely regret such discourtesy, but am powerless to do anything about it.

Tim Elliott  
Lark Hill, Haynes West End,  
Bedfordshire MK45 3RB.  
Email: [ellicons@easynet.co.uk](mailto:ellicons@easynet.co.uk)  
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# EDITOR'S PAGE

Welcome to my first (and last) Editor's Page.

It is my intention to turn this final page into a Member's Page full of snippets, anecdotes and possibly the odd competition or two. Personally I think that the final page of any magazine or Journal should leave the reader feeling happy and relaxed (and I am sure there will be very few of you who are interested in my opinions!).

However I would like to take this opportunity to discuss various aspects of the Journal and your input into it.

## Articles

Articles of all sizes are welcome – it is especially useful to have small articles to fill the odd gap. I would prefer to receive articles by e-mail if at all possible although they can be posted or faxed. The best way to e-mail articles would be as a Word attachment but I can accept most other formats. I would also like to build up a collection of filler articles that aren't time limited, which can be used in future issues when there is a bit of space. Please illustrate your articles or reports with photographs or diagrams whenever possible.

## Layout and design

I use a PC and can accept very nearly anything in a PC format; if you have a Mac please send text either as a Word document, Rich Text Format or just as plain text in the body of an e-mail. If you have any problems please contact me first. The Journal is designed in PageMaker 7.0 so do not worry about formatting text or columns as it will all be reformatted when the text is placed in the PageMaker document.

## Photographs

Conventional or digital photographs are all welcome except I would prefer not to have large image files sent by e-mail. If sending conventional photographs please indicate if you would like them returned (they will be returned after publication) and post them to the address on *page 1*. If sending digital photographs please send on a CD or Zip disc (again please let me know if you would like these returned); floppy discs are unlikely to hold an image at the correct resolution. Please use best quality settings on your camera to achieve the best results, you never know, your photograph may end up on the cover. I prefer images to be straight from the camera and not touched up in image editing software as the colour balance on your computer screen may not match the printer's output. For digital and scanned images, the resolution must be 300 dpi (dots per inch) or higher at the size the final image is intended to be; your printer screen resolution is 72 dpi so what looks good on your screen will not necessarily end up looking good in the Journal. Again if you have any queries please contact me.

Please include captions for your pictures together with the name of the photographer.

All the photographs in this Journal by John Knight, Laurie Ingram, Ian Mollan and myself were taken on digital cameras.

## Proofs

For those contributors on e-mail, please let me know if you would like a copy of your finished article sent to you in Acrobat Portable Document Format for a final check before publication.

## Comments

All comments on this or future Journals are gratefully accepted – this is your Journal so tell me what you would like to see in it, and any ways in which you think it could be improved. I am always interested in your opinions, new ideas and constructive criticism. However, please be aware that telling me about a missing comma on page 28 of the Spring Journal during Queen's I will not necessarily result in ladylike language!

I have heard several shooters in the past complaining that the Journal never has any articles on this or that but they are usually unwilling to put pen to paper themselves - I can only use what you give me so get writing (and snapping).

## Contact details

My preferred method of communication is by e-mail; my usual e-mail address is:

karen@bang.u-net.com

If you have any problems using this address (some child protection software sees "bang" as a banned word!) then I also have another e-mail address (which I check a couple of times a week) at:

karen762@hotmail.com

All other contact details can be found on *page 1*.

Material can also be sent to me via the NRA who will also be kept informed if I am away from home for long periods of time. Please make sure that you include your full contact details with any material you send.

## Caption Competition

So to get you in the mood for a more light-hearted finale to the Journal, here's a caption competition. The photograph shows this year's Grand Aggregate runner up Martin Millar (*GM SC*) receiving a strange phone call.



Entries by 1 January in writing or by e-mail please. The Editorial Committee's decision will be final and a small prize will be awarded to the funniest entry. Results will be published in the Spring Journal.



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*Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998*



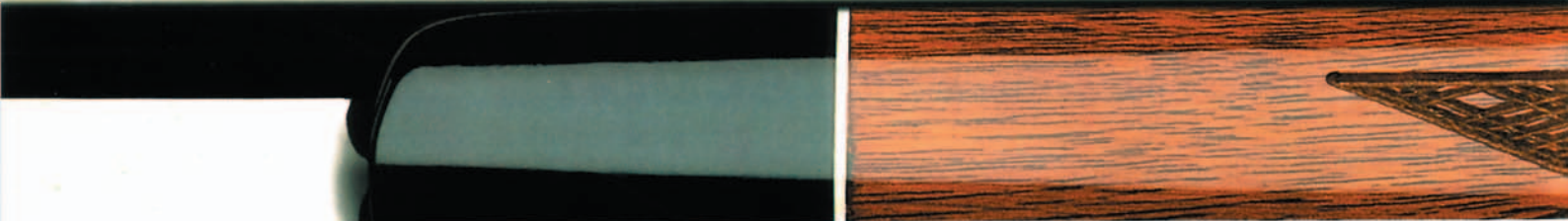
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