



# GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM



## CANADA & USA 2016







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# **GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM CANADA & USA 2016**

*(A Training Weekend at Bisley)*







## July & August 2016

Thu 28th		Depart London 10:25 for Vancouver AC855 Drive to Chilliwack
Fri 29th		Team preparation & kit check at Chilliwack
Sat 30th - Mon 1st		British Columbia RA Meeting
Tue 2nd		International Match and travel to Puyallup
Wed 3rd - Thur 4th		Free day
Fri 5th		Travel to Richland via Mount Rainier National Park
Sat 6th		Palma course of fire at Rattlesnake Range
Sun 7th		Team Competition and travel to Leavenworth
Mon 8th		Travel to Vancouver
Tue 9th - Wed 10th		Free day
Thu 11th		Fly to Ottawa AC166
Fri 12th	pm	The Ottawa Regiment (800m)
Sat 13th	am	The Gooderham (500yds & 600yds)
	pm	The Army & Navy Veterans (900m)
Sun 14th	am	The Tilton (300m & 600yds)
	pm	The Macdougall (300m & 500yds)
Mon 15th	am	The Norman Beckett (300m)
		Col John Brick (500yds)
	pm	Col John Brick (600yds) The Norman Beckett (800m)
Tue 16th	am	The Letson (300m & 500yds)
	pm	The Letson (600yds)
		Alexander of Tunis (900m)
		The Coaches Match (900m)
Wed 17th	am	The Presidents (300m & 500yds)
	pm	The Presidents (600yds)
		The Gibson (800m)
Thu 18th	am	The Gibson (300m & 600yds)
	pm	The Outlander Team Match (600yds & 900m)
Fri 19th	am	The Gatineau (900m)
	pm	The Canada Team Match (300, 500 & 600yds)
Sat 20th	am	The Commonwealth Team Match (800m & 900m)
	pm	The Governor General's Final (800m & 900m) Prize Giving
Sun 21st		Tidy & pack up before departing for London
Mon 22nd		Arrive Heathrow 10:25 AC888



## GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM CANADA & USA 2016

<b>Captain</b>	Lindsay Peden GM, CGC	GB, Scotland & West of Scotland
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Charles Dickenson	GB, England & Berkshire
<b>Adjutant</b>	Stephen Penrose	GB, England & Essex
<b>Team Members</b>	Mike Barlow **	Scotland & West of Scotland
	David Calvert MBE GM2, SB3, SC, CGM2, CGC, QM	GB, Ireland & Ulster
	Simon Carson	GB, Ireland & Ulster
	Matthew Charlton	GB, Scotland & London
	David Crispin	GB, England & Surrey
	Chris Hockley OBE	GB, Wales & South Wales
	Ellie Joseph **	England & Somerset
	John Lindsay **	England & Essex
	Angus McLeod QM	GB, Scotland & East of Scotland
	Rory MacLeod **	Scotland & East of Scotland
	James Mehta **	Scotland & Essex
	Graham Nelson **	England & Northumberland
	David Rose	GB, England & Northants, Leics, Rutland
	Ian Shaw CSM	GB, Scotland & Surrey
	Colin Skellett **	Hertfordshire
	Jeremy Tuck	GB, England & Surrey
	Jon Underwood GM, GC2, SM2, CSC	GB, England & Surrey
<b>Reserves</b>	Ian Ashworth	Gloucestershire
	Ben Craig	Cheshire
	James Lawrie	Scotland & Lincolnshire
	Martin Liversage	England & Lancashire
	Reg Roberts	GB, England & Sussex
	** New Cap	



As President of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, it is my great privilege and pleasure to welcome the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada for our 134th Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championship at the Connaught Ranges in Ottawa, Canada.

Friendly, but spirited, competition between our national associations, combined with friendship and warm camaraderie, has always added to the atmosphere at Connaught and we look forward to this being the case, again, this year.

To Lindsay Peden and his 2016 Team, we congratulate you for having achieved the honour of representing Great Britain and extend our appreciation for your efforts to participate at the Canadian Championships. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new caps on your team and hope that they will find their first tour an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

On behalf of the Association, I wish every member of the 2016 Team a most pleasant visit and successful competition. Good shooting!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'R. Romses'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Raymond R. Romses  
Brigadier-General (Retired)  
President, Dominion of Canada Rifle Association





It gives me great pleasure to wish Lindsay Peden and his fellow GB team members on behalf of the NRA of the UK all the very best for their tour to Canada and the USA.

Lindsay and I share a seminal moment in our shooting careers: we each made our first visit to Canada as members of a GB team on the same tour captained by Andy Chown almost 30 years ago. The attraction of a trip to compete at Connaught in the Canadian National Fullbore TR Championships remains undiminished over that time, as the DCRA surely hosts one of the most welcoming and friendly national championships held anywhere in the world. This is despite the fact that a shoot at long range there can occasionally be a truly humbling experience!

Combine this with a visit to perhaps the most picturesque range in the northern hemisphere in Chilliwack, and one of the most fiendish in Rattlesnake, and the blend of youth and experience that Lindsay has selected in his team can expect to be challenged as well as fêted in many memorable ways. This is just as it should be, as a GB rifle team tour - with its concomitant representative status - should present conditions and competition that challenge all aspects of the discipline in question, whilst also remaining a fun and memorable experience as befits our sport's amateur status.

I pass on my very best wishes to all shooting friends across the Atlantic together with my thanks for their hospitality that I know that Lindsay and his teammates will enjoy, and I wish Lindsay and his team every success and much enjoyment in their endeavours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Webster'.

John Webster  
Chairman, NRA UK

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Little did I realise on my first ever shooting tour, which was with a Scottish Team to British Columbia and Washington State, that I would have the honour of returning forty years later as Captain of the Great Britain Rifle Team. I am delighted to be able to shoot again at Chilliwack and look forward to seeing the General Vokes range, which has replaced the range that I saw and is reputed to be amongst the most scenic ranges in the world. Similarly, I am very pleased to be able to take the team to shoot and tour in Washington State, where there will be opportunities to see some of the breathtaking scenery. The range at Tri-Cities on the Rattlesnake Mountain has only been open some 20 years, but already has a formidable reputation as being amongst the toughest in the USA, so that should prove a suitable challenge and learning experience for our coaches. We conclude our tour in Ottawa on the Connaught Ranges, where we look forward to tough competition from both Canadian and US teams and, as for the other areas we visit, to renewing many acquaintances and making new friends.

For team officers, I am pleased to have Charles Dickenson as Vice-Captain, Stephen Penrose, Adjutant and Colin Skellett, Treasurer, supporting me fully and keeping me on the right track. After sifting many applications for the team, we have selected a team which has a very broad level of experience. On one hand, we have team members from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales who hold one or more Commonwealth Games medal, but on the other, we have seven new caps in the team. In addition, we have an age span from twenty to late sixties, which just confirms that age does not have a direct relationship to ability and capability of performing at the highest level.

The team would like to thank our numerous sponsors, advertisers and others who have helped with our fundraising and have supported us. In addition, we would like to thank the Tri-Cities Shooting Association for hosting our visit to the Rattlesnake range, the officers of the British Columbia Rifle Association for our invitation to their Championship, and of course the DCRA for organising what we are sure will be another memorable Canadian Championship meeting.

We invite you to follow our progress when on tour by accessing our team website at:

<http://www.gbrt.org.uk/canada2016/>

Lindsay Peden

Captain of GB Team to Canada and USA 2016



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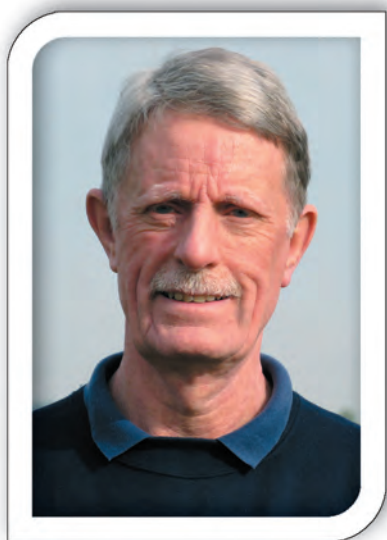
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## **Captain: Lindsay Peden (GM, CGC)**

Lindsay first shot at Bisley almost 50 years ago in the Ashburton as a cadet with the Glasgow Academy CCF, and since then has shot more than a few times for Scottish and GB teams (including GB Veterans!). This trip will be his first as Captain of a GB team and he hopes that he will be able to unify those from all four home countries after previous successes, as Captain of Scotland, resulted in his vanquishing three of them.

He is no stranger to the USA, having lived there for three years in the early 90s in Florida, Louisiana and California, and his daughter was born in New Orleans. Since leaving Louisiana in 1994, he returned a few times on business to Houston, Dallas and Alaska (a bit of a giveaway to his former line of work) before retirement in 2008. Retirement has not led to a slackening of pace of life, however, as he has taken over responsibility as Coach for the Scottish Elite High-Power Squad, resulting in shooting trips to South Africa, Australia, Canada and, most recently, several times in the US. This will be his ninth shooting trip to Canada and eleventh to the USA.

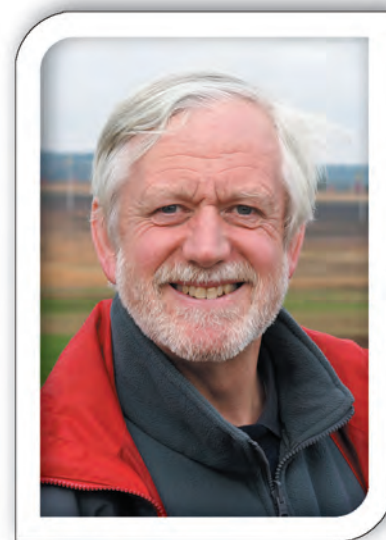
Other time consuming activities include playing Bridge, travelling and gardening (the latter a somewhat enforced pleasure!).

## **Vice-Captain: Charles Dickenson**

Charles first encountered fullbore rifles (and the team's captain) at Cambridge University way back in 1973 and was hooked both on shooting and wind coaching. He broke his Tyro status in style in his first Imperial Meeting, with third place in the Clock Tower (now Admiral Hutton) at 800 yards.

Further early success resulted in his first GB tour – also to Canada – with the 1982 GB Palma team. A growing family and work (Royal Navy until 1993, then BAE Systems) took priority, but since his son and daughter left home his shooting and coaching have been resurgent, with a number of NRA, England and GB teams as shooter and coach, including a GB team to Canada in 2010. With eleven Queen's Final appearances he has also won a substantial number of county championships both with Dorset and, since 1993, with Berkshire.

Charles also shoots small-bore and, having now retired, has recently resumed Match Rifle after a 40 year gap, enjoying the challenge of reading the wind at ranges up to 1200 yards. When not organising, coaching or actually doing some shooting or being Treasurer to shooting organisations (just two at present), most of his time seems to be spent walking the dog, keeping a rampant garden under some sort of control and finding excuses to avoid the ever-growing list of DIY jobs that need doing round the house. He'd like to find the time to do more travelling, and maybe even take up golf . . .



## **Adjutant: Stephen Penrose**

Stephen is Adjutant for this year's team. This will be his fifth shooting tour to Canada and his second to the USA. Stephen made his first visit to Canada as an Atheling in 1976. Having not shot on that continent for 26 years he is now making up for lost time as this will be his fifth trip in fourteen years. Stephen first started shooting at Rugby School – the home of Rugby Football. He then went to Cambridge University where he managed to change course enough times to ensure he got in plenty of practice! This will be his eleventh international tour with either a GB or England team. Over the years he has shot in all the major team competitions and has had the odd spot of luck in individual competitions as well, winning the SA State President's prize at the 1999 Palma.

Stephen is a veterinary surgeon by profession and is a partner in a small-animal practice in Colchester. He has three grown up children, is a keen skier and enjoys travelling with his wife Kate, who will be accompanying him on the BC and USA leg of the tour.





## Mike Barlow

Mike's shooting career started in the Glasgow Academy CCF and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders ACF. After several years of competing in pistol events after leaving school, Mike returned to Target Rifle for the Millennium Meeting at Bisley in 2000 and reached the Queen's Final as a Tyro. He has been hooked on fullbore rifle ever since, competing in six more Queen's Finals to date. Mike has shot for Scotland on numerous occasions, with eight appearances in the National Match and five in the Mackinnon. Mike has competed in the Channel Islands and at the World Championships in Australia, as well as four visits to the USA to compete in the Berger South West Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to Target Rifle, Mike is also a keen Match Rifle competitor – he has shot for Scotland in the Elcho eleven times, once for Great Britain in the Woomera Match, and won the Hopton in 2013.

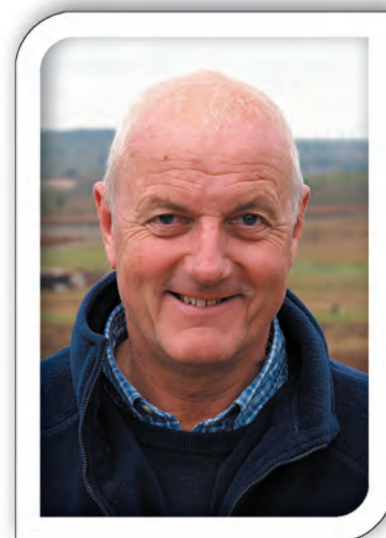
Target shooting now runs in the family – Mike is married to Lorna, who is a rifle instructor in addition to her duties as a primary teacher, and their son James shot in his first Imperial Meeting last year. Outside of shooting, Mike is a partner in a law firm in Edinburgh and specialises in Construction Law.

## David Calvert MBE (GM2, SB3, SC, CGM2, CGC, QM)

David started fullbore target rifle shooting in Northern Ireland at Campbell College School, Belfast in 1965. His first international team experience followed three years later with Ireland, which he has represented over each of the past 45 years. This will be his seventh GB team tour to Canada, his first being in 1975 when the accommodation was in tents on the range. It was a further 15 years until he toured with GB again (due to work commitments not the tents!).

He has been making up for lost time, touring with GB teams most years since 1990, variously as shooter, coach and captain. David has now represented GB on around 40 occasions, both at home and abroad; mostly in Target Rifle, but also in the Service Rifle and Match Rifle disciplines.

David's connection with Canada is not confined to shooting tours; his grandfather farmed near Winnipeg at the beginning of the last Century, before joining the Canadian Army, fighting and being wounded at Ypres in the Great War, then ultimately settling back in Ireland. So if the UK NRA National eligibility rules were to apply, perhaps David could actually have been representing Canada...?



## Simon Carson

Simon lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he shoots with Comber Rifle Club.

This is Simon's second Great Britain cap. A late developer, his first tour was to South Africa in 2012, where he benefited immensely from the generous advice of some of the more experienced team members. Simon's best result to date is third place in the Queen's Prize in 2014. He is currently the Performance Manager for Northern Ireland fullbore shooting.

This will be his third trip to Canada. The first was on a family holiday to visit relatives in Toronto, and the second was with a touring Ireland Team in 2005. Simon is very much looking forward to returning to compete in the DCRA meeting, and to the opportunity of visiting British Columbia and seeing the stunning scenery of both BC and Washington State.

Simon works as an Employee Relations Consultant and very much enjoys playing golf, pool, darts and more or less any sport where you don't have to run.





## Matthew Charlton

Matthew started shooting at RGS Guildford when he was 13. This is his tenth Great Britain tour, his ninth tour to Canada and his fourth to the USA. He was fortunate enough to lead separate teams to the west coast and to Canada two years ago, but is greatly looking forward to being able to combine the two by shooting, at long last, in British Columbia as well as across the border in Washington. He also hopes this will be his first tour with a fixed room-mate! He will be married to (his best) team-mate Ellie in October.

Wind coaching is Matt's main strength and was his role on previous GB, Scotland and club tours to Canada, Australia, South Africa, USA, New Zealand and the West Indies, although this will be his first as Main Coach. Matt has 45 "Big Five" appearances under his belt and has been part of the coaching team for Great Britain victories in all the major international matches and record scores in several, including the Canada and Commonwealth Matches. He even shot in a win on his last GB tour!

Matt is a teacher of modern languages and mathematics, having 'retired' from institutional stockbroking in the City a few years ago to do something he loves. He sculls, having rowed competitively, and enjoys cycling, skiing and snowboarding when there's time.

## David Crispin

David works in his own engineering company building rifles and accessories. This will be David's sixth tour with a GB team having been to New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, West Indies and the USA.

He lived in the USA for six years and hopes to see some of his American shooting friends during this trip. There was not much TR shooting where he lived in Rochester, NY so he used to head north across the border to Canada and shoot with folks from the Ontario Rifle Association. He made some lifelong friends there and is very much looking forward to seeing them again. He spends a lot of time at Bisley as Chairman of the Surrey Rifle Association. His shooting started at age 13 with the Air Cadets and at 15 he shot the No 4 .303". That hurt with its brass butt plate and wearing only a blue shirt, but after the bruising subsided he was back for more with a hand towel for shoulder padding. After doing the Cadet Bisley meeting in 1979 and 1980 he was set for a lifetime of Bisley shooting. He hopes to improve Dairy Queen's share price through milk shake consumption but his wife Shaaron, who is travelling with him on the first part of the trip, may have something to say about this!



## Chris Hockley OBE

Chris Hockley returns to shoot in Canada for the sixth time, this time as a coach rather than in any management role. Previous tours were with the Welsh Commonwealth Games team to Vancouver and with Welsh and GB teams to Connaught. He has been on tour to all the major and many of the smaller shooting countries, sometimes with the RAF team and usually as Manager, Vice-Captain or Captain. His individual best moment, he says, was a bronze medal in the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.

Chris spent 35 years in the Royal Air Force before transferring to Cranfield University where he has spent 12 years, teaching and supervising post graduate students and researchers in the fields of reliability, maintainability and logistic support. He thought he had retired from the University in 2013 but was persuaded to continue both in a self-employed role and now a part-time role theoretically on one day a week, which seems to take three (it must be an age thing!). His role is Principal Investigator for a research project into fault isolation and improvement of diagnostic techniques in maintenance and through-life engineering support; the project aims to make a real reduction in maintenance man hours where the reported fault can't be found.





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The GB Rifle Team 2012, winners of the Canada Match with a record score of 1200 ex 1200

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## Ellie Joseph

Ellie first took up shooting with Glastonbury ACF in 2000.

An instant convert to fullbore, she was lucky enough to visit Canada in 2002 with the cadet exchange program and was Athelings reserve in 2004.

Taking a six year break from competitive shooting to qualify as a Chartered Accountant, Ellie returned to TR in 2010 and very much enjoyed touring the Channel Islands in 2012 with the NRA team and South Africa in 2013 with the English Twenty, for whom she top scored in the RSA International Match. She returned to Jersey to compete in the NatWest Island games in 2015, representing the Isle of Wight where she was born. Having picked up the touring bug, she is very much looking forward to returning to Canada for competitive shooting alongside such experienced shooters.

Away from work and shooting, arranging her wedding with a team-mate consumes her time. Skiing, whisky and gastronomy number among her passions.

## John Lindsay

John began his shooting career in earnest after going up to Cambridge University where he discovered the joys of target rifle and supine match rifle shooting, and tolerated the "training aid" of small-bore.

During his time at Cambridge, John earned a Full Blue and represented the University four times in the Chancellors' Target Rifle varsity match against Oxford, the team achieving a convincing victory on each occasion. John has shot for Essex since 2007 and has also been fortunate enough to shoot for England twice in the National Match, both in 2012 and in 2015, the latter appearance seeing him top score (albeit on count back) with 105.14.

In 2011, John toured with the NRA Team to the Channel Islands and in 2013 he was reserve for the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada. He is looking forward finally to earning his first cap for Great Britain, shooting in different countries and on different ranges, each with its own unique challenges and idiosyncrasies.

When not on the range, John spends his time pondering the numerous complexities involved with hand loading and tinkering with his vintage Morgan sports car.



## Angus McLeod (QM)

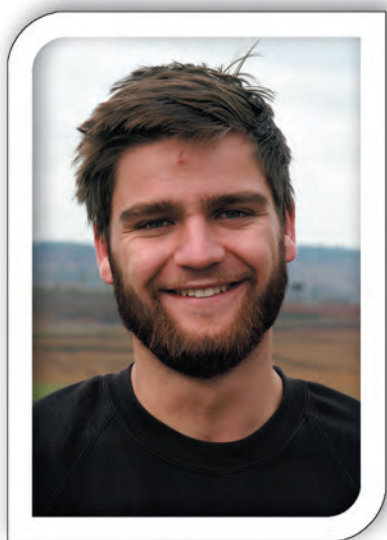
Angus began his shooting career with Target Rifle whilst at school in Edinburgh, going on to shoot for Scotland, Athelings and NRA Channel Islands teams. On joining the Army he switched to service weapons events, winning HM Queen's Medal in 1990, enjoying outings with the GB Service Rifle Team and touring with Army Teams to Australia, Canada and the US.

He returned to the Target Rifle discipline in the mid-90s, shooting for the Army and Scotland, with overseas representation in the US, Canada, South Africa and the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games teams, GB touring team to Canada and the US in 2014 and the GB Palma Team in 2015.

Having always been interested in the science behind the sport, he took up Match Rifle sometime in the 2000s, representing Scotland in the Elcho and GB in the Woomera Match versus Australia, and very recently toured with the GB Match Rifle Team to Tasmania in February and March this year.

He left the Army in 2013 and now works as an 'Experimental' Engineer for QinetiQ Land Systems, in Farnborough. Non-ballistic down time is spent trying to gain altitude by running, cycling or flying.





## Rory MacLeod

Rory started shooting four years ago with Wellington College and became fully involved in the sport through the Cadets. He subsequently participated in both the Schools Meetings and the Imperial Meetings at Bisley. 2015 was Rory's most successful year, when he went on two GB tours, one with the U19s to South Africa and the other with the U21s to Camp Perry for the World Championships. Despite Rory's short shooting career he has succeeded in being placed in the top 50 in the Queen's Final and getting his first Scotland cap in the National Match.

Taking full advantage of all the University of Edinburgh has to offer, he is a keen member of the rifle club whilst still finding the time to work towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Rory is looking forward to the challenge of this tour and the opportunity this gives him to advance his skills further by shooting on unfamiliar ranges.

## James Mehta

James started his shooting career aged 13 at Framlingham College, and nearly went to Canada in 1975 as he was non-travelling reserve for the Athelings. He continued shooting at Edinburgh University where he was Captain of Fullbore, but ceased shooting when life got in the way.

Returning to the shooting fold about ten years ago he was amazed (a) by how little Bisley had changed in twenty years, (b) by the technical developments in shooting, and (c) that he could still see the targets.

Steady improvement led to selection for county and country, and the NRA Channel Islands Team in 2014. Thrilled to be selected for the GB Tour to Canada he is looking forward to learning from the wealth of experience in the team. He is delighted to be visiting the beautiful area of western Canada again, having previously skied in Banff and Lake Louise.

When not shooting, James enjoys flying light aircraft and photography. In his spare time he is a general dental practitioner in Colchester.



## Graham Nelson

Graham started shooting small-bore aged 11 at Stamford School, before progressing to fullbore and subsequent selection for the Athelings. After school he represented the Great Britain U25 team at the World Championships in Connaught and re-founded the Newcastle University Rifle Club. When he left university his shooting took somewhat of a back seat as life got in the way. A tour of the Channel Islands with the NRA team restarted his representative shooting and this led to a first cap for England in the National Match in 2015.

Away from the ranges Graham is a hospital junior doctor working in the Manchester region as a specialist anaesthetic trainee. He also plays golf with a handicap of 8 and enjoys fell walking.

Graham is looking forward to returning to Connaught and to the renewal of old friendships as well as the new challenges of shooting in Washington State.





## David Rose

David started his shooting career at Epsom College in 1994 after being rejected for the cricket team. What was the Oval's loss was Bisley's gain! He saw success at school culminating in an unbeaten season as Captain in 1999 and two Ashburton wins.

Continuing his shooting at Southampton University allowed David to tour with the U25s to the Channel Islands and Australia, and the passage of time has certainly not diminished his appetite for touring. Recent years have included tours to South Africa, Canada, West Indies, New Zealand, and the USA. Most recently David gained his first Palma cap with the GB team at Camp Perry.

After a monster year of shooting in 2015, 2016 was supposed to be the year to "take it easy"; however, the motivation continues and David is looking forward to a fourth trip to Canada and the challenges of Connaught. Perhaps this will be the year to break 45 in the Alexander of Tunis!

A keen team shooter, David is enthusiastic about his club shooting as much as his international duties. A thriving Old Epsomian Rifle Club continues to see success with him at the helm and he continues to support and encourage participation from all levels and experience.

## Ian Shaw (CSM)

Ian began shooting at Epsom College and has toured extensively with GB and Scotland. He has competed in the last five Commonwealth Games and has shot in winning teams in each of the 'Big 5' including two record breaking Kolapore teams.

Individually, Ian has won the Ballinger Belt and Grand Aggregate in New Zealand, both Scottish and English XX Championships and the British Open Target Rifle Championship at Bisley along with a few other competitions over the years. Ian has shot in both Canada and America before, winning the Canadian-American Championship in 2014. This will be his first time at both General Vokes and Rattlesnake Ranges. He is very much looking forward to the challenge of two new ranges.

Having enjoyed a good career in the London Insurance Market, Ian now takes life at a slightly slower pace looking after the Surrey's ale and doing a little consultancy work.



## Colin Skellett

Colin shot small-bore while at university in the late 1970s, getting his first 'possible' during a break in the final exams for his degree. It was always his intention to get back into shooting once he had settled into a career path but it ended up being a break of over 20 years, before a change of job put him in an office with three fullbore shooters. This then led to his discovering the delights of trying to read the wind at Bisley.

Over recent years he has shot regularly for Hertfordshire and is currently their Captain. He has had some success in a couple of the 'minor' NRA Imperial Meeting competitions, winning the Champion of Champions and the Chairman's Prize.

This will be his first tour and he is looking forward to the challenges and experiences it will bring. Colin is delighted that his wife Fiona will be accompanying him on the first leg of the tour to BC and the USA.

He is a Chartered Physicist but has now been retired for a few years and is married with two grown up children. To try to keep fit, he enjoys running, cycling and recently, ballroom dancing and also enjoys catching up on DIY around the house and pottering in his home workshop. In addition he is interested in classic motorcycles and cars.





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## Jeremy Tuck

Jeremy started shooting at Whitgift School aged 12 and continued shooting whilst a submariner in the Royal Navy, representing both the RN and Combined Services. Highlights over the years have included Imperial Meeting wins in the Daily Telegraph and Times, and appearances for Surrey and England for the National and European Long Range. Jeremy's tours include NRA to the Channel Islands in 2011, GB to Canada in 2013 and BCRC 'goodwill' trip to Camp Perry, USA, as part of the Palma training squad in 2014. He is looking forward to the 2016 GB tour to USA and Canada.

As a major programmes manager within BAE Systems, work takes too much call on his time but when not working or shooting he occasionally scuba dives somewhere warm and blue (once a submariner . . .), thereby avoiding the ever-increasing amount of gardening and DIY that should demand his attention!

## Jon Underwood (GM, GC2, SM2, CSC)

Jon's passion for target shooting started at the tender age of 11 at Aldro School on a 20 yard range in a converted greenhouse. Jon continued to enjoy the sport, learn about fullbore shooting and 'Bisley' when he moved on to the Royal Grammar School at Guildford. With the sport becoming more than just a hobby, he continued his shooting career at London University, subsequently making regular appearances for Surrey County.

Jon has achieved a number of notable successes over the years, including winning the Grand Aggregate in 2005 and 2009 and the Queen's Prize in 2006. He has also been a member of many successful teams, representing England and Great Britain 55 times in 'Big 5' matches, and winning a Bronze medal representing England at the Commonwealth Games. This will be his eleventh tour to Canada.

Back home, Jon looks after his family business interests in Surrey (handy for Bisley), including a tool hire business and property rental business and in his 'spare time' has returned to the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, to help with the coaching. Jon also now has the added responsibility of looking after Ted - 'The Underdog'!





## Ian Ashworth

Ian first shot on his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday when his father bought him an air rifle. From there he progressed to Lee Enfield No 8s in the Cadets at 13 and then small-bore at his father's club. He was asked to join a regional training squad and later the National U21 small-bore rifle squad. Highlights included being selected as reserve for an U21 tour to Norway.

University then came and Ian stopped shooting when 19 – something he now regrets. He re-entered the sport by chance some 26 years later in 2011 when his company asked for shooters in an inter-factory TR competition. Ian had a decent shoot, thought “This is fun” and instantly became a committed fullbore shooter.

Ian did the NRA tour to the Channel Islands in 2014 (initially as reserve then as a shooter) which fuelled his thirst for a full blown tour. Ian was also reserve in 2015 (sounds familiar) for England's National Team.

His aim is to achieve what eluded him at small-bore and wear the GB flash, and he sees selection as reserve (there's a theme here) as a stepping stone to this goal.

Ian enjoys fighting for use of the bathroom with his wife Sarah and two young daughters. Ian plays in a local squash league but is usually – you've guessed it – reserve!

## Ben Craig

Ben started shooting in 2001 while at Oxford University. After a brief experimentation with air pistols, he soon discovered that more fun (and more noise) was to be found with rifles. He first shot the Imperial Meeting in 2004 whilst at university, and was part of the Oxford team in all the university matches (including Oxford's victory over Cambridge in the 2005 Chancellors).

Ben is a member of the Manchester Rifle Club and the North London Rifle Club. He captains his county, a role occasionally compared to herding (Cheshire) cats! Having toured Jersey in 2011 as a member of Oxford and Cambridge RA, and the Channel Islands with the NRA in 2013, he is now looking to tour to more distant parts of the world.

Away from shooting, Ben lives in London and works as a Tax Consultant, focusing on Research and Development Tax Relief.



## James Lawrie

James has been shooting for over 20 years and took up target rifle in the early 2000s. He has toured with Scotland, GB U25s and the RAF (or competed as an individual) in a number of countries including Canada, South Africa, the Channel Isles and New Zealand, the latter of which has been his home for the past six years. He has shot in the National and Mackinnon for Scotland on a few occasions, competed for Lincolnshire (more times than he can recall) and has a couple of Queens Final badges to his name. He is working to add to these and attain a few more shooting honours in the coming seasons.

Away from shooting, James is a Chartered Surveyor, although he has only recently returned to employment having taken six months off to travel around the globe. He works for a private property company based in London and lives in Lincolnshire to be closer to family and to enjoy a northern hemisphere winter.





## Martin Liversage

Martin initially picked up a rifle with the Marine Cadets many years ago, both shooting and coaching to a respectable degree of success. A break followed with the arrival of his daughters and then in 2008 he joined Altcar Rifle Club, where he can often be found on a bleak Sunday afternoon, winter or summer.

He toured the Channel Islands with the NRA team in 2014 and represented England in his first National Match in 2015. Martin is currently in the unenviable position of being honorary secretary for Club, County and Country.

Away from the range Martin will occasionally try his hand at unusual travel, having driven a tuk-tuk the length of India and a mototaxi across Peru. The team captain may want to keep him away from any rental vehicles in hilly country in case he gets ideas . . .

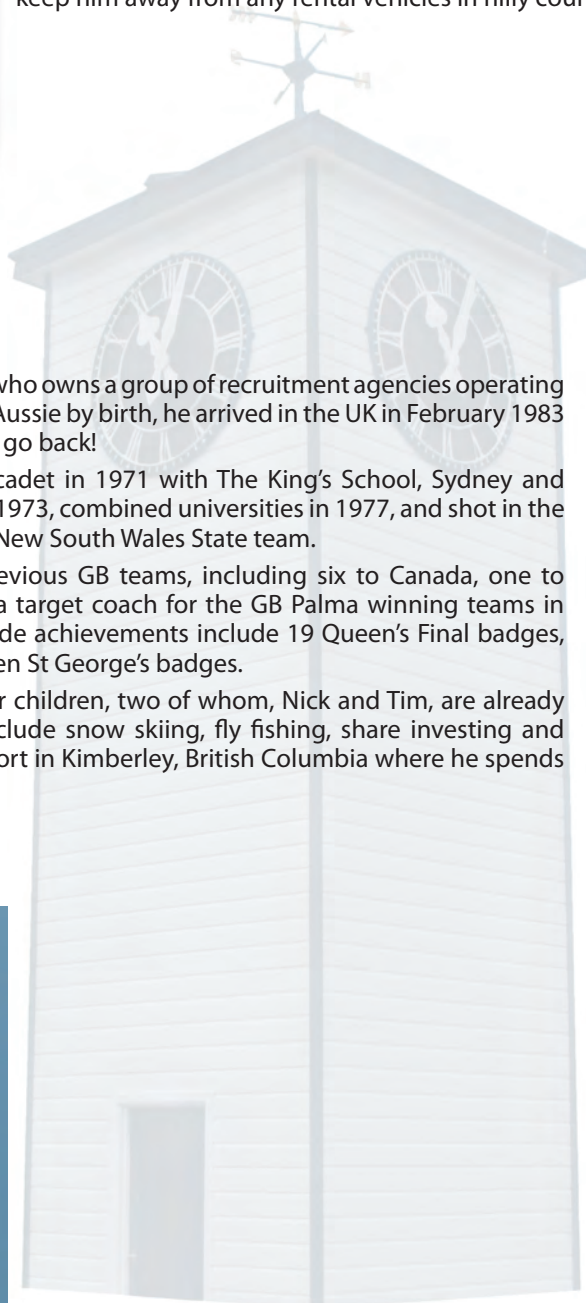
## Reg Roberts

Reg is a Fellow Chartered Accountant who owns a group of recruitment agencies operating in the South of England. Although an Aussie by birth, he arrived in the UK in February 1983 for an extended holiday and forgot to go back!

He started his shooting career as a cadet in 1971 with The King's School, Sydney and represented Australian schoolboys in 1973, combined universities in 1977, and shot in the Kolapore in 1983 as a member of the New South Wales State team.

Reg has toured overseas on nine previous GB teams, including six to Canada, one to Australia in 2005 as Captain, and as a target coach for the GB Palma winning teams in 2007 and 2015. His personal worldwide achievements include 19 Queen's Final badges, six Grand Aggregate crosses and eleven St George's badges.

He is married to Jennifer and has four children, two of whom, Nick and Tim, are already avid fullbore shots. Reg's hobbies include snow skiing, fly fishing, share investing and the development of a ski and golf resort in Kimberley, British Columbia where he spends much of his free (if only!) time.



*With contribution by Major-General ES Fitch, OMM, MSM, CD (retired), Life-Governor BCRA/DCRA*



Chilliwack is a city of some 80,000 people and is located about 100 km east of Vancouver on the Fraser River, with extensive dairy farms on the Fraser Valley floor. The city is surrounded by mountains and recreational areas such as the Fraser and Chilliwack Rivers, Cultus Lake and Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park. The General Vokes Military Range, at which we will be competing in the 132nd British Columbia Target Rifle Championship conducted by the British Columbia Rifle Association (BCRA), lies to the south east of Chilliwack along the scenic and turbulent Chilliwack River. See [www.bcrifle.org](http://www.bcrifle.org) for location and view of the Vokes range.

I shot on the Vedder Crossing range in south Chilliwack in 1976 and 1981 but I was surprised to find that I could not recognise any of the photographs from more recent team visits. The old Vedder Crossing range was closed in 1996 whilst the new Vokes Military range had been opened in 1985 since my visits long ago. Apparently, the BCRA president presently has his house situated on what used to be the 300 yards firing point of the old Vedder Crossing range.

Up until the closure of the Chilliwack Canadian Forces Base in 1996, the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, Officer Candidate School and First Combat Engineer Regiment were resident at Chilliwack. The range takes its name from Major General Christopher Vokes, a senior Canadian Army officer who served in World War II. He was born in Ireland, the son of a British Army officer who immigrated to Canada in 1910 and was the Engineering Officer at the Royal Military College of Canada. General Vokes started his army career in the Royal Canadian Engineers and was involved in many projects including range design and construction. During the war, he commanded both infantry and armoured divisions and was the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Army Occupation Force in Europe. On his return to Canada, he commanded the Army's Central Command and then Western Command, before retiring in 1959.

The Vokes range is situated about 22 km south east of Chilliwack and less than 10 km from the US border. Its location means that, on a clear day, it is one of the most spectacular rifle ranges in the world with its lush verdant green firing points, forests all around and views onto the permanently snow-capped Border Peak Mountain. Interestingly, the top of Border Peak is the north/south border between Canada and USA. Vokes range has facilities for fullbore, service conditions, explosive training, gas house and a grenade range. The facility is used extensively by the Canadian Forces, both Regular and Reserve units, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Border Protection and the BCRA. In fact, it is rumoured to be the busiest military range in Canada as the mild winters allow year round training compared to the rest of Canada.

***Major-General ES Fitch, OMM, MSM, CD (retired), Life-Governor BCRA/DCRA writes of the former Vedder Crossing Range and the General Vokes Range:***

Vedder Crossing Range was the common if not the official name. The official nomenclature was probably the more prosaic "600 yard (later metres) range". I'm mildly surprised it did not open until 1947 since the Camp (later Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering, later Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack) started construction in 1942; where did they shoot 1942-1947? Whatever the regulations were, we shot everything on that 600y/m range including small explosive charges.



I had been trained in indoor ranges since age 12 but Vedder Crossing was my first outdoor range and where I met the BCRA/DCRA as a 19 year-old officer-cadet in 1968. It was a weekend, we were on free time, I was out walking and heard the “sound of the guns”. Mindful, perhaps, of the Napoleonic dictum, I marched towards the sound to find an enthusiastic group of shooters who welcomed the young and curious. I was taken in hand by Bill Turner and Dick Smith. Dick arranged with the Quartermaster for me to draw a choice No. 4 SMLE and supplied me from his personal hoard “Z” stamped .303 ammo and a micrometer sight. The next weekend I won back my match entry fee and then some and have been ‘hooked’ ever since.

The Vokes Range was probably under construction in 1984 but did not open until a year or more later. The opening was definitely during the time I was commanding 1 Combat Engineer Regimental (1CER), summer 1985 to summer 1988. As the range neared completion, I went to see the Base Commander, Colonel Bob Moore, who had been my CO in Germany so he knew I was an avid shooter. My pitch was that opening a new range was a once-in-a-generation occasion that should be suitably marked. He gave his blessing.

With the help of Dick Smith whose personal collection included at least one of every rifle ever issued to the Canadian Army, and the CFB Chilliwack museum, we outfitted soldiers from my Regiment with period rifles and uniforms. I loaded black powder charges for the Snider Enfield and the Martini Henry myself. By not so pure coincidence (that’s another story) we also had two prototypes of the new C7 rifle that soon would be issued to 1CER.

On the appointed day, our guest of honour, Brigadier-General Archie Brown, was driven on to the new range to fire the first round. He dismounted near the centre, just behind the 200m firing mound. He inspected the soldiers in period dress and equipment who were lined up on the firing line in order from 1867 to 1985. As he came to the most modern end of the line I handed him a prototype C7 and directed him to aim at the magnum bottle of champagne (I trust my soldiers had exchanged the original contents for something less interesting) painted ‘international orange’ sitting on the parapet 200m hence. The drill was that BGen Brown would fire the first shot and would immediately be followed by the FNC1, No. 4 SMLE, etc. back to the Snider Enfield in a rapid “feu de joie”. As I handed the rifle to him, BGen Brown said, “Ed, I don’t think I can hit that bottle”. This was understandable since he was holding a rifle he had never before fired let alone standing off-hand at 200m. I said to him, “General, just aim at the bottle and pull the trigger”. BGen Brown fired, the bottle disintegrated spectacularly. The others fired in quick succession producing very satisfactory clouds of dark smoke. The guest of honour departed happy after which we recalled one of my NCOs from the woods bordering the range, with his detonator. Whichever method caused the destruction of the bottle we’ll never know but the timing and the effect were excellent.

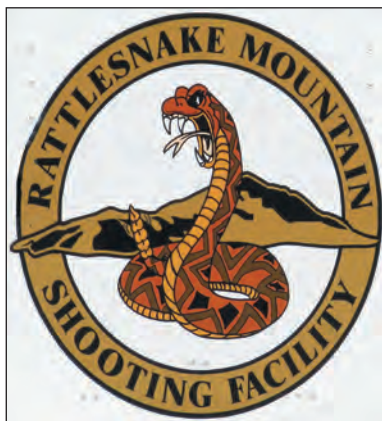


All the shooting on the General Vokes range is at metric distances, and we will be shooting competitions at 300, 400, 500, and 600 metres on ICFRA rather than Canadian DCRA pattern targets. In addition to the 11 individual matches shot over the first three days, there will be an international team match between GB, Canada and the USA on the fourth day, with similar conditions as the Kolapore team Match at Bisley. There are a very impressive number of ornate trophies dating back to 1874 to be presented. The cleaning of this collection of silverware before the prize-giving is no small task.

Whilst in the Chilliwack area, we expect sunny weather with temperatures over 30 deg C (86 deg F) which will be much warmer than on the coast at Vancouver and than a UK summer. So there will be some very quick acclimatisation required, as we start competing 1½ days after arrival in Canada.



The timings of our tour to British Columbia and Ottawa resulted in our having an opportunity to visit Washington State both to see some of the many tourist attractions but also to shoot. The question was which range to visit, as there was a choice of several both within Washington and just over the state line in Oregon. Our competitions in Chilliwack will be short range only from 300 to 600 metres, so a chance to shoot at long range was obviously preferred, despite generous offers to shoot at other ranges back to 600 yards. I had heard stories about the range at Rattlesnake Mountain when talking to people at other meetings in the USA and of its fearsome reputation for exceedingly difficult and changeable winds. It was therefore an obvious choice for us to try to visit to give our team members and coaches a chance to experience a new challenge and not simply shoot on a benign short range. When we contacted the Tri-Cities Shooting Association, who are the operator of the Rattlesnake facility, they welcomed us with open arms and so the stage was set.



Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility (RMSF) is located near the Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick and Pasco) in the south east of Washington State. The Tri-Cities are located at the confluence of the Snake, Columbia and Yakima rivers in the semi-arid (i.e. almost desert) area in the south east of the state, with Richland and Kennewick being in Benton County and Pasco in Franklin County.

To the west is the Cascade Mountain Range which effectively promotes a rain shadow for the area, making this area semi-arid and in stark contrast to the coastal side of the Cascades which is very much wetter, e.g. Portland and Seattle.

Nearby is the Hanford site, where the first plutonium production reactor manufactured plutonium for use in the Manhattan Project's nuclear bomb test at the Trinity Site in New Mexico and for Fat Man, the bomb detonated over Nagasaki. There is still some nuclear power generation on the site, but it is now primarily a research centre and the subject of decommissioning and environmental cleanup.

The RMSF is part of the Benton County Park system and occupies about 1,100 acres, consisting of land belonging to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. It has 12 Cowboy and Practical Pistol Bays, a multi-purpose rifle and pistol range with 20 covered firing points, a covered Hunter Education Range with Practical Field Exercise Area, a 20 firing point High-Power Rifle Range with nine firing lines up to 1000 yards, a primitive range, a rim fire (.22 calibre) plinking range and a shotgun range with sporting clays and trap fields. It was opened in 1980s and has progressively grown into the multi-discipline shooting facility of today.



## RATTLESNAKE RANGE – BY LINDSAY PEDEN



The high-power range is situated at the base of the 3300' Rattlesnake Mountain on a plateau above the Yakima River at an altitude of around 800 feet. From the 1000 yard firing point it is obvious that the area is very arid. There is a marked contrast between the green of the river banks with its trees, the green of the irrigated farmland and the brown of the remainder of the countryside. This is particularly noticeable on a satellite image of the area (e.g. Google Maps) where the green of the crop circles stands out. At the time of our visit, the temperatures can be expected to peak at over 40 degrees C (over 100 deg F) and so we will be actually looking forward to an early rise for once so that shooting can start much earlier than usual to avoid the heat of the day. However, this climate seems to suit vines, and there are several wineries in the area, which could possibly be a diversion if we have any spare time.

Our competitions there are a mixture of individual and team shoots, with the first day being an individual course of fire at 800, 900 and 1000 yards and the second day for teams of four at 1000 yards. We look forward to meeting old friends from Washington State and Canada and making many new ones, and hope that we do not encounter at close quarters any of the creatures that give the facility such a memorable name.



*Photos by  
Andrew Wilde*

**GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM 2016**

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*There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.*

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# CONNAUGHT RANGE – BY MATTHEW CHARLTON

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association was founded in 1868 to promote and encourage the training of marksmanship throughout Canada, prompted by the imminent departure of the British Garrisons (who all left by 1871) and the recent experience of the Fenian Raids which had occurred in 1866 against Canadian territory. On 1 April 1868, the Adjutant General of the Militia, General MacDougall, through the Honourable Minister of Militia, Sir GE Cartier, called a meeting in Ottawa of representatives of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, at which it was decided to proceed with the formation of the DCRA. Governor General, his Excellency Viscount Monck accepted the role of Patron, a position held to this day by the current Governor General.

The Association brought together thirty three independent rifle associations. The first Annual Prize Meeting was held at Laprairie, just outside Montreal, with over 900 competitors competing for \$5,500 in prize money. The annual DCRA prize meetings have been held every year since, except during the two World Wars.

The DCRA's national range became, until 1897, the Rideau Range, just behind the current location of the Russian Embassy in Ottawa. It then moved to a more suitable location, with greater scope for long range shooting, at Rockcliffe. The 380 acre site permitted shooting from 200 yards to 1000 yards with room for extension back to 2000. That year, the DCRA also constructed its own permanent accommodation at Bisley, where Canadian Teams had competed ever since Ontario's visit in 1870 – the first DCRA Team went to Wimbledon in 1873 and continued to do so each year until 1889, after which the matches moved to Bisley.

The DCRA continued to hold its Annual Matches at Rockcliffe until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and again in 1919 and 1920. During its period of occupancy at Rockcliffe the DCRA had built a large administration building and a substantial set of quarters for competitors, but pressure began to mount to have the site of the range made available for other purposes.

The DCRA, in conjunction with the Minister of Militia, selected the current site of Connaught Ranges for development and, since the DCRA was being required to give up its buildings at Rockcliffe, the Association was granted use of the Connaught Range in perpetuity. The original plans for the ranges are still in the DCRA archives. Connaught opened in time for the DCRA to hold the 1921 Annual Prize Meeting, as it has done every year since then except the 1939 to 1946 period.

During the early years the Annual Prize Meetings consisted of smallbore, pistol, Service Rifle (A) (military targets) and Service Rifle (B) (target rifle targets). Upwards of 3,000 competitors, including 800 Cadets, attended the ten day competitions. All competitions were under the control of DCRA staff. In those years all members of the DCRA Bisley Team were Military members, as was the majority of the membership.

In 1931, in honour of a visit by Sir Lionel Fletcher CBE's Great Britain team, the Canada Match and Commonwealth Match trophies were donated by Canadian National Rail for international team competition (see separate section in brochure).

Since before the turn of the century the DCRA has been conducting a smallbore Winter Postal Programme which has included a programme specifically dedicated to Cadet Units across Canada. This programme is still in existence and will continue for the foreseeable future. Cadets remain among the mainstays of the Annual Prize Meeting, where they compete for places on the following year's team to Bisley.

The DCRA is composed of ten Provincial Rifle Associations plus the Yukon Rifle Association and the National Capital Region Rifle Association. A small staff runs the DCRA from Connaught and, thanks to them and the excellent seasonal markers and range staff, DCRA continues to put on a very well run and enjoyable Annual Prize Meeting, in which we look forward to taking part this summer.



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# THE CANADA AND COMMONWEALTH MATCHES

## Canada Match

The Canada Match is always shot in Canada, by teams of eight firers with 2 sighters and 10 shots to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. The trophy is a Challenge Cup, for competition between teams representing the Mother Country (now Great Britain) and Canada, presented by The Canadian National Railways in 1931 on the occasion of Great Britain's visit that year. It is a Sheffield Sterling Plate Bowl style cup with two handles, a lid on which stands a Victory Figure, and a long stem tapering to a tiered and flared base.

Prior to 1931 there were no regular international matches in the DCRA schedule and the Kolapore Match at Bisley was used as a model for the new Canada Match. Great Britain's 2012 score of 1200.156 is the current record – higher than anything achieved in the Kolapore too – and the highest individual score is 150.28 by David Luckman (Great Britain) in 2007.

In years that GB or UK 'home country' teams have been present at Connaught, the tally of wins is:

Great Britain	28
Canada	27
Australia	2
England	1



## Commonwealth Match

In 1931, the same year as the first Canada Match, the Commonwealth Trophy was presented to the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association by The Canadian Pacific Railway Company for annual competition between Empire (now Commonwealth) teams. It is a Sheffield Sterling Bowl with two handles and a prone figure of a marksman mounted on the stem base (see photo). The bowl is mounted on a three tier black wooden base upon which the names of winning teams are recorded on small silver shields. The Commonwealth Match is a long range match, always fired in Canada, based on the Mackinnon at Bisley, with twelve marksmen firing 2 sighting shots and 10 shots to count at each of 900 and 1000 yards (now 800 and 900m). Prior to World War II it was known as the Empire Match (as was the Australia Match until more recently, which is shot under different conditions).

The highest individual score is 100.18 by Jim Paton (Canada) in 2013. Great Britain's score of 1192.132 in 2014 broke the record that had stood since 2002. Jon Underwood and Matt Charlton have the honour of having been members of the record holding teams in both the Commonwealth and Canada Matches. The overall tally of wins from years in which GB or UK 'home country' teams have been present is:

Great Britain	27
Canada	23
Australia	4
New Zealand	2
England	1



## *A brief history of Great Britain Rifle Team overseas tours*

Our team is the 102nd Great Britain rifle team to be sent overseas by the National Rifle Association. It is perhaps fitting that the honour of being the 100th Great Britain rifle team to tour fell to the highly successful 2015 GB Palma team captained by Jane Messer. They marked their landmark status by winning all their matches, beat the USA in the America Match for the first time on their home soil and won the Palma Match (the World Long Range Team Championship) for the fourth consecutive time whilst setting a new record score.

In 1874 the Irish rifle team, the then British Match Rifle champions, visited Creedmoor rifle range located in what is now Queen's Village on Long Island, New York and in 1875 a US team visited Wimbledon, the home to British rifle shooting before it moved to Bisley in 1890. The first GB rifle team to shoot overseas was a Match Rifle team (using rifles optimal for long range shooting), which in 1877 travelled to Creedmoor to compete in the Palma Match that had been instituted the year before by the NRA of America. In 1882, the second GB rifle team toured, also to Creedmoor, but this time shooting military weapons.

It was a further 20 years before another GB rifle team would travel abroad, making the first visit to Canada in 1902 to compete in the Dominion Rifle Meeting individual competitions at the Rockcliffe range near Ottawa prior to the Palma Match, which was being held for only the fourth time: the match had been in abeyance from 1878 until 1901, when the reinstated match was won by Canada. Teams now used the military issue rifles of their home nation, the forerunners of our modern iron-sighted target rifles. The 1902 GB team was therefore the first that we would categorise as a Target Rifle team. The experience of local practice and individual competitions clearly paid off for the British, as they won the Palma Match.



*The 1902 Great Britain Rifle Team*



*The 1907 Great Britain Rifle Team*

The 1903 Palma Match was held at Bisley, but was subsequently declared void and not held again until 1907, when it was once more held at Rockcliffe in Canada. The fourth GB team was invited to participate in this match while they were on route to Australia for the inaugural Imperial Match (subsequently renamed the Empire Match and in 1988 again renamed as the Australia Match, to commemorate the Australian bicentenary). It was not until 1914 that the next touring team was selected, to go to Australia, but the outbreak of the First World War intervened and the team never left.

Just three GB teams left Britain's shores between the two World Wars, but two of them were significant expeditions. Until 1960 overseas teams travelled by sea, so a tour was a major undertaking and could last a long time. In 1920-21 the fifth GB overseas team travelled to South Africa and Australia but the longest GB tour was the 1937-38 team which travelled to South Africa (for matches in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban, Chase Valley, Bloemfontein, East London, Grahamstown and Cape Town) before travelling on to Australia for the Empire Games in Sydney. Prior to the Games they shot in Perth, Port Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Brisbane, and Newcastle before winning the Empire Trophy Match at the Empire Games. To round off the tour, prior to completing their circumnavigation of the globe, they shot a test match in Wellington, New Zealand. This mammoth tour lasted for just ten days short of six months.



*The 1937 Great Britain Rifle Team*



Between these two long tours, a GB team once again visited Canada in 1931. It was in this year that an international match first became part of the regular schedule of events in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association's annual prize meeting. To recognise the fact, the Canada Match Challenge Cup was presented by the Canadian National Railways for competition between Canada and the Mother Country (as Great Britain was referred to in those days).



*The 1931 Great Britain Rifle Team*

It was not until five years after the end of the Second World War that GB teams once again started to be sent overseas. The eighth GB overseas team again travelled to Canada in 1950 and started a sequence of visits every other year. In the next 16 years eight further teams visited Canada, but sandwiched between these tours were also two tours to Africa, two to the West Indies and one to Australia and New Zealand, with the 1960 team to Canada being the last GB team to travel by sea.

From 1966, with air travel becoming easier and cheaper, GB teams travelled to Canada every year, now matching Canadian teams' visits to Great Britain which have taken place every year since 1872, with the exception of war years (1915-18 and 1940-47). At this time GB teams to other countries also increased to roughly every other year, so that there were often two GB teams touring in a given year.

In 1994 there were three GB overseas teams, including a Service Rifle (military weapons) team that went to South Africa. At this point, the NRA decided to try to spread tours a little more evenly around the world, so the frequency of teams to Canada reduced to once every two years and the frequency of tours to other countries increased. The Palma Match cycle dictates the programme of tours to an extent, so the 2007 Palma Match in Ottawa 'stole' the 2008 GB team to Canada's place in the cycle, leaving a two year gap. However, since 2010 GB teams have reverted to visiting Canada every year, with the exception of 2015, when attending the DCRA after the long series of matches and competitions in the lead up to the Palma Match at Camp Perry, Ohio would have resulted in too long a tour.



*The 2015 Great Britain Palma Team*

Recent years have also seen a return to Match Rifle teams travelling overseas; thanks to a number of Australians taking up Match Rifle (their country offers the space to build the necessary long ranges of 1200 yards or more). The first GB Match Rifle team to Australia went in 1997, a mere 120 years after that first ever GB Match Rifle team to the USA in 1877. A GB Match Rifle team has been to Australia every six years since 1997, with the latest team touring Tasmania in February and March this year (the 101st GB team). Australian teams have reciprocated by visiting Bisley between these tours. The first GB 'F' Class rifle team travelled to Canada in 2002 and teams have since toured to South Africa and the USA.

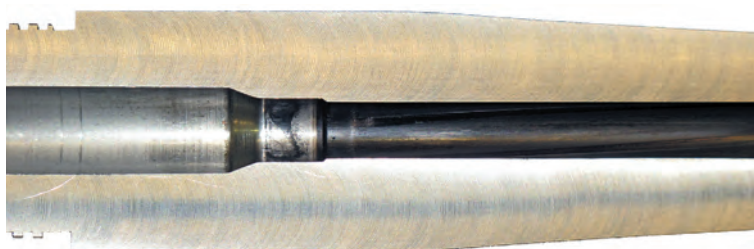
In all there have been 92 GB Target Rifle teams, which have visited Canada 53 times, Australia 14 times, New Zealand 11 times, South Africa and the West Indies 10 times each, the USA nine times, Kenya and Rhodesia/Zimbabwe five times each and Namibia once (noting that some tours have visited two or three countries in a single tour). In addition there have been five GB Match Rifle teams (one to the USA and four to Australia), three GB 'F' Class rifle teams (one each to Canada, South Africa and the USA) and two GB Service Rifle (military weapons) teams (one each to South Africa and the USA). There will no doubt be many more!

If you shoot your centre fire rifle regularly there will come a time when the barrel is no longer capable of producing the precision it did when it was new. I say precision rather than accuracy because precision is how tightly the shots are grouped together and accuracy is how close they are to the centre of the target. Precision is the group size and the level of acceptability depends upon the discipline that you shoot. In target and match rifle, using the .308" Winchester cartridge, I think the best you can get is around 0.5 minute of angle. This equates to around 0.5" at 100 yards and just over 5" at 1000 yards. An acceptable level would be one minute of angle as the bulls eye is around two minutes of angle on the TR target. In F Class shooting the bull is one minute of angle across so they like things a little tighter. For bench rest shooters this would be unacceptable as they measure group size in thousandths of an inch. The current 100 yard world record for a five shot group is just 7.7 thousandths of an inch centre to centre.

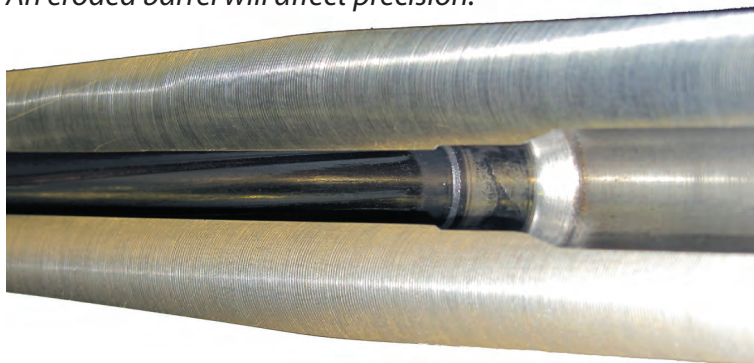
So, how do you know when your barrel has had it? That, unfortunately, is a difficult question to answer. Some barrels go suddenly and you see the group size open up noticeably with a batch of ammo that you know was shooting well before. Sometimes they wear gradually and it's hard to tell. I went through two seasons of target rifle shooting getting average scores before I realised that my barrel was eight years old and had around 10,000 rounds through it. I had a new barrel fitted and the difference was immediately noticeable. I was back to shooting lots of V bulls like I had done three years previously. People at the top level replace barrels every two or three years before they deteriorate. As a rough guide a premium quality .308" Winchester barrel could start to open up groups after 3000 rounds. 5000 rounds is a good innings. Of course, there are exceptions. I know somebody that has a barrel with over 10,000 rounds through it that still shoots to an acceptable level (to them). Magnum cartridges, and some wildcats like the 6.5/284, are known "barrel burners" and can lose precision after 1000 rounds.

Why does a barrel stop shooting acceptable groups? The most common reason is that they burn out rather than wear out. The first few inches of the barrel immediately in front of the case mouth gets subjected to intense heat and pressure. Looking at this area with a bore scope you see what looks like a dry river bed. The steel is blackened and there are small cracks in the surface. Sometimes the rifling has gone and does not appear again until a few inches down the barrel. This causes the bullet to enter the rifling at a slight angle and as it will be spinning off its longitudinal axis, will cause larger groups. There is the possibility of erratic muzzle velocity caused by gas escaping around the bullet in the eroded area. Sometimes the shooter just loses confidence in the barrel. I've heard it said that, "more barrels are shot out between the ears than on the rifle."

If you have made the decision that you need a new barrel what do you go for? The choice of material is fairly straight forward. Chrome molybdenum or stainless steel. Barrels that are blackened or blued are probably chrome molybdenum. You may want to keep that finish and not have a shiny stainless one. Krieger are one of the top barrel makers and this is what they say about the choice between the two: "For the most part neither one is better than the other. The only difference we find is that sometimes the chrome moly might take a little longer to break in and might have a little more affinity for copper or seems to show it easier. In terms of barrel life and accuracy, we can find no difference comparing clean barrels." There are three main ways to make a barrel and in my order of preference they are, cut rifling, button rifling and hammering. Hammered barrels (Armalon) are available but I've not fitted one to a target rifle. There are some very good button rifled barrels (Lothar Walther) and they tend to be cheaper than a cut rifled barrel. If you want the best then go for a cut rifled barrel. There are many good manufacturers out there and Krieger and Bartlein are currently popular. There are a few British barrel makers like Sassen (Border) and GB Barrels. Next, the choices concern length, twist



*An eroded barrel will affect precision.*



*The steel is blackened and the rifling has been eroded.*



*A fluted barrel.*



rate, bore and groove dimensions, the number of grooves and the style, and finally the exterior profile and whether it is plain or fluted.

Barrel length is a factor in muzzle velocity. Thirty years ago 28" was the standard TR barrel length; now it's 30" with some 32" ones around. In match rifle a 34" fluted is the norm. If the propellant has finished burning extra barrel length will just create friction and may reduce the velocity. A longer barrel does not give increased precision. In some disciplines a short, fat, stiff, barrel gives the best results with a faster burning powder. If you are shooting with open (iron) sights having the fore sight a bit further away can help improve the sight picture for ageing eyes. In target rifle it is desirable to have the correct distance between the sights to give a true minute of angle when adjusting them.

Spin gives a bullet stability in flight. The spin rate is determined by the rate of twist in the barrel. You want to select a twist rate that gives a gyroscopic stability factor greater than 1.4. You can calculate this using an online tool like the excellent ballistics calculator from Bryan Litz at <http://appliedballisticsllc.com/ballistics/> For the Sierra 155 grain 2155 bullet that is used in the RWS and GGG issued ammunition a twist of 1:13 is ideal. You can have too much of a good thing. If you spin the bullet too quickly there is a possibility it can blow apart in flight because of excessive centrifugal forces. If the bullet does not have uniform mass (air bubbles in the lead core) it will be out of balance and the more you spin it the worse the problem will be so you want just enough twist to stabilise it.

You might think that the groove dimension should match the diameter of the bullet. In 99% of cases that is true but for several years some target rifles have had tight bore and groove dimensions. Specifically, I'm talking about the 7.62 x 51, .308" Winchester cartridge used. Normally, a barrel for this cartridge would have a bore of 0.300" and a groove depth of 0.004" to give a groove diameter of 0.308". If you measure the diameter of a 30 calibre bullet it will be 0.308" or a fraction greater. So why have a tighter than normal barrel? It goes back to the days of 144 grain RG ammunition. I'm told that some bullets were nearer 0.307" diameter. In order to get them to shoot to acceptable levels of precision the bore and groove were made slightly smaller to match the bullet. Today, we shoot high quality, full size bullets and I don't think there is a need to do this anymore. Another effect of reducing the dimensions is to raise the pressure, and therefore, the velocity. Forcing a full size 0.308" diameter bullet through a 0.307" barrel produces these effects. It is desirable to keep the bullet comfortably supersonic at 1000 yards with the issued ammunition as you cannot work up a hand load to give the result you want.

Most barrels have four grooves. You can get three and five groove as well. To quote Krieger again, "Does a barrel with more grooves shoot better or last longer than a barrel with fewer grooves? No. With the single point cut rifled barrels that we make, we have found no difference in performance based on the number of lands/grooves as long as the surface area ratio remains the same." You can get a style of rifling called 5-R that has its fans but I don't think there is any real benefit. Some folks just want to have something different.

Lastly, there is the choice of external profile. Most barrels have a taper from just in front of the chamber to the muzzle. Bench rest and F class rifles might have a straight parallel profile from the action to the muzzle. The choice is largely due to weight restrictions. A target rifle cannot weigh more than 6.5kgs in total so a Palma Light profile is popular. In match rifle the barrel itself cannot weigh more than 2.5kgs so fluting is used to get a 34" barrel down to the weight limit.

As for me, I shoot a Swing mark 5 with a Krieger 32" 300/308 1:12 twist, 4 groove and a Palma Light profile.





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**Best Wishes to the Great Britain Rifle Team 2016 for a highly enjoyable and successful tour!**

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The members of the **NLRC** wish good luck and the best of success to the **GB Rifle Team to Canada & the USA** taking part in the **DCRA Fullbore Championships** at **Connaught Ranges, Ottawa**

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## National Park Service Celebrating 100 years



The NPS will celebrate its 100th anniversary on August 25th, 2016. As plans for this celebration move forward, the NPS remains committed to its original mission – to maintaining and protecting US national parks for the continued benefit and enjoyment of all Americans.

“Our long term prosperity depends on the faithful stewardship of the air that we breathe, the water we drink, and the land that we sow. That’s a sacred trust.” (Barack Obama, 2009)

The National Park Service (NPS) is a bureau of the US Department of the Interior. The NPS manages the 409 parks of the National Park System. The NPS also helps administer dozens of affiliated sites, the National Register of Historic Places, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, and National Trails. In-depth information is available at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the NPS. The “Organic Act” states that the fundamental purpose of the NPS “is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Yellowstone National Park was established by Congress as the nation’s (and the world’s) first national park on March 1, 1872. The National Park System now covers more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 409 sites with 28 different designations. These include 128 historical parks or sites, 78 national monuments, 59 national parks, 25 battlefields or military parks, 19 preserves, 18 recreation areas, 10 seashores, four parkways, four lakeshores, and two reserves.

Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve is the largest park with 13.2 million acres. The smallest site is the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial at 0.02 acres.

The National parks contain:

- At least 247 species of threatened or endangered plants and animals
- More than 75,000 archaeological sites
- Nearly 27,000 historic and pre-historic structures
- More than 167 million museum items, including George Washington’s inaugural coat and Carl Sandburg’s typewriter
- 18,000 miles of trails

- The world's largest carnivore, the Alaskan brown bear
- The world's largest living things, Giant Sequoia trees
- The highest point in North America, Mt McKinley (20,320 feet), in Denali National Park
- The longest cave system known to the world, Mammoth Cave National Park, with more than 400 mapped miles of caves
- America's deepest lake, Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park, at 1,943 feet and
- The lowest point in the Western Hemisphere, Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park, at 282' below sea level.

Visitor numbers to the National Parks have grown over the years:

1920	1 million
1940	17 million
1960	79 million
1980	198 million
2000	286 million
2014	292.8 million

The NPS maintains 879 visitor centres and contact stations which were visited by nearly 280 million people in 2014. More than 500,000 attended special events and ranger programmes. More than 660,000 children participated in the "Junior Ranger" programme.

The NPS employs more than 20,000 permanent, temporary, and seasonal workers.

They are assisted by 246,000 Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs), who donate about 6.7 million hours annually. This is the equivalent of having more than 3,200 additional employees. The NPS budget for fiscal year 2014 was \$2.6 billion. Annual visitor spending in communities within 60 miles of NPS sites supports more than 240,000 mostly local jobs and contributes about \$27 billion to the US economy. The NPS has more than 500 concession contracts at more than 100 sites. Concessioners provide visitors with food, lodging, transportation, shops, and other services. They employ approximately 25,000 people. Gross revenues are about \$1.3 billion annually, and they pay the government \$80 million in franchise fees each year.

Public support for America's national parks is a tradition as old as the parks themselves. Even before the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, citizens stepped forward to protect special places that exemplify the national heritage. Thousands of public private partnerships play a crucial role in advancing the NPS mission. More than 150 non-profit park friends groups contribute time, expertise, and about \$50 million annually to national parks across the country. The National Park Foundation, the national non-profit partner to the NPS, raises private funds to help protect national parks. The Foundation has provided nearly \$120 million in support to park projects and programmes over the past seven years. 71 cooperating associations enhance educational and interpretive experiences at parks by offering programmes and selling park-related retail items in their shops. The associations provide about \$75 million to the NPS in annual contributions and volunteer support.

Entrance fees are charged at 128 NPS sites, which range from \$5 to \$25. The money remains with the NPS and is used to enhance visitor services and facilities. The America the Beautiful- National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is an \$80 annual pass that provides access to federal lands managed by five different government agencies, including the NPS. Children under 16 are admitted to parks without charge. A \$10, lifetime Senior Pass is available for US citizens 62 years and older. A free, lifetime Access Pass is offered for citizens with permanent disabilities.

*Text and photos edited from NPS Website*





One of the oldest national parks, Mount Rainier, was established in 1899. Nearly two million visitors a year come to Mount Rainier National Park. At 14,410 feet, Mount Rainier is the most prominent peak in the Cascade Range. It dominates the landscape of a large part of western Washington State. The mountain stands nearly three miles higher than the lowlands to the west and one and a half miles higher than the adjacent mountains! An active volcano, Mount Rainier last erupted approximately 150 years ago.

Mount Rainier is the most glaciated peak in the contiguous USA, spawning six major rivers. Subalpine wildflower meadows ring the icy volcano while ancient forest cloaks Mount Rainier's lower slopes. Wildlife abounds in the park's ecosystems.



Lenticular clouds cling to the peak of Mount Rainier.



Snow at Paradise Inn

Weather patterns at Mount Rainier are strongly influenced by the Pacific Ocean, elevation, and latitude. The climate is generally cool and rainy, with summer highs in the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit (16 - 20°C). Wet, cold weather can occur anytime of the year. Although late July and August are generally the driest and warmest time of the year, summer can also be wet and cool. Snow will remain at the 5,000 to 8,000 feet elevation well into mid-July.

At Mount Rainier, winter snowfall is typically heaviest between the elevations of 5,000 and 8,000 feet. Paradise, at 5,420 feet, receives an average of 641 inches of snowfall (nearly 54 feet) every year, making it one of the consistently snowiest places on Earth. Over the winter of 1971-1972 1,122 inches, or 93.5 feet (28.5 meters), of snow fell at Paradise, setting the world record at the time for places where snowfall is measured.

*Photos by Ray Green, Steve Redman, pokemontrainerjay*

*Text edited from NPS Website*



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## The Bisley V Club

*Founded 1987*

**The Bisley V Club congratulates  
Rory MacLeod on his selection for  
the GB Rifle Team.**

**We wish him and all the Team an enjoyable and  
successful tour to Canada and the USA in 2016.**

The Bisley V Club supports young fullbore TR shooters by:

- founding The Arthur Clarke Schools & Cadet LR TR Match at Bisley (usually the last Thursday before the Cadet meeting in July);
- offering scholarships from our Freddy Payne Memorial Fund to Under 25s in need of financial help in applying for their first senior Great Britain Rifle Team tour; and
- donating to GB U19 teams to South Africa and the 2015 GB U21 and U25 teams to the World Championships

**Bisley V Club contacts:**

**jdwarburton@btinternet.com and dereklowe2008@googlemail.com**



Over the last decade, the SCATT electronic shooter training system has become an established and important element in many individual and team training regimes.

The origins of SCATT go back to the early 1970's when a Russian electronics engineer and coach of the Russian National team, Oleg Lapkin, was looking for a device to check the accuracy of the shooter's aim. However it wasn't until 1991 that Russian electronics engineer, Artem Khadzhibekov, an Olympic and World Champion, created the prototype of the current SCATT training system in collaboration with fellow engineers Oleg Lapkin, Yuri Khlynin and software programmers Vladimir Vlasov and Yuri Lapkin. The SCATT Company itself was created in 1993.

SCATT consists of a detector attached to the rifle barrel, the target, software and cables. It traces out the precise movements of your rifle on your computer screen when aiming at the target, recording the trace before, during and after the shot is taken. It then displays a prediction of where the shot will hit the target. As such, it provides you with a wealth of information as to what you were up to throughout the whole split second process, breaking it down into chunks that can be individually analysed. The only thing it cannot tell you is the effect of recoil - for this only live firing will do!

So how can SCATT complement your training regime? It is in effect dry firing with instant feedback and a predictive score. Dry firing is a good mechanism for training, so that firing good shots becomes a learned automatic reflex. However, doing this without a SCATT could lead to reinforcement of bad habits instead of some good ones!

The SCATT system allows you to visualise the hold throughout the process of firing your shot, colour coding the squiggly trace of your aim on the target into your hold on aim, trigger release and follow through.



A SCATT trace showing some of the good techniques in the process of firing a shot:

A short "hold" on aim (green & yellow)

No movement on trigger release (blue)

Follow through staying "on aim" (red)

The important thing to remember when you are using the system is how you compare it to your current shooting ability. The first time you try it, you will probably just be getting used to using the system and how it works. However, to start with you want to remember to do everything as you would normally do out on the range (apart from loading ammo; use a snap cap instead!). When you study your first few traces you need to remember that they will show how you currently fire a shot, assuming that you have kept your normal procedure and position. Then, when you use the system in future, you have a sample set of data to refer back to.

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We believe that children need a very special kind of care to be carefree. The sort of care that enables them to discover themselves and the world around them, while giving them the protection and security they need to make sense of what they find.

And how do we know this? Because many of us here at Angels by Day have our own children – not to mention the fact that we were once kids ourselves. Remember how great it felt to run outside into a big, safe garden and let your imagination (and sometimes your dungarees!) rip, knowing that a tasty home-cooked lunch would be waiting for you when you came inside? How great it felt when you learnt something new? To be rewarded for saying "please" – and to know that someone else was as proud of you as you were of yourself?

So do we – and that's why we run our nursery in the way we do. It's not just our safe, protected environment that'll give you and your child a wonderful

feeling of security; it's our whole ethos. From our large outside space complete with a magical 'garden classroom' to our wholesome organic dinners made from fresh, local produce, everything we do at Angels by Day is done with warmth and fun, creativity and care.

So if you're looking for flexible childcare in a nursery that shares your values, we're here to lend a hand. Pop in any time for a cup of tea (or a beaker of squash) – or just call us and we'll arrange a time for you to have a look around.

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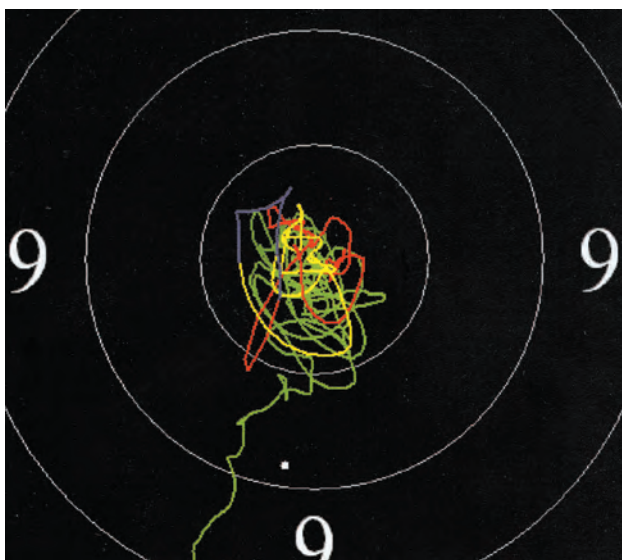


Many newcomers to SCATT are generally astonished at how long everything is lined up in the centre of the target before actually firing. Knowing this can give you the confidence to release the shot much more quickly, reducing fatigue and the potential for wind changes, and importantly, keeping your coach happy in team shoots!

Once you are using the system you should be thinking about and working out how you can improve your performance on the range, what your ideal hold pattern should look like and what you need to do with your equipment or position in order to achieve that result. Test what happens with small changes to hand stop position, sling length etc. A good way of trying to simulate the pressure of match conditions is to have a couple of strong cups of coffee 10 minutes prior to using the SCATT. This will increase your blood pressure and heart rate as might happen in competition conditions.

Once you have built up some experience using the system, it can help provide you with answers to unexplained shots or patterns of shots. This is because the SCATT machine doesn't just place the shot at the point of aim when the trigger is released; rather, it calculates the fall of shot based on the point of release at which the barrel is wobbling at that instant. For example, the impact of your pulse on fall of shot can be seen in the example below. Despite a good hold (green / yellow lines) and let off (blue line) in the "V", the shot is the white spot low at 6 o'clock. In this instance, this was due to the pulse movement at the time the shot was released when the trace changes colour from blue to red. So although the aim has never left the "V", the firer has released when the muzzle was moving at its quickest with the beat of the pulse, mirroring what was actually happening out on the ranges! In this case, being aware of the cause enables the shooter to work on adjusting position to reduce the effect of pulse, significantly diminishing the problem in real life.

A 6 o'clock shot as result of pulse



Another advantage of SCATT is that it allows you to experiment in the warm and dry comfort of your own home, something all of us would surely relish after the freezing rain soaked last 12 months at Bisley! At a time when ammunition prices are going up and up, and it can now cost nearly £2 every time you squeeze the trigger (taking in to account travel, range hire, food and beer!), SCATT can offer the serious shooter a cost effective training alternative to complement live firing. We 'aim' to write further about the use of the SCATT system and what some of the information actually means along with updates about the latest version of SCATT, which can be used whilst live firing. So keep an eye out for future team brochures!

\*Adapted from articles by Jon Underwood and Tim Bedwell

## *Notes on the development of target shooting 1900-1914 and some of its participants, Luke Ricketts Tippins and John Tippins.*

The early years of the 1900s leading up to the Great War brought about a number of developments in both rifles and ammunition as cordite and nitrocellulose propellants replaced black powder. As the army re-equipped with Long Lee-Enfield rifles and then the Short Magazine Lee Enfield [SMLE] there began, with the encouragement of Lord Roberts, a renewal of interest and participation in competitive target rifle shooting and an increase in rifle clubs throughout the country. Colchester Rifle Club formed in 1899 was listed as Club No 35 to affiliate to the NRA. In common with other rifle clubs at the time, the membership was largely made up from the ranks of the Volunteer Regiments and then, after the Haldane reforms of 1908, the various Territorial Regiments. It was really only sometime after the subsequent formation of the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs that more civilians began to appear in the lists.

Among the founding members of Colchester RC was Luke Ricketts Tippins, headmaster of the Norman National School at Mistley in Essex. He was a first class rifle shot. As a Sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Btn of the Essex Regt, he reached the King's Hundred in 1901. In addition to his work at the school and his part-time role as a Volunteer, Luke developed a gunsmithing business at Mistley. He also found time to write and publish several books based on his experience as a rifleman, the first of which 'Modern Rifle Shooting in Peace, War and Sport' (published by Mills & Boon!) ran to four editions covering the many developments in rifles and ammunition at the time. Other works include 'The Rifleman's Companion', 'The Service Rifle' and the instructions to 'Parker's Rifle-Shot's Register'.



Although Luke was a first class shot, he was soon eclipsed by his son John who became one of the foremost rifle shooters of his generation. Born in 1887, John Tippins first attended Bisley in 1903 at the age of sixteen with a team from Colchester RC to shoot in the 'Spectator' competition. The first prize was three rifles but they were placed third coming away with just one rifle as their prize. This was offered as a prize for competition amongst club members. After a tie, John Tippins proceeded to see off that year's County champion by 28 points to 23 to take home the coveted rifle. He also joined the gunsmithing business started by his father and together they developed a business to rival that of Fultons. With their own private range on the Essex marshes they worked on improving rifles and experimenting with ammunition and target sights. One of their experiments involved firing rifles and machine guns vertically into the air to find out the time of flight and the effect of the earth's rotation on them. He also had a brother, believed to be in South Africa, whom he got to perform the same experiments in the Southern Hemisphere to see if the same conclusions were made. Sadly there is no record of their conclusions.





PRONE POSITION. BOTH ARMS SLOPING

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*Photo scanned from copy of the 'Riflemen's Companion' of a young John Tippins  
(Compare shooting position and equipment with that of today!)*

The NRA rules for 1908 allowed the use of a 'peep sight' (aperture) on the ordinary leaf sight, but this was too far away from the eye to give full advantage in its use. Tippins invented an extension sight-bed which brought the ordinary leaf three or four inches nearer the eye, according to the pattern of rifle. Although used with some success by some competitors its delay in approval limited its chances at Bisley in 1908. The father and son team then invented and patented aperture sights with both windage and elevation adjustments that could easily be attached to an Enfield rifle using the safety catch fitting. Delays in approval again prevented their sale and use in 1909 – though many competitors successfully used the leaf Extension during that year.

Using a Tippins Long Lee Enfield, SA Pixley registered a score of 105 ex 105 at Bisley in 1909 (the usual course of fire in this period was 2 sighting shots and 7 to count as the various distances – eg 300, 500, 600 yards). This rifle is on now on display in the NRA Museum.



*Detail showing engraving on a Tippins Long Lee Enfield Rifle*



*Tippins Design Hinged Sight Bracket made by BSA (hinged to allow removal of bolt for cleaning). Left – fitted with BSA Martin sight. Right – fitted with Parker sight.*

*(Photos by L King – Colchester RC archives)*

Their rifles were extensively used in all the major rifle competitions leading up to the Great War and registered a great many successes. In the Imperial Meeting of 1911, Tippins rifles won 11 competitions and tied in a further 14.

Over the next few years John Tippins enjoyed considerable success and at one stage held the world long range record of 149 ex 150. He also used to give demonstrations of trick and rapid fire shooting. Using Winchester auto-repeater and single loading rifles he “knocked ash off cigarettes”, extinguished flames from candles, split playing cards held edgewise with a single shot and put 10 shots through the ace of hearts. He was also credited with the world rapid-fire record of 94 shots in one minute with 94 hits.

Although the King’s Prize eluded him, he appeared in the King’s Final in five of the six years in 1908 to 1913. He also shot in the following events:

The National Team; 1905 Reserve and then each year from 1908 to 1914

The Mackinnon; 1906 Reserve and then each year from 1907 to 1914

The Kolapore; 1909 to 1914



England: Winners of the National Challenge Trophy, Bisley 1909 (Cpl John Tippins top row right)  
(Photo collection Colchester RC archives).

John shot in the Great Britain Team for the Olympics of 1908 and on his way to one of the Olympic Games shooting events at Bisley (yes, fullbore target rifle shooting was an Olympic event in those days), whilst riding his motorbike, he took a corner too fast and crashed through the wooden railings of the bridge over the Basingstoke Canal in Brookwood. Presumably this was without serious consequences as he went on to win a gold medal!

On 31 July 1914 John received notification that he had been selected for the proposed NRA team to visit Australia for the Empire Match of 1914. This was not to be though as a greater and much more serious calling intervened with the outbreak of the Great War. At the time, John was a Sergeant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Essex Regt. As they were not immediately scheduled to join the BEF he obtained permission to resign from the Regt and seek another unit. He re-enlisted as a Private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn of the Essex Regt who were about to depart for France and was promoted to L/Cpl. The regiment was immediately engaged with the German advance. It would



appear that JT was not satisfied with the accuracy/quality of the service rifle provided and sent home for his own rifle which he then used to good effect. He was then promoted to Sergeant in charge of a machine gun and sadly was killed in action whilst working the MG on 26 November 1914. He is buried alongside many of his comrades from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Essex Regt in Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery. Along with other members of the NRA who lost their lives in the Great War, his name is also recorded on the memorial plaque outside the NRA Office Building.



Sgt John Tippins – Essex Regt

(Photos Colchester RC archives)

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## GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM 2016

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A blue-tinted photograph of a cityscape, featuring several tall buildings and a clock tower with a large clock face. The image is used as a background for the central text.

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