



**GREAT BRITAIN  
RIFLE TEAM  
AUSTRALIA 2011**





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# ITINERARY

Thursday 29 September	Depart LHR 11:30 (main party)	SQ317
Friday 30 September	Arrive BNE 19:30	SQ245
	Colmslie Hotel, Wynnum Road, Morningside QLD 4170 +61 7 3399 8222	
Saturday 1 October	R&R / acclimatisation	
Sunday 2 October	R&R / acclimatisation	
Monday 3 October	R&R / acclimatisation	
Tuesday 4 October	R&R / acclimatisation	
Wednesday 5 October	Practice (Belmont)	300x, 500x, 600x
Thursday 6 October	Practice	800x, 900x, 1000x
Friday 7 October	R&R	
Saturday 8 October	Teams match (teams of 6)	
	NRAA Presidents Match (Grand)	300x, 500x
Sunday 9 October	NRAA Presidents Match	600x, 800x, 900x, 1000x
Monday 10 October	Australia Match practice	300x, 600x, 900x, 1000x
Tuesday 11 October	AUSTRALIA MATCH	300x, 600x, 900x, 1000x
Wednesday 12 October	NRAA Queens Prize	300x, 500x, 600x
Thursday 13 October	NRAA Queens Prize	600x, 800x, 900x
Friday 14 October	NRAA Queens Prize	
	NRAA Royal Kaltenberg Cup	
	Grand Agg concludes	900x, 1000x, 1000x
Saturday 15 October	World Veterans & U25 matches	
Sunday 16 October	World Individual practice / range 1	800x, 900x, 1000x, 800x
Monday 17 October	World Individual	900x, 1000x, 800x
Tuesday 18 October	World Individual	900x, 1000x, 800x
Wednesday 19 October	World Individual & Final 10	900x, 1000x, 1000x
Thursday 20 October	Palma Match practice	800x, 900x, 1000x
Friday 21 October	PALMA MATCH - Day 1	800x, 900x, 1000x
Saturday 22 October	PALMA MATCH - Day 2	800x, 900x, 1000x
Sunday 23 October	R&R (Rugby World Cup Final)	
Monday 24 October	Leave BNE 14:40	SQ236
Tuesday 25 October	Arrive LHR 05:55	SQ322





**CLARENCE HOUSE**

As President of the National Rifle Association, I am delighted that the Great Britain Rifle Teams continue to compete strongly throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. These exchanges do much to cement relationships and understanding between countries, forged through a shared history and culture. Added benefits include the broader personal perspectives which arise from experiences in the international arena and the friendships which grow from a mutual commitment to amateur sport in its purest form.

It gives me great pride to see such a strong team leave these shores, and I have no doubt that it will be shown a warm welcome by its Australian hosts, who will be among several teams to offer both fierce and friendly competition. I have every faith that our team will make us immensely proud and, God willing, will succeed in its endeavour to retain the Palma Trophy.

I wish the team every possible success and all participants the very best of luck, and look forward to hearing all about the tour upon its completion.

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# CAPTAIN'S FOREWORD

To captain one's country is a great honour. To do so in a World Championship is the highest honour, and a huge responsibility to ensure that the national team represents the country to the best of its ability and at a level that reflects well on the standards of marksmanship at home. I am therefore very grateful to the National Rifle Association of Great Britain for affording me this privilege and for their confidence in me to deliver on this task.

I have had considerable help in seeking to achieve this objective. Martin Townsend, the team's Vice-Captain, has been a tower of strength, bringing the 'been there, done that' experience from the 2007 GB Palma that has helped this team continue to grow and build on prior successes. The indefatigable James Watson, the team's Adjutant, knows my foibles having worked with me on two previous tours, and has kept me 'on point'. On behalf of the whole team I would like to thank them for their commitment.

My gratitude is also due to the various organisations that have supported this team in various ways through donations, corporate days and advertising in our brochure. Please support our advertisers in return and thereby reward them. A list of supporters appears elsewhere; I thank them and any others whose names have not been included in print.

Thank you, too, to every member of the team, each of whom has individually stepped up to help out and get certain things done, always in a no-nonsense, effective way. It's clear that each team member has come to place enormous value on his/her place in a GB Palma Team. Much credit for this goes to those members of the original squad who were not lucky enough to make this final team. They pushed hard for a place and, in so doing, have made the selected team all the better. I told all squad members at the start of the process that their goal was to do as well as they could and thereby make my task impossible. They did just that, and I am grateful to each and every one of them.

This is an experienced GB team by any standard. Each of us has toured with GB before but, for those for whom it is a first Palma team, I offer my congratulations. For those for whom it is a first tour to Australia, I can only say that you are in for a treat. I am biased but Australia will always hold a special place in my heart. My maternal grandfather was born in Toowoomba QLD, where his father was Station Master and helped save many stranded individuals in the floods of the early 1890's - yes, like last year, it flooded back then too, and in those days the rescue and clean-up operations did not have the benefit of modern technology. My own formative years have memorable Australian influences, jackarooing in the Mallee in NW Victoria in 1975, and playing in Oxford front rows in the early 1980s with Bill Ross, Queensland Red and Wallaby international, and Tony Abbott, now leader of the Opposition in Australia.

But rifle tours to Australia are special - this will be my third, after visiting Tasmania and South Australia in 1997, including the notoriously windy Pontville range, then Perth in 2001 and the magnificently scenic Swanbourne Range. Why is this? Well the Australia Match - one of the great historic rifle matches - has something to do with it, but there's more: the banter, the camaraderie, the rivalry, the history and, above all perhaps, the welcome. To the uninitiated and unsuspecting, this can take a surprising form. So if someone addresses you with a term that indicates that your parents weren't married, don't immediately assume that it's an insult because, as likely as not, it's a term of affection - unless of course you have just beaten him in a competition! And if you think you hear the locals liberally using the French term for 'apple' in conversation, they are actually referring to you, as the term "Pommy" or "Pom" denotes a person of British origin. This is not normally a derogatory term, unless accompanied by the adjective "whingeing" in which case the best strategy is not to whinge! Irrespective of the lingo, you can expect a warmth and sincerity that is deep and genuine, and is perhaps special to riflemen because as amateurs our rivalry is accompanied by friendships born of a common interest.

The reference to amateur status reminds us all that while we seek "professional" standards in what we do, marksmanship does not come cheap in terms of time and personal commitments, and we owe a huge debt to spouses, partners, family members and employers for indulging us in our pursuit of excellence on the range. I hope that they and all readers will follow our progress throughout the tour and the World Championships by logging onto our website, [www.gbpalma.co.uk](http://www.gbpalma.co.uk) or following us on Twitter @GBPalmaTeam.





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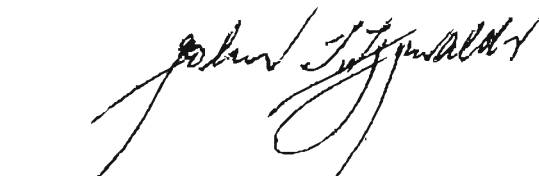
**It is with sincere and warm wishes we welcome the Great Britain Rifle Team to Australia this year to compete in the World Long Range Championships at Belmont Shooting Complex in Queensland.**

**Competition between our two countries has always been fierce since the first Australian Team ventured to the UK to shoot in the Imperial Meeting at Wimbledon in 1886. We expect nothing less on this occasion.**

**The conduct of the "Australia Match" and the "Palma" Teams during the World Championships, the two most prestigious full-bore shooting team events for many in our sport, will bring out that fierce competitive spirit between our nations once again. With it however also brings to the fore with that competitiveness the wonderful friendship and camaraderie that exists between both our countries. I suppose it can only be compared with cricket when we are competing for "The Ashes" (and perhaps less said about that at the moment the better).**

**To John Webster and his team, we embrace you once again in representing Great Britain and look forward as we always do to welcoming new and old friends on the first occasion that these championships have been held in Australia.**

**May you return home with fond memories and maybe a few spoils of achievement during your stay with us.**



**John Fitzgerald,  
Chairman,  
NRAA Ltd.,**





# THE TEAM

<b>Captain:</b>	John Webster	England
<b>Vice-Captain:</b>	Martin Townsend	Ireland
<b>Adjutant:</b>	James Watson	England
<b>Squad:</b>	David Armstrong	England
	Nigel Ball <i>GC, SM, SC</i>	England
	Nick Brasier <i>GC</i>	England
	David Calvert <i>GM, SC</i>	Ireland
	Matthew Charlton	Scotland
	Jon Cload	England
	Matthew Ensor	England
	Richard Jeens	Wales
	Jeremy Langley	England
	James Lewis <i>GM</i>	England
	David Luckman <i>GC2, SM, SC3</i>	England
	Ross McQuillan	Ireland
	Jane Messer <i>GC, SC</i>	England
	Gareth Morris	Wales
	Parag Patel <i>GC2, SC</i>	England
	Toby Raincock	England
	Kelvin Ramsey	England
	Ant Ringer <i>GM3, SM2, SC</i>	England
	Tom Rylands <i>SC</i>	England
	Paul Sykes	England
	Nick Tremlett <i>GM</i>	England
	Jon Underwood <i>GM, GC2, SM2</i>	England
	Chris Watson	Wales
<b>Travelling Reserve:</b>	Ed Jeens	Wales
<b>Team Physio:</b>	Erica McMullan	

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### **JOHN WEBSTER • Captain •**

John (also known as Webbie) is the team's Captain. He is no stranger to leadership, being the Chief Executive of an investment management firm in London, as well as Captain of previous GB (2004) and England (2008) touring teams.

John started shooting at Uppingham School under the careful guidance of Simon Pattinson, and progressed to international competition via the Athelings, of which he was Captain in 1974. This is his ninth GB tour, and third to Australia, having toured previously in 1997 and 2001. He has 21 'Big 5' (National, Mackinnon, Kolapore, Australia and Palma Matches) appearances to his credit, including shooting in all of these matches as well as in the inaugural America Match held in Canada back in 2002.

He has also had some individual success, but somewhat incongruously for the Captain of a Palma team, most recently these have been at short range, where he beat a number of his team mates in tie shoots at this year's Bisley Meeting. He was in two minds whether to celebrate or give them a rollocking!

His other interests include rugby (he was an Oxford Blue, relegating the Leader of the Opposition in Australia, Tony Abbott, to the subs bench on one occasion), golf, fly-fishing and collecting fine wine. He also has experience of the Australian outback, having been a jackaroo in the Mallee in NW Victoria in his gap year.

### **MARTIN TOWNSEND • Vice-Captain •**

Martin is the team's Vice-Captain and brings a wealth of experience to the job, having captained several GB teams in the past, most notably to wins in the Kolapore in 2004, the Palma Match in 2007 and the Australia Match in 2010.

A well-known coach, if not shooter, both at Bisley and overseas, Martin has steered his shooters to success for more than 20 years. Highlights include the Centenary Match (1990), several Kolapores, Australia and Protea Matches, and the winning 1992, 1995, and 2003 Palma Matches.

This is Martin's 17<sup>th</sup> GB team tour, and his fourth to Australia. Two of these have been target rifle teams (1994 and 2005), while, as befits a long range wind coach, two have been match rifle teams (1997 and 2004). Martin's wind coaching experience is spread over 80 appearances for Ireland and Great Britain in 'Big 5' matches, as well as several Elcho and Woomera Trophy matches.

Poppy Lodge at Bisley is where he and his wife Pearl spend most of their summer weekends although, when not on the ranges, Martin works in the philatelic world where he is one of the UK's leading dealers in the stamps and postal history of Great Britain.



### **JAMES WATSON • Adjutant •**

James is the team's Adjutant, and has meaningful experience in working with the Captain as he performed the same role for his GB tour to Canada and the USA in 2004 and his England team to the USA in 2008.

James started shooting at Uppingham School and progressed to full international honours via the Athelings and the GB under 25 team. This is his seventh GB tour, and his second to Australia as his first tour was to Perth in 2001. He was a member of the winning Palma team in 2007 and has shot for GB in the Kolapore. He has also made five appearances for England in the National Match and four in the Mackinnon.

As an individual, he has had a number of successes at Bisley and elsewhere, including winning the Belt Series in New Zealand in 2010.

James is a Trustee of the NRA and Chairman of its Membership Committee. In his free time, he enjoys travelling (particularly to the USA where he lived for five years), shooting game, skiing and scuba diving. To afford all these trips, he works at SAP selling business software to the financial services industry.



### DAVID ARMSTRONG

David started shooting at Royal Grammar School Guildford in 1983, where he reversed his Mini over all the school's rifles before coming second in HM the Queen's Prize in a tie shoot at age 20. Earlier this year, he competed in his 26th Imperial Meeting at Bisley. In the intervening period, he has made 14 appearances in the Queens Final, and achieved ten top 50 finishes in the Grand Aggregate.

This is David's sixth tour with the GB team, but his first to Australia as all the previous five have been to Canada. His first was back in 1989, his most recent last year as Adjutant to Jane Messer's team and in the interim, he was Captain of the first GB U25 touring team (New Zealand 1992) and a member of the Palma Match winning GB team in 2007. At home, he has represented England five times in the National Match and once in the Mackinnon, as well as representing GB once in the Kolapore.

Away from Bisley, David is an accountant for the Civil Aviation Authority, but unfortunately was unable to secure the team a corporate discount on Duty Free.

### NIGEL BALL QM GC SM SC

Nigel began his shooting career with a Service Rifle whilst serving in the Royal Navy. He enjoyed many successful years in this environment, winning the Queen's Medal and representing Great Britain on numerous occasions.

Target rifle shooting took second place until 1984, since when he has been a regular at the Imperial Meeting at Bisley. In that time, he has been in the final of HM the Queen's Prize 19 times, winning the Silver Medal in 2003, and collected 18 Grand Aggregate crosses, including the Gold Cross in 2008 and the Silver Cross in 2007. His first GB target rifle team was to Canada in 1991 and he has toured with 16 other GB teams since. His tours include visits to Canada, Zimbabwe, South Africa and USA as well as Australia (in 1997 and again in 2005 when he was Vice-Captain).

Despite his individual successes, Nigel enjoys shooting big team matches most as befits a man who has served for Queen and Country. With 42 'Big 5' appearances to his name, this is his third GB Palma team (he shot in 2003 and was Adjutant in 2007) and he ranks them as the ultimate team shooting experience, although any chance to represent his country is an honour he will readily accept.



### NICK BRASIER GC

Nick started target shooting at Cambridge University and, other than an aberration in the late 1980s when he focused on small-bore, has been a committed fullbore shot ever since. This is his seventh GB tour and second to Australia, having shot at Belmont in 2005. On his first GB tour to Canada in 1991, he won the Governor General's Prize in storm force winds. An experienced team shot with 15 'Big 5' appearances to his name to date, he has also had individual successes that include 16 Queen's Final badges and 11 Grand Aggregate crosses, including the Gold Cross in 2002.

As a previous Captain of the Stock Exchange Rifle Club and Chairman of Shooting for the London and Middlesex Rifle Association on Bisley Camp, Nick has experience of running overseas teams, having organised and captained club teams to Ireland, Jersey and North America. He was also Adjutant to the 2010 GB team to New Zealand. This experience encouraged the team's management to devolve a lot of the travel logistics for this tour to him.

Nick is married to Gwynne. Fortunately for him, she also shoots; and fortunately for the team, she is an expert on dietary needs and has helped educate team members on the dietary requirements to maintain health and concentration during a long tour.





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### DAVID CALVERT GM SC

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 as a member of the Ireland National Match team. He has gone on to represent Ireland 39 times in this match, as well as in 37 Mackinnons.

His first Great Britain team representation was the tour to Canada in 1975, with his next GB tour 16 years later as a member of the Palma team to USA in 1992. Having (in his own words) “sorted out how to balance work and shooting”, he has toured with the GB team most years since, been on every Palma team since 1992 and captained the GB team to Canada in 2000. At home, he has shot 20 times for GB in the Kolapore, 14 of these in consecutive years from 1988 to 2001, a British record. With eight Australia Matches also under his belt, he currently has a staggering 109 ‘Big 5’ appearances to his name. He has also had a number of individual successes, the most notable of which was last year’s win in Her Majesty the Queen’s Prize at Bisley. He has participated in the past nine Commonwealth Games for Northern Ireland, winning four Gold and four Bronze medals, making him Northern Ireland’s most prolific medal winner at the Commonwealth Games.

He is currently a flying instructor with Cambridge University Air Squadron as a member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. His main interests, in addition to shooting and flying, include golf, scuba diving and skiing.

### MATTHEW CHARLTON

Matt started shooting at RGS Guildford but, by his own admission, only occasionally shoots acceptably. Coaching is his main strength and was his role on previous GB, Scotland and club tours to Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. This is his sixth GB tour, but his first to Australia (although he did tour Australia with Scotland in 2000). He has coached GB to wins in America, Palma, Protea, Kolapore and New Zealand Matches in the past five years.

Having led London to various successes, he is Captain-elect of Scotland, for whom he has 31 National and Mackinnon appearances under his belt. As the lone Scotsman on the team, if you see him smiling on the range, it will likely stem from Scotland’s repeat win in the National Match earlier this year. Last year was their first win in the match since 1965 (well before Matt was born) and they had not won two in a row since 1900!

An Oxford graduate, his work is as an institutional stockbroker with RBC. He rows competitively, racing at Henley last year, and enjoys cycling, skiing and snowboarding when there’s time. He has spent a total of ten weeks of his life in Australia, the vast majority accompanied by torrential rain; so he is praying for some dry weather for a change this time.



### JON CLOAD

Jon learned to shoot at school in Reigate and competed in his first Bisley meeting in 1992. This is Jon’s eighth overseas GB tour and his third to Australia, having previously toured in 2001 and 2005. Despite his deceptively boyish looks, he is a seasoned international shot, with seven appearances for England in each of the National and Mackinnon Matches, and three for GB in each of the Australia and the Kolapore Matches. He also shot in the last two Palma Matches, giving him a total of 22 ‘Big 5’ appearances to date. Individual success has also come his way, most notably winning the Ballinger Belt in New Zealand in 2010.

Jon works at Cheltenham College in Gloucestershire, where he coaches the shooting team amongst other things. When not building ammo for the team or doing DIY tasks around the house, Jon gravitates to the great outdoors, notably clay and game shooting, and fishing.

## MATT ENSOR

Matt started shooting in 1992 at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. Various shooting successes followed in schools competitions, but it was on his Athelings tour in 1997 that he decided (having dropped his last to count ... again!) that wind coaching was for him.

Matt's first senior international honours came in 2006 and he gained his first GB cap on the victorious 2007 Palma tour. This is his fourth GB tour, and his first to Australia. His only previous ventures south of the equator have been shooting related – he toured South Africa in 2008 and New Zealand in 2010, coaching the winning GB teams in the Protea and New Zealand Matches. Even on a holiday to the Whitsundays last year, he took time to study the Belmont winds with a small party of interested others.

He has also coached GB in the Kolapore (2009), and has coached England five times in the National Match and four times in the Mackinnon.

When not shooting at Bisley, he can also be found on camp as he is a member of the operations team there.



## RICHARD JEENS

Richard started shooting at Marlborough College, but really discovered the joys of target rifle shooting at Cambridge. Since university, he has progressed via the County of London and GB Under 25 teams to full international honours for Wales, with ten appearances in each of the National and Mackinnon Matches, and for GB as a member of the winning 2007 Palma team.

This is his fourth GB tour, but first to Australia, having previously toured Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. As a very steady rifle platform, the success enjoyed by each of those teams in their respective main tour matches takes pride of place, even though an eighth place finish in the World Individual Long Range Championships in 2007 shows that occasionally he can read his own wind quite well.

Away from the range, Richard works as a solicitor in London.

## JEREMY LANGLEY

Jeremy, a third generation shooter from Devon, is a seasoned international, having toured with 14 Great Britain Rifle Teams to date, including a trip to Australia in 1994 and three previous Palma teams. Having fulfilled a number of key roles on those tours, he is delighted to be Captain of next year's GB Team to Canada and USA.

A winner of 31 Final badges and 16 Grand Aggregate crosses from around the world, he has 34 'Big 5' appearances under his belt, including an impressive series of wins in the 2010 Mackinnon, Kolapore and Australia Matches (after an enforced break the previous year) to complete his 'Big 5' set.

In his spare time when not shooting or coaching, fixing up the house for his wife Judy, or chasing after their young son Benjamin, Jeremy is an Antenna Engineer working for Selex Galileo. He is also the proud owner of the older (and prettier) of the Corvettes to be found on Bisley ranges.



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## JAMES LEWIS GM

James Lewis started target rifle shooting at Rugby School and progressed to senior international honours via the Athelings. This is his sixth GB tour and second to Australia, his previous trip being the pre-Palma tour in 1994 to New Zealand and Perth as a team hopeful. He is delighted to be returning finally as a full member on his first Palma team.

Winning the Queen's Prize in 2007 was undoubtedly the ultimate triumph for Jumbo (as he is affectionately known) and he has several other individual successes to his name in nearly 30 years of shooting, including winning the St George's prize. He has also represented England four times in the National Match and GB once in the Kolapore.

An investment banker since leaving the Army in 1989, earlier this year he started a new investment management company catering for professional and aspirational medium to high net worth investors.

Jumbo is Vice-Captain to Jeremy Langley's USA and Canada tour next year, together with Ross McQuillan as Adjutant, and would love to hear some Camp Perry stories as a vicarious recce.



## DAVID LUCKMAN GC2 SM SC3

David is the reigning World Individual Long Range Rifle Champion.

His successes in the UK are numerous, and include seventeen consecutive Grand Aggregate crosses (including two gold ones – 2007 and 2010 - as well as three silver), sixteen St George's badges and fifteen Queen's badges (coming second or third on numerous occasions). A prolific team shot, he already has 47 'Big 5' appearances to his name, including the last three Palma Matches. Remarkably in 2010, he shot four international matches on consecutive days (National, Kolapore, Mackinnon and Australia) without dropping a single point.

David started shooting with Sedgemoor Target Shooting Club and became an Atheling in 1994. This is his eleventh GB tour, and fourth to Australia, having toured in 1997, 2001 and 2005.

David works for Clerical Medical in Bristol as an Actuary. In his spare time he is an avid sports player and qualified tennis coach. He competes in triathlons and half marathons as well as enjoying mountain biking, surfing, swimming and other sports.

## ROSS MCQUILLAN

Ross learned his shooting at Belfast Royal Academy and the University of Edinburgh. This is his fifth Great Britain tour, his second with the GB Palma Team but his first to Australia. He is the current Ireland National Match Captain, and has been shooting for Ireland since 1995, gaining a total of 31 National and Mackinnon match appearances to date. He has toured New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, the USA and the Channel Islands with either Ireland or GB and represented Northern Ireland at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

A country boy stranded in London, Ross seeks regular sanctuary at leafy Bisley, where he won the St George's in 2006. He has also had success on tour, notably a second place finish in the Canadian Grand Aggregate the same year.

Ross is a property manager at Broadgate in the City of London. When not at work or on the range, he enjoys making a mess in the kitchen, a taste of whiskey (or whisky), hill walking, watching football and rugby, and his daily (and occasionally victorious) battle with the Guardian crossword.





### JANE MESSER GC SC

A keen proponent of team shooting, this is Jane's seventeenth GB tour and her fifth to Australia. She launched her international shooting career as a new (and very young!) cap in the GB Ladies team during the Australian Bicentenary year in 1988. In 1994, she top scored in her first Australia Match, at Swanbourne in Perth, with a then record individual score. This was followed by Tasmania and South Australia in 1997 and a second visit to Swanbourne in 2001.

This is Jane's sixth consecutive Palma team and her first as a wind coach rather than a shooter. She has shot in all the 'Big 5' team matches, with a total of 52 appearances to date, and is keen to complete the set as a coach too. In addition to her considerable shooting and coaching skills, she has also successfully tried her hand at leadership, captaining the GB team on their tour to Canada in 2010 and in the Kolapore earlier this year

Although team shooting is Jane's favourite, she is also an accomplished individual shot having won a number of important individual competitions at Bisley and elsewhere, including the Grand Aggregate in 1998 and the St George's in 2005.

### GARETH MORRIS

Gaz started shooting small-bore at Uppingham School in 1989, but quickly moved on to fullbore when he discovered weekend trips to Bisley. He progressed to senior international honours via the Athelings, and now shoots regularly for Wales (he has 23 National and Mackinnon Match appearances to his name) as well as representing them at the last two Commonwealth Games, and winning a Gold Medal at the 2010 CSF Championships.

He has also shot for GB, in the Australia Match in 2010 and in the Kolapore earlier this year, which brought him tantalisingly close to his goal of completing his 'Big 5' (he was one of the two reserves for the 2007 Palma Match). His aim is to complete the set on this, his fourth GB tour, second Palma team, but first tour to Australia.

Away from the range, he is husband to Katrina and father to Samuel, and has recently started a new job as a programme manager in Wipro Consulting's retail arm. Non-ballistic hobbies include cookery and wine; although he has recently developed a healthy obsession with trying to grow his own ingredients.



### PARAG PATEL GC2 SC

Parag first started shooting at Epsom College and his prodigious talent was in early evidence as he won the Canadian Grand Aggregate as an Atheling in 1994. This is his ninth tour with the GB team and his second to Australia, having toured previously in 2001.

Accomplished in both team and individual shooting, Parag has shot in all 'Big 5' matches with 39 appearances to date (including the last three Palma Matches), and has won the Bisley Grand Aggregate twice, in 2001 and 2003. He also represented England at the last two Commonwealth Games winning four medals, including Gold in the Pairs in 2006 and Individual Gold in 2010.

When not on the range, Parag is a specialist surgeon, and recently spent some time in Brisbane plying his trade. He and his wife, Urvi, have two young sons, so he has little time left for golf. For the meantime, all his slicing is therefore done with a scalpel.





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### **TOBY RAINCOCK**

Toby began his shooting career at Epsom College and was fortunate enough never to have been on a losing side during the Ashburton Shield schools match. He subsequently toured with the Athelings in 1993 and followed this up with full international honours for England in 1995. The end of the '90s proved less productive for Toby, partly due to the Prince of Wales Prize and partly due to his training to be a bean counter.

However, a return to "full time" shooting in 2002 saw him earn his first GB cap with the 2004 touring team to Canada and USA. This is his fifth GB tour but his first to Australia. He won the Canadian Grand Aggregate and shot in the winning Palma team in 2007. At home he has continued to build up a list of international honours in recent years with five Mackinnon and four National Match appearances for England, and three Kolapore appearances for Great Britain.

Away from shooting, Toby is Chief Operating Officer of a securities firm in the City of London. His 'bean counting' skills have also been put to good use by the team, as he is its Treasurer.

### **KELVIN RAMSEY**

Kelvin learned to shoot at Epsom College and progressed to international honours via Cambridge University and the GB Under 25 team. His first international experience came in 2002 when he shot for England in the National Match, was reserve for the Mackinnon, and toured the West Indies, winning his first GB cap. Further England representation followed in 2005 and 2008.

This is his third GB tour, but first to Australia, and his first Palma team. He is no stranger to Belmont however, having competed in various prize meetings as an individual during a recent stint working in Australia.

Away from the range, Kelvin is a consultant surgeon working in London. His sporting prowess and intelligence were on show at an early age when, aged 12, he was a contestant on the TV show "Junior Krypton Factor".



### **ANTONY RINGER GM3 SM2 SC**

Antony is returning to Australia for the third time as a GB team member but, well before he first attained international honours, he spent an extended period in Australia as a young man. He has shot a Queen's Meeting in every State and Territory, apart from the Northern Territory where he has, however, shot on the impressive Alice Springs range. He remains a proud winner of both the season opening and closing shoots at the Meekatharra Rifle Club in Western Australia.

Many consider Antony to have learned to shoot in Australia; in reality, he acquired many of his skills at Uppingham School. Since then, he has garnered an impressive record of international success. This is his ninth GB tour, and his fifth Palma team. He has represented England and Great Britain 54 times to date in 'Big 5' matches, and competed for England at two Commonwealth Games – 1994 and 1998.

The list of his shooting accomplishments is long and impressive: amongst other things, he has won Her Majesty the Queen's Prize at Bisley three times, been the Individual World Long Range Champion twice and top scored in two Palma Matches.

Antony runs a pet and equine crematorium from his home in Norfolk, and is supported by his wife, Vicki, daughter Rosie and son Tom.



## **TOM RYLANDS SC**

Tom learned to shoot at Shrewsbury School and Birmingham University, since when he has completed 30 consecutive Imperial Meetings at Bisley. In that time, he has collected 14 Queen's Final badges and 13 Grand Aggregate crosses, including the Silver Cross in 2002.

This is his seventh tour with GB and his second to Australia, having toured previously in 1997. He has 33 'Big 5' appearances to date for England and GB, and shot in the 1999 and 2003 Palma Matches. He was also the highest scorer (with 200.26) in last year's Australia Match.

Despite trying to keep his head down, he has found himself in the role of Chairman of the English XX Club, and was Captain of the English team to South Africa in 2009. He now runs a shooting academy (among other things) at Ellesmere College and works for HPS TR Ltd. In what little spare time he has, he is studying for a Masters and enjoys fine wine, food and game shooting!



## **PAUL SYKES**

Paul started shooting with his father, having spent many a year at Bisley 'on holiday' as a child. In his early years, he captained the Perse School and the University of London. In 2004 he was Adjutant for the Great Britain Under 25 tour to South Africa. He first gained international honours as part of the England National Match team that same year.

This is his third GB tour, but first to Australia, having travelled to South Africa in 2008 and Canada in 2010. 2010 was a big year for Paul, who was part of the England team for both the National and the Mackinnon Matches, and the GB team for the Kolapore, Commonwealth, Canada and America Matches. This is his first Palma team.

Individual highlights include two top 50 Grand finishes, five HM Queen's Finals and a win in the 2007 Welsh Open - as an Englishman!

Away from shooting, Paul is a qualified doctor following a career in surgery and is currently undertaking research into pancreatic cancer as part of a higher degree. In his spare time he also enjoys skiing, running, swimming and cycling.

## **NICK TREMLETT GM**

Nick first learned to shoot at Bradfield, being attracted to a sport that involved lying down. An Atheling in 1976, he spent six years at Cambridge, and made the first of his ten GB teams to date in 1983. This is his fifth tour to Australia, but only his second with a target rifle team (his first being in 1994). The other three times (1997, 2004 and 2010), he was part of the GB match rifle team, a discipline at which he excels, having won the Hopton five times and being the current captain of the English VIII.

He has also had some success with a target rifle. He has 39 'Big 5' appearances for England and Great Britain so far, including two Palma matches, and won Her Majesty the Queen's Prize in 2009.

Nick works in a large veterinary practice, which, by pure chance, is only a short distance from Bisley. This, and his demonstrated success in long range ballistics with a match rifle, led the team to look to him for advice on the design of the ammo being used throughout the tour.





### JON UNDERWOOD GM GC2 SM2

Jon learned to shoot at age 11 at Aldro School before picking up fullbore under John Crathorne and Peter Hicks at RGS Guildford, where he followed David Armstrong and preceded the two Matts, the team's coaches.

This is his eleventh GB tour, but only his second to Australia, having first toured in 1994. An unflappable team shot, he has made 43 'Big 5' appearances for England and Great Britain to date, a large number of them as last man down. He also represented England at the most recent Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010.

Jon has also had some individual success; he won the Grand Aggregate at Bisley in 2005, and then again in 2009, and in 2006 he won Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, becoming the first person to win the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals in the same year.

Jon looks after his family's business interests in Surrey, which include a tool-and-plant hire business. He also coaches shooting at the Royal Grammar School, and has been instrumental in the running of inter-university shooting since his days as captain of London University.

### CHRIS WATSON

Chris learned his fullbore shooting at Uppingham School. This is his third GB tour and his first to Australia, having visited South Africa in 2008 and New Zealand in 2010. He has represented Wales in both the National and the Mackinnon Match for each of the past 11 years. He also shot for GB in the Australia Match in 2010 and in the Kolapore earlier this year.

A lover of team shooting, he acknowledges that his wind reading skills are not as good as his shooting skills but feels he is slowly getting better. Recent individual wins at Bisley such as the Prince of Wales's Prize in 2006, the NRA Bronze Medal (Queens 1) earlier this year and five consecutive Queen's final appearances in between, bear testament to this.

A well-known figure on Bisley Camp as one of the team that has rejuvenated the Surrey Rifle Association clubhouse, he also enjoys shotgun shooting, photography, golf, fine wines and good real ales. He does admit that all these interests have had to take a bit of a back seat now that he has a second child.



### ED JEENS • Reserve •

Ed is the team's travelling reserve. He began shooting fullbore at Marlborough College in 2000 where one of the other members of the team, Jon Cload, was shooting coach. Eventually prioritising TR over music, Ed shot his first full Imperial Meeting at Bisley in 2003, as well as touring to Ireland with Wales that year for the National Match. He has gone on to shoot a further eight National Matches and eight Mackinnon matches for Wales. He has also accumulated an impressive list of tours over the same time period, progressing via the GB U19s, the GB U25s (for whom he shot at Belmont in 2005) and Wales, to the GB senior team to South Africa in 2008 and to New Zealand in 2010. Earlier this year, he gained further representative honours for GB in the Kolapore at Bisley.

With two elder shooting brothers (one of whom is a HM Queen's Prize winner), sibling rivalry has been a great catalyst in Ed's shooting development, and major competition placings are described in relative rather than absolute terms. He looks forward to another opportunity to compete against Richard overseas.

Ed is extremely proud to be getting married next year to his fiancée, herself no mean shot and coach of Epsom College, where many GB internationals first learned to shoot. Outside of shooting, Ed works at UKTV (yes, the people responsible for "Dave"), so if you see him watching Australian TV, he may well try and claim he is doing 'research'!



**ERICA McMULLAN • Team Physiotherapist •**

Erica started shooting at the tender age of 14 at Belfast Royal Academy, and has gone on to shoot for Ulster, Ireland and Great Britain. Her touring career started with the Athelings and GB U25s to Canada and she was captain of the successful GB U25 team to South Africa. She subsequently toured with senior GB teams to Canada and USA in 2004, and Australia in 2005. This will be her first tour without a rifle, but with a physio table instead!

After qualifying as a Chartered Physiotherapist in 2002, Erica migrated to join the London Irish, but has now returned to the Emerald Isle and is working in private practice in Dublin, where she specialises in treating musculoskeletal conditions.

Erica is happy to admit to having the occasional 'blonde moments' but hopes not too many of these will make the tour diary! She is delighted to be returning to the ranges at Brisbane, but hopes there will be less need for welly boots this time!



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# AN EARLY TOUR TO AUSTRALIA

Nearly three quarters of a century ago, a 14 man Great Britain Rifle Team visited Australia thirty years after the first Empire Match was shot there. The Australian leg of the tour was the central one of an extended voyage that took in first South Africa, then Australia for the Empire Games and finally New Zealand.

Touring was a markedly different proposition in those days. As Lord Cottesloe wrote at the time with great foresight, “journeys between the Mother Country and the distant parts of the Empire will by degrees become more rapid, and it may well be that in a perhaps rather distant future the undertaking of sending rifle teams overseas will become less formidable than it now is.” The first Great Britain tour to visit Australia, under the captaincy of Commander Swanston, “was absent from home for six months and circumnavigated the globe.” Key dates were:

16 October – 4 November 1937	Sail from Liverpool to Cape Town
12 November	Match at Pretoria
13 November	Match at Johannesburg
17 November	Match at Durban
18 November	Match at Chase Valley
20 November	Match at Bloemfontein
22 November	Test Match at Bloemfontein
25 November	Match at East London
27 November	Prize Meeting, Grahamstown
2 December	Match at Cape Town
5 – 22 December	Sail from Cape Town to Fremantle
24 December	Match at Perth
30 December	Match at Port Adelaide
7 January 1938	Match at Melbourne
12 January	Match at Hobart
23 January	Match at Brisbane
29 January	Match at Newcastle
7 February	NSWRA Prize Meeting, Sydney
14 – 15 February	Empire Trophy Match, Sydney
17 – 21 February	Sail from Sydney to Wellington
24 February	Test Match at Wellington
1 March – 5 April	Sail from Wellington to Southampton

## SOUTH AFRICA

The Great Britain team travelled to Cape Town on TSS ‘Ulysses’, the first of several voyages with no seasickness experienced by any team member. In private letters home to new bride Patricia, the late Lt Col REW “Johnny” Johnson OBE TD wrote of deck games, fancy dress, scavenger hunts, reels and swimming and confided “I and my partner (an elderly married lady) got knocked out of the Deck Quoits doubles. Another dance this evening - there are always too many girls... As a perfect little gentleman I get practically

no rest the whole evening.” Clearly “what goes on tour stays on tour” was not adhered to in those days.

On arrival in South Africa, the team enjoyed some sightseeing (including a gold mine tour), wine tasting, the Lord Mayor’s Ball and a long train journey through the Karoo, before beating Witwatersrand (narrowly), Pretoria United Services, Eastern Transvaal and Western Transvaal at Quaggapoort Range, Pretoria. The very next day they lost by two points to a Transvaal team at Booysens Range, Johannesburg, with the local wind coaches helping overturn a 17 point lunchtime deficit at the longer ranges. They watched a war dance, travelled by rail to Durban, dropping “1,100 feet in about fifteen minutes” and then lost to Natal in poor light at the Athlone Range, Durban, and again on countback the next day at the Natal Carbineers’ Range at Chase Valley.

After travelling to Bloemfontein, the Great Britain team beat the Orange Free State at the South African National Range at Hamilton by 1564 to 1538 in tricky wind with “a good mirage which could be well read up to 12 minutes(!), but with such quick variations that equally quick shooting was required to cope with them”, falling only one point short of the South African score against Rhodesia alongside. The team then took to the range for the Test Match without the (hospital) bed-ridden “Johnny”, who was diagnosed with enteric, for the first international match ever held on South African soil. The British scored least well at each of the short ranges (200, 500 and 600 yards), with loose screws (Hoddle) and a half closed aperture (Fulton!) contributing to a deficit of 19 points to South Africa and 30 points to Southern Rhodesia. Better performances at the longer ranges saw the gap to the latter narrow somewhat, but the South Africans shot strongly to win by 1601 points to Southern Rhodesia’s 1587 and Great Britain’s 1571.

The South African leg of the tour concluded with a five point defeat (hampered by a cross-shot) by Eastern Province at East London, a prize meeting at Grahamstown and a two point win over Western Province at Woltemade Range, with a ‘Country’ team also shooting in that match.

## AUSTRALIA

After travelling on the delayed SS ‘Ascanius’ from Cape Town to Durban for coaling, the British team continued on 8<sup>th</sup> December towards Fremantle in the good company of the South African athletics and bowls teams, and were met there two weeks later by Victoria Rifle Association Chairman, Sir Charles Merrett, who had travelled 2600 miles to act as a facilitator all the way until Melbourne.

Christmas Eve saw a 14-man match between Western Australia and the entire British team at the Swanbourne Range, Perth, with the visitors finding the 24 inch aiming mark at 500 yards uncomfortably large and finishing 24 points adrift.



On Christmas Day, the team enjoyed a car drive to Canning's Weir and aeroplane flights in a six-seater Dragon Rapide before being made honorary members of the Weld Club and departing by train for Adelaide at 9pm – a journey that was punctuated by stops at places like Kalgoorlie and Port Pirie, where local rifle club members would greet the team at the stations.

Johnny struggled with some of the local customs: "Apparently dinner in this country runs from 6.00 or 6.30 to about 7.30 - a most queer business. The pubs in West Australia close at 9.00pm but they open at 9.00am and are open all day. Here in Adelaide they apparently close at 6.00pm having been open for 12 hours on end."

The holidays meant no practice on arrival in Adelaide, so the team went to the races and were entertained by Senator and Mrs Duncan Hughes, visiting the Spring Vale Wine Cellars, the Naval and Military Club and the Adelaide Club before finally shooting against South Australia at Port Adelaide on 30<sup>th</sup> December. In largely easy wind, Great Britain ran out winners by 2622 to 2579 before travelling to Mildura for the New Year's weekend.

As well as various receptions, the team enjoyed a day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with the Victoria Rifle Association, watching Don Bradman batting until he was caught in the slips off Gregory, making 35 for South Australia against Victoria.

The most useful part of this leg of the tour was the defeat on 7<sup>th</sup> January by 32 and 6 points respectively to the Victoria Metropolitan and Victoria Country teams – useful because of the team's observation and later adoption of the anti-fouling practices of the locals. Col Bodley would later attribute the South Africans' weak performance at the last range of each day of the Empire Match to a failure to follow the same policy.

Another match for all 14 firers followed against Tasmania at the Sandy Bay Range on 12<sup>th</sup> January. The British team found that few of the rifles would take a .303" gauge after use and resolved to use anti-nickel preparations in future firings, after losing to Tasmania by 1932 to 1947.

A 700 mile charabanc (coach) trip from Melbourne to Sydney via Canberra followed, with most of the views hidden in mist or rain while the luggage was soaked. The team then shot against Queensland 'A' and 'B', successfully employing some of the dozen reserve rifles lent to them by BSA but finishing between the two local teams in a match at 300, 600, 700 and 900 yards. Queensland's second string won, before showing the visitors to various beach resorts the following day. There was a scare when a few team members were caught, while swimming, by the "fearful current and undertow. It was quite an exciting five minutes. Two very strong swimmers went out with lines attached to their backs and just hauled them in. Garnett, Fulton and Seward and two strange young women were all rescued."

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, the team travelled from Brisbane to Newcastle accompanied by the New Zealand team, which

had now arrived in Australia for the Empire Games, under Captain WN Masefield. Both teams were shown around the BHP steelworks and given a reception by the Mayor in the Town Hall, where "the Mayor was quite the worst speaker I have ever heard and that is saying a good deal after all the speeches we've had in this country. There was a dinner at 7.00pm at which there were 19 speeches and 'for he's a jolly good fellow' was sung six times. This constitutes a record for this team as we've never had more than 10 speeches before and we all hope we shall never have so many again" (Johnny's words, not Swanston's!). There followed a match for teams of ten, firing 2 sighters and 10 to count at 500 and 600 yards against New South Wales, Hunter River District and Macleay District. Great Britain won the match with 940 points and New Zealand were fourth on 902.

Both teams proceeded to the ANZAC range at Liverpool, near Sydney, to shoot in the 72<sup>nd</sup> New South Wales meeting in celebration of Australia's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In a meeting with 1600 competitors, the British individual highlight was LE Hoddle's victory in the first stage of the King's Prize.

The match for the Empire Trophy (given by Australia in 1907) was shot over two days on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February, the first day at 300, 500 and 600 yards and the second at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. The whole team shot SMLEs, although Hoddle chose a P14 at the short ranges and Garnett did so at 300 and 500 yards – each team was restricted to the use of its Government issued rifles of the time, of which the GB team took 63 on tour!

In light winds from 9:30 to 10 o'clock, on a cool day with "good grey light", Great Britain dropped 29 points (out of 400) at 300 yards, to stand last of the four competing countries, six points behind Australia in first. A better 500 yards left Britain still trailing, one behind New Zealand and 11 behind Australia; but a range-leading 378 (despite a 43) at 600 yards brought the British team up into second place on 1126, 2 behind Australia but five ahead of South Africa and seven in front of New Zealand. Greig and Hoddle were joint top scorers on the range, along with Baxter of South Africa, on 146.

In similar conditions on day two, Great Britain again led the others on 389 to move into a five point lead over Australia after 800 yards. The following range saw, with the exception of South Africa, some very close scoring with New Zealand and Great Britain making 376 to Australia's 375, leaving the Aussies six and Kiwis 13 points behind the British team with only 1000 yards to come.

"Only" 1000 yards indeed! Seward and Widdrington both missed with their sighters, but the latter recovered so well that he scored 50. Benefiting from several months of team shooting together, Great Britain dramatically outshot the other countries at the longest range, scoring 369 to Australia's 352, New Zealand's 348 and South Africa's 343 to make them the only team to score more highly over the long ranges than the short. Britain's advantage lay not so much in the highest scores on each team, which were broadly

similar, but in the smaller spread of scores, with only ten points separating the best and worst performers (half the equivalent gap within the third and fourth placed teams) and only three points separating the top six firers.

Final scores:

Team	300	500	600	800	900	1000	Total
1 Great Britain	371	377	378	389	376	369	2260
2 Australia	377	382	369	382	375	352	2237
3 New Zealand	376	373	372	381	376	348	2226
4 South Africa	374	382	363	388	358	343	2208

Johnny was, as usual, the last of the team to fire and had on purpose gone down to shoot without knowing the state of the score. "I'd had enough of knowing when the match depended on my last shot in South Africa. On I went again by myself and when I still had two shots to fire I heard some muttering behind and said to Jimmy 'from what I hear behind I don't think I need to fire these two'. His reply was 'shut up and go on - don't take any notice' at which we both laughed". Johnny finished at 1000 yards with four bulls in a row; the team would still have won had he missed with all four shots. Thus the Empire Match was won with a record score.

The keen observer of team shooting in recent years will have noted that the 2007 Palma and subsequent Great Britain teams have adopted the practice of having firers get down on either side of the coach, such that each is ready the moment the previous firer has finished, with the coach remaining in position and coaching half the firers (unless left-handers) from what had previously been thought of as the "wrong" side. This practice has trickled down to some of the county and most of the National teams, and stemmed from an innovation implemented successfully by the County of London team a few years earlier... or at least London had believed it was original thinking! Swanston's account of the 1938 Empire Match suggests that he was over 60 years ahead of his time: "In order to keep within the time limits and to facilitate coaching, the person next to fire took up his position on the other side of his coach from that occupied by the firer some four or five shots before his predecessor had finished. There was, therefore, no break in the continuity of firing – No. 2 starting immediately No. 1 had finished, and so on throughout." While the coaches were not in the habit of winding the sights for the firers in those days and Swanston concedes of the wind readers that "we did not collaborate as a general rule", it nonetheless goes to prove the veracity of Marie Antoinette's words that there is nothing new except that which has been forgotten.

## NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand was the final leg of the tour, reached aboard SS 'Awatea' alongside the New Zealand and South African teams. The Governor-General of New Zealand – Lord Galway – was returning in the ship from the Sydney celebrations and the three teams had the honour of being presented to him on board, before being welcomed at

Parliament House (alongside the returning New Zealand athletes from the Empire Games) by Ministers acting on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Great Britain and South Africa both shot at the Wairapa Rifle Association meeting at Trentham, before shooting in a test match – Great Britain's first in New Zealand. Conditions were difficult – a strong rear fishtail prevailing producing variations from 1 to 9 right - but it was the British elevations that failed to match earlier standards, particularly at 300 yards. With teams of ten firing 2 convertible sighters (what do you mean you thought convertibility was an eighties innovation?) and 10 shots to count at 300, 600, 800 and 900 yards, Great Britain scored 1801 to South Africa's 1831 and New Zealand's 1803.

The team then disbanded, with most leaving for home on SS 'Akaroa' on March 1<sup>st</sup>, via the Panama Canal, and the remainder by independent arrangement across America. Commander Swanston concluded his report of the tour by stating that "it is desired to emphasize above all, the belief that it is important to send British teams to the Dominions at more frequent intervals than has been the case in the past." I think we can safely say that greater touring frequency has latterly been achieved!

Great Britain's top scorer in that match, Chris Hall, was one of the inspirations for this article. As President of the Oxford and Cambridge Rifle Association he was a strong supporter of student shooting and, during the planning of the Oxford & Cambridge tour to Canada in 1994, he had great tales to tell of the long, seagoing tours of his youth. This team had been away for nearly six months by the time the 'Akaroa' docked at Southampton on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

*A final note on one of the other main changes between that tour and those of modern times: the current team expects its three week tour to cost in the region of £100,000 (c A\$160,000) in total. In 1937-38, the six month tour (funded by £100 5s. 11d. from the Overseas Teams fund, of which £24 10s. 4d. was returned, and £2791 6s.3d. in donations from third parties) spent:*

*£1,748 5s. on steamship fares;*

*£897 10s. 11d. on travel and hotels (no hotel costs at all in South Africa!);*

*£142 2s. on clothing;*

*£65. 13s. 5d. on rifle equipment, spoons etc; and*

*£13 10s. 6d. on sundries, for a grand total of:*

*£2,867 1s. 10d, or just over £200 (gross) a head for half a year's touring!*

*Note: allowing for inflation, that amounts to about £10,000 a head. A lot, but not too bad for half a year's touring!*

Many thanks to Ted Molyneux and Tony de Launay for their assistance with content for this article, and to "Johnny's" daughter for allowing Tony access to the letters from her father to her mother.

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# HISTORY OF SHOOTING IN AUSTRALIA

Australia's first marksmen were convicts and marines who landed at Sydney Cove with the First Fleet in 1788. The Commandant of Norfolk Island ordered his free male settlers (all six of them) to practise musketry on Saturdays. During the famine year of 1790, Governor Phillip selected the best marksmen from both the marine guards and the convicts and organised them into hunting parties. Weapons were strictly controlled in the colony but he appointed convict John McIntyre as the official hunter for the settlement and McIntyre and others were granted a licence to carry firearms – originally the 'Brown Bess' Rifle Short Land Pattern Musket which had a 42" barrel and a range of 100 to 200 yards. The marksmen kept the colony supplied with fresh meat from kangaroos and emus until a relief ship arrived. Thus began a long tradition of partnership between military and civilian rifle shooting in Australia.

Exhibition shooting contests were conducted by free German settlers in South Australia as early as 1840. Organised club shooting began in 1842 with the formation of the Sydney Rifle Club in New South Wales. In 1854, at the time of the Crimean War, colonists grew apprehensive that British regular troops would be withdrawn from Australia. Later that year, authorisation was given for the establishment of volunteer corps in some colonies. Informal rifle clubs also formed around this time.

By early 1860, most suburbs and towns in Australia supported a volunteer unit, usually a rifle corps. Documents in the Australian War Memorial archives dated 17 October 1863 include an informal group photograph taken during a rifle shooting competition between men of the Hobart Town Volunteers Artillery and the First Rifles. The men are all holding pattern 1853 .577 inch Enfield rifles. Volunteer forces were eventually replaced by Militia as British regiments were withdrawn.

State and Territory Rifle Associations were formed around this time:

- the New South Wales RA's (1860) first prize meeting was held at Randwick Racecourse in September 1861 between military competitors; civilians first competed in 1866 at Paddington. The first Queen's Prize was won by Sgt Sherring in 1879 and the first chairing of the winner took place in 1907;
- the Victorian RA (1860) conducted its first prize meeting for the NRA Silver Medal in the same year; its first Queen's was won by Gunner GA Hanby in 1881;
- the South Australian RA's (1861) first Queen's was won by Pte C Milne in 1879;
- the Queensland RA was originally formed in 1861, then reformed in 1877. Its first Queen's was held on the Brisbane Rifle Range, Victoria Park in August 1878 – the oldest Queen's Prize meeting in Australia, won by Sergeant T Ferguson;

- the North Queensland RA was founded in Townsville in 1887 after the Colony of Queensland was divided into two military districts in 1885;
- the Tasmanian RA (1887) hosted the Intercolonial Matches on the Sandy Bay Range shortly after its founding. Its first King's Prize was won by WH Cutler in 1924;
- the NRA of Western Australia was formed in 1890 and in 1901 the West Australian RA was formed in the Goldfields before the two came under one constitution in 1906 and eventually merged. WA's first King's Prize was won by W Minett in 1902;
- the Northern Territory RA was formally admitted to the National Rifle Association of Australia in 1987, but Darwin Rifle Club has a history dating back to 1900 and in 1980 hosted the first Northern Territory Queen's, won by Phil Thompson;
- the Australian Capital Territory Full Bore Target Rifle was recognised as a State Association in 2000 and ran the first Canberra Queen's in 2004, won by James Corbett. Prior to that, the Canberra Rifle Club (1914) had hosted the National Queen's Prize Meeting from 1972 to 2003.

The first Intercolonial Teams Match was fired on the Sandridge Range in Melbourne on 3 November 1862 and was won by New South Wales (who shipwrecked on the way home) from Victoria. In 1887 the inaugural Intercolonial Rifle Meeting was held in South Australia during the South Australian Exhibition. During this competition, military representatives from the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia attended a meeting to begin formation of a central body to promote both intercolonial and international matches. The meeting reconvened on 15 February 1888 in Sydney between officers representing New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania and, after several days, resolved to form the Federal Council of Rifle Associations of Australasia (from 1901 the Commonwealth Council of Rifle Associations of Australia). The New Zealand Rifle Association accepted an invitation to join the Council, withdrawing some years later. After World War II, the Council evolved into the National Rifle Association of Australia (NRAA) and the first national Queen's Prize Meeting was conducted in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory in 1972. Robert Richards-Mousley won at the McIntosh Rifle Range where it continued until moving to the Belmont Range, Queensland, in June 2004.

In the early years, iron targets were replaced with paper targets and the original Martini-Henry rifle was replaced with the MLE Rifle (Magazine Lee-Enfield). Targetry continued to evolve and scoring rings were reduced in size as ammunition and scores improved. The introduction of the sliding wind arm for the sight contributed to higher scores although it was highly contentious at the time. Financial assistance from Army funds and free ammunition, which had been made available to the

States for prize meetings, was gradually withdrawn from 1959 and formal connections between the rifle shooting Associations and the Department of Defence began to diminish.

Various models of the .303" calibre SMLE Rifle (Short Magazine Lee-Enfield) were in service for many years and the No 4 was widely popular. When the Army introduced the 7.62mm SLR (Self Loading Rifle) in 1959 to replace the .303" rifle, the No 4 was modified until a new rifle could be approved. Omark of South Australia produced a solid action single shot rifle which was permitted by the Council and the Angel action was produced in New South Wales. Black Mountain barrels were made at the Lithgow Small Arms Factory in New South Wales and stainless steel barrels were produced by Maddco in Queensland and by Tobler in New South Wales.

The first Australian rifle team to compete overseas ranked fourth in the Centennial International Long Range Match, in 1876 at Creedmoor, USA. The event subsequently became known as the Palma Trophy Teams Match, which Australia has won twice – in 1979 at Trentham, New Zealand, and in 1988 at Malabar in Sydney, Australia. Australia were a strong third in the last Palma Match in 2007 at Connaught Ranges in Canada.

A team of united Australian Riflemen competed in the Rajah of Kolapore's Imperial Challenge Cup on the Wimbledon Range, England, in 1886, coming fourth. The first Australian

to win a Queen's badge at Bisley was A Carter in 1897. The first Australian team to compete at the Bisley Range in 1902 won the Kolapore and two members also won King's badges. Lieutenant Walter Addison was the first Australian to win the coveted King's Prize at Bisley in 1907, defeating 1470 of the best shots in the world.

The Empire Match was inaugurated by the Council in 1907 and was first won by Australia against teams from New Zealand and Great Britain at Randwick Range in New South Wales. The top scorer for Australia was A Cutler, the father of a future Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler. The Empire Match was renamed the Australia Match in honour of the Australian Bicentenary Full Bore Rifle Championships in 1988. It remains one of the world's premier matches.

Shooting was first included in the modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens; however, it did not feature in the Commonwealth Games until 1966 in Jamaica. In 2006 in Melbourne, the Australian Commonwealth Games Shooting Team ranked third in all sports with 23 medals won, (9 Gold, 8 Silver, 6 Bronze). Brigadier Bruce Scott won a Gold medal for Australia in the Individual Full Bore Rifle Match and a Silver medal in the Pairs Match along with team-mate James Corbett, who also won individual Bronze and followed it with the Silver in Delhi in 2010.

*With thanks to Major Meredith Nestor (Australian Army & Queensland University RC)*

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# TRAINING FOR MODERN FULLBORE

## The State of the Art

In the modern era of fullbore shooting, massive improvements in the consistency and quality of rifle barrels and ammunition have resulted in tighter groups, higher scores and more stringent targets; however, it seems unlikely that this will continue to be the case, given modern manufacturing techniques and the attention to detail that the best gunsmiths bring to bear. How then, can shooters continue to improve standards in the sport? We must look at ourselves and the ways that we develop as marksmen. Shooters need to stop merely practising their sport and start training for it.

Practising is characterised as the constant repetition of existing technique, often flawed, involving a great deal of live firing based around the practice and competition dates available. All change is driven by a series of unplanned catastrophes when a key piece of equipment fails, or the shooter is driven to despair by poor performance.

By contrast, training involves creating a schedule of highly varied exercises designed to identify and address flaws in technique planned around achieving a defined goal. Improvement is driven by the shooter's commitment to improving their capabilities.

## Developing and Following a Goal-Based Training Programme

Probably the most critical element of this approach is for shooters to understand what they want to achieve and whether they are prepared to put in the level of effort required to achieve that goal. It is not realistic to set as one's goal, for example, shooting in all of the 'Big 5' matches, and not expect to complete some form of training on a weekly basis. Understanding the degree of effort required and making a commitment to meet your goal is one of the most important elements in building the motivation to work through a training programme.

To develop a training programme aimed at achieving his goal, a shooter must assess where the gaps lie in his existing level of performance in comparison to the standard required to meet the goal that has been set. From these gaps, positive actions must be identified that will help to address those flaws and improve the shooter's overall level of competence.

**David Calvert**  
(GM, SC, QM)



**Winner of H.M. the  
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**Table 1 – Different areas of competence, and techniques for improving them**

Technical Skill	Physical Aptitude	Mental Readiness	Equipment
• SCATT	• Cardiovascular exercise	• Goal setting	• Regular rifle checks (by a skilled armourer)
• Live firing	• Gym training	• Training planning	• Benchresting
• Wind coaching other shooters	• Warmup / warmdown	• Visualisation	• Replacing worn kit
	• Yoga	• Scenario training	

The list of activities above, although not exhaustive, covers a wide range of competences, all of which are important in rifle shooting. The critical point to note is that practice (live firing) is only one of these activities, but many shooters spend more than 95% of their time on that activity.

**Table 2 – A sample training schedule**

Activity	Intensity	Frequency	Description
SCATT	20 shots	Twice weekly	Normal SCATT practice at home in the evenings or mornings
Visualisation	10 mins	Daily	Visualise the sequence for a perfect shots as if in the Palma Match
Live Firing	50 shots	Fortnightly	Normal live firing practice at Bisley individually or with the Palma Team
Warmup / Warmdown	5 mins	All practices	Warm up before all SCATT or practice sessions and warm down afterwards
Jogging	30 mins	Twice weekly	Light jogging to improve cardiovascular fitness

Once a rough schedule of training has been identified, it will be important to track general performance and the level of improvement seen, so that the mix of different training techniques can be adjusted accordingly. Many top-level shooters in other disciplines keep a training diary to help with this adjustment process.

### **Commitment is the Key**

The very act of understanding your goal and the investment of time needed to achieve it is itself an important motivator; however there are other practices which can help you to stick to your plan:

- 1 Write down your goal and hang it up somewhere you will see it every day;
- 2 Tell friends about your goal and the training you'll do to achieve it; and
- 3 Tell friends about the training that you've completed and how it has improved your performance.

By keeping your goal firmly in mind, you will be constantly reminded of the work that you will need to put in to achieve it. Furthermore, by telling people whose good opinion you value about your goals and training you have put your reputation and self esteem at risk! Such emotional investment in your goal and training programme has an enormous power to motivate.

It is easy to make excuses not to train; however it is not impossible to find time. Indeed, one of the strengths of training over practising is that a great deal of training can be done away from the range; SCATT can be done at home, or visualisation on the train to work. Training is also a lot cheaper than lying on your belly and throwing pound coins into the long grass.

### **Conclusion**

Shooters who wish to improve their performance should train rather than practise. A varied, goal-based training programme will help any shooter but, without the commitment to stick to a training schedule, performance gains will be elusive. Hopefully, this article has prompted some thoughts on how you can improve your performance on the range.



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# HISTORY OF THE PALMA MATCH

The Palma Match, or World Championship of Long Range Rifle Shooting, is the most prestigious team event in our sport. With individuals trialling and teams training for years in order to compete, it is small wonder that a Palma badge from a competitive nation, let alone a medal, is a highly sought after item. Shooters have competed to earn this honour since September 1876, when the Great Centennial Rifle Match was held on Creedmoor rifle range in New York State, more recently the site of a major psychiatric hospital.

That first Palma Match was contested by Australia, Canada, Ireland, Scotland and the United States of America on a 36 inch bullseye, with the home nation beating Ireland into second by 22 points. With no sighting shots and with firers both prone and supine, it had much in common with the Elcho Match; but the .44 cal, 520gr projectiles were rather larger than we're used to! Since then, there have been a further 27 Palma Matches, which have been contested by shooters from 30 different countries, including some not normally associated these days with rifle shooting, such as Peru and Cuba (runners-up in 1928). The USA dominated the early years, winning seven out of the first eight matches held from 1876 until 1928, with Canada taking the top slot in 1901. 1877 saw the first appearance by Great Britain, who had not taken up the previous year's invitation quickly enough. They lost to the USA, before a 24 year gap ensued as the 1878 invitation was unanswered.

By 1901 at Sea Girt, the match had progressed from black powder to bolt action rifles with .30 cal and .303 jacketed bullets. Canada won and took the match outside the USA for the first time, to Rockville the following year. There, Great Britain's win allowed them to hold the match at Bisley for the first time in 1903 which, though 'won' by the USA, was declared void rather than claimed by them or runners-up Great Britain after a deviation from service rifle specification. 1913 brought the first match at Camp Perry, where Argentina took second place with 7.65 Mausers, but the Great War interrupted the series until 1924 (an 'unofficial' match along with 1923's uncontested match and 1925), when Connaught Ranges first played host. A 20" V bull was introduced in the 1920s but, soon after, there was a 38 year gap between matches. The Great Depression and Second World War are likely to have been factors; but the hiatus also coincided with the disappearance of the original Palma Trophy - a 7½ foot tall Tiffany creation with a copper spread eagle and silver laurel wreath atop a panel, mounted on an ornate steel shaft, bearing the word "PALMA", which had been outside the office of the Secretary of War in the 1930s. It had been presented "in the name of the United States of America to the riflemen of the world", for which reason an official Palma Match must feature the USA among the competing nations.

Before the reinstatement of the match series proper, a 'preliminary' match was held at Camp Perry in 1966 between Canada and the USA, with the hosts taking the honours and Canada turning the tables at Connaught the following year with GB also in attendance. The modern era of Palma had begun, comprising yearly matches until 1974, with the home team winning all but once - no doubt aided by the use of host country issued rifles and ammunition. The last of the annual matches was the first held south of the Equator, when South Africa triumphed at Bloemfontein, much as they did 25 years later.

From the Bicentennial Match (1976) onwards, the Palma moved to a three year and then a four year cycle, encompassing a wider range of venues including New Zealand and Australia, where we return in 2011 to complete a full rotation through all the hosting countries - the last match in Australia was for its own 200th anniversary in 1988 at the Malabar Range in Sydney, which lacked a 900m distance so 800m was fired twice. Since 1985, the team size has been standardised at 16, while 1995 heralded the two day course of fire. The 1992 iteration saw the introduction of the World Individual Long Range Rifle Championship; yet that was the year that Great Britain made use of revolutionary practices on the team front that yielded a first victory since 1970.

While that provided a foundation for three further GB wins in the past four matches, team shooting has since developed strongly across the globe such that this year's Palma Match, contested by Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA, promises to be a fiercely competitive affair. All of those countries are former winners except New Zealand, who had the remarkable record of having finished in third place four times in succession - each time behind a different one of the others and GB - until they missed the 2003 match. The Palma Match record of 14200 will not be broken this year because of the change to ICFRA targets and a maximum score of 7200 but, if conditions permit, the teams will all be striving to break "200 off".

*To date, the Palma Match has 'officially' been hosted by:*

*USA 11 times, Canada 8 times, GB 4 times, South Africa and New Zealand twice and Australia once.*

*Cumulative standings in terms of wins (including the 'preliminary' match but excluding the match declared void and the four 'unofficial' matches - two of them with only the USA shooting) are:*

*USA 13 (in 28 attempts), GB 6 (in 18), Canada 4 (in 27), South Africa 2 (in 7), Australia 2 (in 14).*

*Other countries, continents and provinces to have competed are:*

*Argentina, Channel Islands, Cuba, East & Central Africa, Europe (CPC), France, Germany/West Germany, Ireland, Jersey, Kenya, Namibia, Natal, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Scotland, Sweden, Zimbabwe/Rhodesia.*

# BELMONT CLUBS

## Brisbane Rifle Club

Brisbane Rifle Club was formed in 1935 with a presence at the Enoggera Barracks (HQ this year of Operation Queensland Flood Assist); however with the closure of its home range in 1964 it was forced to move to Belmont. The club has 43 members on its books, including a lot of F Class shooters. Shooters span a wide range of experience, with some of the more prominent ones being Geoff Grosskreutz (Australian Palma Team), Mirko Teglassi (Canadian Palma Team) and Jenni Hausler (Gold Medal winner in the Oceania Games in Brisbane). The club is one of the few at Belmont to hold annual prize meetings and is proud of involving the families of shooters in club activities.



## Mariners Rifle Club

The Mariners' Rifle Club was originally formed as the Royal Australian Naval Reserve Rifle Club, but was obliged to change its name in 1973 when the Chief of the Navy withdrew permission to use the name. The current membership includes members from both the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army. With approximately 40 members, the club has a sister relationship with Onslow RC in Trentham, New Zealand. One of its most successful members is Cathy Smith, who shoots for New Zealand despite now being an Australian resident.

## Pacific Rifle Club

The Pacific Rifle Club was founded on 20 March 2004 and opened its clubhouse and facilities on 22 May 2010. Membership started at 10 but has since grown to 44, including some notable names in the shooting world: Gillian Webb-Enslin (holder of the record for highest individual score in the Palma Match), Darren Enslin (the 1999 World Long Range Champion), Bill Baker (Australian 2011 Palma Team) and Helen Griffiths (Australian 2011 Veterans Rifle Team). Notable for other reasons is member John Schafferius, who struck a seagull in flight with his first to count at 1000 yards while leading the New South Wales Queen's by two points! The Pacific Rifle Club will be hosting New Zealand during the 2011 World Long Range Championships.



## Natives Rifle Club

The history of the Natives Rifle Club can be traced back to the Australian Natives Association, a patriotic mutual society founded in Melbourne 1871 and open only to men born in Australia. It provided sickness, medical and funeral cover but was also politically active until it helped achieve Australian federation. As well as Australian Unity, a large number of social and sporting organisations were formed from it, with the Australian Natives Rifle Club being founded in 1901. The club established its current facilities on Belmont Range in 1994, which have been developed over the years into their current state. The Natives Rifle Club is one of the few at Belmont to hold an annual prize meeting and will be hosting Great Britain during the 2011 World Long Range Championships, for which we Brits are very grateful!

### University of Queensland Rifle Club

The UQRC was established after the end of WWII, when the University Sports Union bought four ex-Army .303s for students to practise marksmanship, and was wholly supported by the University through the 1950s and early 60s. The 60s were the great period of inter-universities competition with postal matches such as the Commonwealth Match, and other matches confined to Australia and New Zealand. The highlight of the year was the Inter Varsity competition between ten man teams from the major Australian universities, hosted by rotation between the states. From this, an Australian Universities team was always selected to compete against the metropolitan team of the host city – always keenly contested and often won by the students. Gradually, University support and subsidy declined and Inter Varsity competition reduced to four man teams with only two or three entrants until it eventually ceased in the early 1980s because of costs. Until then, membership had been restricted to undergraduate or postgraduate students, but the club became ‘open’ once University support ceased. Its fortunes have waxed and waned but members are fiercely proud of their heritage and sometimes, in the dark of the evening, older members can be heard muttering into their beers about the good old days of Inter Varsity and free ammunition...



### City of Brisbane Rifle Club

The City of Brisbane Rifle Club (colloquially known as “Cities” and most definitely not to be confused with Brisbane Rifle Club) was founded in 1907 when two pre-existing clubs combined: Queensland Scottish Rifle Association and Dath Henderson. Originally based in Toowong, the club moved to Enoggera and subsequently to Belmont in the 1960s. The clubhouse itself was bought by the club from the Queensland Rifle Association in the mid-1990s, having previously been the headquarters of the No 1 Metropolitan District Rifle Club. The club currently has 20 members.

### Gold Coast Rifle Club

The Gold Coast Rifle Club was formed in 1895. Because of population expansion on the Gold Coast, all the rifle ranges there have closed, with the last shot fired at the picture perfect Numminbah Valley in 2006, whereupon the Gold Coast RC relocated to Belmont. Since then, members have pitched in to build their own clubhouse. They maintain that they remain a “country” club despite the location! It is the only club this writer knows of to have a bikini wearer in its logo.



### Albert District Rifle Club

The Ormeau Pimpama Rifle Club formed in the early 1900s and first shot at Rifle Range Road in Pimpama. On 28 February 1981 the club moved to its present home at Belmont, simultaneously changing its name to Albert District Rifle Club. The original range site remains vacant today.

### Metropolitan District Rifle Association (not pictured)

The Metropolitan District Rifle Association is the body that runs the Brisbane clubs. Their hut serves as an unofficial Brisbane home to the WARA's Western Australian Wanderers.



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# WHO AM I?

Here are some little known facts about some of the members of the GB Team touring party. See if you can guess to whom each of these refers?

- 1 I was 'electrocuted' as an infant but now have a qualification as an electrician.
- 2 I have played in a rugby 7s tournament for a team that failed to score a single point (but never lost by more than 10). This was a remarkably tiring and unsatisfactory day out.
- 3 I have played Ultimate Frisbee for the Delft University first team.
- 4 I found fame as a prize winning Father Christmas and have the press photo - and prize - to prove it.
- 5 I've hit a hole in one at Betchworth Park Golf Club, and batted against Curtly Ambrose (the West Indian fast bowler) in a club cricket match where I bowled him out in the same number of balls that I faced from him (three).
- 6 When I was 9, I appeared on Blue Peter (a BBC children's programme) playing the accordion.
- 7 I was a guest interviewed alongside Paul McCartney on a Saturday morning TV show on BBC1 in 1984. I was demonstrating early touch screens on the BBC Micro Computer - ahead of anything Steve Jobs came up with!
- 8 At the age of 12, I had a successful business providing bundles of kindling wood to four shops in my local area; the money raised enabled me to take part in several skiing trips organised by my school.
- 9 Both my father and mother are related to Samuel Pepys - I am my mother's 10th cousin!
- 10 I was once asked to cover up by an officer of the law at the time of a swimming incident on the second tier of a Trafalgar Square fountain.
- 11 My aunt Rose had a love affair with a two-time American President.
- 12 When working abroad, I drank and ate so much that in six months I increased my body weight by 3½ stone (22kg - over 40%).
- 13 I got lost on an island in the South Atlantic with Rory Underwood's (English rugby's most capped winger) future wife.
- 14 I have climbed Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous United States at 14,494 feet.
- 15 I'm missing most of my right kidney and my grandad got an MBE for inventing the jet engine in WWII with Frank Whittle.
- 16 I crossed into Argentina during the Falklands War, and managed to get back out without being discovered.
- 17 I represented my country at cadet level in two sports in addition to shooting.
- 18 I have swum through underground lakes and crawled for hours through 3ft high muddy phreatic tubes to eat Chicken Biryani underneath Chepstow Racecourse when trapped by the tide.
- 19 I once saved someone's life while surfing in Byron Bay, not far from Brisbane.
- 20 At the age of 21, I was chosen ahead of 70 other hopefuls to be employed as a nude model for a life size sculpture in bronze of "Adam". This was erected in the foyer of the London Head Office of a major UK Drinks Company.

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA!

*(as recounted to us by Aussies)*

In 1838 it was declared illegal to swim at public beaches during the day! This law was enforced until 1902.

The secret ballot was introduced in Victoria and South Australia in 1856 and known as 'kangaroo voting'.

In April 1933, 68 per cent of West Australians voted in favour of seceding from the Commonwealth of Australia.

While at Oxford, future Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke set a world record for downing a yard of ale.

Sir John Robertson, five times premier of New South Wales, drank a pint of rum every morning for 35 years and said: 'none of the men who have left footprints in this country have been cold water men.'

Prime Minister Harold Holt went for a swim at Cheviot Beach, near Portsea on 17th December 1967, and was never seen again. The event has been referred to as 'the swim that needed no towel'.

Until 1984, Australia's National Anthem was "God save the Queen/King."

The world's first society of cartoonists was formed in Sydney in 1924.

A census taken in 1828 found that half the population of NSW were Convicts, and that former Convicts made up nearly half of the free population. By 2007, only 22 per cent of living Australians had a convict ancestor.

Crimes punishable by transportation included recommending that politicians get paid, starting a union, stealing fish from a river or pond, embezzlement, receiving or buying stolen goods, petty theft, being suspected of supporting Irish terrorism, or "setting fire to underwood" (quite right too, says Jon!).

The most Inland Taipan venom recorded for one bite was 110mg, enough to kill over 100 people or 250,000 mice.

A 10kg Tasmanian Devil is able to exert the same biting pressure as a 40kg dog. It can also eat almost a third of its body weight in a single feeding.

Over 90% of Australia is dry, flat and arid. Almost three-quarters of the land cannot support agriculture in any form.

Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.

A monotreme is an animal that lays eggs and suckles its young. The world's only monotremes are the platypus and the echidna.

When a specimen of the platypus was first sent to England, it was believed the Australians had played a joke by sewing the bill of a duck onto a rat.

50,000 years ago, the 'Graciles', ancestors of Australian Aborigines, arrived in Australia. Arriving 20,000 years after the 'Robusts', they were at the time the most technologically advanced people in the world.

During the Gold Rush of the 1850s, Australia received massive waves of migration from China, America, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

Four out of ten Australians are migrants or the first-generation children of migrants.

When Alan Jones scored a surprise victory in the 1977 Austrian Grand Prix, officials didn't have a recording of the Australian anthem so instead a local drunk played "Happy Birthday to You" on a trumpet.

Don Bradman averaged 99.94 during his career. The next highest average in the entire history of the game is just under 61.

Rod Laver is the only male tennis player to win the Grand Slam and he did it twice.

The 'dingo fence' in Australia is the longest fence in the world and is about twice as long as the Great Wall of China.

The name Australia comes from the Latin Terra Australis Incognita which means the Unknown Southern Land.

Drongo - Australians may refer to fools, idiots and hopeless cases as Drongos, after a 1920s racehorse that showed promise but never won in 37 starts.

With well under 1 percent of the world's population, Australia has more than 20 percent of its poker machines.

15% of Australia's GDP is derived from mining, from only 0.02% of the land mass. More land is occupied by pubs.

The world's longest mail run in a single day is the flying postman's route. From Cairns to Cape York the postie covers 1450km over nine hours with ten stops.

The average Australian swallows three spiders a year.

After Athens, the next most Greek populated city in the world is Melbourne.

The largest working cattle ranch in the world, Anna Creek Cattle Station in South Australia, is bigger than Belgium.

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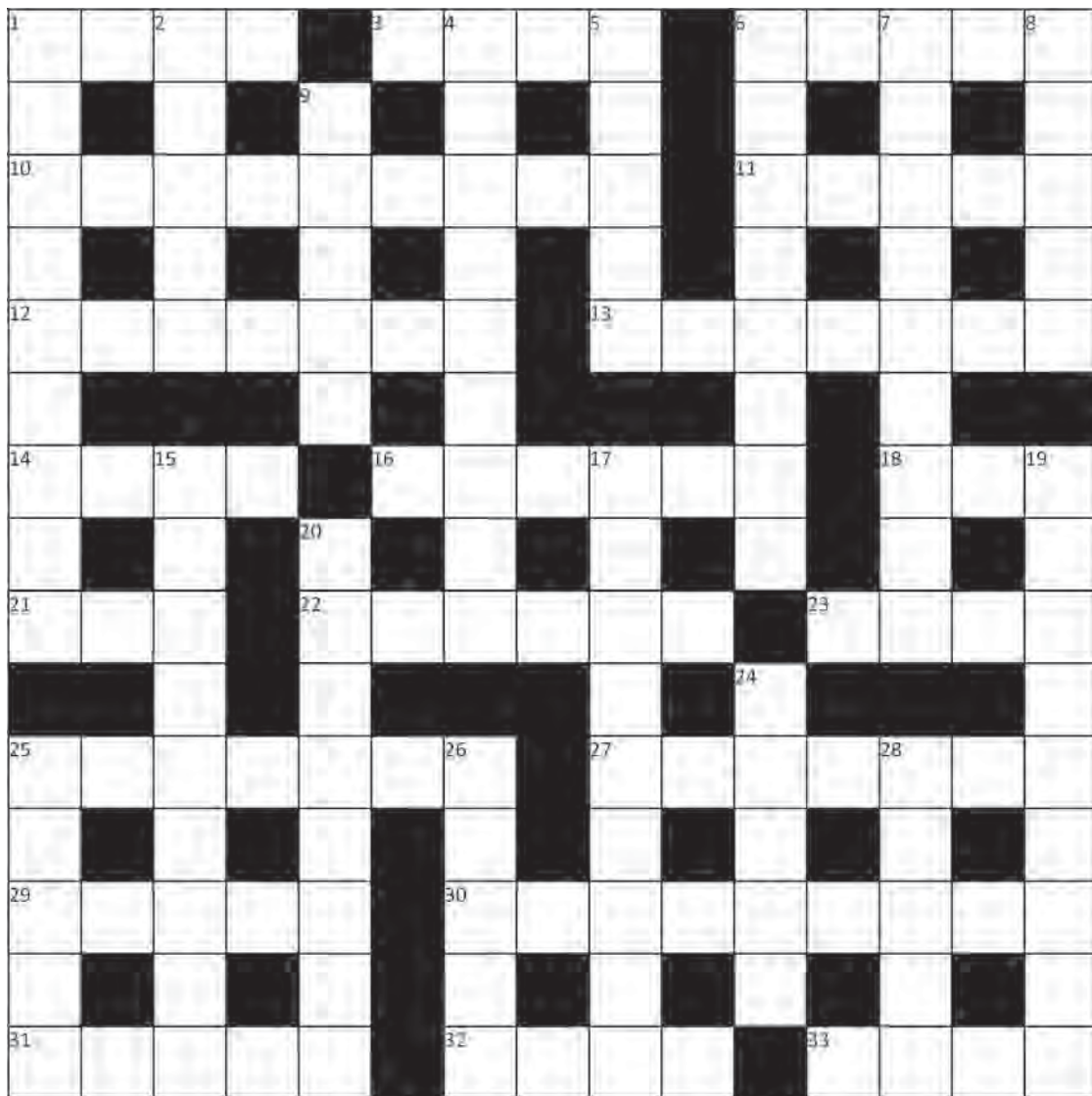


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James Dallas	

And, last but not least, our partners and families without whose support and patience we would not be able to shoot at all.



### Across

- 1,6. One of the groups of 13. (4,5)
3. 18 perfect with help, the last to the fore (4)
6. See 1.
10. No pens nor cast, one without rights. (9)
11. Merge energy in a breaker. (5)
12. Sixteen of them needed for 29. (7)
13. Strap around my French 29 venue. (7)
14. Deserve near about. (4)
16. To dine with a friend back inside, a grand meal that sounds like a row. (4-2)
18. A lout has bread but no pounds. (3)
21. 3 present. (3)
22. Cause of betrayal, off with its head. (6)
23. Top Russian winners of 29 in '99 in Target Rifle. (4)
25. Stocky and established. (4,3)
27. The originals in 13. (7)
29. Friend and mother, sought by 12s. (5)
30. Use a shoot around the brewery. (9)
31. Medieval official, American Kent 12. (5)
32. Not chaste or hard but... (4)
33. Dust around the fastener. (4)

### Down

1. Teams of illegal 12s perhaps. (9)
2. Slang language? (5)
4. Where we find 1,6,13 and 20. (9)
5. Lit up around the North East star. (5)
6. Sow's clip lost in the buttercups. (8)
7. It's like a storm in the USA lagoon. (9)
8. Stealing of pink pages. (5)
9. Former PM Cottesloe. (5)
15. Imperial sportsman at university? (5,4)
17. The outlook for pages 18, 20 and 21? (9)
19. Penniless deaf tramps lost on the ranch. (9)
20. Working up the six-pack in salt water, in 4. (8)
24. Catty, not British, but irritated. (5)
25. A car part, a ford with power. (5)
26. Left up over East, a figure of speech. (5)
28. Brag of a leap North, not left. (5)



# True to the sport.

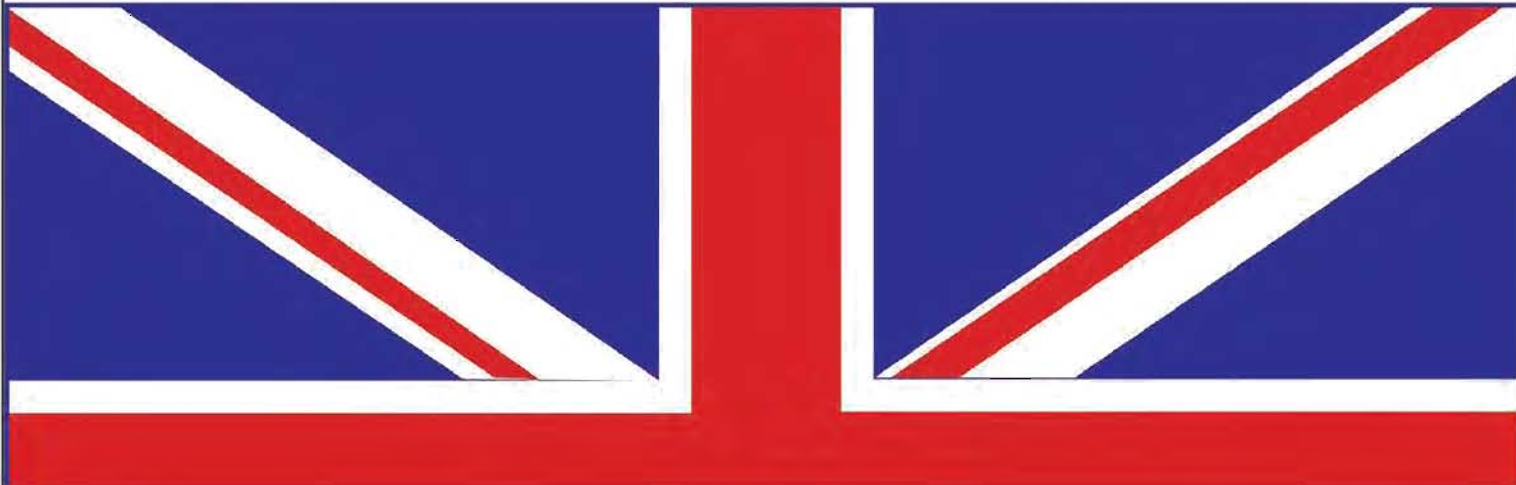
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