



**Great Britain Rifle Team
South Africa Tour 2017**





Great Britain Rifle Team

Captain:	Nick Tremlett	(Berkshire, England, GB)
Vice-captain:	Jeremy Langley	(Devon, England, GB)
Adjutant:	Derek Lowe	(Surrey, England, GB)

Coaches and Shooters

Nigel Ball	(Norfolk, England, GB)
Glyn Barnett	(Norfolk, England, GB)
Tom Drysdale	(Durham, England, GB)
Matthew Ensor	(Surrey, England, GB)
Richard Jeens	(London, Wales, GB)
Paul Lanigan	(Kent, Ireland)
James Lewis	(Norfolk, England, GB)
David Luckman	(Somerset, England, GB)
Matt Millar	(Surrey, England, GB)
Jane Messer	(Sussex, England, GB)
Parag Patel	(Surrey, England, GB)
Toby Raincock	(Surrey, England, GB)
Kelvin Ramsey	(Surrey, England, GB)
Bill Richards	(Surrey, England, GB)
Tom Rylands	(Cheshire, England, GB)
Jon Underwood	(Surrey, England, GB)
James Watson	(Northants Leicestershire & Rutland, England, GB)

Reserves

Alastair Haley	(Gloucestershire, Wales, GB)
Reg Roberts	(Sussex, England, GB)
David Rose	(Northants Leicestershire & Rutland, England, GB)

Tour Itinerary & Programme

Friday 17th March Depart UK for Johannesburg (Virgin Atlantic Flight)
 Saturday 18th March Travel to Bloemfontein
 Sunday 19th March Acclimatise

Monday 20th March Team practice
 Tuesday 21st March Team practice
 Wednesday 22nd March Free State Championships
 Thursday 23rd March 3rd Southern International Challenge Matches

Friday 24th – Saturday 1st April 81st South African Open Championships

Friday 24th March 7am Opening Ceremony
 am Hamilton Cup (300 & 600m 2+10, 2+11 shots)
 pm Rhodes Cup (800 & 900m 2+10 shots x2)

Saturday 25th March am Dewar Shield (800 & 900m 2+10 shots x2)
 pm Free State Cup (300 & 600m 2+10, 2+11 shots)

Sunday 26th March AUSTRALIA MATCH PRACTICE (am 300 & 600m, pm 800 & 900m)
 Monday 27th March **Australia Match (300,600,800 & 900m 2+10 shots x4)**
Teams of 10 Firers, 2 Coaches, 2 Reserves, Main Coach, Adjutant and Captain

Tuesday 28th March am Dalrymple Cup (300 & 600m 2+10, 2+11 shots)
 am Kings Norton Cup (600m 2+10 shots)
 pm Dave Smith Cup (900m 2+10 shots)

Wednesday 29th March am Jack Mitchley (300m 2+10 shots)
 am President Cup (800m & 900m 2+10 shots x2)
 pm **RSA International Match (800 & 900m 2+15 shots x2)**
Teams of 12 Firers and 6 coaches / officials

Thursday 30th March am State President's 1st Stage (300 500 & 600m 2+7 shots x3)
 pm Col R Bodley (900m 2+10 shots)
 pm TIE SHOOTS

Friday 31st March am State President's 2nd Stage (300 500 & 600m 2+10 shots x3)
 Saturday 1st April am **Protea Match (300 600 & 900m 2+10 shots x3)**
Teams of 12 Firers and 6 coaches / officials
 pm State President's 3rd Stage (800 & 900m 2+15 shots x2)

Sunday 2nd April Drive to Johannesburg and depart South Africa
 Monday 3rd April Arrive in UK



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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

It gives me very great pleasure to wish Nick Tremlett and the Great Britain Rifle Team the very best of success on their tour to South Africa. Rifle tours to the Southern Hemisphere always present a special challenge; being out of season makes preparation more demanding, not to mention the quality of the competition and the vicissitudes of the conditions to be faced. However challenging they prove to be, the scenery, camaraderie and warm welcome always ensure that the trip is memorable.

However, Nick and his team face the added challenge of an Australia Match, one of the great historic international rifle matches. First held 110 years ago, this year's version brings together those nations that occupied the first four places in the most recent Long Range Team World Championship – the 2015 Palma Match. The last time these four nations shot in an Australia Match was 2011 in Brisbane. They produced one of the closest and most exciting matches in living memory with the lead changing hand several times. I know, as I was the GB Team captain that day; and so does Nick, as he had to baby-sit me behind the firing line while it was taking place!

What makes the Australia Match so special? Well, just as a good championship golf course should test every club in the bag, the Australia Match course of fire tests both short and long range marksmanship skills in addition to wind coaching and target coordination technique - all in a single day. And a team of 10 firers, firing only 10 shots at each distance, cannot afford many mistakes as there is only a limited amount of time to recover any lost ground. This tends to make these matches close: 5 of the 7 matches shot so far this century have been won by 7 points or less. Nick and his team should expect something similar this time around.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank SABU, and their Chairman, Bernard de Beer, for hosting the SA Championships, especially one that includes an Australia Match. Many NRA members regularly travel to Bloemfontein in March/April each year, either as part of a team or as an individual competitor. They are always assured of a warm welcome and great competition, which is why they return year after year.

Very best wishes to all competitors at this year's SA Championships from the NRA of the UK. And the very best of luck and success to Nick and the GB Rifle Team in your endeavours.

John GM Webster, Chairman



A Message from The South African Bisley Union (SABU)



It is an honour as Chairman of the South African Bisley Union to extend my best wishes to the Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa, and to welcome your entry to the SA Open Championship for 2017.

By competing in the prestigious Fullbore Team events during the Championships, the “Australia Match” and the “Protea Match” in particular, we are all looking forward to a highly motivated engagement between our nations again. Although the competition is intense, we always cherish the camaraderie and long-standing friendship between our teams.

To Nick Tremlett and your team, WELCOME and I trust your Tour will be a most memorable shooting experience in South Africa.

Bernand De Beer

Chairman, SABU

A Word from our Captain



The last time South Africa hosted the Australia Match was 1999, when I had the great privilege of being a coach for the GB team. So there is a certain symmetry in now having the immense honour of leading the GB team to South Africa in 2017 on the occasion of the Australia Match's return.

Competing at the de Wet range outside Bloemfontein is one of the great challenges in the sport of Target Rifle shooting. The combination of altitude, the range being at 4,500ft, an unpredictable climate, a frequently fiendish breeze, and indomitable host team make it one of the most exacting places to shoot in the world. However I am very fortunate to have such a superlative team perfectly capable of meeting the challenge.

I am also supported by two very able team officers in Jeremy Langley as Vice Captain and Derek Lowe as Adjutant. Both Jeremy and Derek were part of the GB team in 1999, as were 6 other members of my team. There can be few sports in which half of the GB team are still able to compete at the highest level nearly 20 years on.

Apart from the unique test of the Australia Match in South Africa, there is the no small matter of the RSA International and Protea Matches a few days later, which GB last won in 2008. In order to perform at the highest level in these competitions, training is paramount. This is not easy as the tour takes place before the Bisley season starts, when most GB shooters have yet to emerge from hibernation. Spending time on the range in a British winter is rarely an uplifting experience and so we are introducing various novel alternatives to aid our preparations, and have been lucky to secure help from an experienced physiotherapist, Jackie Davies. Having toured with GB before Jackie is well used to ensuring we stay fit and judging by her introduction of Tai Chi to our regime also has concerns for our spiritual wellbeing!

Any GB touring team also faces several logistic challenges, not least of which is financial. Being almost entirely self-funded the team relies heavily on fund raising and I would like to thank our many sponsors for their invaluable help. In addition I am very grateful to the National Rifle Association for its support of the team. Being selected to represent your country is a great honour accorded to few and I know the members of the 2017 team are determined to represent GB with distinction in South Africa.

Nick Tremlett
Captain – Great Britain Rifle Team, South Africa 2017

Nick Tremlett (Team Captain)

Long in the shooting tooth is a fair description of Nick, who has been shooting at international level since 1976. Although he has been a member of 15 touring teams this will be his first as captain.

He has occasionally won the odd trophy, surprising no one more than himself, both in Target Rifle and Match Rifle. The prize which has eluded him thus far is the Protea Match. Nick is looking forward to the opportunity to resolve that in 2017 and feels he has the best possible team to do so, although the main focus will be on the Australia Match.



Jeremy Langley (Vice-captain)

Jeremy (a third generation shooter from Devon) and his family have long been associated with South African shooting, as his grandfather Captained the 1953 GB Team to South Africa and his father was Adjutant for the 1963 Team. Jeremy is himself a seasoned international shot and coach having toured for Great Britain on 17 previous occasions (including four tours to South Africa).

As Vice-captain and Main Coach for this tour he does not expect there to be much time for sightseeing this time around but is really looking forward to renewing old friendships. In his spare time when not shooting or coaching, he and his wife Judy can be found chasing after their two young sons Benjamin & Harry.

Derek Lowe (Adjutant)

Derek began his shooting in the cadet force at RGS Guildford, moving on to the Athelings in 1991, Oxford University over 1991 – 1994 and the Surrey county team since the late 1990s. He has picked up a taste for touring and had been fortunate enough to represent England or Great Britain in various guises in Australia, Canada, Jersey, Kenya, Namibia, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Keenest at long range and in a team environment, he also spends a lot of time in match rifle and doing an increasing amount of wind coaching.

Aside from coaching and shooting (usually in that order), Derek is an independent corporate consultant in the areas of finance and governance, following more than twenty years of City banking. He is an experienced charity trustee and, in order to ensure he finds no rest, is both this team's Adjutant and the NRA's Treasurer.





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Nigel Ball

Nigel has been around the shooting scene for several years now and came into target rifle shooting via his time in the Royal Navy when he was an active Service Rifle shooter. He is a holder of The Queen's Medal in this discipline. He now uses his experience to train the next generation of marksmen and women as Shooting Master at Wellington College in Berkshire. His first GB target rifle team was to Canada in 1991 and other tours include visits to The Channel Islands, Zimbabwe, South Africa, USA, Australia, The West Indies and New Zealand.

He was Vice-captain to the very successful GB Palma Team to Camp Perry in 2015 and achieved second place in the Individual World Championship but he always looks forward to the challenge of the next tour should he be selected. Nigel has a selection of Grand Aggregate crosses, George's Final badges and Queen's Final badges but enjoys shooting big team matches most.

Glyn Barnett

Glyn started shooting at Bisley in 1985, was an Atheling in 1989 and achieved his first touring GB Cap in 1990. Since then he has a number of achievements at Bisley, has 3 Palma Gold medals & 4 Commonwealth Games medals, including Gold in 2006 with Parag. His only other overseas team tour this century was with England to South Africa in 2013 and is looking forward to a return visit and experiencing the vast skies that the De Wet range boasts.

In the real world Glyn is an Emergency Medicine Consultant not a million miles from Bisley and has a family of girls to keep him up to speed on most things young. Feeling as if he might be approaching the distal end of the team age spectrum, he endeavours to keep reasonably fit...whilst his knees still let him run.



Tom Drysdale

Tom started shooting with the Air Training Corps at the tender age of 13, initially very unsuccessfully but with persistence and training he improved enough to gain a place on the 2006 Athelings team for his first overseas tour. Since 2006, Tom has toured a further seven times to countries such as Australia, South Africa (twice), USA (twice) and the Channel Islands (twice) where he has represented GB Under 19, GB Under 25, GB and England. Tom's notable successes to date include finishing in the Top 50 of the Grand Aggregate at Bisley and South Africa and winning the Gurkha Appeal with his first ever 75.15.

Tom is hoping to build on the success of 2015 where he shot in his first Palma match as well as completing 4 of the 'Big 5' with only the Australia match to go! Tom currently works as a Financial Analyst in London where he is studying towards his CIMA qualification. In his spare time he enjoys watching and playing football, running, activities with the Air Training Corps and most of all....sleeping.

Matthew Ensor

Matthew started shooting in 1992 at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. He was last in South Africa with England in 2009, where he claimed his first individual wins shortly after a certain Nick Tremlett watched him score another low-right 3 and proceeded to 'fix' him within the space of one shoot at the Nottingham Road range in Kwazulu-Natal.

Matthew much prefers wind coaching in team matches, most recently touring to the USA in 2015 where he was awarded the inaugural Arthur Clarke Memorial Medal for highest target score as part of the winning GB team in the World Championships. Away from shooting Matthew will be getting married to the lovely Sarah later in 2017. At work, he is Chief Executive of Anglia Ruskin University's Students' Union - an education charity based in Cambridge, Chelmsford and Peterborough.



Richard Jeens

Richard has had the privilege of shooting with and against a number of teams and individuals in the UK and abroad and has been fortunate to have some success in winning HM Queen's Prize in 2014 and taking individual victory in the World Individual Long Range Championships in 2011. Team success remains Richard's greatest pleasure in rifle shooting as he has progressed via Cambridge and the County of London to full international honours for Wales, with over a dozen appearances in each of the National and Mackinnon matches. Wales' first win in the National Match in 2016 being a particular highlight. Richard has represented GB on a number of occasions, including as a member of the winning 2007 and 2011 Palma teams. He is therefore particularly looking forward to taking on the South Africans on their home range - especially with the added challenge the visiting Australian team will no doubt bring. Away from the range, Richard works as a solicitor in London.

Paul Lanigan

Paul (Pablo) started shooting at Tonbridge School in 2005. Whilst he has since represented UKCRT, Athelings, GB Under 19, GB Under 25, Kent and Ireland, he is honoured to have achieved this first senior GB cap on such a strong team. He is fortunate enough to have toured South Africa three times already and is looking forward to heading back again for the shooting, food...and hopefully great weather this year! 2015 was Paul's best season yet, finishing 3rd in the Imperial Grand Aggregate and 11th in H.M. Queen's Prize.

His personal highlight was captaining the GB Under 25 team to win gold at the World Championships in Camp Perry. Off the range, Paul has just changed careers from consulting to wealth management and is looking forward to the new challenges it will bring.



The Big Five (in Target Rifle Shooting Terms)

TR shooters often refer to having “the big five”. These relate to five matches that GB shooters can win caps for. The list of people who, since 1860 have represented their Home country (England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales) in the National Match and the Mackinnon and also represented Great Britain in the Kolapore, the Australia (Empire) and the Palma Trophy Matches.



As of August 2016, there were 99 people who had qualified (79 English, 13 Scottish, 4 Irish and 3 Welsh). In this year’s GB Team to South Africa the following have earned their big five badges: Nick Tremlett, Jeremy Langley, Nigel Ball, Glyn Barnett, Matthew Ensor, David Luckman, Jane Messer, Parag Patel, Bill Richards, Tom Rylands, Jon Underwood and James Watson.

Our team statistician informs us that the team (including reserves) has amassed a total 760 Big Five match appearances between us. Full details of the match results can be found at <http://records.nra.org.uk>



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Epsom College would like to wish the Great Britain Rifle Team the best of luck in South Africa, and in particular OEs Dave Rose, Kelvin Ramsey, Matt Millar, Parag Patel and Toby Raincock.



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James Lewis

This will be Jumbo's third GB tour to South Africa and his eleventh trip to Bloemfontein since his first in 1993. Shooting in the Southern Hemisphere is somehow different and the General de Wet range and its surroundings magical. Like most of us, if we keep shooting for long enough, individual shooting success surprises both the shooter, friends, and team captains to different degrees, so an individual gold medal at 900 yards at the 2011 World Championships was almost as satisfying as winning the Queen's Prize in 2007. But of course that's rubbish!

"The combined successes of this touring team both individually and at team level is humbling and I am excited to be part of it."

Away from the ranges, James owns an investment management and broking business in London and enjoys his family life in Kent.

David Luckman

David is looking forward to his 6th visit to Bloemfontein and to catching up with local friends. It has been 20 years since David's first Australia match tour and he is relishing the opportunity to potentially compete in an 8th Australia match (in which he has achieved 200 on 3 occasions) Back home, David's UK successes include winning three Grand Aggregates, two St George's and two golds at the Glasgow Commonwealth games. In 2015 after a long eight years he finally managed to shed the title of 'the oldest ever World Individual Long Range Rifle Champion'.

David started shooting with Sedgemoor Target Shooting Club and has captained the Somerset county team for the last decade. He is married to Susie and they live in Bristol with five-year-old Thomas and three-year-old Sophie. When he has time, David is a keen sports player and enjoys cycling, tennis, swimming and surfing.



Jane Messer

Jane is one of a select few to have both shot and coached the 'Big Five' matches in which British shooters compete (the National, MacKinnon, Kolapore, Australia and Palma matches). A keen advocate of team shooting, Jane has toured widely, including to Australia, Barbados, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad, the USA and Zimbabwe. Having captained the GB Palma team to record-breaking success in the US in 2015. Jane's introduction to South Africa and the dramatic scenery, wide ranging temperatures and storms on the Bloemfontein ranges came in 1993, when, together with Jeremy, Nigel, Tom Rylands and James Lewis, she competed in the first GB team to visit South Africa for many years. This will be Jane's sixth visit to South Africa. Although team shooting is Jane's favourite, she is also an accomplished individual shot having won a number of important individual competitions, including the Grand Aggregate and St George's Vase at Bisley. Away from the ranges, Jane enjoys walking, skiing and gardening – and is still trying in vain to train her young labrador not to 'help' with the latter!



Matt Millar

Matt started shooting at Epsom College in 2001. What started off as just a bit of fun converting live rounds to empty cases (something Matt is particularly good at) quickly became a major part of his life. Matt was captain of his school winning the Ashburton in 2006, and has travelled across the world on various junior and senior tours, most recently gaining his first senior cap on the GB team to Camp Perry, Ohio for the World Championships. This will be Matt's second senior tour and second time to South Africa (previously going in 2004 for the GBU19 team). He vaguely remembers the range and some basic Afrikaans, but is looking forward to reminding himself of these things and performing for the GB team once again.

When not shooting Matt works in London account managing and the like.



Parag Patel

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 12th tour with the GB team and his 4th to South Africa. Accomplished in both team and individual shooting, Parag has shot in all 'Big 5' matches with over 50 appearances to date (including the last five Palma matches), and has won the Bisley Grand Aggregate twice – in 2001 and 2003. He also represented England at the last three Commonwealth Games winning six medals, including Gold in the Pairs in 2006 and 2014, and Individual Gold in 2010.

When not on the range, Parag is an ear nose and throat surgeon. He and his wife, Urvi, have three young sons, so he has little time left for golf. For the meantime, all his slicing is therefore done with a scalpel.



Toby Raincock

Toby has represented his country on a number of occasions. A product of Epsom College shooting and having been part of a winning Ashburton Team on three occasions, he first visited Canada with the Athelings in 1993, returning there 2 years later with England. Unfortunately, his chosen path of Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham University and Chartered Accountancy clashed for a while with competitive shooting, so it was not until 2002 that he returned to full-time shooting, winning the British Commonwealth Rifle Club meeting on his first competitive outing. He then embarked on a series of successful tours with GB to America, Canada, South Africa and Australia, including three victorious Palma matches. He has also participated in many Mackinnon, National and Kolapore Matches, although, sadly, the big 5 (Australia Match) still eludes. When not on the range, Toby has been known to swing the occasional golf club, although these days, his two young sons seem to occupy more of his non-shooting time. During the week and to earn some money to pay for his shooting tours, Toby is the CEO of Shard Capital Partners, a brokerage and asset management firm, based in the City.





Kelvin Ramsey

Kelvin started shooting at the age of 12 while at Epsom College. He was a member of several Ashburton winning teams, was an Atheling in 1992, and subsequently captained the British Universities Rifle Team. This was followed by 6 years at Cambridge University where he won a Full Blue and studied medicine in his spare time.

Kelvin has been fortunate to be have been selected for a number of international tours, representing England (USA 2008 & South Africa 2013), Great Britain (West Indies 2002, Canada 2011, 2012 & USA 2012) as well as Palma 2011. When not shooting, Kelvin enjoys playing golf and operating on people.

Bill Richards

Given the number of GB tours that Bill has been on has now made double figures, he is probably classed as 'experienced'. This will be his third visit to South Africa, the last time being with an England team in 2009. Over the years, Bill has had successes in both team and individual events, but is probably best known as a coach and in this role he has won four World Championships and has coached in the Kolapore match more than anyone else.

Bill became a Maths teacher following the 2003 Palma match and has been at the same school in Sussex since then and is especially grateful to them for letting him take the last week off the Easter term to be part of this team. When he isn't teaching or shooting, he can usually be found in the kitchen, since he apparently finds cooking relaxing!



Tom Rylands

Tom is no stranger to South Africa, his first tour being way back in 1984. In fact he has fond (?!) memories of tented accommodation in snow, hail and torrential rain on Hamilton Range! More recently he captained the England Team to South Africa in 2009. This will be Tom's tenth Great Britain tour, and he has shot in four Palma Matches and five Australia Matches.

Despite keeping his head down, he has found himself in the role of Chairman of the English XX Club, and manager of the successful Under 25 GB Team in Ohio recently as well as being part of the GB Palma Team. He now runs a shooting academy (among other things) at Ellesmere College and a gunsmithing business. In what little spare time he has, he enjoys fine wine, food and game shooting!



Jon Underwood

Jon's passion for target shooting started at the tender age of 11 at Aldro School on a 20 yard range in a converted greenhouse. Jon continued to enjoy the sport, learn about fullbore shooting and 'Bisley' when he moved on to the Royal Grammar School at Guildford. With the sport becoming more than just a hobby, he continued his shooting career at London University, subsequently making regular appearances for Surrey County. Jon has achieved a number of notable successes over the years including winning the Grand Aggregate in 2005 and 2009, and the Queen's Prize in 2006. This will be his 7th tour to South Africa.

Back home, Jon looks after his family business interests in Surrey (handy for Bisley), including a tool hire business. Jon also now has the added responsibility of looking after Ted – 'The Underdog'!



James Watson

Since James started shooting at Uppingham School, he has toured with England and Great Britain senior teams on fifteen previous occasions, three of those being to South Africa. He has shot in South Africa on seven occasions and is no stranger to Bloemfontein and is looking forward to revisiting. A member of the last three GB winning Palma teams he earned his "Big Five" Matches badge in 2011 as Adjutant of the Australia match and is keen to find a shooting berth this time in the 2017 match. James is also currently captain of the British Commonwealth Rifle Club.

James is a sales director at SAP managing a team selling enterprise business software. At home, James is married to Ellen and his son Edward was recently joined by sister Zoë - shortly after the 2016 Bisley Imperial Meeting.

Jackie Davies

Jackie was delighted to be asked to join the tour to South Africa as Physiotherapist, despite now living and working in Canada. With 30 years in the Physiotherapy world she has seen a lot and dealt with a lot, but is always pleasantly surprised (or should that be confused!) by what the rifle world can throw at her regarding injuries and postures. Even the Army had less surprises!

She has been working with GB Rifle teams since 2004 and has been known to pick up a rifle occasionally, but is better known for her accuracy with thumbs and needles than bullets.



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Good luck to everyone competing in the 2017 tour of South Africa, especially our Old Uppinghamian, James Watson.

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From all of us at Uppingham School.

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Shooting at Bloemfontein

a perspective by Bill Richards

Bloemfontein, like all rifle ranges, is unique, (no surprise there then!). Which means that the wind on it is similarly unique. I don't like to classify ranges as being 'easy' or 'difficult', it is more a question of whether it is 'boring' or 'entertaining' and Bloemfontein definitely falls into the latter category!

To gauge just how much home-field advantage counts, you only have to look at the number of times visiting teams win international matches on any given range; the majority are won by the home team. The Palma Match has been held in Bloemfontein twice, in 1974 and 1999 and on both occasions, South Africa were the winners; in fact they are the only nation who can claim that they have never lost the Palma Match on home soil. Whilst they have lost the Protea Match and others very occasionally, their record at home is formidable. That said, the only previous holding of the Australia Match at Bloemfontein in 1999, Great Britain were the victors.



To put this in perspective, Great Britain last lost a match of any kind at Bisley back in 1996 (The Kolapore to Jersey).

There are two key factors that shape the wind at Bloemfontein; sunshine and altitude.



Sunshine drives variability in the wind conditions. As the ground heats up, 'strange things happen'. Well, not all that strange, but suffice to say that you get significantly greater variation in local wind strength and direction when the sun is shining than when it is cloudy. Given that Bloemfontein is generally (2016 notwithstanding!) a pretty sunny place, this tells you that the wind tends to be quite variable. Since the temperature on the range can vary from near freezing first thing to mid

20's during the day, this pretty much guarantees that a typical day at Bloemfontein starts off fairly benign and becomes progressively more 'interesting' as the day progresses and the sun gets to work.

There is one real oddity about Bloemfontein, (as far as a Bisley-based shooter is concerned),



in that the prevailing wind direction has a tendency to follow the sun. Don't forget that we are in the Southern hemisphere and so the range points South. The prevailing wind tends to start from the left in the morning and as the day progresses, it turns around and comes in from the right in the afternoon. Needless to say, this 'rule' is not 100% accurate, but it happens enough to be noticeable.

Bloemfontein is at an altitude of 4,600 feet, which most definitely affects the elevation you need at the longer ranges, but the thinner air means that it takes less force to push the wind around, i.e. directional changes in particular can happen rather faster than they do at sea level.

So do all these factors mean that Bloemfontein is a more 'difficult' range than most, on an international scale? Possibly. Certainly, as stated previously, South Africa has an enviable home record. That said, there are plenty of flags (every yard line) and the mirage is pretty true, albeit that the strength can frequently make it unusable in the afternoon and it takes a little while to become visible first thing in the morning, but visitors can certainly learn how to read the range. David Calvert has a fabulous individual shooting record at Bloemfontein. It is no coincidence that all the coaches on this year's GB team have been to Bloemfontein at least once before.





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Alastair Haley (Reserve)

Alastair had his first foray into the world of shooting at the age of 8, albeit at a cold and dark outdoor small bore range in the middle of winter. That was quickly abandoned for a decade until he went to the University of Southampton, where he picked up the sport again, going on to captain the university team in '99-'00. It wasn't until after university that he took up full-bore shooting, and has never looked back.

He has competed at County level for 13 years, and has represented Wales in the National match for the last 10 years consecutively. To his and his teammates delight, Alastair was a member of the first Wales team to win the National Match in 2016. Should Alastair be called into the team this will be his 8th overseas tour, his 3rd GB tour and his 3rd visit to Bloemfontein.

Reg Roberts (Reserve)

Reg (60) is a Fellow Chartered Accountant who owns a group of recruitment agencies operating in the South of England. Although an Aussie by birth, he arrived in the UK in February 1983 and the country has suffered ever since! He started his shooting career as a cadet in 1971 with The Kings School, Parramatta. Reg has toured overseas on 10 previous GB teams including 6 to Canada, one to Australia in 2005 as Captain and was a target coach for the GB Palma winning teams in 2007 and 2015. Reg was also captain of the Kolapore team in 2016, achieving a record-setting score and his Big 5 for GB.

His personal worldwide achievements include 19 Queen's final badges, 6 Grand Aggregate crosses and 11 St. George's badges. He is married to Jennifer and has four children, two of whom, Nick and Tim, are already avid fullbore shots. Reg's hobbies include snow skiing, fly fishing, share investing and the development of a ski and golf resort in Kimberley, British Columbia where he spends much of his free (if only) time.



David Rose (Reserve)

David started his shooting at Epsom College in 1994. Over the next five years they won the Ashburton twice, culminating in a dominant season for the College where they won every competition entered. David is a regular tourist and has been seriously bitten by the bug! Trips include – USA, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand & Australia, West Indies and The Channel Islands. Bisley being almost a second home, David can usually be found on the ranges or occasionally sinking a pint of IPA in the Surrey.

Having led his club The Old Epsomians for the last 6 years he is passionate about involvement in the sport at all levels and is keen to ensure that younger shooters are involved and encouraged to progress and improve. Away from shooting David works in London as an Operations Manager for an international recruitment business who are very understanding about his time away touring.



The Australia Match

The History

Great Britain received a cordial invitation in 1906 from the Rifle Association of Australia, to send a Team in 1907 to compete in an "Imperial Match".

On learning of the intended tour, the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association gave a very pressing invitation to arrange for the team to visit Canada en route, and take part in the match for the Palma Trophy in Ottawa.

The seventeen men of the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada and Australia, 1907, were led by Major P.W. Richardson and sailed from Liverpool on 9th August.

Having shot in the Palma match, they sailed onto Sydney, Australia and shot for three days in Queensland. The first Imperial Match was shot over the two following days. Later, it was renamed the Empire Match. In 1988 it was once again renamed to the Australia Match. A

splendid silver trophy was presented for the competition. Mounted on black marble, it weighs more than 100 kilos. (Perhaps one of the reasons it no longer leaves Australia when other nations win the competition).



The current match record score (on current ICFRA targets) was made at Bisley in 2010 by the Great Britain team who scored 1972.207 out of a possible 2000.400. The current individual score record is held by Tom Rylands (200.26 at Bisley in 2010) and Bryan Litz (200.26 at Brisbane in 2011). Interestingly, Tom previously held the record (298.24) posted in the 1999 match shot at Bloemfontein.

The Match Conditions

The Australia Match is shot for by a team of 10 firers. Each shooter fires 2 sighters and 10 shots to count at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards. Currently, ICRFA governs the Match which is held at least every 5 years but no more than every 3.

Previous winners

Great Britain lead the number of wins with 24 wins (from 41 matches), Australia have 17 wins from 51 matches. From the 51 matches, 24 have been won by the "home" team and 27 from an "away" team.

1907 (A) Australia	1960 (GB) Great Britain	1976 (NZ) Australia	1994 (A) Great Britain
1909 (A) Australia	1961 (NZ) New Zealand	1976 (GB) Australia	1995 (NZ) Great Britain
1910 (GB) Great Britain	1962 (A) Australia	1978 (GB) Australia	1996 (GB) Great Britain
1913 (GB) Great Britain	1963 (GB) Canada	1979 (A) Great Britain	1997 (A) Great Britain
1919 (GB) Great Britain	1964 (GB) Canada	1981 (NZ) New Zealand	1999 (SA) Great Britain
1920 (A) Australia	1965 (A) Australia	1982 (GB) Canada	2000 (C) Canada
1924 (GB) Australia	1968 (A) Australia	1984 (A) New Zealand	2001 (A) New Zealand
1928 (GB) Great Britain	1968 (GB) Australia	1985 (GB) Great Britain	2003 (GB) Great Britain
1937 (GB) Australia	1972 (A) Australia	1986 (A) Australia	2005 (A) Australia
1938 (A) Great Britain	1972 (NZ) New Zealand	1987 (C) Great Britain	2010 (GB) Great Britain
1948 (GB) Australia	1974 (A) Great Britain	1988 (A) Great Britain	2011 (A) Great Britain
1956 (GB) Great Britain	1974 (GB) Great Britain	1992 (NZ) Great Britain	2013 (WI) Great Britain
1958 (A) Australia	1975 (A) New Zealand	1992 (C) Great Britain	

The Protea Match

Up to and including 1981 the International Match at the SA Open Championships was known as the RSA International and it was a short range match with one convertible sighter and ten shots to count at each of 300, 500 and 600 yards.

In 1982 the Protea Match (originally known as the Protea Challenge Match) was shot for the 1st time and it included a long range with one non convertible sighter and 10 shots each at 300, 600 yards and 2 non convertible sighters and 10 shots at 900 yards. It was a team of ten shooters, a captain and two coaches.

Today, the Protea Match is a team of twelve shooters, three subcoaches, a main coach, an adjutant, a captain and three reserves. Each shooter fires 2 sighters and 10 to count at each of 300m, 600m and 900m. There is a new trophy for 2017 pictured to the right.



Results when UK (GB, English or Welsh) teams have been present are shown below, the match was shot twice in 1998.

1998 GB Red	2366.215	2002 SA Protea	1168.117	2009 South Africa	1773.186
1998 SA Protea	2563.151	2003 SA Protea	1759.163	2012 South Africa	1722.137
1999 Australia	2336.196	2004 SA Protea	1770.172	2013 South Africa	1769.193
2000 SA Protea	2347.198	2006 SA Protea	1777.200		
2001 SA Protea	1774.190	2008 Great Britain	1765.180		

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*The Great Britain Rifle Team is an international team representing The National Rifle Association (of the UK)
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