

ENGLAND

RIFLE TEAM TO THE USA

2024



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Mick Barr



I am both honoured and delighted to have been asked to write this Foreword for the Brochure of the England Target Rifle Team to compete in America.

To be selected as a member of a National Team in any sport is the ultimate ambition of every sports man and woman, and I have no doubt that this tour will be special to all competitors.

I am also very pleased to note several new/young members who are to gain their first England touring colours.

Although I have competed several times as an individual in Ca. USA, I didn't quite make it this far south to the NRA's Whittington Centre Raton Ranges, New Mexico. However, I am quite certain that the England Team will be well entertained both on and off the ranges, and I dare say a number of "Bald Eagles" will be on that list too... Bob Gamboa, Lonnie Kuhns, Jack Van Ness in particular and I gratefully acknowledge the many exceptional memories I have added to my shooting career list.

As with all overseas touring teams I am confident that this tour especially, will give all participants the pleasurable opportunity to renew old friendships and, of course, forge new ones.

I was delighted that Tom, who is Chairman of the club was selected to Captain this English team. Sadly he will not be able to travel, but may I on behalf of the English Twenty extend very best wishes to the England and home host teams, plus all those taking part on this special occasion.

Mick Barr
President, The English Twenty Club, Bisley

PS: In a recent Foreword I recommended - Try the BRAAI's... This time I recommend the BBQ's but Zin and Rib-eyes are a bit good over there too. My sincere thanks to Mr RJG for the introduction...

Jon Underwood



Tom Rylands was elected by the English Twenty Council to Captain the England team to America 2024, earlier this year. During the early preparations for the tour Tom asked me to be the Vice-Captain, a role which I am honoured to fulfil. Between us we have selected an incredible team of talent, youth, experience and potential. I am constantly surprised at their enthusiasm and commitment. We also asked John Ritchie to be the team Adjutant and Ian Ashworth to be the assistant Adjutant and they have both stepped in to those roles with admirable enthusiasm.

Sadly Tom will no longer be able to travel to America and our thoughts are very much with Tom and his family at this time. Out of respect for all his hard work and commitment to English shooting teams he will remain the Team Captain *in absentia*. I will, with the full support of the English Twenty, step in to lead the team on tour and be the touring Captain.

In Tom's absence the team and the team management that was primarily Tom's choice will venture forth to compete in the "Spirit of America" matches finishing with the prestigious America Match.

We will be competing at the NRA Whittington Centre, Raton, New Mexico in events organised by The Bald Eagles Rifle Club and we sincerely thank them and all their helpers in putting together and hosting this exciting challenge. We very much look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones.

I would like to thank our advertisers and sponsors for their support. Their generous help goes a long way to encourage the future of our sport, as well as this team. Particular thanks to John Ritchie and Ian Ashworth for all their hard work in putting together the logistics of the tour to make it happen.

Jon Underwood
Vice-Captain, England Team to the USA 2024



Rick Hunt



To all Competitors:

I want to bid you welcome to the 2024 Spirit of America and America Match. This fullbore match is being held at the Whittington Center, in beautiful Raton, New Mexico. I look forward to eight full days of some of the most challenging conditions you will see in the United States. I am also in hopes that the weather is cooperative and that we have an excellent match.

I wish you all good luck and am anxious to see you all in September.

Rick Hunt
President & CEO, Bald Eagles Rifle Club



Captain:	Tom Rylands ^{sc}	GB, England, Cheshire
Vice-Captain:	Jon Underwood ^{GM, SM2, GC2, CGM, CSC}	GB, England, Surrey
Adjutant:	John Ritchie*	GB, Gloucestershire
Deputy Vice:	Matthew Button ^{sb}	GB, England, Lincolnshire
Co-Adjutant:	Ian Ashworth*	GB, Gloucestershire
Main Coach:	Reg Roberts	GB, England, Sussex
Team:	Alastair Brown	England, London
	Jon Cload	GB, England, Surrey
	Rob Edwards*	Gloucestershire
	Keisha Farley*	England, Berkshire
	Edward Feast*	Hertfordshire
	Simon Hayton*	GB, London
	Jeremy Hinde*	Norfolk
	Pete Holden	GB, England, Norfolk
	Jason Pepera-Hibbert	GB, England, Lancashire
	David Rose	GB, England, Northants, Leicestershire and Rutland
	Alex Sadler*	Essex
	Charlie Sykes*	Oxfordshire
	Ed Welford	England, Hampshire
	Amy Xu*	England, Cambridgeshire

* new England touring cap

The whole shooting match

Wishing the England Rifle Team a great result as you travel to compete in the Spirit of America 2024 matches at Raton.



Andrew Madden

Partner

t: +44 121 234 0034

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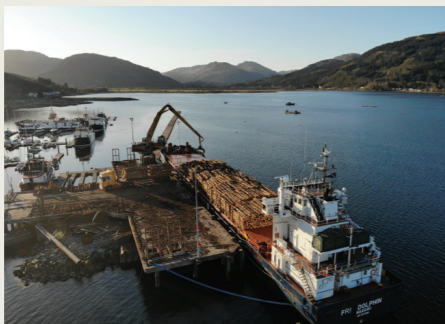
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We wish Old Greshamians Alastair Brown, Jeremy Hinde, Pete Holden and all the Teams, the best of luck!

G R E S H A M S . C O M



The Trophy

The America Match trophy was presented in 2002 on the occasion of the first match. It was made possible by the fund-raising effort of Precision Shooting Magazine. The two figures depicted in the sculpture are the Canadian Jim Thompson, and Alan Warner (standing) of the United States. George Chase, a member of the DCRA from New Brunswick, was commissioned to design and make the trophy.

Match Background

First shot in 2002, the match can only take place when an official US team is present and competing. The intent is to hold the match every two years, with the last one held during the 2022 DCRA National Championships at Connaught, ON, Canada.

In 2002, USA, Canada, Great Britain and Germany competed for the match. On this occasion, Great Britain won the match from Canada with a margin of 48 points with USA a further 9 points behind them. In 2013 the America Match was held in South Africa and in 2019 in the UK, thus joining the Australia and Palma Matches as an exclusive group to be hosted at different locations around the world.

Match Conditions

A team of 8 shooters, two target coaches, a main coach, an adjutant, a captain and two reserves.

Each firer shoots 2 sighters and 15 shots to count at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards (or 300, 600, 800 and 900 metres as appropriate to the venue).

The record score is 2392 with 339 v-bulls by USA in 2014 and the highest individual score is 300 with 46 v-bulls by Des Vamplew (Canada) in 2010.

Year	Host	Winner
2002	Canada	Great Britain
2004	USA	United States of America
2006	Canada	Great Britain
2008	USA	United States of America
2010	Canada	Great Britain
2012	USA	United States of America
2013	South Africa	South Africa
2014	Canada	United States of America
2015	USA	Great Britain
2018	Canada	United States of America
2019	UK	England
2022	Canada	United States of America



The England Team to the USA 2008 contest the America Match at the NRA Whittington Center, Raton, NM



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Congratulations to Old Wellingtonians Ed Welford and Jason Pepera-Hibbert on their selection for the England team, from the next generation of aspiring shooters and everyone at Wellington College.

We wish them and the whole team a most enjoyable and successful tour of the US.

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Keisha Farley

Frederic Remington is most known for his accurate depictions of the Old American West. Through his travels, he recorded Native Americans, scouts, cavalymen and cowboys as ongoing sketches to fuel and inspire his later detailed paintings and sculptures. Most of Remington's work is depicted along the Santa Fe Trail which led the way for pioneers, traders, and adventurers who aimed to conquer the Wild West. Today the Santa Fe Trail runs alongside the Whittington Centre, giving the ranges some of the most remarkable scenery.

Remington's work is a wonderful combination of dynamic movements and remarkable scenery. The striking pose of *The Cowboy* draws the viewer in. As one of his later works, his skills and technique reflect refinement and detail. He is most notably known for 'The Fall of the Cowboy,' a sombre representation of the demise of cowboys in the American West. Remington aimed to immortalise the cowboys he would witness on the trail and the brilliance of their skill. He reminds us to take an interest in the history around us and appreciate the importance of the Santa Fe trail. His work chronicled the history of the Wild West for future generations.



The Lookout, 1887

Remington became the favourite of the Western Army and was often invited to paint portraits and illustrations of Soldiers and their horses. With this exclusive access, he garnered the name 'The Soldiers Artist.' Remington and others like him have played an important part in American history, preserving the stories, culture and identity of the American Soldiers.

Works like 'The Cowboy' and 'Off the Range' in particular, are indicative of life in the Wild West. These paintings offer the opportunity to understand the culture of the area. When visiting Raton, it is important to consider how historical events have influenced its development and prosperity.

The Raton Pass connects the upper Arkansas River drained to Northern New Mexico. It is a famous narrow and twisty trail that paved the way for rail and in turn trade. It became a major choke point for the surrounding economy of Raton. This trail became favoured by traders and is often depicted in Remington's work featuring paintings of wagons and tradesmen on horseback.

Remington was the most successful Western Artist in the 'Golden Age.' His focus was primarily on recording the history of the West. The galloping horse became Remington's signature, showing great skill in his anatomically accurate depiction. Remington was the pioneer for other Western artists. His knowledge and skill earned his feature in the Famous Americans Series postal issues of 1940.



Coming through the Rye (Off the Range), model 1902, cast 1903



Famous American Postal Series, 1940



The Cowboy - Frederic Remington

1902

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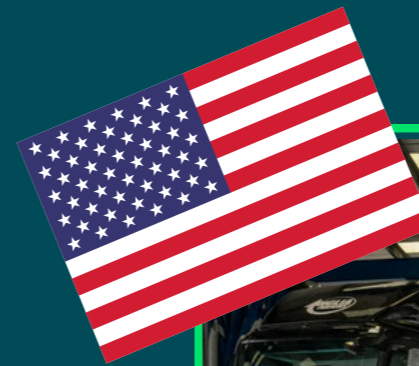
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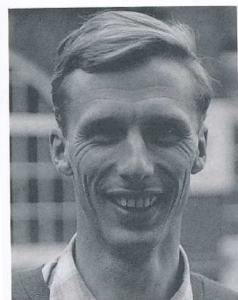


We are wishing *Pete Holden* and the rest of the *England Team* the very best of luck in the USA later this year! Go get 'em!! 🎆 🎆



Sincerely,
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Tom Rylands

This will be Tom's third GB Tour, having been to Canada in 1988 and South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1993, as adjutant; he has also been on NRA teams to the Channel Islands in 1984 and 1987. His individual successes include the Zimbabwe President's and Grand Aggregate in 1993 and the Conan Doyle at Bisley in 1995. Tom has represented his county of Cheshire since 1983, and England in the National, Mackinnon and Elcho Matches, shooting in all three in 1995. He has won six Queen's Badges and three Grand Aggregate Crosses. Tom is the managing director of an animal feed manufacturer in Cheshire, and when not working, shooting or with his family, he enjoys game shooting, fishing and wine. Tom has a reputation for eating large quantities of food, and the Adjutant is looking forward to comparing notes!

Tom Rylands
Tom (43) has represented Great Britain on six tours (twice as Adjutant), including the 1999 Palma Match and two Australia Matches. His successes include the Silver Cross in the Bisley Grand Aggregate last year as well as the New Zealand and Conan Doyle. He has shot for Great Britain in two Kolapores and represented England in the National, Mackinnon and Elcho matches. He currently has ten Queen's badges and nine Grand Aggregate crosses. Tom is managing director of an animal feed manufacturing business in Cheshire and when not working, shooting or with his family, enjoys game shooting, fishing and wine!



Tom Rylands

Tom is surprised to learn that despite his youthful aspirations, he has not missed a Bisley meeting in the last 30 years!

Along the way he has managed to collect a few trophies, and has represented England in the National, Mackinnon and Elcho matches. In 2000 he was lucky enough to shoot in the Millennium Match and in 2002, was 2nd in the Grand Agg. He has toured with Great Britain several times, and shot in two Palma Matches, winning a team Gold (2003) and Silver (1999) as well as three individual Gold medals.

Despite keeping his head down, he finds himself in the role of Chairman of the English XX Club and is honoured to be representing England on tour on what will be his first shooting visit to the USA. He has also been honoured with the England Captaincy for the team to South Africa next April.

Tom shoots an RPA action with a Bartlein barrel.



As one of the more senior (age only!) members of the team, Tom's first Bisley was over 30 years ago and his first GB cap in 1988, along with two other members of this team! With three Palma Matches, several GB Tours and England tours to the USA and South Africa, Tom has a wealth of experience to draw on.

A change of direction has taken Tom into coaching and back into education; he coaches Ellesmere College and has brought them back to Bisley to compete in the Ashburton Shield after a break of some 23 years. He is Chairman of the English Twenty Club and is very much involved in shooting at junior levels both fullbore and smallbore.

This will be his fourth visit to the USA with a rifle and he looks forward to the challenges at Camp Perry!

Tom Rylands



Tom Rylands - Captain

Tom reluctantly has to accept he will be a 'Senior' member (old fogey!) of any team he tours with, however on this occasion he is delighted not to be the oldest even though it appears he started shooting before several members of the team were born!

Tom's first Bisley was in 1978 and he hasn't missed one since – his first visit to Canada was in 1988 on his first GB Tour and he has represented GB in 5 Palma Teams and 6 Australia Matches as well as returning to Canada in 1998, 2017 and 2018, the latter as Commandant of the Athelings. He has toured the USA and South Africa with England teams and is looking forward to leading England in Canada.



After an initial career in the agricultural industry, Tom is now a gunsmith and shooting coach and has been instrumental in encouraging 2 schools to compete in the Bisley Schools meeting after many years' absence – he was particularly proud to see one of those, Ellesmere College, win the Ashburton for the first time in 2015.

Tom Rylands
SC

Captain

Tom was very sadly taken ill shortly after selecting the team for this tour and at the time of publication remains in the care of the health service.

Whilst reflecting on the time, energy, humour, knowledge and kindness that has influenced so many of us over so many years we have reproduced a selection of his biographies from previous tours below. We are all thinking of him and his family at this time.



TEAM MANAGER

Tom is delighted to be returning to Bloemfontein again, this time in a different capacity as GB U25 team manager. Tom was also the U25 manager for the 2015 and 2019 World Championships teams and the 2017 team to South Africa.

Tom's first trip to Bloemfontein with a GB team was as Adjutant in 1993 and he has toured there several times since, including as Captain of England in 2009. In addition to South Africa, Tom has toured Australia (including Tasmania), Canada, USA, West Indies, Kenya and Zimbabwe with either GB or England.

Tom spends a lot of time with schools and cadets and is currently National Shooting Coach for UK Army cadets. He also coaches university students, spends a considerable amount of time building and repairing rifles and many hours loading ammunition.

Jon Underwood

GM, SM2, GC2, CGM, CSC

**Vice Captain /
Touring Captain**



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, learnt about fullbore shooting and 'Bisley' when he moved 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, the Queens Prize in 2006, and most recently the Governor General's Prize in 2019. He has also been a member of many successful teams representing England and Great Britain. Back home, Jon looks after his family business interests in Surrey (handy for Bisley), including a tool hire business and property management and rental business and in 'spare time' has returned to Guildford Grammar School to help with the coaching. Jon also has the responsibility of looking after Ted – 'The Underdog'!



John Ritchie

Adjutant



John is now retired. He was a main board Director of a Group listed on the London Stock Exchange for over 20 years, having previously worked for Price Waterhouse, with whom he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, for 13 years.

He took up shooting as a sport over 40 years ago when he stopped playing rugby. He has been coaching for about 25 years. He has shot in the Queen's final, the St. Georges final and finished in the top 50 of The Grand Aggregate and has coached with the Palma squad. He has shot in Canada, Australia, The Channel Islands and France. He is a regular coach with Gloucestershire.

Away from shooting, he enjoys sport and skis, cycles and has just returned to golf. He has two labradors, which involves a lot of walking!



Matthew Button Touring Vice-Captain



Matthew started shooting at the age of 14 as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's award, following his father and grandfather into the sport. He continued shooting through school (winning the Ashburton with Oakham) and while studying medicine at London University. During this time he managed to combine his overseas medical elective with the 1995 World Championships in New Zealand and started his medical career as team medic with the first touring England team to Canada captained by Andrew Tucker.

Since qualifying his surgical training has at times limited options for shooting and touring. He now works as a Vascular Surgeon in Brighton and is encouraging the next generation into the sport! He has managed to take part in the Imperial Meeting in some form each year and has competed as part of GB and England tours to Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Kenya and Namibia.



Ian Ashworth Co-Adjutant



Ian started shooting at 11 with an air rifle in the back garden but rapidly progressed onto small-bore TR. He was asked to join a regional training squad and later the National U21 small-bore rifle squad in which his highlight was being the reserve for an U21 GB tour to Norway.

University then came and Ian stopped shooting when 19 - something he now regrets. However, he re-entered the sport by sheer fluke some 26 years later when in 2011 his company asked for shooters in a full-bore TR competition. Ian pitched in, had a decent shoot and thought "This is fun" and instantly became a fully committed full-bore shooter.

In 2014 Ian was part of John Webster's NRA tour to the Channel Islands as a shooter and returned there in 2023 as part of the management team. Then, in 2016 Ian achieved his ultimate goal which was to shoot for GB as part of Lindsay Peden's tour to Canada & USA.

Reg Roberts Main Coach



Reg is a Chartered Accountant who owns a recruitment agency in the South of England. Although Australian by birth, he arrived in the UK in 1983 and the country has suffered ever since! He started his shooting career as a cadet in 1971 when laid up with a rugby injury.

Reg has toured overseas on 12 previous GB teams including 8 to Canada, one to Australia in 2005 as Captain and was a target coach for the GB Palma winning teams in 2007 and 2015. His personal achievements include 25 Queen's final badges, 6 Grand Aggregate crosses and 12 St.George's badges. Inducted into the 'big five' in 2016, he Captained the winning Kolapore match that year with a record score on ICFRA targets.

He is married to Jennifer and has four children, two of which, Nick and Tim, are already avid fullbore shots. Reg's other hobbies include fly fishing, share investing and the development of a golf resort in British Columbia.



Alastair Brown



This will be Alastair's first overseas tour to the USA and his third with the England Rifle Team (previously South Africa in 2013 and Kenya and South Africa in 2023). In March 2024, he competed as an individual in the World Long Range Target Rifle Championships at Bloemfontein in South Africa, marking his fourth tour to Bloemfontein, SA, since 2009.

Previous tours include Canada twice (1990 and Athelings in 1991) and the Channel Islands with the NRA Team in 2002. In 2013 he was reserve for the GB Rifle Team to Canada. Alastair has shot for England in the European Long Range Target Rifle Championships three times, the RSA International twice (2013 and 2023), the Protea Match (2023), the Kenya Match (2023) and has been a reserve for England in both the American Match (in South Africa in 2013) and the National Match (2013).

Outside of shooting, Alastair enjoys spending time with his young family, dog walking, cooking and entertaining.



Jon Cload



Jon learned to shoot at Reigate Grammar School and competed in his first Bisley meeting in 1992. Since then, Jon has enjoyed significant individual team and individual successes and has 27 'Big 5' appearances to his name. Highlights include the Ballinger Belt (2010) and three Palma match gold medals. This year will be Jon's first England tour since the European Long-Range Championship in Sennelager in 1998!

Jon is currently based in the USA and trying to visit as many landmarks as possible before returning to the UK in June 2025. He is assembling the team's ammunition for the team matches.

Jon uses an RPA 2000 in a System Gemini stock, with a Benchmark barrel also fitted by Rob Nibbs.



Rob Edwards



Rob's passion for shooting began in his school cadet program, but like many, life took him on a different path for a while. It was thanks to his colleagues, Ian Ashworth and Phil Northam, that he rediscovered the sport. Trips to Bisley with the North Herts Rifles reignited Rob's competitive spirit and he shot his first Imperial Meeting in 2019.

In 2023, Rob secured a spot on the NRA team for a tour of the Channel Islands. The Channel Islands tour proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for Rob, and hopefully the first of many tours to come. He's eagerly anticipating his first ever tour to the USA.

Off the range, Rob is a devoted family man. His two daughters keep him active and on his toes. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, swimming, running, and small-bore shooting.

Keisha Farley



Keisha began her shooting career as a cadet at Bradfield College. She quickly fell in love with shooting, competing in several opens a year including the schools meeting before Imperial. In 2022 the Bradfield College cadet team won the Ashburton Shield for the first time since 1985. Keisha has continued shooting through the UKCRT, Athelings and this summer she will be competing with the GB19s team in Guernsey. She has also had the opportunity to train and develop within the Lions squad through 2023/24 which she has thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommends.

The highlight of Keisha's shooting career so far has been to shoot for England in the Lawrence match in 2024. This was a memorable first cap in which she achieved top score. Away from shooting Keisha is a driven artist who explores a range of experimentation through different media. She aims to travel and volunteer abroad next year.



Edward Feast



Edward first began shooting small-bore through the Air Training Corps at around the age of 13, later this progressed into regular practice with the Stevenage RPC when he turned 16. Eventually Edward transitioned into full-bore rifle in 2012 and competed in both his first Imperial and South African Imperial Meeting that same year as an individual, going onwards to become a member of the English Lions Talent Development Squad, compete in the European Long Range Matches, Reserve in the National Match and the 2023 NRA team to the Channel Islands.

Since leaving University in 2017, he has moved to Warwickshire to work for Jaguar Land Rover as a Lead Engineer in the Powertrain and Propulsion Systems team in electrified vehicle technology.

Outside of work, Edward enjoys creating music and running. He's also currently the Vice-Captain at Solihull RPC, where he continues to train throughout the year. This will be Edward's first tour with England, where he hopes to bring everything he has learned over the years into sharp focus and train hard to build on his previous successes in the USA.



Simon Hayton



Simon started shooting as a cadet with Cranleigh School CCF in 2003. He has subsequently shot for Newcastle University, Northumberland, Berkshire, London, Great Britain, and is the Hon. Secretary of the Old Cranleighans' Rifle Club.

The highlight of Simon's shooting career so far has been to travel with the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada in 2023, where he managed to place 8th in both the Grand Aggregate and Governor Generals' Final. His team successes at home have included top-3 results in county matches, and two Astor gold medals, and he won the Telegraph in 2019. This will be Simon's first England tour and he is excited for the opportunity to compete in the company of such a talented and accomplished team.

Outside of fullbore shooting, Simon works as a Chemical Engineer in the energy industry as part of an independent consultancy organisation, and finds great joy in the smallbore postal leagues as part of Pinewood Rifle Club. He occasionally finds time to make his best efforts at rowing, skiing, and mountaineering.



Pete Holden



Pete started shooting in 1993 at Gresham's School in Norfolk. Pete has been involved with the Palma, the Australia Match, the Mackinnon, the National, the Kolapore, the Norfolk Team and OGRE. Despite touring abroad with his rifles 15 times in the past, Pete has never visited America, and is excited to be involved in the Spirit of America Matches in a new location. In 2002, Pete shot in the inaugural America Match in Connaught, where GB won. Aside from touring the world, Pete's shooting highlights include winning the 2007 Palma Match, and winning the Telegraph and Wimbledon TR individual matches at Bisley.

For work, Pete runs a major UK Logistics provider, Anglia Freight Ltd, based in Suffolk, where he runs over 55 trucks and 50 trailers and employs 115 staff that deliver high volumes of palletised freight across the UK and Europe. At home, Pete is surrounded by support for shooting and is a proud husband to his incredible wife Abby and father to three amazing children: Sophia (14 yrs), Theo (9 yrs) and Connie (6 yrs). He also enjoys coaching his daughter at smallbore, listening to his children sing as Norwich Cathedral Choristers, gardening and easy DIY and the odd cold pint with Mrs H.



Jeremy Hinde



Jeremy is a Company Director, having founded his own company in 2020 specialising in some niche areas of aviation security and a broader portfolio of crowded space protection. Jeremy's company - AASSC Ltd - is also a trade shooting member of the NRA. Prior to this Jeremy was a blast and ballistics consultant and also had a 30 year career in the Metropolitan Police in various specialist roles.

His first Bisley Imperial was in 1981 at the age of 14 and he was an Atheling in 1985. Since then he has regularly shot for Norfolk but with four children and a very busy family life he has often found it difficult to balance his love of shooting with his other commitments. He toured with the NRA team to the Channel Islands in 2018 and he is utterly delighted to earn his first England cap.

Jason Pepera-Hibbert



Jason began shooting at Wellington College winning the Ashburton Shield in 2016. Whilst studying at Exeter University, Jason spent his holidays going on tour with the NRA Team in 2018 and the GB U25 Team to the World Championships in NZ in 2019 where he placed 4th individually and 2nd in the team match.

If you've ever talked to Jason, you would know he loves difficult and changing wind conditions, so naturally his favourite range to date is Trentham, NZ.

This tour will be Jason's second time touring with England and his first visit to the US to shoot. He is looking forward to coaching and competing in his first America Match.



David Rose



David is now what you might call a seasoned tourist, having travelled to all the usual destinations. He is delighted to be visiting a new range and experiencing the challenge of Raton (its reputation precedes it); can't be as hard as Trentham surely...

He is very much looking forward to touring with friends old and new and seeing many of our American friends as well. David started shooting with Epsom College (many years ago) and continues with the Old Epsomians as often as he can.

Apart from shooting David spends much of his time flying around the country for work and more importantly to Edinburgh to spend time with his better half.



Alex Sadler



Alex started shooting in early 2010 and this will be his 2nd tour and first chance of shooting outside of the UK or Channel Islands! After more than a decade, he is now firmly embedded into the Imperial yearly routine and has bridged the gap for young shooters by being a founding member of BYSA and looking to give cadets and young shooters the opportunities to continue shooting.

His achievements include; finishing 6th in the Queens final with tied V's to the winner just 2 points behind, being part of the 'Scoregasm' team to break the NRA Parting Shot record, successfully running BYSA as Fullbore captain for over 7 years and in more recent months, Alex has joined the English Twenty Council as Young Shooters' representative.

He enjoys meeting, shooting and socialising with friends from other nations at the imperial meet and is determined to one day make it out to Australia and South Africa for a chance to shoot in their home countries. When not shooting, Alex has a beautiful wife and 11 month old daughter that keep him busy at home with a busy professional life, he runs the global talent acquisition team for one of the worlds largest sport betting companies.

Colonel (ret'd) Sir Charlie Sykes Bt



Charlie started shooting at Malvern College and, after a brief gap year in the Army, continued at Oxford University finishing with a full Blue as team captain. His shooting career in the Army included a number of tours to Jersey and South Africa and was punctuated by frequent overseas operational tours (to Northern Ireland and, alongside close American allies, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan). A former sniper instructor, a highlight was as the MOD's lead for infantry capability for three years – shaping small arms procurement and championing marksmanship across the UK's Armed Forces.

Now retired after over 36 years' service he is able to spend significantly more time offshore sailing, cycling, alpine ski-touring and climbing and has recently found the time to take up triathlon. He is looking forward to this first ever non-work trip to the USA – but is still no closer to his dream of crossing the American continent on a Harley-Davidson!



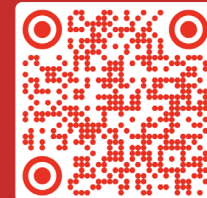
Ed Welford



Ed started shooting at Wellington College when he was 13 with additional support from his father. He has toured quite extensively including to Raton in 2008 with the England Team. Quite a lot has changed in the intervening years and Ed now has a wife and a two year old son.

Highlights of Ed's touring career include being the highest placed Briton in Australia in 2005, winning the Jersey Grand Aggregate in 2006, being Vice Captain of the successful GB U25 team to Canada at the World Championships in 2007, and winning the Guernsey Grand Aggregate last year. Ed is looking forward to returning to Raton.

Ed is a Business Analyst in facilities management, and works with Commercial Teams on bids. He produces financial models for clients encompassing a number of different services. In his spare time, Ed goes running and cycling and has been known to attempt the odd triathlon, but is currently enjoying spending most of his spare time with his son.



Amy Xu

Amy began shooting smallbore while at the Perse School, before taking up fullbore at the University of Cambridge, where she is studying for a degree in Chemistry. Amy found form at Cambridge, quickly earning a half blue, followed by a full blue. She captained the university smallbore team to impressive victories, while personally placing second in BUCS and representing GBU21 at 50m.

Though her first love was smallbore, she now finds TR an equally thrilling challenge. After a difficult first imperial, Amy managed to place 154th in her second grand aggregate, and shortly after the meeting she was picked for the 2024 Lions squad.

Being Relatively new to team shooting, Amy has enjoyed the intense team training which the Lions has provided, as well as exploring new ranges in touring with RAFTRC to Jersey, and to Scotland with CURA. On the latter tour, Amy was especially pleased to represent England in the 2024 Lawrence Match. She is excited to be touring with England and looking forward to developing her team shooting on another new range in New Mexico.



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The County of Gloucester RA is proud to have County Members in touring teams and squads.

We wish the England Team to The USA in 2024 a successful and enjoyable Tour.

Wandsworth FBRC congratulates its five members on selection for the England Team to The USA 2024 and wishes the whole team a successful and enjoyable Tour.



WFBRC welcomes new members who wish to develop their individual and team shooting skills.



BRADFIELD COLLEGE



Congratulations to OB Keisha Farley on her selection to the England team. We wish her and all the England team the best of luck in the USA this September

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GOOD LUCK

Good luck to everyone competing in the England Target Rifle touring team to the USA in September 2024, especially our Old Persean **Amy Xu**

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Cranleigh School wishes Simon Hayton and the England Rifle Team every success in their tour to the USA.



The Old Cranleighian Rifle Club wishes Simon Hayton and the England Rifle Team every success in their tour to the USA.

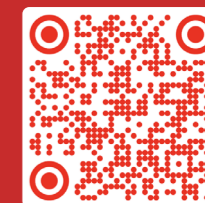


School Notices



THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE





Jeremy Hinde



I've always been quite interested in how external events will often influence the nature and direction of a response. This is often true of police and military tactics and in fact of legislation generally. Often extra measures are introduced retrospectively after an unforeseen event occurs. You only have to look at the mortar attack on Heathrow airport back in 1994 which then resulted in armed police officers conducting open country searches of areas from which a mortar attack could be launched for the next twenty years to understand that these events can have far reaching implications. This article however is mainly about the current makeup of armed policing as it affects London today and also the impact of recent events on firearms licencing.

Overarchingly the UK police service remains rightly proud of the fact that it is predominantly still an unarmed police service. In terms of events that have had enormous influence on the shape of the armed police service of today, then we probably need to start in 1987 when Michael Ryan sadly killed a number of people including himself in the Hungerford massacre. In those days semi-automatic rifles were still available to be owned by licenced firearms holders and there is no doubt that the ban on ownership of semi-automatic centre-fire rifles as well as many other restrictions stem back to that and other equally tragic events. The other impact of that particular event was a dawning realisation by the police that they did not actually have at that time an effective immediate armed response to events of such a nature. Some of the first police officers to arrive at that horrendous scene were armed officers from London who happened to be doing some training in Hounslow. It still took them around 45 minutes to get there and it was agreed that a better response was required. Armed response vehicles first took to the roads in London in 1991. It was a very sensitive subject at the time where now it seems much more commonplace. In fact, it was so sensitive that although the cars had guns on board, they had to remain locked in a safe unless they were given a formal authority by a senior police officer to deploy with the firearms. They had no ability to self-deploy unless authority was given. There was a notable incident in the early 90s where an armed response vehicle was following a hijacked vehicle, the driver of which had fired shots at passersby and at police but an authority to deploy was not actually given until later in the incident. This changed in 1994 partly because of that incident and now police officers can deploy overtly carrying firearms and have become much more frequently seen in London.

In London armed officers are all divided between a few specialist departments, each of which has firearms training commensurate with their role and responsibilities. You no doubt will have seen the armed officers deployed at airports and at the Houses of Parliament, and they receive a level of training suitable for that role, along with regular shooting and tactical refresher days. The officers performing those roles belong to either the Aviation Command (where I served as an Inspector until 2016) or they are part of Royalty and Diplomatic protection. The other largest firearms department is responsible for dealing with spontaneous firearms incidents that develop without notice and also with pre-planned events and extended firearms operations. Collectively they are known as MO19, but have previously been known as D11, PT17, SO19 and SCO19. I joined the armed response vehicles in around 1998 but had already been both a divisional firearms officer and a sniper for the police for some time at that point. I became a firearms instructor in around 2003 and remained so until I left in 2016. Most forces in the UK have followed the lead set by the Metropolitan Police although sometimes with minor variations. The training for armed policing in the UK is controlled by the National College of Policing where "inter-operability" is something which is very much strived for. The idea is that officers from one area could quite easily go to a different area and

perform the same role as they have had the same level of training.

Sitting outside of this are the firearms licencing departments. Each policing area has its own licencing department although some areas have combined to try and provide a more streamlined and cost-effective service. Some of you no doubt will have experienced significant delays particularly in the grant of new shotgun and firearms certificates. A great deal of the cause of these current delays is due to the multiple shootings in Plymouth a couple of years ago by a man called Luke Davidson. Because of the recommendations of that inquiry, licencing officers are now required to do an enormous amount of extra background work before they will consider granting a licence. In some cases, this may even include them coming to your house and using body worn camera to evidence the layout and security of your home if that is where you are intending to store firearms. Having been coming to Bisley since 1982 I have often heard people moaning about firearms licencing and there is no doubt that some areas do this efficiently and well, whereas in others, the service provided can be described as at best 'clunky'. However, I do think it is useful to understand the context in which the firearms enquiries officers now find themselves operating. I don't know if any of you saw it but my home force area which is Herts, Beds and Cambs are currently advertising for another firearms enquiries officer but the salary they are offering seems very unlikely to attract very many candidates. In any case I would say that armed policing and firearms licencing are to be very different areas of policing. At Bisley I often hear people apportioning criticism to 'the police', but armed policing is serving armed uniformed and sometimes non uniformed officers carrying firearms for operational reason often in extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances. Firearms enquiries officers are often civilians, occasionally they may be retired police officers, and sometimes if you are lucky then they will be a shooter themselves and will 'get it' but there is of course no guarantee of this. Firearms licencing is a technical and tricky area in which to try and get up to speed if you have no previous firearms experience and set against that background, then it is no wonder that sometimes the variation in the way firearms enquiries are handled and the speed in which they arrive can be radically different.

Feel free to catch me if you would like to know more: I am often to be found at the North London Rifle Club. Additionally, if you would like to purchase some exceptionally fine English gin, then that is also currently stocked at the North London Rifle Club and at the Surrey.

Lastly I would just like to add how incredibly proud and delighted I am to be selected for this amazing England team to the USA in 2024.



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THE BISLEY V CLUB

Founded 1987

The Bisley V Club congratulates Amy Xu & Keisha Farley on their selection for the England Rifle Team.

We wish them and all the Team an enjoyable and successful tour to the USA in 2024.

- The Bisley V Club supports young full-bore TR shooters by:
- founding The Arthur Clarke Schools & Cadet LR TR Match at Bisley;
 - offering scholarships from our Freddy Payne Memorial Fund to Under 25s in need of financial help in applying for their first senior Overseas Team tour; and
 - supporting GB U19 & U21 teams.



Bisley V Club contacts:
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Ed Welford



The England Target Rifle Team has previously travelled to Raton in 1999 and 2008. Having been to Raton in 2008 myself, I thought it would be good to give an overview of what we should expect.

The shooting venue is the Whittington Center in New Mexico, which is a 33,300 acre range complex at an altitude of 6,300 feet. It is just over 4,800 miles from Bisley as the crow flies. We will be shooting on their High Power 1000 yard rifle range which faces North North East towards the hills beyond. The firing points are built up from the spoil of the old coal mine so it's a good idea to use a nice thick shooting mat.

Each day on the range begins with flag raising and the American National Anthem being played outside the Eagle's Nest clubhouse. For individual shoots you are paired with another shooter, and if they are local you may be lucky enough to hear some

native phraseology, as was certainly the case in 2008 (please see the tour diary for colourful examples). There was one particular individual, beloved of the team who would daily provide new turns of phrase for us to enjoy.

Some of my personal learnings from the 2008 tour were as follows: firstly not to lock one's keys in the rental car, especially right before it's time to move back to the next distance! This is where I discovered our team armourer's skillset thankfully did cover car theft. Also be careful to listen out for the call for the bus to the pits (butts) to ensure that you are there to mark the target as planned. You will be relieved to find that the target mechanisms at the Whittington Center are somewhat easier to operate than those at Bisley.

I was recently told a cautionary tale by someone who had shot at Raton of when they had an ill-fated trip to the portaloos on the range. The portaloos are driven on a trailer between distances but unfortunately for them, the driver hadn't noticed that one of the cubicles was occupied and started driving to the next range. The individual in question quickly finished what they were doing and opened the door just as the trailer hit a pothole. At that point they fell off the trailer, ripped their trousers and injured their leg. Apparently there was little sympathy from the onlookers in the nearby school bus about to head to the pits. If you are going to use the facilities, it's probably a good idea to let someone know to prevent a similar situation.

I have no doubt that the hospitality of our hosts will be just as exceptional as it was in 2008 but the wind we encounter on the range is likely not to be as kind. Generally when I was last there, the wind was light in the morning for short range and built throughout the day as the temperature rose and as we got further away from the targets. Typically the wind started from the west and swung round to the east during the morning. If there was stronger than usual wind in the morning, then we were definitely in for a challenging afternoon! The temperature was quite cool overnight and in the morning, and didn't normally exceed 25 degrees Celsius during the day. There is the possibility of rainstorms but let's hope that they are few and far between. The red and yellow flags there are lighter in weight than those at Bisley and have been known to disagree with each other regarding wind direction from time to time!

The America Match has thus far only been won by the USA on alternate attempts, so it remains to be seen whether they can retain it for the first time, having won it in Canada in 2022...





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OFFICIAL SPONSOR LIST



The England Rifle Team to the USA 2024 would like to offer their sincerest gratitude to the following, without whose help the tour would not have been possible:

Becky and Neil Humphreys
Clare, Jocelyn and Liping Xu
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John Friguglietti
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Martin and Kelly Hayton
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NRA Whittington Center
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Phoenix Barrels
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Surrey RA
The Bisley V Club
The English Twenty Club
The Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada 2022
Thomas Fawkner Simpson
Tom Shaw

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