

America Match – Raton, September 2024 Invitation For Applications

Dear Club Member,

I have been honoured by Council with the Captaincy of the England Team to compete in the 'Spirit of America Matches' in Raton, New Mexico, USA, in September this year, including the prestigious America Match. This match rivals the demands of high-level team shooting of matches such as the Palma and Australia Matches.

This is a tremendous opportunity for shooters aspiring to national representation and I wish to take a team with a blend of experience and new caps.

I invite applications to be considered for the team – please respond with a brief CV including your shooting achievements to date. You do not have to have toured before but if you have it will be an advantage, this includes teams such as Athelings and NRA CI tours.

I am particularly keen to continue to develop opportunities for up-and-coming shooters in the same way that the England Lions programme has been so successful.

Unfortunately, the tour does not attract any financial support and I understand that the cost may be a barrier; further we have little time to fundraise. Please don't let that deter you from applying – I will be looking into ways to keep the costs down.

The plan is to fly to Denver on 3rd September and return on either 14th or 15th. We will stay overnight somewhere near Denver on arrival and drive to Raton (approx. 5 hours) the next day. Shooting starts on 6th September with a practice day on the 5th. Shooting alternates daily between individual and team matches with up to 4 ranges a day and the America Match takes place on 13th September. There is a lot of shooting and a requirement to mark (which is actually very easy and fun) so the days are long!

I have booked accommodation on the range in self-catering competitor housing which is of a good standard, and I have requested Berger Factory ammunition to be available for use to use with the 155.5 grain TR bullet.

If you are interested in applying, please reply with your CV to me at <u>tom@rylands.me.uk</u> by 28th February.

Best wishes

Tom Rylands Captain