



# The English Twenty Club

Governing Body of English Fullbore Target Shooting

## English Lions Talented Shooter Development Squad 2025 - 2026

Email [lions@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:lions@englishtwenty.org.uk) for an application form



Part of the English Twenty Club talent pathway:

- Preparing up and coming talent for international matches with:
- Team drills
- Goal setting
- Psychology
- Elite level coaching
- Mentoring
- Match Practise





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## English Lions Talent Pathway

In 2017 the English Twenty Club launched the English Lions Talent Pathway, aimed at identifying and developing talented English shooters and coaches. The goal of the Lions is to develop and prepare shooters ready to represent England. There is no guarantee of selection for England at the end of the squad cycle, however we guarantee that members will become more competent individuals and team members

### Eligibility

Any uncapped or once capped shooter, 18 or over, **who is a member of the English Twenty Club** is eligible to apply. There is no upper age limit. The squad will be selected for each yearly cycle. The selection committee looks keenly at results over the past 2-3 years, evidence of improving performance and of team shooting, ideally at county level.

### Training

The squad will meet for three **mandatory** training weekends during the year, information below. We ask that if you do not apply unless you can commit to these weekends

### Expert Coaching

The squad is managed by 4 permanent staff who are the first point of contact. To help develop shooters in all aspects of senior level team shooting, highly accomplished elite English shooters join the squad to assist at training weekends. In addition to target time on the range, these elite coaches will run modules on

position, goal setting, psychology, SCATT, team drills and plotting.

### Team Matches

As part of the training weekends, matches are arranged for the squad to develop and demonstrate their skills. The second training weekend is attended by National Match Captain. The entire focus of the weekend is team shooting and this gives the captain the chance to assess the squad performance in advance of the spring and summer matches. In addition, previous captains have given insightful talks to the squad around training, performance and selection

Outside of the Lions set up, the English Twenty Club competes in a series of annual team matches; the RAF and Home Countries in May, UK Armed Forces in July and, every other year, the European Long Range Championships in October. All of these matches are open selection and aspiring England shooters are encouraged to apply —check [www.englishtwenty.org.uk](http://www.englishtwenty.org.uk) for details.

### Personal Mentor

By the end of the first training weekend, each squad member will have been allocated a mentor, allowing for support and advice throughout the year during and away from the squad meets, including individual competitions. The whole faculty are available for advice throughout the year to all lions.

\*A full cap is gained by touring, or shooting in The National Match or The MacKinnon

### Training Schedule 2025-26

1st/2nd November 2025	18th/19th April 2026	27th/28th June 2026
Technical/Kit workshop	National Captain present	Wind Reading session & range walk
Self Assessment and Goal Setting	Plotting	Optional modules
Winter training plan formulation	SCATT work	Plotting development
Mentor partnering	Team Match	Individual shooting exercises
SCATT and range time	Team Drills development	Summer competition/goals review

## Lions Management Team



**Bill Richards**  
(Surrey, England, GB) SM, SB

**Main Coach**

**Graham Nelson**  
(Northumberland & Durham, England, GB)



**Coach and Manager**



**Martin 'Archie' Whicher** (Berks, England, GB)

**Coach**

**Martin Liversage**

(Lancashire, England, GB)

**Adjutant**



### Previous visiting coaches:

Jon Underwood (GM, GC<sub>2</sub>, SM<sub>2</sub>, C'wealth Games Bronze Medal)

John Warburton (GM, GC, SB<sub>3</sub>)

Ant Ringer (GM<sub>3</sub>, SC<sub>2</sub>, SC, SB)

Matthew Ensor (Palma Wind Coach)

Derek Lowe (Palma Wind Coach)

Andy Luckman (GM, GC<sub>2</sub>, SC, C'wealth Games Bronze Medal)



The Lions squad in action at previous training weekends

### Previous Lions Squad Achievements

12 current and past squad members in The National in 2025.

11 current/past Lions in the England rifle Team to the West Indies 2026

Alice Good (Lion 2019-21) winner of HM Queens prize 2022

1 past Lion selected as a Target Coach for 2024 Palma Team.

## How much will it cost me?

Whilst target rifle is an expensive sport and funding is limited, the English Twenty Club is committed to reducing the cost of squad activities.

### Subsidised training

The English Twenty Club pays for the cost of target hire during the training weekends, the coaching is free. Squad members are expected to cover the costs of ammunition (at very competitive prices), food and accommodation.

Previously, the cost for each training weekend was around £60-70, this included food but not accommodation. The three weekends are a **mandatory** part of the squad's activities.

Additional recommended activities will not be subsidised by The Twenty Club, but will be actively supported by the faculty.

Please contact [lions@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:lions@englishtwenty.org.uk) if financial pressure may stop you applying to the squad.



## What is expected of me?

Squad members will get unprecedented access to elite level shooters, top level training sessions and practice matches with the Twenty Club. In return certain commitments are expected:

- Attendance at the 3 training weekends and team training matches
- Act as an ambassador for the squad
- Commitment to the squad and its activities, including advised matches and competitions if at all possible.

## What if I don't get selected?

The nature of competitive sport is that not everyone can be successful every time. By applying to the squad you are already proving to others that you want to develop further—even if you are not selected this year.

In the last 4 cycles we have had more than 3 applications for every position on the squad. For unsuccessful candidates there is still much that you can do. Make a training plan which identifies your weaknesses and how you can strengthen them. Talking to senior members of your club and county can make a massive difference to performance, just learning by observing how others succeed and applying it to your performance. The management have committed to contact all unsuccessful applicants and explaining why they were not selected this time. There may be specific reasons, or it may simply be that other candidates were felt to be in a better position—either way we feel it is only fair to let you know.

A key aspect of shooting is to regularly take part in team matches. If you currently aren't then look at what you can do to change this. Are you signed up with a county? If you're not being picked for your chosen county are you eligible for another (by birth, parent's or grandparent's birth, or residence). Shooters can change county every year and if you are not getting picked by one county they maybe others who would welcome you and give you the opportunity to shoot in matches. You can only prove how good a team shooter you are if you are regularly shooting in a team, contact [membership@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:membership@englishtwenty.org.uk) for help.

Make sure you enter the Club Championship during the Imperial meeting. You must have entered the Championship to be selected for the National, and you'll kick yourself if you have a purple patch and can't be picked. Contact the [Competitions Secretary](#) for more details.

Finally, the faculty always welcome queries, and just love to see English shooters succeed—you can always apply next year!

## Contact Us:

Get in touch for an application form, or more information about the Lions, or if you are unsure if you should apply.

More information is available in the 'Performance' section of our website:

[www.englishtwenty.org.uk](http://www.englishtwenty.org.uk)

Or email us at:

[lions@englishtwenty.org.uk](mailto:lions@englishtwenty.org.uk)



The Lions in the Lawrence Match

### Captains for England and English XX matches 2026

English XX vs RAF (at Bisley 16 <sup>th</sup> June)	Jeremy Langley
The Lawrence (at Blair Athol, 12-14 <sup>th</sup> June)	
English XX vs UK Armed Forces (July)	Adam Leech
Mackinnon (at Bisley, July)	Toby Raincock