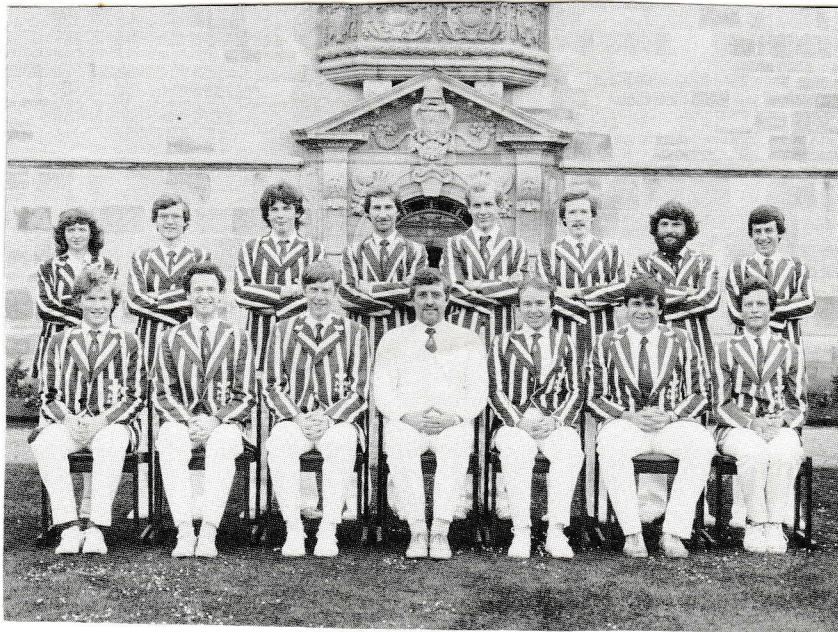


THE DIARY
OF
THE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY RIFLE CLUB
KENYA TOUR 1981

* * *



Oxford Blues Rifle Team 1981

Kenyans to tackle Oxford shooters

KENYAN shooters are yet again in for an excellent opportunity to compete against top flight marksmen after the recent tour to Kenya by Zimbabwe.

A 14-member strong team of shooters from Oxford University arrived in Nairobi yesterday for a three-week tour.

The Oxford "Blues" Rifle team will be managed throughout their stay by well known local shooter Garry Jones, headmaster of equally renowned shooting school of Imani, Thika.

John has been in England for the last year and at the time of preparing his return to Thika conceived and planned the "Blues" trip to Kenya.

The team averages 22 years of age and includes a woman — Jane Prior-Willeard — an Oxford "Half Blue" in riding, pistol shooting and modern pentathlon.

Others of notable repute include John Webster a "Full Blue" in rugby football.

Webster was a member of the British "Goodwill" rifle team that visited Zimbabwe in April. The other member in the Oxford team who shot in Zimbabwe is Charles Cunningham.

Michael Baillie-Hamilton is a member of the Scottish Rifle

By GISHINGA-NJOROGE

Association squad that will tour Canada in September.

Kenyan shooters got the chance to compete against some of the Oxford Blues during the Zimbabwe tour. The British goodwill team finished third behind Zimbabwe "A" and "B" and in front of Kenya in the fourth place.

Later in June Kenya turned tables on the Zimbabweans at home when they outshot the visitors at Lion Hill Range, Nakuru, in a full international.

The "Blues" tour will take them to competitions in Malindi, Thika, Nairobi and Nakuru.

Their key matches are: On Sunday v Kenya Regiment Rifle Club (KRRC), General Service Unit (GSU), Kenya Army and Kenya Police at Stoney Athi Range, August 11 — v KRRC at Nairobi Railway Club August 15, 16 — v Kenya Rifle Association at Lion Hill, Nakuru, August 22 — v KRRC at Embakasi GSU range, August 23 — v International Shooting Union (ISU) target teams of 8 at Embakasi.

OXFORD BLUES SHOOTING TEAM GOES TO KENYA

By Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent

The Oxford Blues shooting team leaves for Kenya today on the first overseas tour for Oxford University marksmen since the combined Oxford and Cambridge tours of 1962 and 1964.

Team captain Carey Wilks (Malvern and Lincoln College) has a strong team of 15 including Charles Cunningham (Bradfield and Magdalen) and John Webster (Uppingham and Oriel) who were both members of the British Goodwill team which went to Zimbabwe in April. Jane Prior-Willeard (Benenden and Lady Margaret Hall) who has a half-Blue for riding and modern pentathlon as well as pistol shooting, is the only woman in the team.

'Blues' win opener

THE visiting Oxford Blues Rifle team won the Kenya Regiment Rifle Club organised club shoot over 200, 500 and 600 metres at the Stoney Athi Range on the weekend. In their first tour match, the Oxford Blues "A" won the championship with 824 points, sixteen ahead of the KRRC.

Best shooter was the Blues "A" Charles Cunningham (144). KRRC with a total of 808 were led by Alistair Paul with 143. The rest of the teams were Oxford Blues "B" (786), Kenya Police (754) and General Service Unit (GSU, 743).



THE Oxford "Blues" rifle team at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport yesterday. Kenya Rifle Association chairman Bob Morgan (middle, back row), was among the officials who met the team.

D I A R Y

Tuesday, 4th August - Bisley & Jumbo Jet

Arrived at Bisley, very hot weather. Spent afternoon getting rifles etc organised, just as well we left plenty of time, because it took ages. Had a communal malaria pill. By the time the coach came to collect us we had a very photogenic row of suitcases, OURC bags and half-blue blazers arranged outside the Club House. There were several delays at Heathrow (predictably). During one of the pauses a woman came up and demanded our autographs, which we were delighted to give. Heaven knows who she thought we were, because her book was filled with names like Fred Astaire, Stirling Moss etc. We hadn't the heart to tell her that we are not really famous yet. It was probably the stripes that did it - they are very distinctive. BA obviously thought we looked as if we needed protecting and gave us all "unaccompanied minor" badges (special attention from the hostesses!). Bolts and sights confiscated at check-in, despite all our advance warnings. Thanks to Carey and John Watson they got on the plane with us, but only just. They ended up where they always should have been, under the pilots seat. Otherwise a startling lack of hassles. In the departure lounge, people started asking if we were a Rugby Club on tour, and if so, why the girl?! Good seats in the Jumbo Jet, except that we would have needed periscopes to see the film if we had wanted to, which we didn't.

Wednesday, 5th August - Nairobi & Thika

Team woke up feeling grungy, after varying amounts of sleep (2 minutes-3 hours). My night was improved out of all recognition when Paul received a bottle of champagne from his excellent brother, and handed out some to the needy. Met by a very efficient and integrated contingent from the Kenyan Police and Army. Whizzed through Customs in record time leaving our fellow passengers looking ruffled and bleary, having every single suitcase checked for mine-fields. Gary met us and we drove in convoy back to Thika, after having our photo taken for the papers at Nairobi Airport. Gary looked increasingly uncomfortable and then produced a pistol, which had been cramping his style. Apparently they are essential when firearms are being handled at airports. We passed a group of Africans doing an on-the-spot engine removal and repair in the pouring rain. Got established in some very smart green tents. Spent the rest of the day lounging around and getting to know the African beer (Whitecap and Tusker). The smokers among us discovered an evil looking weed called Sportsman, which they started smoking in enormous quantities. Total African Wildlife seen to date = 1 mongoose (sweet).

Thursday, 6th August - Aberdare Country Club and The Ark

Torrential rain. The Kenyans were right when they told us at Bisley that the weather is different out here - it is about 20 degrees colder, and the rain is wetter. Set off for the Aberdares. On entering the Game Park we saw several minkees of various sizes, the back views of several large armour plated animals (Cape Buffalo, Giant Forest Hogs), and what could have been a very small elephant. Marvellous lunch at the Club. Closer acquaintance with the Wildlife: I got bitten all over by an over-active Safari Ant. Amusing to see a fat and self satisfied Aylesbury Duck in the aviary of exotic birds. The beautiful multi-coloured birds went flying round making whistling noises while the duck shovelled up all their food underneath. We went on to the Ark. Terrible mud, very slippery. Our driver seemed to think that the best way to tackle it was to go into the lowest possible gear and rev, while Gary tried the sideways approach. But we all got there. Wonderful place, built over a water hole. View from bedroom windows of Cape Buffalo and wart hogs paddling in the mud. Closer view from the concrete pill box down below - eyeball to eyeball with a buffalo bull. Lovely genets that came in to be fed. Appalling foreigners that frightened them off by photographing them with flashes.

Quote of the day: "Stradivariouises are irreplaceable" (John Watson)

Friday, 7th August - The Ark and Thika

Very early start, but excellent breakfast to make up for it. Pineapples in this country are out of this world. Ditto bananas and avocado pears. No wonder that breakfast in Kenya is a poem and worth getting up for. Saw a rhino last night, with a baby rhino. Apparently on the verge of extinction due to Japanese aphrodisiacs and Arab dagger handles. Two sightings of the Astell-Burt, unique and rarer than the Bongo, recorded in the Ark Game Book. We are so lucky to be seeing these wild animals in their natural surroundings. Saw more monkeys and wart hogs on the way out. Breaks on Gary's car slowly but surely failing, which made for an exciting return journey. Saw some proper Kikuyu villages at last, their houses around Nairobi are all made of road signs, which lead a short and precarious life in this country. Here they were made out of mud, with woven rooves and blended in beautifully with the surrounding countryside. Went for a barbeque with some friends of Gary and Alister. Without wanting to make this diary seem like a gourmet's guide to Kenya, they do have barbequing down to a fine art out here. Steaks, green salads, plenty to drink, and tropical fruit salad afterwards. Much appreciated. Back to Gary's house. Some went for a swim, some played an entirely new form of rugger, which involves kicking the rugger ball vertically upwards, so hard that it disappears into a tiny dot in the sky, and then plummets down to land with a crash on Gary's corrugated iron roof. This game was played with a change in the size of the ball to be called "cricket" or "football" in every free second throughout the tour. No wonder everyone looked so fit when we got back.

Quote of the day: "I'm going to need some **** choke to get through today" (Pete at breakfast)

Saturday, 8th August - Thika and the Nairobi Game Park

Poor Mike B-H not feeling well so had to stay at Thika. Mike P not feeling too good either, so kept him company. Went to the GSU ranges to zero rifles. Range covered, with concrete baffles all the way down to stop any bullets going into orbit or shooting down a plane from next door Nairobi Airport. Result was the loudest crash from each full-bore shot that I have ever heard. After each of the first few shots a line of startled people jumped out of their skin. Wore off after a bit, everybody probably deafened through their ear-muffs. It cant have helped concentration - I was a gibbering wreck after sitting through the lot to hand out ammo etc. On to Masai Lodge for lunch, which as usual was Al and incredibly cheap compared to British prices (avocado vinaigrette + steak + fruit salad for about £2.00). Watched throughout by a row of baboons, obviously making notes on the feeding habits of this latest fascinating batch of foreign animals. Countryside in Nairobi Game Park just what the TV documentaries always led me to expect. Flat expanses of yellow grass punctuated by acacia trees. Saw giraffes, one doesn't realise how incredibly tall they are, also zebra, wildebeest, Thompsons and Grant gazelles. Very lucky to have Alister telling us what everything was (See that dot in the distance? That's an African Brown Eagle"). Saw a line of Safari Ants, who apparently when the mood is on them, will eat anything they come across that keeps still for long enough. Met a merry family of grockles pushing their car up a hill 20 yards from where the rangers had reported that some bloated lions were lying around after a kill. Thanks to Gary we saw a cheetah. Very beautiful and very rare, about 750 left in the world. He saw a cheetah where the rest of us saw grass until we actually looked down telescopes or binoculars right at it. We went to Hippo Point, where we didn't see any hippos but we did see my school music mistress. What a small world (run for cover). Back to Thika. Carey and me cooked omelettes for supper. Gary thought he heard some prowlers and let off a succession of startling shots with a turbo-charged .22 pistol. No more sightings of prowlers.

Silly question of the day: "Are those bananas?" (John Watson, looking at some familiar, crescent shaped yellow fruit)

Sunday, 9th August - Stony Athi

Up early, yawn. Drove to Stony Athi, which is South of Nairobi. Stony Athi had a stoney road, 15 kilometres long leading up to it. Arrived feeling battered and dusty to find a large herd of gazelle on the range and no Kenyans. Eventually they turned up, and quickly got down to shooting (see results on attached list). People found interesting side winds that would have made Stickledown seem like a covered range. The range is in the middle of an enormous plain, miles and miles of it, and the wind comes whistling through, taking the bullets with it. It is going to be a very smart range though, the Officers Mess was just being built, and they plan to turn it into a full army base. It is built in metres, which was rather confusing for us, and will eventually be spot-lit. The African hours of darkness are much longer than ours are, when you think that much of our full-bore shooting is done during the Summer months. Considering the new conditions and the fact that we were firing at yard targets on metre firing points, the team shot well, with the "A" team winning and the "B" team third. Well done chaps!! The match went on in a leisurely fashion for the whole day, with the Kenyan side being very hospitable. Returned to Thika at dusk, rather pleased to have won against the GSU, the Police and the KRRC. We cooked a rather good barbeque supper: steak, potatoes, salad. Played cards until the early hours.

Quote of the day: "You gotta be haard" (OURC)

Monday, 10th August - Thika and Nairobi

All very tired, lie-in to 8.30 (!) After breakfast went to the Imani School, which has quite amazingly good facilities. People played squash and tennis, some started practising .22. I found some horses and a family of very small kittens. There were also some monkeys in a huge cage and the Imani School Snake Club. Alister started teaching some people sub-aqua, others had a go at snorkeling, preparing for when we go down to the Coast. On to the Blue Post Hotel at Thika, which is in the book "The Flame Trees of Thika". It's still going strong, and we had lunch there. We had soup, steak, fruit salad and coffee, all of which seemed to be curried. Very impressive waterfall just outside the hotel. Drove in to Nairobi. Some of the team forgot to remove their stripey blazers, which made them an instant target for several dozen commercially-minded Africans. Carey, Phil and I went to the offices of BAT, who promised us some cigarettes, which is nice of them, but it seems unlikely that we will be able to borrow a vehicle from them. Feeling rather subdued we joined the others at the Thorn Tree cafe, which became our club in Nairobi. From there we progressed to the Railway Club for the KRA Welcome Party. This went very well, and stirring speeches were made. Brandy and coke was the drink of the evening. On the way back we saw two bewildered looking giraffes on the road in front of us. We stayed with them until they wandered off into the bush, as according to Gary, some sportsmen in lorries drive at their legs if they meet them on the roads.

Tuesday, 11th August - Thika and Nairobi

Everyone feeling 100% better after 2 lie-ins. Went to the Imani School, played tennis and swam. The wage-earners went off for lunch in Nairobi, while the impoverished students had (excellent) sausage-rolls at Thika and went in by the school bus. Phil, Carey and I had another afternoon of frustrations at the BAT office, which finally decided that "at this moment in time we are unavoidably in a position to be unable to avoid the definite possibility of having to disappoint you" (sic). No car. Still, we were deported back into Nairobi in a company car with a 6 day supply of cigarettes for those members of the team who smoke. Went to Abdul's beautiful gold and jewellery shop, which was my favourite shop in Nairobi by a distance. Found Ted and Mike P buying up the contents of his mines. Did some choosing of our own, and then pottered round Nairobi with a small but devoted following of people with 3 wooden elephants, an antelope and a Masai warrior covered in feathers to sell. Some of the carved animals are absolutely beautiful, some of them are terribly rough. - Supper at the Thorn Tree. On to the Railway Club where we shot .22 against two KRRC teams. Oxford "A" team won, and Carey was the high-scorer. Great stuff chaps!! Back to Thika.

Invention of the day: The oscillating heart-beat compensating iris foresight, for when the target 'throbs'. Inventors =Mike B-H and Ted. Needed by Phil!

Wednesday, 12th August - mainly Nairobi

An easy morning, people packed, washed any clothes that the marvellous Esther had not found, wrote postcards to relatives. Kenya has a very high standard of postcard, usually beautiful pictures of wildlife or impossibly shaped local talent. Will they ever reach their destination? Or will we get back to England 2 months before the cards do. Vee shall see. Barbeque for lunch, and off to Nairobi in easy stages. Carey, Phil and me to the High Commission. There we met a delightful third secretary who said yes, terribly pleased to hear about you, please ring any time, and gave us a visiting card with no phone number on it. Oh well! Wandered down Biasharu Street, African shops for the Africans. Fascinating and practically no tourists. Excellent party at PK's house. We decided that should we ever stage a raid there, Carey would take the tusks, I would remove the silk carpets and Mike B-H would go for the Ming. It is nice to see beautiful things being used, and not just in museums. Advanced on the Mithuega Club, for a party given by the Oxford and Cambridge Club. It was already going full swing when we arrived. All very hospitable, and the barmen had a sense of humour and a free hand with the spirits bottle. OURC were completely ratted by the time it was going-home time. Some of the ones who weren't too cross-eyed to notice him spoke to the Vice-President and then went on to lose money at the Casino.

Thursday, 13th August - Rift Valley Sports Club and Lion Hill

Day broke, audibly. OURC crawled about feeling fragile, with headaches. The lucky few in the cars went straight to the Rift Valley Sports Club, while the rest of us trundled off in the bus to Nairobi, where John Watson had an interesting time trying to sort out his bookings with various airlines. Eventually drove on to Nakuru by roads that were 90% pot-hole. Those in the back of the bus got pronged at regular and frequent intervals. All worth it for the quite amazing scenery as we drove down the side of the Rift Valley. Lunch at a beautiful restaurant at Lake Naivasha. 20 quarter sized sandwiches for 11 hungry people. On to Nakuru. Whoever we asked where Lion Hill was, seemed determined to direct us into the Game Park (where we could see lots of Lions). Having evaded a succession of rangers who tried to charge us 20/- each plus 20/- for the vehicle to enter a Game Park we didn't want to go in to, we finally found Lion Hill. Got down to shoot and discovered that Bisley weather had followed us even here. Rain stopped play, so watched the storm out of leaky tents, dried the rifles and back to the Sports Club. After some initial seating difficulties we settled into our rooms, very nice, and all had baths. Then drinks, paid for by an amazing chit system which meant one signed for everything twice and ones pockets quickly filled up with beastly bits of pink paper, which immediately got lost. Excellent supper, Pete, John Webster and Carey wrestled with T-bone steaks weighing 2 kilos. Webbo and Carey won against theirs, and so eventually did Pete, after reverting to the wild and tearing his to pieces with his teeth.

Quote of the day: "I could eat all of those and still feel hungry" (John Webster, aghast, looking at lunch for 11)

Friday, 14th August - Lion Hill

Got up early, then waited about an hour for breakfast, fume. Off to Lion Hill. Everyone said "This is going to be a scorcher" and ripped their shirts off (except me!). Shot at 300, 600 and 1000 yards, practise. Some still shooting very slowly, so no lunch. Discovered a musical bullfrog down in the butts, which gave hours of entertainment. It reacted best to Mike B-H's highland sheep imitations and the interference on the two-way radio. Wonderful views over the surrounding country, the range bordered with a National park. We could also watch our pet rain cloud wandering around the countryside in pillar formation, looking for us. Luckily it didn't find us until after we had shot Service Rifle against the GSU, Army and Police teams. They didn't exactly walk all over us, because Oxford "A" won the first heat of falling plates against the Police. Otherwise they walked all over us. The run-downs were hilarious - on one side the fighting-fit recruits would sprint down, fling themselves onto the ground and start an immediate onslaught on the plates, while on the other side the Oxford team would be doing a gentle trot down, lowering themselves carefully to the ground and start firing when the other team finished. Early to bed, to prepare for tomorrow.

Saturday, 15th August - Lion Hill

Got up early, breakfast came in time, and whizzed off to the ranges, where we waited a further hour for any of the opposition to turn up, and another half hour for them to get organised. Even so, it wasn't too much of a late start. The shooting went on all day (see attached results), very hot in the morning. Apparently in the Kenyan summer it is so hot on that range that one can hardly stand up in the open, and the grass is burnt off for miles around. Not so today, when the "A" team had finished shooting, and the "B" team had just started, it absolutely poured down. We were leading after the first leg of the match, which was a psychological advantage. Back to base for drinks, supper, drinks, team talk, drinks and drinks. The Club was running a disco that would have kept us awake if we had not been so tired, and was the nearest to jungle rhythms that we heard while in Kenya.

Sunday, 16th August - Lion Hill

We started the day 4 points up, which was incredibly close over three distances. So far good shooting and disasters on both side had been fairly evenly matched. Both sides started the day shooting really well, and we were still only 8 points up after 900 yards. We changed our wind calls to French, just in case, and enormous rain clouds started gathering. We steadily gained at 1000 yards until by the time the last shooters on our team got down to shoot, they would have had to shoot solid magpies to lose. They didn't, and we won by 32 points. Jubilation en masse, and everybody took photos of each other taking photos of them. The reserves shot their match, the results of which were never really known, and we leapt into the minibus and back to Thika. Packed for the journey to the coast, and drank and talked until the early hours.

Quote of the day: "I like winning: it beats losing any day" (John Webster)

Monday, 17th August - Voi Safari Lodge

Had a leisurely morning, then drove to Hunters Lodge for lunch, which is half way between Nairobi and Voi. On to Voi Safari Lodge, through the Tsavo. Wonderful place, among other things we saw elephants very close to the road. Also quite a large herd of elephants further away. Covered in the red dust that is everywhere in Kenya, they looked just like ant-hills, and ant-hills looked just like them, which made for a certain amount of confusion. The Lodge was one of the best places I have ever been to, high up in the hills above a water hole. We could see zebra, including a lovely baby zebra, gazelle, eland and revolting looking marabou storks. Thousands of swallows lived in the roof, and went diving down over the valley, which must have felt like launching off in a hang-glider to them. Bats lived there too, which wasn't so lovely. Everyone had a swim in a beautiful swimming pool, and an excellent dinner.

Conversation of the day: Carey: "Do elephants have ticks?"

Alister: "Ticks? Christ man, if they bit you, they'd take your bloody arm off!"

Tuesday, 18th August - Malindi (eventually)

Started off early along red dust tracks to go overland to Malindi. Lovely idea, saw lots more elephants/ant-hills. Went to a high rock from where we could see crocs in the Athi River, fat and horrible. There were hippos too, but it was hot and you could only see the occasional hippo ear. Got hotter and hotter, then in the middle of nowhere, 100 km from Malindi and in the middle of inhospitable-looking bush, the mini bus that had served us so faithfully decided to break down. Nothing would make it move, so Gary started off for Malindi with an advance party. Then we discovered somehow that it would go, but only if Alister's foot was right down on the accelerator. So off we roared, with the engine's lid off, and Pete doing great things somewhere inside it, and every time Alister took his foot off, the bus stopped completely. So we charged through villages, shot round corners and bounced over bumps all the way to Malindi. It was jolly good fun! We arrived just as the advance party was drawing lots as to who should come and rescue us. Malindi is absolutely beautiful.

Quote of the day for Tuesday (mustn't be wasted): "Somebody chuck a brick at that hippo - I want to see it get out" (Mark Dickinson)

Wednesday, 19th August - Malindi

Got up early and set off in Gary's dhow. Surprise surprise, in Malindi where it never rains and where we really would get Kenya weather at its best, it absolutely pelted down. Didn't matter, because this time it was warm rain. Landed at a lovely little bay, paddled ashore, very mindful of stone fish (20 minutes of incredible agony before you die). All we found in fact was a beautiful leopard spotted cowrie, alive and pulsating. Put it carefully back and paddled on. The crew of the dhow cooked one of the best meals I have ever eaten - fried coconut, barbequed King Fish, arrowroot, which tastes like nicer baked potato, and particularly nice bananas and pineapples. Looked into rock-pools, in fact all along the beach there were little groups of OURC looking into rock-pools. Gary took us to an incredibly spooky place with caves made out of the lava from when Kilimanjaro blew its top off millions of years ago. What lives there now is bats and witch doctors. We were some of the first Europeans to see it, but I was very glad to get back to the sea-shore. Going on the dhow was one of the best experiences of the tour. The crew did some drumming for us on the way back - very complicated rhythm, sounded terribly good. Back to the hotel, then on to a disco at the Drift Wood Sports Club, where Pete and Mike B-H went souvenir hunting and found some signs.

Quote of the day: "Dont worry chaps, it will pass over in a minute" (Gary, soaking wet in the dhow)

Thursday, 20th August - Malindi

After breakfast we went off to the Ocean Sports Club and tried our hand at Ocean Sports. One party went off to see how many times they could fall off a wind-surfing board, the rest of us went to a mangrove swamp, from where we tried to water-ski (not as easy as it looks). The local children thought we were the best thing they'd seen in years. They hung out of trees and clapped every time somebody fell in, and nearly split themselves with laughing. Back to the Blue Marlin. By now we were all wearing kikoyis, and in my case a kangha. The locals certainly know what they're doing in the matter of dress, these were by far the coolest and most practical things to wear as it was very hot, and we were continually surfing and swimming and generally getting wet. To Drift Wood Sports Club for dinner and to return souvenirs. King prawns - so many legs. Back to the Blue Marlin, where a rather sober disco was in progress until our boisterous arrival. Highlight of the evening was the entire team doing a conga off the diving board into the swimming pool fully dressed. Then water polo with coconuts and sun-bathing benches, which dont float. Management not amused, so stopped after a bit.

Conversation of the day: Carey: "Do you have a wine list?"
Waiter: "Oh yes sir, we have a white wine and a red wine".

Friday, 21st August - Malindi

John Watson left us at an early hour for the sunnier climes of Australia, via Mauritius (lucky thing). Shopping morning for OURC, many of whom discovered a real ability for haggling. Or thought they did, the Malindi stall-holders probably know otherwise. Then we went goggling in a glass-bottomed boat. Paul Baxter was heard to remark that it was just like Iceland, or possibly the South of France. It was amazing looking at the parrot-fishes, box-shaped fishes, impossibly thin fishes etc all doing their own thing in the coral reef. Carey and I both grounded on the coral before we realised that a) it was as sharp as a cheese grater, and b) extremely near the surface. Hobbled back to the Blue Marlin, where we swam and surfed all afternoon. The beaches are long and empty and covered in white sand, with palm trees growing and an enormous tropical moon at night. Some of the more adventurous, or desperate went for a massage. Barbeque with the Pauls, barbequed King Fish, very nice indeed. They had a lovely African Grey parrot and some new born goat kids.

Quote of the day: "And Fred arose from the forest" (Blue Marlin's masseuse, dealing with a member of the team)

Saturday, 22nd August - Malindi to Thika, via Mombassa

Started quite early, drove on the road this time (!) via Kilifi, which is beautiful, and Mombassa, which isn't. Everybody asleep, so total amount of game spotted on trip through mile upon mile of bush = 1 giraffe. Stopped at a marvellous barn in the middle of the bush where people sold things they carved from the local white ebony trees, a beautiful, heavy wood. Spirited bargaining with OURC. Everybody spent every cent they had on them: Carey and me had 70/-, which we spent on elephant book ends and a pair of gazelles, John Webster spent his all on a truly enormous Masai head, and so it went on. Prize for deal of the day must go to Charles 'Sir Fred', who bought an enormous wooden crocodile for 22/- and his socks. Phil starred too, when he swapped his horrible old tennis shoes for a piece of intricate carving. Gary was seen haggling over an enormous carving which must originally have been almost a whole tree. Luckily for us, the deal did not come off, or OURC would have been spotted trying to hitch a lift off the Mombasa - Nairobi train. Back to Thika. Beer, very welcome supper and our comfortable green tents.

Quote of the day: "What?" (Paul Farbon)

Sunday, 23rd August - Thika and Nairobi

Leisurely start, then off to the GSU ranges in Nairobi. Finished our highly successful tour by Oxford "A" winning both the 300 m ISU and the 50 m .22 match (see results sheet). All very pleased. On to Safari Park Hotel to organise tonight's bun-fight. Some went to Azhar Chaudhry to see film he made of this year's Bisley, apparently very good. Made sure everything was ready, ie made sure that there were enough crates of beer etc for the thirsty. OURC Farewell Party, round the swimming pool, very nice. Said good-bye to our friends; I think several will crop up at Bisley next year, come to that, I think that we will crop up again in Kenya fairly soon. Speeches, presentations of cups, high-scorer spoons and the exceptionately nice plates and shields that we brought over to give to team members and benefactors. For notes of Carey's speech, see attaches pink sheet. Mike B-H had to rush off to catch a plane back to England, where he has about a day before he flies off to Canada for another tour. One could get very used to doing shooting tours of foreign countries! Some went on to the Casino, to get rid of any remaining shillings. Some watched them losing, decided it looked a bit too inevitable, and went back to Thika.

END OF THE OFFICIAL TOUR (Carey and I went to stay with a friend who lives in the plush and very beautiful residential area of Nairobi, Charles and John went off in a Land Cruiser to look at the millions of migrating animals in Masai Mara, and the Casino experts stayed economically at Thika, perfecting their squash and tennis.) A lot of well-wishers turned up at the airport to see us off, which was very nice, especially when our flight left at 1 o'clock am. More trouble with bolts and sights, nobody seemed to even notice the rifles, but bolts and sights filled them with instant horror. Finally embarked with all equipment, and landed, without having attempted any coups, at Heathrow in the morning of Thursday, 27th August.

NOTES FOR THE CAPTAINS SPEECH - OURC FAREWELL PARTY, 23RD AUGUST 1981

1. Welcome to all our guests - delighted to see them here this evening.
2. We were very pleased to be able to come and shoot in this country - especially pleased to win the trophy for the International Match at Lion Hill, kindly donated by Hotels County. It proved to be a very exciting match right up to the last range, with a high standard of shooting all round. Hoping to make it an annual match, can be shot at Bisley when the Kenyan team comes over for the Summer Meeting. We have much enjoyed all shooting done here (needless to say we have also enjoyed winning all 5 competitions!). The Service Rifle event was different and great fun, although we were rather shown up by the skill and fitness of the GSU and Army. Surely these 2 teams at Bisley would sweep the board at Service Rifle.
3. We were hoping to present a challenge shield to the KRA, to be shot for at whatever match they chose, but it has not yet arrived from England.
4. Although the weather has not been the vast improvement on "Bisley weather" that we had been led to expect, we have had a marvellous time in this beautiful country, and many of us are going to return as soon as we possibly can.
5. I would like to thank everybody for the warm hospitality we have been shown during the Tour, especially the following:
 - i) Vice Chairman of the KRA - Peter Nderitou
 - ii) The Kenya VIII from Lion Hill, captained by Azhar Chaudry
 - iii) The Kenya Police for facilitating our entry into Kenya (much appreciated!), and for allowing us to bring our rifles into the country. Plaque for Dougi Walker.
 - iv) The GSU - particular help to us during our stay; especially in looking after our rifles while we enjoyed ourselves in Game Parks. Plaques for GSU mess, for Simon Ekeno and for Peter Ereri, for especial individual assistance.
 - v) 5th Kenyan Rifles in honour of the bar facilities - well used at all times, and especially in the afternoon rain at Lion Hill. Plaque to their Captain.
 - vi) Plaque to smallbore captain of the KRRC for hosting .22 match and barbeque.

High Scorers Spoons to :

- a) Azhar Chaudry for the International Match at Lion Hill
 - b) Zainu Nordin for the .22 match versus KRRC
 - c) Azhar Chaudry for the 300 metre ISU match
 - d) Satinda Sehin for the .22 50 metre match.
6. Finally, I would like to thank 2 people without whose help this tour would never even have started:

Firstly Alister Paul, whose patience, hard work and long hours of driving have been a major factor in making such an excellent tour. I would like to present him with this shooting jacket now, from all of us, and to make him a Life Member of OURC.

Now to the man who conceived and planned this tour, and who has spent the last three weeks in giving us a time we shall never forget. It is hard to express the gratitude that we all feel to Gary for the vast amount of work he has put into our visit. Not only has he been of immense help to us in our shooting, but he has contributed a great deal to Kenyan shooting as a whole over the years, especially through his dedication and work at the Imani School, whom we hope to see return to the Ashburton at Bisley next year. On behalf of the team I would like to present these silver spoons to Gary Jones.

RESULTS OF THE MAIN MATCHES

STONY ATHI - 9TH AUGUST

<u>OXFORD "A"</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
Wilks	45	47	44	136	
Webster	45	45	45	135	
Cunningham	47	48	49	144	
Watson	46	47	41	134	= 824 (1st.)
Baillie-Hamilton	45	46	44	135	
Dickinson	<u>48</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>140</u>	
	276	278	270	824	

OXFORD "B"

Paine	45	44	40	129	
Baxter	46	45	43	134	
Ferry	44	42	44	130	= 786 (3rd.)
Best	43	47	45	135	
Astell-Burt	46	49	41	136	
Farbon	<u>41</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>122</u>	
<u>Reserve:</u>	265	265	256	786	
Purchase	46	44	45	135	
KRRC	274	273	261	808	= 808 (2nd.)
GSU	252	257	234	743	
POLICE	251	259	245	755	

GSU - 23RD AUGUST

<u>OXFORD "A"</u>	<u>300 m (ISU)</u>		<u>OXFORD "A"</u>	<u>50 m (.22 match)</u>	
Wilks	135		Wilks	291	
Cunningham	136		Cunningham	277	= 1138 (1st.)
Baillie-Hamilton	136	= 813 (1st.)	Baillie-Hamilton	284	
Dickinson	136		Dickinson	<u>286</u>	
Webster	131			1138	
Purchase	139				
			<u>OXFORD "B"</u>		
<u>OXFORD "B"</u>			Purchase	285	
Paine	127		Paine	285	= 1129 (3rd.)
Astell-Burt	135		Astell-Burt	275	
Baxter	133	= 789 (4th.)	Webster	<u>284</u>	
Ferry	130			1129	
Best	132				
Farbon	132				
KRA	805	= 808 (2nd.)	KRRC	1131	= 1131 (2nd.)
KRRC	802	= 802 (3rd.)	POLICE	954	
ARMY	780				
POLICE/GSU	770				

INTERNATIONAL MATCH - OXFORD BLUES versus KENYA

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 1981

<u>OXFORD BLUES</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
C Wilks (Captain)	48	47	49	144
J Webster	47	46	41	134
C Cunningham	47	44	44	135
M Baillie-Hamilton	46	49	47	142
M Dickinson	45	49	48	142
M Purchase	48	48	46	142
J Watson	43	47	47	137
E Paine	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>137</u>
	368	375	370	1113

KENYA.

Walimohd	47	47	46	140
Ekeno	48	48	45	141
Chaudhry	50	47	45	142
Sehmi	45	47	45	137
Kimani	45	47	49	141
Paul	46	47	47	140
Noordin	39	46	43	128
Withey	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>140</u>
	367	376	366	1109

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 1981

<u>OXFORD BLUES</u>	<u>Brought forward</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>
C Wilks	144	70	66	136	280
J Webster	134	67	70	137	271
C Cunningham	135	69	71	140	275
M Baillie-Hamilton	142	72	70	142	284
M Dickinson	142	70	65	135	277
M Purchase	142	70	67	137	279
J Watson	137	71	67	138	275
E Paine	<u>137</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>274</u>
	1113	555	547	1102	2215 = 1st.

KENYA

Walimohd	140	69	65	134	274
Ekeno	141	69	70	139	280
Chaudhry	142	72	71	143	285
Sehmi	137	66	64	130	267
Kimani	141	68	61	129	270
Paul	140	66	62	128	268
Noordin	128	71	61	132	260
Withey	<u>140</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>279</u>
	1109	551	523	1074	2183 = 2nd.

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