

2023

25/02 - 19/03/2023



ENGLAND RIFLE TEAM

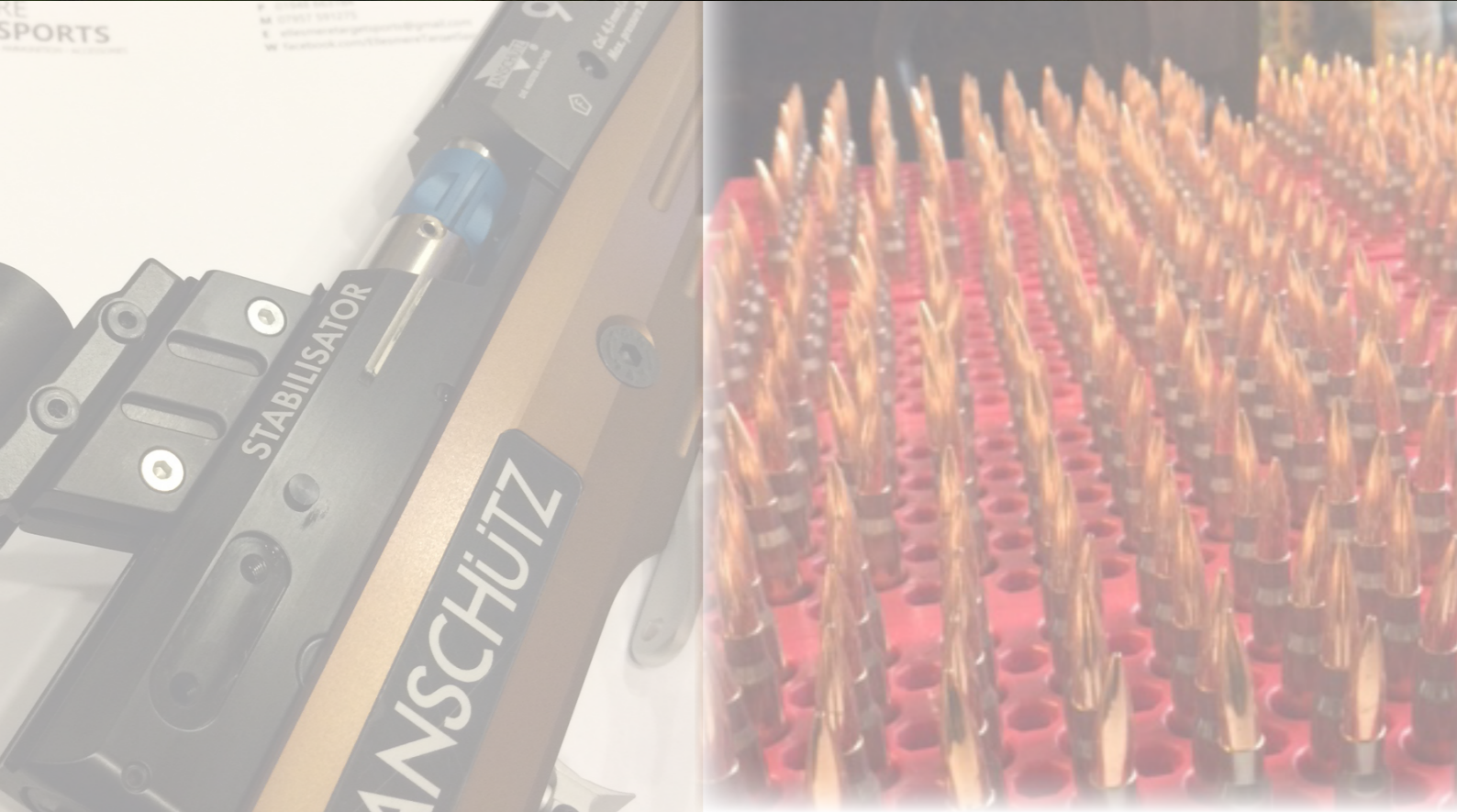
KENYA
&
SOUTH AFRICA





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Foreword

President,
The English Twenty Club



Mick Barr

I am both honoured and delighted to have been asked to write this foreword for the brochure of the first England Team competing in South Africa and Kenya.

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 extra special to all competitors, following numerous postponements due to COVID.

Andy Barnes, a long-time friend both on and off the ranges; has selected some very deserving members, many of whom I know well and will, I am sure, not only provide good competition but ensure the continuation of the existing friendship between target rifle shooters the world over.

I am equally very pleased to note several new members who are to gain their first England Team Touring colours.

My own first shooting team tour to South Africa was in 1992 with John Killian & Co. The local people (and fellow competitors...) were exceptionally friendly and the scenery, plus seeing wild animals "in the wild," was something I will remember for many years to come.

I am confident this particular tour will, give all participants the pleasurable opportunity to renew old friendships and, of course, forge new ones.

As president of the English Twenty Club, I send my very best wishes to the England and home host teams, plus all those taking part on this special occasion.

PS: Try the BRAAIs, they are rather good ...

Mick Barr

President, The English Twenty Club. Bisley





Foreword

South African Bisley Union
(SABU)
Chairman

Mr. Bernand De Beer

Dear Sirs,

At last it is happening. A tour that was supposed to take place in 2021 and 2022 is happening now and I would like to take this opportunity as Chairman of the South African Bisley Union to welcome the Captain, Andrew Barnes and his England Target Rifle Team to South Africa and to the 2023 SA Open Championships.

We are looking forward to introducing the team to one of the most enjoyable shooting experiences in the world. Please enjoy each and every moment of your time here in our beautiful country and your participation in our championships.

We look forward to competing shoulder to shoulder with all the team members on the range – see you in Bloemfontein!

We wish you and your team all the best and most importantly, enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bernand De Beer

Chairman, South African Bisley Union

Foreword

Kenya Sports Shooting
Federation
Chairman

Mr. Shoaib Vayani



Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Kenya Sports Shooting Federation, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you as you prepare to visit our beautiful country for an exhibition match between Kenya and England. We are honoured to host such a talented group of shooters, and we are excited to see what the competition will bring.

As you may know, this will not be the first time that a team from Great Britain has visited Kenya for a shooting competition. In May 2004, the Great Britain Shooting team, comprising of 20 shooters and 5 officials, visited our country after being invited by the Kenya Rifle Association (KRA). The team participated in the 65th edition of the Kenya Open Bisley at the Stony Athi Rifle Range. After the championship finals, they had the opportunity to visit Malindi and the Maasai Mara for sightseeing and a game drive. The team then went on to South Africa and Namibia for a series of shooting competitions.

We are grateful for the opportunity to renew this tradition and look forward to a memorable and competitive match. We hope that you will have the chance to experience the rich culture and natural beauty of our country during your stay.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shoaib Vayani

Chairman, Kenya Sports Shooting Federation



Captains Foreword

Andy Barnes
~~2021, 2022, 2023~~



I am truly honoured and privileged to have been asked by the English XX Council to Captain the England Touring Team to Kenya and South Africa. Originally planned for 2021, no one could have imagined it would take over three and a half years to come to fruition. During this time, the tour has had to be postponed twice, in 2021 and also 2022 as a result of the global pandemic.

Consequently, after a roller coaster journey, to say that team and I are excited to finally be boarding a plane to Kenya in February 2023, and then onwards from there to South Africa, is an understatement!

The opportunity to shoot in Kenya is eagerly anticipated and will be a first for many of us, including me. Our anticipation for this leg of the tour has only increased having met many of the Kenyan team during the Imperial meeting in 2022 at Bisley, where we relished hosting a couple of BBQs whilst hearing tales of challenging range and wind conditions over a beer (or two). I very much hope that our presence will help the further development of target rifle shooting in Kenya.

Keeping a tour like this together over such an extended period requires a lot of work. I owe a true debt of gratitude to my Adjutant, Martin Liversage and Vice-Captain, Phil Chapman-Sheath for their ongoing support, dedication, and persistence in keeping everything on track for such a long time.

In addition, we wouldn't be here without the continued enthusiasm and perseverance of every member of the team, who have stuck with us through the ups and downs of the last three and half years.

My first and, so far, only tour to Africa was in 1993, as part of Bob Stafford's epic Great Britain Team to South Africa and Zimbabwe; a truly memorable experience for all concerned. Little did I realise that I would have the honour of returning 30 years later as Captain of the England Team. I very much hope that this one is equally unforgettable (for the right reasons!), packed full of fond memories and enjoyment, which will enable us to compete at the highest level.

To compete, and win, against South Africa on their home range is a huge challenge. That's a lesson that has been taught to many touring teams over the years, and one I learned in 1993. It would have been challenging enough in 2021, when England was the only international team taking part in the South Africa Target Shooting Championships. The task will be even more exacting in a pre-Palma year with the added inclusion of teams from SA, USA, Kenya, in addition to Jeremy Langley's GB Squad.

One of the core objectives of the team in 2021 was to provide an opportunity for members of the team to experience the challenging conditions in South Africa ahead of the GB Palma selection. I am therefore, very proud that 7 members of the team have also been selected for the GB Team and will be switching squads once we leave Kenya. In addition, I'm delighted to announce that Harriet Bramwell and Tom Shaw, have also been selected as Great Britain Under 25 Captain and Vice-Captain respectively in South Africa, so they too will be wearing two hats during the tour.

The final team boasts both a broad level of experience and an age span from mid-twenties to late seventies! Subject to VAR confirmation, I'm as certain as I can be that Jon Ford is the oldest touring England team member, and one of 3 new caps in the team.

In addition, we have 3 previous Queen's Prize winners (Ant Ringer, James Lewis and Ed Compton) as well as the current European Long-Range Champion, Lucinda Taylor.

The team would like to thank our numerous sponsors, advertisers and others who have helped make this tour possible. Our thanks also to the Kenya Sports Shooting Federation for all their support in allowing us to compete at the Laikipia Air Base Full-bore ranges in Nanyuki, and the South African Bisley Union for all their assistance in organising our participation, in the South African Championships at the Gen De Wet Rifle Range, Bloemfontein. Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the enormous sacrifices our families make to enable us to pursue our chosen sport at the highest possible level.



The England Rifle Team as Photographed in July 2021. Unfortunately the team has lost Chris Heales, Ellie Hoolahan and Charlie Staples but has gained Jumbo Lewis and Ant Ringer



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We wish the England 2023 Full bore Rifle Team every success in South Africa and Kenya - good shooting and good luck!

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English Twenty Club

England Full Bore Rifle Team to South Africa and Kenya 2023

Captain:	Andy Barnes	GB, England, Hertfordshire
Vice-Captain:	Phil Chapman-Sheath	GB, England, Lincolnshire
Adjutant:	Martin Liversage	GB, England, Lancashire
Members:	Nigel Ball#	GB, England, Norfolk
	Harriet Bramwell	England, Lancashire
	Alastair Brown	England, London
	Ed Compton	GB, England, Sussex
	Kit Crabtree**	Middlesex
	Andy Daw	GB, England, Hertfordshire
	Roo Dix	GB, England, Somerset
	Jonathan Ford**	Suffolk
	Scott Glanville	England, Hampshire
	Paul Holmes	England, Lancashire
	Adam Leech	England, Hampshire
	James Lewis	GB, England, Norfolk
	Derek Lowe#	GB, England, Surrey
	Graham Nelson#	GB, England, Northumberland and Durham
	Jason Pepera-Hibbert#	England, Lancashire
	Rosanne Furniss#	England, Northumberland and Durham
	Rupert Riley	England, Bedfordshire
	Ant Ringer	GB, England, Norfolk
	Tom Rylands#	GB, England, Cheshire
	Tom Shaw	England, Berkshire
	Tom Smith	England, Warwickshire
	Paul Sykes#	GB, England, Sussex
	Lucinda Taylor	England, Lancashire
	Richard Webb**	Lancashire

** new cap

Competing with GB team in South Africa

Itinerary

Kenya

24 February	Final Preparation and packing
25 February	Depart Bisley 04:30 to fly Heathrow to Nairobi
26 February	Arrive at the Aberdare Country Club - ETA 04:00
26 Feb - 02 March	Acclimatisation and sightseeing

03 - 05 March Compete in Nanyuki in the Kenya Open Bisley

05 March International match England vs Kenya

06 March Fly to Johannesburg and drive to Bloemfontein

South Africa

07 - 08 March Kit check and orientation

10 March Free State Provincial Open Championships

11 March SA Open TR Champs - Scottish Sword (Ind)
Hamilton Cup (Team)

12 March "Day of Leisure"

13 March SA Open TR Champs - Free State Cup, Kings Norton Cup (Ind), Dewar Shield (Team)

14 March SA Open TR Champs - Dalrymple Cup, Dave Smith Cup (Ind)
Rhodes Cup, SA Open Club Team Championship (Team)

15 March SA Open TR Champs - Jack Mitchley, President Cup (Ind)
RSA International Match (Team)

16 March SA Open TR Champs - State President 1st Stage, Gen K de la Rey Trophy, Municipal Cup, Col R Bodley Memorial Match

17 March SA Open TR Champs - State President, 2nd Stage (Ind)

18 March SA Open TR Champs - Protea International Match (Team)
State President's 3rd Stage (Ind)

19 March Depart South Africa - fly Johannesburg to Heathrow (0530, 20 March)

20 March Depart from Bisley.



MEMORIES OF SOUTH AFRICA 1992

By Ant Ringer

The GB Lions Team to Bloemfontein in 1992 was an unofficial team. The team commemorated the previous team to South Africa in 1972 and celebrated the impending abolition of Apartheid. The captain, John Killian did a remarkable job of cajoling/press ganging as many of the 1972 team as possible into touring once more. Many, having retired from Target Rifle but still capable of participating and enjoying time on the ranges. The team included Olympic and Commonwealth games pistol shots, a multiple Queen's Prize winner and multiple Grand Aggregate winners, a former Irish international lock forward, a Devonian contingent (including the father of the 2024 Palma Team captain) and a Welshman.

The 1972 Championships were held on the Hamilton Range, 1992 was the first SANRA meeting held on The General De Wet range in Bloemfontein. The journey from Johannesburg down the N1 with a former RAF navigator giving directions was uneventful until we realised, we had missed Bloemfontein altogether! I cannot be too harsh on 'the navigator' as I myself on a later trip with a van full of rifles found I was 'lost' in the Township of Soweto not Johannesburg airport. The General De Wet range complex including mess hall, ablutions and bar were all upgraded. The team management, not knowing the 'local' climate with our average age of about 60 organised our accommodation in tents on the ranges. The temperature, during the day reached the high 20s, but at night fell away to zero. In fact, we woke 5 mornings in a row to frost on our tents! After night one we queued for extra blankets and supplemented the blankets with our shooting mats between the top two. One of the team, to counter the freezing temperatures, every night resorted to running a hot bath at 2 in the morning and put his feet in it for 20 minutes.



Arriving back at our canvas abodes after shooting, red dust would cover everything. To alleviate the dust deposits the trick was to roll the sides of the tent up 60cms every morning. On a later trip a 'red storm' did stop shooting for 20 minutes, red dirt got everywhere and was in rifle sights 2 years later.



The cold days on the ranges would start early with prayers delivered in the dulcet tones of Brigadier General Mac Alexander. A wonderful time to think of others. One of my most sombre moments on a rifle range happened a few years later when, having prayers on the range on April 25th, Anzac Day. The Australian and New Zealand Teams, lined up, alternating with each other, arms on each other's shoulders' as we commenced prayers. The outpouring of emotion on the range was immense and intense. The impression and realisation of the devastating effect on families of war is still with me.

The combination of targets being smaller than I was used to, and closer together enabled me to further my reputation for firing on the wrong target, although not as famously as in the Palma Match later in 1992. The mirage was readable, and the shooting physically tough and very competitive. Spending time with my experienced team mates and beer with South Africans in the bar enabled me to expand my shooting knowledge and experience. Experiences were not only confined to the firing point; the complex incurred a 'lock-down' with all vehicles on and off the camp searched.

The search was because of one of the team 'losing' a rifle. Thankfully, after 3 days the rifle was found on the back seat of a van with the seat back rest folded on top!

On the 1992 trip we were able to travel to Boer War battlefields, again making me aware of the extreme sacrifices of war. John Killian, over the years had built up a friendship with Bennie Musgrave (of the Musgrave rifle fame). The team were welcomed to the firearms factory to see rifles and other interesting weapons in production. On the journey back to Johannesburg, the team enjoyed a couple of days at the Willem Pretorius reserve at Winberg. We were also treated to a most amazing braai, a very slow cooked wildebeest, beautifully tender and tasty. Combined with shooting trips to South Africa I have been fortunate enough to enjoy Table Mountain in Cape town, wine tasting trips around Praal, Stellenbosch, crocodile farms, ostrich farms and much of the Garden Route. I would always advise anyone who can to spend an extra 10 days or so in the country around a shooting event. We do shoot with wonderful people in special places.



Andy Barnes - Captain



Andy's first and only tour to date in Africa, was as a young member of Robert Stafford's, very memorable, Great Britain Team to South Africa & Zimbabwe in 1993. Little did he imagine, like any sane person, that his first return would be as Captain of an England touring team! He is relishing the prospect of an equally successful and unforgettable England tour in 2023. This time around, he is particularly excited at the opportunity to shoot in Kenya as well, which will be a first for Andy and many other members of the squad.

Andy (aka 'Turbo') began shooting in 1981 at Bedford School. He is a proud member of the Hertfordshire county team and has also been secretary of the Bedfordians Rifle Club for longer than he can remember. He has previously toured with GB and England teams to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada and the West Indies, as well as England representations in the National and Lawrence matches. He has also had a sprinkling of individual successes along the way including the Donaldson Memorial, Wimbledon, LMRA Open and most recently, the North London Rifle Club Championship in 2022.

After many years working in the pharmaceutical industry in a variety of roles, recent redundancy has given him an opportunity to join the Environment Agency working in another passion of his, fisheries management. When not shooting, he enjoys 5 A-Side football, skiing, fishing and encouraging (as well as paying for!) the 'Bisley habit' of his two daughters, both of whom have fairly recently started target rifle shooting.

Phil Chapman-Sheath - Vice-captain

Phil started shooting aged 11 at Stamford School and progressed via the London University teams to regular team and individual shooting at Bisley. He is a member of the NLRC and Lincolnshire teams and has also represented England in the Lawrence, National, MacKinnon and European Long Range matches. He enjoyed a highly successful first tour with England to Guyana in 2017 and has also toured with Great Britain on two occasions, the first in 2014 to the USA and Canada and again to Canada in 2017. He is very much looking forward to this first experience of shooting in South Africa and Kenya.



Away from Bisley activities, Phil is married to Steph, a physio, with whom they have active 4 teenage sons. He works as an Orthopaedic Knee Surgeon in Hampshire. Phil enjoys small bore shooting in Southampton alongside his sons and generally supporting them from various hockey sidelines. He spends any other spare time sailing and motor boating with his family in Poole harbour.

Martin Liversage - Adjutant



With Martin having served as Adjutant for an England touring team to Guyana in 2017 and a GB touring team to Canada in 2018, the Captain thought him suitably qualified to do the same for him England team to South Africa and Kenya.

This will be Martin's first visit to South Africa and Kenya where he expects it to be considerably warmer than his home range on the north west coast of England. He initially picked up a rifle with Preston Marine Cadets many years ago, both shooting and coaching to a respectable degree of success and has gone full circle, finding himself as the National Coach for the Sea Cadet Corps. Martin can often be found on ranges in the north of England on a bleak Sunday afternoon, winter or summer.

His first tour was with an NRA team to the Channel Islands 2014 and he represented England in his first National Match in 2015.

Away from the range, Martin will occasionally try his hand at unusual travel, including having most recently driven a tuk-tuk through the Indian Himalayas. He is very much looking forward to shooting and socialising with his team and new acquaintances on the African continent.

Tom Rylands - Armourer



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 shooting tour abroad was to South Africa in 1984, visiting Rand Rifles outside Johannesburg and Hamilton Range in Bloemfontein (one of a now diminishing group who have shot on that range!). This was the beginning of a long friendship with many South African shooters and which was cemented on his return in 1993 with the GB Team as Adjutant, when he was honoured with Life Membership of what was then SANRA. Tom captained the England Team which toured in 2009 and has visited Bloemfontein on many other occasions, including the 1999 Palma and the 2017 Australia Matches.

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. He is currently the National Chief Coach for Army Cadet Shooting and works closely with CCRS to promote all Cadet shooting activities. Tom is very much looking forward to visiting the African Continent again, to renew old friendships and make new ones.



Adam Leech



Adam's first shot was fired with the venerable No.8 .22 rifle as an Army Cadet, moving on to Target Rifle at the University of Nottingham. He now shoots with various clubs, for Hampshire and UK Police, as well as on previous NRA and England teams to the Channel Islands and Guyana respectively. Shooting highlights include captaining Hampshire to victory in the Counties Short Range match in 2017 (first time since 1954, not that anyone was counting...) plus winning the Percy Whittaker salver on tour in Jersey in 2015 and the The Long in the 2019 English XX Meeting.

When not shooting, Adam is often.....shooting, typically either much further from (Match Rifle) or much closer to (smallbore) the target, but will generally turn his hand to anything that can be aimed and goes bang. An engineer by degree and former occupation, Adam is currently paying another team member's pension as a serving police officer of 17 years, presently combining that with his previous trade as he works in cybercrime and online operations.

Harriet started shooting at Sedbergh School aged 13 when she became a cadet and carried on shooting while at Shrewsbury School for sixth form. At school, she was part of the UKCRT to Jersey, captained the Athelings to Canada and was part of the GBU19 team that toured to South Africa in 2017. She was thrilled to make it on to Tom Rylands' England team to Canada in 2019, her first senior tour, a highlight of which was being selected for the Commonwealth match.

Harriet is studying medicine at Bristol University which she loves and when not shooting she enjoys fellrunning with her spaniel, Maverick. Having travelled from Cairo to Cape Town overland with her family, Harriet is excited to be returning to Kenya and South Africa, although will be packing gallons of factor 50 sun cream, after a slightly traumatic experience when last under the African sun.

Harriet Bramwell



Tom Shaw



Tom is a self-employed architectural designer, specialising in residential development and contemporary design. The majority of Tom's work is based in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, but he also has plans to move into residential property development in the near future.

This will be his first tour beyond the channel Islands but touring seems to be becoming a far more regular occurrence, having been selected for the GB Canada Tour 2023 and as Vice-Captain of the GB Under 25 Team due to return to Bloemfontein in 2024 for the World Championships.

Whilst both legs of this tour promise to be equally great, Tom is particularly looking forward to visiting Kenya for the first time having previously visited South Africa, albeit not to shoot.

Derek Lowe



Derek began his shooting in the cadet force at RGS Guildford, moving on to the Athelings in 1991, Oxford University over 1991 - 1994 and the Surrey county team since the late 1990s. He has been fortunate enough to represent England or Great Britain in various guises in Australia, Canada, Jersey, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

This tour will be Derek's 5th to South Africa and 3rd to Kenya, which he also visited on a church trip to support local partners in 2006. Keenest at long range and in a team environment, he also spends a lot of time in match rifle. Aside from coaching and shooting (usually in that order), Derek is an independent consultant in the areas of finance & corporate governance, and an experienced Group Company Secretary and charity trustee.

Lt Col Rupert Riley RA (S.B.)



Rupert started shooting at Bedford School and was selected for the Athelings in 1989. It was all downhill from there until he joined the Army in the mid '90s and slowly regained some form. Instead of trophies he collected amusing anecdotes of drunken Bisley derring do, until he realised that was probably a large part of the reason there were no trophies. The last decade has borne some fruit in individual competition: the Silver Badge in the Queens Prize, winning Admiral Hutton the Scottish Presidents Cup and the Stickle-down Range Agg.

Rupert's real passion in this game is team shooting and he has been lucky to be part of an Army team that has polished its team drills and gone from strength to strength as a result. A favourite recent performance was the Army victory against the hosts, The NRA CI Team and Wales in the Jersey Spring Meeting in 2018, resulting in a shortage of champagne in St Helier that evening. He has been a regular selection in the UK Armed Forces team (formerly Combined Services) and was honoured to be in the Mackinnon team in 2018 followed by the Lawrence and National (as a reserve) in 2019.

An Army officer, Rupert has had a few experiences at the sharp end and the visceral need for marksmanship in the Armed Forces couldn't be clearer to him. He is currently working in DCDC, UK Defence's 'think-tank' in Oxfordshire, dreaming up better ways to wage war (i.e. hopefully avoiding it at all costs). In his spare time he is a deer manager on the Crown Estate and dreams of a time before children, when he climbed up and skied down mountains lots.

Rupert is very much looking forward to returning to the cut and thrust of the SABU Meeting at Bloemfontein, where he has toured three times previously with the Army and to being part of a potent, well-oiled England machine.

By Lt Col RHG Riley RA



Target Rifle Shooting & Operational Marksmanship

This is why:

Where was the break? Probably when the British Army finally adopted a self-loading rifle in 1954. Until then target shooting had been relatively synonymous with service shooting, the same pattern of rifle was used (albeit with target sights) and at the same distances and roughly the same targets. With the advent of the L1A1 7.62mm Self Loading Rifle, came a separation from target shooting. Rapid, less accurate, suppressive fire, lesser distances and against human-shaped targets. The trend has continued to the present day.

Soldiers are highly unlikely to wield bolt action rifles unless they are snipers and then they exclusively use high-power telescopic sights. Marksmanship is less well learned as an art, it is considered less important and is just one of myriad, complex skills needed on the battlefield. Surely Target Rifle shooting is irrelevant to modern employment of small arms in war; so why should it still a core tenet of the National Rifle Association's *raison d'être*?

In 2007 I was commanding my Artillery Battery (then re-rolled to infantry) in Basra, Iraq. We occupied a four-storey concrete building in a police headquarters compound in an extraordinarily dangerous district called An Rabbat, which was a hotbed of activity for the Iranian-backed Jaish al Merdhi terrorist group. We spent the last four months of a particularly bloody tour of duty regularly being shot at, rocketed and mortared, while fighting back with rifles, machine guns and Javelin anti-tank missiles. It was a surreal experience and while there were times when it was terrifying, it was, perversely, intoxicatingly exciting.

We had a number of specialist troops operating with us, some of them were part of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) that occupied a heavily concealed observation post on the roof of the building. One of their number was a Corporal who was a trained sharpshooter (essentially someone with enhanced marksmanship skills but without formal sniper training and armed with the L96 7.62mm sniper rifle (sadly no longer in service)).

During one very hot unusually quiet day I had ordered that further work was to be done to reinforce some of the firing positions on the roofs of some of the lower buildings in the compound. I arranged that I would meet up with my 2nd in Command (2IC) and some NCOs to survey where best to place the sandbagged emplacements but was delayed in getting there because of a call from Brigade HQ. As I placed the receiver down I heard a number of single shots ring out and the Ops Room radio crackle with transmissions about casualties. My 2IC had been hit and possibly one of the NCOs. It appeared as though the fire was very accurate and coming from a building over 300m away.

It was all over in seconds and the main concern was to get my 2IC back to the Hospital in the main base outside the city, it was imperative that the enemy shooting at us were to be suppressed in order to get a helicopter in without losing it and luckily the sharpshooter Corporal had identified the enemy position and dealt with it, with our machine gunners pouring fire into other suspected enemy positions.

My 2IC was extracted in record time by a very skilful helicopter crew (another story in its own right) and was being operated on within 45 minutes of being wounded. He survived, despite being shot high up in the chest, above his body armour.



When I had dealt with the immediate aftermath of the action, sending reports to Brigade HQ, debriefing on the casualty evacuation procedure and generally restoring order, I made my way onto the roof to thank the sharpshooter. He was remarkably self-deprecating and just glad he was able to assist in saving the life of my 2IC but he did express some pleasure that he had dealt with the enemy marksman pretty efficiently:

"I actually got him with the second shot sir, as it was a bit gusty and I lost the first shot out wide, but my spotter saw the splash and adjusted my sights for me to nail him in the kisser!" he said quietly but with some pride.



Knowing that generally snipers and sharpshooters didn't get their spotters to adjust their sights like that and relied on calling the deflection to allow the shooter to adjust by aiming off or changing their own sights, I asked why he did it that way.

"It's just quicker and involves less talking, sir" he explained.

I asked how he had come up with that method, and he proudly answered.

"That's how we used to do it in the cadets at Bisley."

Lucinda Taylor



Lucinda started her shooting at Epsom College in 2010, managing to win the Ashburton Shield in 2011! This win was her first experience of being part of a cohesive team and the strong friendships that come with that. During her three years at Southampton University that followed, she regularly shot at Bisley (both fullbore and smallbore), winning various BUCS medals along the way and captaining the team in 2013 to win the Musketeers.

Lucinda has toured Jersey, Guernsey and Canada but this will be her first time as a shooter in South Africa & Kenya. Having prepared for this tour for nearly 3 years, she cannot wait to finally go and having toured with Turbo in 2019, she knows this is going to be an incredible tour and is excited for the surprises that lie ahead.

When not on the shooting range, Lucinda used to say she went to the driving range as a keen golfer at Walton Heath. However, during the 2020 lockdown, Lucinda discovered new love for running and cycling so is training for a triathlon to help prepare for the altitude in Bloem!

During the week and to earn some money to pay for her shooting tours, Lucinda works at KPMG in the M&A team.

Nigel J Ball - QM GC SM SC CSM

Nigel is no stranger to South Africa having been on a variety of GB and England teams previously. This will be his first tour to Kenya though for target shooting purposes but he has visited the country before during his Royal Navy career when Mombasa became the off duty port of call during Gulf Patrols on HMS Andromeda.

Usually seen at Bisley with a host of his school pupils avidly following him and breaking rifles he thought that touring was one place to escape however it is not to be. A former pupil has followed his lead and claimed a place on the team but he insists they are a former pupil and not his responsibility, we will see.

Nigel has gained a few Grand Agg, Queen's Final and Georges badges in his time but it is team shooting he relishes most. In his opinion there is nothing like a well oiled team that flows and supports each other to perform to the best, hence his quest to be on as many teams as possible.

In the scant spare time Nigel has away from school duties and pupils he likes to partake of a gallon or two of red wine and good food and even manages a holiday with his wife at times but not enough in her opinion, she is obviously not a shooter.



Ed lives down in Sussex, near the Ashdown Forest, with his other half Naomi & black lab Bruin.

For the last couple of years, Ed has been building a new company - Forest Biltong. It was a lockdown project but it has now allowed him to move away completely from plumbing. Things he enjoys are running, fishing, collecting wine & deer stalking. And selling his venison biltong at festivals!

Starting touring in 2000, he competed in South Africa with the GBU19s, Canada with the u25s and finally GBRT to Australia and others. There was unexpected success in 2011, winning the Queen's Prize without practice and thereby showing how long body memory can last!

The last four years have been a transition from shooter to coach, which has been thoroughly enjoyable! Regularly coaching his Sussex team, Ed was thrilled to get his first England coaching cap in the National Match 2021. This challenge is now where his heart lies and Ed is honoured to have been asked to act as main coach for this England team.

Bring on the mirage!

Ed Compton - GM



Graham Nelson



Graham started shooting small-bore aged 11 at Stamford School, before progressing to fullbore and subsequent selection for the Athelings and then GBU25. As an undergraduate he (along with 3 friends) re-founded the Newcastle University Rifle Club, it is a source of pride to see the club still going strong some 20 years later. A post university hiatus in competitive shooting was followed by an NRA tour in 2014, 4 National Caps for England in 5 years - both as a shooter and target coach - and GB tours to USA and Canada in 2016 and 2018.

Graham is a member of Manchester and Newcastle Rifle clubs, and a member of council for the English XX club fulfilling the role of Hon. Membership Secretary - and he also manages the English Lions talent development squad.

Away from the ranges Graham is a Consultant Anaesthetist at Salford Royal Hospital with interests in major upper abdominal and intestinal failure surgery. He is married to Sophie (whose support and understanding he is very grateful for) and they have two wonderful* children - a 3 year old Charlie and 18 month old Annabelle. The decline in Graham's golf handicap over the past 3 years is presumed to be a coincidence.

Graham is looking forward to touring with a fabulous bunch of team-mates, and to shooting again at Blomfontein, last visited some 17 years previously. It will be his first trip into Kenya. From memory the wine and the steak are excellent in S.A. and the wind changes quickly and often. Hopefully all of these things will provide lasting positive memories!

*most of the time.



Rick Webb



Rick started shooting, aged 14, with the Sea Cadets. He was christened with both the Lee Enfield .303 and the Henry Martini .22. Competing in his first ISCRM at Bisley in 1981 he moved on to coaching cadet teams until a chance encounter, with an old cadet adversary (who happens to be his Adj for this tour), meant he joined Altcar RC and entered his first Imperial in 2009. Rick has worked his way through to become a regular squad member for Lancashire at both Full and Small bore and owes his development to the support and guidance from his peers at both Altcar and Salford RC.

He continues in the service of the Sea Cadets and has a national role as lead for target shooting for development of cadets and coaches alike.

Married to Sue, a fellow shooter, they are parents to John (15) who is cutting his teeth at the sport, and Lucy (7) who thinks she should be shooting already! Rick is about to retire after 32 years of policing the streets of Greater Manchester. After constantly being asked by his team "What exactly do you do?" he is going to miss the banter and the abuse, but not the shifts!

Having had the pleasure of his first touring experience to the Channel Islands in 2019, under the captaincy of Stuart Young, he is now looking forward to the opportunity of making new friends and is honoured to be touring as a member of the England Team to South Africa and Kenya.

Andy Daw



Andy started shooting smallbore at prep school in 1974, taking up full-bore shooting at Rugby School as part of the Cadet Force, entering his first Imperial Meeting in 1981 (and every year it has been run since). He has represented Hertfordshire regularly since 1994, and has represented England in both the National and Mackinnon Matches. First touring with the 1995 NRA Team to the Channel Islands, it was only later that Andy caught the touring bug; making up for lost time, he has rediscovered the pleasures of touring with the 2012 Great Britain team to Canada & USA, 2013 England team to South Africa, the 2015 British Commonwealth Goodwill Team to USA, and the 2017 England team to Guyana, and also competing as an individual in them 2019 Long Range World Championships in New Zealand.

A biochemist by training, Andy is now a Connectivity and Deployment Specialist in the Point-of-Care medical diagnostics sector, working closely with colleagues throughout Africa; He lives in Bedfordshire with his partner, Donna, and son, Harrison. Away from the ranges, he enjoys skiing (slowly), golf (with a wicked slice), DIY (carefully) and off-road driving (muddy). He is a qualified light helicopter pilot, although being an even dearer hobby than shooting and off-roading, he rarely gets to play, so enjoys the less costly alternative of flying the radio-controlled versions.

Paul Sykes - SC



Paul started shooting with his father, having spent many a year at Bisley "on holiday" as a child. In his early years, he captained The Perse School and the University of London and was Adjutant of the 2004 Great Britain Under 25 South Africa tour. The General de Wet remains one of his favourite rifle ranges having been a member of the 2008 Great Britain Rifle Team that was victorious in the Protea Match, a feat that he aims to help this team achieve.

This is his second England tour, the other also being to South Africa in 2009. After a brief hiatus from shooting, selection onto this team continues his successful return to the sport having finished top Englishman for the past two years in the Grand Aggregate and achieved 'Big 5' status after Kolapore selection in 2018. The highlight of his individual shooting career came in 2019 having finished 2nd in the Grand Aggregate, by a solitary v-bull, but it remains the numerous England team appearances and a Palma cap in 2011 that hold the fondest memories as there is nothing quite like being part of a cohesive team that has worked hard to achieve success.

Away from shooting, Paul is a Colorectal and Emergency General Surgeon currently looking for a grownup job as a Consultant as close to Bisley as possible. In his spare time he is a keen cyclist and plans to race up some Alps should help him to be in shape for the temperatures expected on the General de Wet rifle range.

Christopher 'Kit' Crabtree



Kit was first exposed to the competitive world of Target Rifle through Wiltshire ACF. The opportunity to both shoot for, and captain his Country's cadet team is a memory he looks back upon fondly.

From a childhood obsession with Lego to excelling in practical subjects in school; a career in the construction industry was a natural progression. A carpenter by trade, Kit has been working on high end residential renovations for some time now. He takes great pride and satisfaction from working in the more creative and challenging sector of the construction industry. In recent years, growth and opportunity has seen Kit take on more responsibility. As a Site Manager, Kit is the link between a multitude of different parties and is ultimately responsible for the timely delivery of his developments.

Kit has recently decided to step away from full time employment to further his education and is currently studying for a MSc in 'Construction Project Management.' When not being challenged with work, studies or the shooting ranges; Kit is a keen skier, enjoys shotgun shooting, being outside and socialising with friends. Kit is a member of the LMRA and is a regular shooter for the County of Middlesex.

Looking to build upon his experience gained in the Lions development program and a tour of the Channel Islands with the NRA CI team, Kit has enjoyed the England training weekends and is very much looking forward to competing in SA & Kenya as a member of the England team.



Seven Decades And Counting

By Derek Lowe

Rifle tours from the UK to Kenya have a long, happy and infrequent history. Having met (or been) a member of Kenya tours spanning, if not touching, seven decades, I can attest to the unique joys and challenges on offer to our team in 2023.

Common factors on all the tours included welcome wildlife (game both at a distance and on a plate), unwelcome wildlife (various nocturnal disturbances), the effect of altitude (on body, bullet & transport), appreciation of the country (whether on inland safari, on the coast or desperately trying to navigate between the two) and enjoyment of our hosts' company and generosity.

In 1960, a combined team from Oxford & Cambridge universities spent the better part of six weeks in East Africa, touring Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda. A brief glance of this tour's exhausting schedule makes me wonder that it didn't take longer than that! In Kenya, members of this team won four of the five individual competitions, including Cambridge Captain, William Crawford, winning the Kenya Championship after a tie shoot against Mrs. C E. Marks of Kenya, who in turn won the Grand Aggregate by a single point from Tony Chivers of Cambridge.

The tourists won an international match against teams representing East Africa, Kenya and Uganda, beating the closest of these by a clear 20 points for a team of eight firers. Kenyan ranges visited included Nanyuki, some hours north of Nairobi and the venue for the 2023 team's shooting, along with Kahawa & Tigoni, both close to Nairobi.

Other successes for the 1960 tourists included a match in Tanganyika, where the lowest touring score exceeded the highest of the hosts' scores; and Oxford University beating the Uganda Police Specials to win a service rifle competition which saw Cambridge University come fifth (top score: David Bentata, who is still to be seen behind the Oxford target on 2nd Friday morning in the Imperial). A further Oxford & Cambridge tour followed in 1962, which was enjoyed in much the same spirit, however details have eluded me to date.



The 1970s did not feature in these tours, unless we count the photo albums of the 'Oxford Blues' (students & alumni) tour, which ran for three weeks in August 1981. Recreational venues (Aberdare, Voi, Malindi, Thika, Muthaiga Country Club, game parks,...) featured heavily, and even some ranges featured (at the Imani School and Railway Club in Nairobi, Lion Hill some hours north, and Stony Athi - an hour south east).

OURC recorded a great success in the international match, winning by 32 points, taking all but one of the range totals as well. The tourists also won three other club teams matches - one each for .22, 300m and Target Rifle. Sadly, this success did not extend far into the Service Rifle match against three Kenyan teams, despite some creative division of labour during the "run-down" in the falling plates competition - to the hilarity of all: those who could, ran; those who couldn't.... This breadth of disciplines shot on-range in the earliest tours, has since narrowed down to just TR.

1994 saw OURC return to Kenya in late June, for a pretty compact couple of weeks squeezed between unavoidable Match Rifle commitments in the UK. Elements repeated from the 1960 tour included visiting team officers winning the major competitions (Turbo, Phil and Martin - please note), the stalwart Brian Hawkins (never far from his load hailer) and the long-suffering Peugeot of Brian Hawkins. It is unclear whether Brian had changed his car since 1960, but its suspension clearly suited his habit of conveying his rifle and other shooting equipment around the range on the bonnet and roof, seemingly without unfortunate incidents or damage. At the time of this tour, Brian was manager at the club named for history's best known Karen: von Blixen of nostalgic Meryl Streep & Robert Redford fame, whose estate just south-west of Nairobi fell in the 1930s to the less nostalgic fate of property development.

The team enjoyed wonderful hospitality from Kenyan shooters, and particular care from those running Stony Athi range, with some facilities prepared for 'VIP' use and accommodation tents delivered by helicopter.



OURC sadly did not repeat earlier tours' successes on match day, but this had nothing to do with it being the very first shoot of the tour, finishing close to darkness. Victory came in the individual shooting instead, with Adjutant Andrew Reynolds winning the Championship of Kenya by a clear two points. One area where the 1994 team may have pipped 1981 was in subsequent accomplishment of senior international colours in TR: 1981 claims 5 whereas 1994 may possibly be 6!

Lastly, David Hossack's Great Britain team toured to Kenya and Namibia in May 2004. After a very comfortable arrival into the Muthaiga Country Club, the team enjoyed two days of competitive shooting at Stony Athi. Several visitors won individual competitions, Ian Shaw the Short Range Aggregate and Matt Button the Championship itself, following the final which was the only event shot at 1000m.



No team match is recorded for the 2004 team, but perhaps the draw of safari then the Malindi beach was too much. All road travel was up to an hour at most, with anything over that via three flights taken on a charter aircraft - clearly, management had learned from prior tours. As with the 1994 tour, this team would gladly have stayed longer, but distant ranges called - in this case Windhoek via Johannesburg, where the rifles were lost for some days - don't mention to this year's Adj!

The 2010s have just made it onto this list, via Bill Richards' visits to provide some skills coaching input in 2018 & 2019. He reports the joys of a new range (new to the 2023 visitors, at least), with Nanyuki's delightful blend of heat and altitude, that will make for entertaining and changeable conditions. We're looking forward to the challenge.

For those who would like to review further, the team's website links to a variety of brochures and diary reports for these tours.

Reflecting the consistent view of all these teams: Thank You to our Kenyan hosts, who go to such efforts to make our tours so enjoyable and successful. For larger or national teams, Kenya makes for a great destination in combination with another country; whereas, for a club team with greater flexibility, Kenya works very well on its own.



Which team will go next?

STAY ON TARGET



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This ethos of never standing still and always striving to be the best is the same in sport as it is in work. That's why we're so proud to be supporting one of our colleagues, Rosanne Furniss, in her journey to become one of the best by being part of the GB Rifle Team.

We want to wish the England and GB Rifle Teams good luck and hope you have a very successful tour in Kenya and South Africa!

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+44 (0)1865 601 300
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Jason Pepera-Hibbert



Jason began shooting at Wellington College under the watchful eye of Nigel Ball, another member of the team, winning the Ashburton Shield in 2016. Whilst studying at Exeter University, Jason spent his holidays going on tour with the NRA Team 2018 and the GB U25 Team to the World Championships NZ 2019 where he would place 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 also be Jason's first time touring with England and his first visits to Kenya and South

Africa. The range in Bloemfontein is also known for its challenging conditions, so naturally he is excited to experience it first hand.

Rosanne Furniss - SM



After starting fullbore shooting at university, Rosanne had a ten year break from target rifle and after restarting during the 150th Anniversary meeting in 2019 Rosanne is really looking forward to joining the England team for her first ever TR tour. Whilst in the past she could have been found dabbling at long range with the Match Rifle team, or at shorter range shooting smallbore at Chobham, Rosanne has really enjoyed her return to TR, probably helped by having some success to date! She is especially proud of her track record in the Queen's prize, and hopes to add further successes whilst touring.

Off the range, Rosanne works in consulting, supporting the public sector to improve processes and reduce waits, and is looking forward to moving to Lewes in the near future.

Scott Glanville



Scott started shooting at the age of 14 in the ATC and competed in his first Imperial at 18 in 2005. After joining the RAF as an avionics technician in 2007 Scott got back in to shooting via the RAF team, where he has featured ever since and is now Captain. Scott is based at RAF Odiham just outside Basingstoke working on Chinook helicopters. He lives in Aldershot with partner Katy, a nurse, who fortunately quite enjoys trips to nearby Bisley. Shooting highlights so far include tours with the RAF to California, South Africa four times and most recently the Caribbean, along with being selected for the National match in 2018.

Outside of shooting Scott enjoys skiing as well as travelling back to his native Cornwall to explore.

Tom Smith



Tom started shooting in 2005 with Warwickshire ACF. He first journeyed to Connaught in 2008 on the CLIM course run by the Canadian Cadet Force. His successes there secured selection to the British Cadet Rifle Team in 2010 where he enjoyed his return visit winning the Short Range Aggregate. Bitten with the touring bug, Tom then travelled to South Africa with GB U19, followed by the NRA team to the Channel Islands in 2012 and then competed for GB U25 in the World Championships in 2015 at Camp Perry. Tom returned to South Africa in 2017 with GB U25.

Away from Bisley Tom runs his own business as a carpenter and joiner specialist. He was delighted to be travelling on his first senior tour with England and returning to Canada for the first time in nine years in 2019. Tom is very excited to be part of another England team and returning to South Africa for a 3rd time, he also can't wait to arrive in Kenya and to experience the Kenyan ranges.

Jonathan (Jon) Ford



Jon captained his school team (Framlingham College) at Bisley in 1962, but then joined the RAF as a pilot and did not return to shooting until 2008 aged 64 when he was grounded by the medics for a mild heart condition (his wife, Brenda, said she didn't know he had a heart)! He has toured 5 times to South Africa with the RAF Target Rifle Club and has once visited Kenya when he landed a Canberra at Moi Air Base (then known as KAF Eastleigh) in 1968.

He has shot regularly for Suffolk (both fullbore and smallbore) and shot his first Imperial in 2013. He has enjoyed the ups and downs, (but not the left and rights!) at Bisley reaching the final of the Queen's Prize on 3 occasions and finishing twice in the top 100 of the Grand. He is very proud to have been selected as a member of the England Team as a new cap at a relatively senior age. Jon is still a keen skier and enjoys walking his Labrador, Harry, in the Suffolk countryside - Covid-19 permitting!

Antony Ringer - GM3 SM2 SB SC

Antony is a three times Queen's Prize winner, twice World Champion and twice Commonwealth Games representative. He has top scored in two Palma matches and an Australia match and has won the Meekatharra opening and closing season shoots.

Antony is very much looking forward to shooting in Kenya for the first time and South Africa for the fifth. He has not toured very often in the last 20 years and is looking forward to travelling with many new and different faces.



Paul Holmes



Paul was born in Morecambe, Lancashire in 1971. He grew up about 500 yards from a 500yd firing point in the village of Cragbank, on the coast of Morecambe Bay. Unfortunately, this range closed before he was old enough to shoot on it but his dad (and indeed our adj, Martin) did get to shoot on it. All was not lost though, as his dad already had him shooting for years in the back garden with the family B.S.A. Airsporter, so long in fact he can't actually remember how old he was!

At 14 he joined Morecambe rifle club and shot smallbore alongside his dad until the age of 16 when other "distractions" pulled him away from target shooting. At 30 he started smallbore again (with the same mk2 martini) and also got into fullbore. It was at this time that he saw a flyer from Dick Horrocks advertising an open fullbore shoot for Blackburn rifle club's 100th anniversary. He joined Dicks club Manchester and the rest is history.....

He has been a regular Lancashire shot for the last 12 years or so and hasn't missed an Imperial since 2008. In 2012 he was a reserve for the National and in 2017 he was on the NRA Team to the Channel Islands.

Away from shooting Paul runs his own Tree Surgery business. Being in and around some areas of outstanding natural beauty and on the doorstep to the Lake District the view from the office window is quite often stunning but it will be good to see some different scenery on the tour.

He is looking forward to returning to Kenya (he was last there as a tourist in 2001) and visiting South Africa and proud to be a part of what looks to be a great team both on and off the ranges!.

James 'Jumbo' Lewis - GM

James (Jumbo) Lewis is a 2022 addition to the team and is very excited to be travelling to Kenya for the 1st time followed by Bloemfontein for the 15th.

Founder and owner of Shard Capital which will have 4 members in Africa (if we exclude the Cairo office) which is rather better ratio than the entire ownership of Phoenix Barrels. Winner of the Sovereign's Prize in 2007 and Team leader of the Kenya Boat Race squad 2022.

James recently launched Linnaeus Environmental to focus on Global Carbon Solutions with live projects from Egypt to Namibia mitigating emissions in the former to promoting biodiversity in the latter.



Rupert 'Roo' Dix



Roo started shooting full-bore in 1985 at RGS Guildford and is now a regular shot with the Old Guildfordians (OG's) and Captain of Somerset County RA.

Roo first toured South Africa in 2006, top scoring for GB in the Protea Match, then returning in 2009 to celebrate the 80th year of the South African Bisley Union, "cleaning up" with the OG's on and off the ranges. Roo won gold and set a new record in the America Match (GB Canada 2006), won gold and set a new record in the Palma Match (Canada 2007), returning to Canada in 2013, where he learnt how to set records with "Turbo", always off the range.

This is his first England tour. Roo's other major interest is rock climbing and mountaineering, with many months spent overseas on various trips and expeditions. He has missed only one Imperial meeting, in 2010, to test the limits on an 8,000m peak - Gasherbrum II - in Northern Pakistan.

He is a company senior executive, having spent the vast majority of his career in the aerospace industry. He is married to Karen, having not toured overseas since the arrival of the first of two children, back in 2014. He is now allowed out again!

Al Brown



This will be Alastair's third shooting tour to South Africa and second with the England Rifle Team, having visited in 2009 and 2013. It will be his first tour to Kenya. Previous tours include Canada twice (1990 and 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 and has been a reserve for England in the American Match (held in 2013 in South Africa) and the National Match (2013).

Outside of shooting, Alastair enjoys spending time with his young family, dog walking, cooking and entertaining. He is also a founding shareholder of The Phoenix Barrel Company Limited, which he established together with fellow England team members Tom Rylands and James Lewis in 2022.





TR Training Alternatives, At Home/On A Budget

By Lt Col RHG Riley RA

Many serious TR competitors use SCATT or other simulation systems to train for TR competition. The problem is that these are expensive and rely on the ability to interpret the data accurately and, to an extent, also rely on being able to identify physical and mechanical problems simultaneously (cheek pressure, trigger finger position, sling tension etc, resulting in SCATT trace anomalies), which requires a coach to watch the firer and the simulation to solve problems,

so SCATT is certainly not a solution to home training in itself and is, for many, an expense too far for the value gained.

During the last few years I have used a number of proven methods and also experimented with some variations on those, to practice technique. They are certainly not capable of the level of resolution that a correctly employed simulator system does but nevertheless, they give feedback which can enhance technique to an extent.

TR DRY-FIRING

This is something that is well-proven as a technique for improving sustainability and consistency of a position over the course of multiple firing cycles. One just needs TR kit, some space and a suitable target. The target needs to be the right size and so using some basic maths to work out the size of the aiming mark compared to a standard NRA aiming mark at the appropriate distance, results in a proportionately correct size.

Lighting must be adequate and so a torch or desk lamp may be needed indoors. It's surprising how little space you need but experience proved that generally the further the distance, the more 'credible' the sight picture and 'feel' of the practice. I managed good sessions across a small dining room (4m) and along a landing (7m). A garden lawn gives much more realistic ambiance, firing point and sight picture and, using a 25 yd cadet target that conveniently replicates the 300 yd aiming mark at that distance, you can have realistic outdoor drytraining; though it might be wise to warn your neighbours if you are overlooked!

The other factor, common to any form of training, is the ability to video, at close quarters, to monitor variations in position, dismounting etc. This is of value as generally you don't have a TR coach/mentor in attendance.

I even experimented with some additional 'fidelity' for team match dry training, by employing a willing daughter to sit in a chair next to me, adjusting sights and chanting out 'Ok daddy, target 89, go on' etc, which kept her and I amused for a few Covid lockdown summer afternoons. You are only limited by your imagination.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirt Cheap • Versatile • TR specific • Good for 'drilling' position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited feedback • No recoil • Requires TR rifle

SMALL-BORE

A well-trodden route for some but still considered the 'dark side' for many. The critical issue with using Small-Bore (SB) as a high-fidelity TR training regime is to try and replicate the 'look and feel' of TR. Many TR shooters either don't do it because it is sufficiently similar in some respects but very different in the detail: serious SB rifles are very technical with metal/composite stocks and although these are making inroads into TR, they are not yet 'industry standard'. Triggers are very different in weight. Contemporary SB rear sights adjust in different directions to TR sights and by different fractions of angle etc etc...

Starting to think more about improving my own technical performance in 2010 prompted me to search for a SB rifle that would have the handling of my TR rifle (stock design) and I got the trigger re-sprung to reflect a TR 1.5kg pull. The final piece of the process was a few years later and getting brackets fitted that would take my TR sights.

In practice I have found that outdoor 50m shooting has been more useful than indoor 25yd (outdoor ambience, light conditions

AIR RIFLE

Owning an old but serviceable good quality German break-barrel air-rifle, I have experimented with fitting Anschutz SB sights to it and shooting at 25yds in the garden. The trigger is adjustable to TR weight and the sight picture consistent with TR. It actually produces more recoil than a SB rifle and so slightly more realistic disruption to sight picture on firing but there the similarities end.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to TR (trigger/sights/recoil) • Inexpensive • Works with limited backstop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained prone shooting is unworkable (without a sophisticated rifle)

and the greater distance allows a better appreciation of group development). The bullseyes are proportionately much smaller than TR targets and they certainly punish a poor shot release, so feedback is visceral and makes you work hard!

One of the other huge advantages of SB practice is exposure to SB shooters! I was lucky enough to get chatting to an ex-GB SB shot at one club, who turned into a training buddy par-excellence, teaching me a lot about my own positional discipline and trigger technique. Always exploit the opportunity to gain knowledge from other shooting discipline aficionados, so much of it is, unsurprisingly, synonymous with TR.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live feedback • Cheap (vs TR) • Unforgiving • Training with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key differences to TR • Range/rifle required • Risk of converting to the 'dark side'!

The major disadvantage with this type of air rifle is the lack of ability to realistically shoot prone and use a sling, given the method of reloading, so I use a sitting (supported) position instead. Good quality pellets are essential, as cheap ones these days are disappointingly inconsistent; nevertheless, you can usefully practice a series of shot cycles, focussing on target acquisition/trigger technique etc, for very little expense.

With more sophisticated air rifles with an air reservoir, you can use them prone and can even get them with target stocks to allow use of a sling, but ones that are fitted with target sights are invariably designed specifically for ISSF 10m air rifle (standing position) and they are expensive.



AIR PISTOL

Again, you need access to something suitable (ideally a reasonably good quality pistol, consistent at up to 10m) but this doesn't have to break the bank (which it would if you invested in a serious competition pistol) and could always be borrowed.

The obvious disadvantage is that pistols are held and supported entirely differently and generally use notch and blade sights that are different to TR. What they do have is portability and versatility in application (outside/inside/garage/garden/hallway etc).

I use mine in the garage at 5m and principally as a mindful 'mental focus on a target' exercise as much as anything else. The trigger is something else you can focus on too but after that the TR fidelity is limited, so this is recommended as a complimentary exercise to some or all of the above.

The other thing about pistol shooting is that it teaches you very quickly about being efficient about taking shots: it punishes slow shooting. Again, with facilities needed being very basic, this can be something to do on a break almost anywhere where you can find a safe backstop for a low powered air pistol.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Versatile (anywhere/ anytime)• Inexpensive• Good for simple mental training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less representative of rifle shooting

CONCLUSION

SCATT and similar systems continue to attract attention as simulation applications that have real merit and especially when the means to analyse them is present (either through personal knowledge and experience or, better still, with a coach observing the programme and the firer, to offer objective advice). Without these systems there are still some exercises that can reinforce and assist with TR performance between increasingly expensive bouts of live TR range time.

What works for one person will not necessarily work for another and the frequency of training, mix of activities and fidelity to TR are critical to experiment with, to see what feels 'right' for you and delivers better performance on the TR range later.

Dry training is all well and good but I feel that the old adage of 'all rounds down range are useful' holds true: SB rifle, air rifle, even air pistol, give you instant feedback at limited expense and inconvenience. See what works for you and experiment a little.



Image above: Comparison between a smallbore setup designed to mimic that used for TR.



Image adjacent: Home training set up for dry firing in the garden.



Wishing Andy Barnes and his England Rifle Team all the best in South Africa and Kenya

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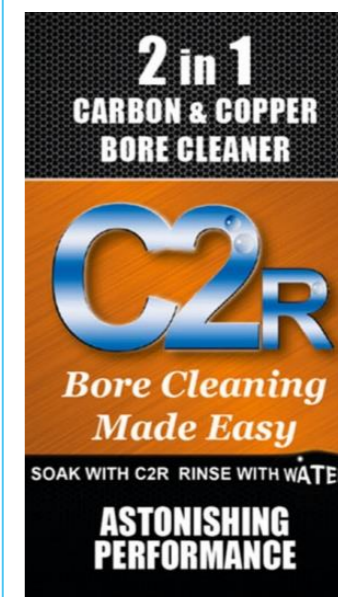
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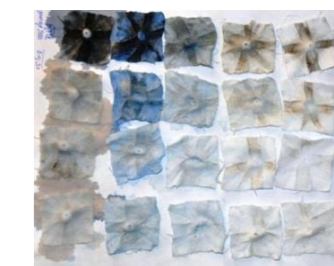


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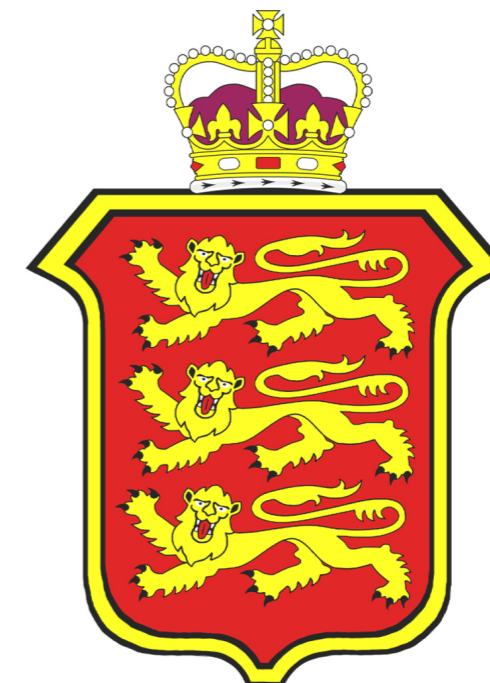
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