



Captain: John Webster GB
Vice Captain: James Watson GB

Vice Captain: James Watson GB, England & Northants, Leicestershire & Rutland

Adjutant: Jon Underwood GB, England & Surrey

Adjutant: Jon Underwood GB, England & Surrey

Main Coach: Nick Hinchliffe GB, England & Cheshire

Coach: Jeremy Langley GB, England & Devon

Coach: Nick Tremlett GB, England & Berkshire

Shooters

David Armstrong GB, England & London

Dave Dyson GB, England & Yorkshire

Holly Foster England & Norfolk
Susie Kent England & Surrey

David Luckman GB, England & Somerset

Jane Messer GB, England & Sussex Stephen Penrose GB, England & Essex

Emma Nuttall England & Lancashire

John Pugsley GB, England & Devon

Kelvin Ramsey GB, England & Surrey

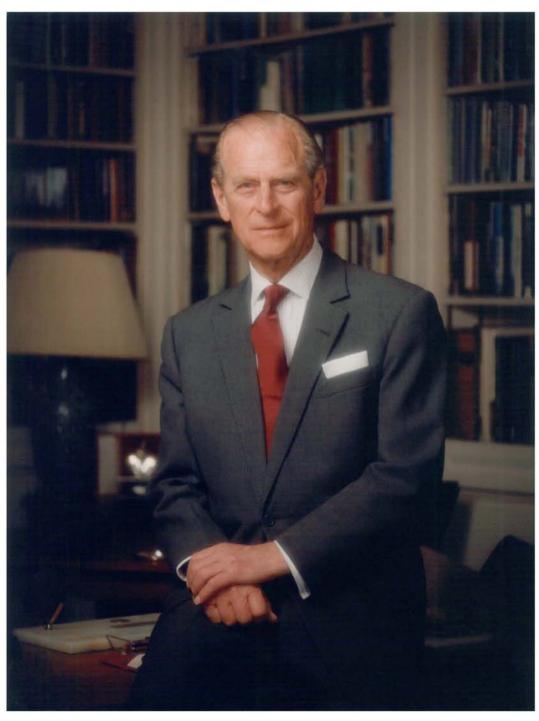
Tom Rylands GB, England & Cheshire Ed Welford England & Hampshire

Andrew Wilde GB, England & Somerset

Alex Williams Cambridgeshire

Itinerary

Sat 30th August	Meet at Bisley for packing and Team Dinner	
Sun 31st August	Main Party fly out to Denver then on to Las Vegas	
	Advance Party stay in Denver overnight	
Monday 1st September	Main Party spend day in Las Vegas	
	Advance party to take rifles and kit to Raton Overnight stay in Alberquerque	
Tuesday 2nd September	Both parties meet at Grand Canyon at lunchtime	
	Overnight at the south rim	
Wednesday 3rd September	Day at the Grand Canyon	
Thursday 4th September	Drive through Monument Valley to Durango	
Friday 5th September	Arrive @ the NRA Whittington Center, Raton	
Saturday 6th September	Practice Day	
Sunday 7th September	Spirit of America Matches start Cunico Team Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 900	
Monday 8th September	Folsom Shooting Club Team Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 1000	
Tuesday 9th September	OK Weber Individual Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 900	
Wednesday 10th September	Precision Shooting Individual Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 1000	
Thursday 11th September	Sierra Bullets Team Match @ 300, 500 & 600 McGee Competition Rifle Stocks Match @ 1000	
Friday 12th September	Sinclair International Individual Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 900	
Saturday 13th September	Sierra Bullets Individual Match @ 300, 500, 600 & 1000	
Sunday 14th September	The America Match (Team match @ 300, 600, 900 & 1000)	
Monday 15th September	Leave Denver evening / overnight flight	



H.R.H The Duke of Edinburgh Patron, English Twenty Club



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

To be selected to represent your country in international sporting competitions must be the ambition of all talented competitors. I am delighted to have this opportunity to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the members of the English Twenty Club who have been selected to compete in the America Match in the United States. This match has the reputation for being highly demanding, and I wish them every possible success.

Competition may be the primary reason for visiting the USA, but competition is also a splendid opportunity to meet other enthusiasts in target rifle shooting and to forge new friendships. I have no doubt at all that memories of the experience will be savoured by every member of the team for many years to come.



John C. Sigler President, NRA of America

On behalf of the National Rifle Association of America and its nearly 4 million members, I would like to welcome you to the 2008 Spirit of America National Fullbore Rifle Prone Championship. I congratulate you on your selection as England's representatives in this match. This distinction is one for which many strive but which few achieve. You have every reason to be proud of this accomplishment.

Thank you for making the trip to the NRA Whittington Center, in Raton, New Mexico. Founded in 1973, the NRA Whittington Center is the most comprehensive shooting facility in the United States of America today. I am confident that you will enjoy these wonderful shooting grounds. Please do not hesitate to let our staff know if there is anything we can do for you during your stay.

Our countries have shared a rich tradition of shooting competition for many years, a shared tradition which I foresee continuing well into the future. We share a common thread within our organizations, both being founded in the mid 1800's by statesmen and military leaders to improve civilian marksmanship. I am confident that we can work together to ensure that our sons and daughters are afforded the same opportunities to enjoy the shooting sports.

I wish you the best of luck throughout the 2008 Spirit of America National Fullbore Rifle Prone Championships and beyond, and I thank you for joining us in the spirit of friendly competition.

John C. Sigler President, NRA of America



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On behalf of the English Twenty Club and its members, may I wish every success to John Webster and his vice captain, James Watson, and the England Rifle Team travelling to the United States of America to participate in the America Match 2008. The Club is proud to be able to field such a strong team under his leadership, which should provide the opposing teams with very stiff competition, a close match and every chance of an English victory.

Good shooting and good luck!

Dick Horrocks

President, The English Twenty Club

Richard Homoch



John Webster Team Captain

It is a great honour to be asked to captain one's country and I am grateful to the Council of the English XX club for affording me this privilege. It is also a great pleasure to be returning to the Whittington Center in Raton to compete in the 2008 Spirit of America Matches, culminating in the America Match against Team USA. Having been fairly and squarely beaten in the 2004 version as captain of that year's GB touring team, I and my team are under no illusions as to the task that confronts us.

When I was selecting this team, I mentioned that I was looking to get even for that defeat in 2004. "Forget 2004" came one reply; "What about 1776?" he added, admittedly with a wry smile. I can assure my shooting friends - and our American hosts - that any mental meanderings that I may exhibit from time to time do not rival the "madness of King George III", but we are determined to give of our best in what I fervently hope will continue to grow into one of the great international target rifle matches.

The relationship between the English and the Americans is indeed special, as the originator of that phrase - Sir Winston Churchill - was very well placed to know, being the offspring of parents of each nationality. Having spent almost 20 years living in America, my personal experience is very much in concert with this view. Much has been written about this relationship. Most often cited is that we are two nations divided by a common language, an observation that extends even to our sport. 'Pits' and 'Butts' refer to the same part of a rifle range, but mean very different things depending on which side of the Atlantic you come from. I am certain that any claim to the occupation of 'Butt Supervisor' would raise more than a few eyebrows in polite US company, whereas an Englishman would struggle to understand why anyone would voluntarily spend valuable leisure time 'in the pits'. My personal favourite on this subject is the book 'Over Here' by Raymond Seitz, a former US ambassador to the Court of St. James's (to give it its proper title). His core observation was that the English are more inclined to think 'vertically' - with all our history, traditions and customs - whereas the American tends to think 'horizontally', as evidenced by the spirit of optimism, competition and entrepreneurship that is so evident in the American way of life.

So if I may revert to type for just a moment, as a former denizen of Connecticut, I still marvel at the inner strength, dignity and composure of Nathan Hale, the great American hero, whose last words before his execution towards the end of 1776 are reported by his admiring British captors to have been "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country". If (as I would like to imagine) he is looking down on the proceedings between the old foes on September 14th 2008, I like to think he would approve of the keenness of the competition, the drive for excellence and the will to win, but at the same time recognise that it is these very things that now bring us together, and that the rivalry is tempered by the bond of friendship and a common interest.

That we have this opportunity at all, I have some people to thank on behalf of my team; our hosts, The Bald Eagles Rifle Club in general and Al Coots in particular, and my team officers, Vice-Captain James Watson and Adjutant Jon Underwood, all of whom have worked relentlessly to make it all happen, as well as various sponsors, advertisers and supporters whose contributions are acknowledged elsewhere. I have no doubt that whatever the outcome, we will all find something special in the experience.

John G. M. Webster Team Captain

Jumbo Lewis



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The Center offers shooting facilities across all disciplines, including hunting.





The America Match



The Trophy

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

The Competition Background

First shot in 2002, after much work by Jim Thompson and Dave Brennan to establish the competition, the match has now been shot on three occasions. The match can only take place when an official US team is present and competing.

Previous Matches

In 2002, USA, Canada, Great Britain and Germany competed for the match. On this occasion, Great Britain won the match from Canada with a margin of 48 points with USA a further 9 points behind them. John Pugsley made the top score of the day dropping only 2 points for a 298.30. Accounts of this match appeared in the GB 2004 Team Brochure.

In 2004, USA and Great Britain and Germany shot in Raton during the Spirit of America Matches. The day of the match was another gorgeous day. After the three national anthems had been played and the last daily cannon blast, GB got off to a great start dropping only one point out of 1200 to lead the USA team by two points (Germany was already some way behind).

At 600 yards, the wind, as usual, started to pick up with a range of about zero to two minutes right. Again, GB put in a very good shoot dropping only two points to pull two points further ahead of the USA team, to claim a four point lead at the halfway stage.

Of course, the longer range in these matches are usually the most decisive, and at 900 yards, with a fishtail brewing from one left to six right, the USA team's strong coaching form and quick shooting paid dividends. They put in a telling score of only six off, 12 more than GB, and in quick time (when they had finished, GB still had three firers to go). Thus, GB went into the lunch break eight points behind.

Things at 1000 yards certainly did not get any easier. The wind increased in strength and started to change very quickly, with a spread of 7 left to 5 right. Both the USA team and GB found the going tough (the USA gratefully converted 10, 8 sighters when they had the opportunity) and both teams used the allocated time to the full. At the end of the day, the USA team's experience of the range had allowed them to limit the damage better than GB and they pulled ahead by a further 15 points to win the match by 23 points. Top score of the day was a hugely impressive 599.36 by Dan Simpson of the USA, coached by Emil Praslick.

2006 saw the match return to Ottawa, Canada where once again, Great Britain competed against Canada, USA and Germany. Starting at 300 yards, where it was drizzly with light wind, Great Britain dropped an edgy four points to trail the USA by one. As the teams were setting up on the 600 yards firing point, the heavens opened with sleet. This looked like it was going to continue for a while so, after a delay, an early lunch was called for by the Chief Range Officer.

As a result, it was a long afternoon with three full ranges of 15 round shoots: a real test of endurance. The one point deficit didn't last long, as GB dropped only one more point at 600. Scores were being relayed live through the internet (the first time we believe this has ever been done) and the feedback was that a considerable number of people were following them.

At the halfway point of the match, 800 metres unfolded, the GB teams scores came in quickly: Luckman A 75, Calvert 75, Dix 75, Dyson 75, Morris 75, Watson 75, Coleman 75 and finally Messer 75 for an excellent 600 out of 600 at the first of the long ranges.

The opposition were shooting well, yet Great Britain had a ten point lead falling back to 900 metres. At this point Danny Coleman had to withdraw due to an eye problem and so Michael Walton was called in from reserve. He held his nerve well to score a 75 at 900 metres. Several others joined him, leaving Great Britain with 1197 out of 1200 over the two long ranges, in winds varying from 2 to 7 minutes left but with surprisingly readable flags considering the earlier precipitation.

While the USA and Canada had beaten the previous record handsomely with scores of 2375.292 and 2373.292 out of 2400, Great Britain's total score was 2392.317, only eight points off the maximum possible score.

In 2008, the match will again be held during the Spirit of America Matches at the Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. This time it will be England rather than Great Britain that is travelling to compete for the America Match trophy. Many of the 2008 England team were present as part of the GB team in 2004 and so there is much determination and motivation to win this match in Raton!

The Match Conditions

The America Match is a match between teams of 8 shooters, two sub-coaches, a main coach, an adjutant, a captain and 2 reserves. The match can only take place when an official US team is present and competing. Each firer shoots 2 sighters and 15 shots to count at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards (or 300 and 600 yards, and 800 and 900 metres as appropriate to the venue).

All Ready on the Firing Line

In 1998, The Rocky Mountain Rifle Club invited the English Twenty Club to send a team to their main open meeting the following year - the Rocky Mountain Palma Matches. These matches are held at the NRA of America's Whittington Center, Raton, New Mexico each year. The programme has four and a half days of shooting, with one warm-up match at short range; the remainder of the events are at long range. The 1999 matches were held in the week following the Inter-Counties weekend at Bisley. To keep costs down and make sure the team was back for other important shoots in this country we left on Monday 21 June and got back on Tuesday 29 June.



Including typical sums for meals while away the total cost was £960 per head for a team member who shot in both matches. The cost for a team supporter was in the region of £780. Those with an interest in finance can track inflation and exchange rates over the past nine years to compare with what the 2008 England team will be paying.

The team consisted of 17 shooters and three supporters. There was a good cross-section of shooters of all ages from around the country; some had a fair amount of experience, others were relative newcomers to the sport. Only three of the team had England and GB colours (from some time ago); one had GB Under 25 colours. The remainder had county colours or none at that time. Since then, three team members have shot for GB and two of the young shooters have left the English Twenty Club to shoot with other home countries.

We did not produce a brochure – instead, we had a web site, which we updated as sponsors came on board. We believe we were the first team from the UK to use a web site to publicise a trip. We also produced a video, which shows the team training at Bisley and shooting at Raton.

Our three supporters had a great time driving around the area during the day while we were at the range shooting. The range itself is near the site of an old coal mine (shown below); the firing points are built up from the spoil from the mine, so a nice thick mat is desirable for those who want to avoid bruises.



Shooting starts early in the morning and finishes early in the afternoon, to avoid the thunder storms that often build up later in the day at that time of year. Typically the wind starts from the west and swings round to the east during the morning.

We crammed a lot of shooting into the few days of the matches, which attracted 74 competitors. The Commonwealth match was fired Bisley style on the Wednesday morning at 300 and 600, which gave

everyone a chance to get used to the heat and find their zeros. The afternoon was a squadded practice at 800, 900 and 1000. By the end of the day most had adjusted to the lighter flags and the wind's reduced effect due to the altitude.

The next three days each had a Palma course of fire in the morning with 20 to count at 1000 in the afternoon. On the Saturday, the afternoon shoot at 1000 was a team match instead of an individual shoot. The string shooting system means everybody has to do their share of shooting, marking and scoring, so each day was hard work and tiring, especially with the hot weather. Typically we were finished by 14:30, which allowed some time for recovery before the evening's activities.

On Thursday we had some good results, and then enjoyed the Meet and Greet party for the competitors and the organisers.

By Friday, our elbows were starting to suffer on the hard firing points, but the team still shot well. That evening there was time to squeeze in some sight-seeing and soak up some midwestern culture at the Raton Rodeo.

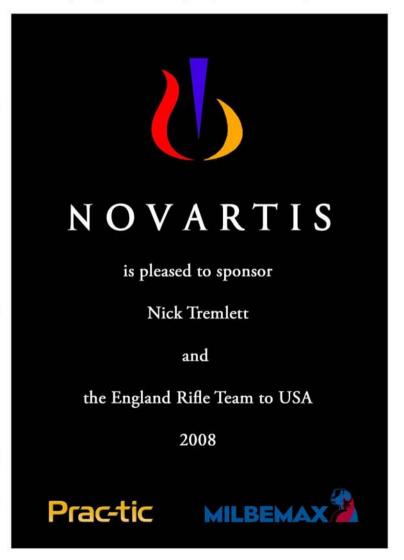
The Saturday Palma shoot again produced some excellent results from the team. The main event of the day was the afternoon's team match at 1000 yards, in which the English Twenty Club entered two teams of four. A tough day on the range was put to one side for the awards ceremony and dinner that evening. After a very large barbecue (complete with the pervasive

refried beans) the prize giving took place. Will Dixon, with good form throughout the matches, took second place in the Palma Shoots Aggregate. Martin Woolger also shot extremely well taking second place in the Unclassified class. For those who didn't reach such giddy heights there were a host of other goodies to take home.

Sunday's team match was for teams of four shooting a Palma course of fire. Once again, the two English Twenty Club teams took part. The Rose team took second place - beaten by three points by the Tompkins-Gallagher family.

The Rocky Mountain Rifle Club ran the matches very well. We appreciated their hospitality and the opportunity to obtain some experience away from Bisley.

We wish the 2008 England team good shooting at Raton, particularly in the America Match. We hope they enjoy themselves as much as we did. As the range officers there say: "Ready on the right? Ready on the Left? All ready on the firing line."

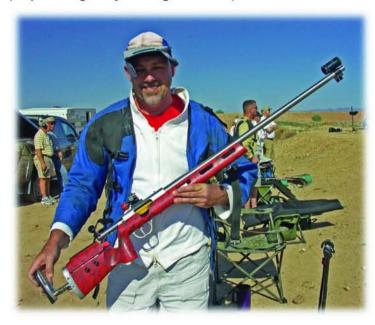


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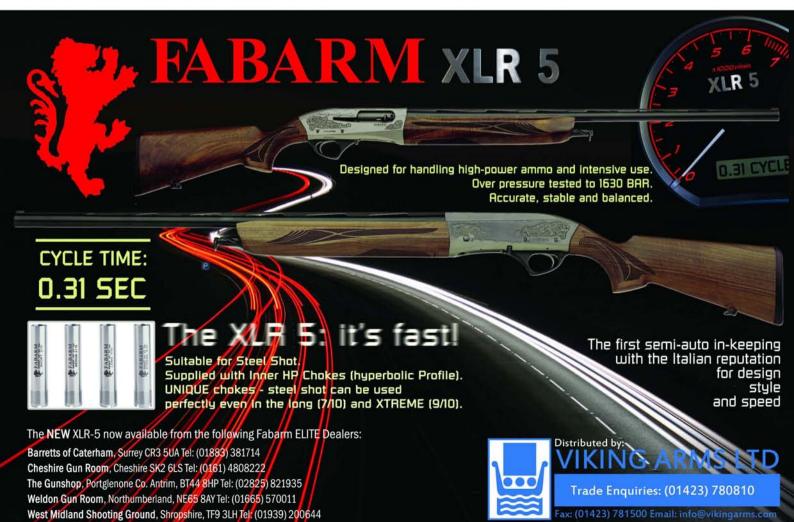




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John Webster (Captain)

John is the team's Captain. He is no stranger to the USA, having spent almost 20 years living in Connecticut with his wife and two college-age children. He recently moved back to London to head up an Investment Management firm, but still travels regularly to the US to visit clients and his firm's New York office.

John was Captain of the Great Britain team that shot in the America Match in 2004, and is looking forward to competing again at the Whittington Center and witnessing a repetition of the strong competition evident at the 2004 Spirit of America matches.

John started shooting at Uppingham School and progressed to international competition via the Athelings, of which he was Captain in 1974. Since then, he has represented England and Great Britain in over 30 matches around the world in such far flung places as Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe as well as the USA. This roster includes shooting in all of the 'Big Five' matches as well as in the inaugural America Match held in Ottawa, Canada in 2002.

His other interests include rugby (he was an Oxford Blue), golf, fly-fishing and collecting fine wine.

He shoots an RPA 2000 action with either a Border or a Krieger barrel.





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James Watson (Vice Captain)

James started shooting in 1988 at Uppingham School (along with three other members of the team). This will be his second shooting trip to Raton, the first being in 2004 when he was Adjutant to John Webster's Great Britain team. In over twenty years of shooting, James has been selected for four England touring teams, five GB touring teams and two Under 25 teams. He has competed in matches across the world including, Canada, USA, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia and the Channel Islands. Most recently in 2007, he was a shooting member of the successful GB Palma team.

James has shot four of the "Big Five" matches and hopes to complete the collection in the not too distant future. He has also shot in the last two America Matches, and is very keen to make the cut for 2008. Individually, James' wins include the St George's 1st Stage, the Times, the Conan Doyle, the Monday Aggregate, the Surrey Open Championship (twice), the Scottish Grand Aggregate, the Scottish Championship and coming third in HM Queen's Final in 2000.

James plays a part in the NRA of the UK where he is one of the Trustees and Chairman of the Membership Committee and maintains their website. At work, James is a Principal Consultant for Business Objects, a SAP Company.

James shoots two rifles with Paramount and Swing actions and Krieger barrels.

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Jon Underwood (Adjutant)

Jon has achieved a number of notable successes in the last few years, winning all three stages of HM Queen's Prize in 2006, the St. George's Vase in 2007 and the Grand Aggregate in 2005. In 2000 he also won the Millennium World Championship and intends to defend the trophy at the next millennium! He has also shot for England in the National 11 times and the Mackinnon 11 times and for GB in the Kolapore 7 times. Most recently he toured with the GB team to Canada which successfully defended the Palma World Championship in 2007, and with the GB team to South Africa in 2008 which succeeded in bringing back the prestigious Protea Match trophy. Jon has visited Raton before, with the GB team in 2004 and is looking forward to rekindling fond memories of wind flags pointing in opposite directions.

Jon continues to encourage the youth of the sport by helping coach at his old school, The Royal Grammar School in Guildford. He does this in between his day job of looking after his family businesses of Tool and Plant Hire and property letting.

Jon shoots a RPA action and either a Bartlein or Krieger barrel.



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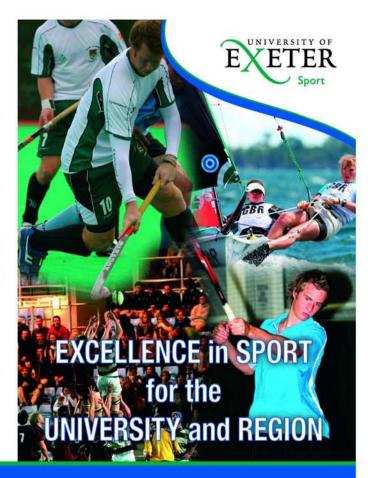
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Good luck to everyone going on the England Rifle Team tour to the USA, especially our Old Uppinghamians.

We wish you every success and hope the team does very well. From all of us at Uppingham School.

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Nick Hinchliffe (Main Coach)

Nick is another Old Uppinghamian having first shot under the captaincy of John Webster in 1974. During the 34 years that have elapsed since, Nick has been on 21 senior GB tours as well as the first England touring team in 1995 and the 2004 GB team to Raton. He has 7 Palma and 10 Australia match appearances as well as over 35 National, Mackinnon and Kolapore badges.

Nick studied Law at Manchester and remains in the NW of England working as a Barrister. He became Queen's Counsel in 1999 and was appointed as a part time Crown Court Judge in 2000. He specialises in the field of Personal Injuries, but has conducted the defence of a client charged with murder at the Old Bailey leading another well known shooter, Danny Coleman (an experience in itself!).

Like the Team Captain he also enjoys collecting fine wine, but tends to drink it rather than admire the bottles. Due to diabetic retinopathy his deteriorating eyesight has forced him to use a telescope on his Swing Target Rifle to enable him to continue shooting and keep in touch with the wind. In effect, he shoots Match Rifle at short range and is determined not to become an F class shooter.





Jeremy Langley (Coach)

Jeremy, a third generation shooter from Devon, is making his first overseas tour with an England Target Rifle Team (although he did accompany the winning 2006 Commonwealth Games pair!). This will be his second visit to Raton, the first being with John Webster's GB Team in 2004. Jeremy has toured on 14 Great Britain Rifle Teams including the 2007 Palma and is lucky enough to possess 31 Final badges and 16 Grand Aggregate crosses from around the world. One of the many highlights of his shooting career was shooting a 149 and a 150 at 1000yds in Raton last time out; a score he is hoping to improve on this visit!

In his spare time when not shooting, coaching or fixing up the house for his wife Judy or chasing their one year old son Benjamin, Jeremy is an Antenna Engineer working for Selex Galileo. He is also the proud owner of the only Corvette Stingray to be seen on Bisley ranges.

Jeremy has two Swing Mk 4s with either a Krieger or a Bartlein barrel.

Nick Tremlett (Coach)

Nick has been shooting since he was a teenager. He was picked for the Athelings team of 1976, along with Nick Hinchliffe and Stephen Penrose, and then went to Cambridge to study as a vet. He first made a GB team in 1983 and has shot at international level since, collected 19 HM Queen's final badges, being 2nd in 2004, and 16 Grand Agg crosses.

Apart from Target Rifle, Nick is also a keen Match Rifle shooter, winning the Hopton 4 times (including 2008) and being runner-up 4 times. He is the current captain of the English match rifle team.

In recent years Nick has been concentrating on coaching rather than shooting, and has coached the 'Big Five'. Despite all this experience he is viewing the tour to Raton as big a challenge as anything he has done so far. His last visit there was in 1992 as part of the winning Palma team. Nick shoots a Swing action with a Krieger barrel.

Away from shooting Nick is the managing partner of a large veterinary practice in Berkshire, is married to Jo, a doctor with the police, has 2 teenage kids and a cat.





David Armstrong

David has now been shooting for 25 years, and is certain there is still much to learn. Having invested in a new RPA, David returned to Canada with the 2006 GB Team after a twelve year break from touring. In 2007 he was part of the GB team which won the Palma trophy in Canada, and will never forget putting his last shot in the 8-ring at 12 o'clock for 448 on the first day!

David started shooting at school, RGS Guildford, as a way to avoid cross-country running, but soon realised it was more than just a sports option, and would always be a major part of his life. He has now shot in Canada four times, South Africa once, and captained the first ever overseas GB Under-25 team to New Zealand in 1992. David shoots and RPA Quadlock with a Krieger barrel.

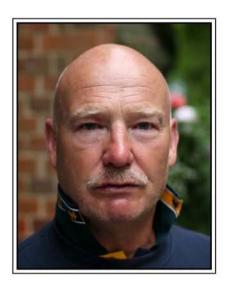
Away from the range, David enjoys the beauty of the outdoors - rock climbing and walking over rainy hilltops - as well as renovating the Old Guildfordians' clubhouse at Bisley, fondly known as 'Jabba' (the hut!).

Dave Dyson

Dave is a regular shooter for the White Rose County, in the frozen wastelands of Yorkshire (somewhere north of Watford). This will be his first visit to Raton, but his tenth overseas tour, having been to South Africa on a number of occasions and part of the successful GB Palma team in 2007 to Canada.

He is now retired from the emergency services and is relaxing away from the exhaustion of work. In his earlier sporting days, he enjoyed a successful career in Rugby League, surviving the world of the 'front row' and its dark arts.

Dave shoots two RPA 2000 rifles with either Krieger or Bartlein barrels.





Holly Foster

Holly started shooting at Gresham's school aged 13 with a rifle considerably taller (and possibly heavier) than she was. Nothing much has changed since. 2006 proved a good year for Holly, shooting for Norfolk, becoming top cadet and, last but not least, achieving 10th place in HM Queen's Prize. In 2007 she toured with the GB U19s to South Africa and, making the most of her gap year, was also a member of the victorious NRA team to the Channel Islands. She has a couple of St. George's crosses and won her first England cap shooting in the National in 2007.

Holly is now shooting for Cambridge University, coxing her college's men's rowing eight and studying law (in that order). She hopes to learn much from her experienced team mates on this tour, as well as topping up her tan.

Holly shoots a RPA Quadlock and a Krieger barrel.



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Gresham's wishes the best of luck to the members of the 2008 England Fullbore Rifle Team on their tour to the USA, and especially to our own Holly Foster.

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Susie Kent

Susie started shooting 10 years ago at Epsom College (with extra tuition from her father) and has since shot for England and GB Under 25 teams at home and abroad. She has been on seven international tours to Australia, Canada, South Africa and the Channel Islands. She won her England Cap on the tour to South Africa in 2004 and first shot for England in the National Match at Bisley in 2005. Individually, Susie has made 5 of the last 6 HM Queen's finals and collected a couple of Grand Aggregate and St George's crosses. She has been 3 times the BUSA Ladies Champion, and had the honour of being GB Under 25 Captain in 2006. Susie shoots a RPA Quadlock with a Krieger barrel.

When not shooting, Susie works as a solicitor (or lawyer for any American reader) and enjoys music, singing and the theatre. Having worked in London for the last 2 years, Susie is looking forward to moving to Bristol this autumn to live with her fiancé, who just happens to be interested in shooting too (he is the reigning World Champion!). She is delighted to be touring to the USA for the first time.

David Luckman

David is currently the Individual World Champion and is looking forward to returning to Raton and attempting to repeat his 2004 performance in the "Spirit of America" matches where he won the 5 way shoot-off to claim the Individual aggregate. In the UK, David has achieved fourteen consecutive Grand Aggregate crosses (including one gold and two silver ones), thirteen St George's crosses and twelve HM Queen's badges. David started shooting with Sedgemoor Target Shooting Club and has captained the Somerset county team for the last eight years. He was an Atheling in 1994 and has since toured with the GB team to Canada, the USA, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. David has two Swing Mk4s, one with a Krieger barrel and the other with a Border.

David works for Clerical Medical in Bristol as an Actuary. In his spare time he is an avid sports player and qualified tennis coach. David competes in triathlons and half marathons as well as enjoying mountain biking, surfing, swimming and other sports.



Jane Messer

Jane has had a number of individual shooting successes including the Grand Aggregate and the St George's Vase at Bisley. It might well have been more as in 2005 she came a very close second (by only one V Bull) to Jon Underwood in the Grand Agg. and was just beaten by Zainal in this year's HM Queen's prize as her last to count just leaked out.

However, Jane particularly enjoys team shooting. She shoots and coaches regularly for Sussex and is looking forward to another visit to Raton. She has toured previously to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, West Indies and Zimbabwe. Jane is the only lady to have shot in all the 'Big Five' matches (the National, MacKinnon, Kolapore, Palma and Australia matches) as well as the America match. She has recently been appointed captain of the GB team to Canada in 2010 so is assured of extending her participation in the America Match, as one is scheduled to be held in Ottawa that year.

In her spare time Jane enjoys walking and skiing - and maintains a reputation for tardy form filling and correspondence.

Jane shoots both a Paramount action and a RPA 2000.

Emma Nuttall

Emma started shooting with Derbyshire ACF at the age of 13. During her time there she went to South Africa on the U19 tour, was an Atheling and also stayed on as an adult coach. She has shot for Derbyshire and more recently for the County of Lancaster. This will be Emma's 7th tour; other tours including a GB Under 25 tour to Australia in 2005 and the BUSA tour to the Channel Islands in 2006. This is Emma's first tour with the England team. Emma shoots with a RPA action with a Walther barrel.

Emma is a qualified science teacher, teaching up to GCSE and is also the shooting mistress at Cheltenham College. When not shooting or working, Emma likes socialising, going to dance classes, playing the guitar, photography and TV - she loves TV.





Stephen Penrose

Stephen started shooting at the age of 15 whilst at Rugby School (which is where the game of Rugby Football was started) and had his first international tour with the Athelings to Canada in 1976 together with Nick Hinchliffe and Nick Tremlett. Since then he has toured all over the world and notched up several notable individual as well as team successes, including the South African State President's prize in 1999 when the Palma Match was held in Bloemfontein. He also shot in the inaugural America Match in Canada in 2002 which completed for him a full set of international matches with the name of a country in the title (Australia, America, Canada, New Zealand, SA Protea) to add to his 'Big 5' status.

When not shooting, Stephen is a veterinary surgeon working mainly with cats and dogs. His practice is in Colchester which has the distinction of being the oldest recorded town in Britain. He is married to Kate and has three children aged between 19 and 11. He enjoys skiing, travel and the great outdoors.

Stephen shoots with a RPA action with a Border barrel or a Swing action with a Walther barrel.

John Pugsley

John came to shooting in 1973 via butterfly collecting, athletics and motorbike riding. A long standing Devon county shot, John has a very impressive shooting record both at Bisley and around the globe. Winner of the DCRA Grand Aggregate in 1986, HM Queen's Prize in 1988, the St George's Vase, HM Queen's First stage and the Lt Governor's Prize at Borden, John has collected more than a pot or two over the years. He has been selected for some 15 international tours all over the world and has taken part in all of the 'Big Five' matches. John enjoys all types of shooting and likes to partake in match rifle, shotgun and stalking as well as target rifle. He is also very proficient at small-bore, having been a member of the GB squad for the 2005 Pershing Trophy at Camp Perry.

Outside of shooting John has two beautiful daughters and is a large animal vet specialising in cattle. He enjoys keeping fit and may well be seen running around the range after shooting is done for the day.

John shoots a Swing action with a Krieger barrel.







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Ed Welford, England Shooting

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Kelvin Ramsey

Kelvin started shooting at the age of 12 while at Epsom College in Surrey, England. He was a member of several Ashburton winning teams and eventually captained the school team to victory in that competition. After an enjoyable and successful Athelings tour to Canada in 1992, he went on to captain the British Universities Rifle Team. He went to Cambridge University where he captained the rifle team, won a Full Blue and studied medicine.

Since graduating from university Kelvin has been a regular shooting member for Surrey Rifle Association. He has been fortunate enough to have been selected for a number of shooting matches on the international stage, including two tours of the Channel Islands with the NRA team and a GB team to the West Indies. He was reserve for the recent GB team to South Africa and is delighted to have been included as a full member of this team.

Kelvin shoots a RPA or Paramount action, both with Krieger barrels.





Tom Rylands

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

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

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

Tom shoots an RPA action with a Bartlein barrel.

Ed Welford

Ed has been shooting for nine years now, and has toured quite extensively, although never before to the USA. Last year, Ed was Vice Captain of the successful GB Under 25 team that shot at the World Championships in Canada, and was promoted to captain of the GB U25 team for their match at Bisley this year which they won handsomely. Ed shoots a Swing Mk 4 with a Krieger barrel.

A recent Biology graduate, Ed is now working as a Registrar for various trusts at a financial company in London. He is hoping to start studying for his accountancy exams in the near future. During the winter, Ed enjoys sports involving snow and ice, and in December last year was lucky enough to have a go at Bob Skeleton in Lillehammer.





Andrew Wilde

Andrew started shooting at Bath University in 1992, progressing to full-bore 2 years later. His first taste of successful team shooting was with the University in 1996, when he was part of the winning team for the Musketeers. He has shot for Somerset since around this time.

In 2005, a new stock signalled a change in Andrew's fortunes, since when he has made HM Queen's final and at least one Imperial "win" each year - along with achieving 4th in the Grand Agg. in 2007. He continued this fine run of form into the 2008 meeting, coming 5th in the Grand Agg. and top scoring for GB in the Kolapore.

Andrew's previous tours include the successful 2006 NRA Channel Islands tour, and the 2008 LMRA tour to the West Indies, where he achieved top individual. Andrew took a successful trip to Scotland earlier this year where he won the Scotlish Championship. This will be his first England tour although he has shot for England in the National match for the last 2 years. Andrew shoots two Swings with Madco & Krieger barrels.

Alex Williams

Alex started shooting at Uppingham School in the early 1990's and was part of the winning Ashburton team of 1995. In 1997 he captained the annual Athelings tour to Canada, and returned to Canada a year later as a member of the GB Under 25 team. In 2000 he was selected again for the GB Under 25 team to tour South Africa.

Alex shoots regularly for Cambridgeshire and this tour marks his first England cap. His rifle of choice is a RPA Quadlock with a Bartlein barrel.

At the age of 18 Alex moved to Los Angeles as part of a fruitless plan to become a rock guitarist. After an interesting degree in the UK, he then immediately moved to China for a large part of his 20's for Chinese re-education; during this time he joined a Chinese motorbike gang and toured through most of northern China and the Gobi desert in a WW2 motorbike & sidecar.

Alex returned to London last year and is happy at now being able to shoot more regularly again! He proudly trades unusual metals for Wogen plc in Westminster, London.



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Shooting in the Olympic Games

2008 is, of course, an Olympic year with the 29th games taking place in Beijing in August. Shooting has always been a fertile medal ground for British competitors – between 1896 and 2004 they won 88 medals - and there are high hopes that the total might improve during the summer.

Shooting was one of the first nine Olympic sports in Athens in 1896 and had more entrants than any other sport – doubtless due to the fact that the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre du Courbertain, was himself a pistol shooting champion in France. Since then shooting has featured in every Games except 1904 and 1928, though perhaps today's competitors might have some moral (if not practical) difficulty with such exotic events as Duelling Pistols and Live Pigeons (the latter last seen in Paris in 1900).

The number (from just 2 in Los Angeles in 1968 to a maximum of 21 in Antwerp in 1920) and variety of events have changed many times over the years. Team events, military revolvers and running deer competitions have come and gone. Skeet first made an appearance in

1968 and from that same year in Mexico City women competed alongside men in a number of events. Womenonly competitions were introduced in 1984 and (to the dismay of some, such as Zhang Shan of China who won gold in an open skeet competition in the 1992 Olympics but was then restricted to women-only matches when her discipline reappeared in 2000) by 1996 all men's and women's competitions were completely segregated.

Over the years the shooting competitions have produced some remarkable characters – Oscar Swahn of Sweden (right) who at 72 yrs and 279 days is the oldest medal winner ever in the history of the Olympics; Karoly Takacs of Hungary who, after having won gold in team pistol shooting in 1938 had his right hand badly damaged by a grenade, taught himself to shoot again left handed, and returned ten years later to win 2 further golds. But the most notorious Olympic shooter must be Dr James H Snook who won gold with the US free pistol team in 1920 and was later sent to the electric chair for murdering his mistress – with a hammer!



Full-bore shooting

In previous years several full-bore events regularly appeared in the Olympic programme including 300m and 600m military rifle and, right up to 1972, free rifle 300m, 3 positions. Recent US shooters such as Gary Anderson (who took gold in 1964 and 1968) and Lones Wigger (gold in 1972) have excelled at this discipline. Lones Wigger, a three times medallist at various distances, has this year been inducted into the US Olympic Hall of Fame for his achievements. The only time prone rifle at 1000 yds was included in the Olympics was in London in 1908 when it was won by a British competitor, Joshua Millner.

Since 1972 there has been no full-bore shooting at the Olympic games. The official reason given is that many countries struggle to find big enough areas needed to construct the necessary ranges but the connection with the massacre of the 11 Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Munich Games and the consequent desire to dissociate the sport from its military connotations surely played a part in its disappearance from this Championship. It remains, however, part of the Commonwealth Games.

British pistol shooters also suffer from the after-effects of an atrocity. The law was changed after the Dunblane Primary School killings in 1996 to outlaw handguns in the UK, meaning that British Olympic pistol hopefuls must travel abroad to train putting them at a severe disadvantage financially and practically. However in early May 2008 the Ministry for Culture, Media and Sport said that a trial exemption for sports pistol shooters will probably be given after this Olympics ends in August allowing them to use M.O.D. ranges for practice and this will run up to the 2012 Games in London. If the trial is successful it could be extended to the Commonwealth Games in 2014

The XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China

This summer's Games feature 15 shooting categories, nine for men and six for women, divided into pistol, rifle and shotgun. These are:-

Men	Women
10m air pistol (60 shots)	10m air pistol (40 shots)
10m air rifle (60 shots)	10m air rifle (40 shots)
50m pistol (60 shots)	25m pistol (30 shots precision then 30 shots rapid)
25m rapid fire pistol (60 shots)	
50m rifle 3 positions (3 x 40 shots)	50m rifle 3 positions (3 x 20 shots)
50m rifle prone (60 shots)	
Skeet (125 targets)	Skeet (75 targets)
Trap (125 targets)	Trap (75 targets)
Double trap (150 targets)	

Two competitors per country are permitted in each event except in the women's trap and skeet where only one representative may enter.



For this year's games the new Beijing Shooting Range hall was the first of China's Olympic facilities to be officially opened in July 2007.

It is built in the shape of a hunting bow to reflect the sport's origins and contains both the qualification and final ranges at 10m, 25m and 50m with a seating capacity of 8,600 in total.

The clay pigeon events will take place at Beijing Shooting Clay Target field to the west of the city where 5,000 spectators can be accommodated.

Interestingly, the shooting platforms have been designed to resemble the towers on the Great Wall of China.

Olympic shooting was first televised in Barcelona in 1992 when electronic targets were introduced in the pistol and rifle disciplines and an orange 'flash' powder target used in the shotgun events to make it easier for spectators to spot a hit.

The Great Britain shooting team for August 2008 was announced on 1 July.

It consists of Richard Faulds, a gold medallist in Sydney in 2000 and recent silver medallist in the ISSF World Championships in Kerrville, Texas and Steve Scott (right), another very highly fancied shooter, in double trap; Jon Hammond in 50m rifle prone and 50m rifle 3 positions; Charlotte Kerwood in women's trap and Elena Little in women's skeet. Faulds will be hoping to wrest his title back from Sheikh Ahmed Al-Maktoum of Dubai who won the first ever gold Olympic medal for the U.A.E. in Athens in 2004.



Great Britain is also sending 4 shooters to the 2008 Paralympics held in Beijing in September:- Deanna Coates, Nathan Milgate, James Bevis and Matt Skelhon who will compete in some of the 12 rifle and pistol events in this competition.







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Future Olympics

Thinking ahead to the 2012 Games in London, the Olympic committee has decreed, somewhat controversially, that the shooting events will take place at a newly constructed facility at The Royal Artillery Barracks on the edge of Woolwich Common in south-east London. Although the National Shooting Centre at Bisley in Surrey had a range of new facilities for the last Commonwealth Games it was felt by the IOC that the event should take



place closer to the centre of London. Several temporary structures will be built at an estimated cost of £18 million, to hold 7,500 spectators on the site of the old barracks where the Arsenal Football Club was founded. After the competition is over the indoor shooting range will be dismantled and re-erected at a so far unspecified location in the British Isles.

As for the shooters who are hopeful of competing on home turf in 2012 - this year's competitors, Richard Faulds, Steve Scott, Elena Little, Jon Hammond and Charlotte Kerwood (left)- will doubtless be in the frame again, together with others such as Lesley Goddard, Matthew Thomson, Kenny Parr and, in pistol shooting, Georgina Geikie, Julia Lydall and Vicky Malton.



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