

GREAT BRITAIN

RIFLE  TEAM

Ontario

to


CANADA

&


USA

2012

Ohio

Michigan

New York

Pennsylvania

Lake Michigan



CLARENCE HOUSE

As President of the National Rifle Association, I am delighted that rifle teams from Great Britain continue to travel to countries within the Commonwealth and beyond competing at the very highest level. These visits do much to foster relationships and understanding between countries that share a common history and culture.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Great Britain Rifle Team will this year visit Camp Perry in the USA, the long time home of the US National Championships. Having competed in the America Match for international teams, they will then travel north to Ottawa to compete in the annual Canadian Championships, culminating in a further two international Matches.

I wish the team every possible success in all their competitions and all participants the very best of luck, and I look forward to hearing about the tour on its completion.



Foreword

Jeremy D S Langley

Captain, Great Britain Rifle Team, Canada & USA 2012

In 1986, I made my first trip to Canada as a member of that year's British Cadet Rifle Team – the Athelings; little did I think that twenty six years later I would be returning for my twelfth DCRA as Captain of Great Britain. Further, I am delighted to be taking my team to compete in the America Match to be held in Ohio, a new experience for all members of my team as Great Britain has not competed at Camp Perry since the Palma Matches of 1970 and 1976.

I am delighted that this Great Britain team is drawn from the wider demographic of fullbore shooting in the UK, with at least two members from each of the home nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) and three under 25s to complement the two veterans and two ladies. I am certain that the four new caps will enjoy their first senior tour and benefit from the wealth of experience that includes five Queen's Prize winners, three Commonwealth Games medallists, a former individual World Champion and no less than twelve members of the winning GB Palma Team from 2011.

Taking a team abroad to two countries is an expensive undertaking, even after the generous support of the GB NRA Overseas Teams Fund. I am therefore extremely grateful to those companies and individuals who have supported the team along the way; we could not have done this without you. Equally, I am eternally grateful to the team's partners, wives and girlfriends for allowing us to tour and represent Great Britain in these important matches. To Claire, Ellen and Vicky (& Ed, James and Dan), I would like to extend my congratulations for your 2012 weddings.

We are all indebted to Dennis Flaharty and Emil Praslick for helping to organise the venue for the 2012 America Match. Having competed in every America Match held in the US, as well as the inaugural Match in Canada in 2002, I am all too aware that this new location for the match has enabled Canada to compete in the US leg for the first time. Further, I hope that this series of matches serves as a useful test event for the World Championships to be held at Camp Perry in 2015 and I wish the US NRA every success with those plans.

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WELCOME

On behalf of the National Rifle Association of America it gives me pleasure to welcome the current World Champions – Great Britain to our National High Power Rifle Long Range Championship, part of our 2012 combined National Matches at Camp Perry.

I am delighted that so many overseas competitors will be in attendance this year and that our matches will culminate in the America Match which is being shot at Camp Perry for the very first time.

The last time a British full-bore rifle team visited Camp Perry was for the 1976 Palma and we are looking forward to hosting these matches again in 2015. I am sure that all our overseas competitors will enjoy our friendly competition this year and I hope that they will return for the next World Long Range Championships.

Enjoy our hospitality and may the best team win!

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Willing, Director

NRA Competitive Shooting Division



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association to welcome the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada this year to participate in the 130th Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships at the Connaught Ranges in Ottawa, Ontario.

Competition between our two countries has always been very determined but marked by friendship and camaraderie. We look forward to this being the case again in 2012. This year is unique in that both Canada and Great Britain will also be sending teams to the 2012 America Match at Camp Perry, Ohio in the United States of America immediately prior to the Canadian Championships. This will give both teams greater occasion for interaction and the creation of fond memories.

To Jeremy Langley and his team, we congratulate you for having achieved the honour of representing Great Britain and extend our sincere appreciation for your efforts to participate at the Canadian Championships. I understand we will see a mix of experience and youth on your teams as well as both male and female competitors. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the four new caps on your team and hope that they will find their first tour an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

May all of you enjoy your time in North America and best wishes for successful shooting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Romses'.

Raymond R. Romses
Brigadier-General (Retired)
President, DCRA



THE TEAM

Captain:	Jeremy Langley CGC, CSM, CSC	Devon & England
Vice-Captain:	James Lewis GM, CSM	Norfolk & England
Adjutant:	Ross McQuillan CSC	Ulster & Ireland
Coaches:	Matthew Charlton	London & Scotland
	Matthew Ensor	Surrey & England
Firers:	David Calvert GM GCM	Ulster & Ireland
	Dan Coleman GM, SM, SC2, CGM	Surrey & England
	Andy Daw	Herts & England
	Ed Jeens	London & Wales
	David Luckman GC2, SM, SC3, CGC, CSM, CSC2	Somerset & England
	Holly McCullough	Ulster & Ireland
	Parag Patel GC2, SC, CGC, CSM, CSC	Surrey & England
	John Pugsley GM, SM, CGC, CSM	Devon & England
	Matthew Purdy	Norfolk & England
	Kelvin Ramsey	Surrey & England
	Jacqui Rankin	East of Scot & Scotland
	Jon Underwood GM, GC2, SM2	Surrey & England
	Chris Watson	Northants & Wales
	James Watson	Northants & England
	Stuart Young	Lancs & England

ITINERARY

Monday	6th August	Depart UK (12:05 LHR AC857), Arrive Toronto 14:00
Tuesday	7th August	Drive to Camp Perry
Wednesday	8th August	Day Off
Thursday	9th August	Day Off
Friday	10th August	Practice
Saturday	11th August	Remington "Band of Brothers" & Mustin Trophies
Sunday	12th August	Andrus Trophy & Roumanian Trophy Team Match
Monday	13th August	"Doc" Aiken Trophy & Herrick (Team) Trophy
Tuesday	14th August	Palma Individual Trophy Match
Wednesday	15th August	America Match
Thursday	16th August	Drive to Ottawa
Friday	17th August	Arrive Ottawa - DCRA (pm). Ottawa Regiment
Saturday	18th August	DCRA – Gooderham; Army & Navy Veterans
Sunday	19th August	DCRA – Tilton; Macdougall
Monday	20th August	DCRA – Norm Beckett; Col. John Brick
Tuesday	21st August	DCRA – Letson; Alex of Tunis; Coaches' Match
Wednesday	22nd August	DCRA – President's; Gibson
Thursday	23rd August	DCRA – Gibson; Outlander Match
Friday	24th August	DCRA – Gatineau; Commonwealth Match
Saturday	25th August	DCRA - Canada Match ; Governor General's Final
Sunday	26th August	Depart Canada (23:20 YYZ AC858)
Monday	27th August	Arrive LHR 11:30, Arrive Bisley approx. 13:30

JEREMY LANGLEY CGC, CSM, CSC



Jeremy, a third generation shooter from Devon, is a seasoned international, having toured with 15 Great Britain Rifle Teams, including four previous Palma teams. He is no stranger to shooting in North America as this will be his 12th shooting tour to Canada and his 4th to the USA. Having coached the winning team in the inaugural America Match in 2002, and then failed to win any of the subsequent matches held in the US, he is determined to bring a winning team to Camp Perry in 2012.

In his spare time when not shooting or coaching, fixing up the house for his wife Judy, or chasing after their young sons Benjamin & Harry, Jeremy is an Antenna Engineer & Technical Fellow working for Selex Galileo Ltd. He is also the proud owner of the older (and, he says, prettier) of the two Corvettes to be found on Bisley ranges.

JAMES LEWIS GM



James Lewis started target rifle shooting at Rugby School and progressed to senior international honours via the Athelings. This is his 7th GB tour, following a successful Palma trip last year.

Winning the Queen's Prize in 2007 was undoubtedly the ultimate triumph for Jumbo (as he is affectionately known) and he has several other individual successes to his name in nearly 30 years of shooting, including winning the St. George's. He has also represented England 4 times in the National Match and GB once in the Kolapore.

An Investment Banker since leaving the Army in 1989, last year he started a new Investment Management company catering for professional and aspirational medium to high net worth investors.

ROSS McQUILLAN



Ross learned his shooting at Belfast Royal Academy and the University of Edinburgh. This is his 6th Great Britain tour and his first as a team officer. He is the current Ireland National Match Captain, and has been shooting for Ireland since 1995, gaining a total of 31 National and Mackinnon match appearances to date. He has toured New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, the USA and the Channel Islands with either Ireland or GB and represented Northern Ireland at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

A country boy stranded in London, Ross seeks regular sanctuary at leafy Bisley, where he won the St George's in 2006. He has also had success on tour, notably a second place finish in the Canadian Grand Aggregate the same year.

Ross is a property manager at Broadgate in the City of London. When not at work or on the range, he enjoys making a mess in the kitchen, a taste of whiskey (or whisky), hill walking, watching football and rugby, and his daily (and occasionally victorious) battle with the Guardian crossword.

DAVID CALVERT GM, CGM

David started full-bore target rifle shooting in Northern Ireland at Campbell College School, Belfast in 1965. His first international team experience followed three years later as a member of the Ireland team, which he has represented over each of the past 45 years. His first Great Britain team representation was on tour to Canada in 1975, with his next GB tour 17 years later as a member of the Palma team to the USA in 1992, having (in his own words) “finally sorted out an appropriate work/shooting balance”. He has toured with GB teams most years since, variously as shooter, coach and captain, including four GB teams to Canada and two to the USA. He has also represented GB in the Service and Match Rifle disciplines and has represented Northern Ireland in the Commonwealth Games on nine occasions in TR and once in SB rifle.

David is currently a part-time flying instructor with Cambridge University Air Squadron as a member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. His main interests, in addition to shooting and flying, include golf and skiing.



MATTHEW CHARLTON

Matt started shooting at RGS Guildford when he was 13 and still hopes to learn to do so tolerably well. Wind coaching is his main strength and was his role on previous GB, Scotland and club tours to Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. This is his 7th GB tour, his 7th shooting trip to Canada (where he briefly lived 20 years ago) and his first to the USA, where he plans to return as Captain of Scotland in 2014. He has coached GB to wins in America, Palma, Protea, Kolapore and New Zealand matches in the past 6 years.

Matt has 33 National and Mackinnon appearances under his belt and is working to try and achieve similar performances in the Mackinnon to those in the National which, in 2010 and 2011, secured Scotland's first back to back victories for 110 years.

An Oxford linguist, Matt's work has latterly been as an institutional stockbroker. He rows – until recently competitively - and enjoys cycling, skiing and snowboarding when there's time.



MATTHEW ENSOR

Matt started shooting in 1992 at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. Various shooting successes followed in schools competitions, but it was on his Athelings tour to Canada in 1997 that he decided (having dropped his last to count... again!) that wind coaching was for him.

Matt's first senior international honours came in 2006. He gained his first GB cap on the victorious 2007 Palma tour where he coached over 200 consecutive scoring bulls-eyes in the various team matches. This is his 5th GB tour, his first tour to the USA and he looks forward to returning to Connaught ranges for the 4th time.

Away from shooting, Matt's life is full of new roles. He is Chief Executive of the Students' Union at University Campus Suffolk and enjoys mowing the lawn at the house he and Sarah recently moved to. He is also very excited at the prospect of teaching his new godson, Thomas Luckman, how to read the wind in years to come!



PROFILES



DAN COLEMAN GM

Danny is a lawyer living in London. He has shot for GB and Surrey regularly for over 30 years and this will be his 8th trip to Canada as a member of a GB team. Danny was a member of David Richards's successful GB Canada team last year and hopes to improve on 3rd place in the Governor General's prize. Very much a fair weather rifle shooter Danny enjoys spending much of the winter fishing and hunting in Africa.

ANDY DAW

Andy, at the grand old age of 47, is very much looking forward to this, his very first GB Tour. He started shooting small-bore at prep school in 1974 and took up fullbore shooting at Rugby School as part of the Cadet Force, entering his first Imperial Meeting in 1981 and has competed every year since. He has represented Hertfordshire regularly since 1994 and is their current vice-captain, but he has only ever 'toured' once before, with the 1995 NRA Team to the Channel Islands. However, he has represented England in the National (twice) and Mackinnon (once).

With a smattering of Queen's and St George's Final appearances (4 each), and two top 50 Grand Aggregate finishes, along with occasional flashes of talent in other competitions, performance recently improved dramatically when he found that a new barrel and actually being able to see the aiming mark really do work wonders!

A Biochemist by training, Andy is now an IT Infrastructure Consultant and Company Director, and lives in Bedfordshire with his partner, Donna, and 10 year old son, Harrison. Away from the ranges, he enjoys skiing, golf (with a wicked slice) and off-road driving; He is also a qualified light helicopter pilot, although being an even more expensive hobby than shooting and off-roading, it rarely affords him the chance to 'play'.

EDWARD JEENS

Ed began shooting fullbore at Marlborough College in 2000 where a GB shooting colleague, Jon Cload, was shooting coach. Eventually prioritising TR over music, Ed shot his first full Imperial meeting at Bisley in 2003, as well as touring to Ireland with Wales that year for the National Match. He has gone on to shoot a further 9 National Matches and 9 Mackinnons for Wales and has also accumulated an impressive list of tours over the same time period, progressing via the GB U19s and the GB U25s to the GB senior team to South Africa in 2008 and to New Zealand in 2010. Last year, he gained further representative honours for GB in the Kolapore at Bisley.

With two elder shooting brothers (one of whom is a HM Queen's Prize winner and the other the current individual World Champion), sibling rivalry has been a great catalyst in Ed's shooting development.

Ed is extremely proud to have recently married Claire, herself no mean shot and coach of Epsom College, where many GB internationals first learned to shoot. Outside of shooting, Ed works at UKTV.



DAVID LUCKMAN GC2, SM, SC3, CGC, CSM, CSC2

David is looking forward to shooting at Camp Perry for the first time and is relishing returning to compete in Canada at an eighth DCRA meeting where he is hoping to go one better than the Silver Cross attained on his last visit.

His successes in the UK are numerous and include seventeen consecutive Grand Aggregate crosses (including two gold and three silver), sixteen St George's badges and Fifteen Queen's badges (including coming 2nd or 3rd on numerous occasions). Last year, he was runner up in the Grand Aggregate and narrowly missed out on retaining the World Individual Long Range Rifle Championship but is proud to remain – amazingly - the oldest person ever to have won the title.

David started shooting with Sedgemoor Target Shooting Club and has captained the Somerset county team for the last decade. 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 works for Clerical Medical in Bristol as an Actuary. In any spare time that isn't taken up by entertaining one year old Thomas, 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.



HOLLY McCULLOUGH

Holly began shooting at the age of 11 under the instruction of her father, and then took up fullbore at 13 as part of the Air Training Corps. Despite only having taken part in four Imperial meetings Holly has competed in three Queen's finals, her highest placing being 9th in 2010. In the same year she also achieved her highest Grand Aggregate placing, 30th. She has already enjoyed a trip to Canada with the Athelings in 2010 and looks forward to greater successes as part of her first GB tour. Holly has just finished her second year studying English at the University of Southampton and hopes to go into teaching after graduating. In her spare time Holly enjoys cooking, particularly baking, and she recently completed her first wedding cake.



PARAG PATEL GC2, SC, CGC, CSC

Parag first started shooting at Epsom College and his prodigious talent was in early evidence as he won the Canadian Grand Aggregate as an Atheling in 1994. This is his 10th tour with a GB senior team.

Accomplished in both team and individual shooting, Parag has shot in all 'Big 5' matches with 41 appearances to date (including the last four Palma matches), and has won the Bisley Grand Aggregate twice – in 2001 and 2003. He also represented England at the last two Commonwealth Games winning four medals, including Gold in the Pairs in 2006 and Individual Gold in 2010.

When not on the range, Parag is a specialist surgeon. He and his wife, Urvi, have two young sons, so he has little time left for golf. For the meantime, all his slicing is therefore done with a scalpel.



JOHN PUGSLEY GM, CGC



John started shooting in 1957 with an air rifle, progressing through shotgun to smallbore and finally fullbore in 1973, which he has pursued ever since. Well known for his no 'faff', no nonsense approach and preference for quick shooting partners, he is a shooting all-rounder who has experienced various highs and lows and hopes to add a few more highs along the lines of his Queen's and St. George's Prize wins and Palma, Australia Match, Kolapore, Woomera and Pershing Match appearances. He is also a rare beast among British fullbore shots in having been to Camp Perry before.

A vet in his professional life, John will often be found out for long runs both at home and on tour. He is also very fortunate to have computer literate daughter Hannah to communicate electronically with the rest of the team!

MATTHEW PURDY



Matt started shooting at Gresham's at the age of 13. While still with Gresham's he toured the West Indies and shot with several cadet teams, as well as winning the Ashburton in 2009. He has also shot for Great Britain in the U25 Match against Australia. Some of his more notable achievements are 2nd places in both the ATSC Open and the Ibis Open, and in the 2010 Imperial he won the Wimbledon Match at 600yds. Since leaving school in 2010 he has toured with the Athelings and was proud to be picked as captain for that team. He was also captain of the Great Britain Under 19 team touring South Africa in 2011. He was reserve for England in the National Match in 2011, came in the top fifty of the Grand Aggregate and hopes to progress further up the board in the coming years!

Matt is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Lancaster University and is set to join the Army on the completion of his degree.

KELVIN RAMSEY



This will be Kelvin's second trip to Canada as a member of a GB team, having toured with David Richards's team in 2011. He was a member of the victorious Palma team of 2011 (although he was pipped to the post for a shooting position in the final match) and was a member of the England team to USA in 2008. He is therefore as keen as mustard to ensure a GB victory in the America Match.

As a consultant surgeon working in London, Kelvin is one of two medics on the team. When he and Parag Patel combine their expertise, they could potentially reconstruct any deformity and, given some of the team's profiles, this may well be necessary.

JACQUI RANKIN

Jacqui started shooting at Dollar Academy in 1992 and competed in her first Imperial Meeting in 1996. She made the Athelings team the following year and then went on to Edinburgh University, winning both the Scottish and British University titles during that time. She progressed to the GB Under 25s, touring to the Channel Islands, South Africa and Canada as well as being part of the winning GB U25 World Championship team in 2003. She obtained her first full GB Cap as part of the team to Australia in 2005. Jacqui has represented Scotland many times and toured with them to Australia in 2010. Her highest individual achievements included winning the Prince of Wales Prize in 2004 and most recently coming 2nd in the St George's in 2011, losing in a tie shoot to team-mate Parag Patel.

In 2006 Jacqui put her rifle aside and went wandering the world in search of warmer climes and in 2008 moved to Singapore where she now works as a private financial adviser. Her other pastimes include scuba diving, dragon boating, wake boarding and skiing as well as an annual 'tour' to Bisley for her favourite sport.



JON UNDERWOOD GM, GC, SM

Jon started shooting age 11 at Aldro School and went on to learn full-bore under John Crathorne and Peter Hicks at RGS Guildford and continued his shooting career whilst at London University.

This is his 14th GB tour, having first toured in 1993. An unflappable team shot, he has made 48 'Big 5' appearances for England and Great Britain to date, a large number of them as last man down. He also represented England at the most recent Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010.

Jon has also had some individual success; he won the Bisley Grand Aggregate in 2005, and again in 2009. In 2006 he won Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, becoming the first person to win the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals in the same year.

Jon looks after his family's business interests in Surrey, which include a tool and plant hire business. In his spare time he coaches shooting at RGS.



CHRIS WATSON

This is Chris's first tour to the USA and Canada and his 4th GB tour, following trips to South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. He is also in the GB Team touring the West Indies next year. He has 11 consecutive representations for Wales in both the National and Mackinnon Matches, and two tours to South Africa. Following his first Australia Match in 2010, last year he became one of only three Welsh shooters ever to complete the Big 5 matches, shooting all in the same year.

The social aspects of Bisley Camp originally encouraged Chris to pursue shooting beyond Uppingham School, and he is well known on the Common for his involvement in the rejuvenation of the Surrey Rifle Association clubhouse. He is hugely appreciative of his wife's support (even more so now they have two young children) while he concentrates on GB shooting and training for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014 at which he hopes to represent Wales.



JAMES WATSON

James is something of a veteran of tours to Canada and the USA, having participated in nine DCRA meetings and two Spirit of America Championships which include three America Matches.



James started shooting at Uppingham School and progressed to full international honours via the Athelings and the GB Under 25 team. This is his 8th GB tour. He was a member of the winning Palma teams in 2007 and 2011, has shot for GB in the Kolapore and was Adjutant for the Australia Match in 2011. He has also made five appearances for England in the National Match and four in the Mackinnon.

As an individual, he has had a number of successes at Bisley and elsewhere, including winning the Belt Series in New Zealand in 2010. James is getting married this September so he has to thank his fiancée Ellen for allowing him to take the time away to shoot as a member of this team. In his free time, he enjoys travelling (particularly to the USA where he lived for five years), shooting game, skiing and scuba diving. To afford all these trips, he works at SAP selling business software to the financial services industry.

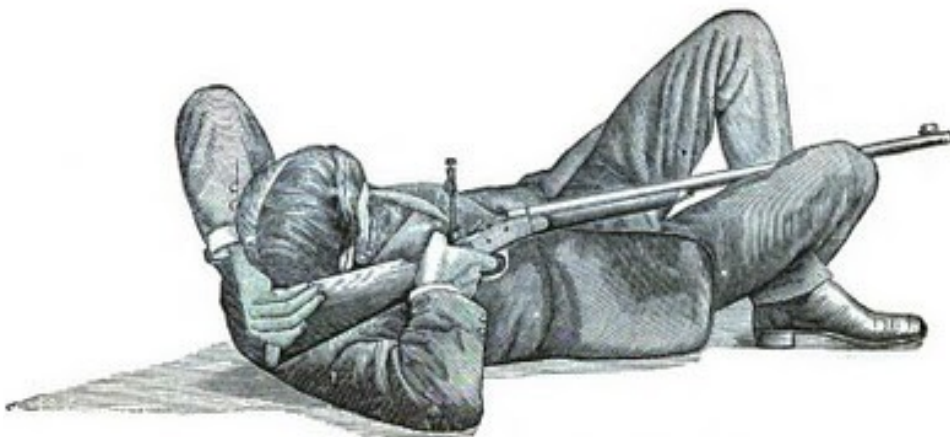
STUART YOUNG

Since he started shooting at 14, Stuart has been itching for a chance to visit Canada and the USA; when he heard there would be a GB tour incorporating both nations it was impossible to resist applying. This will be Stuart's first full GB cap, though hopefully not his last. After several tours to South Africa and, more recently, to Brisbane for the World Championships when he was lucky enough to have been appointed GB U25 Vice Captain, Stuart has somewhat caught the touring 'bug'.



Stuart now captains his county team (Lancashire) and also the GB U25 team, which he looks forward to taking back to Bloemfontein in the spring of 2013.

Stuart now finds himself totally immersed in shooting whilst at home, living a literal 'stone's throw' away from the Bisley ranges while plying his trade as a carpenter everywhere from the Home Counties to the North West. He continues to refurbish Club Row, including his favourite bar! In the not too distant future Stuart would like to use some of his training in hand-crafted furniture to make the ultimate custom built rifle stock - after all, real wood is the most aesthetically pleasing material.



MAJOR HENRY FULTON IN POSITION.

THE AMERICA MATCH

The America Match is for a team of eight shooters, two sub-coaches, a main coach, an adjutant, a captain and two reserves. Each firer shoots 2 sighters and 15 shots to count at four distances. At Connaught those are 300 and 600 yards and 800 and 900 metres. At Camp Perry this year they will be 300, 800, 900 and 1000 yards.

First shot in 2002, the match can only take place when an official US team is present and competing. The intention is to hold the match every two years, with the venue alternating between the USA and Canada. The trophy (pictured) was presented in 2002, having been made possible by a Precision Shooting Magazine fund-raising effort. The two figures depicted in the sculpture, made by George Chase of New Brunswick, are Jim Thompson of Canada – an immigrant from Britain - and Alan Warner (standing) of the USA.

In 2002, USA, Canada, Great Britain and Germany competed in the first match. Great Britain won from Canada by 48 points with the USA a further 9 points behind them. John Pugsley was top scorer with 298.30. In the next iteration, the USA beat Great Britain in Raton, New Mexico.

The record score is 2392.317 by Great Britain in 2006, with three firers scoring 300s. The highest individual score in the series is 300.46 by Des Vamplew (Canada) in 2010. The US have not be beaten in this match - on home soil.



THE CANADA MATCH

The Canada Match is always shot in Canada, by teams of eight firers with 2 sighters and 10 shots to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. The trophy is a Challenge Cup, for competition between teams representing the Mother Country (now Great Britain) and Canada, presented by The Canadian National Railways 1931 on the occasion of Great Britain's visit that year. It is a Sheffield Sterling Plate Bowl style cup with two handles, a lid on which stands a Victory Figure, a long stem tapering to a tiered and flared base.

Prior to that year there were no regular international matches in the DCRA schedule and the Kolapore Match at Bisley was used as a model for the new Canada Match. Great Britain's 2007 score of 1199.183 is the current record – higher than anything achieved in the Kolapore too – and the highest individual score is 150.28 by David Luckman (Great Britain) in that match.



THE COMMONWEALTH MATCH

In 1931, the same year as the first Canada Match, the Commonwealth Trophy was presented to the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association by The Canadian Pacific Railway Company for annual competition between Empire (now Commonwealth) teams. It is a Sheffield Sterling Bowl with two handles and a prone figure of a marksman mounted on the stem base (see photo). The bowl is mounted on a three tier black wooden base upon which the names of winning teams are recorded on small silver shields. The Commonwealth Match is a long range match, always fired in Canada, based on the Mackinnon at Bisley, with twelve marksmen firing 2 sighting shots and 10 shots for record at each of 900 and 1000 yards (now 800 and 900m). Prior to World War II it was known as the Empire Match (as was the Australia Match until more recently, which is shot under different conditions).



The highest individual score is 100.17 by David Luckman (Great Britain) in 2007 and Parag Patel (Great Britain) in 2002's team that set the team record of 1189.140.

CAMP PERRY

HISTORY

Camp Perry is named in honour of Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812, and has been home of the US NRA's National Matches since 1907.

Having learned some hard lessons in the Spanish American War in Cuba in 1898, the United States designed a rifle, similar to the Spaniards' 7mm Mausers, to replace the Krag Jorgensen that the Americans had found inadequate owing to its low muzzle velocity, single locking lug and difficulty in reloading quickly. One of the consequences of the redesign of the rifle, built at the Springfield Armory, was a greater effective range which rendered the Ohio National Guard's Newark range obsolete and indeed unsafe. So a new range had to be found.

By the time of Camp Perry's construction, US Congress had enacted Title 10 of the United States Code in 1903, part of which called for "An annual competition called the 'National Matches' and consisting of rifle and pistol matches for a National Trophy, medals, and other prizes." For the first three years they were held a Sea Girt, New Jersey under the direction of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice.

In 1907, Ammon B. Critchfield's powers of persuasion resulted in those matches moving to the newly constructed Camp Perry, where they have remained ever since. Critchfield served as Ohio's Adjutant General for six years and had overseen the development of the new facility after surveying all of northern Ohio's lakefront in the search for a new training camp for his fellow Ohio Guardsmen as well as other military and civilian shooters from across the United States. He is commemorated by the Critchfield Trophy (1934), a stone obelisk (1936) and by the Critchfield Circle (see street sign on camp).

The inaugural matches were conducted in August and September 1907 and continued until the United States entered World War I, which put a stop to competition in 1916 and 1917 although the ranges were used for marksmanship instructor training. The matches returned to Camp Perry in 1918 and again from 1920 until the onset of World War II, after a one year move to the US Navy's Caldwell, NJ facility in 1919. 1920 saw the addition of the Small Arms Firing School, which trained thousands in the skilled use of military small arms, including many who subsequently saw action in Europe and the Pacific in WWII as well as others who trained those who would serve on the front line in their stead.

World War II brought change to Camp Perry, including the construction of orderly rows of 14 foot by 14 foot huts – later to become, for some, an important part of the (voluntarily housed competitive shooter's!) Camp Perry experience – which were built to contain Italians who were shipped there for internment in 1943, as well as German prisoners of war who started to join them soon after the Allied forces landed in France in 1944. In addition in 1954, the four major ranges were named in honour of members of Ohio's 37th Infantry Division who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for courage above and beyond the call of duty when fighting the Japanese – Private Roger Young, PFC Frank Petrarca, Technical Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez and 2Lt Robert Viale. Because of a clerical error the 'i' and the 'a' in Viale's name were transposed and, for 36 years, shooters wrote "Vaile Range" into their scorebooks. After the error was discovered, Viale's son - then Colonel Charles Viale - came and spoke when the range was rededicated in 1990.

Although the National Matches started up again in 1946 with pistol and smallbore events at Camp Perry, the ranges were not available for the next three years, so they were held at sites around the country until the North Korean invasion of South Korea caused the 1950 matches to be cancelled. In 1951 the matches were again conducted but they did not return to Camp Perry until 1953, where they have remained ever since.

CAMP PERRY

MATCHES

The first matches fired each year are the NRA Muzzle Loading Rifle and Pistol matches. There was some black powder activity in the 1960s and after a ten-year absence the muzzle loaders returned in 1978.

Next are the National Pistol Championships, formalised in 1935 and involving .22, centre fire and .45 pistols shooting slow, timed, and rapid fire events which have been dominated by members of the military and law enforcement.

While pistol, smallbore prone and highpower rifle have always been long term fixtures, it was only in 1957 that smallbore position shooting was added to the programme. Few people have won national smallbore rifle titles at Camp Perry more than once but, between 1963 and 1992, Lones Wigger took the title a record 21 times, with one stretch of nine consecutive wins (and a 6399 ex 6400 prone in 1975) that spawned the apocryphal Camp Perry match report "Nothing out of the ordinary - the wind blew and Wigger won."

There are two distinct parts to the pistol and highpower matches (in the latter of which David Tubbs has been the leading exponent with titles into double figures). One segment is the National Rifle Association National Championship, open to any firearm that meets NRA rules, while the other, the National Trophy Matches, known as "The Board Matches", are fired with the current service firearm. The National Trophy Matches are where competitors vie for points towards earning the prestigious Distinguished Badges and membership in The President's Hundred. Competition is fierce because The National Trophy Individual Match is the only Excellence-In-Competition Match where any score in the top ten per cent earns a civilian ten points towards 30 needed to earn "Distinguished".

The Nationals also play host to some international competition, including the America Match which will be held at Camp Perry for the first time this year. At Camp Perry, pistol shooters compete for places on the Mayleigh Cup Team and the NRA/USA Civilian Pistol Team Postal Match, smallbore prone rifle shooters try to make the Dewar International Trophy Team, and women vie for selection for the smallbore Randle Trophy Match. Every eight years, teams from Great Britain, Canada and other English speaking nations meet at Camp Perry to shoot a prone match, shoulder to shoulder, for the Pershing Trophy, in which 2012 fullbore team member John Pugsley has participated. Long range "high power" shooters have competed on Viale Range for the world long range championship in many iterations of the Palma Match, which is expected to return in 2015 after a long period overseas and, in 1992, at Raton NM.

Until the mid-1960s the matches were heavily supported by the Department of Defense, with the ranges operated by the major services. 'All a shooter had to do was shoot.' Anti-gun campaigning in the 1960s resulted in Congress drastically reducing the support offered to the Nationals, but several hundred volunteers came forward and now spend weeks each summer scoring targets, running the ranges, operating telephones and performing numerous other tasks essential for the safe and efficient operation of the matches. Their reward is room and board, a small enamel badge after ten years' service, and the knowledge that, without them, the matches could not exist.



DCRA & CONNAUGHT RANGES

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association was founded in 1868 to promote and encourage the training of marksmanship throughout Canada, prompted by the imminent departure of the British Garrisons in 1871. On April 1st 1868, the Adjutant General of the Militia, General MacDougall, through the Honourable Minister of Militia, Sir G.E. Cartier, called a meeting in Ottawa of representatives of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, at which it was decided to proceed with the formation of the DCRA. Governor General, his Excellency Viscount Monck accepted the role of Patron, a position held to this day by the current Governor General.

The Association brought together thirty three independent rifle associations. The first Annual Prize Meeting was held at Laprairie, just outside Montreal, with over 900 competitors competing for \$5,500 in prize money. The annual DCRA prize meetings have been held every year since, except during the two World Wars.

The DCRA's national range became, until 1897, the Rideau Range, just behind the current location of the Russian Embassy in Ottawa. It then moved to a more suitable location, with greater scope for long range shooting, at Rockcliffe. The 380 acre site permitted shooting from 200 yards to 1000 yards with room for extension back to 2000. That year, the DCRA also constructed its own permanent accommodation at Bisley, where Canadian Teams have competed ever since Ontario's visit in 1870 - the first DCRA Team went to Wimbledon in 1873 and continued to do so each year until 1889, after which the matches moved to Bisley.

The DCRA continued to hold its Annual Matches at Rockcliffe until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and again in 1919 and 1920. During its period of occupancy at Rockcliffe the DCRA had built a large Administration building and a substantial set of quarters for competitors, but pressure began to mount to have the site of the range made available for other purposes.

The DCRA, in conjunction with the Minister of Militia, selected the current site of Connaught Ranges for development and, since the DCRA was being required to give up its buildings at Rockcliffe, the Association was granted use of the Connaught Range in perpetuity. The original plans for the ranges are still in the DCRA archives. Connaught opened in time for the DCRA to hold the 1921 Annual Prize Meeting, as it has done every year since then except the 1939 to 1946 period.

During the early years the Annual Prize Meetings consisted of smallbore, pistol, Service Rifle (A) (Military Targets) and Service Rifle (B) (Target Rifle Targets). Upwards of 3,000 competitors, including 800 Cadets, attended the 10 day competitions. All competitions were under the control of DCRA staff. In those years all members of the DCRA Bisley Team were Military members, as was the majority of the membership.

In 1931, in honour of a visit by Sir Lionel Fletcher CBE's Great Britain team, the Canada Match and Commonwealth Match trophies were donated by Canadian National Rail for international team competition (see separate items).

Cadets also remain among the mainstays of the Annual Prize Meeting, where they compete for places on the following year's team to Bisley.

The DCRA is composed of 10 Provincial Rifle Associations plus the Yukon Rifle Association and the National Capital Region Rifle Association. A small staff runs the DCRA from Connaught and, thanks to them and the excellent seasonal markers and range staff, DCRA continues to put on a very well run and enjoyable Annual Prize Meeting, in which we look forward to taking part this summer. Long may it continue!



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THE BISLEY V CLUB

Founded 1987
President: Arthur E Clarke GC2. SC. CGC.



The Bisley V Club congratulates Holly McCullough on her selection to the GB Rifle Team.

We wish her and all the team an enjoyable and successful tour of the USA and Canada in 2012.

The Bisley V Club supports young full-bore shooters by organising the Schools & Cadet Long Range Target Rifle Match (usually the last Thursday before the Cadet meeting in July), and by offering scholarships from our Freddy Payne Memorial Fund to those in need of financial help in applying for their first Great Britain Rifle Team tour.

Future GBRT Captains should contact The Bisley V Club via jdwarburton@btinternet.com and dereklowe2008@googlemail.com

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