



# Australia 2010



# HPS Target Rifles Limited

## The Home of System Gemini Equipment and Target Master Ammunition

### TRY THE GEMINI!

Interested in having a try with a Gemini stock? Please contact HPS at: 01452 729 888 or [info@hps-tr.com](mailto:info@hps-tr.com).

### Bookmark our home page:

[www.hps-tr.com](http://www.hps-tr.com)

for news about HPS products and services and our schedule of 2010 trade shows.

HPS is an HSE Licensed Commercial Manufacturer of ammunition since 1993. All HPS ammunition is CIP approved, packaged and labelled according to UN regulations for UK and International Transport. HPS are also Liability Insured.

**HPS**  
BRINGING QUALITY AND  
INNOVATION TO THE  
SHOOTER

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### HPS TARGET MASTER AMMUNITION -

### WHEN YOU WANT THE VERY BEST!

The range of Target Master Ammunition steadily increases.

The stock range currently comprises:

.223 Rem., .308 Win., .303 British, 6mm BR Remington/Norma.



Machine or Hand Loaded all using Sierra as our standard bullet.

However, other makes of bullets such as (but not restricted to): Berger, Tubb D-Tac, Lapua, Hornady, Speer, Nosler, etc. can be supplied upon request.

Other calibres to special order including: (but not limited to):

22-250, .243 Win, 6.5 x 47, 6.5 x 55, 6.5 x 284, 7mm WSM, 7.62 x 39, 7.62 x 54R, .300 Win Magnum., 300 WSM, and .338 Lap Magnum.

All ammunition available in minimum lots of 50 rounds, 400, 500, 800 or 1000 round containers, depending on calibre.

System Gemini TR701 and TR702 Fullbore Rifle Stocks, FR703 Smallbore Rifle Stocks, FC704 F-Class/Bench Rest Rifle Stocks, Butt Plates, Handstops, Bipods and Other Accessories plus Smallbore and Fullbore Test Rigs.



### SYSTEM GEMINI – FOR TOP CLASS SHOOTING

**Also:** Traditional Wooden Stocks, Rifle Barrels and Actions, Point Master Shooting Mats, Gloves, Caps, Slings, Gun Bags/Boxes, Weatherwriters, Capes, RPA and Centra Parts & Accessories, Complete Rifles Built to Customer Specifications Plus Re-Barrelling, Full Rifle Servicing, Repairs, and Refurbishment Service.






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**Great Britain Match Rifle Team  
Australia Tour, 2010**

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**Itinerary**

Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Main party leave U.K.
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Main party arrive Brisbane, Queensland
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> April - Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Acclimatisation / Rest Days
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Australia & Great Britain Match Rifle teams practice, Belmont
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Individual Practice, Belmont
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Australian Match Rifle Championships, Belmont <i>Evening: Queensland Rifle Association Meet &amp; Greet</i>
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Australian Match Rifle Championships, Belmont <i>Evening: Australian Match Rifle Association A.G.M.</i>
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Australian Match Rifle Championships, Belmont <i>Evening: Dinner hosted by GBMRT</i>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Australian Match Rifle Championships – Australian State Teams, Belmont
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Australian Match Rifle Championships - Australian State Teams, Belmont <i>Evening: Championship Presentation Dinner</i>
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Woomera Match, Australia vs Great Britain <i>Afternoon Tea &amp; Presentation</i>
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Return flights to UK <u>or</u> Travel by car to Coonabarabran, New South Wales
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> April	'Welcome to Coonabarabran' Opening Dinner at Acacia Lodge, Coonabarabran
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Coonabarabran Invitation Shoot, Match Rifle and Long Range F Class including 1500 yd shoot, Coonabarabran <i>Tribute for ANZAC Day, on range at 8.45 a.m.</i> <i>Night Sky Viewing at Warrumbungle Observatory, for GBMRT at 8 p.m.</i>
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Coonabarabran Invitation Shoot, Match Rifle and Long Range F Class including 1500 yd shoot, Coonabarabran
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to Brisbane
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> or Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Return flights to UK

# Who are HPS Target Rifles Limited?

HPS Target Rifles Ltd. started out in 1997 as a combination of John Carmichael (operating as JHCSupply) and David Richards. John had been making fullbore ammunition part-time since 1985 and then full-time in the trade as JHCSupply from 1992. David was involved part-time in stock work and finishing of rifles assembled by John.

In 1999, David stepped out due to pressure from his full-time job and John formed the present partnership of HPS Target Rifles Ltd. with Robert Nibbs, formerly of S&N UK Ltd. Robert had already been supplying his System Gemini stocks to HPS in a modified form for fullbore use. It was a logical step to expand the already well accepted System Gemini smallbore stocks to encompass the more varied field of fullbore rifles and it was at that time the Type A and B stocks were introduced to the fullbore world.

The new demands of the different fullbore disciplines led quickly to the development of the early TR700 rifle stock, designed principally to fit the Remington 700 action and its clones, as well as, the RPA Quadlite action. Revisions of this design created the TR701 rifle stock which provided a more versatile base from which further designs could be created. The TR701 permitted the use of the telescopic butt plate system and many other common parts seen on the smallbore stock whilst providing a grip shape more familiar to military rifle shooters of pre-pistol grip designs.

From this came the model TR702 rifle stock with its pistol grip and later the revised model with a ball joint mounted anatomical pistol grip.

The next in the line of models was the FC704 with the F-Open Class butt section that included a rear bag rail with vertical adjustment and a forend bag rail. This also being available in a smallbore bench version.

The original System Gemini smallbore stock also developed alongside the range of fullbore stocks, losing its wooden rear section, adopting the common forend and acquiring a new alloy butt section which is shorter than on any other stocks that are suitable for 3 positional shooting, but which can be extended to suit all positions by releasing a single locking lever.

Many other System Gemini accessories have also been developed along side the stocks which can now accommodate a large range of fullbore and smallbore actions. Each stock is machined from solid 6082T6 aircraft quality aluminium alloy and they are available in a large range of colours or colour combinations and patterns to suit the customer. Each stock is machined to suit its mating action and adapter plates are not necessary. Cheekpiece, handgrip and side scales on the forend are made of eight fine birch laminate or Canadian maple with an option of American walnut, if desired.

System Gemini does not use castings due to their softness, liability to fracture and inability to hold a good surface finish. All problems that 6082T6 overcomes. No alloy System Gemini stock has ever fractured despite several having been driven over on the range!



# Who are HPS Target Rifles Limited? Cont'd

The ammunition side of the company have moved from strength to strength over the years with its first major break being the supply of over 140,000 rounds to the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championships in 1995 at which record scores abounded. Since then, annual sales have increased to over 500,000 rounds a year, mostly .308 Win calibre but also of a multitude of other calibres to suit customer's requirements.

Most of the ammunition is loaded on two greatly modified and motorised Dillon 7 station loaders originally purchased in 1992 and 1993. These produce exceptionally high quality cartridges which give results that are hard to distinguish from good hand loads.

HPS supplies ammunition as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Kenya, The West Indies, South America, Canada and the USA, as well as throughout Europe to individuals and to national Shooting Associations, squads and teams. Hand loaded ammunition is also made to suit particular customer requirements.

HPS policy has always been to provide the highest quality possible to its customers in workmanship, materials, and design of its System Gemini stocks and in the use of only the best loading components for its ammunitions from the top manufacturers such as Sierra bullets, MEN cartridges cases, Vihtavuori powder and CCI primers for its commercial ammunition and additionally such makes as Berger and Lapua for its special hand loads.

HPS is pleased to be associated with the GB Match Rifle Team to Australia and in helping to support their costs by supplying all packing materials, Export Licensing, Dangerous Goods Documents and export know-how to enable them to move their rifles and ammunitions to and from Australia. HPS, however, has to admit that the team members provided and hand loaded their own ammunition without help from HPS! (shame!)

From all the staff at HPS,  
we wish them a successful and thoroughly enjoyable tour down under.

**HPS**  
**BRINGING QUALITY AND INNOVATION TO THE SHOOTER**



**H.R.H. The Prince of Wales**



©Allan Shawcross



**CLARENCE HOUSE**

As Patron of the National Rifle Association, it gives me great pleasure to wish the Great Britain Match Rifle Team every success in the Australian Match Rifle Championships in April. The team's twelve year run of victories in the international match for the Woomeera trophy is particularly impressive and a testament to the team's total dedication and professionalism. I send my very best wishes to the Great Britain Rifle Team for their continued success in Australia.

*Charles*

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It is a great pleasure to wish the Great Britain Match Rifle team under the captaincy of Loulou Brister the best of luck in their shooting in Australia and particularly for the Woomera Trophy.

Long range shooting has always been the ultimate test of marksmanship worldwide and from the 1850s in Jacobabad (now in Pakistan) there had been shooting at 2000 yards. The preferred calibre in the 1860s and 1870s was 0.45 inches compared to 0.577 inches of the Government pattern rifle and this was often referred to as a smallbore rifle. The term Match Rifle was not used until 1897 when the calibre was restricted further to a maximum of .315 inches.

In the UK experimental long range shooting was carried out from the 1850s on various ranges often privately owned at Hythe, Montrose, Gravesend, Wistow, Cannonffrome, Barry, Pendine and Islay at distances from 1300 yards up to one and a half miles. It is remarkable how well one can shoot at distances up to 2000 yards with modern rifles whereas in the 1860s it was a feat to hit the target at 2000 yards.

The first international match was between Ireland and America in 1873 shot at Elcho match distances (then 800, 900 and 1000 yards) and this led to the Centennial Match in America in 1876 (better known these days as the Palma match) at Elcho match distances which was shot by the Irish and Scottish teams using their smallbore rifles.

When the Olympic Games came to Great Britain in 1908, the English, Irish and Scottish match rifle clubs were invited to nominate their 4 best shooters to take part in a trial for the 1000 yards event. The Gold Medal in the Olympics was won by an Irishman Col JK Millner. Match rifle shooting has regretfully not featured in subsequent Olympic Games.

The Australians held a long range event at Woomera in 1993 at distances up to 1200 yards. This gave rise to the first match for the Woomera Trophy in 1997 in Tasmania between Australia and Great Britain - a match that has alternated between the two countries and is a welcome addition to the shooting calendar.

2010 sees the fifth match in the series and will no doubt give rise to some excellent wind coaching and shooting. But most important are the friendships that are developed between the members of the teams.

Good Luck

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Pizer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin Pizer  
NRA Chairman



***National Rifle Association of Australia Limited***

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The National Rifle Association of Australia is delighted to welcome the Great Britain Match Rifle Team to our shores to contest the Woomera Match at Belmont Range in Brisbane in April of this year.

Once again the competitive spirit and friendship associated with both of our countries in our chosen sport can only add to the camaraderie and sportsmanship that exists between us that dates back for well over a century.

The discipline of Match Rifle, while comparatively young in Australia, the first individual matches being conducted at Woomera in South Australia in 1992 and then the following year the first Match Rifle Championships at the same venue, has a long and traditional history in the UK. In 2012 Great Britain celebrates the Sesquicentenary of the Elcho Shield, first competed for in 1862, a remarkable and proud achievement at which Australia has committed to attend.

It is therefore fitting that this match between Great Britain and Australia, the "Woomera" is named after the birthplace of Australian Match Rifle Shooting.

Without doubt the competition between both of our countries has been a great boost to the quality of the sport in Australia. Together with the improvement in equipment, loading techniques and competitive skills, we have shared this knowledge with a common goal in mind.

We extend to you our hand in friendship during your stay and beyond, but at the same time challenge you to a fierce competition between us and "May the best Team win" attitude excel for all the matches during the Championships.

John Fitzgerald  
Chairman  
NRAA

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## Great Britain Match Rifle Team 2010

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<b>Captain:</b>	Loulou Brister	Wales
<b>Vice Captain:</b>	Nick Tremlett	England
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Richard Whitby*	England
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ted Hobbs*	Wales

### Team Members

Andrew Burgess*	Wales
Alex Cargill Thompson	England
Aled James*	Wales
Gareth James*	Wales
Tim Kidner*	Scotland
Derek Lowe* e	England
Jim McAllister	Scotland
Will Meldrum	Scotland
Paul Monaghan	England
William Mott*	England
Julian Peck*	England
John Pugsley	England
Tom Smith	England
Simon Whitby*	England

\* First GBMRT Caps

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## Captain's Introduction

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I feel greatly honoured to have been selected as Captain of the Great Britain Match Rifle Team to Brisbane, Australia this year. This will be the first time a Match Rifle Team has been to Brisbane, to shoot on the Belmont ranges. Although the ranges will be unfamiliar to us, our preparations are well in hand and I am looking forward to the challenge of competing against the Australians.

Having been to Australia with the MR team on 2 previous occasions I know what tough competitors they are, and am under no illusions about how hard it will be for us to beat them in the Woomera Match. However I am delighted to have many seasoned internationals in my team, together with some rising stars of the sport, and so I am confident of our ability to retain the trophy.

Another characteristic of Australian shooters is their generous hospitality. I know we will be well looked after and I will enjoy renewing many friendships. I have already received a great deal of help and support from our Australian hosts and I am very grateful to John Kielly and Philip Bain.

Towards the end of our tour, in late April, we will have the privilege of competing at Coonabarabran. This is a new range and will give us the unique opportunity to shoot at 1500 yards competitively. For this chance I thank Philip Bain without whom it would not have been possible.

We hope to mark the progress of our tour with regular updates on our website which I encourage you to visit if you can. Hopefully you will read of our successes in the Australian Match Rifle Championship, as we head towards a successful defence of the Woomera Match. Whatever the outcome of the match my aim is to bring the best out of my team and foster the true spirit of sportsmanship, an abiding hallmark of our sport.

Lou Lou Brister  
Captain, Great Britain Match Rifle Team  
February 2010

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## Australian Match Rifle Team

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<b>Captain:</b>	Bill Freebairn	S. Australia
<b>Manager:</b>	John Kielly	Queensland
<b>Coaches:</b>	Greg Warriar	New South Wales
	Jim Freebairn	S. Australia
<b>Assistant Coaches:</b>	Gilbert Walker	Tasmania
	Kerod Lindley	Queensland

### Shooters

Adrian Abbott	New South Wales
Phillip Bain	New South Wales
Alan Blain	Victoria
Shane Courtney	Victoria
David Freebairn	South Australia
Rob Halloran	New South Wales
Jenni Hausler*	Queensland
Lew Horwood	Victoria
Barry Southern*	Victoria
Wilf Wright	New South Wales

### Reserves

Mike Halloran*	New South Wales
Ray Rudduck*	New South Wales

\* First AMRT cap

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## Woomera Trophy

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James Freebairn commissioned the building of the Woomera trophy in 1993, for the purpose of presentation at International Match Rifle competitions that Australia is involved in. It was first competed for and won by the visiting British Team, at the inaugural international Match Rifle competition held at Campbell Town, in Tasmania in 1997.

The trophy itself is fashioned after a sculpture that appears at Woomera. A township purpose built in 1947 in South Australia, to house personnel working at the Australian Government's nearby rocket range facility of the same name.

The name Woomera is an apt name for a rocket range and a long range shooting trophy alike. It is the name of a device, invented by Australian Aborigines, used to increase the distance that a spear could be thrown. Using the device a spear can be thrown accurately out to a distance of 150metres. This compares favourably to the world record javelin throw of slightly less than 100 metres. The woomera is thus, a remarkable device.

The central parts of the trophy represent different facets of the work carried out at the rocket range. The orb represents a satellite; the crescent, a tracking dish; the arrow, a rocket and the supporting arm, a launcher (or Woomera).

The structure is mounted on a block of river red gum (*Eucalyptus Camaldulensis*). This timber is representative of Australia, in that it is regionally adapted and can be found growing in most parts of the nation. The mounting block is adorned with the emblem of the NRAA.

*Great Britain Match Rifle Team, 2010*



*In the Doorway: Derek Love    Back Row: John Pugsley, Tim Kärner, Julian Peck, Aled James, Gareth James  
Andrew Burgess, Ted Hobbs, Simon Whitty, Will Mott    Front Row: Tom Smith, Richard Whitby, Jim McAllister  
Loulou Brister (Captain), Will Melárum, Nick Tremlett, Paul Monaghan    Supine: Alex Cargill Thompson*

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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Loulou Brister **Alias:** Welsh Dragon  
**Crime committed:** GBH  
**Defence:** They didn't obey!  
**Sentence:** One month  
**Previous Convictions:** Too many to list  
**Start in crime:** 1991 - John Powell lent me a rifle

**Earliest shooting memory:** *Trying to look through the sight - I have a very master left eye*

**Like about MR:** *Being able to see, most of the time*

**Best achievement:** *Winning the Armourers*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Come and shoot for Wales*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Hopefully, the sunshine*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Teaching the team to obey*

**Occupation:** *Train dogs & gardens*

**Hobbies:** *Golf, dog-training and gardening*

**Personality:** *Determined*

**Supportive spouse?** *Yes, Martin*

**Dependents:** *Jasper, Freddie, Treacle, Merlin and Rosie, my spaniels*

**Future Ambitions:** *For Wales to win the Elcho*



**Name:** Andrew Burgess **Alias:** Number 1 T\*\*t (part of a Welsh Trio)

**Crime committed:** Too numerous to mention

**Defence:** None - guilty as charged

**Sentence:** Stay after practice to clean all the rifles

**Previous Convictions:** Sent to Wales for bad behaviour

**Start in crime:** Shooting match-boxes with an air rifle

**Start in MR:** *A visit to a WRA MR match with John Felton*

**Best achievement:** *Winning 600yd match at World*

*Muzzleloading Championships and setting a world record*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Don't get married as you'll have less to spend on shooting*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Sunshine*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Reading the conditions with fewer flags*

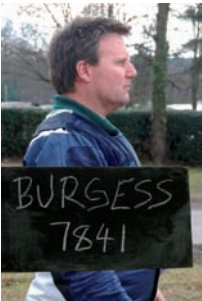
**Occupation:** *Vet*

**Future Ambitions:** *To be rich & famous like Nick Tremlett*

**Hobbies:** *Anything outdoors - stalking, off-roading, camping & photography*

**Personality:** *Not sure, I wasn't aware I was one*

**Supportive spouse?** *No! I expect Suzette to have sold the house and just left me a note!*



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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Alex Cargill Thompson

**Earliest Shooting Memory:** *Trying small-bore at school, because I wasn't much good at other sports*

**Start in MR:** *I had the opportunity at University and never looked back*

**Like about MR:** *Its unique atmosphere and the fact that anything can (and often does) happen*

**Best achievement:** *100.20 in the Cottesloe in 2001*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Give shooting supine a go and don't be put off by your first attempt*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *1500yds at Coonabarabran and hopefully fewer flies than the 2004 tour*

**Challenge in Oz:** *String shooting*

**Personality:** *I focus on doing the best I can, rather than worrying if anyone is doing better than me*

**Supportive spouse:** *Yes, very – she's a shooter too*

**Future Ambitions:** *Finding someone to take over as Match Rifle Discipline representative on the NRA General Council...*

**Hobbies:** *...then I might have the time for other hobbies!*



**Name:** Ted Hobbs **Alias:** Hatchet Hobbs

**Crime committed:** Got a Firearms certificate

**Defence:** Uncle Ronnie made me do it

**Sentence:** Treasurer to GBMRT

**Previous Convictions:** How big is the brochure?

**Start in crime:** Not for publication!

**Like about MR:** *Shooting on a day when there is absolutely no wind at all three distances*

**Best achievement:** *Winning the US Masters International Pistol Shooting Competition (International class)*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Have a go, you'll love it*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Meeting all the family & friends who've emigrated – there are more Welsh in Perth than you used to meet in Hiyabut Bay during the miner's holidays*

**Challenge in Oz:** *I don't face challenges, I duck them*

**Hobbies:** *My grandchildren, walking and rugby*

**Personality:** *Awkward & argumentative – who said I'm a good shot?*

**Supportive spouse:** *Lynn does everything she can to help me get to every event, wherever it may be*

**Future Ambitions:** *To be part of a Welsh Elcho-winning team*





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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Aled James   **Alias:** Bobo  
**Crime committed:** Drunk & disorderly with the Welsh Dragon  
**Defence:** She made me  
**Sentence:** 18 days, sharing a cell with my old man  
**Previous Convictions:** Plenty  
**Start in crime:** Shooting coins in my grandfather's garden with his air rifle, when I was about 8 years old

**Start in MR:** 2007

**Like about MR:** 1200yds

**Best achievement:** Second in the Welsh Open in 2009

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Make sure your scope is attached properly

**Looking forward to in Oz:** 1500 yds at Coonabarabran

**Challenge in Oz:** The heat

**Occupation:** Physics graduate

**Hobbies:** Cycling, flying, computers & snooker

**Personality:** Wind-up merchant

**Dependents:** None that I know of

**Future Ambitions:** To get a first in something



**Name:** Gareth James   **Alias:** Speedy  
**Crime committed:** Spent our Silver Wedding anniversary, shooting in Bisley  
**Defence:** I did take her with me in the motor-home!  
**Sentence:** A new bathroom when I get home  
**Previous Convictions:** I forget Sue's birthday every year  
**Start in crime:** Shooting tin cans in the garden with an air rifle and parting my mother's hair, whilst she pegged out the washing!

**Start in MR:** I was encouraged to "give it a go" by John Felton in 2006

**Like about MR:** Ammunition development

**Best achievement:** 100.16 at 1200yds in June, 2009 at Stickle-down

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Ask for advice before you start

**Looking forward to in Oz:** Shooting in dry weather!

**Challenge in Oz:** 1500yds at Coonabarabran

**Occupation:** Company Director

**Hobbies:** Gun-making and classic cars

**Personality:** Laid-back

**Supportive spouse?** Yes, definitely - thanks, Sue

**Future Ambitions:** To win the Hopton



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600 ex 600 for 'Gold',  
with the free rifle version in the  
Moscow World Championships.

*Good Luck to  
The British Team*  
from all at

# Tim Hannam

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# NIGHTFORCE™

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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Tim Kidner **Alias:** Tiny Tim  
**Crime committed:** Addiction to shooting  
**Defence:** I was too young to know better  
**Sentence:** 45 years so far and still counting  
**Previous Convictions:** Smoking behind the bike-shed - I gave it up after becoming addicted to shooting  
**Start in crime:** Age 15, after shooting at Bisley

**Start in MR:** 1975 with a TR & standard issue RG ammo. Finally started hand-loading in 1986 and 23 years later, came second in the Hopton

**Like about MR:** Distance and reading the wind  
**Best achievement:** Bisley Grand Aggregate

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Make sure your equipment works at 1200yds as this is where competitions are won or lost

**Looking forward to in Oz:** Sunshine, warmth & friendships

**Challenge in Oz:** Competition from Aussie shooters will be tough, so results will be close

**Occupation:** Retired - now help run the NRA, Scottish Rifle Association & National Rifle Club of Scotland

**Dependents:** Liz, Kara & Millie



**Name:** Derek Lowe **Alias:** The Fat Controller (Junior)

**Crime committed:** Salad-dodging

**Defence:** Moi?

**Sentence:** Could I have the bill, please?

**Previous Convictions:** Please take a number of OURC annual dinners into account

**Start in crime:** Applying to college, based on its culinary reputation

**Earliest Shooting Memory:** Hearing about my Dad deliberately cross-firing during his National Service

**Start in MR:** Back-gunning as a 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate

**Like about MR:** The amateur spirit at its best

**Best achievement:** Winning the Corporation

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Keep at it!

**Looking forward to in Oz:** Warm, dry & bright weather

**Challenge in Oz:** Creepy crawlies - I still remember the value of elastic bands from the 1997 GBRT tour

**Occupation:** Recession's most popular profession

**Hobbies:** Active member of a Church, skiing

**Personality:** Philosophical, busy

**Future Ambitions:** 100.20 at 1500yds - at least the 1500yds will be possible on this tour



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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Jim McAllister **Alias:** The Dour Lowland Scot  
**Crime committed:** Stealing the Hopton Challenge Cup  
**Defence:** I gave the Trophy back - albeit very reluctantly  
**Sentence:** 9 years without the Hopton & transportation to Australia, where I intend to steal the Woomera Trophy again  
**Previous Convictions:** Having in my possession of the entire range of trophies of the NRA, EVIII, NRCofS & one eighth of the Woomera Trophy  
**Start in crime:** Caught red-handed as a juvenile, plinking with an air rifle and pistol

**Like about MR:** *It's never boring*  
**Best achievement:** *Winning the Hopton*  
**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Get your own rifle & make it as comfortable as possible*  
**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Everything - I love the country and the people, especially the shooting community*  
**Personal challenge in Oz:** *The heat and the flies*  
**Occupation:** *Real estate investment & development*  
**Hobbies:** *Growing trees & breeding deer*  
**Personality:** *Very competitive - I like winning but I do it nicely*  
**Dependents:** *Liz & my 4 children encourage me to steal trophies to decorate the side-tables in the living room*  
**Future Ambitions:** *225.45v and to win the Hopton as many times as Trem*



**Name:** Will Meldrum **Alias:** Big Tolly  
**Crime committed:** 15 yrs Match Rifle  
**Defence:** It's in the genes  
**Sentence:** 2 weeks washing up when I return  
**Previous Convictions:** Atheling to Canada & 1 aborted MR tour  
**Start in crime:** When I was 8, I shot a sparrow with my grandfather's .22

**Earliest shooting memory:** *Hammering a .22 cartridge on the back door-step - it hit the garden wall 30 yds away*  
**Like about MR:** *Team shooting & the relaxed atmosphere*  
**Best achievement:** *Having my name on the same trophy as my mother, father & grandfather*  
**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Find someone responsible, reliable & cheap to hand load for you*  
**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Getting there - I missed the 2004 tour due to my daughter's unpredictable arrival!*  
**Personal challenge in Oz:** *Crocodiles*  
**Occupation:** *Financial Information Services*  
**Hobbies:** *Fishing, stalking & cycling*  
**Supportive spouse?** *Yes, though she doesn't understand why I do something I love and hate in the same breath!*



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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Paul Monaghan **Alias:** Match Rifle's Tim Henman  
**Crime committed:** Failure to beat Nick Tremlett in the Hopton  
**Defence:** He's better than me  
**Sentence:** Transported to Australia in 2009  
**Previous Convictions:** Failed to beat Stuart Collings in the Hopton  
**Start in crime:** Failed to win the school egg & spoon race, 1956

**Earliest shooting memory:** Cadet at school, shooting .303s.  
*They kicked horribly, but we still enjoyed shooting them*

**Start in MR:** *I used to shoot Long Range pistols & needed something to shoot when they were banned*

**Like about MR:** *It tests all aspects of shooting, from making ammunition to reading the wind*

**Best achievement:** 75 ex 75 at 1200yds in the Halford in 1999

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Learn to read the wind*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Getting back to MR competitions, emigration has got in the way of my shooting*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Now that I live in Oz, being expected to understand all things Australian – which I don't!*

**Occupation:** *Research scientist in the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong*

**Personality:** *I like to do well*

**Supportive spouse?** *Utterly & positively supportive*

**Future ambitions:** *To live a long time*



**Name:** William Mott **Alias:** The Colonel  
**Crime committed:** Appeared Armed and Disguised in Certain Places Contrary to Sec. 4 Waltham Black Act 1722  
**Defence:** No one got hurt (badly)  
**Sentence:** Transportation  
**Previous Convictions:** None recorded  
**Start in crime:** Circa 1975

**Earliest Shooting Memory:** *Dragging my father's shooting box between ranges when about 4 years old*

**Start in MR:** *Alcohol!*

**Like about MR:** *Tweed and the camaraderie*

**Best achievement:** *Winning the Daily Mail T.R.*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Go with your instinct – more important the further back you go*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Adventure*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Making the Woomera Match team*

**Occupation:** *Solicitor*

**Hobbies:** *Too many to mention, but most involve shooting*

**Personality:** *Horizontal – I shoot prone*

**Dependents:** *Wife Sheila and Bob the cat*

**Future Ambitions:** *More shooting*



## Woomera 2006



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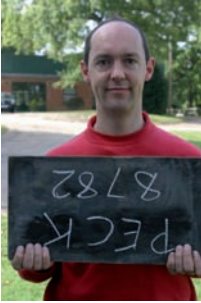
# Siddalls



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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Julian Peck **Alias:** The Man with the Contraption  
**Crime committed:** The Contraption  
**Defence:** What did you expect from an inventor?  
**Sentence:** To be sent to upside-down Australia  
**Previous Convictions:** Innocent - until I discovered the joys of doing it on my back  
**Start in crime:** Supine since 1985 & not rolling over for anyone

**Earliest shooting memory:** *The holes in the potato from re-loading my spud-gun*

**Start in MR:** C.U.R.A.

**Like about MR:** *The breadth of the challenge*

**Best achievement:** *Developing the Peck position*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Be a backgunner*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *1500yds at Connabarabran*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Individual string shooting*

**Hobbies:** *Yoga & several other sports*

**Personality:** *Creative, diligent, tenacious*

**Supportive spouse?** *No, she thinks it's a waste of money*

**Dependents:** *Dependent on a number of substances, mostly Scottish and malt*

**Future Ambitions:** *To become eligible to shoot for the Dog-Rose*



**Name:** John Pugsley **Alias:** J.P or Puggas  
**Crime committed:** Numerous  
**Defence:** Maternal grandfather led me astray  
**Sentence:** Life

**Previous Convictions:** Habitual criminal, so many

**Start in crime:** Aged 4 years

**Earliest shooting memory:** *1952, shooting pigeons*

**Start in MR:** *Trying to improve long range TR*

**Like about MR:** *Aiming off*

**Best achievement:** *Lasting this long!*

**Tip for MR newcomers:** *Watch the winners*

**Looking forward to in Oz:** *Being on the winning team*

**Challenge in Oz:** *Trying to shoot straight*

**Occupation:** *Vet*

**Hobbies:** *Fishing, stalking, cycling, running*

**Personality:** *Don't ask me*

**Supportive spouse?** *No*

**Future Ambitions:** *Keep going*





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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Tom Smith  
**Crime committed:** Suspicion of theft of a bicycle  
**Defence:** Had to get home from the pub  
**Sentence:** 4 years in Oregon, America  
**Previous Convictions:** None proven

**Earliest shooting memory:** As a young lad, growing up on a farm

**Start in Match Rifle:** At university

**Like about MR:** The company

**Best achievement:** Representing Great Britain

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Aim for the black on windy days

**Looking forward to in Oz:** Getting married

**Challenge in Oz:** Flies and more bloody flies

**Occupation:** I fix broken animals

**Hobbies:** I'm the world's most persistent, yet incompetent fisherman

**Personality:** Determined

**Supportive spouse / partner?** Yes, very much so

**Dependents:** Free settler, Annie

**Future Ambitions:** Less work, more play



**Name:** Nick Tremlett **Alias:** The Bearded Wizard

**Crime committed:** Teaching the manager of a famous hotel in Surrey to swim in his own pool

**Defence:** Disorientated by accidental over-refreshment

**Sentence:** Being given the captaincy of C.U.R.A.

**Previous Convictions:** Squeaky clean

**Start in crime:** 1976

**Earliest shooting memory:** Winning a lollipop at the fairground

**Start in MR:** At university

**Like about MR:** The challenge of shooting at 1200 yds & the difficulty of judging the wind at that distance

**Best achievement:** Winning the Queen's Prize in 2009

**Tip for MR newcomers:** Ask those at the top for advice

**Looking forward to in Oz:** Shooting in the warm and dry & renewing friendships with the Australians

**Challenge in Oz:** Trying to be competitive after a harsh British winter & 'getting up to speed' on an unfamiliar range

**Occupation:** I am a vet and head a large practice on the Berkshire/Surrey border

**Hobbies:** Golf, tie-making, cooking & photography

**Personality:** An analytical perfectionist, attentive to detail

**Supportive spouse?** Yes, very supportive

**Future Ambitions:** To help the English team achieve more consistent performances in the Elcho



# CONFLICT-FREE FINANCIAL ADVICE

*Saunderson House would like to wish Simon Whitby and the Great Britain Match Rifle Team all the best on their forthcoming tour of Australia.*

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## Team Profiles

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**Name:** Richard Whitby   **Alias:** Uncle Dick  
**Crime committed:** Digging for dead badgers  
**Defence:** I was only following orders  
**Sentence:** Unpaid voluntary work, maintaining the clubhouse  
**Previous Convictions:** Unable to comment  
**Start in crime:** About 50 years ago

**Earliest shooting memory:** Aged 8, at the school range  
**Start in MR:** Being unable to see through iron-sights anymore  
**Like about MR:** Gentlemanly, friendly & you can always find someone who's done worse than you  
**Best achievement:** Being selected for the Elcho  
**Tip for MR newcomers:** Don't be afraid to experiment  
**Looking forward to in Oz:** All of it, but mostly the Woomera  
**Challenge in Oz:** The heat and the flies  
**Occupation:** I run a specialist building company  
**Hobbies:** Mountain & hill-walking and playing squash (badly)  
**Personality:** Nervous – I need to calm down  
**Dependents:** Wife Hilary and 3 kids, but actually I'm the dependent – they do a great job of keeping me  
**Future Ambitions:** To retire & live on our newly completed narrow-boat



**Name:** Simon Whitby   **Alias:** Jose Perez y Perez  
**Crime committed:** Penguin Rustling  
**Defence:** They're easier to catch than horses, M'Lud.  
**Sentence:** Three years hard labour in the Llama enclosure at Whipsnade Zoo  
**Previous Convictions:** Costume design and choreography for the Bowie/Jagger "Dancing in the Street" music video  
**Start in crime:** Baking custard pies for Fat Sam in Chicago

**Earliest shooting memory:** Watching my Dad from behind the firing-point & staying in our old touring caravan in Bisley  
**Start in MR:** I needed an excuse to get out of Nottingham one weekend, so Dad lent me his spare gun for the Welsh Open  
**Like about MR:** The relaxed & friendly atmosphere, Pimms & strawberries and beating my Dad  
**Best achievement:** TR - 50.10 at 1000yds;  
MR – Shooting for England in the Elcho  
**Tip for MR newcomers:** Ask somebody more experienced!  
**Looking forward to in Oz:** Shooting on new ranges & 1500yds  
**Challenge in Oz:** Filling Guy's large and sadly absent shoes  
**Occupation:** Financial advice in the city  
**Hobbies:** Amateur rugby, hill-walking, cooking, travel & whisky  
**Personality:** Competitive & driven mostly, other times relaxed  
**Future Ambitions:** To drive my 27 year old VW Polo halfway around the world



## A Match-Rifleman's Alphabet

By Rosemary Meldrum

The **Albert** is the oldest and most prestigious individual match-rifle contest. It was founded in 1860 as "His Royal Highness the Prince Consort's Prize" for £100. It was confined to the winners of four short range competitions and the 20 next best shots, but the actual event was 10 shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yds. In the first competition, 31 men fired of whom only eighteen hit the target at all at 1000 yds. The winning score was 22 out of 60. In 1862 the competition was officially named the Albert "in grateful and respectful remembrance of their late Patron". The competition continued in various forms as two stages, though the final was always at 1000 yds until in 1896 it became a three range competition (as now) being an aggregate of 800, 900 and 1000 yds. When the Elcho went back to 1100 yds in 1910 so did the Albert. However the Elcho went to 1200 in 1957 a year ahead of the Albert. The final change in the conditions was in 1983 when it was decided to do away with sighters, making the Albert the same course as the Elcho. There are not many who start the Albert with equanimity. In 1935 Maurice Blood presented as a Challenge Trophy the magnificent silver rose bowl that all match-riflemen aspire to. Nowadays, it is filled with strawberries, for the English VIII Club strawberries and cream party on Elcho day; in the past it has done duty as a font.

The Irishman **Maurice Blood** was originally a schoolmaster, but later became a member of the Stock Exchange. One of his hobbies was optics and he had a great deal to do with the design of the match-rifle sight. His greatest discovery being that many aiming faults are due to the change of focus of the eye – that the eye must focus on the foresight, not the target and glasses had to be made with this in mind. Blood retired in 1934 aged 66, still at the top of his form. His shooting was diverse but did not begin auspiciously. In 1897, soon after taking up shooting, whilst cleaning his revolver, a bullet went right through him, just above the heart. Taken to a nearby farmhouse to die, he recovered. Six weeks later, though still weak, he went on to win the South London Championship and Gold Jewel by 10 points. Two weeks later at Bisley he was in all 18 pistol and revolver prize lists – winning one of them. In 1905 he was reprimanded by the North London Committee for firing a blank cartridge in the armoury! By 1904 he had turned to the rifle particularly the match-rifle. He first shot for the Irish VIII in 1904 and went on to have 27 consecutive appearances. In fifteen of these he was top Irishman and in four, top man of the match. In 1906 he made the first possible at 1000yds in the match. He was Adjutant for 1919 and the 10 years to 1930 and then Captain for three. He was a phenomenal shot, winning 80 Match Rifle first prizes at Bisley, including the Albert eight times and the Hopton three. In the 1908 Olympics, Blood won the Bronze medal at 1000yds, making 92 ex 1000. He came fourth in both the Single and Double shot at the Running Deer. Finally, he probably still holds the record of 36 consecutive bulls-eyes at 1100 yds.

Thomas Fremantle, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron **Cottesloe** appeared in a prize list for every year but two from 1879 (when he won the Wills prize at 200 yds with a possible) to the Wimbledon prize-list in 1939. His missing years were 1908 when he was Captain of the British Olympic shooting Team and 1935 when he was ill. In his own words "in the course of my rifle-shooting life I have seen the muzzle-loader give way to the breech-loader and the breech-loader to the magazine rifle". By the time he died in 1956, he was one of the last remaining people who had shot at both Wimbledon and Bisley. In all, he won 42 first prizes: he shot for Oxford in four winning Humphry teams 1881 – 1884, won the Albert twice and most of the other Match Rifle prizes,

but curiously never the Hopton. He won the Cambridge Cup twice. He first shot in the Elcho in 1885, the first of 27 appearances, and was Captain from 1920 – 1954. In 1954, when presenting the Shield to the Lord Mayor, he recalled that he had first been there in connection with the Elcho Shield seventy years previously before any of the other people present had been born! As a young man he was much involved in ballistic research, first with W.E.Metford and then with Sir Henry Halford on the 2000 yd range at Wistow studying the trajectories of various types of rifle. This led to the writing of "Notes on the Rifle" in 1896 followed by "The Book of the Rifle" in 1901. Then with A.P.Humphry he wrote the "History of the National Rifle Association 1859 – 1909". He became Assistant Secretary to the NRA in 1889, then a Member of Council, Vice-Chairman and finally Chairman of the NRA from 1931 to 1939. He was deeply involved in NRA affairs, in particular with the move to Bisley. On his first visit there he flushed a grey-hen near Hog-Lees, one of the last of the species in the Surrey heaths that had inhabited there for centuries. However busy he always had time for the individual. A new member of the VIII would be asked to lunch with him on Elcho Day at the Council Club, where his captain would be kindly encouraging, calming and the perfect host. Others that were asked to tea at his hut to have cucumber sandwiches and sponge cake noted the kindly interest "from this very small man with a gentle wise expression". After the War he wrote "The Englishman and the Rifle", and in 1950 "Verse" – a slim book of poems. One ends with a sentiment many would echo:

Friend, I will strive while yet I may,  
And with my old companions vie  
Ere the world's welcome I outstay;  
I'll go to Bisley in July.

In the spring of 1885 Lt **Dutton-Hunt**, was stationed with his regiment, the HLI, in Dublin. He won the chief match-rifle event in the local meeting, was granted leave and so proceeded to Wimbledon. There he was fourth in the Albert and shot so well that he was selected for the English VIII. England were last to finish with Dutton-Hunt the last man. As he came on aim for his last shot he heard a voice say distinctly "he's got to make a bull to win the match". Pulling himself together he fired and made the required bull! He went on to shoot for the VIII a further 35 times, and continued to coach the team after that. In 1899, on his marriage to Sybil Baskerville of Canon-ffrome Court, he changed his name by Royal licence to Hopton and it is by "Hopton" and "Canon-ffrome" that he is best remembered. He was a director of the Royal Academy of music and had built at Canon-ffrome a large music room with a magnificent organ. Here he composed many pieces and hymn tunes. One, "Ceylon Whispers", was often played at Bisley. As well as his Elcho appearances, he had great personal success with the match-rifle. He won the Cambridge Cup in 1903 and 1910; the Albert four times, the Halford once and the Wimbledon twice. He presented the Hopton Cup for the match-rifle aggregate in 1900 and promptly won it himself, going on to win it a further four times. At Canon-ffrome he made a long range that spanned a valley. The shortest distance was 900 yds, and it went back to 1400 yds where there was a grassy firing point at the edge of a wood. Nearly every year from 1910, Colonel Hopton, a large imposing figure in white spats, entertained a few friends for a weekend's shooting in May and June. But like many match-riflemen he yearned to go further back and was delighted when in 1928 he found that this was possible, from a small space cleared on the top of a ridge with far-reaching views. There the target was 1500yds away! Colonel Hopton lay down on the new firing-point, aimed very carefully and made a central bulls-eye! The only shot he fired that day. These happy shoots amid fine views and with bluebells underfoot continued till 1934. John Hopton

died in June, and was buried on the 1500yd firing point, the service conducted by the Bishop of Hereford and the range flags flying at half-mast.

**Lord Elcho**, to whose enthusiasm and determination the NRA owes its existence, was the first Chairman. He led a committee formed of two groups interested in the furtherance of the Volunteer Rifle Corps and the promotion of rifle-shooting. It was a new sport and most enjoyed handling fire-arms. Volunteers took to it enthusiastically. On the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1859, the Association was formed and it was agreed to have an annual meeting with prizes with the first meeting to be held in 1860. Before the end of 1859 Lord Elcho decided to give a prize for a contest which would perpetuate his name, but though the well-known artist G.F.Watts agreed to design a trophy, no competition was held until 1862. In this year the long range contest between Scotland and England was inaugurated in Lord Elcho's name and thus the Elcho Shield Match came into being. Interested in the Arts he bought Renaissance works to add to the fine collection amassed by his forebears, including a Botticelli Madonna and Child. Turning to sculpture he created a full size Venus standing on the seashore. Lord Elcho gathered sea-shells for the stand, and minutely directed the workman who carved the piece! Enthusiastic in all he did be it shooting, riding, golfing, going to the theatre, talking and volunteering – he had many friends and no enemies. He died in 1914, a month short of his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

John **Farquharson** was a game-keeper, poacher, inventor of an extractor and early practitioner of the back-position. He began shooting with a bow and arrow but rapidly progressed to being an expert game shot. He then decided that being a game-keeper would help to satisfy his sporting ambitions. His second employer, Lord Rosebery gave him time off for rifle meetings and in 1862 at the City of Edinburgh & Midlothian Rifle Association meeting, he not only won the Edinburgh Cup but demonstrated the back position which he had invented by chance. He had been sitting on a hillside when a stag came within range. Unable to move without being seen, he lent back and laid the rifle across his body. To his surprise he found he had never held the rifle more steadily or seen more clearly. He continued to use it at Wimbledon which, combined with his game-keepers suit, must have made him a conspicuous figure. He shot extremely fast: in 1870, shooting with a Heny in the Duke of Cambridge at 200 yds, he fired 52 shots in 2 minutes in the back position scoring 5 bulls, 26 centres and 21 outers: 140 points and not one miss. After 12 years as a gamekeeper Farquharson gave it up for a career in poaching. He was offered many first class game-keeping positions but poaching was more fun! Many are the tales told of his exploits. Sometimes he was caught but the cases fell through for exceeding the time limits before the trial. At least once the police, instead of chasing him over the countryside, waited till he came home and caught him in bed! In 1869 and 1870 he used a breech-loading rifle in practice and the Elcho Match and, experiencing problems with extraction, turned his mind to the design of a self-extractor. Having no proper tools or materials, he improvised and cut his models out of turnips. He patented his design on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1872. In August 1872 Alexander Henry, the noted Edinburgh gun-smith who had previously lent Farquharson rifles patented a similar design in France. Both parties filed objections to each other's patents however, following debate before the Lord Chancellor in December 1872, it was found that Henry had based his design on information obtained from Joseph Mason to whom Farquharson had shown his designs. Farquharson's patent was therefore upheld. Following this victory, Farquharson sold the sole right of his self-cocking patent action to Mr Gibbs of Bristol, who then brought out the Gibbs-Farquharson-Metford rifle. These rifles subsequently achieved many successes in match and sporting forms. Various firers used it in the Elcho from 1879 to 1885.

**Colonel Gould**, tall, slim with a neat moustache and always sporting a bow tie, shot in the Irish Elcho every year from 1936 to 1963. He made top Irish score in 1937.

**Sir Henry Halford** made the top score in the first Elcho and shot in the VIII 20 times in all, smoking his pipe throughout. He won the Cambridge Cup in 1865 in its second year and was the only competitor to use a Metford rifle. He was a great sportsman: he rowed with three other Oxonians 600 miles through the European rivers, was a keen fisherman and huntsman and skilled yachtsman. But his chief love was the rifle, particularly in its mechanical and scientific elements. He had a 2000yd range on his estate at Wistow, whose single target with ringed bulls-eye was on the bank of a canal. The house had a well-fitted workshop and Sir Henry would work there all day from 8.00a.m. to 11.00 at night, often with W.E. Metford, whose work on bullets and rifles was so successful. Halford used to entertain small groups of "keen young shots, the days being spent on his range or in his workshop and the evenings in downright shooting talk in his library". One of the young men was Thomas Fremantle, later Lord Cottesloe, and it was here that his interest in ballistics was fostered and encouraged. In 1877 Sir Henry captained the first British team to Creedmoor. He was warned that such was the betting taking place in New York on all aspects of the match not to let any of his team eat or drink anything on the day of the match whose provenance was not vouched for. Despite his care the Americans won, but no one was food poisoned. He shared Elton Cottage (now Cottesloe Lodge) with W.E. Metford. In 1896 he returned from a sea voyage for his health to shoot in the Cambridge Cup. The first day went well, but the weather on the second was bad and Halford was advised not to shoot. He insisted and came fifth, but the strain was too much and it brought on his final illness

**Lord Inverurie** had a short shooting career. In 1872 he went to the Scottish selection shoot at Tillicoultrie where he came fifth and so was one of the VIII. In 1881, Scotland, captainless, persuaded him, now the Earl of Kintore, to lead them for just one year. He did so and graced the Elcho on the day of the Match.

**F.W. Jones** started shooting match-rifle when he was 41 in 1908 and promptly won the English VIII Club Gold Jewel, for the first of nine times. He swept all before him in the meeting, was selected for the Eight and made top English score. Unfortunately his Ross rifle was overweight and subsequently disqualified. It transpired that a Scot had also used a Ross rifle at one range, so the Scottish score was disallowed as well. Ireland asked for the match to be declared void, which it then was. All of Jones other individual scores made with the Ross were then disallowed. He went on however to shoot for England 21 times in all and won most of the trophies available including three Hoptons. He did much work on explosives, propellants and caps and his work on ballistics was outstanding. He compiled the Hodsock ballistic tables which were acclaimed and used by ballisticians for many years. It was due to Jones that the match-rifle competitions became large scale experiments with small arms ammunition. Each year, from 1922 to 1939 new experiments were made, ammunition adjusted, refined and tested at the Bisley Meeting. From these evolved the .303 Mark VIII streamline cartridge, adopted by the Government in 1939.

**Bruce Kinnear-Wilson** captained the winning Humphry for Cambridge in 1938 however due to the War it was not until 1950 that he came back to Bisley. In 1951 he won the Scottish VIII Cup and the Albert, earning him the first of three Elcho appearances. Next year he turned his attention to Service rifle and won the Queens. He had the added joy of driving a train, the Bisley Bullet, from the camp back to

Brookwood with the decorated train filled, festooned and followed by a cheering and weeping crowd.

The Irish first entered an Eight in the Elcho in 1865. The Captain was the Marquis of Donegall but it was probably organised by **Major Arthur B Leech** (his middle name was Blennerhassett!). The Eight (Major Leech and 7 privates) were all members of the London Irish Regiment and shot with Rigbys. Major Leech was greatly involved with the formation of the Irish Rifle Association in 1867 and its first meeting at Dollymount. When Ireland had its first win in the Elcho, the Lord Mayor of Dublin praised his encouragement and hard work with match-riflemen and said "there is no one who has been at Wimbledon as often as I have who does not know the familiar face of Major Leech and is not pleased to call him a friend". Later that year Leech sent a challenge to America for a long range match. The initial proposal was to hold a similar match to the Elcho with the addition of 1100 yds. With the Irish firing Rigbys and the Americans using American rifles. The challenge was taken up although in the event 1100 yds was dropped and there were only six shooters a side. Scoring was very high and the Americans won by three, perhaps saved by Milner of Ireland beginning a miss at 900 yds.

**Ronnie Maxwell** was a good shot from his early schooldays, particularly with a Service rifle. He was second in the Queens in 1946 and in 1948 made the first ever 105 in the National Match. He was selected for the Olympic Games but was thwarted owing to contracting mumps! He was also a good match-rifle shot, winning the Henry Mellish twice, selected for the VIII when he was 20 and won several match-rifle competitions after the War. A regular soldier in the Black Watch, he was sent to Dundee and there founded the Barry Long Range Rifle Club. This was to provide Scotland with a badly needed long range and potentially an ultra Long Range shoot on the lines of those at Canon-ffrome. Under Maxwell's inspirational management, the shorter ranges (i.e. 900 yds & 1000 yds) were in use by spring 1956 and in August firing took place back to 1900 yds. In 1957, a party of ten shot ranges back to 2100 yds. The ultra-long shoots continued till 1959. Maxwell was by that time ill and died in 1960. Without his dynamic personality, the long ranges faded though Barry is still sometimes used back to 1000 yds.

The **National Rifle Club of Scotland** is the oldest of the four national match-rifle clubs having been founded after the Elcho in 1872 by match-riflemen who were exasperated by the autocratic methods of their captain Horatio Ross. Ross was a great shot and a fine Captain but he would not consider other people's ideas. When challenged, he quoted the original arrangements for the match which said the Captain, elected by the Eight, had sole jurisdiction over its selection and management. Although Ross captained the Eight in the first year of the club's existence, following the 1873 Elcho, he resigned. There have been fifteen further Captains of the Eight. Scotland has always been short of team members, far more so than Ireland. This was because there was no volunteer movement in Ireland, so men were able to concentrate on match-rifle shooting. After the First World War there were no official long ranges in Scotland and match-rifle intake was mainly limited to undergraduates from Oxford or Cambridge. Then in 1977 a new range at Blair Atholl was built. First it went back to 1000 yds and then to 1235 yds. Slowly people became interested in match-rifle: they shot at Blair and then went to Bisley. And English, Irish and Welsh came north for the "Blair Experience". Gradually the Club grew until in the 2000's there were between 20 and 30 active members including a number of Hopton leaders.



**J.J.O'Leary** was a middle of the road Irishman who shot in the Elcho Match 21 times, usually placed between third and sixth, sometimes second and once (1948) first. He did not start match-rifle until his forties, having spent many years in Australia. He won the Albert in 1938, shooting for an Australian Club. Latterly his eye-sight failed but he continued to go to "The Hut", a solid wooden building on Elcho Road, even if unable to compete.

**Martin Parr** was 92 when he died in 1985, but he gave up match-rifle shooting in 1948 having been on every prize list that year and won the Hopton by 15 points. He shot three times for Oxford in the Humphry, Captaining the winning team in 1914. Unfortunately he was shot in the nose and blinded in one eye in 1915, and two years later was blown up by a shell. However his shooting prowess was not damaged and he went on to win most if not all the Match Rifle Cups. Selected to the English VIII on eight occasions, he liked to tell of the match of 1935. For the third time in the match and at the last range, he declared a bad shot to his coach. F.W.Jones' rejoinder was "You were not invited, Parr, to shoot for England in the Elcho Match to fire all your bad shots". Those three shots were the only points he dropped. He gave donated an eponymous cup in 1931 in memory of Henry Mellish who won the Cambridge Cup nine times. It is awarded to the person, under 25, who has never fired in the Elcho and makes the highest score in the Albert.

**Query** the miss and **Question** the value

"There's no shot hole here" the marker can tell you,  
But if electronic, the target stays mum.  
And believe it or not, there's naught to be done!

**Tom Ranken** was Captain of the Scottish VIII for thirty years from 1919 to 1949 and had 41 appearances in the team spanning 1895 to 1946. He had eight winning scores in the Cambridge Cup and the present challenge cup is one of his. He shot four times in the Humphry, won the Hopton three times and the Albert four. As a friend of Colonel Hopton, he was lucky enough to go to Canon-ffrome from 1910 to join in the ultra-long range shoots. He was a very fine coach, especially at long range and coached the Elcho and always Oxford in the Humphry. He was a good gunsmith and one year when most of the Scots seemed to be shooting badly he stripped down five of the rifles after the Albert and re-zeroed them that evening. Scotland lost the match by one. Before World War I he experimented with various rifles and different powders and bullets. He kept record books as well as his score books where every shot he fired was meticulously noted with comments where necessary. Ranken's many Service Rifle successes included the Caledonian Shield and fourteen Queens Final badges. He was also an outstanding Running Deer shot winning 120 first prizes and, in 1908, three Olympic silver medals. In autumn he turned to game shooting and his records show almost two kills to three cartridges fired. In the thirties he was arguably one of the best all-round shots in Great Britain including pistol, rifle and gun. He was a great leader and good host; although he had a great sense of humour he could be intimidating.

The Welshman, **Lord Swansea**, born on a New Year's Day, was for many years known as "young Lord Swansea" as he had inherited the title at the age of nine. His family suffered from defective hearts and it is due to modern advances in medicine that John lived to be 80. A linguist, Freemason, breeder of Welsh mountain ponies, parliamentarian and shot: he was true all-rounder. Brilliant in all disciplines, he won gold and silver medals at the Commonwealth Games, was twice second in the Queens and twice won the Grand Aggregate. With the match-rifle he won the Cambridge Cup

four times and the Hopton twice. In 1974 when he won it for the second time, he won seven MR competitions in all and the Hopton by 23 points. There was only a Welsh Elcho team towards the end of his life but he did fire three times for the VIII. He created the "Corporation Swindle" which was a sweepstake won by the competitor making the lowest score in the Corporation without receiving a miss. Most of the takings went to the Overseas Team Fund.

**William Thorburn** became Captain of the Scottish VIII in 1898. He had just completed ten years as Captain of the XX in which Scotland had won nine of its ten matches. In 1898 he captained both the Elcho and the National. Unfortunately he, like so many Scottish Captains, had to contend with a shortage of personnel. Generally there were just not enough Scottish match-riflemen to be able to "choose" an Eight so it often selected itself. As a result there was only one win under his leadership. He was a steady rather than a brilliant shot and though he shot in the Elcho 28 times, once he was made captain never shot in the team again. It was Thorburn's dearest wish that the National Rifle Club of Scotland should have a proper clubhouse, worthy of Scotland. Due to his energy and organisation, the Club moved from a tent to one of the finest clubhouses on the Common. With its white walls, red tiled roof and tower room, it embellished the site next to the English VIII. Sadly for the Scots, it is now the British Pistol Club.

**A.Urquhart** is the only "U" in the Elcho Records. He began shooting match-rifle in 1888, and was chosen for the VIII in 1890 and 1891. He did better in 1893, winning the National Rifle Club of Scotland's Silver Cross and so was selected for the VIII, as it happens, for the last time.

**V** is for V-bull, which sorts the sheep from the goats. In match-rifle where there is a tied score, but different number of V-bulls, the trophy is shot off. On one notable occasion however in 2001 Alex Cargill Thompson made 100.20 in the Cottesloe at 1000yds and the twenty-one other 100s declined to shoot in the tie.

**Woomera** is the aboriginal word for a spear thrower and also the name of the rocket ranges where the first Australian 1200 yd range was built. The Woomera match was initiated by the Australians and first contested in Tasmania at Campbelltown in 1997. The match, for eight firers, is an Elcho course of 15 rounds at 1000,1100, and 1200 yds but with sighters. The inaugural match was shot on a difficult day with the wind veering and backing continuously. The British team had to fire in a very difficult patch after the Australians had finished. The Australians who were new to MR shooting had hoped that the winds blowing in all directions would confuse Britain. It did not and Britain won by 26 points. The second match was at Bisley in 2001, with a similar kind of wind! The Australians now knew far more about match-rifles and handloads and had had a twelve a side match against Scotland at Blair Atholl on their way to Bisley. They had also shot alongside on Elcho Day. Great Britain took 1000 yds and Australia 1100 yds making them level going back to 1200 yds. There, in spite of a rifle breakdown (luckily cured) Great Britain's greater experience told and they won by 21. In 2005 Colin Hayes took a strong happy team to a new range at Lower Light, near Adelaide. After 1100 yds, Great Britain was 13 points up, 5 due to an unfortunate Australian cross-shot. At 1200 yds the mirage was thick as soup and as hot! But the coaches coped well and Great Britain won by 22. Australia's 1721 would have been a record for the Woomera but was pipped by Great Britain's 1743, the best ever for an MR team of eight. 2006 brought the Australians to Bisley taking in Scotland and Cambridge on the way. Great Britain broke their own record and won the match on an easy day with 1762 to 1722. In 2010, the fifth match...

**X** is not used by match-riflemen. It is a target rifle classification covering anyone who in the last three years has been in the top 50 of the Queens Prize, St Georges or Grand Aggregate.

**Major S.S.Young** was a fine Irish shot who won the Cambridge cup three times, the Albert once as well as the Halford and the Curtis and Harvey. He was in the Irish Elcho team on 13 occasions, six of those he was top Irishman and on three, first in the match. He largely used a Farquharson-Metford-Gibbs rifle. Originally there was no trophy for the Lords and Commons Match however in 1875 Major Young pointed out the deficiency to the Maharajah of Vizianagaram who then presented £400 that was used to buy a pair of silver parcel gilt vases which serve as the trophy to this day. Major Young served on a committee which scrutinised and overhauled the finances of the Association, making considerable savings. He was selected to go with the Creedmoor team in 1877, but was unable to leave England, though he did shoot in the match against the Americans at Wimbledon in 1883 which Britain won by 45 points. Major Young also wrote a book called "The Three Rifles" which discussed the snider, military small-bore and the Martini-Henry as well as match-rifle shooting.

**Z.** The last letter in the Alphabet and the last letter in **Haszlakiewicz**, the only living person in this list. Mark Haszlakiewicz was born of Polish and Scottish parents, unfortunately in England. Lord Cottesloe declared that whatever Mark said, he was English. In 1967 at the Cambridge Meeting Haszlakiewicz won the Notman Cup for undergraduates and also the Cambridge Cup itself. At Bisley the three Captains (Cottesloe, Crawford and Orpen) conferred. It was decided that where paternal descent was not British, maternal descent would be allowed. So Haszlakiewicz was welcomed by Scotland, where he clearly belonged. Telling him he was deemed Scottish, Lord Cottesloe added that he thought the decision was of academic interest only. Furious, given he had been shooting badly, Haszlakiewicz went out and shot like a dream: third in the Albert, second in the Armourers and winning the 1200 yd Aggregate. 1968 was the first year of the Any Rifle which was held at 1000 yds. Haszlakiewicz shot it standing, subsequently coming well up the prize list. Lord Cottesloe saw him shooting and asked what he was doing. "Competing", came the reply, "I wanted to see how I would get on standing". "Competitions are for winning" said his Lordship, "not enjoying". Haszlakiewicz first shot in the Elcho in 1967, made top score for Scotland and went on to make a further 22 appearances. He has won all the Scottish Cups but the Maxwell and in 1995 was chosen as the Captain of the Scottish VIII. Victory came in 1997, the first time since 1888. Haszlakiewicz was top man of the match making a record 223.26. The Eight made 1723, also a record which held until 2003 when Scotland made 1738. This has yet to be beaten.





Australia is the sixth largest country and the largest island in the world. It is the only island that is a continent & the only continent that is also a country

The capital city is Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory

The population of Australia is currently estimated to be 22,000,000 with 60% living in and around the state capitals of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth & Adelaide.

Approximately 90% of the population are of European descent; indigenous Australians, either Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders, make up 2.7%

The area of Australia is 2,941,299 square miles

The earliest human remains are those of Mungo Man, which are estimated to be about 40,000 years old, but researchers debate the arrival of the ancestors of Indigenous Australians, with estimates ranging between 40,000 and 125,000 years ago

The Dutch first sighted Australia in 1606 and Captain Cook mapped the east coast in 1770, but settlement, as a penal colony didn't commence until 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1788, by Captain Arthur Phillip at Port Jackson.

Australia Day is the official national day and is celebrated annually on 26<sup>th</sup> January. It commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet in Botany Bay in 1788.

The fleet of 11 ships left Great Britain on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1787 with 1,487 people on board, to establish the first European colony in New South Wales. This was a convict settlement and marked the start of transportation to Australia.

The First Fleet, carried along with government officials and supplies, 568 male and 191 female convicts. By the end of the convict era, approximately 60,000 people had been transported to Australian penal settlements

In the early days of commercial air travel, the journey between Australia and the U.K. took 12 days and needed 42 re-fuelling stops

Australia is the home of the largest living thing on earth, the Great Barrier Reef, which extends for over 1,240 miles long and lies a short distance off the north east coast

Of the world's ten most poisonous snakes, all are Australian!

**In our different ways, the Great Britain Match Rifle Team and Clifford Chance share the aim of hitting the centre of the target.**

**We are delighted to have the opportunity to wish the team every success as it embarks on its Australian tour.**

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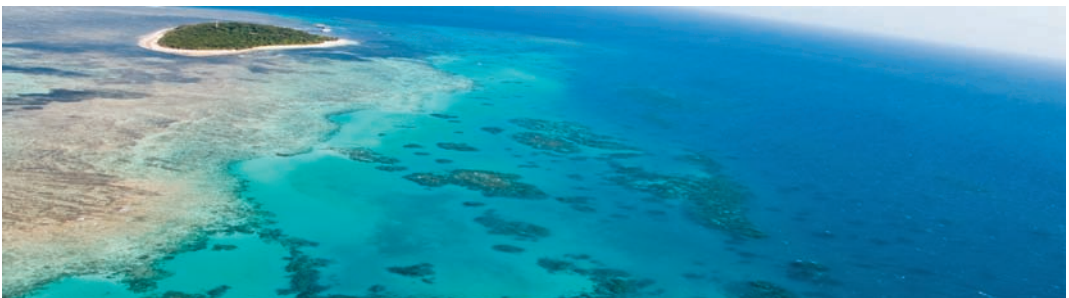
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