

16th August 1007

By That Correspondent

After a slightly disturbed night's sleep due to the inevitable jet-lag, the team rose for an uneventful breakfast in the Baron's Hotel in Bells Corners just outside Ottawa.

Having quickly packed up the wagons with all of the kit and rifles, we gathered for our 09:00 team talk from the Captain and Adjutant in the car park before heading off for a morning of unpacking, sorting out kit and checking rifles. Jackie, our team physio, also weighed in with an injunction not to hesitate to come and see her if there were any stiffness issues.

Ominous rain clouds in the distance fulfilled their promise of a damp morning's practice at 300 metres; although it had started to dry up by the time most of the team had made it out to the range. The poll of the day indicated that wind had been about half a minute left, rather than zero as used by your correspondent. Special mention needs to be made of Matty's (Matt Ensor's) contribution to the ambiance in the team hut, where he put on "The Best of Queen" album on the sound system and chose "Fat Bottomed Girls" as a suitable tour anthem. Never let it be said that as ambassadors for our sport and our country we don't project a professional, sportsmanlike image at all times.

Matt (Matt Charlton) and Toby were the first casualties of the morning, having left gunbox keys and waterproofs, respectively, in their hotel rooms. A van was swiftly despatched back to the hotel, which of course gave Matt the desired means to avoid having to practise.

The afternoon team practice at 900 metres did not run quite as smoothly as would have been preferred, as the weather intervened with a vengeance. Team GB managed to avoid the horrendous downpour thanks to a timely warning from Pat Vamplew, who had seen the short-range weather report. Most of the team sheltered in the team vans and watched the lightning display which passed by just outside the area of the camp and the amusing sight of the Australian Under 25s testing their wet weather to the fullest before heading back to their accommodation at the first sign of sun. Once the squall had passed through after half an hour, the weather brightened considerably and we managed to get everyone through zeroing their rifles with no further incident.

After the delayed practice had finished, the Ottawa Regiment, first of the warm-up matches, kicked off. The wind bracketed from a half right through to just over five left, with vicious swings in angle which could take the heedless out into the magpie. All of the changes were on a shallow angle, with many people failing to wind the right adjustment on their sights. Of the team, only Rupert Dix managed to get all fifteen shots in the bull with seven vees. It was initially reported that he would have to tie shoot for the honour, but a later recount handed him the trophy outright - well done Rooster on the only 75 of the day.

Matt's promise to run the 11km back to the hotel when not shooting on the last detail failed to materialise when the second detail turned out to be the last. Besides, John Pugsley had trumped it by running to the range after lunch; but on return to the hotel, a healthy number of team members made an effort at exercise by swimming lengths and turning the pool into a wave pool (aided by the GB U25s' whales) before relaxing in the famous non-bubbly hot tub.

After a changeable day, the evening was pleasant and balmy. A number of the team made the pilgrimage up the road to the "La Pointe" fish restaurant, managing to get served after the normal closing time after some entreaties to the blonde waitress, while others were entertained by Laura at East Side Mario's. Not a late night for anyone, with many still tired from the flight.

Results

Ottawa Regiment (2+15 @ 800m)

1. DIX, RUPERT, GBRT	75v7
2. PATON, JAMES, WHITE ROCKS, BC	74v8
3. DYSON, DAVID, GBRT	74v6
5. JARVIS, GWYNNE, "CHANNEL ISLANDS"	74v5
8. JEENS, ED, GB U25	73v9
9. CANN, GEORGE, GB VETS	73v8
12. MC QUILLAN, ROSS, GBRT	73v8
14. JEENS, RICHARD, GBRT	73v6
15. LUCKMAN, ANDY, GBRT	73v6
17. PATEL, PARAG, GBRT	73v6
18. HOYLE, ALEX, GB U25	73v5
19. LUCKMAN, DAVID, GBRT	73v5
23. STEWART, RICHARD, GBRT	72v10
25. LANGLEY, JEREMY, GBRT	72v7
32. PAYNE, JOHN, ENGLAND	72v6
33. HUNTER, S G, ATHELING	72v5
36. UNDERWOOD, JON, GBRT	72v5
37. BALL, NIGEL, GBRT	72v4
40. CALVERT, DAVID, GBRT	71v8
43. LAWRIE, JAMES, GB U25	71v7
48. CHOWN, ANDY, GB VETS	71v6
50. CHARLTON, MATT, GBRT	71v5