



22nd August 1007

By That Correspondent

Most of the team got an early night as the fatigue had built up over the past week's shooting, taking the edge off the 06:30 alarm call to make it to the ranges for the 08:00 detail.

The penultimate day of the Grand Agg saw another day start with light right-hand winds and plenty of cloud; although this didn't seem to stop the vee-bull machines in the team, who were still pumping out impressive scores at both 300M and 600 yards. Toby Raincock managed to continue his run of excellent form to clean the final two shoots of the Gibson, and DC put in yet another 50.10 in the 600 yards stage, his third of the meeting. Others were not so fortunate, with yours truly managing to put in an inner for his last to count on A range, but the later details had a harder time with the wind, which swung through zero several times. After the third range, it emerged that DC had done enough to win the Gibson outright, a single vee ahead of David Luckman.

Our team doctor Parag has been busy over the past few days with minor bumps and a summer cold or two, but it's clearly not as exciting as his normal day job as an ear, nose and throat surgeon. After dealing with one of the under 25's he complained, "it's all nursing work!"

Team management had picked two teams, GB Palma #1 and GB Palma #2, the preceding day for the Outlander match at 600 yards and then 900 metres in the afternoon.



GB Palma #1

Captain – Martin Townsend
Main Coach – Martin Townsend
Coaches – Matt Ensor, Jeremy Langley
Firers: Jon Cload
James Watson
Toby Raincock
Jon Underwood
David Calvert
Richard Jeens
Pete Holden
Jane Messer

GB Palma #2

Captain – Andy Luckman
Main Coach – Reg Roberts
Coaches – Nick Hinchliffe, Matt Charlton
Firers: David Dyson
Gaz Morris
Rich Stewart
Nigel Ball
David Armstrong
Rupert Dix
Ross McQuillan
Nick Brasier

With the team ammunition having been meticulously prepared by our ammo wallah, we were looking to see how much tighter the groups could get over the standard loads that had been made for the individual matches. The match would be our first opportunity to size up the opposition and compare notes on the selection strategy of the other nations. A fickle fishtailing wind from the rear for the first range made for some interesting coaching, with one team electing not to fire on right wind if possible. The ammunition performed superbly at 600 yards, with the Captain's Team dropping three points from eight shooters each firing two sighters and fifteen to count, and the Vice-Captain's Team dropping only one.

During the two hour break between the short and long ranges in the match, required to allow the Provincial and Under 25 Long Range matches to complete, the tie shoot for the President's match was conducted at 600. Both David Luckman and Jon Underwood managed a full house of 25.5 in the tie shoot, but Mark Buchanan was eliminated a point behind. With two shooters still tied, the shoot-off went to sudden death; Dave wound on a little too much wind and found a near right-hand inner, but Jon managed a good vee-bull to take the match.



Moving back to 900 metres in the Outlander match, the fickle winds continued, but it had become even more overcast leading to issues with sight picture, and the mirage had thinned to a trickle, making the coaches' job that much harder. After a problem with one of the targets before the start of the relay, the Vice-Captain's team was moved to far right hand end of the range, which delayed the start, but it soon got underway to see some fine shooting from the teams assembled. The Captain's team dropped a total of ten points, but the Vice's team held it to a total of eight points lost across both ranges; however this was only good enough for bronze position as the Australia d'Or and USA Palma Red teams only lost seven points each. In an astonishingly tight match, they both scored 1193.156 vee bulls, with the Australians winning on the number of vees scored at the longer range.

After a slightly disappointing result in the Outlander match, most of the team quickly nipped back to the hotel for a shower and a quick pizza before the overseas teams' reception in a marquee outside the mess hall at the back of the ranges. Each nationality set up a table with drinks from their nation, and in true British form, Roo Dix and a small team of helpers who had stayed behind had made up a large bowl of Pimm's and lemonade with cucumber, strawberries and mint. In particular, the fifteen year old Mount Gay demerera rum was a firm favourite, but the Marlborough sauvignon blanc that the Kiwi team had brought also went down very well. The evening provided a great opportunity to catch up with old friends from previous tours, and to make a few new friends also. Thursday being a rest/rescue day, with no shooting taking place, many people felt less of a need to make it to bed early and so the evening went on longer than in previous years, and the under 25s even felt the need to go into town afterwards...

Results

The Gibson (2 + 10 : 300y, 600y, 800M)

1. CALVERT, DAVID, GBRT	150v22
2. LUCKMAN, DAVID, GBRT	150v21
3. SCHLAM, BARRY, AUSTRALIA	150v21
18. HOLDEN, PETER, GBRT	149v23
19. MESSER, JANE, GBRT	149v22
20. BALL, NIGEL, GBRT	149v22
23. MC QUILLAN, ROSS, GBRT	149v20
28. MORRIS, GARETH, GBRT	149v19
30. BRASIER, NICK, GBRT	149v19
43. RAINCOCK, TOBY, GBRT	149v17
45. PUGSLEY, JOHN, DEVON, UK	149v16

The Outlander Match (2 + 15 @ 600y & 900M)

1. AUSTRALIA D'OR	1193v156
BUCHANAN, MARK, AUSTRALIA	150v18
WEBB-ENSLIN, GILLIAN, AUSTRALIA	150v22
CUTHBERT, ROBERT, AUSTRALIA	148v19
SCOTT, BRUCE, AUSTRALIA	150v23
SCHLAM, BARRY, AUSTRALIA	150v17
JEFFERY, JAMES, AUSTRALIA	149v20
ENSLIN, DARREN, AUSTRALIA	150v20
ASHTON, JOHN, HOUSTON, TX. USA	146v17

2. USA PALMA RED	1193v156
BUXTON, LANE, ORANGEVALE, CA. USA	149v18
DAMEL, WAYNE, USA	150v19
RHYNARD, JON, USA	148v14
SKARET, JUSTIN, USA	149v23
TOMPKINS, NANCY, PRESCOTT, AZ. USA	149v22
GALLAGHER, MICHELLE, LA HABRA, CA.	148v17
REEVE, KENT, CARY, NC. USA	150v22
WHIDDEN, JON, USA	150v21
3. GBRT PALMA # 2	1192v149
DYSON, DAVID, GBRT	149v18
MORRIS, GARETH, GBRT	149v14
STEWART, RICHARD, GBRT	148v13
BALL, NIGEL, GBRT	147v20
ARMSTRONG, DAVID, GBRT	150v22
DIX, RUPERT, GBRT	149v20
MC QUILLAN, ROSS, GBRT	150v18
BRASIER, NICK, GBRT	150v24
4. AUSTRALIAN VERT	1192v148
RUSH, ROBERT, AUSTRALIA	148v15
EDSER, GEORGE, AUSTRALIA	150v21
TAYLOR, MATTHEW, AUSTRALIA	150v18
WHALEN, RONALD, AUSTRALIA	150v18
ROBERTSON, JAMES, AUSTRALIA	147v20
GROSSKREUTZ, GEOFF, AUSTRALIA	150v18
SIMS, ANDREW, AUSTRALIA	149v22
BERRY, TIMOTHY, AUSTRALIA	148v16
5. GBRT PALMA # 1	1190v156
CLOAD, JON, GBRT	146v19
WATSON, JAMES, GBRT	150v25
RAINCOCK, TOBY, GBRT	150v20
UNDERWOOD, JON, GBRT	150v23
CALVERT, DAVID, GBRT	148v15
JEENS, RICHARD, GBRT	150v17
HOLDEN, PETER, GBRT	148v18
MESSER, JANE, GBRT	148v19
6. SOUTH AFRICA-GOLD	1190v134
7. USA PALMA-BLUE	1189v138
8. SOUTH AFRICA GREEN	1182v127
9. NEW ZEALAND PALMA FERNS	1182v126
10. NEW ZEALNAD PALMA KIWIS	1178v121
11. CHANNEL ISLANDS PALMA	1174v111
12. IRELAND	1171v117
13. KENYA	1152v80
14. GERMANY PALMA	1133v70
15. WEST INDIES PALMA	1130v63