

25<sup>th</sup> August 2007

By This Correspondent

Saturday was a very early start – a 6:30am departure from the hotel for the 8am Canada Match – like the Commonwealth Match, the biggest such match for at least a quarter of a century.

Fresh from gaining his very first GB cap the day before, Matt Ensor was once again part of the coaching team, gaining more experience of the range alongside Jeremy Langley, who had not coached the Commonwealth Match. Hinch was main coach once again and the shooting line-up was familiar both to the coaches and to regular readers – a very strong team indeed.

It was an overcast, yet humid, morning, making such tasks as gazebo-carrying less pleasant chores than on a dry, sunny day – especially once the bearing team was forced to take the long way around by range wardens with flashing lights (but no siren, this time...)

Great Britain started strongly at 300 yards, with only one point dropped out of 400. However, as we have experienced before, that was not enough to lead. Canada “went clean” with a score of 400 (albeit with 11 fewer ‘V’ bulls), Australia were also on 399 and the USA on 397. South Africa suffered one or two misfortunes and were further adrift, while New Zealand appeared not to have turned up.

Apologies to those of you who may have been following the scores live as firers from each team finished, if it seemed like there was an interruption to service. There was: unfortunately, one of the opposing team captains complained to the range officer about GB “officials” sending scores by walkie-talkie to a colleague on the DCRA terrace who was uploading them to the website for all around the world to see. It’s not as if there was any advantage to be gained, especially if teams were properly maintaining their scoreboards, and other teams seemed to welcome the public benefit and potential publicity, taking down the web address to give to their loved ones. Nevertheless, with the Match Director not on hand to give a ruling, we desisted until the end of each range, whereupon frantic text messaging ensued.

So, at the end of an excellent 500 yards range in which Great Britain “went clean”, we found that Australia and the USA had done so as well, while Canada had dropped a single point to share the lead with GB and Australia.

If that should have led to tension at 600 yards, it didn’t show on the Great Britain team. The wind had gradually been building and did not look particularly benign at 600 yards, but one by one the shooters came off with 50s. David Luckman scored his second 50.10 of the match to finish top on an amazing (considering how small the ‘V’ bull is here) 150.28, while James Watson scored his fifth 150 in as many Canada Matches. The USA only dropped one more point and overtook Canada, who lost 4 at 600 yards. But the mystery was whether Australia, the only team any where near our ‘V’ bull count, had managed to match us on points as we went clean again. They hadn’t. Two of their firers were unfortunate to score 49.9, while another had cross-shot for a 45.7. In the end they finished 4<sup>th</sup>, while Ireland and the Channel Islands both managed to edge South Africa. Final score for Great Britain: an astounding record knock of 1199.183 out of 1200. USA 2<sup>nd</sup> on 1196, Canada 3<sup>rd</sup> on 1195.

The same morning, the GB Under 25s narrowly lost their match to USA Young Eagles, beating the Canadian and Australian Under 25s in the process, while the Athelings shot very well to win the Under 21 match against the USA, beating some of the senior international teams in the process.

All that remained (of the Canadian, as opposed to the ensuing World, Championships) was the Governor General's Final...

CANADA MATCH RESULT:

Team	Score
Great Britain	1,199.183
United States of America	1,196.143
Canada	1,195.146
Australia	1,191.178
Ireland	1,188.129
Channel Islands	1,185.146
South Africa	1,185.133
Germany	1,175.125
West Indies	1,161.098
Kenya	1,154.093

## GREAT BRITAIN

Shooter	300x	500x	600x	Total
David Luckman	50.010	50.008	50.010	150.028
Toby Raincock	50.007	50.008	50.008	150.023
Jon Underwood	50.008	50.008	50.006	150.022
Dave Armstrong	50.008	50.006	50.008	150.022
David Calvert	50.008	50.007	50.007	150.022
Parag Patel	50.006	50.009	50.007	150.022
James Watson	50.008	50.007	50.006	150.021
Jane Messer	49.008	50.007	50.008	149.023
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>399.063</b>	<b>400.060</b>	<b>400.060</b>	<b>1,199.183</b>