Canadian Marksman Journal of the

Dominion of Canada Rifle Association

Volume 7 Number 1 Spring 2016







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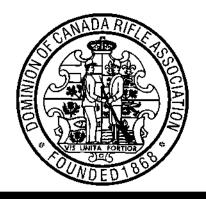
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F-CLASS AMERICA MATCH — August 13, 2016

CANADIAN BLACK POWDER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS — August 13-15, 2016

CANADIAN TARGET RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS — August 12-20, 2016

2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES SELECTION TRIAL (FINAL) — August 21, 2016

NATIONAL SERVICE CONDITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP — August 22-September 2, 2016

CANADIAN F-CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - August 8-10, 2017

F-CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - August 12-18, 2017

BLACK POWDER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - August 2018

DCRA APPROVED MEMBERSHIP FEES - 2016

Membership year 1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017

Life	Sliding scale	Non-Canadian	\$50*	
Under 25 Term	\$265	Postal	\$20	
Annual	\$130*	Pavilion Club	(GBP) £15	
Under 25 Annual	\$70*	Liability insurance (for active life		
Associate (Note 1)	\$50*	bers)		
Associate Under 25	\$30*	beis)	\$20	

^{*}Includes liability insurance

Note 1—This rate is for members competing in BP or FCNC matches only (not full entry in the Canadian Championships) OR for members who do not compete but wish to support the DCRA. Both will receive two issues of the Canadian Marksman.

DCRA LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES (SENIOR)

Age	Rate		
25-30 31-32 33-34 35-36 37-38 39-40	x30 annual rate x29 annual rate x28 annual rate x27 annual rate x26 annual rate	Age 53-54 55-56 57 58	Rate x18 annual rate x17 annual rate x16 annual rate x15 annual rate
41-42 43-44 45-46 47-48 49-50 51-52	x24 annual rate x23 annual rate x22 annual rate x21 annual rate x20 annual rate x19 annual rate	59 60 61 62 63 64 65 and over	x14 annual rate x13 annual rate x12 annual rate x11 annual rate x10 annual rate x 9 annual rate x 8 annual rate

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The Canadian Marksman

Volume 7 Number 1 Spring 2016

DCRA, 45 Shirley Blvd Nepean, ON K2K 2W6

Material for publication, preferably via email, is welcomed and should be sent to

The Dominion of Canada Rifle
Association
45 Shirley Blvd
Nepean, ON K2K 2W6

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Subscription: \$40 / year

Editing and Production

Scott Bissett Laura MacLeod Pierre Lafontaine Kathy Corcoran

Publication Mailing Agreement #40009311

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Circulation Dept 45 Shirley Blvd Nepean, ON K2K 2W6

On the Cover:

Rhys & Stephen Ireland during Match 63 of the May Precision Rifle Match at Connaught.

Photo: Scott Bissett



THE DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION L'ASSOCIATION DE TIR DOMINION DU CANADA

PATRONS, LIFE GOVERNORS, COUNCIL, and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/2016

The following individuals serve for the duration of their tenure in office, when an honorary appointment is accepted by the incumbent:

PATRON

His Excellency, The Governor General of Canada

VICE PATRONS

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Premiers of each Province of Canada

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City of Ottawa Chief of Police

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(in order of seniority)

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Dr. J.C. Thompson

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Manitoba M. Sloane PEI C. Bachmanek

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Saskatchewan S. Frost PEI C. Bachmanek

Manitoba L. Poulin Nova Scotia J. Marshall

Ontario F. Mohideen Newfoundland and Labrador J. Hearn

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John Chapman Peter Dobell Patrick Vamplew Peter Westlake

Jeff Jenkins Chris Jones

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Scott McGinnis Justin Hearn

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Stephen Spinney
Pat Vamplew
Pat Vamplew
Duus 2 ADDITIONAL:
Daniel Chisholm
John Chapman

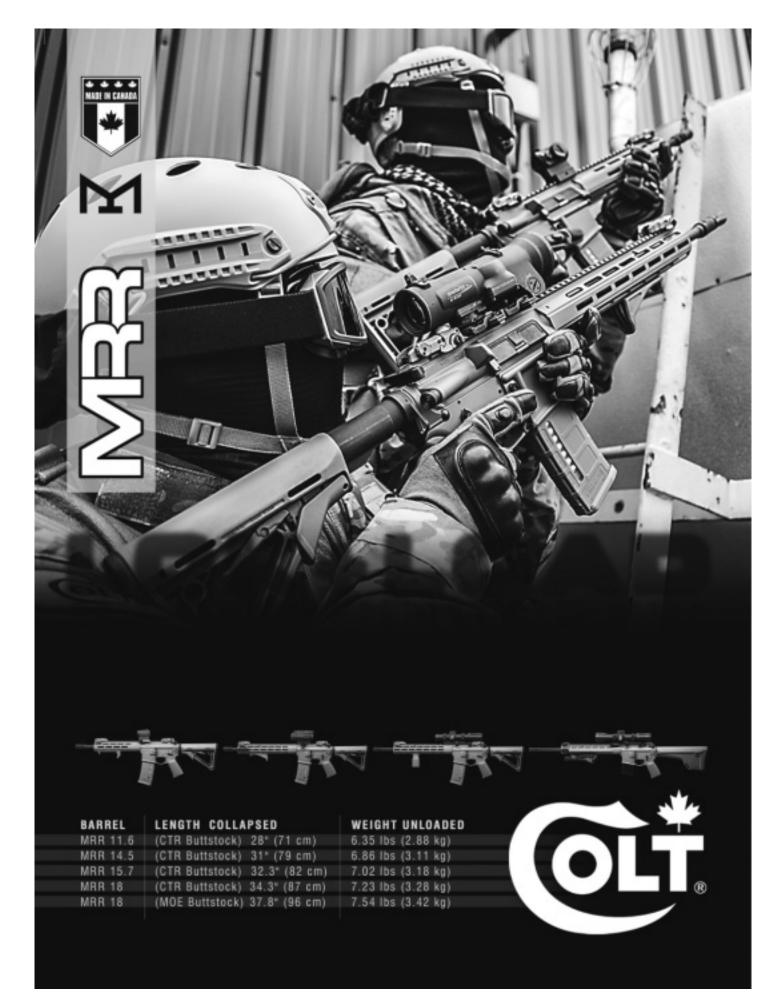
ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Chapman Steven Spinney PLUS 3 ADDITIONAL:

Scott McGinnnisGary BowmanBarry PricePat VamplewPeter WestlakeMike LutesRoger RomsesScott BissettAaron Daley

Chris Jones Alain Marion

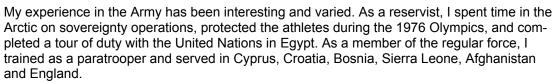
Daniel Chisholm



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

About Me

As your new Executive Director, I thought it was important for me to introduce myself in this forum and give you some insight into my background and thinking. I have been a soldier for my whole working life. I joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in 1973 as an infantryman and remained in the light infantry for forty-three years, retiring this January from the Royal Canadian Regiment. For those who are tracking, I immediately transferred to the Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service (COATS) and therefore continue to serve as a member of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment (PWOR) Cadet Corps staff.





Two stories about my shooting experience have come to mind which you may find amusing. On my first ever range day, several weeks after joining the militia, I was handed a 7.62mm FN C2 automatic rifle and told to fire a full 30 round magazine 'to experience the joys of shooting'. No ear protection was offered or coaching on how to hold the beast. I pulled the trigger and was immediately stunned. I looked up, my ears ringing and a bruise on my cheek and collarbone beginning to appear. Really? At that point I did not see the joy in shooting. That would come later.

A couple of months later, I attended another range day, better informed about hearing protection although my ears were still ringing a little. During the practice, I became frustrated when I was unable to hit a four foot target at 100 metres. Unknown to me, I was being watched by a former Korean War Vet who approached me and asked if I had trouble seeing out of my right eye. Yes, I answered, I have a small blind spot in the middle of that eye. So his advice was that from then on I was to do everything with my left hand – strip and assemble the rifle, load it, shoot it, carry it, hold my KFS to eat my meals, even wipe my... well, you get the picture. After following his advice and with his dedicated support, I was able to become a left handed shooter. My confirmation of success was shooting a one inch group with a 7.62mm FN C1 rifle using iron sights from 200 meters. That was when the value of the shooting coach became engrained in my mind and I discovered the joy of shooting.

The Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration

My association with the DCRA began in 2013 when I was appointed Director for the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC). The initial planning meeting for CAFSAC 14 was held in Kingston and among the attendees was Kathy Corcoran of the DCRA. I was immediately impressed with her insights and advice and soon learned to rely on her and the DCRA to fulfil a vital role on the CAFSAC team.

CAFSAC was a real challenge for me. I had not been involved in competitive shooting during my career and was facing a steep learning curve. One of the fundamentals we applied from the outset was a common sense approach to all aspects of the concentration. We planned carefully and ensured everyone was kept informed. We re-aligned the schedule and actioned many of the suggestions made in the after action reviews from previous years. Our mandate from the Army Commander was to further 'operationalize' the shooting while maintaining the fundamental skill of marksmanship. This was done by retaining those matches that proved the individual marksmanship skill and designing dynamic matches that tested accuracy, speed (stress), tactics, and thinking. After two years as Director CAFSAC, I came to fully understand the requirements for running high-profile shooting competitions.

Where I Am and the Way Ahead

I met Jim Thompson and Stan Frost at the Pavilion in Bisley in the summer of 2015. The seed was planted by Jim that perhaps when I retired from the Army, I would be interested in joining the DCRA team. This was not a difficult decision for me having gained great respect for the organization and the members within it. So I became a member of the staff in February of this year. I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity and for welcoming me with open arms.

My first task was to understand how the DCRA worked. This took some time as I read everything and met as many people as I could. The AGM at the beginning of April provided me with great insight on both fronts and I am now in a position

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

to hopefully begin to have some effect. The following will outline my ongoing work and thoughts about the way ahead. My personal commitment: everything I do supports the members of the DCRA as they pursue their passion – shooting.

<u>Insurance</u>. The provision of insurance has been clarified. In order to be covered by the DCRA insurance policy, an individual must be a member of the DCRA and participating in a DCRA sanctioned event. In order to attract new members to join, Provincial Rifle Associations can invite a 'guest' to take part in any shooting event for one day. The aim of inviting a guest to a day's shoot is to introduce him or her to the association and the 'joys of the shooting world', hopefully encouraging them to become a member.

The Relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces. It is important for us to strengthen our relationship with the military. They are our supporters, allowing us to use spare capacity on their ranges. It behooves us to respect their rules and understand the pressures they are under. The military continues to evolve as society evolves. We must find our way to evolve as well. I am in a unique position to get involved here and will be working on this.

<u>The Financial Audit and Bylaws Review</u>. This has been a topic that many of you have commented on and are keenly following. The books are in good order after engaging a new book-keeper and we are in the process of reviewing the bylaws and directives that apply in order to plan the audit. Ensuring that our financial practices are in line with our books should guarantee a successful audit.

<u>Final Thoughts</u>. My job is to support you with your ambitions – to be the best shooter you can be, to experience shooting within a community of like-minded individuals, to share in the successes of all members of the DCRA and to introduce others to the joy of shooting.

Don Haisell Executive Director



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRED



On March 22 of this year one of our longest standing members turned 90 years old, and we'd like to ask you to join us in wishing Fred a happy (albeit belated) birthday!

Frederick Albert Nachbaur is an elder statesman of the National Capital Region Rifle As-sociation and its predecessor, the National Defence Headquarters Rifle Association.

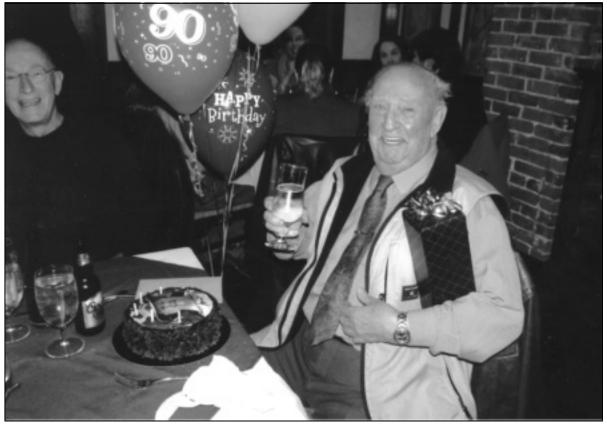
Fred was born on 22 March, 1926, in St Albans, Hertfordshire, England. From an early age he was interested in marksmanship and firearms. At 17 years of age, he volunteered for the British Army. Soon after his training, he joined the 4th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment where he graduated to being the Bren Gunner of #1 Section, 10 Platoon, of D Company. The 4th DR was deployed to France soon after D Day. He subsequently served in Holland, Belgium, France and Italy before the war ended and he was returned to England for demobilization.

In 1957, Fred and his new wife Marion and daughter Angela emigrated to Canada, almost immediately beginning his 33-year career with the Animal Research Centre, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario. In 1958, he joined NDHQRA which has developed into a 58-year career with marksmanship centered at Connaught Ranges, near Ottawa. During those years he has served on the executives of NDHQRA and NCRRA in a number of capacities. The culmination of his shooting aims was met in 2010 when he was selected as Vice Commandant of the National Rifle Team competing at Bisley, England, where he excelled at promoting international camaraderie.

Fred's shooting prowess continued, and only recently was his long standing record in Match 63 (Movers) at NSCC bested.

Thank you from all of us Fred for your contributions to shooting in Canada, and particularly in Ottawa, over the last nearly 60 years, and we hope you had a wonderful celebration.

Bill Molnar President - NCRRA



IN MEMORIAM

COLIN AMBROSE - 1936 - 2016



Colin was born in Barnes, a suburb of London, UK. At the age of four, his family moved to Simcoe, Ontario to avoid the bombing raids in London. After the war, the family returned to England. Colin attended St. Paul's school, where he joined the Combined Cadet Force. He was awarded a flying scholarship to obtain his private pilot's flying license. Also while at St. Paul's, he commenced target shooting with the school shooting team.

He left school in 1954 and joined the RAF for the two-year short service. After successfully earning his RAF pilot wings, he left the RAF at the end of his two-year short service and joined his family grocery business. Three years later, he rejoined the RAF for another eight years. He served in the United Kingdom, Cyprus, Malta, Libya, the Persian Gulf, Singapore, Malaysia, Borneo, Hong Kong, Kenya, Aden and Nigeria. He flew the Hawker Hunter fighters on combat operations in the Arabian Peninsula and later flew the Hastings aircraft in the Far East during combat operations. In 2010, the Malaysian Government awarded Colin a medal for his part in the combat operations in the Far East in the early 1960's.

Although accepted by Qantas Airlines, he was hired as a pilot in 1967 with Canadian Pacific Airlines in Vancouver. He flew for twenty years with CPA, CP Air and Canadian, flying

the DC-3, DC-8, DC-10, Boeing 747 and the Boeing 737 aircraft. On retirement from Canadian, he flew the Boeing 737 in Rome, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Borneo, Istanbul, and Frankfurt. Colin flew, in his flying career, 28 different aircraft from Tiger Moths to the Boeing 747. He was 10 hours short of 18,000 flight hours.

His main sport was target shooting. His Dad always said it was because it was the only sport that could be done lying down. Colin, during his RAF career, continued his TR shooting, commanding several RAF teams to Bisley from the Middle East and Far East. Moving to Canada in 1967, he met fellow pilot Bob Pitcairn, who encouraged Colin to resume competitive marksmanship with the BCRA. During the 1970's, Colin made the Canadian Bisley Rifle Team three times and was a member of the 1975 Canadian Rifle Team to Australia and New Zealand. He was successful at the DCRA Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championship matches, winning the MacDougall Match, three Governor General 50 Badges, the Canada Match and several unit team matches. After retiring from Canadian Airlines in the mid 1980's, he stopped TR shooting due to flying in different countries around the word. He retired from flying in 1997 and also retired from competitive shooting to work full time on his summer home on Hornby Island. He later was the Chief Range Officer several times at the BC Target Rifle Championships.

He married Jennie in 1968 after on-and-off dating since 1962. Through the years Jennie was very supportive of Colin's activities. From this they built a strong marriage.

Colin's health became a problem starting in 2010. He had open heart surgery, then suffered severe vertigo from a rearender, then broke his shoulder. His back then began to cause severe pain so finally he underwent two spinal surgeries in 2104 and 2015 at VGH. During the last surgery he was diagnosed with having congestive heart failure. Although he returned home, he never fully recovered from his health setbacks. His health further deteriorated and died of heart failure on 26 March, 2016. Jennie and Colin's sister Pat were by his side.

Colin never complained about his health problems. He always said he had a good life. So one day, raise a glass to Colin preferably one containing a wee dram of Islay single malt, his preferred scotch.

We are diminished.

Bob Pitcairn

DCRA CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICY SUMMARY

The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment within the Association programs, activities, and events by making Individuals aware that there is an expectation of appropriate behaviour consistent with the Association's mission and objectives. The Association supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

All Individuals have a responsibility to:

- Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of other individuals.
- Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment.
- Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment.
- Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes violence.
- Abstain from the use or possession of illegal drugs as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada or the use or possession of performance-enhancing drugs or methods.
- Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities.
- While acting in the capacity as either a coach, team official or volunteer responsible for supervising activities and/or athletes, refrain from consuming recreational drugs, intoxicants or alcohol.
- Respect the property of others and not willfully cause damage.
- Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws.
- Comply, at all times, with the Association's bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, as adopted and amended from time to time.
- Treat coaches with respect.
- Report to the Association any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions involving yourself.

Athletes (with the assistance of their caregivers when necessary) have additional responsibilities to:

- Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete.
- Participate and appear on-time and be prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events.
- Properly represent themselves and not attempt to participate in a competition for which they are not eligible by reason of age, classification, or other reason.
- Adhere to the Association's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment.
- Never ridicule a participant for a poor performance or practice.
- Act in a sportsmanlike manner and not display appearances of violence, foul language, or gestures to other players, officials, coaches, or spectators.
- Dress in a manner representative of the Association, focusing on neatness, cleanliness, and discretion.
- Act in accordance with the Association's policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by coaches or managers.
- Refrain from consuming illegal drugs, alcohol or performance enhancing substances or methods while participating
 in the Association competitions.

<u>Coaches and Team Officials</u> have many additional responsibilities. The coach-athlete relationship in particular is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the athlete. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it, consciously or unconsciously.

Coaches and Team Officials will:

- Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved athletes.
- Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes.
- Avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine
 professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of athletes' medical and psychological treatments.

DCRA CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICY SUMMARY

- Support the coaching staff of a training camp, provincial team, or national team, should an athlete qualify for participation with one of these programs.
- Provide athletes (and the parents/guardians of minor athletes) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the athlete.
- Act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person.
- Meet any coaching credentials, as required by the Association.
- Respect athletes playing with other teams and, in dealings with them, not encroach upon topics or actions which are
 deemed to be within the realm of 'coaching', unless after first receiving approval from the coaches who are responsible for the athletes.
- Recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport.
 This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights.
- Dress professionally, neatly, and inoffensively.
- Use inoffensive language.

Coaches and Team Officials will not:

- Exceed the authority of assigned position.
- Provide athletes with, or promote, encourage or condone the use by athletes of illegal drugs, alcohol, or performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Engage in a sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 at any time, or with an athlete 18 or older where there is a perceived imbalance of power.

<u>Volunteers</u> have additional responsibilities. Volunteers are a critical part of the Association and the Association's success is directly related to volunteers carrying out their assigned responsibilities.

Volunteers will:

- Act with honesty and integrity while carrying out any assigned responsibilities.
- Comply with both the letter and the spirit of any training or orientation provided by the Association.
- Take responsibility for actions and decisions. Follow reporting lines to facilitate the effective resolution of problems.
- Prudently manage and allocate assets and resources, both financial and material.
- Use inoffensive language.
- Dress professionally, neatly, and inoffensively.

Volunteers will not:

- Exceed the authority of assigned position.
- Encourage athletes to consume illegal drugs, alcohol or performance-enhancing drugs.
- Engage in a sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 at any time or with an athlete 18 or over where there is a perceived imbalance of power.

Don Haisell Executive Director



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2015 BCRA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2015 has been both a challenging and rewarding year for the British Columbia Rifle Association. Challenging from the administrative aspect, and rewarding from the performance of our members.

A majority of our practices and competitions are held on General Vokes Military Range. We are governed by their military operational rules and requirements. This year there was an increase in the demand for range time from the 39 CBG Reserve Units and various federal agencies for qualification and training. This greatly reduced our available range time for matches and practices. Sergeant Clint Orr and his staff at Chilliwack Range Control have scheduled the BCRA on the Vokes range with very short notice and did their upmost to facilitate our marksmanship programs in spite of the high demand for range time.

As if scheduling difficulties were not enough issues to deal with, Mother Nature gave us the driest summer on record. The dry hot weather resulted in an extreme forest fire rating, forcing the BCRA to cancel the original date in early July for our BCTR & F-Class Provincial Championships and reschedule them to the Labour Day Weekend. Despite these setbacks, we were successful in conducting a full slate of Provincial Championships in Service Conditions, ISSF, Target Rifle, F Class, Smallbore and Precision Rifle. We also conducted several regional championships at General Vokes Range, Nanaimo Military Range and Mission and District Rod and Gun Club. The BCRA assisted the military in giving full administrative support to the 39 CBG Blair competitions and conducting a two-day service match for the 3 Division Rifle Team prior to their departure to Connaught for the DCRA NSCC and CAFSAC competitions.

Adding to our administrative challenges, we have appointed a new treasurer this summer, a new president, who was out of province three months this summer and a secretary who had sold his house and was in the process of building a new one and moving. We survived and look forward to next year's challenges. Surely they cannot be as difficult as this year.

The BCRA members were well-represented, both on national and international teams in 2015. The BCRA placed four members on the 2015 Palma Team, six on the World Long Range Veterans Team, one on the World Long Range Under -25 Team and four members on the Canadian Bisley Rifle Team. Cpl. Ryan Steacy won the Canadian Service Conditions Championship for the second year in a row. Bob Pitcairn won the Canadian Target Rifle Championship and our F-Class shooters shot well in the Canadian F-Class Championship. Our under 25 shooters, both Target Rifle and F Class, continue to gain experience provincially and nationally.

In reviewing the difficulties in the past year, the BCRA remains alive and well. The BCRA continues to experience the common problems of the pressures in membership numbers and scheduling constraints placed on our sport. There is light at the end of the tunnel as we have strong interest in our TR and F Class Under-25 program and our winter postal program for the BC cadet units. The BCRA looks forward to increased interest by these young marksman in our sport.

In closing, I would like to thank members of the BCRA Council who kept the Association running in my absence this past summer. Special thanks to Vice President Brian Mylleville, Past President Dave Adams, Secretary Bob Pitcairn and Small-bore Director Roger Jefford for their support during my absence.

Peter Dobell President.

DCRA STATS SHACK

Results from NSCC, the Winter Postal Program, Eastern F-Class Regionals, CAFSAC, and NCRRA matches will be posted as available on the new website.



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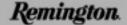




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MPRA REPORT TO DCRA AGM 2016

2015 was a mixed year of success and uncertainty. 2 members of fullbore travelled to Bisley with the Team and members also travelled to Arizona, North Dakota, Sacramento, Ottawa, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Air Gun still continues to reach high standards but I am sorry to announce the retirement from competitive shooting of Monica Fyfe. She has served Country and Province for over 10 years with distinction. Her final appearance was at the Pan Am Games. We can only hope she will return as a coach.

Our Air Gun range continues to flourish and we now have 3 Cadet Units renting range space from us with the possibility of more to follow. Another cut score match was held in November and competitors attended from across the country.

We also rent outdoor .22 space at a new range at Portage La Prairie that is owned by the MB Wildlife Association. We are in consultation with Wildlife to see if it would be feasible to put in a 900 and 1000m range. Talks are very productive and all we can do is continue dialogue and hope.

This takes me on to the St Charles Range saga. We are still very much in the dark even after Ray Romses asked very politely for an update. There is now a new CO in the chair for 17 Wing and he might be a little more helpful. We have heard numerous little scenarios and the latest is that, for those that know the range, it will be a 600m range built on the old grenade range site. This would be great for us. 600 is better than 300. No dates or timings have been announced and we will have to wait until after the Provincial election to see what funding is in place. At the moment there is none.

We still get a great deal of help from 17 Wing but we do seem to lose a lot of range dates in the months of August and September. In fact, we did not have any dates in Sep and Oct due to military reserve requirements.

Membership grows steadily, we win some and lose some but overall we gain more than we lose. We do have trouble getting new TR members but we will take what we can get.

We still get good response from the City of Winnipeg Leisure Guide as we also do with the Dugald Gun Show.

Out thanks go to Kathy and the DCRA office staff for all their hard work and to Sierra Bullet for their continued support and generous bullet donation.

We continue to receive generous support from Sport Manitoba and the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Commission and we would not survive without their continued support and assistance. Our thanks also go to the MacDonald Stewart Foundation for their continued support and generosity and the Dept. of National Defense.

John Chapman Life Governor, MPRA



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MPRA TRAINING AND MATCH SCHEDULE 2016 — ST. CHARLES RIFLE RANGE

AUGUST: 01, 03, 05, 07, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31

SEPTEMBER: 04, 07, 09, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25

18 SEPTEMBER: M.P.R.A. FALL MATCH

OCTOBER: 02, 09, 16, 23

02 OCTOBER: M.P.R.A. FUN SHOOT

23 OCTOBER: M.P.R.A. BRAVE MAN MATCH

NOTES:

M.P.R.A. TRAINING SESSIONS AND MATCHES ARE HELD ON THE CANADIAN FORCES (CF) ST. CHARLES RIFLE RANGE, WINNIPEG REGULAR RANGE BOOKING HOURS ARE:

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 1800-2130 HRS (USUALLY SHORT RANGE COURSE OF FIRE)
SUNDAY: 0900-1600 HRS (USUALLY LONG RANGE COURSE OF FIRE)

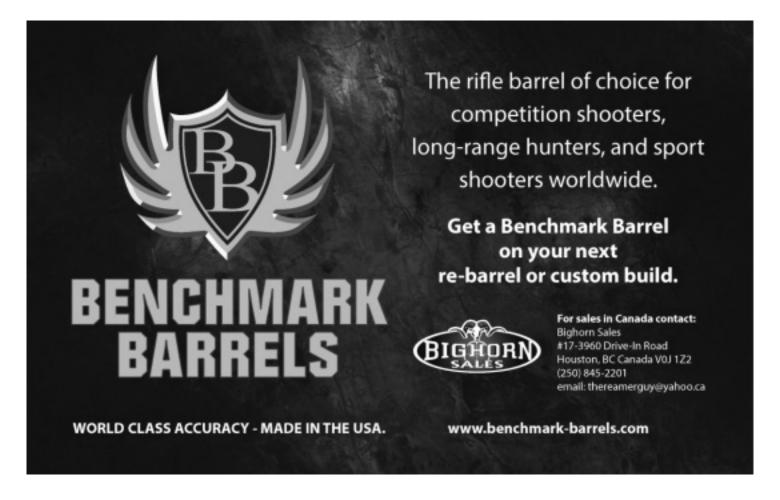
MANITOBA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP IS ON THE JULY LONG WEEKEND (3-DAY MATCH/SATURDAY TO MONDAY)

FRIDAY BOOKINGS RESERVED FOR PRACTICAL SHOOTING AND MAINTENANCE

COURSE OF FIRE FOR MATCHES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE

BOOKINGS MAY BE CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE BY CF DUE TO UNFORSEEN TRAINING ACTIVITY PRIORITY CHANGES

5. Contact Leo Poulin, email: jleo@shaw.ca or cell: 204 804-3715, to confirm range is available



2017 FCWC TEAM CANADA ANNOUNCEMENT



On behalf of team captain Eric Bisson, adjutants Brian Mylleville and Caroline Chupa, and coaches Gordon Ogg, Jonathan Laitre, Richard Dreger, Kevin Chou and Will Chou, the DCRA is pleased to announce the shooters chosen for the Development Team for the 2017 Canadian F-Class Rifle Team

F-Open Shooters	FTR Shooters
Greg Deleenheer	Jeff Wardlow
Darrel Pranke	Armen Papazyan
Coty Pranke	Marcel Timmons
Bruce Condie	Darcy Spenst
Bob Raymond	Todd Sumner
Brian Sztym	Jerry Teo
Alexander Tkalitch	Mark Iwanochko
Barry Price	Matt Wolf
Marc Thibault	Bob Galloway
Ralph Colgan	Paul Kahnert
Cal Waldner	Gerry Wiens
Jim Farrell	Dave Harry
Ken Thiessen	Bill Watts

We are also very pleased to announce our partnership with Sierra Bullets, Fierce Firearms, Bartlein Barrels, Vortex Optics, and SEB Rests. These industry leaders will ensure that our team members have the best equipment available as they work towards gold in 2017.

For more information on the team please visit our newly launched website: http://cdnfclassteams.com/, or like our page on Facebook .

If anyone is interested in pursuing sponsorship opportunities with this team, please contact the following.

Eric Bisson, Team Captain, fcwc2017captain@gmail.com
Brian Mylleville, Adjutant, bmylleville@gmail.com
Caroline Chupa, Adjutant, caroline.chupa@sd27.bc.ca











CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

The International Teams section of the DCRA web site is regularly updated. Members are urged to refer to the site for the most recent information on Canadian Teams.

Future Events

Bisley 2016

Steven Spinney and Patrick Vamplew have been appointed as Commandant and Adjutant respectively. Please see details elsewhere in this issue.

Bisley 2017

Roger Mullin is the Team Commandant, with David Adams as Adjutant.

Bisley 2018

David Adams has been appointed as Team Commandant, with Peter Dobell as Adjutant.

Canadian Under 25 Team to South Africa in March 2017

The first-ever 'stand-alone' Canadian Under 25 Team will compete in South Africa in March 2017. Patrick Champagne has been appointed as Captain. Please see the report elsewhere in this issue of the *Canadian Marksman*.

Goodwill Team to Guyana, October 2017

The DCRA Executive Committee has approved the formation of a Goodwill Canadian Team to attend the 150th Anniversary Meeting in Guyana in October 2017. Tom Maynard has been appointed as Captain. For further information, please see the DCRA web site or contact the DCRA Office.

F Class World Championships, Connaught 2017

Eric Bisson has been appointed as Captain of the Canadian Team for these F Class World Championships; Scott Bissett has accepted the position of FCWC Match Director; Kenny Proulx is the DCRA F Class representative to ICFRA; Matt Wolf is Chairman of the DCRA F Class Sub-Committee. For information, the 2021 FCWC will be held in South Africa.

The Canadian and DCRA 150th Anniversaries in 2017 and 2018. Planning for special events is under way. Suggestions will be most welcome, as will be volunteers to assist in the programme. The coordinators are Scott McGinnis and Scott Bissett.

Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast, Australia, 2018.

The dates of the Games are 4 – 15 April 2018. The shooting events will be conducted on the Belmont Range, Brisbane. The Second Stage of the Selection Trial will be held during the CFRC in August 2016. The current standings are shown in the 2015 Results section of the DCRA web site and in the Canadian Marksman. Shooters are required to register for the Second Stage of the Trial when making their entry to the CFRC. See further information on the web site. The Commonwealth Shooting Federation Fullbore Championships will be held at Belmont, most probably in October 2017.

Commonwealth Games, South Africa, 2022. At this time, it is not known whether there will any shooting events at all, or, if there are, whether Fullbore will be included.

ICFRA World Long Range Championships, Trentham Range, Wellington, New Zealand, 2019

Fazal Mohideen has been acclaimed as the Canadian Team Captain and Coordinator. He has appointed Kathy Corcoran as his Adjutant. Cheryl Hearn was acclaimed as Under 25 Team Captain. As a result of a ballot amongst members of Council, Serge Bissonnette has been elected as Veterans Team Captain. The preliminary schedule indicates that the New Zealand Championships will start on 26 January, with the Palma Match being concluded on 10 February, 2019. Lead-up events will be held from 27 January to 4 February 2018. Please the web site and upcoming issues of the Marksman for further information.

Appointments of Team Officers

At the DCRA Council Meeting held in April 2016, the following appointments were made.

- Captains of the Canadian Teams at the 2016 Canadian Championships:
 - o Commonwealth Match Fazal Mohideen
 - o Canada Match Gary Bowman

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

- o Under 25 Team Matches at the CFRC Cheryl Hearn
- o Veterans Team Matches at the CFRC **Serge Bissonnette**
- o International F Class Matches at the FCNC *Eric Bisson*

Review of International Teams Priorities

The Executive Committee has mandated that the Committee review the DCRA's priorities for International Teams – both with regards to types of events and funding. There will be further reports on this in the future.

I am always happy to receive information about our international activities and will report on them in future issues.

Jim Thompson Committee Chairman

UNDER 25 TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA

In the spring of 2017, the DCRA will be making international history as it sends its first ever stand-alone Under-25 team to South Africa. This small contingent of 10, led by Patrick Champagne, will be hard at work over the summer as they train to be international successes. The hard work and dedication that these young men and women have been able to muster is admirable and is encouraged to be replicated for future teams.

Patrick Champagne (Team Captain)
Karyline Wathier (Head Coach)
Renée Paquette (Coach)
Sam Monaghan (Coach)
Nicholas Beaulne
Michaela Burke
Catherine Choquette
Santana Wilkinson-DeRoché

Jachin Metcalfe Jalen Czuba

To ease the financial burden on these young shooters the team is requesting your support in order to acquire the necessary equipment and conduct training with ease. To make a donation please contact the DCRA office. Donations made to the team are tax deductible.

Patrick Champagne Team Captain



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MATCH BULLETS IN STOCK



SELECTION TRIALS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The next Commonwealth Games will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, in April 2018. The shooting events will be at the Belmont Shooting Centre, Brisbane. At the time of writing, the dates for the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships (CSFC) have not yet been confirmed by the CSF, but it seems likely that they will be held in October 2017. In 2015, the DCRA conducted the first part of a two-year trial, which will conclude in 2016.

- a. In 2016, the top 20 shooters from 2015 will be invited to take part in Part 2 of the Trial. Pre-Registration at the time of CFRC entry, along with a \$100 registration fee, is required. Shooters in the top 20 who do not wish to participate will be replaced in order of the scores from 2015. In order to make the necessary arrangements, shooters must pre-register and enter the CFRC by 1st June, 2016. The fee will go into the Overseas Teams Fund (OTF), which is dedicated to the support of our Commonwealth Games endeavours. Drug testing may be required by the SFC and/or CGC following the end of the Trial. Any fees will be paid from the OTF. Funding, as far as possible, for the costs of the Trial, for pre-Games training and for attendance at the CSFC will come from the Overseas Teams Fund.
- b. All pre-registered shooters will be squadded, as far as is possible, in the same relays of the Canadian Champion-ships, so that they will shoot shoulder-to-shoulder. Scores in the Canadian Target Rifle Championship will be added to the scores made in 2015. In addition, there will be an additional full day of shooting, firing Stages II (10 at 300-500 -600y) and III (15 at 800-900m) of the CWG event, held on the Sunday following the conclusion of the Canadian Championships.
- c. After the shooting, with all scores to count, the top two shooters will be named as those selected for the CSFC and CWG. The third shooter will be named as the reserve.
- d. A Manager/Coach will be selected in consultation with the three shooters.
- The full Commonwealth Games Team will be submitted to the SFC and CGC for approval.
- f. Subject to discussions with, and approval from, the SFC/CGC, it is intended that all three shooters, with the Manager/Coach, will attend the CSFC in 2017, and that the top two shooters with the M/C will attend the CWG.
- g. The standings after Part 1 of the Trial are:

1. PITCAIRN,ROBERT,CHILLIWACK,BC	821v80
2. ROSSIGNOL,NICOLE,QUEBEC,QC	818v89
3. VAMPLEW,PATRICK,OSHAWA,ON	814v83
4. TREMBLAY,PAUL,QUEBEC,QC	813v84
5. WESTLAKE, PETER, ST. THOMAS, ON	813v68
6. PATON, JAMES, WHITE ROCK, BC	812v94
7. VAMPLEW, DESMOND, SCARBOROUGH, ON	812v89
8. KOLB,MARCEL,NEW MINAS,NS	811v83
9. MURRAY,SCOTT,ARNPRIOR,ON	811v73
10. TREMBLAY,PIERRE,LAVAL,QC	809v82
11. BISSONNETTE,SERGE,ALMONTE,ON	809v77
12. MOHIDEEN,FAZAL,PICKERING,ON	809v73
13. HEARN,JUSTIN,ST.JOHN'S,NL	808v82
14. DOMBROWSKI,BEN,ANGUS,ON	808v75
15. STEWART,GALE,QUEBEC,QC	808v67
16. BULLOCK,BRUCE,CALEDON,ON	807v79
17. DUGAS,JACQUES,QUEBEC,QC	807v70
18. LUTES,MICHAEL,NORTON,NB	806v66
19. CASSIDY,GARY,PLYMPTON-WYOMING,ON	806v61
20. CHISHOLM,DANIEL,KESWICK RIDGE,NB	805v60

Jim Thompson Chairman, International Teams Committee









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ADVENTURES TO THE FAR SIDE - PART 5



At the end of the last chapter we were settled into our house in Ipoh, about 200 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. From our home it was 15 k to the police base at Ulu Kinta where we would start the training with the Target rifle. You may recall from the first chapter that I was there for two weeks in January helping the police candidates prepare for the first trial while using the FN SLR.

The range at Ulu Kinta is 600 yds with 15 targets. It was fairly obvious that the original builders and users were Commonwealth personnel. The butts equipment for the targets were identical to those on Heals range in Victoria and many other ranges in Canada and the Commonwealth.

On the range we were given the use of a small building situated on a high berm about 30 yds behind the 600yd firing point. It was used as a control centre for the mechanical service rifle range but was now unused and fallen to disrepair. It really was a perfect building for our use, two large rooms, one a proper classroom and the other storage and a loo.

It was now July. We had a proper training centre but no equipment. Things were still a little unsettled about our event being in the games so we used our time to continue training with the smallbore rifles at local club. Now that we were down to ten shooters it was a little easier for me to coach. We were once again allowed to participate in a National 50-metre match and again managed to take a couple of medals from the National Smallbore team.

The fullbore equipment had been ordered but for some reason it had not been shipped. It appeared that the left hand did not know what right hand was doing. Application for permits and paying of bills were two different departments. Combine that with problems of settling on a venue and the general slowness in getting things done we did not really know when we



would receive our shipment. But there was a lot of work to be done preparing the range and our new building. The firing points were in very poor shape, full of holes and not level so we spent a few days moving soil and preparing three positions at each range. We also had to build target frames for each range, clean and paint our building and build a cleaning table and rifle storage. All of the things that were required to operate a fullbore rifle range were built by the team except



for the wind flags. They were expertly sewn together by the wives of the team.

It was a very educational and interesting time for me. There was a bit of a language problem so for each project I would draw a picture of what we needed and they would build it. We used the same design for the target frames that we had built for the Victoria 94 Games. I had made up a supply list and cost estimate and submitted it. It didn't take very long before I realized that we would be waiting a long time to get our lumber so we acquired the use of a police truck and purchased what was needed on our own. We... being me. It took some time to be reimbursed. Now that we were down to the final ten shooters, had a semi-permanent training venue and were work-

ing together on restoring our own range, the young men started to work as a team.

One of the fellows seemed to take the lead when it came to building the targets and gun room furniture. His name was

Halim and he was very good. On one occasion he and I disagreed when building the target frames. Back in Victoria, when we were building the target frames we used clear cedar. With that type of wood, we had to use a good glue with screws at each joint along with reinforced corners. In Malaysia during that phase of our work, I would just sit on my shooting stool and watch my diagrams take shape. Halim was getting ready to assemble the first frame while using a hammer and nails. I asked him where the glue was. He said, "No glue." I said, "Yes, Halim, you must use glue." He said, "No glue." I won so he made glue. Later, I discovered that when you use dense tropical lumber, you really didn't need screws and glue... just a hammer and nails. Halim and the rest of the team had a good laugh.



ADVENTURES TO THE FAR SIDE - PART 5



After the building was restored and the furniture built we started to have daily classes in our new classroom. It was really the first time that we were able to gather in a proper type of room on daily basis. In the classroom, student seating was elevated in steps and we had ten desks. One of the first things we did was put together a list of shooting terms and the translation from English to Bahassa. So down the left hand side of the white board I wrote and explained the English version and after discussion we came up with the Malaysian version. As we went through the lessons I could quickly look at the board to find the Bahassa word I needed. With the aid of the overhead projector I discussed fullbore shooting theory. I thought things were moving along quite well so I moved on to the score book, how to plot and use the graph. After a few

days I discovered that the language problem was much larger than I had thought and they really did not understand what I was trying to say. Very interesting because I had given them a written test and they all passed with high marks while answering all the questions in English. I noticed that one of the fellows caught on to the graphing so I turned the class over to him and pretty soon they were all yakking to one another and smiling. My plan for the next day was to go onto the range and using my rifle I would demonstrate. At that point we did not have rifles but did have scopes, mats and scorebooks. The exercise seemed to work but we really did need to have rifles. It was now August. Because of delays I have now written my fourth training plan. Maybe they would arrive tomorrow. Meanwhile, Margaret and I are using our spare time to drive to different places each weekend. There is an area up in the mountains called the Cameron Highlands.





The Cameron Highlands is an absolutely beautiful spot. It is only a two-hour drive from Ipoh, the first half hour on the very nice North-South Freeway and then up into the mountains! Once you leave the freeway there are about 60 kilometers to go, more or less straight up! The road is very narrow and just keeps turning (about 62 turns in 35k) and ascending, until you reach the Highlands at approximately 4000 feet. The temperature is perfect, a lot like Victoria in the summer.

The Highlands is really the breadbasket of Malaysia when it comes to the production of vegetables and such, the incredible thing being that the farming is all done on the sides of the mountains and mostly under the cover of a plastic roof. One can look out on acres and acres of plastic, the reason for this being that the nights can be very

cold, sometimes freezing, and the tender plants need protection.

The workers move up and down the slopes, one short leg and one long leg, doing their tilling and harvesting. All of the produce is wrapped in newsprint, goes into big palm frond baskets and carried down to he road, where one of about two million beat up old Land Rovers (a few of them had AUSTIN written across the grill) that run around the countryside like a bunch of ants, picks up the baskets and takes them to a big truck that could be parked anywhere. Getting behind one of these big trucks on the narrow road down to the freeway means a very slow trip.

Stay tuned... In the next issue we will have real rifles!



AFRA 2016 SCHEDULE

General Information:

Match registration cut-off is at 8:30 AM and matches start at 9:00 AM Matches are subject to weather and may be cancelled/rescheduled on short notice

Match fees:

AFRA members: \$40 for 3 day or 2 day matches, \$25 for 1 day match Non-AFRA members: \$60 for 3 day or 2 day matches, \$35 for 1 day match the AFRA yearly shoot card includes the Provincial Competition

Match participants must have a Provincial Rifle Association (PRA) membership A non-PRA member may purchase a once only Guest Pass (\$10.00) ICFRA Target dimensions are used and all distances are in meters Contact the AFRA at afratargetshooters@gmail.com with any questions

MD	RSOs	MONTH	DATE	MATCH	ROUND	S CoF
Kirby Mar	Reid Neil Marlin Horon	August	13	DCRA Alternative Match	8+50	2+10 each at 300 & 400m 2+15 each at 500 & 600m
Kirby Mar	Reid Neil Marlin Horon		14	DCRA Alternative Match	6+45	2+15 each at 700, 800 & 900m
Eric Bisson	Frank Lalear Henry Rempel		26	Fullbore Provincial Championship	6+45	(Lt. Governors) 2+15 each at 300, 600 & 900m
Eric Bisson	Frank Lalear Henry Rempel		27	Fullbore Provincial Championship	8+60	(Provincials) 2+15 each at 400, 500, 600 & 800m
Eric Bisson	Frank Lalear Henry Rempel		28	Fullbore Provincial Championship	8+60	(Provincials) 2+15 each at 300, 700, 800 & 900m
Eric Bisson	Frank Lalear Henry Rempel	September	10	Fall Palma Match	6+45	2+15 each at 700, 800 & 900m
Eric Bisson	Frank Lalear Henry Rempel		11	Fall Palma Match	6+45	2+15 each at 700, 800 & 900m
Kirby Mar	Les Dolhan Reid Neil		24	Frost on the Pump-kin Match	8+50	2+10 each at 300 & 400m 2+15 each at 500 & 600m
Kirby Mar	Les Dolhan Reid Neil		25	Frost on the Pump- kin Match	6+45	2+15 each at 700, 800 & 900m

NSRA 2016 SCHEDULE

Sept. 17-18	Provincial Precision Rifle Championship	
Sept. 24	Provincial Service Rifle Championship	
Sept. 25	NSRA Provincial Handgun Match (PPC, Open Match)	
Oct 1 AM	Purdy Match & Irish Match (TR & F-Class)	2 & 10 @ 5 & 600m
Oct 1 PM	Irish Match (TR & F-Class)	2 & 10 @ 800m twice

FROM THE DESK OF THE RULEBOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

This will be my last report to the membership on rulebook matters as Chairman. A new chairman will soon be appointed to carry the flag into the future. Roughly a decade ago I assumed the responsibility for this committee from the then chair, Dave Rumbold, who had held the position seemingly forever. The DCRA rulebook as we all came to know it is largely the result of his efforts. Our rulebook is comprehensive and very specific to Canadian needs and perspectives. It has been an honour to carry on his work into this decade serving the Association in this manner. The new chairman will have his or her hands full with the probable growth of electronic targets in North American shooting. Now that supplies of target wear centres are also dangerously low for certain distances there is an opportunity to review our philosophy of target design and use within DCRA and PRA events. Some countries (and, for that matter, some provinces) have adopted the ICFRA target system already and, as it happens, the UK will soon be going through its own target system review, so it is timely that we do the same over the next year or two.

Not long after 2007's world events in Ottawa the Executive of the Association saw the wisdom of joining much of the rest of the shooting world in following the general direction of ICFRA's trajectory on rules. Since that time the main thrust of the committee has been to tweak our rules in order to make them as compliant as possible with ICFRA's own without losing the Canadian flavour and slant of our own. In so doing we have seen, for example, TR rifle weights removed, trigger weights reduced, slight modification in our message system, the inclusion of more references to specific F class issues and so on. I am pleased to report our membership attending the CFRC has adapted to all these changes effortlessly. Any Canadian shooter familiar with our rulebook and compliant with its regulations will be compliant when taking part in any ICFRA sanctioned event anywhere on the planet. It remains, sadly, a fact that the UK has not yet adopted this sort of compliance policy; meaning that should a Canadian shoot in the UK, let's say as a member of the Canadian Bisley Team, he or she must be compliant with their rules which have some significant differences still. About the same time we began an anti drug doping policy as well (known as Rule 25) keeping us in line with all other sports in Canada, and elsewhere, and keeping compliant with ICFRA's wishes as well.

There are a number of new rules or clarifications of old ones that were approved this past fall (see later in this article). In addition, there is an added appendix addressing flag specifications and layout on ranges. The latter is a guideline for new range construction primarily and will be of some use to those PRAs fortunate enough to have the needed degree of control over their ranges and for those about to construct one.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue the Executive also adopted a formal Code of Conduct to apply to our game. Most other shooting associations the world over, including those involved with the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Palma and so on, have such in place already, as do most other sports in Canada. It was time for Canadian fullbore shooting to join. The documentation will be available as outlined elsewhere in the journal. The intent of the code is to commit to paper the basic principles of fairness and good behaviour that most of us have always taken for granted. The template for this Code was taken from the Manitoba sporting organizations and addresses not only the conduct expected but also the investigation of complaints and consequent discipline, and an appeal process. I urge you to read this and become familiar with it. If at all times you simply ask yourself how would your mother like you to behave on the field of competition or, for that matter, at all times, you won't go far wrong!

A new rule, 16.20(b), will permit you to use a "snap cap" in your chamber when carrying out a trigger test but it will only happen with the Range Officer's permission. Should the RO be uneasy with this or doesn't feel comfortable with your particular snap cap he may decline. No temper tantrums, please.

A new rule, 16.14, permits you an additional nonconvertible sighter if there has been a break in shooting of sufficient length right after you have fired your first sighter. What this means is that the first sighter and the second sighter (which takes place after the nonconvertible one) are still available for conversion. No matter what the extra sighter remains nonconvertible. This rule is really more of a clarification than anything truly new.

A new rule, 21.12 applies in team shooting, and requires the CRO to ensure that a 10 minute warning is issued prior to the end of each distance in a team match. This will especially be important when there has been a stoppage for some reason during a distance.

FROM THE DESK OF THE RULEBOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

A new rule, 21.13, applies in team shooting. If, through no fault of the shooter, there is an interruption of more than five minutes, a nonconvertible sighter is allowed but this sighting shot is not transferable to another team member.

A new rule, 21.14, applies in team shooting, both F class and TR, and has been added to comply with ICFRA requirement. It states that a reserve, if called upon, may use his rifle in whatever permitted calibre). A reserve may ONLY be called upon to shoot should a team member be physically unable to shoot and not due to equipment failure.

The existing rule 21.03 has been expanded for clarification and also applies to team shooting. In the case of TR team matches a team member may change his rifle, perhaps to a backup rifle, perhaps to one from a teammate for any reason at any time in the match as long as it is in one of the two permitted calibres (i.e., 223 or 308WIN). At the time of exchange NO additional sighters will be permitted.

In the case of F class team matches a team member may NOT exchange his rifle for another unless there is a technical problem with the rifle (e.g. broken or non-functional rifle or sight) and only after the RO has verified this. There is specific mention that deteriorating grouping of the rifle is NOT sufficient cause for such an exchange. The replacement rifle may be of any other calibre permitted under the existing rule 11.05 (5). Again, no additional sighters will be permitted.

On the horizon for us are a few things of interest to us all. There is a movement in some jurisdictions, particularly in the United States, towards monometallic bullets (i.e. without lead cores). There are already some being manufactured and being used in the US and UK, perhaps elsewhere. Currently these are specifically prohibited from competition under our rules, the NRAUK rules and ICFRA's as well. ICFRA will be giving some consideration to this over the next few years and a major report on the subject is being prepared by the American Armed forces for consideration. Stay tuned as this may have an important impact in the future.

As mentioned above electronic targets are becoming more widespread in their use. Many local clubs in Australia, for example, have gone this direction. Some PRAs and clubs in Canada are using them in limited ways and Bisley itself has a number in use (but not in major competitions as yet), particularly at ranges less than 300 yards. There are many relevant issues to consider as we find our way towards their use some being more of a game changer than others. Your new rulebook chair will have to navigate the muddy waters stirred up by this over the next several years.

> Roger Mullin Rules Chairrman



Jonathan Laître

jlaitre@tekindsolutions.com www.sebrests.com

A NEW SHOOTER AT NSCC

The following article has been reprinted from www.amputee-shooter.com, with permission and photos from the author Graeme Foote. Graeme travelled to compete at NSCC for the first time in 2015, and these were his thoughts.

NSCC 2015 - Post Match Thoughts

I am home now, and have been for about a week and I've had some time to go over the weekend I spent in Ottawa, shooting the Precision portion of the NSCC Service Conditions competition, a competition that spans almost 10 days and features the disciplines of pistol, precision and service rifle. Canadian Forces, police and civilian all compete against each other over the week, in a number of different style matches.

For me, it was shooting from 200 meters out to 800 meters at different targets, faces and challenges, including moving targets, and shoot/no-shoot style serials.

The match takes place at Connaught Range and Primary Training Centre. When you first roll up, it's shocking how large and beautiful the main range 'Charlie' is. 75 bays wide, and 900 meters long, spanning almost a full kilometer square. There are 5 ranges I believe, on-site and the whole experience is just awesome – even with the spartan accommodations!

Before heading there, I was anticipating being paired up with someone when I got there, but much to my surprise, I would be shooting again with Ryan Steacy. His knowledge of wind and shooting in general is an invaluable resource, especially when he is your team mate. Having never shot in the winds that Connaught is capable of, this gave me a big boost of confidence. (I haven't really talked much about Ryan here, but I feel like I should – as he has been an incredible supporter, very patient with my many many questions, and all-around great guy. Any problem or question or concern I have, he has taken the time out of his busy day to speak to me about, and point me in the right direction. I am very fortunate to have him as a friend, and most recently competing with him in two matches in two provinces. Thanks Ryan!).



Day 1 - 0530 flight and getting to Connaught

Met up at the airport at the ugly hour of 430am to catch our flight at 6. No one should be up that early, it's just wrong. We made our way painlessly through check-in and security and proceeded to wait for the flight. It was mostly uneventful, and with a layover in Calgary, we hit the ground in Ottawa around 430pm local time.

Ryan had scored us a ride from the airport to the base, so our ride was waiting for us when we arrived. I had hoped to get out and do some sightseeing while I was there, but the drive into the base told me otherwise – it was quite a ways away from anything.



Arriving on the base, I had a pretty big 'holy shit' moment. One, because I was finally here, after setting a very large goal for myself, and two because it was breathtaking the sight of the range. Pictures do not do it justice. We arrived just in time for the previous days awards ceremony for the pistol competition, and immediately ran into a familiar face – namely my buddy Jeremy. It was awesome to see him.

After all the awards were done, we figured out my sleeping arrangements, and I had a much needed beer with Jer, before sitting down to figure out my dope for the match the next day, and getting a good nights sleep.

Day 2 - Match Day 1

I had spent the afternoon before I left, at the range here at home getting in some practice before heading out, and I shot all of my groups with my chronograph on; I needed accurate information for Ottawa to make first round hits on target – I wasn't wanting to leave anything to chance. We had walk-backs the first day, in the morning, to get our zeros for the match, but I didn't want to be guessing – it would have been a disservice to me, to fly across the country and fuck up my zeros or not know my ammunition. I was (and am) doing what I can to be as prepared as possible for any possible issue at the match.

This proved to be a good lesson for me, and reinforced how much preparation is important. My calculated zeros were absolutely accurate out to 800 meters, within about 3 clicks of elevation. Good data in = good data out. Having

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collected accurate information for my ballistic app (Strelok is my preferred app), it spit out accurate information back to me. Bad data in = bad data out.

We hit the range for the walk-backs, and managed to get out to 400m to get zeros – we were on our own for the rest of it as we were on a tight schedule for the day and we had another group of guys needing to zero their rifles as well. I was confident that I would be ok, as 200m, 300m and 400m, I was on target with my calculations.

For the course of fire - please see matches 60-66: 2015 NSCC Rulebook 2015-04-11

After lunch, the match started properly. We hit 200m, for the '200m follow-up', the '300m agony snap', and the '400m moving targets'. I felt good about the afternoon, and my scores reflected that for me; I felt all the practice and work I

had put into shooting was paying off for me and it was all falling into place. I have been trying to pay proper attention to detail when it comes to position, shooting, trigger, breathing, reloading etc – all the things that I can control – and when I pulled the trigger in Ottawa, it felt 'right'.

The weather was humid and warm – we hit almost 30 degrees a couple times over the weekend, and we were incredibly lucky to have almost no wind on the first day; I had been previously warned that wind at Connaught could be incredibly tricky. Not such a big deal for the first day as we only shot to 400m, but the second day it could be challenging – as we were shooting the long matches – 500-800m.

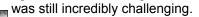


Despite my first day of feeling great, the real challenge was going to be the second half of the match, especially if the wind picked up – and it did.

Day 3, Match Day 2

Starting the day, we had to run the butts and score for relays 3+4, so I spent the first part of the day scoring for the two guys shooting. For the majority of the morning it was fairly mellow, keeping an eye on marked targets and making sure to not miss anything for them. We started shooting our relay before lunch, and already the wind was beginning to pick up from the left to the right. At times, it was gusting a good 20km/h during the day.

Out west, we just don't get the opportunity to shoot in conditions like that, so for me, this was a very new experience, and I had to rely on Ryan's expertise on the matter to guide me. On the flip side of this, I really had to pick up quickly on making proper wind-calls for him – when he was shooting. As a spotter, being able to tell your partner where his bullet is going by looking at the swirl is crucial to making good corrections, and the difference between a good group on target, or a good group off target. A lot of the longer strings, all the hits on target were indicated which helped immensely, but it





I learned a great deal about how the wind affects a bullet – and Ryan gave me some invaluable advice about reading the wind; most importantly, where to read the wind to make correct wind-calls. Wind right by the muzzle has more of a chance to make changes to where your bullet goes and more time to affect it, than wind 100m down range does. I will be investing in a small wind flag in the near future. Looking at the wind right at us vs 600m down range, it was easy to see where the wrong wind-call could be disastrous; or even getting caught as the wind changed. I saw this first-hand as Ryan made a shot (I believe at 700m) – all his shots were on target, and in the middle, he was taking a shot, and the wind

abruptly changed, sending his bullet off target. It doesn't take much out that far, and little mistakes at the firing line are exponentially worse when the bullet arrives down range.

My shooting on the second day felt good as well, but not as good as the first day. I made some mistakes that were purely me rushing myself and not being focused. I cross-shot a target at 500m, sending a round into my neighbors target. The worst part about that? It was a 5 point vbull. My score for that was still good with a 44 with 3 v's, but that momentary lack of focus took a great score and made it a good score. 49 with 4 v's looks so much better. If we can't talk about what we messed up with, then we aren't working on getting better. I learn from mistakes, and taking away things that I did incorrectly, allows me to focus on fixing those things.

I find spotting to be incredibly stressful for the reasons outlined above. Having to spot for someone like Ryan, with the

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experience he has, makes it even more so. However, having him ask me for specifics when making calls, forced me to see it in a different way. A good team needs good spotting. Asking me to be as descriptive as possible, and give tangible measurements, actually made it easier for me to make the calls I needed to. I saw some other teams spotting, on the line when I wasn't shooting, and I can absolutely see why specifics and measurements were necessary.

Highlights and learning.

I'll make this part fairly abridged. Highlights for me included;

- Meeting a ton of new people everyone was incredibly welcoming, warm and helpful.
- Shooting the best I have ever shot I am happy to report that Ryan and I as a 2-man team placed 5th overall, and individually I placed 16th. I am incredibly hard on myself, but I had to stop and reflect and realize that I have only been shooting this for ~2 years. I think I have come a long way.
- Shooting in the 40's for all serials except 1.

Learnings:

- Wind is hard. Reading, predicting and anticipating it is an artform on it's own. I have a lot to learn here.
- Remain focused there is plenty of time to make your shots. Crossfiring happens, but hopefully only once!
- Perfect practice. Making sure that I am practicing in as close-to-match conditions as possible as far as mentally.

The mental game is huge. Positive thoughts bring positive actions. Visualizing things positively, start to manifest in your performance. This sentiment was realized by reading MilCun's Marksmanship Tip of the Day – and it really makes sense. One of the biggest things for me, was just getting out there and doing it. Make your plan, set your goals and go out and crush your goals. Work hard to get there, the accomplishment is worth the effort. I firmly believe that putting aside your fears of failure or concerns about not having the right gear will ultimately benefit you. You can learn so much shooting a match and there are so many knowledgeable and helpful people that you can take it as a weekend of learning. So go out there and shoot that match.

I don't think that I can fully convey in words how excellent the experience was and I am sure that I am forgetting plenty! As long as I come back with some things to work on and learn from, I consider it a success!

Connaught and NSCC – until next year!

Graeme Foote www.amputee-shooter.com





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