

Friday 25th July

An early start was required today as we had an individual shoot at Guernsey's Fort le Marchant range a few kilometres east of the hotel. The day dawned bright and sunny again, and the team gathered at 07:00 in the dining room for breakfast, bright eyed, bushy tailed, and looking forward to our first 'away' shoot of the tour. We all found the range after only a few wrong turnings, and soon were exploring this most attractive location – the Martello tower, Fort Le Marchant, etc. David Jory arrived with our rifles and by 8:45 the whole team was ready for the 9:00 start. However, a slight delay was announced, so we all relaxed & chatted, waiting to start at 9:30. However, meteorology took a hand at this point, and at 9:15 we saw a bank of fog rolling in from the Atlantic. Within 5 minutes things started to disappear – the fort, the butts, the sun, and it started to feel chilly. Eventually, after many optimistic observations of the fog clearing the morning shoot was abandoned and the team repaired to Marks and Sparks to buy lunch, eaten at leisure at the range. Thus renewed, optimism returned and we headed out for a second attempt at 300x. Alas this fared no better than the morning's abortive attempt and at 1.30 the fog remained and it was reluctantly decided to abandon the shoot for the day. Groups went different ways exploring the island, shopping or museum, and reconvened at 5pm for a team briefing back at the hotel bar. The team for the Guernsey match was announced as follows:

Capt & Chief Coach: Gary Alexander

Coaches: Jon Underwood & Colin Brook

Shooters:

David Rose

Stuart Young

Mary Boston

Tim Bedwell

Ian Davison

Holly Foster

Simon Shouler

Paul Charlton

At 6pm we left the hotel and headed for Castle Cornet at St Peter Port for a formal reception and dinner with the Guernsey RA and Mary and Doug Perkins from Specsavers. A pleasant Vin d'Honneur followed by an excellent dinner eaten in the historic setting of the castle overlooking the harbour. An early evening retirement and packing was called for given that we will be wacky races for the ferry after the match tomorrow.

Scribe of the day: Paul Charlton and Ian Davison