



Team Journal – Day 11

Sunday 2nd April

The main party left the hotel at 9.30. There was an advance party of 2 of the 5 buses because Judy Scott-Langley was arriving at Bloemfontein at midday and Jeremy and some others went ahead to pick her up. It was a relatively uneventful drive and we arrived at Bains Lodge at about 3.



Just a pretty view on the way.

At the lodge we are in chalets - some 2 to a room with kitchen facilities and some by themselves. Each 2 room chalet has been assigned one of the orphans so that they get an equal crack at some breakfast before the day's shooting.

Once we had unpacked most of the team went down to the range. For some this was their first visit to the range at Bloem. For the rest of us it was a chance to reacquaint ourselves with it and to work out when we were shooting tomorrow and when we would get a chance to have our rifles certified (weighed and trigger tested) before the Championship starts in earnest on Thursday. We did learn two things on our visit. First, from the size of the puddles there has obviously been a fair amount of rain recently. Second, and perhaps associated with the first point, the range is teeming with mosquitoes. On a 5 minute inspection of the 300m firing point we each suffered multiple nibbles. Plenty of Veet will be required tomorrow.



The Vice Captain assesses the 300m firing point.



The range viewed from 900m - a little wind to make things interesting.

After our visit to the range we attended to team matters. Each team member 'pushed' his bullets for tomorrow - sizing the generic, over-long rounds to fit individual rifles. We then had a team meeting which covered the programme for the next two weeks and assigned teams for tomorrow's shoot - a pairs match in the morning followed by a competition for teams of four in the afternoon. Following the meeting we headed to various restaurants in and around Bloemfontein, according to the preferences of the bus parties.



Some of the chalets at Bains Lodge