



Great Britain Tour Diary 2006

Monday 21st August

By This Correspondent

Monday dawned a brighter day and, for the first time, some of the vans left at 7:30am rather than the normal 7:00 because very few team members seemed to be on before 8:30. The locals must all have had to suffer the early detail.

“Suffered” because, on this day, there was no early morning wind advantage given the whole pre-lunch period was not too challenging. However, it did eventually turn out to be a day for the coaches. You may think that I refer to the interesting afternoon wind, and you’d be right (more on that later) but it was also about the “achievements” of some of the coaches.

Between 300m and the GB hut, eyes turned in shock as Matt was seen *running* from the range to fetch his spare rifle and (with John Pugsley’s help) push back some rounds for it, all in time to get back and shoot within the time limit. Just before his first to count, he had noticed that his ladder had bent badly backwards and thought it better to get it fixed than chance his arm at hitting the target. On his return, it turned out that the initial advice from the Range Officer (that he would still need to complete the shoot within the time limit – slightly harsh but an enjoyable challenge) was incorrect but no matter: it still provided good entertainment for all. As did the ensuing poor score with the spare gun...

... which contrasted neatly with another highlight from within the coaching fraternity. Hinch who, the previous day, had managed a grand 5 ‘V’ bulls in four shoots (to go with Jon Underwood’s 35 Vees to make a full set of 40) turned it all around with a 50.2 at 500 yards. That was greeted by the cheers of the assembled throng and a congratulatory card.



A happy Hinch

Meanwhile Michael Walton was learning the extra complications that are possible when one entrusts the pushing back of ammo to oneself rather than an expert: after seven shots at 500 yards he couldn't get any of the remaining rounds to chamber and ended up borrowing a neighbour's RG to finish the shoot. That he only dropped one point was greatly to his credit; indeed the fact that the only point he lost all day was dropped with a round of RG was all the more so.

Only six team members went clean for the morning but, because both the day's matches were spread over both morning and afternoon, no results were known at the half way stage.

Over lunchtime the DCRA held its traditional photograph of "all" competitors taking part in the CFRC. Those in the know arrived some 5 minutes after the stated time of 12:35, by which time some of the directed shuffling of people into position had commenced. That took a few moments, and then we all said cheese (some in poses of varying suitability) for about eighteen snaps, taken with three different cameras - just in case.



Team members wait cheerily for the photographers to move everyone else

The afternoon saw the wind conditions become considerably trickier. Those who were on the first detail at 800m seemed to have a reasonably easy time but the heroic few who followed them found that not only was it hard to work out which of mirage and flags was truer at any given moment, but also that the wind was perfectly capable of gaining or losing 2 minutes or more within the space of 5-10 seconds. Coaches like sitting next to gun platforms calling "wait", winding sights and then calling "go on" in conditions like those. Coaches don't, in such circumstances, like lying down and seeing the wind changes perfectly as soon as they look up *after* firing a shot...

Shooters (and within that group we will bracket those coaches who have won Commonwealth Games and Grand Aggs or come 3rd in the Queens in 1984, like David Calvert, Jane and Reg, for instance) do tend to like lying down and going bang, no matter the conditions. David Luckman proved that, by scoring two 50.9s on the day and finishing it still with no points at all dropped in the Grand Aggregate. Both the 50.9s were in the Norm Beckett (in which most team members had sunk into the 45-47 scoring range during the trickier conditions at 800), so it would be a major surprise if anyone were to surpass him. And then Jumbo came in to announce a 50.10 to go with his 50.8, meaning a tie shoot was in the offing. Meanwhile, three team members scored 100.13 in the Col. John Brick, all beaten by Henry Jeens's 100.15.

According to a coach who shares Henry's van, he was inspired to this triumphant performance by a "special" DVD that "someone" had ordered. One might assume from the title "Ladies And Their Rings" that the DVD had been bought for nocturnal entertainment but this correspondent is assured it had been ordered in good faith with a view to acquiring some tips on jewellery for his girlfriend. Any subsequent attempts to incriminate others by suggesting they had an interest in it were only to assuage the guilt that accompanied such an innocent mistake. No matter: it helped Henry to victory, and that's the main thing.



All in all, not a bad day despite the conditions, further enhanced by James Watson and Andy Luckman's antics with the flyswatters. Fortunately for them, there seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of flying fauna to swat. With cries of "Land and die you dastards!" ringing in our ears, we packed up the vans and headed back to the hotel, from where various groups went to the Fish Market, Al's Steak House and the hotel's own restaurant. Some were still trying to get to grips with Kitty's earlier remark, possibly indicating some sort of split personality: "There aren't too many people in my body!" As the song of appreciation goes, there's only one Kitty Jack!

Rupert checks that there is indeed only one Kitty Jack

Monday scores (GBRT unless stated), with four people still clean in the Grand and 12 team members in the top 25 of the Grand:

Norm Beckett (300m, 800m)

- 1= David Luckman 100.18
- 1= James Lewis 100.18
3. Bob Pitcairn (Canada) 100.16
4. Ross McQuillan 100.16
6. Iain Robertson (Scotland) 100.14
9. Jane Messer 100.14
12. Michael Walton 100.13
15. John Pugsley 100.12

Col. John Brick (500, 600x)

1. Henry Jeens 100.15
2. Mid Tompkins (USA) 100.14
3. Mike Wong Shui (Canada) 100.14
8. Jon Sweet 100.13
9. David Armstrong 100.13
10. John Pugsley 100.13
13. Rick Shouler 100.12
14. Gaz Morris 100.12
18. David Dyson 100.10

Grand Aggregate (up to Monday)

1. Norman Anderson (USA) 300.41
2. David Luckman 300.40
3. Mike Wong Shui (Canada) 300.39
5. Ross McQuillan 299.42
7. Michael Walton 299.39
9. Jane Messer 299.38
10. Henry Jeens 299.36
12. James Lewis 298.45
15. Gaz Morris 298.33
19. Jon Underwood 297.46
20. David Armstrong 297.39
21. David Calvert 297.38
22. Rick Shouler 297.35
25. Andy Luckman 297.30