



Great Britain Tour Diary 2006

Thursday 24th August

By That Correspondent

Despite the reception the night before, the team were all up bright, fresh and early to complete the final two shoots of the Gibson competition and for the Outlander match in the afternoon. A nearly windless start saw many possibles at 300 metres and 600 yards. Jon Underwood, Dave Armstrong and Maz's 50.10s at 300 metres are certainly worthy of a mention in dispatches, and Henry Jeens continued his fine run of form to make a total of 150.24, but he was just pipped at the post by the Wing Commander, who managed an outstanding 150.25. In total, no fewer than eleven of the team and reserves managed to slot them all in

Gibson (300m, 600y, 800m)

1. David Calvert 150.25
2. Henry Jeens 150.24
3. Andrew Syms (Australia) 150.23
5. David Luckman 150.23
6. David Armstrong 150.21
7. Nigel Ball 150.20
9. Nick Brasier 150.20
11. James Lewis 150.18
13. Andy Luckman 150.18
14. Danny Coleman 150.17
15. Jane Messer 150.15
16. David Dyson 150.15
- 20 Jon Underwood 149.23

In an unusual incident, your other correspondent was seen walking around with an even more cheeky glint in his eye than usual. Apparently, when told by the RO over the radio that he was on her butt, the young lady running the butts replied "Matt's a hottie!" Words quite fail me so, by all means, insert your own sarcastic comment here.

The afternoon was taken up with the Outlander match, which consists of eight shooters firing two sighters and fifteen scoring shots at 600 yards and then 900 metres. Great Britain managed to field a Captain's team, a Vice-Captain's team and an Adjutant's Team to compete against the German BDMP and USA teams. The conditions followed in the same vein as the morning at 600 yards. The Captain was overheard asking the other coach to wake him up if he heard snoring. The scores there were very high as a result, with the Vice-Captain's team and the USA tying for first place, with three points off. The Captain and the Adjutant's team were not far off, each with six points lost. Unfortunately for Martin's team, one of Hinch's shooters managed neatly to slot a vee on his neighbour's target, accounting for five of the six points lost. The German team were trailing a few points behind.

There was a significant break between the short and long ranges of the match, which allowed us to return to our room in one of the prefabs for a bite to eat, something to drink and maybe even a small, or even not so small, nap.

At 900 metres, the wind was marginally trickier, but the relaxed time limits allowed some of the canner teams to take a break when the conditions shifted. This time it was the Adjutant's team which had a very mysterious disappearing shot; curses were heard in a fluent Yorkshire accent. Towards the end of the range, the wind had picked up and it looked like teams that had waited earlier on in the competition may have missed their chance, but some more proactive waiting saw them through until conditions returned to their former calm. At the end, there was some concern that the USA might have won, but the "Vice Team" (as they were referred to by the range officer) came through a comfortable six points head.

The Outlander Match (600y, 900M)

1. Great Britain Vice-Captain's Team 1189.114
2. USA Palma Team 1183.130
3. Great Britain Adjutant's Team 1182.124
4. Great Britain Captain's Team 1181.134
5. Germany 1132.70

An additional bit of good news for the Vice-Captain; in an idle moment, he and the Captain wandered off and entered an invitation skeet competition on the nearby clay ranges, where he promptly won a silver medal. Having had (by his standards) a middling meeting, and therefore not actually won anything with a rifle, he was quite relieved that he had managed to get a medal at something. At least no one is yet making the connection between shotguns and his groups with a fullbore rifle!

After a hard day's shooting, a fine dinner was felt to be in order and we all trooped up to Al's Steak House for something suitably filling. The steaks were most excellent, and the house wine less so, but the highlight of the evening was the after dinner speech by the Fat Controller. The Captain kicked off by congratulating the Vice's team on winning the Outlander match, even if they did lose out on a simple Vee count, and handed out the tour badges. Danny then piped up and caught our attention by way of banging a spoon on a soup bowl, which promptly smashed, to allow Nick to kick off his observations on the day and the meeting so far. After thanking his compere for such a fine introduction, and complimenting him on his legal expertise, the fat controller held forth on such topics as team shooting, Danny's expertise at extracting fees from the legal aid fund, and the burden shouldered by the Palma Captain at picking a team from such fine coaches and such lamentable shooters.

After a fine dinner, and a glass of something fortifying from the hotel bar, we retired to bed for the Gatineau and Commonwealth matches the following morning.

Thursday's results (GBRT unless stated):

Maple Leaf Aggregate

1. James Paton (Canada) 370.44
2. Norm Anderson (USA) 370.42
3. Jane Messer 369.50
4. David Calvert 369.47
6. Henry Jeens 369.45
7. David Armstrong 369.42
9. Jon Underwood 368.57
10. David Luckman 368.44
11. Nigel Ball 368.43
16. Toby Raincock 367.49
17. Rick Shouler 367.47
18. John Pugsley 367.44

Grand Aggregate (up to Thursday)

1. David Luckman 753.103
2. Jane Messer 751.94
3. Ross McQuillan 750.95
6. David Calvert 749.99
8. Henry Jeens 749.92
10. Jon Underwood 747.105
11. David Armstrong 747.93
12. Nigel Ball 747.83
13. John Pugsley 745.83
19. Nick Brasier 743.85
20. Gaz Morris 743.84
22. Andy Luckman 743.78