



Great Britain Tour Diary 2006

Friday 25th August

By This Correspondent

As ever, Friday saw the Grand Aggregate finish with the Gatineau, which these days is shot at 900m. The day started with the "munchers' detail", in which both the Captain and our esteemed QC of a coach, Nick Hinchliffe, were shooting. Prior to this match, Nick led Martin by a mere V-bull in the Grand. Following the Gatineau, the margin was exactly a point in the Captain's favour. Whether the wind was a steady 8-9 minutes throughout the first detail (Nick) or a tricky 8 to 11.5 minutes (Martin) depended entirely on which of the two you listened to.

Hinch passed on his sage advice about the steady wind to this correspondent, who found it largely true (7.5 to 9.5 minutes) in the mediocre (8:45) detail and passed it on to David Luckman before the stars' (09:30) detail. David was on such good form that such thoughts were barely necessary. He scored an excellent 75.9 to win the Grand Aggregate by three clear points. Meanwhile, Jane Messer dropped two shots early on to slip from 2nd to 5th, while Ross McQuillan also made 75, hauling him up to 2nd in the Grand.

A few classic moments accompanied the Gatineau. Jon Sweet kept winding wind off, only to find his shots going further upwind. It turned out he was winding the wrong way, such that a decent inner became a wide inner and then a magpie. Never let this man wind coach! Meanwhile, the Gatineau was the first shoot (being the only one that was an only shoot of the day) for which Matt took an "extra" round down to the firing point. Except that for a round to be "extra", you need to have made the right number of rounds in the first place... fortunately he converted a Vee so, when he realised his mistake with four shots left to fire, that was exactly the number of rounds he had left in his box. Phew!

Lastly, when it was clear that David had won the Grand, Nigel was trying to ascertain whether Ross had come second. He approached a group of Americans and asked one of them "Do you know how this Norm Anderson chappy did?" "73" replied the American. "YESSSS, that makes 1st and 2nd in the Grand for us!" cried Nigel... who was unwittingly talking to Norm Anderson as he said it!

Unusually this year, the Gatineau wasn't followed by the Patron's Match. This meant a couple of hours free, which were spent in different ways by different people. Plenty of sleeping was done in the spare time, including Rick and Kitty together (but on separate shooting mats in our team room).

The important business of the afternoon was the Commonwealth Match. This was shot in winds that were at times tricky but mostly manageable, and the Great Britain team had deliberately excluded such luminaries as Messrs Coleman, Walton, Brasier and Raincock; while Underwood, Pugsley and David Luckman (all travelling reserves) were not eligible for the team and A. Luckman, Calvert and Messer were plotting: strong back-up!

Great Britain managed a small one point lead at 800m, gave it up and more by the middle of 900m, before storming through late at 900m to win by three points. Late during 900m, a worrying moment came when James Watson's first sighter hit the mantlet below the target because he had put 5 minutes too little elevation on at the front. All's well that ends well though: he went on to top score for GB with 100.10, while top scorer on the range was Rolf Knapstein from Germany.

Commonwealth Match result (800, 900m):

1. GREAT BRITAIN 1175.95

(Coaches: Hinchliffe, Charlton, Roberts; Main: Townsend)

MC QUILLAN 99.10

BOSTON 94.6

LEWIS 98.6

WATSON 100.10
SWEET 99.7
DIX 98.7
SHOULER 98.9
ARMSTRONG 98.8
DYSON 98.7
H.JEENS 96.11
COMPTON 99.8
MORRIS 98.6

2. CANADA 1172.104
3. USA 1159.104
4. GERMANY 1136.86

Friday's results (Great Britain unless stated):

Gatineau

1. Tyrel Cooper (USA) 75.10
2. Mid Tompkins (USA) 75.10
3. Andrew Sims (Australia) 75.9
4. David Luckman 75.9
5. Ross McQuillan 75.8
9. Toby Raincock 74.10
10. Gaz Morris 74.9
17. Henry Jeens 74.7
20. Nigel Ball 74.6

Grand Aggregate

1. LUCKMAN, DAVID 828v112
2. MC QUILLAN, ROSS 825v103
3. MARION, ALAIN (Canada) 825v90
5. MESSER, JANE 824v99
6. JEENS, HENRY 823v99
9. UNDERWOOD, JON 821v110
10. CALVERT, DAVID 821v103
11. BALL, NIGEL 821v89
15. ARMSTRONG, DAVID 817v100
17. MORRIS, GAZ 817v93
18. PUGSLEY, JOHN 817v89
22. RAINCOCK, TOBY 816v103
24. BRASIER, NICK 816v94

Other GB placings: 28. Coleman, 32. Dyson, 33. A.Luckman, 35. Watson, 38. Walton, 39. Boston, 45. Jack, 50. Lewis, 57. Shouler, 60. Sweet, 66. Roberts, 68. Dix, 70. Compton, 98. Charlton, 168. Townsend, 170. Hinchliffe.

Before the team headed off for separate dinners (with management, the ladies, the Grand winner and his fraternal date all invited to the Chateau Laurier bash), the Captain announced the team for the Canada Match the following morning:

Capt. Townsend, Adj. Ball; Main coach Hinchliffe, Target coaches Charlton & Roberts; Firers: Brasier, Armstrong, McQuillan, Raincock, Calvert, Messer, Watson, Coleman. A strong team...