



## Team Journal - Day 1

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Day 1 of a tour tends to be familiar ground. Assemble at Bisley 4 hours before the bus is due to leave. Submit one's carefully packed cases to the baggage master (nearly always Nigel Ball one finds) and be told to remove everything but the essentials. Richard Shouler suffered particularly this trip and claims to have removed all socks from his bags as a last desperate measure. Consequently, somewhere over the Sahara desert, the team donated all of their airline-supplied flight socks to keep him going for the next 3 weeks.



The Vice Captain and Paul Charlton commiserate with Rick on the subject of socks

The trip to the airport went smoothly and we arrived at Heathrow a little under 5 hours before the flight was due to take off. Check in was handled very well by BA and for once we were not required to open all our rifle cases. Instead, Securicor's staff was satisfied by examining a sample of 3 (although in recompense they did make us all walk right around the terminal rather than take the 5 yard short cut that we had spotted to customs).. We then spent a couple of hours in the Servisair lounge where the provision of free gin and tonics lifted the general mood considerably. Our flight left pretty much on time at 8.15. We were on our way.

