



Team Journal – Day 18

Sunday 9th April

Our blog ended yesterday as we went into the mid-championship prize-giving. In order that the process of handing out prizes is not overlong SABU splits the ceremony into two, awarding those prizes which are already decided halfway through. The GB team members did a reasonable share of going up, shaking hands and receiving trophies, medals and other mementoes of good shooting. Nick received his Scottish Sword which he waved around in a slightly alarming manner. DC picked up the award for the top A class score in the Dave Smith competition (Lucy Corner being B class) and the teams which won the Hamilton and Dewar Shield received appropriate recognition.

After this event we were off duty and, with no shooting tomorrow, set off into town. There were three parties. Two had civilised meals in different establishment. The third which, generally, comprised the younger members did set off to town but have remained reticent as to the exact nature of their entertainment. We can report that all returned safely.

You might have thought that something of a lie-in would be available on a non-shooting day but the management had a better idea and arranged for team photos to be taken at 9 a.m. This was a protracted process partly because of the herding cats problem and partly because there was a complicated series of changes of clothes which had to be achieved to produce photographs for various different purposes.



An early morning photo, displaying Nick's ties to the very best effect ...



... and one for the Tilley brochure. It was James Watson who had mislaid his hat but, by taking two photographs, one with James wearing Woody's, and a certain amount of digital manipulation the final version will show the full complement of 20 of Tilley's finest hats according to the Chief Coach and Photoshopper.

Photographic duty done we had the rest of the day available for our various purposes. This included pushing enough bullets to ensure that we all had the means to go bang for the next two days, cleaning rifles and sorting out our kit. A party of management and some others went to a memorial service at the range for George Bramley, the former President of SABU who died shortly before this meeting.

The afternoon activities included the final of the three part golf tournament which had been left tied after the second round at Bushlands, a shopping trip by some of the team and attending a braai hosted by Peter and Lexie Bramley at their farm 20 km from Bloem. The golf tournament went down to the wire but at the very last hole it was the pairing of Collings and Calvert who won the day.

The party which went to the Bramleys had a wonderfully relaxed afternoon in the company of David Dodds and Brian and Iris Smith. After the barbecue we were taken on a game drive in the back of a ute to see great numbers of springbok, ostriches and other distant shapes.



Our host - Peter Bramley



Jeremy rides shotgun as the rest of the group go cattle class



Some horses meet Matt



As requested by one of our young gentleman readers, one Hugh Holmes, a picture of the giraffes which stroll past our bedroom windows at Bains Lodge