

# Scottish Rifle Team

## Canada 2005

Here it is, the long overdue Circular 2!

### Team Matters

There have been some changes to our team over the last few weeks but we still have the makings of a team to which can work together well and produce a winning and memorable performance both on and off the ranges. Lindsay had to drop out quite early on due to work commitments as did Simon and recently Sorcha did likewise. Alan Haggerty has had to give up the Adjutant role due to work and domestic pressures but I am delighted to say that Allan has taken on this hugely important job. Please do everything you can to make his job easier!

We have quite a range of experience within the team. I think I am right in saying that about half the team have not toured with Scotland before? (Hamish will put me right on exact numbers, he's very precise on these matters!) That said, most of those who have toured with Scotland before also have experience of being on Great Britain teams and that includes all the 'Executive' and Coaches. I believe we have another first in our F-class shooters - the first Scottish International F-class touring team? Have any of the other home countries ever done a representative tour with a full team, I suspect not?

Other teams in Canada 2005? We will travel a day earlier than the Welsh team to BC but otherwise our travel arrangements seem to match. They will field a team of about 12-14 to shoot the BC meeting and will obviously be competition in the International team matches at both Chilliwack and Connaught. There is traditionally a strong contingent of shooters from the USA at the BC meeting - somebody else to beat. I understand that there will be an Irish team, again about 12-14, at Connaught - we shall delight in beating them too! (At this point Honorary Scot but Irish Adj Karen explodes!)

## Dates

The dates for matches and travel have not changed significantly from those published in David's Circular 1 in October. With the number of Scottish based shooters on the team in mind, we have arranged a choice of travel from either *Glasgow* or *Heathrow*. Details of travel arrangements have been sent out already but I will restate the options below.

## Travel

Hamish has been busy arranging our flights, you should have received an email or letter about the flight arrangements but I will restate them anyway. Better to be told twice....!

The air fares are the same from *Glasgow* as from *London* with the only difference being that the various taxes are slightly more from *Glasgow* due to the change of planes in *Toronto*. This is a good deal as we will save many team members the extra flight from *Scotland* to *London* which usually costs in the region from £75 to £100.

Hamish has to firm up the numbers of people who will be flying from *Glasgow* and those who will be flying from *London* by the end of *January* and then pay deposits. Below is a guess as to who will fly from *Glasgow* or from *London*. Please confirm to Hamish no later than 20 *January* 2005 that you are down for the correct airport.

I know that some spouses will accompany the team for at least part of the tour (I am aware of at least *Hillary Hossack*, *Liz Kidner*, *Sonia Barton*, *Ann Hunt* and possibly some or all of the *McAllister* family). Hamish is happy to make these flight bookings and for any other spouses if the team members if required, please let him know the dates and details for their travel. All will probably travel with us to *Vancouver* with the team but I am not sure

about the rest of their travel arrangements. Please let Hamish have a note of the appropriate travel details by 20 January 2005.

I understand that the Brechin, MacMillan, Dickson and Robertson parties are making their own arrangements re travel and accommodation. I would appreciate it if you would let myself and/or Allan know what arrangements you intend to make regarding DCRA entries, ammunition etc. Bruce Roth, Matt Charlton and Alan Haggerty will also join us in Ottawa - again we need to know what arrangements you would like us to make on your behalf.  
Thanks.

### **Traveling from Glasgow**

Allan Mabon	Bob Aitken	Sam Adamson
Mike Barton	Jon Borland	Pete Dingle
Tim Kidner	Peter Law	Kenny MacDonald
Ron Scaglione	Jim Bell	Martin Brown
Paul Crosbie	Peter Hunt	Des Parr
Daoud Rhouma	Hamish Hunter	

### **Traveling from London**

Bill Sharman	David Hossack	James Lawrie
John MacKay	Ian Thomson	Henry Watson
Jim McAllister		

### **From/To Glasgow**

AC 843	MO 01AUG	Glasgow/Toronto	1130 1345
AC 115	MO 01AUG	Toronto/Vancouver	1700 1905
AC 188	TU 16AUG	Vancouver/Ottawa	1120 1854

AC 463	SU 28AUG	Ottawa/Toronto	1800 1904
AC 842	SU 28AUG	Toronto/Glasgow	2215 0950

### From/To London

AC 897	MO 1AUG	Heathrow/Vancouver	1615 1810
AC 188	TU 16AUG	Vancouver/Ottawa	1120 1854
AC 888	SU 28AUG	Ottawa/Heathrow	2320 1105

### **Accommodation**

You should have received a questionnaire from Allan regarding accommodation preferences. Please respond promptly as it makes the booking process so much easier.

The Rainbow Inn in Chilliwack may not be able to accommodate our large team as they have prior bookings from the Welsh team and the Americans. We have the option of the Parkwood Lodge or the Comfort Inn nearby - Allan is negotiating on our behalf with both hotels.

The Barons Hotel near the Connaught range will be our base in Ottawa. We will be there with the Welsh and Irish teams which will probably be quite good news for their bar takings? This is the hotel that is traditionally used by all touring teams; they are quite used to our foibles.

### **Fundraising**

David has already organized and delivered the first of hopefully several corporate days to be held on behalf of team funds. This was held on Saturday morning 11th December for a director of the Royal Bank of Scotland and some friends and was a great success despite the foggy weather preventing any fullbore shooting.

David has already stressed how important it is to make these days a success as they are very profitable. He ran several for his GB team to Africa earlier in the year and raised over £30,000 from corporate days alone. This one half day raised some £2,500 profit for our team funds. The only downside was the fact that David needed eight volunteers to help out with the day. In the event only two members of the team made themselves available to help David which really is a very poor response from the team. The event was saved by a trawl through SRA members relatively local to Bisley (and spouses!) who turned up to help out although they would not benefit directly from the fund-raising. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude and I have expressed my thanks on your behalf. I hope we will not be in this situation again when supporting fund-raising events. As David said in his Team Circular in October, " Please do not lie back and expect others to do all the work; this is a team effort and everybody should lend a hand, if not by finding sources of money, then by making themselves available to help out at fundraising events".

I would like to arrange similar fund-raising exercises in Scotland and will be approaching individuals who may be able to help us in this respect. More on this matter in the near future I hope.

## **Brochure**

Ron Scaglione has kindly offered to co-ordinate the production of the team brochure. Here's a copy of some of his ideas - we intend to have a 'different' brochure rather along the lines of the GB MR Team offering earlier this year. Anyway here's what Ronnie has in mind - "What about the team members CV's? I could start work almost immediately on the collection and editing of the team CVs... I presume we don't want sterile paragraphs of endless shooting achievements? Just the important ones (Tim's little victory this year perhaps!?) They should be more of an insight into the shooter's personality and we certainly have a few of them! The team profiles would be

quite light hearted and help convey a more human side to the team, we could build on that with a few more questions, perhaps even having two photographs? One of the shooter as he or she looks today and one of the shooter when he or she started shooting?"

Please respond promptly to any requests for information that Ronnie might make - thank you.

David is in overall charge of our external fundraising activities and the brochure is part of this. He has asked that all team members think of some possible advertisers for the team brochure and asks that you send all potential contacts to him to start with so that we do not duplicate possible advertisers, thus alienating them. David has produced a sample letter, which could be used as a template. Some very impressive team letter-headed notepaper is being produced courtesy of Tim and his company. You will receive a supply in the near future for your begging letters.

We will also have a team website. More of this in the very near future when I have had a chance to speak to the team member(s) that I would like to take on the production task.

## **Uniform**

Bob has been busy negotiating with Kinloch Anderson, the Leith-based kiltmakers, about our team uniform blazer. We will have the standard Scottish touring team blazer with silver buttons and silver badge (Thistle and Scottish Rifle Team). Kinloch Anderson have said that if we order 18 new blazers for our Canada trip they will give a 5% discount making the price per jacket £202.13 plus VAT. The reasons for the relatively high costs are: the pure wool worsted material used, the special colour (plain navy would of course be cheaper but less distinctive, i.e. like the English), and the costs of the Scottish buttons. The team members who intend wearing a kilt as first choice for uniform and the sole remaining lady in the team will probably go for a shorter blazer similar to a kilt one.

To order, please go to the KA website <http://www.kinlochanderson.com/> , telephone 0131 555 1355 or visit the shop in person. (Commercial Street/Dock Street, Leith, Edinburgh).

I would like all team members to wear either tartan trousers or a kilt (skirt for ladies) with the blazer as our formal dress. Unlike previous teams I would like to leave the choice of tartan to the individual, even if that means Henry will wear his Rupert Bear Watsonian finest! There are a number of outfitters who will supply such trousers starting with a Black Watch from M&S at about £40 to made-to-measure from KA at £160!

Bob suggests that you could also go to the following web site from Geoffrey: [www.geoffreykilts.co.uk](http://www.geoffreykilts.co.uk). "There is a very nice Atholl tartan about for those who like Blair Atholl and its shooting connections". They also visit London every month or so.

We will have a tour tie for formal wear, Bob has arranged for us to view a couple of designs for approval.

### **R&R options**

I have been in contact with Gayle Vickerson at Rainbow Country Travel and Tours; she has organized the Vans and bus to pick us up at Vancouver Airport and helped previous visiting teams. I have also been in contact with various regional Tourist Boards for inspiration re our 'holiday' period.

For those who have not visited BC before, I am suggesting something like a few days in the Okanagan to soak up some sunshine and visit some wineries then on to the Rockies (usual touristy stuff - Banff, Lake Louise, Athabasca etc?) I will look at the possibility that we may be able to fit in Vancouver into the week or so we have? Another option, particularly for those who

have been to the Rockies, might be 'The Island' - Tofino and Victoria?  
Options here include sea kayaking with orca, whale watching, fishing or surfing.

Having been to the Rockies and the Island, in my case, the offer of taking a floatplane into Bute Inlet for some salmon fishing with an old shooting friend from Nanaimo sounds particularly tempting - I wonder if the team would notice my absence? Could see if he could take a few of us for a few days upcountry if there's any interest?

I will explore our options further and be in touch soon. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you would let me and Allan know if you intend to do your own thing during this week. I know that some team members want to visit friends and family, take the cruise ship from Vancouver to Alaska etc. It's not a problem but I would appreciate knowing how many we need to book in somewhere. Perhaps you might like to indicate your preferences for holiday activities (inactivities?) to me directly - thanks.

### **Training**

I will be looking at the calendar with a view to arranging team training along the lines of the programme given out in October's Circular. There will be an element of 'back to basics' with a look at such things as position, coaching and plotting techniques and your personal shooting kit. It will not be all about 'shots down the range'.

I am open to the idea of a team gathering/practice session in Scotland if range availability permits. Don't forget that we will be visited by a team from British Columbia (and their US friends) in June this year. They will compete in the Scottish SR and LR Championships at Barry Buddon and Blair Atholl. We will have representative matches against the visitors at both venues and I am hoping (expecting!) that most of the Canada team will be at one or, preferably, both meetings.

**...and finally!**

You will very shortly receive some further paperwork requesting information which we need in order to start the process of firearms import licences etc, I would be grateful if you could return the completed forms by return.

I think that is all for now. I wish one and all the compliments of the season. Let us make 2005 truly memorable for all the right reasons!

Yours aye

Bill