

Scottish Rifle Team
Canada 2005
Newsletter 2

Team News

We have lost two team members over the past few days. John McKay has had to drop out for family reasons - a great pity he will be sorely missed both as a shooter and a team player. Also Richard McMillan was hoping to join us in Ottawa, incorporating the DCRA Meeting into a family holiday (brave man!) Unfortunately, a golfing injury to a wrist is taking its time in healing and he still cannot shoot. Get well soon Richard, the Scottish team needs you!

I attach a list of team members as I have their details at this time. As you can see, I do not even have addresses for everybody! Please would those of you whose particulars are incomplete give me and Adjutant Allen the missing information by return so that our records can be complete and up to date.

Allan has indicated that some team members are not responding in any way to requests for information etc. and he is spending too long in chasing people up. This really is unacceptable. The Adjutant's job is difficult enough without the increased demands on his time because we can't give up a few moments of our time to respond. This also applies to Hamish in his endeavors to relieve us of our money, Bob's uniform and fundraising and, of course, David's vitally important corporate fundraising days. Things won't get any better either as I will be chasing everybody to attend training days such as the Home Countries/RAF weekend and encourage everybody on the team to enter both Scottish Championships. More of this anon.

I feel very strongly about the lack of common courtesy exhibited by a small number of the team with regard to the niceties of team organization. I would like to make it quite clear that I am quite willing to 'deselect' those who feel that it is too much trouble for them to participate in the administrative aspects of team working.

Notwithstanding the above, I understand that some team members have not been receiving group emails. There have been some instances where we get a 'bounced' message but this has not been universal and we have no way of knowing if you have received correspondence. With this in mind, I and other Executive members, intend to put an 'acknowledgement of receipt' box with each important posting. Please help by responding to say you have received correspondence, we will then know if anybody has not received any mailing and can remedy it.

FAC details

Allan has sent the message below to all team members. Many of you have not responded with the information requested - may I urge you to do so now? I will reproduce the original mailing in case anybody did not receive it or has deleted/misplaced it.

One of the pieces of documentation which has to be completed when importing firearms to Canada is the Non-Resident Firearm Declaration, Form 909EF. This is obtainable from the following website:

www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca .

1. Once in the website, click on 'English'.
2. Under 'Information for ...' click on 'Visitors/Non-Residents'.
3. Click on 'Forms Relevant to Non-Residents'.
4. Click on '909EF'.
5. Click on 'Click Here to Download'.

6. Print out all six pages.

There are three copies of Form 909EF, each of which should be completed: one is for your own retention in Canada and the two others are for Customs and Police use. **I wish you, however, to make an additional completed fourth copy for Team purposes.** Please inform me by post or e-mail once you have the forms and then await further instructions.

In the same e-mail by which you inform me that you have obtained 909EF, please also provide me with the following information:

FAC number, issuing Police Authority and expiry date, manufacture, calibre and serial number/s of the rifle/s that you intend to take with you to Canada. (Please ensure that neither your FAC nor your passport is due to expire before your return to the UK.)

Once the Christmas postal rush is over, I shall be asking you to forward to me a photocopy of your FAC. Should anyone for any reason be unable to access the above Non-Resident Firearm Declaration, Form 909EF, via the internet, please inform me and I shall send hard copy to you by ordinary post.

R&R period in BC

Our agents in BC who are overseeing our transport arrangements have come up with a tour itinerary for those who want to see something of the Rockies and mainland BC. The suggested itinerary is as follows:

Chilliwack - Quesnel 2 nts (day trip to the historic town of Barkerville)

Quesnel to Jasper - 1 nt

Jasper - Golden - 1 nt (see the Columbia Icefields & Banff)

Golden - Kelowna - 2 nts (wineries and sightseeing)

Kelowna - Vancouver airport hotel

They say "You would get the most value of scenery with this tour option. You would see icefields, the Rocky Mountains, big horn sheep (hopefully), deer, a historic town with stagecoach ride, theatre production, etc., gambling and then the wineries and an old Grist Mill in the Okanagan.

Another option mentioned in the last newsletter, particularly for those who have been to the Rockies, is a trip to Vancouver Island - Tofino and Victoria. Options here include sea kayaking with orca, whale watching, fishing, surfing or even just sit on the beach and watch the sun go down!

The third option is to do your own thing and make your own arrangements for accommodation and travel for the R&R period. I have an indication from some of the younger members of the team that they would like to spend their time trekking and camping (and probably providing lunch for the blackflies?) This is, of course, fine by me as are those arrangements made by team members who want to visit friends/relatives in and around BC. We will need an indication of preferences as the numbers taking a particular option will have an impact on prices. Please let Allan know that you intend doing, we can then finalise our arrangements and give a better indication of costs.

Either way, we will meet up in Vancouver for a couple of days to reacquaint ourselves with our shooting kit and operate as a team prior to leaving BC for Ottawa.

Team Training

I intend to incorporate the main team training event into the SRA's traditional training which has become known as the 'RAF weekend' (14/15 May this year). We will have matches at both long and short range against the RAF and all the other home countries. I intend that there will be an element of 'off-range' training during this weekend which will probably include shooting kit checks, looking at individual techniques, use of SCATT training devices and, hopefully, an input from the High Performance Squad (CG) psychologist. We also have a goodly number of

targets booked for both days with afternoon matches under National and McKinnon conditions. I expect our F class members to shoot alongside, I am sure that matches under similar condition can be arranged against the other home countries.

I hope that we can arrange a Team Dinner at a Bisley Clubhouse on the Saturday evening.

Friday 10 June is my other intended training day as it ties in with the SRA Long Range Championships at Blair Atholl. It will give those team members who have not shot at Blair the opportunity to experience the delights of the range. I hope all team members will make the effort to attend these two training days plus compete in both Scottish Championships.

I also hope to arrange informal coaching and training to tie in with the main fundraising Corporate Hospitality days being arranged for the Royal Bank of Scotland by David. This could be difficult to organize at Bisley over a weekend as, believe it or not, many weekends are fully booked. However, as soon as we get the dates from RBS we will see if we can get any target space.

Ammunition issues

I have been negotiating with our friends in Canada to purchase good quality ammunition over there thus obviating the need to ship some 20,000 rounds to Canada. To date, it looks like we will be able to use the 'Palma Match spec' ammo being made by Hornady for the World Championships in 2007. We are arranging for a substantial quantity of this 'brew' to be made available in UK fairly soon and we can then check that it works in our rifles.

Team duties

You might like to revisit the list sent out with David's original mailing last year and identify a team support role you would be happy doing. Otherwise, I will be 'volunteering' you anyway!

Flights

Hamish has moved heaven and earth to obtain the best deal for us as a team, particularly as we will travel as two parties. We will need to sort out arrangements for traveling with 'team baggage' at a later date.

What is important now is that Hamish knows exactly when you are traveling and from which end of the country. If you will be accompanied for part or the entire trip, please ensure that Hamish knows of your arrangements particularly when it comes to other halves and family. For instance, are they coming for the full trip or needing individual flights home? Are you arranging this or are you expecting Hamish to do it etc?

Fund raising & Sponsorship

I expect all team members to offer assistance/attend at least one of our fundraising events. I am hopeful that we can set up a Corporate Entertainment event in Scotland thanks to Peter and Ann Hunt. They are exploring the options of using their base at Easterton and the facilities at Gleneagles to set up a 'day with a difference' for Scottish clients. Let us hope it all comes off as such fund raising is essential to team finances.

Our first Corporate Day, organized by David and held last Autumn, was extremely successful despite the weather. Thanks to David and all those who turned out - not all members of the team it must be noted! David is hopeful of further business from Royal Bank of Scotland, it seems 'very likely but not yet fully confirmed'! We must make a supreme effort with this major sponsor and support David fully on the day.

When it comes to sponsorship, be it through Corporate Days or an advert in the brochure, we must not sit back and let one or two people do it all. Many of the team have business contacts that can be approached and 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 through the post in the near future for your begging letters -hence the urgent requirement for all postal addresses!.

Brochure

As you know Ronald is co-ordinating the production of the brochure and he has emailed most of you recently. He has some sponsors already but obviously not enough so I am looking to you all to give him some support here! Ron has mentioned that he has received offers of 'support in kind' from such as RPA who have offered a supply of spare parts to take on our tour, albeit on 'a sale or return' basis. This is excellent, thank you Ron. Sponsorship in kind is much appreciated; we are hopeful that we might yet obtain a degree of sponsorship for team clothing for travel and range use. Expect to wear the sponsor's logo with pride!

Ron has shamed many of us with his efforts. He writes - "A number of companies have not replied to our begging letters, brochure ads etc... I will contact these companies again reminding them of our plight! If you have not heard from firms you have contacted please do the same, if we are persistent they might just give in to keep us quiet. Can everyone/anyone please let me know of any positive developments here! It's my aim to have a draft for circulation by the end of February, so please help where you can. We desperately need money and we can't afford to have empty pages where advertising could be in place. The team brochure can have an infinite amount of pages dedicated to advertising if required, so please, a big push to generate funds through advertising!" Well said Sir!

Regarding content for the brochure, Ron would like the following from everybody -

NAME!

Age

Where you are from originally and your current location

Notable shooting achievements

When you started shooting

Hobbies and interests

Family?

Plus two photo's, one recent and one not so recent!

To the above, I would like to add two lines -'Your best days' shooting' and 'Your worst days' shooting'!

Ann Hunt has kindly volunteered (or been volunteered?) to produce a team website. Please contact Ann at Easterton with any ideas for website content. In the first instance I would expect the site to broadly mirror the brochure so think whether any ideas you have should go to Ann and/or Ron. We hope to get this up and running soon as we intend to put brochure advertisers links on it, an added bonus for our advertisers and sponsors.

As I said in an earlier mailing, 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. He will then also know who has not come up with any ideas!

Uniform

Bob has negotiated 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). To order your jacket, please go to the KA website <http://www.kinlochanderson.com/>, telephone

0131 555 1355 or visit the shop in person at Commercial Street/Dock Street, Leith, Edinburgh. Let Bob know that you have placed an order, he can then chase up the tardy ones! Do not pay KA on ordering your jacket! The bill for jackets will be sent to Hamish - we hope for an element of sponsorship/subsidy here with any excess being met from an individual's team account.

If you do not already have them, you will need to purchase tartan trousers or a kilt in the tartan of your choice, these can be from any supplier as KA are quite pricey.

Bob has also contacted a firm of tie makers for designs suitable for our touring team. We are looking at ordering a design rather similar to the last Australia team tie but with a maple leaf motif replacing the Southern Cross.

BC Team

The team from British Columbia that was to have toured Scotland this summer has cancelled as they could not raise sufficient numbers to be viable. A great pity as we would have benefited greatly from their participation in our two Championships not to mention the social aspects of hosting such a team. They hope to resurrect the team for a visit next year. In the meantime, it is even more important that we, as a Scottish team, support our own national Championships.

In conclusion....

Reread the above and identify actions required on your part.

Respond to Allan and myself to say you have received this newsletter.

If at all possible, arrange to attend the SRA AGM in Kinross on 20 February. We hope to have a team informal meeting in the bar after the meeting. See you there?

Regards

Bill

