

NRA OF AUSTRALIA



# 'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley

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(Version 5, 17/09/15)

**A very useful summary of information for all Australian shooters planning on travelling to and competing in the Imperial Meeting in Bisley, UK.**

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## On the Firing Line

1. Bisley Camp Ranges: There are two TR (Target Rifle) ranges: Century (300-600 yards) and Stickledown (800-1200 yards). Using the NRA HQ building as a centre point, and assuming that the ranges point to the north, Century is east and south (a 300-400 yard walk to the 300 yard firing line); Stickledown is west and north (a 600-700 yard walk to the 1000 yard firing line).

See range map at: <http://www.nra.org.uk/common/files/campmap.pdf>

The targets are individually numbered in contrasting colours and are grouped into “ranges” of 10 targets. The large numbers set on the impact berm above the target numbers indicate the “range”. Shooters set up to the left of the target number stakes.

2. Target Assignments: After arriving at your “range” find the Range Officer's (RO) table and check the “scramble board” for your assigned target number. The “scramble board” is a chalkboard showing target numbers that correspond to your squadding letter (see On the Score Card).
3. Ammunition: Take your score card to any ammo table (located under the tents behind the firing line) and present it to the dispersion official. The official will stamp the back of your card and give you the required number of rounds of ammo for the match you will be shooting.



- a) If you wish to use an ammo box, you will need to bring one along. Ammunition can be handed out as loose rounds (all the same ‘lot’) or as remnants within the original paper box.
- b) In 2015, there was a great improvement with one lot of GGG ammo used throughout the meeting. However, it pays to check and keep a record of the ammo lot numbers (printed prominently on the cardboard boxes) and match them to your elevation zeroes. There can be drastic elevation changes between lots, and there may be many lots in use. To take advantage of convertible sighters, you need the proper elevation for the lot of ammo that you have been issued.

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- c) Ammunition lots will not be mixed up in the same match. Each match will be fired with a single lot. You may notice Lot X on Thursday, Lot Y on Friday, and then Lot X again on Saturday. There may be five different lots of ammo on Century Range but only two distinct lots on Stickledown Range, and the lots will probably not be the same on Stickledown as on Century.

1. Approaching the Firing Line: Do not go onto the firing line until the RO calls your detail forward. Your “detail” is your “time of day” for the match.

- a) The RO will call the detail forward about 10 minutes prior to the start time – this assumes there has not been rain delays or other problems that have set the schedule back.
- b) I suggest arriving 15 to 30 minutes early to allow you time to:
  - collect your ammunition
  - locate your correct firing point
  - use the ablutions if needed (may be located some distance away)
  - retrieve any forgotten item/s

If you need to leave the firing mound for whatever reason, most people will oblige in watching your gear (never leave your rifle unattended as it may be confiscated). You may be asked to do so for someone else.

It is always better to be early rather than late which incurs a 1 point penalty after the final 2 minute prep period. (See #6 below.)

2. Exchanging Scorecards: After everyone in your squad has taken their firing positions, the scorecards are passed to the right: left shooter to centre, centre shooter to right, right shooter to left.

- a) You need to know your index number (competitor number): it must go on all scorecards with your signature (see “On the Scorecard”).
- b) At Bisley, shooters set up to the left of the number stake. So, if you are the right shooter in the detail, you will be just to the left of the target number stake. If you are the left shooter in the detail, you will set up just to the right of the adjacent target number stake.

6. Preparation Time: After you have been called to the firing point you may begin dry firing whenever you wish. The targets will remain in the pits until time commences. The Range Officer will announce when there is five minutes to “Message One” and then when there is two minutes to “Message One”. (See #15 below.)  
To signal commencement of firing the Chief Range Officer will announce “carry on”.

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7. Three-to-the-mound rotation: After Message One has been relayed to the butts (the command to raise the targets, which signals commence fire) it is customary to wish your partners “good luck” or “good shooting”.
  - a) Shooting rotation is: the right shooter first, then the centre shooter, and then the left shooter.
  - b) The procedure is to shoot, score and prepare.
  - c) Your position in the squad is noted on your scorecard label for each match (see “On the Scorecard”).
  - d) Always be aware of the rotation sequence. If you shoot out of sequence, you will incur a penalty pending a determination by the RO. If you lose track of the rotation, just ask your target mates.
  - e) Targets can be pulled in error so do not count a target being pulled to tell you when it is your turn again. Normally, if the target is pulled in error, the “active” shooter calls out to the others so everyone knows about the error and can stay in proper rotation.
  - f) Think about this rotation and ask yourself if you will have any problem: can you hear well enough from both sides or do you need electronic earmuffs?
8. Scoring: It is customary to call out the shot value and the shot number. Example: “V-bull, 5 on” or “V-bull, 5 to count”.
  - a) Speak in a conversational tone and volume, just loud enough for your partners

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to hear, not so loud that you bother adjacent firing points.

- b) A clipboard of some type is helpful to keep the scorecard secure and flat. If you presently use a clipboard for your personal plotting, an extra bulldog clip can be used to hold the scorecard on the board. You may wish to get a larger clipboard so your plot sheets and the scorecard can be viewed and written on without flipping sheets of paper.
  - c) Bring a soft lead pencil for scoring. A #2 lead would normally be fine. When the paper is wet a pen or harder lead will not write and may tear the scorecard. All aggregate scores in major competition must be signed in ink.
9. Checking for Rifle Safety: When signing the scorecard, you are also stating that you have checked your partner's rifle and that it is in a safe, unloaded condition. A standard 'breech flag' can be used at Bisley to show an unloaded chamber and open bolt. You may request that the 'breech flag' be removed before you check the rifle. Some shooters just show an open bolt or remove the bolt from the receiver. You should make the effort to confirm that the rifle is safe.
- a) Note that the 'breech flag' is not required; it is used instead of bolt removal.
  - b) If a 'breech flag' is not used, you are expected to check the loading port and the chamber with the muzzle at all times pointed towards the target.
10. Cartridge Cases and Unfired Ammo: After your squad has finished, take all fired casings, unfired ammo and scorecard to the RO table.
- a) If any sighters were converted, the RO will want to see and collect the unfired rounds.
  - b) All fired casings are dumped into the bag or box provided at the RO table.
11. After Shooting a Perfect Score: When you shoot a "clean" score, you may have your trigger weighed. Take your unloaded rifle to the RO table with your scorecard. The RO will first ask to see that the rifle is unloaded, then you will close the bolt and use the RO's weight to show that the trigger will lift 1.5kg.



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- a) If the trigger lifts the weight without “tripping”, you will need to show the RO that the trigger does actually work by releasing it.
- b) If the trigger fails to lift the weight, and it is obvious that it will not after a couple of attempts, the RO will hold the rifle for a further period of time.
- c) All of the RO tables have a weight set. The Range Officers freely admit they are not all the same weight, so it is a good idea to set your trigger weight at or slightly above the 1.5kg minimum.
- d) If the trigger function fails, you will be escorted to NRA GB armoury to have your rifle tested on the lifting machine.

Shooters are welcome to use the weight sets at any time to check their triggers provided someone is able to check the action before doing so.

On some years instead of testing 50's there has been random trigger testing undertaken involving a number of trigger tests on each range for each squad.

12. Weather Delays: If weather has caused delays the ROs may ask shooters to remove all equipment from the firing point before going to the RO table to turn in score cards casings and ammo. The matches will not be stopped for a heavy rain. Delays are only called if the targets are not visible or for safety concerns such as lightning.
13. Equipment on the Firing Line: Take the absolute minimum. A wheeled chair is not allowed on the firing line; a range bag (i.e. Dillon) or range box (i.e. Hoham) is allowed; a small backpack is also acceptable. Personal space on the firing line is tight so even a box or bag must be placed so it does not interfere with the other shooters. At Bisley you can put equipment forward of your front shoulder.
  - a) Some shooters like to have a wheeled chair with them to use a chair as well as for carrying equipment and materials. You can bring your wheeled chair to Bisley if you wish, just remember that you cannot put it on the firing line.
14. The 45-second rule: Shooters are expected to keep within the 45-second rule (successive shots within 45 seconds). You may find instances of slow shooting but most competitors keep well inside the rule.
  - a) Shooters can be docked points for failing to stay within the 45-second rule. There will be times when wind conditions force some delays between shots. It is important to keep the 45-second rule in mind if you find yourself in a “hold” condition.
  - b) Each competitor has a duty to notify another shooter that he or she is consistently over the 45-second time limit. If a shooter is tardy once or twice through a string, it can be ignored, but if it happens shot after shot, the person needs to be informed of the infraction. In most cases the competitors acting as the ROs will randomly time competitors and pick up this up first, but you may need to draw their attention to this.

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- c) If a shooter in your squad is consistently slow, that infraction does not count against your own shooting time. You do not have to shoot faster to make up for another person's tardiness.

15. Bisley "Messages": Can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nra.org.uk/common/asp/general/downloads.asp?site=NRA&category=15>

It is customary for shooters to call out a Message "Number" to the RO rather than try to explain what you want done.

- a) Message 1 (Commence fire): targets are raised.
  - b) Message 3 (Re-disk): Value marker and shot spotter do not agree.
  - c) Message 4 (Mark the target): Shot was fired but the target was not marked.
  - d) Message 5 (Challenge for higher value): Value marker indicates lesser value than shot spotter (fee of one pound if challenge is lost).
  - e) Message 7 (Challenge for a hit): Target was marked but shows a miss without a shot spotter; re-examine the target for a hit.
  - f) Message 10 (the target has finished, the pullers may rest): the target is withdrawn.
  - g) If anyone on your target calls for #3 or #5 or #7, when the pit officer arrives at the target to oversee the examination he will raise a red disk in front of the target to indicate his presence.
16. Zeroing Range: This facility is located between Century and Stickledown Ranges, just north of the Century Range butts access road (a road that allows access to the pits while shooting is ongoing). In 2015, this range opened from 7.30am until quite late and a fee of £5.00 purchased five rounds of ammo from the Armoury Office for testing zero (25-yard/meter target) or fouling the bore after cleaning.
17. Team shooting: It is usual procedure for the Captain to place announcements on the team notice board where individual scores are also recorded as part of the selection procedure for the Overseas, Kolapore and Mackinnon teams matches. All team members can expect to have a small job to contribute to the smooth running of the team. At the completion of teams matches, it is customary for the Captain to lead "three cheers" for the winning team and to then lead the team in a line handshake with the winning team. Do not leave the firing point until the Captain says all formalities are completed.

## On the Scorecard

1. Scorecards: All of the scorecards are in the competitor packet you receive from the NRA office. The scorecards are colour coded according to distance: 300yd=Green, 500=Pink, 600=Yellow, 900=Blue and 1000=Grey. There are no 800-yard stages in the GB Imperial Meeting.

Also in the packet are self-sticking computer labels that contain: the match name and date, the distance(s) to be fired, your name, your classification, your index number (competitor number), and your squadding. These labels must be affixed to the proper scorecard: a 300 yard match label affixed to a generic 300 yard score card; a 500 yard match label affixed to a generic 500 yard score card; etc



2. Squadding: Your computer labels indicate the time of day for each match you are entered in (this is your "detail" and the time you will begin shooting that specific match), a Range Number (Stickledown Range has five range numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4; Century Range has nine range numbers that are used by TR events: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19), your Target Letter (A through L), and a notation of Left, Centre or Right (your firing position in the three-shooter squad).
  - a) The time of day (your start time) is rigidly adhered to. You should plan on getting to your firing point with at least 15 minutes to spare, if not more. Remember that you need to draw ammo and there may be a line of late-arrivers.
  - b) The Range Number is located high on the impact berm, above the target numbers, and usually encompasses 10 targets.
  - c) The Target Letter will be on the Range Officer's chalkboard, also known as the "scramble board" and will indicate which firing point you will report to. After

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each detail begins, the RO may erase the letters and re-write them in a different pattern, "scrambling" the letters and numbers.

- d) The Left ("L"), Centre ("C") and Right ("R") beside your Target Letter indicates your position in the three-shooter squad.

### 3. Squadding examples:

- a) Competition: Donegall (300 yards)

Date: 11 July

Time: 0830

Target: Range 19, Target B, Left

Explanation: Your squadding for the 300-yard Donegall match is on 11 July, Friday, at 0830, on range 19 (the furthest range on the right side of Century), target B (scramble board designates which number that is), and you are the Left shooter in the three-man squad for that target. Since the Donegall is shot at 300 yards, you know that you are on Century Range.

- b) Competition: Admiral Hutton (900 yards)

Date: 11 July

Time: 1845

Target: Range 0, Target L, Right

Explanation: Your squadding for the 900-yard Admiral Hutton match is on 11 July, Friday, at 1845, on range 0 (the furthest range on the left side of Stickledown), target L (scramble board designates which number that is), and you are the Right shooter in the three-man squad for that target. Since the Admiral Hutton is shot at 900 yards, you know that you are on Stickledown Range.

- 4. Converting sighters: A shooter may convert sighting shots into record shots, either taking both or just the second (you cannot take the first without taking the second). Normally the shooter will state something like this: "I'll convert both, thank you" or "I'll convert the second, thank you."

- a) When one or two sighters are converted to record shots, it is customary for the scorer to state "Two on" or "One on" to indicate that the converting request was heard and entered on the scorecard correctly.

- b) When converting sighters, copy the value(s) from the sighting-shot boxes into the scorecard's record shot boxes, and then draw a diagonal line through the values written in the sighting-shot boxes. This will indicate that one or both sighting shots were converted.

- 5. Signing the Scorecard: The order of shots can mean a lot to final placing in the event, especially if it is a clean score.

Example: a 50-9v score (10 shots for record) might be tied with 15 other shooters. If the "5" was shot early in the shoot, the score will be much higher in the list. If you have a disagreement with the order or the score and you kept a plot sheet, you will most likely win

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an argument. If you did not plot your shots, winning an argument is probably not possible. Always check your scorecard before you sign it and turn it in.

6. Waterproofing the scorecard and plotting sheets: Be prepared, you can experience wet weather during July in the UK. Something as simple as a clear, plastic bag, in which you place the scorecard and plot sheets, can be a lifesaver. Remember to have a soft-lead pencil on hand for scoring; when the scorecard is wet, an ink pen will not write on it. There are "waterproof" devices sold at Bisley, but they are very expensive and a plastic bag works as well.

Fulton's, a gun shop and gun smithing service, has plastisized plot sheets available that can be written on when wet (lead pencil). The plots can be copied over to regular paper in the evening and the plastic sheet erased for the next day's use. These may also be available at the NRA Armoury or other commercial outlets at Bisley; the Armoury does have regular paper plot sheets for sale.

7. Special Duties (white cards) (usually not assigned to overseas competitors):

### Range/Wing Officer

As a Range/Wing Officer you will be assigned a time and range the same as the squadding of shooters. You will assist the RO by:

- watching the shooters for any messages and relaying these to the RO
- calling the RO over if the shooter requires RO assistance
- collecting score cards
- checking number of live rounds and spent cases to be returned
- helping with trigger checks

### Ammo Issue

Both Stickle-down and Century have ammo tents in which you may be required to:

- help prepare the ammo by removing the excess rounds from the boxes and making up additional boxes of the excess rounds
- issue ammo to competitors
- stamp scorecards to record the correct number of rounds received

The duties may last between 1 to 3 squads and are not difficult. It is advisable to plan the same as if you were shooting by wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, taking plenty of water and sun or wet weather protection. You may also need to take your shooting gear to avoid having to return to your lodgings. Remember to bring your white card (with sticker attached) to hand over to the RO to prove you have met your special duties obligations. Failure to do so may result in your having to attend a meeting to explain why you missed your duties and could include a monetary fine or docking of range points.

# On Equipment, Keeping Dry and Sun Protected

1. Boots: Bring waterproof footwear or washable sandals. Century Range can be very soggy. After a few rainy days and all of the foot traffic, Century Range begins to look and smell like a beach at low tide.

Stickledown Range has much better drainage, probably because it is so vertical.

- a) There are two kinds of people at Bisley: those who wear shorts and sandals and those who wear rain gear. The first has accepted that he/she will get wet and has decided that drying skin is much easier than drying clothes. The second has decided to try and stay as dry as possible for as long as possible and will opt for rain gear.
2. Mat: A ground mat that is waterproof on the down side can make life a lot nicer. However, this doesn't help when the water is falling from the sky. The pros and cons:
    - a) A thicker mat, once wet, will take longer to dry than a thinner mat.
    - b) A single thickness of waterproof canvas will dry very quickly.
    - c) A tri-fold mat with handles can double as a carrying device.
    - d) Look at the mats available to you and decide which will be best to take into a wet environment. Remember that your accommodations will be cramped and spreading out wet items to dry may be difficult.
  3. Rain gear: A pair of waterproof pants will work fine. Wear in conjunction with waterproof footwear or sandals.
  4. Spotting Scope: If the scope you normally use has a history of fogging up – leave it at home. If you can get a waterproof scope to use at Bisley, take it. The only other option is to tape your scope up with some type of plastic bag material so water cannot get into the scope body. Also, bring an extra eyepiece with you in case the first fogs up. Another option is to put silicone sealant on the seams of the scope and eyepiece.
    - a) Since all scoring is done while you are in the prone position, you do not need a scope stand with a tall rod, unless you are a coach and need something tall enough for a seated position, or you use that rod for something other than raising the scope (example; slip a roll-up mat over it for storage or for carrying on the shoulder).
    - b) Since you don't need a tall scope for scoring, you will not need that 10 pound lead weight on the scope stand.
  5. Rifle: If you are not using a fibreglass or metal stock, you may want to make sure

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that the wood finish is well sealed. Bring a rifle case that is waterproof; you might even want to use some ScotchGuard on the case to increase water protection.

- a) Breech cover: many shooters will have a chamois or other water-repellent cloth to drape over the action to keep water from getting into the breech.
  - b) Front and Rear Sight Tubes: if you do not presently use extended shade tubes, you may wish to try them, especially if you are using any kind of lens system. Remember: you must pass the 6.5kg weight test with ALL equipment installed on the rifle.
  - c) A barrel heat/mirage strap or band also counts toward the rifle's total weight.
1. Range Bag: Consider the equipment bag you intend to use and prep it for a wet environment.
    - a) A duffel bag large enough to hold your coat, mat, scope, shooting equipment, etc is a great organiser, but remember you have to carry it to the firing line from either the parking areas or your housing unit, and you have to carry it back, too.
    - b) Another option is to wear everything that didn't fit into the Range Bag. The rifle, bag and spotting scope stand can be slung over the shoulders.
    - c) Whatever style of equipment bag you decide to use, spray it with some kind of waterproofing.
  1. Shooting Coat: NRAGB rules prohibit coats with adjustable straps, but you can use your normal coats if you tape the straps so they are not adjustable. Each person will need to get into their coat, adjust the straps, and then tape them in the position that they prefer. Do not get the straps too tight. If they are too tight, you may not be able to snap them shut when you put the coat back on.
    - a) Corduroy coats can be sprayed with ScotchGuard or other waterproofing to help protect the outer shell from getting too wet. Leather coats are naturally water-repellent. Both types of coats have cloth interiors that can be waterproofed (it is easier to dry a sweatshirt than a thick shooting coat).
  2. Ammo: Remember it is advisable to keep your ammunition covered from both the rain and the sun at all times.
  3. Sun breaks, too: July weather in the UK can also be quite sunny, hot and humid so be prepared with plenty of sunscreen and maintaining fluids, electrolytes and salts.

You will be lying in position on the shooting mound from between 15 to 45 minutes so you will need to consider what you are wearing to avoid getting sun burnt.

It may also be prudent to take water and electrolytes on the mound with you and a cloth to wipe away sweat.

# On the NRA of GB

## 1. NRA Headquarters:



2. The NRA of GB has a website that you can access for information on past Annual Meetings, current rules and information on the forthcoming Imperial Meeting at:  
<http://www.nra.org.uk>

The NRA of GB has an information pack for first time shooters at:

[http://www.nra.org.uk/common/files/rangeoffice/1st\\_time\\_shooter.pdf](http://www.nra.org.uk/common/files/rangeoffice/1st_time_shooter.pdf)

- a) Mail Call: The NRA office has an in-Camp mailbox. Team members may receive invitations to receptions/parties/dinners from the clubs at Bisley. The NRA asks that competitors check periodically, if not daily, for mail.
- b) Competitor Packets: The Competitor Packet/envelope contains all of your scorecards, competitor labels and helpful notes. To collect your pack you will need to show your entry receipt/invoice as well as your Certificate of Competency if not previously provided.
- c) Awards: Overseas competitors, receiving awards, will receive a posted package after the event.
- d) Match entry: There are individual matches but also cross aggregates and Sweeps stakes. This is an extra fee (the Sweeps are cash prizes spread across the classes, the amount and number of awards per class are determined by the

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number of entries). When the 2016 entry form is installed on the internet site noted above, check the aggregate-match entry fees in case you wish to enter those events. The aggregate matches and the Sweeps can be entered after your arrival at Bisley, but there is a late-entry fee.

There are also extra competitions for concurrent teams, families matches and for individual matches such as overseas competitors, veterans, ladies, U25's etc. These are not widely advertised but can be entered once you have arrived at Bisley. The sheets are located in the NRA office and are usually a few pounds each.

- e) Newspapers: Newspapers are available daily with a contribution to one of the shooting club funds. The local newspapers give good coverage of the matches on a daily basis.
- f) Post Office: The NRA does not have a working post office but you can purchase postage stamps. There is a post office box available on camp and is located in the wall of the NRA building outside near the telephone booth.
- g) Phone Cards: It is cheaper to purchase a phone card in the UK to cover all calls back to Australia and in the UK.
- h) Telephones: There are public pay phones outside of the NRA HQ building, just outside of the Armoury entrance.
- i) Banking Facilities: The NRA Finance Manager and staff will cash Traveler's Cheques if the cheques are in pounds-sterling. Traveler's Cheques in US or Australian dollars, or any other currency, can only be cashed at a regular bank. Local shop Sainsburys has a money exchange counter.
- j) WiFi: The NRA has in the past had free WiFi available for attendees of the meeting. The password is available from the office staff. Best to purchase a USB dongle or data SIM for a tablet in the UK if you require internet access in your room. Don't hotspot off your mobile phone as the roaming charges may exceed your airfare.
- k) Parking near range: There is parking available near the ranges. However, there are only limited passes to drive onto the range itself. On Stickledown the parking is behind the 1000 yard mound indicated by the roped off sections. On Century you are able to park beside the western edge of the range in the parking areas behind the mound. There is limited parking available near the 300 yard mound on the eastern side of the range continuing on down Gallery Road towards the forested area.
- l) Non range attire: Do not wear head wear inside any building on Bisley. After hours it is also prudent to get a scope of what is the suitable attire for each club. If invited into Members areas you will be required to wear a collared shirt and blazer, possibly even a tie. Other clubs are not quite as strict, however, as a general rule after hours do not wear shorts or thongs, wear a collared shirt and definitely do not wear a hoodie if you are wearing a jumper because it is cold.

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The majority of locals tend to wear blazers usually because they have been to a prior function. There are certain functions that require 'number 1's' or equivalent.

- m) **Presentation:** The Presentation is held in the Umbrella tent on the Saturday afternoon/night. The dress code is blazer or equivalent. It lasts for two hours, however there are boards outside the tent with the running list of who has won and in what order they are to be presented. There are ushers who organise the recipients. Although there are hundreds of trophies the turnover is quite brisk and it is very easy to miss your presentation time if you are not prepared. You are able to remove your trophy from the area, however you will have to sign a waiver to do so. The speeches are usually limited to a welcoming speech and a speech from the guest presenter. There are no acceptance speeches by winners, including the Queens winner.



- n) **Chairing of the Queens Winner:** If the Queens winner happens to be a member of your team, or you may be a friend of the winner, you may be included in the chairing party. This can include chairing the winner from the 1000 yard mound to the NRA building, then on to the winners accommodation and then to the Umbrella tent for the presentation. There is not a lot of time between depositing the winner at their accommodation then on to the Umbrella tent.

Once the Presentation is completed the winner is chaired to the Army Officers Club to begin the night's festivities. If you are assisting with the chairing of the Queens winner between each club house, you can expect a lot of finger food provided by the clubs to soak up a lot of alcohol. Be warned each club has some form of beverage, usually very strong, which the winner partakes from the

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club chalice followed by each of the charring party. It is also prudent to try and organise a local to oversee the timing at each club and which is the best layout of the camp to follow.

The night finishes in the wee hours of the morning where the members of the charring party who are still 'standing' and the Queens winner are all required to stand on a table in the Surrey Club and sing (at this stage whether it be due to high spirits or alcohol most people will join in and sing their 'heart out'). There is an arrangement for the chair to be left in the Surrey Club and collected later in the week by club members. If you are not one of the charring party you can still follow the group around the camp and be part of the festivities. It is an amazing chance to visit some clubs that you otherwise may not have opportunity to enter.

### 2. The NRA Armoury:

- a) Storage of Rifles: The NRA requires rifles to be stored in secure armouries when not in the owner's possession (such as in the evenings when you leave Camp to get diner). The NRA Armoury charges about £15.00 to store a rifle for the Nationals. The Clubhouses on the Camp also have armouries. The Team may or may not contract with a private Club or Association for rifle storage.
- b) Purchasing Ammo: If you need sight-in ammo, the Armoury sells GGG in 20-round boxes. If you are only concerned with fouling the bore after a thorough cleaning, the 'zero' range (located between Century and Stickledown) may sell loose ammo for this purpose (see "On the Firing Line"). Check the operating hours of the Zero Range if you are anticipating the need to use it on a regular basis.
- c) Accommodation Office: The Accommodation Office is in the same room as the Armoury (the southern side of the HQ building).

### 3. The Stats Wall:

The results bulletin for each match is stapled to a wall just outside the NRA HQ building



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(on the north side). Squadding for team matches and for shoot-offs is also posted there.

- a) How to Read the Numbers: NRA lists the scores from the highest to the lowest, regardless of class.
  - I. The block of scores at the top of the sheet shows the scores that have won an award. The scores below the top block, after a blank space on the sheet, are all other scores fired in the match.
  - II. All overseas competitors are automatically placed in the O or X class. As you look down the list of names and scores, you will see the notation "Last X In" which means that score is the lowest X class shooter in the awards list.
  - III. You may be looking down the awards list and notice that the bottom scores in the top block are lower than the one you shot in that match. It appears to the untrained eye that the Stats Office made a mistake, but if you look again and find the "Last X In" notation, that score should be higher than your score. If it is not higher, then go to the Stats Office and point out the error.
- b) If You Enter the Sweep: The results bulletin will show "£4.00" (the 2015 amount) to the right of any score that won a Sweeps prize. Your classification notation on your squadding labels will also show "XS" rather than just "X".
- c) The Stats Office: This is located outside the NRA HQ building in the portable building East of the HQ.
  - d) Challenges: It is up to each shooter to check the daily results bulletins for any Stats Office errors. The daily match score bulletins are usually posted by 8.00pm, and the challenge period deadline is usually 12.00 noon the following day. If the results are printed on white paper, the challenge period is still active. When the bulletins are printed on yellow paper, the challenge period has passed.
- e) Tie Shoots: These often take place a day or two after the actual match. It is important to check the ends of the result walls if you believe that you will be in a tie shoot. It is your responsibility to present yourself to the RO at the appointed time.

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## Tie Shoot

Competition Alzandra

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Day, July 200

Name.	Club.	Time.	Range.	Place.
Miss L.A.E. Gowan	GB U25			
Mr B.J. Wood	Kalanda RC			
Mrs L. Bennett	GB U25			
Mr P.A.E. Charlton	Stock Exchange RC	After Queen's I	600x	Tie for 1 <sup>st</sup> place
Mr T. Horrocks	Manchester RC			
Mr S. Osmond	Manchester RC			
Mr T. Smith	GB U25			
Sgt K. Peters	1027 Sqn ATC			

Posted \_\_\_\_\_ Hrs. July 200 Chief Stabs Officer.

# On Money Matters

1. Exchange Rate: What is a pound sterling (£) worth? Even though the pound is worth more than the dollar, the numbers act the same. If you are accustomed to paying \$1.00 for something in Australia, you will pay £1.00 in England. In case you are wondering, Great Britain does not use the Euro.
1. Plastic or Cash: One option is to put money in your account and use an ATM Debit Card.
  - a) There is a large grocery/department store close to Bisley Camp called Sainsburys. ATM machines are available as well as a money exchange counter and the store itself can supply just about everything else you may need during your stay: food, housewares, hardware, etc.
  - b) Getting a cash advance with your credit card may burden you with excessive exchange rates and user fees. A Debit Card is much nicer because there are no hidden fees; you are just taking your cash out of your account.

A cheap option for Debit Card is the Multi-Currency Cash Passport which is available from Australia Post or other providers. It is the equivalent of using your everyday debit card but without having it linked to all of your funds, just the amount you load onto it. You get two cards per account (with different pins). In case you lose one you can cancel it but still have access to your money. It also has an online bank account allowing you to monitor the balance and load money if required. However, because the account is not directly linked to your personal account you should factor in a day or two delay for transferring funds. Generally there are no extra fees beyond the possible ATM charges of the individual banks in England (same as using your card in a competitor's bank in Australia). However, you are advised to confirm this when purchasing from Australia Post.

- c) A credit card, of course, works just as it always has.
1. Dinner: Many of the Clubhouses have restaurants as a part of their operation. Our team may be given temporary memberships to more than one club. However, most clubs welcome non-members for dinner (ask around for special rules, like NO Hats, NO Cell phones, Ties Required, etc).
  - a) The Team usually has three free functions to attend. Expect invitations (drinks and light food only) from the Commandant of the Canadian team, the Chairman of the Commonwealth Rifle Club and the Chairman of the NRAGB. In addition, the Army club holds a Cocktail and Canape night, usually £15-20 pounds, where the dress code is cocktail.
  - b) The pubs in the Bisley area serve excellent dinners. The Harvest featured a salad bar (unusual for an English restaurant); the Royal Oak at Pirbright had great food and a great atmosphere; etc. The problem is finding them via the

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narrow country-lane road system.

- c) Dinner prices, as mentioned above, have about the same numbers as in Australia: a steak dinner with desert and a couple of beers works out to about £30.00. In reality, the cost of the dinner is higher than in Australia due to the exchange rate. Eliminating the desert and alcohol can bring the cost down to about £20.00.
4. Breakfast and Lunch: The London and Middlesex Club serves hot breakfasts (eggs, bacon, toast and tea) every morning. Lunch, for me, consisted of groceries from Sainsbury's but there are a couple of places on Camp that serve sandwiches and pies.

One of the less expensive clubs for lunch on the range is the English XX Club which is located near the Surrey Club and in front of the zero range. For less than £5 you can usually purchase a sandwich/roll, can of soft drink and a packet of crisps (for keeping salt levels up). There are also food vans on the range and Tony Fresko Ice Cream vans drive around between the two ranges and have ice creams, water, soft drinks and occasionally packets of crisps. There is often a van on the green between the NRA offices, the Pavilion and Armourer tents which sells drinks, chips, ice creams and some selected foods. Between Century and Stickledown near the entry to the Century butts there is Jenny's Hut which serves hot food and drinks and there is also the Flapping Jacks van who sells vegetarian meals and drinks.

5. Estimating a Budget: Everyone will, of course, tend to spend at different rates. For the two weeks in 2013, I did not go through my budgeted cash. I did use my credit card to prepay the airfares and entry. If you have access to \$1500.00 cash (ATM) and a credit card, you will not run into any money problems.

# On Accommodation

1. C-Line Cabins: Some of the Team will be staying in the C-Line cabins (aka Crawford Cabins). The 2-military-cot rooms have a small chest of drawers, a sink with cold and hot running water, a lighted mirror above the sink and a ceiling light; the rooms are heated (sporadically).

The heating system is usually a wall affixed oil heater, adjustable and controlled by the person in the room which is great when it's cold and good for drying out gear. Unfortunately, there is no cooling system other than the window and door. See pics: <http://www.nra.org.uk/common/asp/rangeoffice/accommodation.asp?site=NRA>

- a) As observed: these are one-man rooms with two people in them. When one person stands up the other guy has to sit down.
  - b) The Accommodation Office supplies sheets, blanket, pillows and pillowcases.
  - c) If you want a reading light you will need to bring it with you. The room only has the one ceiling fixture and the lighted mirror.
  - d) The walls are very thin, so be careful of what you say (and do) because the blokes next door can hear you.
2. Showers and Toilets: These are located in the centre of the cabin building. Thongs for your feet are a good idea. Bathrobes are also useful for going to and fro. A cleaning service cleans the showers and toilets every few days.

There are also two amenities blocks located nearby to the C-Lines. One which contains toilets only is east of block C in C-Lines and is a brick building nestled between a few caravans and a tree. The other block is a big white 'shed' that contains showers and sinks for hand washing of clothes. Several of the ladies shower blocks on camp contain clothes spinners for extracting excess water from clothes before hanging up to dry.

3. Room Keys: The Accommodation Office will issue you a door key for the room and a door key for the showers. A minor effort is made to keep the shower doors locked but most of the time the doors are unlocked and open.
4. Electricity: The standard electrical current in England is 220 volts. Bring an AC power plug adapter travel converter with you, if you need to charge up or run electrical devices. The converters can be found at travel shops, airports etc.
5. Verandas: Each block of C-Line has a veranda running between the two outer rooms on each side, these are great for hanging clothing and gear out to dry provided you have suitable nails or jousts to hang your lines on.

## On Neighbourhood Facilities

1. Brookwood Train Station: The train station is about a one-mile walk from Bisley Camp. Trains run frequently and will take you directly into London, which is about a 45 minute one-way trip. The station attendant can answer any of your questions and sell tickets. Be sure to check the last return train of the day so you are not trapped for a night. Taking the train is definitely the easiest and quickest way into London, due to traffic volume and lack of parking. Maps are available that show the Underground and bus routes and how to get to the many places of interest (to a sightseer) in London.

The train tickets in 2013 for an off-peak ticket into Woking were around the order of £4 one way. A return trip to London was approximately £18 and an all day ticket with unlimited stops in and around London was approximately £30. Local range map at: <http://www.nra.org.uk/common/files/directions.pdf>

2. Sainsbury's Supermarket: As mentioned previously, Sainsbury is an ideal place for groceries and for many miscellaneous items. A Home Depot is a part of the complex, as is a petrol station. There are at least two available ATMs; one is a Barclay Bank machine. There is also a cafe and chemist.
3. Post Offices: There is a PO in Brookwood, convenient and easy to get to, and there is one in Knaphill.
4. Banks: Brookwood has a bank and there are at least three banks in Knaphill. As previously recommended, an ATM card is easier to use than trying to get into a bank during open hours.
5. Restaurants: There are several restaurants and pubs within 30 minutes driving time of Bisley Camp. Locations include Brookwood, Guildford, Knaphill, Bracknell, Woking, West End etc.
6. Medical Facilities: There are hospitals and pharmacies in the local area. NRA personnel can direct you to the medical facilities. An onsite doctor is on call during the meeting.
7. Taxi: There are many different taxi services around Bisley Camp. Phone numbers for these services are usually posted at NRA HQ, around the public telephones and in you competitor packet. For those wanting a car, try <http://www.airportrentals.com> or similar companies.
8. Petrol: Petrol is sold by the litre and is very expensive by our standards, around £1.40 per litre.
9. Laundry: There is a laundry service in Brookwood (not open on Wednesdays). This is a drop-off and pick-up-later service, not a coin laundry. Clothes dropped off in the morning can be ready by the afternoon, or the next morning at the latest, and the

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fee is reasonable.

# On Travel

1. Long distance airplane rides: Chances are that the flight (or flights) that you will take to England will top 23 hours. If you have connecting flights your travel time may well be significantly increased.

- a) Loose clothing: Since you will be seated for many hours at a time, it is best to wear loose clothing for comfort. Wherever possible people should try sleeping for a few hours.
- b) Shoes: As with clothing, non-restrictive shoes are best. Or simply remove the shoes and put them under the seat in front of you.
- c) International Care Packages: International flights usually supply the traveller with sock-booties so you can remove your shoes and not get your socks or the bottom of your feet dirty when walking around. Plus this is a lot more comfortable than most shoes. The package may also have eye covers so getting to sleep is easier (blocking the cabin lights or sunlight through windows).

It may be prudent to take your eye covers with you. The curtains in the accommodation on Bisley are not always good at blocking out light and you may find the eye covers useful if you wish to sleep in beyond the early sun rising or if you are wanting to get an early night and there is a light on outside of your room.

- d) Movies: International flights usually show current Hollywood productions to keep the sleepless occupied. There are also channels with music (headphones supplied) and news shows.
- e) Sleep Aids: Not always supplied depending on airline so recommend you bring your own set of earplugs to help block out surrounding noise and aid your sleep during flight.
- f) Meals: The airlines will serve meals on the flight, usually a dinner after take-off and breakfast just before arrival, assuming, of course, that you are on an overnight flight.
- g) Hydration: The air conditioning inside the plane can suck you dry. Try to drink some water and resist drinking too much coffee or alcohol.
- h) Exercise: Do not try to stay in your seat for the duration of the flight. Get up and walk around a bit. Find a place to stretch your back and legs.

2. Jet Lag Concerns: Jet lag is simply a change in body rhythm due to changing your normal cycle of sunlight and darkness. The body expects to be active at certain periods and inactive at other periods. If you change the cycle you start to feel “wrung out” and tired, you may even feel dizziness and some disorientation. If possible it is better to make an effort to get in synch with the new time zone.

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- a) When you get on the airplane, change your watch to the destination time. Then start thinking about what time it really is. While on the plane try to do the things you would normally do at home based on the new time zone – which may be sleeping for many of us.
- b) As mentioned above, try to keep well hydrated. Do not drink a lot of caffeine (regular coffee and tea) because it may keep you wide awake when you really want to sleep. Also, coffee is a diuretic: it will force water out of your system and you don't want to dry out, not to mention the many trips to the toilet.
- c) Do not drink too much alcohol. The toilet trips may double if you have a beer with dinner and then follow up some coffee.
- e) After arrival, try to expose yourself to as much sunlight as possible. Your body will react to the sunlight and help to minimise the jet lag effects, resetting your internal body clock much faster.

Once everything is stored, take a walk around Bisley camp to get the blood circulation going and to familiarise yourself with the camp and the different locations.

3. Firearms Permits (Refer Attachment 1): The team will apply for permits to bring our rifles into England. Keep this permit with you and ready for inspection. You may need to show it when you check in for your flight and you will definitely need it when you arrive in England. Even if the Team employs a 'group permit' we will each receive a permit to carry with us.

Import permits are the responsibility of each individual due to difference in state law. Be sure to obtain before leaving.

- a) Arrival: Assuming that you told the airline you are travelling with a firearm and the airline notified Customs at Heathrow or Gatwick, an airline/airport employee will bring your rifle case out of the baggage handling area and escort you to the Customs and Security offices. You will be asked to show your permit and to unlock the rifle case so the serial numbers can be verified. With everything in order, you will then depart Security and exit the airport.
  - b) Departure: After checking your luggage, you and your rifle will be taken to the Security office and the rifles will be matched to your firearms permit. Once that has been done the Security officer or airline employee will personally deliver the rifle case to the baggage handling area.
4. Leaving England: The international terminals (No. 4 Heathrow) can be very busy. Do not wheel your luggage into the long, convoluted lines of passengers without first finding an airline agent (there are usually agents standing outside of the roped lines) and telling him/her that you are traveling with a firearm.
  5. Money: As was mentioned in an earlier chapter, there are ATM machines in the baggage claim area. There is no need to purchase English currency prior to your

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arrival. On your departure, there are currency exchange kiosks in the international terminal where you can take your remaining English currency and convert back to Australian Dollars (coins will not be converted, only folding currency so you will have some souvenirs for nieces and nephews whether you like it or not).

6. Customs Check: An in-flight Customs form must be filled out. After exiting the plane, all passengers must pass through a Customs checkpoint (UK citizens have a separate line from foreign nationals; the same is true for you when you return to Australia). After showing your passport, the Customs form and answering questions (business or pleasure) you then proceed to the baggage claim area.
  - a) You are in England for pleasure, not business.
  - b) You are attending the Imperial Meeting at Bisley Camp.
  - c) You will be staying for "X" number of days (each person may have a different length of stay).
  - d) A similar form will be filled out on your return to the Australia.
7. Are you Protected?: England does not require a vaccination record for visitors. However, anyone traveling or regularly eating in restaurants, or who deals with sanitation issues in the work place, should consider Hepatitis A vaccinations. Two shots about 6 months apart will protect you for life. Hepatitis A can be received from a carrier quite easily. The Hepatitis B vaccination series is only necessary if you come in contact with infected blood. Contact your local country health department or family physician.

Insurance: Australian Medicare/Health funds are generally not reciprocal in the United Kingdom so you may wish to check your options for travel insurance. It is recommended that you nominate separate cover for your firearm within any insurance purchased.

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### Acknowledgements:

Original article produced in 2002 by Gary Rasmussen.

Version 1 original article retyped October 2013 by Joanne Corbett

Version 2 original article edited in November 2013 by James Corbett

Version 3 new content inserted in January 2014 by Sarah Hayes

Version 4 hyperlinks and pictures in May 2014 by James Corbett

Version 5 updates, new content and pictures inserted in September 2015 by Steve Negus

This is a working document, please email any comments and/or pictures to:

[nraa@bigpond.com](mailto:nraa@bigpond.com)

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### Attachment 1 - Paperwork required for travelling with firearms

#### Export out of Australia:

##### B319

- [ This form will allow you to be issued with a CCID, which is an individual's ID you will need to apply for to be eligible to export, you don't need to apply for this every year the number can be used for life.
- [ Fill out part C and D. Role requested is Exporter *and* Importer

##### B957

- [ Export Declaration application which will be processed and returned to you as a document 'Export Declaration Advice' with an EDN number
- [ To fill out:
  1. Leave blank
  2. Select OWNER
  3. Your choice, e.g. Hayes 2013, or Hayes Bisley 13 if travelling with firearms more than once in the year
  4. Leave blank
  5. The date you are leaving Australia
  6. Leave blank
  7. Select NO
  8. Select NO
  9. Leave blank
  10. Your CCID number
  11. Leave blank
  12. "N"
  13. Select AB
  14. Write your name
  15. The city you are leaving from as an international flight (e.g. if you are boarding in Adelaide with a stop over in Sydney put Adelaide)
  16. The city you loaded the firearms onto the plane (the same city as the entry in 15)
  17. "London"
  18. "UK"
  19. Select Air
  20. The flight number as printed on your ticket
  21. Leave blank
  22. Select N
  23. Write the number of cases with firearms, usually 1 for 1 rifle case
  24. "Not containerized"
  25. "AUD"
  26. "AUD"
  27. A value amount of your rifle e.g. \$7,000
  28. "99030010"
  29. Use the description on your rifles registration
  30. "AU-\*\*\*" \*\*\* use your state, e.g Vic, NSW, WA etc...
  31. "Australia"
  32. Leave blank

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33.
  - a. "1"
  - b. "Not required"
34.
  - a. "20" a rough estimate of what your rifle case will weigh
  - b. "kg"
35. Enter the same value as number 27 above
36. Leave blank

Declaration – select Owner, and fill out the information and sign

### DEC07

[ Restricted Good Permit, which is *valid for 30 days only*

[ To fill out:

1 through to 8 – fill out information

9. "As per attached"

10 through to 17 – leave blank

18. "National Rifle Association, Bisley Rifle Range"

19. "Woking"

20. "Surrey"

21. "UK"

22. "GU24 OPB"

23. Write the date you are flying out of Australia

24. Write the port you are boarding your international flight from (not the city you have a stop over in if your flight lands elsewhere in Australia after you have boarded)

25. Write the flight number

26. "UK"

27. "London"

28 through to 33. Enter the details as per your rifle's registration papers, 1 rifle per line

34. Select NO

35. Select YES

Declaration – fill out the exporters declaration

These forms can be submitted at the same time as the RGP application, you will need to submit a copy of your passport, firearms license, and firearms registration papers, preferably in colour.

### Import into England:

A UK Visitors Firearms Permit is your firearms license in England as well as your import and export information.

You need to make sure the rifle ID matches what is on your rifle/s and the date of validity matches the days you will be arriving and leaving England before you sign it and travel.

### Entry pick up:

To pick up your entry from the NRAGB you will need a copy of the following:

- [ NRA Range Safety Awareness and Competency Test

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[ Entry receipt

### Export out of England:

Visitors Firearms Permit – Heathrow airport security will take custody of your firearms and may give you a 'Declaration of Surrender of Firearms' as a receipt

### Import into Australia:

Apply for your B709 in April, which will give ample time for you to follow it up if it hasn't reached you within a few weeks via post. You will need the original signed copy (it will be signed in blue pen) for customs, otherwise they may keep your rifles in storage until you can produce a copy signed in blue.

[B709 - ACT](#)

[B709 - WA](#)

[B709 - NT](#)

[B709 - QLD](#)

South Australia – contact [SAPOL.FirearmsBranch@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:SAPOL.FirearmsBranch@police.sa.gov.au) and request a B709

[B709 TAS](#)

Vic – attached (no hyperlink available)

[B709 - NSW](#) and [B709a NSW](#)

### Airlines

Most airlines require a copy of any import/export documentation prior to travel. They may or may not give you written confirmation, usually in the form of an email, or a notification. You will need to check with your airline.

It's best to carry all the above items as customs may require to sight/photocopy all import and export approvals, there is nothing worse than digging through your bag in customs to get to a piece of paper!