



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 258396

## Newsletter 2010

### **CURA Council 2009-2010:**

<i>President:</i>	Lt. Col. S. Gray
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	Dr. C. H. Roads & Mr. R. A. H. Vary
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr. T. J. Elliott
<i>Senior Treasurer:</i>	Dr. M. Holness
<i>Captain:</i>	Edward Dickson (Trinity Hall)
<i>Secretary:</i>	James Bryson (Selwyn)
<i>Junior Treasurer:</i>	Simon Jones (Churchill)
<i>Match Rifle Vice-Captain:</i>	Mike Judge (Trinity)
<i>Target Rifle Vice-Captain:</i>	John Lindsay (Downing)
<i>Social Secretary:</i>	Jo Harris (Magdalene)

[www.cam.ac.uk/societies/cura](http://www.cam.ac.uk/societies/cura)

### *Dear Member, Old Member or Friend of the Association,*

The days are getting shorter and once again the time has come to reflect on the past year for CURA, but also to look ahead to the next exciting season of full-bore shooting. While we wait for our next opportunity to get out on the range, it is my pleasure as Captain to bring you the highlights of our last season.

#### **Easter Bisley**

In a situation fairly unheard of, the weather gods were kind to us and we remained dry, if still a little chilly, all week. The usual format of 2 days of match rifle, followed by Target rifle, introduced our novices to the joys of full bore shooting.

It was a promising sign for the season to come that 20 members were in attendance this year. During the week the new compulsory safety tests and assessments were conducted to certify everyone under the new regulations, the training week now being compulsory for new members to meet these requirements. Five members also successfully completed a Range Conducting Officers' (RCO) course.

Prizes went to Henry Day for the short range aggregate, James Bryson for the overall aggregate and Aaron Croucher for the novice's award. The Secretary's team managed to overcome the Captain in the annual match, despite the efforts of Henry Day shooting a 49.4 at 500x in a mere 2 minutes and 30 seconds before the hooter sounded for lunch.

The week culminated in our annual match against OCRA, in which we were victorious by 5 points with James Bryson top scoring.

Thanks must be given to those members who returned to pass on their invaluable advice and to Tim Elliott whose assistance is always greatly appreciated in giving the RCO course and for the week as a whole.

#### **New Equipment**

Through a joint purchase with the small-bore club we acquired our very own SCATT machine after a generous grant from the University. This was used in the garden of the English Eight during our training at Easter Bisley and shows that CURA takes its training seriously. With a number of the club able to use and interpret SCATT this has proved a valuable investment for the club.

For the coming year we have another generous grant from the University Sports' Syndicate to spend on two coaching scopes.

There are still ongoing repairs and replacements needed for the club kit, and this is only made possible by the generosity of the Old Members and Friends of the club. If anyone can help us continue to make these great differences to the club by way of loans or donations of old equipment then please do get in touch.

#### **EVIHC Meeting**

With exams looming, five CURA members shot in the English Eight Spring Meeting. Congratulations in particular should go to Rosanne Furniss who came 15<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in the U25 Trophy with 413.26. This also earned Rosanne 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Ladies' Trophy, by one V-Bull, to Mrs Brister, the Captain of the Great Britain MR team to Australia next spring.

It should be noted that the top three places in the OCRA Trophy went to members of CURA, with Mike Judge and Dan Kumbang placing second and third respectively, which was a promising

result looking ahead to that sought after win in the Humphrey.

### **Easter Term**

At the beginning of the season we managed to produce teams of both high quality and quantity, a gift to a captain, but as the season drew on, inevitably, exam pressures increased and numbers dwindled.

An MR match against the NLRC, Wales and OURC produced a 2<sup>nd</sup> place for CURA, beating both Wales and OURC, with Dan Kumbang top-scoring for CURA with 201.12.

On the same day, the first TR match of the season after Easter Bisley was against the RAF in the traditional empire match format. A rather unusual nine-a-side match was conducted in rather blustery conditions but after 300 we were already 15 points up. The weather continued to get worse and we concluded at 1000 yards with only 10 out of the 18 firers from both sides breaking 40. However, we finished 52 points up with George Wright gaining the top score of 191.17, a fine effort in the day's conditions.

The next match was the weekend of the Purples and the inaugural Mini Palma match. For the Mini-Palma the course of fire was 2+15 over 800, 900 and 1000 yards. This was some members' first shoot at 800 yards and a practice session was provided in the morning. Conditions at 900 and 1000 proved a little tricky and many points were dropped because of the unforgiving nature of the Palma targets. We finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall and the highest U25 team. Ed Dickson top scored with 436.20 and also top scored overall on the day at 1000 with 148.6 dropping his 13<sup>th</sup> to count for an 8. In the Purples the next day, CURA unfortunately did not do as well as last year, finishing in 19<sup>th</sup> place with 1129.89. Nonetheless we had at least managed to produce a team of 8, which past captains will know is a tough ask as exams start!

A cold and fast changing wind meant conditions were difficult in our match against the LMRA. Even the warm hearty dinner kindly provided by the LMRA in exchange for port the night before couldn't tempt more of our members away from their books in exam term and so numbers were tight, but we managed to get a team of 6 together and won by 7 points. Lara Bogie top scored with 181.13

### **Cambridge Cup**

Once again the Cambridge University Long Range Rifle Club met for the Cambridge Cup at Barton Road ranges, with 1000, 1100 and 1200 yard shoots happening over two days of competition. Three match rifle shots from CURA were allowed to participate in the competition. The weather was mostly kind to us, with only the last shoot of the weekend being wet. Jim McAllister won the competition and Rosanne Furniss (Trinity Hall) won the Notman Cup for the highest placed undergraduate.

### **The Imperial**

During the MR meeting there were strong performances from many members. In the Hopton John Lindsay finished 21<sup>st</sup>, narrowly avoiding breaking his T and this earned John the prizes for top under-25 and top tyro. Rosanne Furniss

finished 33<sup>rd</sup>, only 8 points behind John despite a rifle failure half way through the competition. Michael Judge and Simon Jones also finished in the top 10 tyro's.

The FW Jones was a little worrying for CURA, placing 7<sup>th</sup> and last. But, of course, what really mattered for the club was the Humphrey. A steady start put CURA into the lead by 3 points but a stunning performance by the IV at 1100 increased our lead by a whopping 20 points to 23 points. Both Rosanne Furniss and Mike Judge scored 74s leaving only 1200 to go. CURA pulled ahead yet again to produce a convincing 30 point win over OURC.

Due to their strong performances in the Hopton, both Rosanne Furniss and John Lindsay (reserve) were chosen to shoot for England in the Elcho. This is a great achievement for anyone but was particularly noteworthy for Rosanne as she was the first woman to shoot for England in the Elcho in the 147 year history of the competition, scoring 206.19. Rosanne has since been awarded an Exceptional Full Blue for her achievement.

Encouraged by our achievements in the Humphrey, we moved on to target rifle. With 16 members competing there were many successes. Ed Dickson, John Lindsay and Rosanne Furniss all finished within the top 200 of the Grand Aggregate (69<sup>th</sup>, 148<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> respectively). The CURA A, B and C teams also took the top three positions in the Universities' Aggregate. With so many members on top form before the chancellors, the selection was a long and difficult process.

CURA arrived at the point after a healthy breakfast of full English and keen for battle. James Bryson did his very best to scare his coach with his one and only sighter, called a 'good shot', finding the high left magpie. With a fairly conservative "half down and three-quarters right", his first to count was a central V-Bull! You can't win a match from 300, but you can certainly lose it and we kept our nerve to total 384.44 with nothing below a 47.5. This gave us a 5 point lead over OURC.

An improvement by a point increased our lead to 14 and at 600 CURA just kept getting better, producing two 50s in the rain and a range score of 388.41. The result was yet another Chancellors win for CURA, beating Oxford by 24 points, with Ed Dickson top scoring with 148.18.

This win marked the end of a successful year of competition with Oxford, in which every Varsity match was won: the small-bore 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ladies' and 3P teams, the match rifle and the target rifle. Rosanne Furniss and Lara Bogie missed the Discretionary Full Blue criteria after scoring 145.19 and 143.15 respectively in the Chancellors (having scored 197 and 195 in the Heslop and Bentata respectively). Ed Dickson satisfied the TR criterion but had scored 194 in the Heslop and thus yet another year goes by where the Discretionary Full Blue eludes us.

The day after the Chancellors', Ed Dickson competed in the St. George's final, finishing fourth with 150.19. Both Henry Day and John Lindsay made it to HM Queen's Prize final, finishing 71<sup>st</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> respectively. In the University Long Range match CURA was unfortunately plagued by equipment malfunctions at 1000 yards and the A,

B and C teams finished fourth, seventh and sixth respectively.

Special mention should also go to Dan Kumbang who represented and captained Malaysia in the Junior Kolapore, Junior McKinnon and Junior Overseas, successfully winning all three competitions, with Dan top scoring in the Junior Overseas.

The Roads' Cup was under threat this year due to lack of muzzle loading rifles, and the course of fire was limited to 4 shooters from each side shooting two prone, two kneeling and one standing shot. We won this match by 18 points to 14, with Simon Jones top scoring with 8 which includes a very rare bull 5 from the prone position.

#### **Further Afield**

Individually, a number of our members gained recognition in representation of national teams this season: Henry Day was selected for the preliminary Palma squad, unfortunately not making through the next round, but has been selected to tour Canada in the summer of 2010 with the Great Britain Rifle Team. Congratulations to Henry for his first GB touring cap. Holly Foster toured to South Africa with England for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the South African Bisley Union matches in April. Ed Dickson was chosen to be Adjutant for the GBU25 tour to Australia in 2011, with the aim to retain the U25 World Championships, with Henry Day and Holly Foster in the training squad.

#### **Thanks**

Once again our deepest thanks go to all who have helped CURA over this past year: to name but a few, the Lovell & Green Trust, its trustees and benefactors receive our sincere gratitude for the financial and material support given to CURA and its members, which makes the sport possible for us all. We thank John Bloomfield for his continued maintenance of our rifles, and all those who have donated monetary gifts or are continual financial supporters of CURA receive our most heartfelt appreciation. Without your continuing support we would certainly be unable to continue enjoying the sport that we love.

If anyone should wish to give to the Association, a Gift Aid form is included with this letter such that we can make the most of your generous gift. Overleaf is a list of members with whom we have lost contact details; please do let us know if you can help with any of these. Please also ensure, if your own contact details change, that you keep your own updated!

I wish you all the best, and very much hope to see you at the dinner.

Yours as ever,

*The Captain of CURA  
Edward Dickson*



The Humphrey IV and Coaches 2009



The Chancellors VIII and Reserve  
2009

Below is a list of members whose current contact details are not known:

\*Mr CD Ilie (Ciprian/"Chippy"), St Edmund's  
\*Mr T Roberts (Tom)

\*There is a particularly urgent need to contact these members

Mr G Adams (Guy), Trinity, 1984-1987  
Miss A Ashman  
Mr T Ashton  
Mr B Brierton (Ben)  
Miss L Carr (Lucy), New Hall 1993-1996  
Mr AMG Clarke  
Mr RPG Coghlan Trinity, 1983-1986  
Mr GR Croston Wolfson, 1983-1986  
Mr SR Gooch (Stuart), Trinity  
Mr AJ Goodbody (Andy), St John's  
Mr RJ Griffiths (Roderick)  
Miss AE Gumbley (Anne), Pembroke, 2005-?  
Mr MK Hardyman St John's  
Mr T Kendrick (Tim), Trinity  
Mr C Lawrence (Christopher), Downing  
Miss J Martin Sidney Sussex  
Mr E Maxim (Eric)  
Mr RJ Middlemas Pembroke, 1924-1927  
Mr A Robinson (Alex)  
Mr P Rowland (Pete)  
Mr G Rutter (Geoff)  
Mr CG White (Chris), Pembroke, 2005-2006  
Mr CNW Wood Queens', 1996-1999  
Mr CC Zhang (Chris), Queens'  
Mr S Black (Stephen), Hughes Hall

The following members we only have unverified email addresses for:

Ms S Gentles (Sandra)  
Mr A Ghavami (Abdollah), Queens', 2005-?  
Mr PC Hansen (Peter), Hughes Hall  
Mr J Khoo (Johan), Queens', 1991-1998  
Mr DN Naumann (David), Gonville & Caius, 2004-?  
Miss R Orr (Rachel)  
Mr G Panella (Gavin/"Woody"), St John's