

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RIFLE ASSOCIATION



Registered Charity No. 258396

Newsletter 2012

CURA Council 2011-2012:

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| Senior Treasurer: | Dr. M. Holness |
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| Vice-Captain (Target Rifle): | Alexander Dowle (Emmanuel) |
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<http://cura.soc.srcf.net/>

Dear Member, Old Member or Friend of the Association,

The days are getting shorter and once again the time has come to reflect on both the past year for CURA and to look ahead to the next exciting season of full-bore shooting. With the small-bore season well underway, we still have a little longer to wait for our next opportunity to shoot against the elements. In the meantime, it is my pleasure as Captain to bring you the highlights of our last season.

Easter Bisley

A solid turnout for the training week saw sixteen members travelling down from Cambridge to Bisley at the end of term. After the briefing and the safety test the novices had their first taste of full-bore shooting on Stickle-down with match rifles. While the coaches tried to remember which way to wind the sights, the novices quickly picked up the hang of full bore shooting and some impressive scores were achieved.

After two days of match rifle we moved onto target rifle shooting. Some fantastic performances from novices and returning members alike heralded great promise for the coming season. Invaluable experience of Imperial-style competition took place at 500 yards on Century

and this was also good practice for the matches at the end of the week. Particularly impressive was Douglas Phillips shooting a possible on only his third ever time of target rifle shooting. The OCRA match was as competitive as ever. OCRA built up a lead after 300 yards and, despite CURA's best efforts, we were unable to catch them. OCRA won with 816.87 to CURA's 791.62. Ed Dickson top scored for CURA with 103.13.

Thanks to all the returning members who, as ever, were willing to pass on their knowledge to new members. Tim Elliott's RCO course along with his invaluable assistance over the week were greatly appreciated by all.

New Equipment

We are extremely grateful to Peter Clarke who donated the funds to purchase a rifle to CURA in the last year. Many others have been very generous and with the larger number of members currently within CURA we are grateful for all donations to the club. There are still repairs and replacements that are needed on 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 loans or donations of old equipment then please do get in touch.

Summer Matches

The first match after our training week was a Match Rifle match against Wales and the North London Rifle Club in which an inexperienced CURA team was beaten by Wales and NLRC but acquitted themselves admirably, with Douglas Phillips top scoring with 207.15, a very commendable score on only his third ever day of match rifle shooting. The following day CURA took on the RAF and beat both the serving and retired teams. The fiercest competition of the match was between Henry Day, Ed Dickson and Alex Dowle over who would win the prized RAF tankard for top scoring. With just two points separating the three of them going into 1000 yards, it was always going to be close, but in the end Ed Dickson was triumphant.

A few weeks later, CURA took on the challenge of the Mini Palma match, the first time many of the team had ever shot on Palma targets. However, they all acquitted themselves admirably and finished 10th overall, with Henry Day in particular doing very well, scoring the 6th highest score with 220.15v ex. 225.45.

At the beginning of May, CURA took on the London and Middlesex Rifle Association in a match that is traditionally preceded by a formal dinner. As by sheer coincidence the L&M ran out of port that same night, I think it is safe to say it was a very enjoyable evening. The match the next day got off to a slow start that was not aided by equipment malfunctions. In the end, the LMRA won, with Ashley Abrahams top-scoring for CURA with 181.8.

The next week seven members of CURA took part in the English Eight Club, National Rifle Club of Scotland and Welsh Rifle Association Spring Meeting. Good scores were achieved by many, especially considering that this was the first time that four of those participating had self coached in a competition. Mike Judge finished 30th overall and Nick Hall came 3rd u25.

The following weekend saw the standard difficulties of fielding teams in exam term surface, with CURA only being able to get three people to a match against the north London and Wales. However, help appeared in the form of Nick Tremlett, allowing CURA to form a past and present team that came a commendable 6th, beating one of the NLRC teams and, importantly,

OURC, by 30 and 40 point margins respectively. Nick Tremlett top-scored both for CURA and overall, but the scores of Douglas Phillips and Mike Judge would not have looked out of place in the winning team. Close matches against the Surrey and the Army followed the next day, with an under-strength CURA acquitting themselves well but sadly not winning.



The Victorious CURA Squad

The target rifle match against the North London was another enjoyable competition, but sadly CURA were not successful. Douglas Phillips top scored with 91.5 ex.100.20. A few weeks later CURA enjoyed more success against the North London in match rifle, beating the 'C' team and coming within 7 points of the 'A' team. Wales carried the day with 402.32, compared to CURA's 391.15. David Firth top scored with 132.5 ex.150.30. A respectable end to a competitive term.

Cambridge Cup

In June, the Cambridge University Long Range Rifle Club once again kindly invited three members of CURA to shoot the Cambridge Cup at Barton Road. Due to work commitments one of these members had to miss a few shoots but a great time as always was had by everyone both on and off the range. The weather was kind to us and as usual the company was excellent. In the competition for the Notman Cup for highest placed undergraduate, Ashley Abrahams and John Lindsay had a very close competition, coming down to the last five shots on the final day. John Lindsay emerged triumphant in the end, beating Ashley by three points. Mark Haszlkiewicz won the overall competition.



The Victorious Humphry Team

Imperial

Strong performances in the Match Rifle competitions saw John Lindsay, Ashley Abrahams, Michael Judge, Douglas Phillips and Kay Sharpington all ranked in the top 10 tyros. John Lindsay deserves special mention for winning the u25 trophy both overall and in the Albert. Ashley Abrahams and Mike Judge were selected to represent England in the Five Nations match. As usual, the FW Jones match was a testing ground for selection for the Humphry Challenge Cup team. Despite challenging conditions, CURA beat OURC by 23 points, good encouragement for the coming varsity match. Conditions for the Humphry were deceptive; what appeared to be a gentle breeze had the capacity to change direction at random intervals and the coaches did a good job keeping the shooters in the black. Going into 1200 yards, CURA held the narrowest of leads, 531.32 to OURC's 530.30. However, the experience of the CURA team showed at 1200 yards, where their quick shooting enabled them to take advantage of lulls in the wind and put more rounds down than OURC, increasing our lead. In the end, CURA won with 792.50 to OURC's 773.42, Douglas Phillips top-scoring with 203.12. This was a record eleventh consecutive win in the Humphry match, breaking the record held by OURC for the first ten years of the match.

At the same time as the Humphry was going on, four members of CURA were taking on Canada in the Lions match. Good shooting by the Cambridge

team resulted in a convincing win of 361.26 to Canada's 345.11. Henry Day top-scored with 95.7 ex.100.20.

Following on from both of these triumphs, the mood was one of quiet confidence going into the target rifle Grand Aggregate. Solid shooting by many members of CURA did nothing to offset this. James Diviney came 4th overall in the Alexandra competition, while both Ed Dickson and Alex Dowle both made it through to the second stage of the St Georges and the Queen's Prize. Overall in the Grand Aggregate Ed Dickson finished 138th, John Lindsay 202nd, Alex Dowle 259th and Olly Collas 359th. All of these achievements, along with many others to numerous to mention, meant competition for places in the Chancellors Challenge Plate team was even fiercer than usual. The Chancellors' team featured five who had competed in and won last year's match so hopes were high. Oxford had a strong team this year and despite the experience of the Cambridge team, there was no room for complacency. The experienced showed through at 300yards, where better organisation allowed CURA to pull ahead by 24 points, but OURC swiftly recovered at 500 and won 600yards. However, CURA's early lead was insurmountable and the Chancellors trophy was retained for another year with a score of 1149.107 to OURC's 1126.85. John Lindsay top-scored with 146.16, including a hugely impressive 50.10 at 300 yards, believed to be the first time anyone has achieved that in the Chancellors match.

CURA's B team won the Universities Long Range, beating the A team into second place by four points. The C team came 8th out of 13 teams. CURA's A team won the Universities Aggregate by some margin, while the B team came second and the C team came 4th, showing the strength in depth within the squad. The Roads Cup was also competed for once again this year. As always a close match, it came down to the final shot, with CURA emerging triumphant, beating OURC 17 to 15 out of a possible 120.

Autumn competitions

At the end of August, several members took part in the Welsh Open meeting, both target and Match rifle. The most notable performance of the weekend was Martyn Higson finishing 4th u25 in Wales. In September, four members of CURA travelled up to Blair Atholl ranges to shoot in the National Rifle Club of Scotland Open. The heavy rain/typical Scottish weather meant that everyone

was extremely grateful for the gazebos. The joys of electronic targets were enjoyed by all, but that joy was nothing compared to the fantastic meeting dinner. The next day saw Ashley Abrahams finish 14th, Douglas Phillips 17th and John Lindsay 20th overall. Two weeks later in the English Autumn meeting, Ashley Abrahams finished 11th with Mike Judge 18th and Douglas Phillips 24th. Ashley won top under 25.

Further Afield

During Easter term John Lindsay formed part of the NRA team to the Channel Islands, top-scoring in their victorious match. Henry Day represented Great Britain on their recent tour of Canada, distinguishing himself, while both he and Ed Dickson were in the GB u25 World Championship team in Australia. Henry finished 30th under 25 in the world, a fantastic achievement.

150th Chancellors Dinner

A Dinner to celebrate the 150th Chancellors match will be held on Saturday 14th April 2012 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, London. Details are still being finalised, but any former or current member of CURA interested in attending is invited to contact the current secretary of OCRA, Ben Perkins (ben.perkins@jesus.oxon.org)

CUSBC

The Small Bore Club also enjoyed a successful season, with many new members joining the club. The Varsity matches took place at the end of Lent term. The first VIII competed for the Heslop trophy, winning with 1513 (ex. 1600) to Oxford's 1479. James Diviney top-scored with 197 ex.200. The Ladies IV competed for the Bentata trophy, also winning with a score of 744 (ex. 800) to OURC's 691. Magdalena Jasicova top scored with 191. A few weeks later the second team won the Kensington trophy 1455 to Oxford's 1373. Tom French top scored with 192. Sadly the Lermann Three-Position match was forfeited by Oxford as they could not practice 3P in their new range.



The Victorious Chancellors Team

Thanks

Once again our deepest thanks go to all who have helped CURA over the past year: the Lovell and Green Trust and our armourer, John Bloomfield have helped keep us shooting, as have all those who have donated monetary gifts or are continual financial supporters of CURA. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to you all. Without your continuing support we would be unable to continue enjoying the sport that we all love. We would also like to thank all those who donated their time to coach us and helped contribute to the very successful season we had.

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. If you know of any member that has not received this newsletter, would you please ask them to contact the Captain of CURA so that they will receive this in the future. I would also be grateful if you could inform the club if your contact details have changed so that we do not lose contact with our members. CURA are also currently looking for a sponsor and if you happen to know of anyone interested in sponsoring us, we would be very thankful if they could get in touch.

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

Yours as ever,

**The Captain of CURA
Ashley Abrahams**