

## **CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TEAMS**

From Jim Thompson, Chairman, DCRA International Teams Committee

The Executive Committee has, during 2009, been considering the state of Canadian International Teams and what steps might be taken to improve our performance. The following paper formed the basis of this consideration. At the end of this article, I will summarise what has been approved and which matters are still pending. Perhaps the most important message is that, whatever is done, it must be a continuing effort and it must be engaged in, not only at the national level, but in provinces and clubs across the country.

### **Preamble**

In the last few years, Canada and the DCRA have struggled to put out top quality teams for international competition. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the most important are:

- a. Lack of funding to support increasingly expensive training programmes and travel costs.
- b. A decreasing pool of target rifle shooters, especially experienced team shooters and coaches, as the more elderly leave the sport and are not being replaced in sufficient numbers by new shooters.
- c. More limited time that shooters have for travel.

### **Why is this important?**

- a. Team shooting is an integral part of the fullbore TR and, increasingly, the F Class, shooting disciplines. Success in team matches brings distinction to our shooters and if properly publicised to the DCRA and Canada.
- b. Being part of a national team is a goal that can encourage development of shooters, and give the newer shooters something to strive for. It can therefore increase participation and membership.

### **Canadian Teams**

Typically, Canadian Teams can be categorised as follows (in no particular order of priority):

- a. The "Bisley" TR Team at the Imperial Meeting - annual. There are matches for the main team, plus under 25s and cadets. For well over 100 years, this has been the core of the DCRA's overseas team activity. Reduction of funding and the loss of service air have substantially increased the cost to individuals. There is only modest financial support from the DCRA, but a good deal of office and administrative help. I believe the Bisley Team occupies such an important part of the DCRA's make-up that it should continue on an annual basis with increased levels of support: free accommodation in the Bisley Pavilion, support by DCRA for team entry fees, the annual Canadian Teams Reception, travel and other costs. DCRA Office support would be provided in return for a service charge paid by the team to the DCRA. The normal size of the Bisley Team is 23: Commandant, Adjutant, 3 coaches and 18 shooting members.
- b. The WLRC TR Team at the World Long Range Championships (WLRC) – generally every four years. The matches are for the main "Palma" team, Veterans, Under 25s, Under 21s and Under 19s. Not all the latter three are necessarily held during each WLRC. It is proposed that these teams should receive the bulk of available DCRA funding and should be the priority for DCRA team efforts. All other teams will benefit from the continuity of training plans and team shooting procedures that the WLRC teams will generate. Making the effort a continuous one from one WLRC to the next will provide the best basis for an overall improvement in Canadian teams' performance.
  1. The WLRC Team Captains should be appointed by DCRA Council in the winter immediately following the previous WLRC. The Captain for 2011 was appointed in 2008; for 2015, the appointment should be made early in 2012; for 2019, early in 2016, and so

- on. The Captains of the WLRC Age Teams should also be appointed as early as possible, so that there can be all possible interaction between the plans for all the WLRC teams. Planning for U25/21/19 teams should be initiated at the same time, through discussions with Canadian Cadet Authorities and canvassing of potential U25 shooters. The DCRA International Teams Committee (ITC) will have one of its members specifically tasked with planning for U25/21/19 World Championship Teams.
2. Training and selection procedures for all these teams are to be published ( in the *Marksman* and on the DCRA web site) at the same time that applications for all these teams are invited.
  3. Training and preparation for all these teams should be part of a cross-country co-ordinated effort, under the overall direction of the WLRC Team Captain.
- c. The “Commonwealth Games” TR Team – every four years. The Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships (CSFC) are held in the year preceding the Games or earlier in the same year. Procedures for selection will be approved by the Executive Committee on recommendation of the ITC. The procedures will be published (*Marksman*, web site and DCRA Programme).
- 1 Generally four shooters will be named from the initial selection process. Immediately after this is done, the ITC will, in consultation with the named shooters, select the Manager/Coach for the Team.
  - 2 The Manager/Coach, in conjunction with the ITC and the shooters, will determine the procedures for training and final selection of the shooters.
  - 3 It will normally be the intention for three shooters, and the Manager/Coach to attend the CSFC, after which final selection of two shooters will be made for the Games.
- d. The “America” Match TR Team – generally every two years, alternating between Canada and the USA.
1. The America Match, which started in 2002, is held every two years, alternating between Canada and the USA. We normally hold it at Connaught on the Sunday after the Governor’s Final; in the US, it is normally part of the Spirit of America shoot, held at Raton in early September. The timing of the SOA in the USA is unfortunate for us, being close to the end of the CFRC. It may also be unfortunate for some of the Americans for a similar reason, so that they don’t come to Connaught.
  2. We have hosted the match in 2002 and 2006, and will do so again in 2010. In 2004 and 2008, it was held in the USA, but we were not able to field a team. One or two teams from elsewhere have gone to Raton for the match, skipping Connaught.
  3. The match ‘belongs’ to the US NRA, but we were a co-founder. It is unfortunate that we have not been present when it has been held in the USA. When in Canada, it has sometimes been a struggle to find people who can stay at Connaught for the extra day.
  4. It is suggested that we continue our efforts to raise a team both in Canada and the USA. It would have to be almost entirely self-funded, but some modest support should be provided if possible.
  5. It is suggested that we try to appoint the Captain two years ahead, whether the match is to be in Canada or the US. That means we should move on 2010 now, and appoint for 2012 in August 2010. That will give the person as much time as possible to try to arrange a team.
  6. It may be that some of the western shooters will prefer to go to the SOA, rather than coming to Connaught. Hence it may be advisable to seek a captain from Western Canada. However, having a primarily western team at the America Match and SOA might reduce attendance at the CFRC.
  7. Given the problems, it may be time to discuss this again with the US NRA, perhaps moving to a four-year cycle, in between WLRCs.

- e. The “Australia” Match TR Team – under direction of ICFRA, can only be held when an Australian team is competing. It is generally held in conjunction with another event or meeting. The Team size is 10 shooters, plus officers and coaches. This match will held in Bisley in 2010.
- f. “Good will TR Teams”. These are generally more informal groups of shooters invited by a local host to take a shooting holiday. A DCRA individual is usually interested enough to make the arrangements. Such teams may be approved by the DCRA, in which case the nature of the tour must be publicised and applications invited. These teams are essentially self-funded. Occasionally, “special” invitations are received, of a higher status than a shooting holiday (for example the South African anniversary shoot in 2009). The ITC will review all such invitations as they come in and will determine what steps can be taken to form a team.
- g. The “F Class Team” at the F Class World Championships (FCWC) – roughly every four years. There may be teams in the F(Open) and F(Restricted) Classes.
  1. Now governed by ICFRA Rules, the FCWC may include team events for F(Open) and/or F(Restricted) Classes. The event is held about every four years. It was at Bisley in 2009. ICFRA has now decided that the FCWC will be held in the USA in 2013 and in Canada in 2017.
  2. Canada, as the founder of F Class, should be represented at these events. While F Class has not yet grown to rival the size of TR, it is now an important part of the shooting culture. Hence, recognition of and support for F Class Teams to the FCWC should be part of the team shooting mandate of the DCRA.
  3. I suggest that arrangements similar to those for the WLRC be established. An F Class Team Captain should be appointed as soon as possible after the FCWC. [Steps are currently under way to select the F Class Team Captain for 2013]
- h. “F Class Team to Bisley”. Currently, there is no regular F Class Team to Bisley along the lines of the annual TR Team. It is recommended that the F Class Advisory Sub-Committee of the Executive consider the viability of sending an F Class Team to Bisley every one or two years. This would compete in the F Class International Team Match and in other matches that may form part of the Bisley Meeting. Appointment of Team Officers, team selection and use of the Macdonald Stewart Pavilion by the team would be on a similar basis to the methods used for the annual TR Team. The team size requirement for the current match at Bisley is seven, including Captain, 4 firers and 2 coaches, having just 4 shooters doing everything would suffice. See Bisley TR Team above.
- i. “Goodwill F Class Teams”. These may be arranged in a fashion similar to Goodwill TR Teams, to attend such events as the SOA, US F Class Nationals, and other shoots outside the world Championships. They will be largely self-funded
- j. Canadian Teams at the annual Canadian Championships. These include TR, most importantly for the “Canada” and “Commonwealth” Matches, along with teams for Under 25s, Veterans and Cadets, as well as F Class teams.
  1. The DCRA will continue to form teams for the Canada and Commonwealth Matches, as well as working with the cadet authorities for U25 Teams.
  2. The innovation in 2008 of having second Canadian Teams fire alongside the Canada and Commonwealth Matches should be continued. This is a valuable means of increasing team shooting experience to a wider group of shooters, especially younger ones.
  3. F Class Canadian Teams at the CFRC should be more formally organised than in the past.
  4. Every effort must be made to enhance the inter-Provincial Matches at the CFRC, especially with an increased participation from cadets and younger shooters. Cooperation and interaction between the DCRA and the Cadet Authorities should be increased so that the inclusion of Cadets and Instructors on National, Provincial and Club

Teams is a productive experience, one that will benefit the development of Canadian team shooting.

- k. With the limited resources available to the DCRA, it is clearly not possible for all of these efforts to receive full or even partial funding. If funds may be available, priorities must be set as to how they may be used. Care must be taken to try to ensure that one team does not detract from another. For example, the sending of a team to Bisley should not weaken a team to the WLRC, and so on.

### **Training and Team Selection**

- a. Since the WLRC Teams will now be the first priority for the DCRA team efforts, it will fall to the captain of the WLRC team to provide the focus for team training, preparation, coaching procedures and team selection. The proposed training schedule should be submitted to the ITC as soon as possible following appointment. It is highly recommended that there be a continuous evolution of training procedures, that one team should draw upon the experience of the previous team and should make such modifications as are required.
- b. The training procedures should be made available to all teams in addition to the WLRC Teams, with all possible encouragement being given to all teams to follow them. Procedures should be documented and made public, along with application and selection procedures.
- c. Training and shooting procedures for the annual Bisley Team will be coordinated between the Bisley Team Officers and the WLRC Team Captain to try to ensure as much commonality and continuity as possible.
- d. F Class Teams should establish a similar regime, emphasising continuous development and the sharing of experience.
- e. All teams should, as far as possible, use selection criteria that strongly include participation in, and scores made at, the DCRA Annual National Championships, in order to maximise entries and to provide a common basis for selection. The DCRA should consider whether it might be possible to re-instate some form of travel grant to the CFRC, especially for newer and younger shooters.
- f. The ITC, through the DCRA Office, will assist in coordination, in the circulation of material and in the monitoring of its effectiveness.

### **Cross Canada Development**

- a. Mention has been made of the diminishing pool of shooters, especially those with team shooting and coaching experience.
- b. It is essential that PRAs encourage and assist new shooters, and that, from the beginning, team shooting becomes part of their development.
- c. Inter-club or inter-regional or inter-anything team shoots as part of a practice day or weekend are strongly encouraged. Postal inter-regional and inter-provincial matches can be the next level of team competition.
- d. Provincial Championships should include appropriate team championships, with strong encouragement to newer team shooters.
- e. The techniques developed at the WLRC level should be available at all levels. The DCRA through the ITC will assist in circulation of such material. Those involved in the WLRC training and coaching process should be available to foster team shooting at other levels in their region.

### **Funding**

- a. In order to provide incentive for members to qualify for and be selected to Canadian Rifle Teams, it is necessary to attempt to establish funding criteria and priorities. Clearly such criteria must be in line with the overall aims of the DCRA and must be consistent with the financial resources of the DCRA.

- b. Commonwealth Games. The costs for the Games themselves are covered by the CCGA. However, there is little or no outside funding for prior training or for the CSFC. The DCRA Executive has previously decided that the “Overseas Teams Fund” will be dedicated to the support of the Commonwealth Games effort. This fund receives money each year from the two OTF events at the CFRC and may also receive outside donations. The Manager/Coach may make application to the ITC for funding. The ITC will make appropriate recommendations to the Executive. It is recommended that this level of support be maintained.
- c. Bisley Teams. I recommend an annual subsidy for newer team members, and increased support for team entries and the Canadian Teams reception. When there is an approved F Class Bisley Team, I recommend a subsidy of \$2,000.
- d. World Championship Teams. I recommend that \$18,000 be set aside annually for the TR World Championship Teams and \$4,000 for the F Class World Championship Teams. These amounts are to be placed in a new DCRA “World Championship Team Fund (WCTF)”, administered by the DCRA Office, with disbursements subject to approval by the Executive on the recommendation of the ITC. The establishment of this fund is not to prejudice in any respect any other efforts to obtain other outside funding for the WLRC teams. Indeed, fund raising should be an integral part of the team captains’ responsibilities. Any such support that is obtained is to be placed in the WCTF and administered by the DCRA. Where possible, donors will receive receipts for tax purposes.
- e. The WLRC Team Captain, in conjunction with the Veterans Team Captain, and the U25/21/19 Captain/Coordinator(s), is to make application for funding from the WCTF through the ITC. Team budgets must be submitted with the applications. The ITC will review proposals and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive. All outside funding may be requested as support, and up to 85% of the funds that have been placed in the fund by the DCRA. In cases of emergency the ITC may recommend to the Executive a higher level of expenditure than the 85%. Similarly, the F Class Team Captain is to make application from the fund in a fashion similar to that for the TR teams. The use of the fund is for the alleviation of individual costs both for training and the WLRC itself.
- f. In addition, for teams approved by the DCRA, I recommend that \$25 per team member be granted to each World Championship and Bisley Team to assist in the purchase of team uniforms. These funds are to come initially from the Gil Hirst Fund.
- g. Other Teams. These will generally not be funded by the DCRA. However, if a Team has been approved by the DCRA, the Team Captain may make application to the ITC for special funding. Such applications will be considered on an individual basis by the Executive Committee.

#### **Accounting**

- a. All approved teams must submit their budget to the ITC and accounting must be done in conjunction with the DCRA as part of the Association’s accounts.
- b. No funding will be released to any team that has not been approved, that has not submitted its budget and has not publicised its selection procedures.
- c. Any outside donations are to be deposited with the DCRA and properly accounted for as part of the overall team finances. No tax receipts may be issued unless this is done.
- d. The ITC is to report to the Executive on a regular basis on the progress of all approved teams.

#### **Sources of Funding**

It will very properly be asked how, in the current difficult financial situation of the DCRA, annual amounts perhaps as much as \$35,000 can be found to fund these efforts. My suggestions on this are as follows:

- a. The amount should be part of the annual operating budget of the DCRA. However, the transfer and allocation of funds should not be made until the close of the fiscal year. The November-December Executive Meeting should make the final decision on allocating funds for the next year or placing funds in reserve for future teams.
- b. Set aside some of the income from outside contracts, when possible.
- c. Specific funding is available for Under 25 members of the Bisley Team (Life Governors Under 25 Fund and the Frank Lucas Fund). The Lucas Fund is currently specific to shooters from the Maritimes. The terms of reference of this gift should be examined to see if this can be broadened. Consideration should be given to providing support from these funds for Under 25 shooters in World Championship and F Class Teams, in addition to Bisley.
- d. The Gil Hirst Fund should be used to provide the funding for assistance to team uniforms.
- e. Review all the other committed funds to see which can offer support of team activities or which can be changed in order to do so.
- f. When necessary, the DCRA should start to draw down the Millennium Fund, since it has now been in operation for nearly 10 years.
- g. Once again, seek professional advice on outside fund raising.
- h. Drawing down committed funds, without replenishment from other donations or investment income, will, of course exhaust these in a number of years. However, it is suggested that it is better to do this in order to provide increased support to our teams now, in the hope that this will provide incentive for increased participation in DCRA activities.

#### **The Macdonald Stewart Canadian Pavilion at Bisley.**

This is covered in a separate section, since it is a unique asset of the DCRA. Although the Pavilion is now operated on behalf of the DCRA by an 'arms length' company, the "Canadian Pavilion at Bisley Limited" (CPBL), its activities and any income derived from them are of great importance to the DCRA as a whole. Here are some notes and observations.

- a. The Pavilion was originally constructed and its prime function remains as the home for the annual Canadian Rifle Team(s) to Bisley.
- b. The age of the building dictates the necessity for continuous renovation and maintenance. The costs of these and the ever increasing annual operating costs are beyond the means of the DCRA from its normal operating budget.
- c. The Macdonald Stewart Foundation has been extraordinarily generous in providing funds over the years – funds which essentially kept the building alive.
- d. In 2002, the DCRA made the decision that use of the building must increase in order to provide income for its upkeep and renovation. CPBL was formed for this purpose.
- e. In order to allow for greater use of the building, such as for bed and breakfast, meetings, dinners and other functions, immediate work had to be carried out to improve the building's safety and amenities. Once again, a great deal of support came from the Foundation, with a loan from the DCRA capital reserves to CPBL making up the balance.
- f. Since 2003, activity has indeed increased, and so has the income. The DCRA has an agreement with its resident management team that splits equally the annual profit from the building. This profit is determined after all operating costs have been paid for the fiscal year.
- g. It is the current practice of the DCRA that its share of the profit is put back into the building for renovations and maintenance. Without doing this, the facilities cannot be improved to a level necessary to stimulate increased business and income. For the foreseeable future, this is likely to continue, since there are major works to be

undertaken such as heating and insulation, the electrical and plumbing systems, and the roof.

- h. If there should come a time when the income from the Pavilion exceeds the requirements for work on the building, it is proposed that the surplus income be used in support of International Teams, especially the Bisley Team. This support would be primarily in supporting Bisley Team membership in the form of reduced assessments for newer and younger team members, and in coordinating the training and operation of the Bisley Team with the overall International Teams' effort. It must be noted that it is not likely that there will be surplus income for some years.

### **Summary**

The thrust of this paper is to define the DCRA's priority for teams as those in the (normally) four-year cycles of the World Long Range Target Rifle Championships and the F Class World Championships. Funds would be set aside annually for each of these, subject to the DCRA's financial performance and state, to be available on application by the respective teams. Coaching procedures and training methods would be standardised for all teams, with continuous updating in the light of experience. These are more advanced at present for TR Teams than for F Class, but the latter should be produced as soon as possible. Development of team shooting, especially the development of new team members (coaches and shooters) would be supported by the encouragement of team shooting at the annual Canadian Championships, and by greater efforts at the Provincial and Club levels.

### **Decisions in April and May 2009.**

***At its meeting in April and by a further mail ballot in May 2009, the DCRA Executive Committee approved the above as a general statement of policy regarding Canadian International Teams. The proposals for funding were also approved, with the exception of increased funding for the TR Bisley Team. Revised proposals for the latter are to be presented to the Executive at its next meeting. Funding allocations will be determined following the review of the 2008-2009 financial statements and form part of the budget for 2009-2010.***

### **Discussion and Decisions in December 2009.**

1. \$18,000 was placed in the "International Teams Fund (ITF)" in May 2009. it wa recommended, on behalf of the International Teams Committee that a further \$18,000 be pleased in this fund as of December 2009. Application for use of these funds may be made by the World Championship Team Captain on behalf of the WLRC Teams for 2011 WLRC. Following extensive discussion, the second transfer of funds was not approved. The WLRC Captain was asked to submit a detailed team budget, to be reviewed by the International Teams Committee, which may then request approval of funding at the next Executive meeting in April 2010.
2. It was approved that \$4,000 should be placed in the ITF as of December 2009 for support of future teams to the F Class World Championships in 2013 and beyond.
3. In view of increased costs of team matches, due to the costs of ammunition, and of the Canadian Teams' Reception, it was recommended and approved that a retroactive payment of \$1,500 be made to the 2009 Bisley Team.
4. For the same reasons, it was recommended and approved that the direct support of the DCRA to the 2010 Bisley team be increased from \$2,800 to \$4,500. In addition, it was recommended and approved that the sum of \$25 per official team member be transferred into the Bisley team account from the Gil Hirst Fund as a contribution to team uniforms.

5. For new team members of the Bisley Team, it was recommended and approved that \$250 per new team member be transferred into the team account in support of the costs of team uniforms (blazers, badges, buttons, ties, etc.). In addition, it is recommended that a reduction of assessment of \$200 per new team member be allowed, with the DCRA transferring the appropriate sum into the team account. This will provide a modest level of support for the new team member, whilst ensuring that this support is not a charge on the team members.

*JCT*  
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