

Bisley 2017

In glorious weather on the 13 July 2017, six Merchistonians, ranging in ages from 25 to 74, met in Bisley, Surrey, to shoot in the School Veterans Match. This year there were 45 schools represented. Some had multiple teams so there were upwards of 60 teams competing. The shooters consisted of James Anderson (83-88), Richard Dodds (82-86), Bob Allan (56-61), Patrick Costello (01-09) and John Brodie (85-90). Iain Brechin (79-84) coached each of the shooters through their sighters and ten shots to count. Two members of the team had not shot since leaving school and most had not shot since Bisley last year, so the expectations were not high. However, we shot well through the steady conditions and ended up third top Scots, narrowly beaten by Glenalmond and Fettes. The competition was won by the Old Gilfordians, with a perfect score of 250 / 250. Our top scorer was James Anderson, with a creditable 49/50.

It is traditional that following the shoot we have a team BBQ and this year we were delighted to have two wives along, June Allan and Claire Brodie. Patrick Costello put his mixology skills to good use and Pimms was flowing before dinner. We had put a honey glazed ham on a slow cook setting on the BBQ before our shoot and were delighted with the results. Ham, chicken, potatoes, parsnips, corn and salad. Not a burger in sight!

Thank you to all that took part and especially to Richard Dodds, who travelled down from Scotland especially for the match, stayed the night and then nearly missed his flight home. If anyone is interested in taking part in July next year they should get in touch with Iain Brechin or Richard MacMillan, who was watching the Lions in NZ this year but will hopefully be back to Bisley next year.

Please see the photos below.

Iain Brechin (79-84)



Figure 1 food prep before the shoot



Figure 2 Richard Dodds holding court, Bob Allan on the left, James Anderson next to him, June Allan with her back to camera and Claire Brodie next to Richard. That me heading into my hut



Figure 3 Roast Ham with veg and potatoes and a little chicken on the side

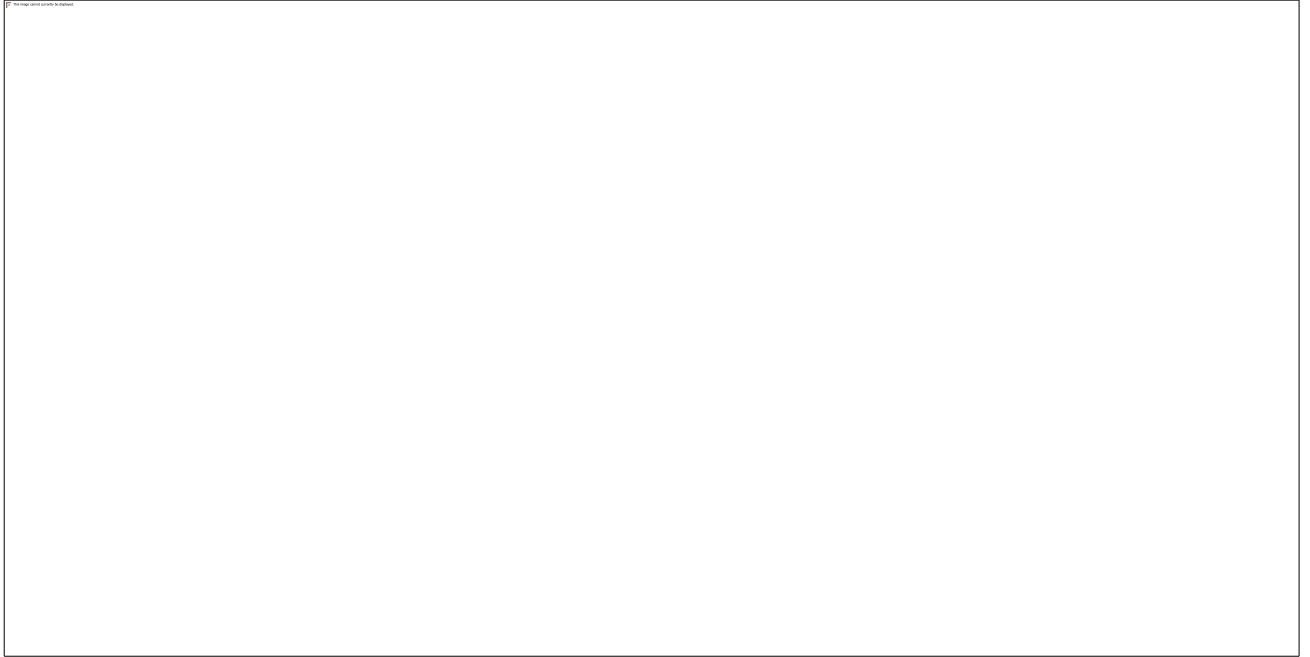


Figure 4 From the left, Richard Dodds, John Brodie, Claire Brodie, June Allan, Patrick Costello, James Anderson



Figure 5 Our score sheet.



Figure 6 From the left is John Brodie, Patrick Costello, Iain Brechin, Richard Dodds and James Anderson



Figure 7 Iain Brechin coaching Richard Dodds. This also gives you an idea of the distance we shoot at. The targets you see are 500 yards away