

OFs stun the College with knowledge

28/29 March 2015. Bisley.

By Shooting Correspondent Steve McDowell

There is nothing like the passing down of wisdom and experience. And a pre-season training weekend with Framlingham College's shooting team with the Old Framlinghamians was nothing like the passing down of wisdom and experience.

Well, perhaps a bit, but OF Hon Sec John Halahan (S), skipper James Mehta (S) both international shooters if you didn't know that already (ibid ad nauseam) Steve McDowell (G) Kimberly Pope (V) John Miller (Hon) offered their many years of shooting and arsing about on the ranges as a token of guidance. Pictured are McDowell and Mehta "taking no prisoners"!

Eight shooters form the College aged between 14 and 18 and a further cadet from neighbouring Thomas Mills all made the four-hour journey from Fram to pick the remaining brain of the gathered OFs. Each cadet had abundant rounds to fire at 300, 500 and 600 yards – the disciplines in which they will compete over this season – and expert coaching from all of the available OFs.



Even the old boys (and girl) were persuaded to have a shoot and to show the keen and enthusiastic youngsters the finer points of position, breathing, grouping and marksmanship.

Despite the presence of some not very amusing weather much fun was had by all as the cadets gradually improved.

A splendid dinner at Bisley's North London Rifle Club proved that the quality, and quantity, of food at Fram has changed little as the ravenous cadets descended upon the NLRC's usual fare of roast meat followed by baked something with custard like teenage Pterodactyls. One cadet, whose name shall not be released, was seen tucking into fourths of each.

On Sunday, again under heavy cloud and some very sprightly wind, the cadets showed us what they had learned, before the OFs broke out some vintage World War 2 weapons and a modern L96 sniper rifle. The additional recoil and ancient iron sights caused significant amusement until Mr Witham showed them how it worked with two bulls in two shots at 600 yards with a 1942 No 4 .303.

After hip-hips all round the college students headed back up the A12 with everything the OFs had to offer in their hearts and bellies.

We wish them all the best for the season and look forward to next year.



OF PRE-SEASON 2015

Rear Rank: Nathan Grant Jonathan Thorp Will Brett James Watt

Front Rank: George Donsworth Bertie Southworth Ellie Partington Toby Risebrow