

Commonwealth Games, Gongs, and International glory for OF Rifle Club Shooters

From Bisley Correspondent Steve McBowell (G 82-86)

It's hard to be modest when you are this totally awesome.

So we won't be.

A Bisley season that ended with *John "Seamus O'Charlatan" Halahan (S 72-75)* making the Queen's Prize Final at the 15th attempt was only the taste of juicier platters to come.

That *Kim Pope (M 04-09)* was named Suffolk county captain, was not even an amuse bouche for the sumptuous repast that was to be served up.

The hors d'ouvres began to get placed on the OFRCs crisp linen table cloth – though by the end of the year there may be little room for the main course, because it will be crammed with medals, trophies and boorish immodesty.

How many OFs can say they have competed in the Commonwealth Games or World Championships?

How many OF sports can say they have two representatives in a World Championship, on different teams – at the same time?

Precisely none. That's how many.

At the head of the OFRC Table of Awesomeness sits the mighty *Sandy Walker (R 96-05)*. Six foot four of bearded hunk (well, so he claims) resplendent in the tartan of Scotland gets to tuck into a tasty feast of shooting in the next 18 months.



To start: we can announce, since it is now official, that the Metronome is selected as one of the pair who will go to compete for Commonwealth Games gold in Australia next year. His Scottish partner, Ian Shaw, is a veteran of FIVE previous Games winning silver and bronze.

And if our hopes for glory weren't high enough, the Gangling Buffoon came back from Brisbane last month with a bronze medal around his neck from the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships – the warm-up event for the Games.

But no, hungry for more, the Rendlesham Warbler (for he has a music degree) whets our palate with yet greater things.

He has also been selected in the 20 strong Great Britain team which will compete in the 2019 Palma Match in New Zealand.



The four-yearly Palma Match is the World Cup of long range rifle shooting and to be Palma-badged means you quite simply cannot get any better at your sport.

And yet, the dishes keep coming.

At the same event will be our very own *James McMehta (S 67-75)* (pictured right) who has been selected for the Great Britain Veterans' Team. Dad's Army this may be but bear in mind that the squad contains no fewer than SIX Queens Prize winners.



Plonking down yet another delicious side-dish of fabulousness, Wee Jimmy and the Red Leader *Jon Ford (S 58-62)* (pictured left) are also off to have a tilt at the Boer when they jet off to Jo'berg in March 2018 with the GB Vets against South Africa.

As if we were full enough of ourselves just yet, the gorgeous Kim O'Pope (pictured below) sashays down the aeroplane stairs (not entirely unaided) with a Gold medal and two bronzes from the West Indies Championships with the Irish team in September.

Returning to work as an Estate Agent in Edinburgh will

constitute more than just a rum hangover.

Time then for cheese, port and many cigars and we can finally announce that the OFRC will be entering a ten-strong team in the Jersey Open Meeting in May 2018. This international event is a warm-up for the Imperial meeting and we look forward to battling it out with some of the best in the world.

Again.

God, we're good.

