

## **GB Selection Crowns Best Ever Year for OFRC**

By Bisley Correspondent Steve McDowell (G82-86)

The OFRC's veteran skipper James Mehta (S69-74) has topped off an historic year for the Old Framlinghamian Rifle Club – as well as a series of personal triumphs - with his inclusion in the 2016 Great Britain Rifle Team tour to the USA and Canada.

His achievement, at the greenstick age of just 58, means he is the fifth member of the OFRC ever to achieve the feat of GB selection (John Halahan, Sandy Walker, David Argent and John Horton).

This comes ahead of a year in which the OFs stunned Bisley by winning the Astor County Championship as well as a shot of its members in key international competitions, and Jon Ford making the Queens' Prize final.

Kim Pope, 24, (M04-09) who at the North London Rifle Club Open meeting on September 5/6, also achieved a personal best season, in which she was capped for Ireland (no, we didn't know she was Irish either) and touring California with the North London Rifle Club, by winning a pile of trophies so large her Vauxhall Corsa was unable to accommodate them. She also comfortably pockets the OFRC's Woman of the Season accolade if only by dint of being the only one.

Yet the OFRC's Man of the Season James has reached the very highest level of the sport at the tail end of a year in which he was not only a part of the Astor winning side but came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the St George's – a three-stage competition at the highest of international standards.

The Colchester dentist's continuing selection for Scotland as a regular member of the team is testament enough in itself – but further nailed home a complete season by winning four of the seven available trophies in the NLRC match. He and Kim will now be immortalised in gold leaf on the famous honours boards which have adorned the clubhouse since 1909 – the first OFs to be so.

OFRC (and North London Rifle Club) chairman, Nigel Burnip – known to his reverend team members as 'Double C' says: "Well now, who'd have thought it? Only a handful of years ago we were scratching round the counties but now the OFRC can muster no fewer than seven international shooters.

"That James has been selected for the next GB tour is testament to the fantastic year he has enjoyed but also highlights the gathering fame of the OFRC. We are all very proud of him and wish him the best of luck."

Overcome with emotion James squeaked: "It's been quite a year. I need a cup of tea and a nice sit down."

Teammate Steve McDowell, a Welsh reservist, said: "Bless him, but if he thinks I'm coughing up for him to go on a six week shooting jolly, he's got another think coming."

OFRC Hon Sec John Halahan, another international reservist, could not be reached for comment.

The picture below is of Kim and James with a serious amount of silver wear!

