

Invitation for Applicants - GB Palma Team to New Zealand 2019

I have been honoured with the captaincy our next Palma team, due to compete in New Zealand in early 2019. My vice-captain, team treasurer and fund-raising co-ordinator is Chris Hockley; Nick Tremlett takes on the critical role of head of coaching and training, and Dave Rose takes on the demanding task of adjutant. This brief constitutes a calling notice for applications to the initial Palma squad, selection for which is already underway. However, before applying to be a member of the squad, I ask that any potential applicants read on, both to familiarise themselves with the selection philosophy and to ensure they can meet the required level of commitment.

In our NRA we are fortunate in having an increasingly effective long term pathway to excellence in team shooting - through School, Club, County, NRA and GB teams, culminating for some in Palma team representation, seen by many as the pinnacle of achievement in our sport. Effective training and standardisation already takes place through the medium of these various teams, much of it based on the Palma methodology developed over the past 25 years. Coaches and shooters can both develop and demonstrate their individual and collective skills through a myriad of team and individual events, both at home and abroad; performance in such events, over the current and recent years, will help inform selection of the initial Palma training squad for the 2019 World Championships.

Although no one individual (other than members of the management team) would normally be guaranteed a place more than 2 years in advance of the tour, there are several individuals who I would expect to be there, a handful of whom have been pre-selected. These core team members will have an input and influence over selection, from initial squad through to final team. This reflects a shift in emphasis, from a large training squad being whittled down over 2 years of training/selection, to a team being built up from a core of our top shooters and coaches. A compact initial squad will allow more focused training, and the achievement of a given level of performance within a reduced number of training sessions. This approach has been made possible by the extensive selection and training programme during the build-up to the last Palma match, but is also driven, in part, by the additional demands on our top shooters of Commonwealth Games preparation and participation over the coming 2 years.

I expect the initial training squad, which will be announced later this year, to number between 30 and 40, likely towards the higher figure in the first instance, but reducing towards the lower number by Autumn 2017. This latter squad, comprising the nominated team along with a small number of reserves, will complete final training through 2018. Training is planned over the 3rd weekend in May and the 2nd weekend in September in 2017/18, and the final weekend in October in 2018. There will be an informal "pre-tour" in 2018; however, this will be entirely voluntary and is unlikely to attract any funding assistance (expected dates are roughly 20 Jan - 8 Feb 2018, around core shooting dates of 26 Jan - 6 Feb 2018). The main tour to the Palma Long Range World Championships, including travelling time, will cover just shy of 4 weeks, provisionally 17 Jan - 13 Feb, around core shooting dates of 24 Jan - 11 Feb 2019.

The above gives an indication of the required time commitment. As might be expected, the financial commitment will also be significant. In broad terms the full tour cost per head is likely to be in the region of £4500 to £5500. A subsidy including team grants and fundraising may raise between £1000 and £2000, leaving a net cost of between £2500 and £4500; experience has shown that it would be

wise to budget initially for the higher amount. Thus, successful applicants will be expected to set aside £200 per month from January 2017 to the end of 2018.

So, if you wish to apply for the Palma squad, with a view to attending the 2019 Palma World Championships in New Zealand in 2019 as a member of the GB team, please send an email to me at: captpalma2019@gmail.com, with copies to: Chris Hockley at vicepalma2019@gmail.com, Nick Tremlett at mcpalma2019@gmail.com and Dave Rose at adjpalma2019@gmail.com. Do indicate whether you are applying as shooter, coach or either and include your NRA membership number and preferred contact details (email and telephone number(s)). Please also provide a brief outline of why you feel you should be included in the initial squad, including your perceived strengths, weaknesses and/or areas for improvement. It may also help if you were to nominate one or more "referees" with whom you have operated on the ranges, and who you feel can give a balanced and authoritative assessment of your potential as a Palma 2019 team member. Overall, your outline might run to between 20 and 200 words as you feel appropriate.

Applications are requested by the end of June 2016; this is to allow detailed analysis of applications in the period before, during and immediately following this year's NRA Meeting in July.

Thank you,

David Calvert

Captain GB Palma Team 2019

2 May 2016