

THE NATIONAL MATCH

This is the latest version of the National Match records compiled by Colin Cheshire and now updated by Karen Robertson. These records would not be as accurate or complete without the assistance of the following people:

Maj RA Ellis	England
NEC Molyneux	England
Dr R Pizer	England
Maj MG Farnan MBE TD	Ireland
PAE Charlton	Ireland
Mrs RA Meldrum	Scotland
Flt Lt IW Robertson RAF	Scotland
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley OBE RAF	Wales

We would like to thank them for all their help and patience in providing missing information, checking the drafts and ensuring that the record is as complete as possible. The information that is still missing is listed later on.

We would ask all readers to note the following points:

- 1 Under Coaches the first named is generally the Main Coach.
- 2 Ranks of the Volunteers changed at remarkable speed so it possible that one person could have had different ranks in each of say five years both up and down! In the Rolls for each country the rank shown is the **highest** achieved by that person and may not reflect the last rank attained whilst shooting or for that matter the rank they may have retired with.
- 3 Decorations have only been shown for those who were Captains, Adjutants and Coaches.

Initials and ranks

The initials of shooters in the National Match were not usually recorded in the NRA Prize Lists until 1909. However initials of shooters and some reserves were given in the English XX Year Books from the 1905 Match onwards. Although the English XX Club has original mounted team photographs from 1884 (the year after the formation of the Club) except for 1900, initials and, in some cases, names were not recorded regularly on the mount until 1908.

During the early 1980s Robin Pizer spent the best part of one winter trying to identify the missing English names and initials. No effort was devoted to the years before 1884 except for 1864, 1865, 1866 and 1871 for which original photographs also exist. Following work in the mid 1990s to produce a verified list of all those in National Teams (1884 to 1996, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales) further intensive research of old records has been undertaken by Colin Cheshire and Robin Pizer to locate initials of English and other shooters and team members.

In many cases it is not at all obvious what the initials should be since a man might have several brothers given the large families at the time and they might all be in the same Volunteer company and have the same rank.

Similar intensive research has also been done in Scotland by Rosemary Meldrum who has used Scottish XX handbooks, records kept by Maj T Ranken and others and newspaper cuttings. Regrettably little research of missing initials has been done in either Wales or Ireland.

There also seems to be a fundamental inability of shooters to put in correct initials or even full initials. For instance Larry Orpen-Smellie (Lt Col HJ Orpen-Smellie OBE) is shown as L Orpen-Smellie, H Orphan-Smellie, HO Smellie etc. Similarly the christian name Robert, often abbreviated to Bob, means that the initial is shown as B instead of R. Many of the NRA records have shown no gender or has assumed that all shooters are male, so we may have mistakenly shown some ladies as gentlemen; we are sure someone will correct these errors.

There are still many initials missing, particularly for Ireland.

The records used for piecing together this tome have been - the NRA Prize Lists and reports, the English XX Yearbooks, newspaper cuttings, the Volunteer Service Gazette (daily and year volumes) and photographs where they can be found.

We would welcome any corrections, amendments or additions and would ask that all shooters ensure that their initials are correctly filled in on all international team registers. If you haven't checked then we can only print what is shown.

If you should notice any errors or omissions please contact Karen Robertson at the National Rifle Association.