

M2006

Melbourne Commonwealth Games

March 2006

Shooting Section Report
(Welsh Target Shooting Federation)



John Dallimore – Shooting Manager WTFS

1. Preparation

Preparation for M2006 started immediately after Manchester 2002, each of the four sections developed a nomination policy over the following three years. During this time the Sports Science Department of the Welsh Sports Council led by Manager Matt Cosgove was involved with the shooting team.

Over the last year there has been a massive change in the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales. Our thanks must go to the Board and Executive of the CGCW for the professional manner that Team Wales was prepared for M2006 in such a short space of time.

2. Pre Games Training

The busy competition schedules of the four sections made it extremely difficult to assemble all the team together for group training prior to departure for Melbourne. All team members were given the opportunity to compete at the M2006 venues in the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in Melbourne in March of 2005. This proved an invaluable opportunity to prepare for M2006.

Preparation funding, from Elite Cymru, Wales Sports Council (WSC) and WTSF was made available in 2004/05 making it possible for all team members to attend overseas matches in preparation for M2006

In March 2005 a strong Welsh Target Shooting Federation Team was selected and attended the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in Melbourne. This gave the Athletes and Officials an insight and feel for the following Year.

1. Attending a pre games holding camp, this proved invaluable as it showed that it was important to get over Jet Lag and acclimatisation before starting to train.
2. Moving into the Official accommodation just before the training days.
3. “Bonding” of the team members prior to M2006
4. These Championships proved to be an important step towards M2006.

During 2005 the final selection criteria was put in place and competitions were carried out both Home and Abroad.

All disciplines set out a rolling selection procedure between early 2004 and September 2005. The Welsh Target Shooting Federation (WTSF) nominated the team to the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales (CGCW), who confirmed selection of the full team of 13 men and 5 women plus support staff in early October 2005.

After March 2005 until February 2006 little funds were made available for in-depth pre games training, therefore possible pre games camps to South Africa, Kenya etc. were not even considered. Camps that were “Mainly self funded” took place.

- Pistol team trained in Israel,
- Clay target team in Italy and Spain,
- Smallbore/Air Rifle team weekends Henley in Arden, three weekends at the 50 metre indoor facility at Burnham, two weekends Bisley, and three weekends in Gibraltar training and helping with the Gibraltar squad.

Gibraltar proved ideal not only for Wales preparation, but we saw the “World Class” progress of one of the Gibraltar Air Rifle Woman Heloise Manasco who is denied by “politics” the chance to perform on the World Stage in ISSF competitions.

NB.

Gibraltar and Spain were selected for outdoor lighting, as being on similar latitude to Melbourne.

In January/February funding was made available from the Sports Council of Wales; Thanks must go to our Shooting Liaison Officer Colin Metson for his work in helping us obtain this support.

3. Team Wales Shooting competitors

- **Smallbore** (.22 and Air Rifle) –

Men:

John Croydon, Martyn Blake, David Phelps, Griff Morgan.

Women:

Ceri Dallimore, Jo Brekke, Jenny Corish, Sian Corish.

- **Pistol**

Steve Pengelly, Alan Green, Ian Harris.

- **Fullbore** (7.62)

Alex Woodward, Gareth Morris

- **Clay Target**

Men:

James Birkett Evans, Mike Wixey, Malcolm Allen, Tony Grove.

Women:

Sarah Wixey.

Team Wales Shooting Officials

- Shooting Manager -- **John Dallimore;**

Port Melbourne Smallbore, Air, Rifle and Pistol events

- S/bore Rifle coach -- **Bill Phelps;**
- Air rifle Coach -- **Irene Daw;**
- Pistol Coach/athlete -- **Ian Harris;**

Lillydale Clay Target events

- Clay Target Coach -- **Roland Hill;**

Bendigo Fullbore Target events

- F/bore Rifle Coach -- **David Davies;**

4. Melbourne M2006

The main part of Team Wales (shooting) assembled in Cardiff on February 26th and travelled to Heathrow in style on the Cardiff City Football Club Executive Coach watching the Ireland v Wales rugby international on SKY television.

At Terminal 4 met the remainder of the team, Customs proved no problem; the whole team were through in less than an hour.

Smallbore Rifle used a holding camp in Melbourne, Pistol and Clay target used Sydney as a holding camp. Therefore the two different holding camps meant the team was on separate flights to Australia.

After a long and tiring flight via Singapore we arrived at Melbourne at 0600 on the 28th February, we were ushered efficiently through the airport. With all the necessary paperwork completed in advance we didn't encounter any problems at customs with the firearms. It was so efficient that we were leaving the airport on our coach before other sports travelling on the same flight were through customs.

5. Travel & Holding Camps

On 28th February, the Smallbore and Air rifle members arrived in Central Melbourne and spent five days Rest and Recuperation in the Medina Executive apartments on Flinders Street near to the heart of the City and being on the fourteenth floor with terrific views over the City and the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Yarra River watching all the preparations for the opening ceremony. The Pistol members and part of the Clay target team arrived in Sydney to train on the Olympic ranges. This proved an invaluable part of the competition preparation; the remaining Team members arrived on the 5th March, and moved directly to the Games village

All firearms were deposited at the holding armoury in the Athletes village and held there until the first visit to the training/competition venue. This was repeated prior to departure.

Our thanks go to Travel City Sports, Julie Whitingham, Jim Strachan and Jim Davies, for their help with the flight and travel arrangements.

6. Accommodation

In the lead up to the Games there was a lot of uncertainty of housing team and coaches together, but on arrival we were pleased that all of the shooting athletes were housed together with the three shooting team coaches in adjacent houses.

The house had nine (single, two and three) bedrooms and with eighteen (mixed) team members, there were no problems with “mixed” sharing four bathrooms and toilets.

The three Fullbore members in Bendigo were housed in a Satellite Games Village situated in the Four Seasons “luxury” hotel on the outskirts on Bendigo.

7. Ranges

Melbourne International Shooting Club (Port Melbourne)

Located 25 minutes from the Athletes Village in Port Melbourne, the “Melbourne International Shooting Club” was the venue for Small Bore, Pistol and Air Weapon shooting events.

The venue houses a 10m indoor shooting area as well as 25m and 50m ranges. The venue has upgraded its target systems and infrastructure to enhance its international standard facilities.

Melbourne Gun Club (Lillydale)

Set in picturesque semi-rural Lillydale in the foothills of the Yarra Valley wine region, about one Hour from the Athletes Village. This venue hosted the Clay Target Shooting competitions.

The Melbourne Gun Club is recognised as one of the most scenic and best equipped Clay Target shooting facilities in Victoria. In its long history it has already hosted many national and international events. Although existing technical equipment was suitable to conduct events, upgrades were made prior to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games to meet the ever-evolving international standards.

Wellsford Rifle Range (Bendigo)

Set in the historic regional town of Bendigo, about two hours drive from Melbourne; this was the venue for the Full Bore Shooting event. Often during the Long range shooting about thirty Kangaroos could be seen skipping across the range only a 100 yds from the shooting

The Government of Victoria committed funds to a redevelopment program which included a slight realignment of the range and new target mechanisms. The upgrade ensured a state-of-the-art facility with all technical equipment meeting the highest standards.

8. Competition

Badge matches

Badge matches were successfully conducted in all the competitions before the official opening of the Games. Wales won Gold - Jo Brekke Women's prone rifle, Silver- Mike Wixey Men's trap, Bronze with Sian Corish 3 x 20 and Gareth Morris Fullbore (Medals for Wales at all the three venues)

Official Competitions Full Results can be found on:

<http://www.melbourne2006.com.au/Schedule+and+Results/By+Sport/Shooting>

Competitions were scheduled for every day of M2006 from day two.

The schedule was split into two four day periods, with the pair's competitions on the first four days followed by the individual competitions.

There were 30 separate competitions in the shooting programme.

In the Men's Prone Rifle event David Phelps with a World class performance winning Gold, Griff Morgan was also in the final.

David and Griff winning bronze in the Men's Pairs. This was the only time when all three podium positions were occupied by Home Country competitors.

Jo Brekke winning Bronze in the Women's prone.

Sian Corish fourth in the 3 x 20 and John Croydon also fourth in the 3 x 40, these two fourths were the top Europeans in the respective three position events.

Malcolm Allen and Tony Grove were fourth in the Men's Skeet. (Malcolm also commentated "live" for BBC in the final of the Men's Skeet).

9. Conclusion

Three medals and three fourth places plus the "badge success's" proved that Team Wales in many of the competitions finished ahead of the other Home countries.

The shooting competitions along with the rest of Melbourne 2006 were a well run World class competition.

All of the team supported each other at the ranges during competition and also off the ranges and at the Athletes village.

Wales Shooting has now produced (new) ☺ Commonwealth Shooting Champion's in the last four Commonwealth Games.

- 1994 Victoria, Pistol Mike Jay
- 1998 Kula Lumpa Clay Target Des Davies
- 2002 Manchester Rifle Ceri Dallimore and Jo Brekke
- 2006 Melbourne Rifle David Phelps

M2006 was a success for Team Wales. Shooting was an important part of the overall team effort with three medals, an improvement on our two medals in Manchester 2002. Shooting section of Team Wales performed very well giving 100% effort at all times exceeding or nearing their personal bests.

My thanks go to our Shooting Athletes who contributed to this outcome, an excellent effort with no or very little training facilities in Wales to train for this level of competition.

I also thank my coaches Bill, David, Roland, Irene, and Ian for their full support and assistance over the last twelve months and for making M2006 a success.

W. John Dallimore.

Shooting Team Manager M2006