

## **DAVID NICOLSON LOWE (S66-68)**

He was born 15 August 1950, the oldest of 3 brothers at the College.

After leaving he served in the Royal Navy from 1968 to 1992 and, having been taught to shoot properly at the College by Jack Meynell (himself a very accomplished service weapon shot - TA Queen's Medallist at Bisley), he took up target shooting in several "service" and "civilian" disciplines - pistol, rifle and sub-machine-gun (SMG). He met up with Jack at Bisley several times and one year they shot against each other in one of the Inter-Services matches. He also represented the OFRC in the PS Veterans' match on at least a couple of occasions.

He was selected for two Navy VIIIs at Bisley in 1972 (Service Pistol and SMG) and continued to represent the Naval Air Command (NAC) until he took early retirement in 1992. During this time he managed and captained Navy pistol teams continuously from 1974 to 1992. He also captained the NAC Bisley team and shot for Combined Services, captaining the pistol teams against GB on a few occasions. He was also Chairman of the Naval Air Command Rifle Association (NACRA) for several years.

In parallel with that, he was selected for the GB National Pistol Squad in 1982 and shot several different disciplines in Home Internationals, European Championships, World Cups and World Championships, as well as the domestic Championships, for nearly 9 years. Highlights were a bronze medal (well, a bone china tea service, actually!) in his first ever Air Pistol International in China (1982), winning the Bavarian Centre-Fire Championship in Munich (also in 1982, beating a local chap called Messerschmitt) and winning a few English and British championships over the years.

His memorable swansong was a bronze medal in Air Pistol in the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, NZ, although he was unlucky not to win a silver as he was tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> but was counted-out to 3<sup>rd</sup>. That said, a medal's a medal whatever the colour and he was rightly very happy with a bronze in such a prestigious event.

On leaving the Navy he chose to give up shooting at National/International level and after the sad events at Dunblane, he was forced to surrender all his very expensive highly match-tuned pistols.

He was involved with the design and certification of the EH101 Merlin HM Mk1 helicopter variant for the Royal Navy, which led to his involvement with the [unsuccessful] US Presidential Helicopter variant (VH-71) project at a senior engineering level, working in the UK, Italy and the USA. He left Lockheed Martin in 2009 & joined Cobham Mission Systems in 2011, working on air-air refuelling systems, until he retired on his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015 & moved to Toller Porcorum near Dorchester with his partner Jennifer. Sadly, she developed pancreatic cancer in 2019 and, after several false diagnoses & varying treatments, passed away on 7th March 2020, the day after they were married by their local rector.

He has developed an interest in classic cars over the years and has 2 classic Saabs, an Opel GT & Jennifer's BMW Isetta 300 as well as "modern" (2010) Saab 9-3 wagon. He is a committee member of his local classic vehicle club, helping to organise local events, several of which raise money for local charities.

My thanks to David for kindly helping me with the above piece.