

HOWARD MARKHAM

MLAGB 70

October 1942—April 2014

I first met Howard at Rainham Ranges where many shooting clubs used to shoot and compete. Things were a lot less stringent then and gun crime was virtually non-existent. Howard had dragged his cannon along from which used to fire lead golf balls. A recovered one looked like a fried egg. On this particular day it refused to fire and I offered to set it off by firing a blank charge from my Remington cap and ball into the vent. This did the trick and we became friends. He had the advantage over most of us in being self employed which gave him more free time and much more disposable income. We were both in the MLAGB and also used to shoot at Bisley. Howard took on the pistol secretary's job and got "Muzzle Loading Pistol" up to a serious level. We started to attend open shoots all over the country as well as Bisley and were picking up the keener elements as we went. Shooters like: - Roy Ricketts, Rex Holbrook, Brian Johnston, Jim Greathead, Jack Ruler, John Prince, John Williams , John Wallbridge, David Brigden etc. etc. Howard also encouraged us onto the International Circuit and we shot all over the Continent. He and I bought a Mini bus and took the Pistol team to Versailles in 1976. This was where Jim Greathead, a cordon bleu chef fed us all and kept costs down. Then America in 1980. Unfortunately Howard didn't make the US trip as he had fallen out with Duncan Bedford the over all team Capt. Howard wanted to get his own hire car when we arrived. He was experienced with the US as his sister had been a GI Bride. But Duncan was insistent that we used a team bus he had hired. At the end of the day Duncan was advising us to get cars as the bus idea was rubbish.

When "The National Pistol Association" was founded Howard was again a leading light. On the second year he told us that there would be Black Powder event and we devised what the 4 events should be. With Diane Markham doing the scoring we had an efficient team. In 1984 Howard had qualified for the rapid fire events in Olympics. He decided to go to the USA early because his sister was there and was followed in time by Diane. Chris and I would go out there most years for a holiday. When Howard and Diane remarried my daughter Clare was her bridesmaid. The years ticked by and we did a few Gun Trade shows together. I would usually bring back an original pistol to help offset the costs. The last time we were with them it was obvious that he was not the same man. A few days ago Diane phoned to say that she had found him unconscious on the gun room floor and that the prognosis did not look good. Howard had decided to donate his body to science a few years ago. Once the paperwork was completed by Diane treatment was withdrawn and on the 4th of April Howard left for the Big Range in the Sky.

With great Sorrow

Jeff Tanner.