

# TAKING 1 MORE SHOT

## Lee Wung Yew recalled to beef up trap team for Asian, C'wealth Games

■ BY LIN XINYI

THIS time last year, national shooter Lee Wung Yew thought that he had fired his last shot.

While he never announced his retirement officially, he was convinced that his shooting days were over.

He even sold off four guns, including the first gun he had ever owned – a present from his father when he started his shooting career at 17 – because he was not using them.

Lee, 44, was prepared to spend more time with his family and new passion – triathlon.

But two weeks ago, he found himself back at the shooting range, and aiming for podium finishes in the men's doubles and team events at the Commonwealth and Asian Games respectively this year.

That, after heeding the call of the Singapore Shooting Association (SSA), which had asked him to return to training and team up with Choo Choon Seng, 38, and Mohd Zain Amat, 35.

Despite rating his form at about 70 per cent of where he left off last year and a fair distance from his peak, Lee is confident that he will be back to his best in New Delhi.

"I believe I can find my old form. If not, I wouldn't have come back," said the Innova Junior College physical education teacher. "My reflexes are not as sharp as before, and I'm now relying a lot more on my experience."

His return thus far has been somewhat of a challenge.

Having shed 12kg from his 95kg frame because of his triathlon training, his custom-fit gun – the same weapon he used at the Beijing Olympics – no longer rests perfectly on his cheek.

Shooting practice now results in a swollen right cheek, although the three-time Olympian is expecting the situation



A slimmed-down Lee Wung Yew at the range. The trap shooter is aiming for a podium finish at the Commonwealth and Asian Games later this year. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

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## CONFIDENT

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to improve once he gets used to firing again.

He plans to shoot three times a week, and continue with his daily triathlon training sessions.

"I don't think I've been fitter," said Lee, who trains with his wife, Lynn. "The triathlon training helps me with my shooting as I'm not fatigued so easily."

Should he qualify for his fifth Commonwealth Games and win a medal, it would be Singapore's first in a trap event at the Games.

It would also go some way towards erasing the hurt he suffered when he and Choo missed the men's pairs bronze by two shots at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

"It'd be a nice collection of medals from the various major Games, even though I've not won at the Olympics," said Lee, who besides umpteen South-east Asia Games medals, also owns an Asian Games men's double-trap team bronze from the 1998 edition in Bangkok.

SSA general manager Lim Meng Kiaw added that success in the trap events at the upcoming major Games will be imperative.

"At present, we don't have a lot of shotgun shooters, so we still need the old guard," he said.

"If they can sustain us for one or two years, we can hopefully identify new talent. And if they are successful, it'd be a greater catalyst to expand shotgun shooting in Singapore."

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