

# DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

## 300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

The 2002 shooting season seems to have flown by and, on reflection, results were good although somewhat frustrating in that we were so near to medal positions in the men's prone events around the European circuit.

Our first warm up event was held against Clermont/Creil (France) in March; the second shoot here was used as the first trial towards the World Championship selection later in the year. The result was a win for the NRA on both days, Simon Aldhouse achieving top score and equalling his range record on the Saturday with 597.

Trials at Bisley followed in April, and team selection started. In a change of venue, the first Europa Cup event was held in north-eastern Italy at Tolmezzo, a concrete purpose-built baffled range with little wind, thereby increasing the possibility of high scores. This range had been the venue for a World Championships in the late nineties. The team of five men shot on the elimination relays with three making the second and final round. Our best final result was sixth from Graham Hawarth on 596.

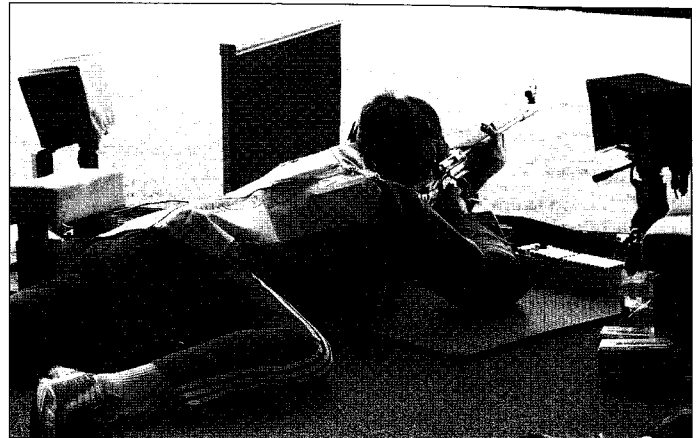
The ladies event was one shoot in two relays; we were delighted to see Mary Pugsley take the Bronze (the first medal for 2002) with a score of 591.

The top three ranked men at this time decided to go to the Swedish Grand Prix, largely at their own expense, in order to get more points for the final later in the year; again a bridesmaid position for Simon who was counted out to fourth place on 596.

From earlier events we were able to select a larger team for the Swiss Grand Prix in Thun where the final decision would be made for the World Championship team. Team results in Thun were to say the least a little disappointing, but from the elimination relays we did get three men into the final. Simon Aldhouse shot a medal level score of 596 only to be counted out to eighth place, but it was a solid performance. The trip back and excess baggage bills are another story!



Mary Pugsley.



Simon Aldhouse.

From the scores and averages made, the team of Simon Aldhouse, Graham Hawarth, Austin Reeve and Mary Pugsley were selected for the World Championships in Lahti, Finland. As the event was over two weeks, there were many shooters coming and going; our party went in at different times to minimise time away and expense. Unfortunately Mary did not have a happy time but two of our three men made the final with good scores; Simon with 596 finished ninth and Graham Hawarth with 595 finished fourteenth. This was the best placing of any GB rifle teams present.

There was a small break until September and the return match against our French friends at Bisley. This event has now been running for some six years; it gives us an end of season competitive match. Although the Clermont/Creil Club has two French National Team members, the 16 year daughter of the team captain stole the show with scores of 590 and 591 - a very good prospect for the French ladies 300 metres squad! The NRA won both team matches again; Graham Hawarth had top aggregate with a two shoot average of 592.5. This year our winning margin was the closest to date.

GB/NRA had three shooters with enough aggregate points to finish in the top twenty of the circuit events, giving us an opportunity to shoot the final in Listal, Switzerland. Simon and Graham were able to attend, and they each recorded scores of 594, finishing in the middle of the pack. Scores were very high, the winner having 599.

The new season will soon be under way. It has been agreed for us to try to smarten up the firing point at Bisley, so some refurbishment will be undertaken by the Squad, including cable ducting down range.

In order to promote ourselves we now have our own web site, which provides information on our progress during the season, and any other items of interest as they happen.

Find us on

<http://www.gb300m.com/>