

Metric Matters

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

As the snow settles here at Bisley we reflect on the 2008 300 metres season, which had its ups and downs and some success on the way. Throughout the season many smaller clubs, counties and individuals took advantage of the facilities at Bisley to improve their technique on our electronic targets.

As previously reported the NRA GB Team visited EC Cup events in Pilzen (Czechoslovakia) where we had one shooter in the final in very windy conditions. At the next event in Tolmezzo (Italy) we had a fine fourth place from Simon Aldhouse with 597, resulting in him being well placed on the circuit points table. A first visit to a new venue in Norway gave us middle of the road results and a few points for the men. The last EC Cup was in Denmark in early August: here we saw Simon Aldhouse take the silver medal with a fine 598 and, with the final season's point tally complete, become the highest points scorer in the prone event in Europe - other than the four event winners, the best position GB have ever been in!



The medal winners.

The final itself in Winterthur (Switzerland), during mid-September, was windy and difficult and it was easy to run out of time. After 39 shots or so, Simon was in the lead but with only 15 minutes left and a lot of shots to go, the edge slipped away and placed him back in 12th place.

The second half of the bi-annual match against the French Team from Clermont took place at Bisley on the last weekend of August and gave us a much stronger competition on home ground. After the first day the French were in the lead by four points but a strong shoot from the NRA levelled the match on identical scores of 3505, so the ISSF rule was used on all the last strings and NRA "A" won by six to retain the Danik Bowl. At this match we also have a concurrent memorial match aggregate for the Danik Individual Trophy - this was won again by Simon by one point from the French team member R Demey. Catherine

Houlemont took the bronze, two points behind her team mate.

The British Free Rifle Club Championships in September welcomed Carston Brandt from the Danish National Team who showed us he could cope well with Bisley wind, winning with an excellent score of 596. Our Bisley season continued into early October with the GB 300M Rifle Clubs annual championships; Isle of Man resident Harry Creevy shot a fine 597 to take the cup and gold medal. Mary Pearse was second with 595 and last year's winner Australian Dave Tracey took bronze with 594 (a personal best).

For the 2009 season, we will be returning to three EC Cups and a European Championship in Croatia so our time will be spent preparing to put our best shooters forward. Our website is now showing the competition, trial and training dates for 2009 - should any NRA members wish to enter competitions or just train with your target rifle for more V bulls, please contact us directly via the website www.gb300m.com.

Don't forget the NRA 300M British Championships on 16 and 17 May - it is open to all! Entry forms will be available from the NRA.

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