

## PHOENIX '05 SPECIAL REPORT

# Three First places, Three Second and Six Third places

What a terrific haul of medals for the seven shooters from DRPC 1999 who competed in The Phoenix Meeting, at the NSSC Bisley.



Simon won 2 gold's & a silver



Ben won 1 gold, 1 silver & 2 bronze

The event took place over three days from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Dave, Rob and Jim arrived early to do some Range Officering for a couple of days. Then the best turn out we have ever had for a Phoenix, started arriving. Some were camping, others staying in huts. Some not shooting, just coming down for the trade show and the beer!

### **YOUNG GUNS SHOW THE OLD DOGS THE WAY TO DO IT**

When the shooting started at 8.00am on the Friday, some were better prepared than others. Jim stuffed up big style in both 1500's, then Dave managed a third in the Under-leaver A Class with a below average 1479. Pete was not happy with his 1500 scores either. Rob was disappointed with his too, but earlier on had shot a storming 178/180 in the advancing target that would earn him a bronze. Scores that would win two medals on the first day but nobody was happy with their performance. I tried blaming the heat. Well it was 28c



Dave cools off

Then the stars arrived. On the Friday night nine of us went out for a meal and a shandy or two! As most were on the line at 8.00 the next morning we were restrained.

Saturday started cool dull and VERY windy, the sun did come out and warm up but the wind got worse. Unluckily this was the day most of us were doing our long-range competitions.

In the morning Jim, Dave and Pete shot in the Sporting rifle and Gallery rifle 100/200/300 event, which involves standing up on your hind legs! Not easy in a gale. However we were reasonably happy with the results considering the conditions. Jim was overnight leader in Gallery and Dave led the Sporting rifle. "F" Class in the afternoon was a good experience, where we shot back to 600yards Jims second-hand .308 Remmy just beating the super match guns (Sorry Dave, I had to remind you) All our scores were beaten the next day when the wind dropped to nothing. But Jim hung onto second place loosing out to the record holder.

While all this was going on the rest of the Derby men were distinguishing themselves in other competitions. Simon had entered

everything you could with a .22 and Ben put his under-leaver to good use. Keeping his nerve in 25m Precision to win Gold with a 298/300 is remarkable, and a Bronze in A Class 1500. Somewhere Garry was doing his stuff with a 223 Tikka. It was hard to keep track of who was shooting what and where. Hence the shortage of photographs. On Saturday night we were invited to the Range Officers Party as a thank you for giving up a couple of days working. We were allowed to bring the new boys and it was a pleasant evening.

Sunday started at 8.00 AGAIN, but what a change! The wind flags hung down with no wind at all. This was ideal for those shooting in the McQueen sniping event, at 200 yards this time. Dave was first up but a four ruled him out, then Pete and Ben both shot maximum 50's to get into the shoot off after lunch. A first for anyone from our Club, as far as I know. However Ben was without ammo as he had only brought 15 rounds with him, clearly not expecting to do well! Luckily .308 is readily available and he ran off to make a purchase.



Simon on the left, came second in T&P 1. Missing gold by one point

Meanwhile Simon was busy on the Timed & Precision range. He was reasonably pleased with his scores but even happier when he found out he had won a Gold and Silver, plus the Gold he picked up the previous day in the Phoenix A match.

For us the highlight of the weekend was the shoot-off final of the McQueen. which I unfortunately missed as I was making a mess of another match somewhere else.

I understand that 10 shooters made it to the Final. Two scored 50. Lee Bampton just beating Ben into Silver position by V bull count.

(Actually Ben did not get any V bulls. I was not going to mention it, but we don't want him to get big headed do we)

Pete did well to score 49 with a superior V bull count. Taking Third place.



Pete tried preying for success, it only partially worked. A Bronze.



Ben prepares for the McQueen shoot off

### **WELL DONE EVERYBODY**

It really was great to see so many Club Members succeeding at the Premier Event for Gallery rifles.

The weather was fairly kind and the company good, some say the trade fair was poor this year, but I purchased all I needed.

As usual it was the banter and mickey taking that created the jolly atmosphere You do need a thick skin to endure the three or five days of sarcasm.

The disappointment was that Rob did not last the course. He had to leave a day early through exhaustion caused by lack of sleep because of Dave's snoring, multiple insect bites, gun malfunctions a generally poor performance. Told you, you needed a thick skin!

It was extremely pleasant that this year, that I met up with so many old friends I had not seen for ages. But the more Competitions you attend the more mates you make. That is how shooting is!

As I was shaking hands and saying farewell to one of them he mentioned he had been taking to Dave who said he although he had shot badly, but it did not matter, as he had beaten Jim! The feud goes on.