

When the storms wrecked Bisley Camp and the Action Weekend was cancelled, it left many of us with no competitions to go to over the August Bank Holiday weekend. I noticed that the UKBRA were holding one of their events at Diggle so Pete and myself decided to go and see what they do, and if you are travelling to the other side of Manchester, you might as well have a go too. An email to Vince Bottomley sorted out what and when we could shoot. Pete decided that Saturday offered more shooting, so 100yards it was.

Pete decided to take his 6mmPPC and it turned out to be the ideal tool for the job as the most of the competitors were using this calibre but a lot fancier. I could not make my mind up so took a .223 and .308w then would decide when I got there. After a two-hour journey, Saddleworth Moor did not look very welcoming shrouded in mist. After signing in we made our way to the 100yard range. We introduced ourselves and once they knew it our first attempt at this discipline everyone was most helpful and informative.



After the 30 or so wind flags and indicators were positioned, a warm up match was held, which allowed us seven minutes to make sure we were on target and our sights set so that the bullet impacted below the aiming mark so as not to destroy the sight picture. (the competition is for the smallest groups not for score)



The course of fire is to shoot five times, each time a group of five shots to count on the top target. The bottom target is for unlimited sighting shots any time during the match of seven minutes. There were three relays, which gave about 20 minutes between shooting which was plenty of time to clean your barrel or load ammunition as many of the top shooters do. The safety rules are different to what we are used to. When a shooting relay (detail) has finished, the order is given to remove bolts. This allows the range crew to be changing targets while the next relay are petting up their rests, rifles and equipment. Once the next relay is ready to start the order “place your bolts in your rifle” is given.



As the wind was light I opted to use the .223 but even with all those wind indicators could not manage a decent group. (Pete did comment “Don’t the holes have to be touching to call it a group!”)



Pete did much better, after an average start he got the hang of the techniques required to shoot off a rest and did some tidy one-hole groups. The smallest being .292 centre to centre and an aggregate of .5198 over the five details to give him first place in Factory Sporter class at his first attempt at Bench Rest shooting, EXCELLENT.

The guys from Diggle were very friendly and made us most welcome, they were forthcoming with advice and suggestions. I am sure Pete will want to have another go at this form of sitting down shooting (Pete says it is an age thing) and I will start looking for a better load and use in the .308w next time.

JS