

COMPETITION REPORT

Phoenix Meeting
Bisley
26-28 May 06



MEDALS BY THE BUCKETFUL



If I have added up correctly, DRPC picked up 13 medals at the Phoenix Meeting.

Simon won two Golds with Ben and Paul collecting a Gold apiece. Other Members collected other nine Silver and Bronze medals for coming second or third in various competitions. Add to the tally, the Plaques Dave and Rob got for representing GB and that makes FIFTEEN.

The Phoenix is the biggest event in the Gallery Rifle calendar, and includes competitions for most types of rifles and pistols. Over the three days there is literally something for everyone. It was a record attendance plus with 200 extra scorecards made it very well supported, although at times some of the ranges seemed half empty while others were full.

Many said that the Trade Show was poor with little of interest for the types of shooting we do. If someone had gone just for the stalls I am sure they would have been disappointed.

Dave and Jim arrived two days before the competitions began to help the Range Officers, then on Thursday evening Rob, Pete, Simon, Mark and Chris all arrived and put up their tents. When Ben put his up on Saturday, Derby RPC had its own village in the corner of the campsite. Gary chose the comfortable life and had booked a room in Canada House. Paul could only come down for the Day on Sunday and that made 10. Probably the most we have had competing at the Phoenix.



It was hard to keep track of who was where shooting what, so apologies to anyone if I have missed someone's moment of glory, personal best score or cock-up! Also there is a shortage of photos as it is impossible to be everywhere and shoot at the same time, anyway the other Club Photographer, Simon, had forgotten to charge his battery

GALLERY RIFLE EVENTS

1500 Centre-fire

For saying this is one of the events we practice the most, it proved to be a failure. Dave and Rob below their best, Jim was only average and with both Pete and Simon retiring because they both suffered from broken firing pins. It was lucky Ben was on form, after a shaky 50m stage he shot a PB 1485 to win B Class.



1500 Small-bore

The scores in X and A Class seemed low, and most unusually Dave beat Jim to come 4th in A Class. However Paul H on his first visit to Bisley controlled any nerves to Win B Class with 1449.



1500 LBR

Only one class in this event and Jim tied for third place, but on X count only managed to come 4th.

Timed & Precision 1 C-F

Again Ben proved he is a force to be reckoned with by coming third in X Class, with a maximum score of 300 and only one behind the winner on X count. Quite a few members scored 300 except Rob who blamed a duff primer for a round not going off for his 290.

Timed & Precision 1 S-B

This is where lack of practice in this event showed. We had no one anywhere the medals.

Timed & Precision LBR
Timed & Precision AP

Chris came third in both these events

Multi-Target C-F

One point behind the winner in X Class, Jim got Silver with 118

Multi-target Small-bore

Again poor scores through not shooting this discipline enough.

Timed & Precision 2.

This is very similar to match 5 of the 1500, but a bit quicker.

In Centre-fire Jim was 6th in X Class.

While in A Class Simon won convincingly by 10 clear point for Gold. (and only 2 points behind the winner of X Class)

In Small-bore Jim was 4th in X Class, and Simon 2nd in A Class

They both got a mention in the T&P 2 Aggregate, Jim coming 3rd, and Simon 4th.



Simon on his way to a Gold in T&P2

Advancing Target

This was once treated as a bit of a fun event, but now is hotly contested by almost 100 shooters in each discipline.

In Centre-fire, Ben was third in X Class, one point off maximum score.

Chris came 4th in A Class and was third in the LBR event

Phoenix A

Simon was over the moon to be leading this event in A Class; until he was told he had to shoot it again because the RO had entered his scores incorrectly. It gave him great delight when he improved on his original score by a point in the re-shoot. It made the Gold medal even better. He went on to pick up a Bronze in the Small-bore event too.

Other Small-bore events

Mark had entered several of these with degrees of success coming

6th in 50m Precision.

5th in The America Match

3rd in the Long Range event where competitors shoot from 100yard standing and 200yards sitting. Not easy with a .22.

In the Speed Steel Challenge Dave had lead the competition for a while but finished 5th. Pretty good out of 73 entries

LONG RANGE SHOOTING

100/200/300yard competitions

Previously our Club has been near the top of the Gallery rifle events and indeed won.

Jim's disastrous 100yd stage put him, out leaving Dave in 4th place and Pete 5th.



Pete, sitting at 200 yards with a Marlin

We did a little better in the Sporting Rifle event. Garry showing he can do the biz with his Tikka to come 4th, Jim 6th, Dave 7th and Pete just a point behind.

New Last year was a Shotgun Stage using Solid Slug at 100 and 200yds. Mark did extremely well to be placed 2nd

McQueen

Most of the Derby members entered this event and we had three in the top 10, out of well over 100 competitors. Pete, one of last year's finalists came third in the new tiebreak system that has done away with the final

F Class

There is considerable interest in our Club for this event and members enter competitions whenever possible, at the GRAW's and suchlike. However the Phoenix attracts entries from all over including the National Squad and a large contingent from Germany. Talking before the start it was suggested that it would be nice to finish in the top half or even the top 20. For most of us NO chance. We were totally out gunned. One of the German shooters had invested 10,000 euros in his rifle.

But it does take skill as well as money to shoot a clean 30V bull score!

Mark did well in the 400/500/600yard stage to come 9th Shooting 24 V bulls out of 30



Chatting while waiting for the next detail to start

On Saturday afternoon there were five members shooting together at 800/900/1000yard. The sky was dark and very grey when we started, quickly turning into squally showers. At 800 it was not too bad. At 900 some managed to overcome the elements and keep the shots near the middle but it was increasingly difficult to see the targets through the gloom, and the showers were now heavy rain. (Yes it was Spring Bank Holiday!) As we carried our saturated equipment back to 1000 yards a meeting of the Match Director and other officials were deciding to abandon the next stage. Pete had already made his decision and was putting his stuff in the car.



Pleased it was all over

Only Mark and Chris had managed to realise their target of finishing in the top half, only just!
Only an hour and half later the sun was out and we were able to sort out and dry our equipment

International Match

Dave and Rob had been selected to shoot on the Monday for the GB Team against Germany and Ireland. This was a 1500 Centre-fire Match with a Match 5 warm-up beforehand.

Dave unexpectedly suffered a bad case of the jitters and shot well below his average and was disappointed to be the lowest scorer for GB.

Rob was disappointed and thought he could have done better, but should not have been as he was selected on his average and scored slightly higher. They soon cheered up when it was announced that GB had won and they received their awards and badges.



Rob and Dave proudly hold the International Trophy

Summary

It was possibly one of the most successful Phoenix Meetings for DRPC by the numbers competing and medals won. The camping worked well, the weather was not too bad except for Saturday afternoon and the midges did not bite as much as last year. And does anybody know just how many competitions did Chris enter?

More photos on the Club website gallery

Next year will be the 10th Phoenix meeting and the organisers are planning to make it special. So book the time off and warn the missus that you will be away for a few days