

COMPETITION NEWS

PHOENIX MEETING 23rd to 26th May 2008



FIVE INDIVIDUAL GOLD MEDALS



The new Chairman of the NRA presented the trophies at the Prize Giving, Errol & Mark had to wait until the next week

Plus five 2nd and 3rd places gives a total of 12, the same tally as last year but more individual successes.

Starting with Pete's victory in the McQueen. After winning the last three Action Weekends the pressure was on Pete to do well, and after scoring 50/7 he shot a convincing 50/6 tiebreak. He was pleased to win the Trophy Dave had presented a couple of years previously in the memory of his father. Quite few Members shot this for the first time and did rather well and some old hands improved on their personal best scores. Jim was 8th on 50/4, Dave 12th on 50/2. And was Paul was happy with his first 50 with 2 V bulls to come 15th out of a field of almost 100 competitors many of whom entered two or three times!

Other Long Range Events. These are usually reported at the end, but as our Members did so well they deserve to be mentioned first.

F Class 400/500/600 yards

It had been organised so that as many Club Members as possible shot together (for moral support) and an 8am start on Saturday morning was a shock to the system. The weather was better than the forecast, staying warm and dry but the wind proved tricky at times for some calibres. A reduced target was put up for 400 to make it harder. Mark D did well coming second with the same score as

the same score as the winner, losing it on count-back. Jim was happy with 9th in a large entry. Pete struggled for some unknown reason while Mark G and Ian was pleased with their first time at Bisley.

F Class 800/900/1000 yards

Shot on Saturday afternoon the wind appeared stronger but did not prove a big problem until 1000 yards. Pete had changed rifles and did remarkably well for it was the first time he had used the 6.6x55 in anger. He lay in second place until the last day when the wind dropped and he was pushed down to 5th. Mark D was on the same score and again lost it on count-back, coming sixth. Jim and Mark G said they had enjoyed the experience!

For the first time there were two man team competitions for long range events, and Mark and Pete shot as "Two Thin Men" (It is a tradition to have daft team names) and they came second in both events.

100/200/300 Gallery Rifle

Both Dave and Jim have won this previously so some barracking takes place between them, as Jim did not want to use his Marlin again before the International, Dave had generously offered to let him use his. You guessed it; Jim beat Dave with his own rifle to win the event. However the scores were very close with Dave coming 2nd by just three points. (Jim gaining bragging rights for 12 months)

100/200/300 Sporting Rifle

This is shot off cross-sticks at 100 & 200 then prone at 300 yards. Dave did exceptionally well at 100 but lost momentum further back. He should not have done so with his nasty black plastic rifle in 260rem, - hardly sporting. He finished just one point off the winner but it was close at the top and he came 4th. Jim was 9th, Pete 18th.



Mark, getting ready to shoot with his .22. Pete doing sporting rifle off sticks and Dave with his Marlin, all at 200yards

Again another team event here and “Derby Bambi Slayers” as Dave and Jim were called were victorious.

100/200/300 yard non-military pre-1955 rifle.

This is probably the first time anyone from the Club has entered this, but Steve was not intimidated and came Second with his Schmitt-Rubin at his first attempt and first visit to the Phoenix. Very well done.

100/200 yard Gallery rifle Small-bore

Mark D was hoping to do well here and tied with the highest score; no prizes for guessing – came second on count-back !!!!!!!
Keith M came 6th.

100/200 yard Shotgun

Mark D gave no quarter and was the clear winner by 11 points.

Gallery Rifle Events.

1500 Centre-fire

In A Class Ben was our highest scorer with 1484. Dave should have beaten that but managed to put a shot on his neighbours target and still scored 1479! Jim was had to stop shooting during M5 when a round went “pop” and he was not sure if it had left the barrel. It had, but doing the sensible thing cost him 40 points.

1500 Small-bore

Known as not being keen on this 22 event Dave surprised him-self with a personal best score of 1472 and to his delight won A Class. Jim was 4th.



Ian and Errol shooting alongside

Another PB gave Errol second place in C Class. In D Class Ian was pleased to come 4th.

1500 LBR

The scores were low this year and within reach but when Jim pulled two off the target at 50m it put him into 2nd place.

Paul was in B Class and happy to get all his shots away and came 4th.

1500 LBP

Pat seemed disappointed at coming 6th. (But there are no classes in this event yet)

Timed & Precision 1 C-F

We will not mention X & A Class results, as they are too embarrassing. (Except for Dave who was the only 300)

In B Class Errol shot a Gold Standard 298 to come 5th out of 43.

In the team event that we won last year "Derby Old Boys" could only manage 5th.

Timed & Precision 2 LBR

Paul tried this for the first time and was caught out by the ruling that only one speed-loader is allowed. Even when he failed to get all his shots away he was only 6 points off the winner and came third!

Multi-target S-B

Another shooting at Bisley for the first time, Tim did well in this event and was a creditable 5th in B Class

Multi-Target C-F

Errol shot a PB of 115ex120 to win B Class, a clear eight points ahead of his nearest rival.
(X class for you now my boy)



Keith on his way to coming 6th.

Another new team event and "Team Zimmer" (Dave, Jim, Keith & Tim) hobbled into 4th place.

Advancing Target S-B

This always attracts a large entry and first-timer Steve picked up a Bronze medal in B Class.

Other Gallery Rifle Events

Jim thought he should have done better in Phoenix A S-B but 5th in X Class in not too bad.

Mark D did well in 22 Precision, coming 4th in both the 25m and the 50m events.

Chris tried two new events the "Granet" – 6th in C-F. And "Imperial Silhouettes" – 5th in C-F

Dave always tries and does well in the Speed Steels coming 4th out of 46. Tim enjoyed this too and will try again next year when he is fitter.

Both Dave and Errol amassed the necessary points and qualified for a Grand Master Medal.

Jim was a shooting reserve in the International Match on the Monday and he blamed the atrocious wind and rain for his poor score.

As there were 13 Club members shooting over the three days it was hard to keep track of who was shooting what and where. So apologies if someone's exceptional score or PB has been overlooked. Likewise, the photographers were busy shooting but managed to get some and they can be seen on the website gallery.

Summary

Apart from some light rain on the Sunday morning the weather was kind and suited the campers in "Desolation Row" as Dave liked to call it.

Jim and Dave were there for the week, working then shooting, and during the course of the weekend 14 or so Members visited, stopping for one or two nights. The atmosphere was good, making new friends and, and there was plenty to talk about especially after a glass of shandy. The trade show was busy and looked better than previous years, but no real bargains!

Another Good Result for the Club, Well done to all.