

## **2011 Bisley meeting report.**

A smaller than usual party of ardent shooters from Cornwall travelled to the National Small-bore Meeting at Bisley this August. What Cornwall lacked of numbers they certainly made up in enthusiasm. The Weekend Aggregate got off to a good start with Liskeard Rifle Club shooters dominating the results in their respective classes. Phil Ralph shooting in A class finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 40 shots at 50m's competition. Peter Parker shooting in X class finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Single Dewar competition. Craig Kurn shooting in D class finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in competition Scottish match competition. At the end of the Weekend Aggregate the best placed shooter in their class was Phil Ralph who finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in A class with a combined score of 1160.

The Weekend Aggregate was not the only competition to feature over the Weekend; the Eley Final was shot on the Sunday afternoon. Cornwall had 3 competitors in this final, Peter Parker from Liskeard Rifle Club and Doug Kernick and Richard Tanner both from Penzance & St Ives Rifle Club. Peter and Doug were shooting in A class and Richard in B Class. Peter finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place and Doug in 10<sup>th</sup> place. Richard won B class with a score of 390 which would have put him in 1<sup>st</sup> place in A class, quite an achievement for someone who had never shot at Bisley before.

So we come to main event of the National Meeting the Grand Aggregate, shot over 4 days, an intensive period of shooting. At the end it comes down to who can maintain the level of shooting required to be successful in at the very least gaining promotion, with a bit of luck winning a competition or two on the way.

After regaining his position in X class at the Scottish Meeting earlier this year Peter Parker was doing well until a virus laid him low affecting his shooting on the last day. Despite this, he still managed to finish in the top half of the top 100 shooters in the UK.

A class again only had one Cornish shooter in its midst, Phil Ralph. After having such a successful weekend shoot, fortune did not favour Phil during the week. It was the last competition of the week that pulled Phil up the rankings for him to finish in the top half of A class.

Cornwall had 3 shooters in B Class, Phil Hammond, Mike Schopman and Robin Hallows. Robin was the most successful of the trio having three 3<sup>rd</sup> places to his credit and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the aggregate, gaining promotion to A class. Phil Hammond had a steady shoot throughout the week, never quite making the top ten in any competition but his consistency put him in good stead for his aggregate position of 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, he just missed promotion by 1 place. Mike has suffered with his eyesight over the last couple of years and this year proved not to be any different and he struggled throughout the week, he may just have avoided demotion to C class.

C class was a mother and son affair with Linda Hammond shooting next to her son Tristan throughout the week, much to Linda's chagrin. Tristan only just made it to the meeting having been on front line duty up to the Sunday, causing his mother a lot of concern he would not make it. For the first 2 days, mother and son were neck and neck, Linda finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in competition 1 and Tristan in 4<sup>th</sup> place in competition 3. After the first 2 days, Tristan was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the aggregate and Linda in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Over the next 2 days, Tristan forged ahead with some incredible shooting, finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place in competition 5 winning the Weetabix Challenge Cup. The final placing in the aggregate put Linda in the top third of C class but Tristan shone with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place gaining promotion to B class to join his father. For his achievements and being the highest placed shooter in the aggregate of both Devon and Cornwall shooters Tristan was awarded the John Perry Trophy.

The final class is D class in which Cornwall had three representatives, Bob Evans, Craig Kurn and Mike Hallows. Mike Hallows had a dreadful start to the week with his first card, to a lesser person they would have been demoralised but Mike showed the mettle to pull himself up the rankings with some steady shooting. In the final competition of the week, he finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place, after such a bad start it must have

been heartening. For Craig it was a roller coaster week with some excellent shooting with just the occasional bad score, he finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in competition 2 and finished in top half of D class in the aggregate. Bob Evens, the only junior to represent Cornwall this year had a good week, never out of the top half in any competition; he won competition 3 winning the Ballito Challenge Cup. Bob just missed promotion with his 9<sup>th</sup> position in the aggregate.

Weekend and Week Aggregate over all the attention was focused on the Lord Roberts competition, after the first round just 2 Cornish shooters made the cut to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Both Tristan Hammond and Bob Evans made it through to the Bobs 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. Unfortunately, Bob did not make the final but Tristan did, so it was on a wet Saturday afternoon everyone's attention was focused on Tristan. Shooting alongside the Lord Roberts finalists the Bobs competitors faced the same attention as the best in the country. The weather was unkind; first rain then a sudden change of wind direction and brilliant sunshine, not conducive to shooting. At the end of the competition Tristan finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Bobs and if he had been shooting in the Lord Roberts final he would have finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place out of the 20 competitors, some achievement and nerve.

The final competition of the National meeting was the Champion of Champions competition held on the Lord Roberts 50m range on the Sunday. Each County had their best shooter represented in this competition. For Cornwall, we had Phil Ralph who had won his right to represent Cornwall at the Cornwall Open Meetings this summer. Phil had represented Cornwall before but this did not take away the pressure of the shoot. Phil did not shoot as well as he hoped but this was his assessment of his shooting whereas he actually did well with a score of 581 to finish in 19<sup>th</sup> place.

The final assessment of the National Meeting this year has to be that the Meeting belonged to Tristan with youth on his side the sky is his limit. In just 3 years he has won promotion from D class to B class, if he continues the way he is going it will not be long before he joins Phil Ralph in A class then it is X class. He has the tenacity and skill to go far, we wish him well. He comes from a shooting family and they have to take some of his glory for without their encouragement and support he would not be where he is now. Let us hope next year will see more Cornish shooters entering the National Meeting, which will be held between the Olympics and the Paralympics. I just hope this report gives you all a flavour of what you missed this year and encourages you to think about shooting at Bisley next year.

Jackie