

Report on the GB FITASC Sporting Team Performance At
The World FITASC Sporting Championships
Orville France 14th to 17th July 2011

The shooting park is located approximately 1 hours drive South of Calais near Albert and Arras in the district of the Somme.

This region is typically rolling arable farmland with wooded hillsides this was the area of the Somme First World War battlefields. The 33rd World Championships took place in this setting.

The targets were set by Mr Jean-Pierre Delsaux France also the owner of the shooting ground. Targets were categorised and authorised by the FITASC Sporting Technical Commission representatives Mr Hugh Smith GB and Mr Hans Wenger Switzerland. 1,197 competitors registered for the event, a new record entry for any FITASC Sporting championship. There were 32 no shows.

Target Categories Rule 2.5

Class A: = 63

Class B: = 89

Class C: = 48

Total 200 targets.

The targets consisted of: 177, Standards, 9 Rabbits, 9 Battue, and 5 Midi (90 mm) Notably there were only 4 simultaneous pairs in the doubles; the remainder were all on report.

There where 8 courses set for the competition all had 4 stands per layout with 3 stands of four singles and one with 5; there was one double at each position; the courses where named:

Line 1: Beretta, Line 2: TUNET, Line 3: Champagne, Line 4: Caesar Guerini,
Line 5: Browning, Line 6: Promatic, Line 7: Krieghoff and Line 8: CCI.

Transport was provided for Lines: 2, 4 and 6.

Promatic sponsored the traps and associated equipment along with supporting engineers for the event.

The layouts were in open and scrub covered depressions that had originally been old mineral mine workings giving the appearance of overgrown bomb craters. The club served as an administration HQ and also traders and catering facilities were available if not expensive. However, there were in my personal opinion not enough WC and sanitary facilities to accommodate the near 1,200 competitors and their partners.

In addition, a charge of 50 cents was levied for the combined gender WC close to the club house; this should have been free of charge considering the cost of entry was in excess of £200.

There were 20 Senior teams, 12 Veteran teams, 6 S/Veteran teams, 10 Ladies teams and 8 Junior teams.

The categories consisted of:

678 Seniors, 238 Veterans, 99 Ladies, 79, Juniors, and 105 S/Veterans.

The competition ran over four days; as usual the first day is a settling in period with not a lot to report, however, Christophe Auvret (FR) shot a perfect 50 Ex 50 with Richard Faulds and Sylvain Sorgiati (FR) 49 one target behind. There were 24 other competitors on 48.

On completion of day two it became obvious that although the competition targets were of a high standard there were a lot of trap style targets; no particular layout was standing out against the others i.e. all layouts produced good scores.

Christophe Auvert posted a spectacular 100 straight with Charles Bardou 98 both from France, Richard Foulds, Rasmus Bjerregaard (Denmark), Didier Maerten (FR). Graham Stirzaker was also on 97 and leading the Veterans by 3 targets.

George Digweed was off the pace with 92 as was Ben Husthwaite on 89. There were too many good GB scores in the top group to mention all of them.

However, worthy of note is Graham Stirzaker Vets lead on 97, George Parsons S/Vets lead on 87, with Alan Coy third on 85. Cheryl Hall one target off the Ladies lead with 90, Phil Gray Junior, after a superb 48 on day one, was 3rd on 93, only 3 targets off the lead and all to play for. In the Seniors Mark Marshall, Martin Papworth and Richard Bunning were only 3 targets off a place on the winner's podium on 95.

On completion of day 2, GB was leading the Veterans 272 over USA 261 and Italy 252. GB Super Veterans were also in the lead with 248 over USA 245 and France 243. GB Ladies were in the lead on 248 with Spain 246 and Italy, Australia and Germany also 238. USA was in the Juniors lead on 267 with Italy also 267, Spain was on 263 with GB 261 all to play for. Seniors had surprise leaders Sweden 366 with USA 365, Spain 365 and GB well in contention on 364.

The one new British cap Becky Bream was performing very well, considering she had a tummy bug; all GB teams were now finding their feet and performing well, the final 100 targets would be crucial for all team members.

First 100 Competition Statistics:

Beretta 76.8%, Tunes 80.1%, Champagne 73.3%, Guerini 75.5%, Browning 75.6%, Promatic 74.8%, Krieghoff 78.3% and CCI 79.7%.

Average all layouts 76.8%

The weather had been kind over the first 100 but was set to change for the worse over the final 100 targets; as day three commenced it was all to play for the final 100 targets over Saturday and Sunday and with rain moving in anything could happen.

Day three and by mid to late afternoon the weather had changed for the worst with rain light at first then torrential. George Digweed was heard to say that never before had he shot in such poor conditions; those programmed for an early third day rotation were very fortunate.

The race for the World title was still on with Auvret still in a commanding position on 148 Ex 150 with Charles Bardou 145 and Richard Faulds 144. There were a host of competitors a total of 8 on 143.

In the Veterans Graham Stirzaker on 143 was 2 clear of Alain Marcheron (FR) and Dave Asher along John Bidwell were equal third on 140.

In the ladies, Beatrice Laparra Cuenca (ESP) was storming ahead on 139 with Cheryl Hall 132 and Janine Preece 130.

Juniors had David Radulovich (USA) 143 with Guillaume Gay (FR) and Marco Battisti (FR) 141.

George Parsons had a strangle hold in Super Veterans with 133 with Roger Ward, Alan Coy and Hermann Traussnigg (Austria) all on 128.

The Senior team placements on completion of day three saw USA and Spain on 548 with GB 544.

Veterans placements had GB 406, USA 388 and Italy 383.

Super Veterans GB on 380, USA 364 and France 356.

Ladies GB team were on 372, Spain 369 and Italy 363.

Juniors saw Italy leading with 404, USA 395 with GB and Spain on 388.

With work still to be done all GB teams were in good positions for rostrum placings.

The lack of waterproof score cards made the recording of scores from late afternoon extremely difficult; I have personally raised this point on a number of occasions and cannot understand why FITASC persists with non-water resistant cards.

At the end of day four, Christophe Auvert (FR) posted a remarkable 198 to become the 33rd FITASC Sporting World Champion having dropped only 2 targets on layout 2 Tunet. Charles Bardou France Silver 193 and Anthony Matarese USA Bronze 191 + 20 after shooting off with Gregg Wolf USA 191 + 17.

Richard Faulds was the highest placed GB individual 6th on 189

RESULTS:

Medal positions **GB Non Team**

Vets: John Bidwell 185 Bronze

Ladies: Cheryl Hall 179 Silver

Super Veterans: George Parsons Gold World S/Vet Champion

GB Team placing:

Seniors: Gold Spain 736, Silver Italy 733 Bronze Sweden 727.

GB Team: 5th position 722. Stuart Rudling (175) Matt Hance (182) Mark Marshall (185) Paul Lovick (180)

Ladies: Gold GB 503. Silver, Spain 498. Bronze, Italy 483.

GB Team: Pet Easton (168) Janine Preece (174) Becky Bream (161)

Juniors: Gold Italy 534. Silver, USA 522. Bronze, Spain 518

GB Team: 4th Position on 514 Phil Gray (177), Harry Seal (162) Paul Lovick (175).

Vets: Gold GB 546. Silver USA 514. Bronze, Italy 502.

GB Team: Steve Brightwell (181) Graham Stirzaker (190) John Dyson (175)

Super Vets: Gold GB 503. Silver, USA 491. Bronze France 476.

GB Team: Alan Coy (165) Roger Ward (170) Paddy Howe (168)

All the GB Team members worked hard to earn a magnificent team result of 3 Team Gold medals Veterans, Ladies and Superveterans; with individual team members also making the podium as follows:

Janine Preece Ladies Bronze, Graham Stirzaker Veterans Gold, Roger Ward Super Veterans Silver

Laurie Mansfield was the official GB team International referee and due to a late in the day withdrawal of the German referee, Ian Mansfield was requested to fill the vacancy and accepted.

The team wishes to thank June Speakman for providing a unique pin badge for the team members and also a quantity for sale to raise funds for the future.

The GB team also wishes Ricky Stala a quick recovery from his fall on day three that hospitalised him. I understand he is out of hospital and due to return to the UK.

As a special mention, John Price (GB) won Gold in the World Cup placing's, the World Cup is an accumulator event. John is a great supporter of the GB FITASC Sporting team. Well Done John.

Full results can be viewed by going to the results page at: www.fitasc.com

Hugh Smith
Chairman BICTSF FITASC Sporting.