

ED LING
EUROPEAN CHAMPION
EUROPEAN UT CHAMPIONSHIPS.
LAZENAY FRANCE 2010

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The European UT Championships were held in Lazenay France this year. As it was within easy reach 50 British Shooters and families had decided to enter the Championships making it the largest UT entry from the UK ever to travel to Europe.

The shoot was held over four days, 50 targets a day, with a total of 374 shooters competing for the coveted title of European Champion. Weather conditions looked favourable with plenty of sunshine forecast.

The end of the first day saw only one 50 straight that was to Chris Tate who went on to shoot a further 25 straight the next day. Ed Ling was close on his heels after only dropping one target. At the close of the second day Chris and Ed were tying on 99, with numerous shooters on 98 it was going to be an exciting final 2 days. The Veteran's Class was being closely contested, a Spanish shooter in the lead with 98 but Kevin Borley and Howard Batt were following close behind with several others. Joey Jones was just one target behind the French leader, Patrick Mahaut who had shot 95/100 in the Super Veteran's class. The Ladies Class saw Mary Rowley and Rachel Yardy lying in joint second place to Elodie Laronze having shot 93 to her 95.

The Junior class saw two shooter tying on 98 but there were numerous others within reach of them including our own Mark Shaw. Again, this year saw the organisers including a Handisport class, and leading this at the 100 stage was Bob Kibblewhite on 93.

The halfway stage for the teams saw the Senior team consisting of Nigel Caves, Ray Sutton (new cap) and Chris Tate tying in 1st place with the Italian team. The Veteran team, Kevin Borley, Arnie Cliffe (new cap) and John Winn had taken an early lead over the Italian team. The Ladies, Rachel Yardy, Trudy Yardy (new cap, as well as first mother and daughter to be in the same team) and Belinda York were just one target behind the French team for 2nd place with the Italian Ladies holding the lead. The Super Veteran team, Joey Jones, Tom Prescott and Fletcher Watson were lying in third position behind the Italian and the French teams. The Juniors Nick Gowrie, Mark Shaw and Brad Strain (new cap) were tying for third place with the French Juniors behind the Italian and Spanish teams.

At the close of the third day Ed Ling was holding the lead on 149 ahead of Luigi Viscovo (Italy) and Fernando Diniz (France) 148, Chris Tate was one target behind them on 147. The Veteran's class had seen Kevin Borley take the lead, jointly with Manuel Gonzalez Perez, and Joel Girard all on 145 making it a very exciting final day. The Super Veteran's class was being held by Italian Graziano Grannerini on 142 with Joey Jones and Patrick Mahaut just one target behind on 141. The Ladies class saw three shooters tying on 140, Mary Rowley, Marina Sauzet and Italian Bianco Revello. Junior class was being hotly contested with Mark Shaw coming up to 4th place going into the last day. The final day arrived with Ed Ling shooting the morning session, the temperatures were soaring but Ed kept his cool and "straightened" his first 25 of the day, one more round to go to win the European Championships. It was just after midday when Ed went out for his final line, the crowds had gathered to see if he could do it and he did it in style 199 ex 200 to become the European Champion. Other shooters in contention were not shooting until the afternoon session so were going out to do their rounds knowing that the Championship had already been decided and the best they could hope for would be second place.

The afternoon session saw temperatures soar into the thirties so it was not only a battle of skill but also a battle of stamina.

When shooting had concluded, Kevin Borley having shot 50 straight found himself in a shoot off for the overall 3rd position. He had won the Veteran's class but after the shoot off with Fernando Diniz he took the third position in the scratch category. The Super Veteran's class saw the Italian Ginnerini take the Gold Medal with Daniel Chayoux in Silver position. Joey Jones took the Bronze medal. This is the 20th consecutive year that Joey has represented Great Britain in UT, which is no

mean achievement. The Ladies had been hotly contested with Bianco Revello taking the Gold on 187. Mary Rowley 183 took 4th position just 4 targets behind the winner.

Junior Gold was won by Italian shooter Baldinotti on 193 with another Italian shooter, Moraglia and Mark Shaw 191 having to shoot off for Silver. Both hit 24 followed by sudden death, the result being Moraglia Silver and Mark took Bronze. Bob Kibblewhite took Gold in the Handicapped class on a score of 183, followed by Alain Hette on Silver 175 with Derek Precious Bronze on 149.

The Senior Team (Nigel Caves 190, Chris Tate 189 and Ray Sutton 184) just missed out on the Bronze medal by 1 target with the Italians taking Gold, the Spanish Silver and the French the Bronze. Veterans Team (Kevin Borley 195, John Winn 189, and Arnie Cliffe 182) had a clear Gold win against the French in Silver and the Portuguese in Bronze position.

Super Veterans took the Bronze (Joey Jones 186 Tom Prescott 174 and Fletcher Watson 172) against the Italian's Gold and French Silver.

The Juniors (Mark Shaw 191 Brad Strain 182 and Nick Gowrie 180) had tied in Silver position but lost it on countback to take the Bronze. The Ladies (Rachel Yardy 179 Belinda York 174 and Trudy Yardy 165) took the Bronze medal behind the Italians on Gold and the French on Silver.

Congratulations to all the medal winners and to all the shooters who competed from GB and also a big thank you to John Nightingale and Glenn Paeckmeyer.

Report by Wendy Dalton



