

The World Helice Championships - Ghedi - Brescia - Italy. (15th – 20th June 2010).

This was probably the most difficult World Championships that the British Team have ever attended, the targets in Ghedi are the most challenging in the World, add to that the strong winds and pouring rain that enveloped the Championship and you will understand what kept the scores very low.

Nine Countries competed in this Championship week in four separate competitions. The British shooters were the second highest number of competitors in the attendance figures.

In the Cup of the President event, Brian Metson (shooting with a side by side Purdey) shot very well and made the final, after a lengthy shoot off with many shooters dropping by the wayside, he finished fourth and shared a healthy prize fund.

Several British shooters scored well in both the Presidents Cup and the Cesare Bornaghi Cup with Howard Batt, Chris Potter, Henry Arnold and Mal Grant all happy to pick up parts of the prize fund.

On the Friday when the World Championship started the winds had changed direction and were blowing strongly outside the ring. Most shooters who drew high birds saw, with much frustration, their clean kills being taken outside of the ring by the winds and thus scoring a zero. Many very experienced shooters from all of the countries saw their exit from the competition due to the 5 bird eliminator, on that first day. They then had to be content to wait for the last competition on the Sunday.

By the end of the second day of the World Championship the only 2 GBR shooters remaining in the competition were the legendary Howard Batt (also of UT fame) and our Junior Jack Tucker (his second cap for GBR) who heroically managed to shoot through some of the worst weather conditions, beating some of the best Juniors in the World. After missing his last bird due to a disturbance of cheering crowds for another shooter on a different range, he tied scores with an Italian junior for the Gold/ Silver position. The resulting shoot off was nerve breaking as both Juniors continued to hit these difficult targets. Eventually you have to have a winner and Jack after missing a terribly difficult bird was happy to take the Silver. This was fantastic shooting from a junior who has matured immensely over the last year, due to him shooting DTL which has definitely improved his concentration skills.

The only other individual medal was the Ladies Bronze won by Dionne Rogers. However she was not finished and about to add another medal to the GBR haul when in the World Championship Team event it was left once again to the Ladies team to bring home the medals.

The GBR ladies team (Dionne Rogers, Kate Grime and Jane Bell) shot a fantastic score to beat the Italians on home soil to win the team Gold. The Spanish ladies (Sisters Loli and Maria Pastor with Celia Amoros) took the team Silver and the Italians ladies (Valentina Cuzzani, Katia Lucidi and Rota Franca) were forced to accept the third position Bronze.

So despite the terrible conditions we were very happy to bring back a good haul of medals.