

STS All Ranges Match 2018

Lothian Report

The annual STS "All Ranges" Competitions were held at Denwood Ranges, Aberdeen, on Sunday 8th April.

A request was put out a few weeks beforehand (via the LSSA Web-site) asking that any Lothian Shooter planning to attend this event should advise the acting Regional Team Captain (myself) promptly, in order to optimise Team selection for the Inter-Regional Matches. In due course, I was aware of six shooters travelling to Denwood – just enough to make up the requisite team of six, from whom the highest five scores were to be taken at each stage of the competition.

Both our indoor and outdoor Regional teams consisted of David Caughey, Robin Thomson, Isabel Stark, Neasa O'Connell, Sam Coates and Magnus Carswell.

All of these shooters are from the Watsonian Rifle Club or from George Watson's College Target Rifle Club. It would be good to see more involvement from other clubs in the future – this is an ideal warm-up event (is "warm" the appropriate word?) for this summer's outdoor season and is specially run with the intention of giving less experienced shooters a chance to learn about competing in the great outdoors!

It was good to see five other competitors from Lothian taking part in the competitions, including three from Edinburgh University and one from Merchiston Castle School, but they had not been considered for our team because I didn't know in time that they would be taking part. In the event, Rhys Olley shot an excellent series of targets – winning the outdoor "Dewar" Competition and the Aggregate in Class B and coming in third place for the indoor 25yds shoot!

The four juniors in the team had benefitted from attending Junior Squad Training on the previous day, using the adjacent 50 metres range. The plan had been for them to train in variable wind conditions but, as is usually the case for wind training, conditions were quite calm on the Saturday. Sunday began with very light winds, but these picked up a bit after a couple of details and began to switch frequently in strength and direction. This "fish-tailing" wind proved problematic for most competitors and scores were not, generally, up to a standard which might have been expected – but all good experience for the coming season!

It turned out that only one other region (Grampian) had entered teams into the Inter-Regional Matches. They were on their home ground, and included some very experienced shooters, so I was very pleased that from a possible 2000 points, the Lothians Team scored 1931 at 25yds – only 9 points behind Grampian!

The story was somewhat different outdoors at 50 metres and 100 yds, where the Grampian Team took advantage of their experience in windy conditions, and on their own range, scoring 3885 out of 4000, whilst we trailed somewhat behind on 3762.

Here are the detailed scores for our teams:

Indoor match - 2nd.		Outdoor match - 2nd	
D Caughey	388	D Caughey	783
R Thomson	394	R Thomson	753
I Stark	387	I Stark	755
N O'Connell	385	N O'Connell	734
S Coates	377	S Coates	730
M Carswell	371	M Carswell	737
Total (best 5)	1931	Total (best 5)	3762

Grampian scored 1940 so it was a lot closer than last year.

Grampian retained the Bob Normand trophy with a score of 3885 (there is no trophy for the Indoor match).

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Other events:

In addition to the Inter-regional match, many other competitions are organised: Individual, Club Teams of three, and a Handicap Pairs event. Lothian shooters had some level of success with these:-

The Club Teams 25yds, Double Dewar (50m & 100yds) and Aggregate competitions were won by the Watsonians' Team (D. Caughey, R. Thomson. I. Stark) – with the Junior member, Isabel Stark, shooting well alongside her more senior colleagues.

In the Club Pairs Competitions, Isabel again demonstrated good form, with her partner (Neasa O'Connell), scoring a creditable total of 796 points, with handicap, to win at 25yds. Although not so strong with the Outdoor Cards they went on to second place in the Aggregate competition, just five points behind the winners!

Individually, in Class A, 25yds: Robin Thomson found himself in a three-way tie for the lead. This was decided by count back of scores on the 10 shot cards. First place was awarded from card 4, there was still a second-place tie after card 3, guess who lost out on card 2 to be awarded third place!

Although not placed (just squeezed down to fourth) in the "Double Dewar" Event, Dave Caughey scored an excellent 395/400 at 50 metres, the highest score of the day at that distance!

Class B: Rhys Olley (Edinburgh University) was 3rd at 25yds and won the outdoor "Dewar" with an excellent 390/400 at 100yds as well as the Class B Aggregate! His 100 yds score was only bettered by two of the "A" Class shooters!

Most of the Lothian Shooters were in Class C:-

Isabel Stark had an outstanding shoot, finishing in second place at 25yds (387) and in the Aggregate score, she also won the competition for competitors under 18 years, and gained third place in the under 21 event.

Bertie Galloway (Merchiston) impressed by producing the third highest score (385) in Class C at 25yds.

In Class D: R. Sarkar (Edinburgh University) won at 25yds (385) and also came in second in the aggregate.

I have to thank everyone involved in co-ordinating our representation at this event, especially Rhona Dove – who organised transport and kit for the junior shooters – and also Brenda O'Connell and David Stark who provided transport and effectively chaperoned the juniors to and from the venue.

The consensus was that everyone enjoyed the day – it wasn't as cold as it might have been! – it was good to mix with shooters from other clubs and regions of Scotland and we've all gained useful experience, ready for the coming outdoor season.

Robin Thomson
Acting Team Captain, Lothian

PS

For the 'official' report with some photos and access to all the detailed results tables see <http://www.scottishtargetshooting.co.uk/results/2018/4/10/2018-all-ranges-report-results>