



News Letter 2007 – Issue Three, March 2007



Natali Terblanche(L) shot a 250 and 19 x's (25 yards 10.5lb .22 rimfire) in the UKBR22 postal league 21 March 2007. Excellent score and keep shooting these in the future!

News now confirmed with further details –



July 27th, 28th & 29th - 2007.

We are now receiving lots of interest and entries from European Nations for this international championship. Not all our members in the UK have come forward yet; so are up for this event, as we now need to start planning and getting numbers together! **If you are interested in attending, can you now email Pat and Carlo. Official registration and fees for UK members are through Pat.**

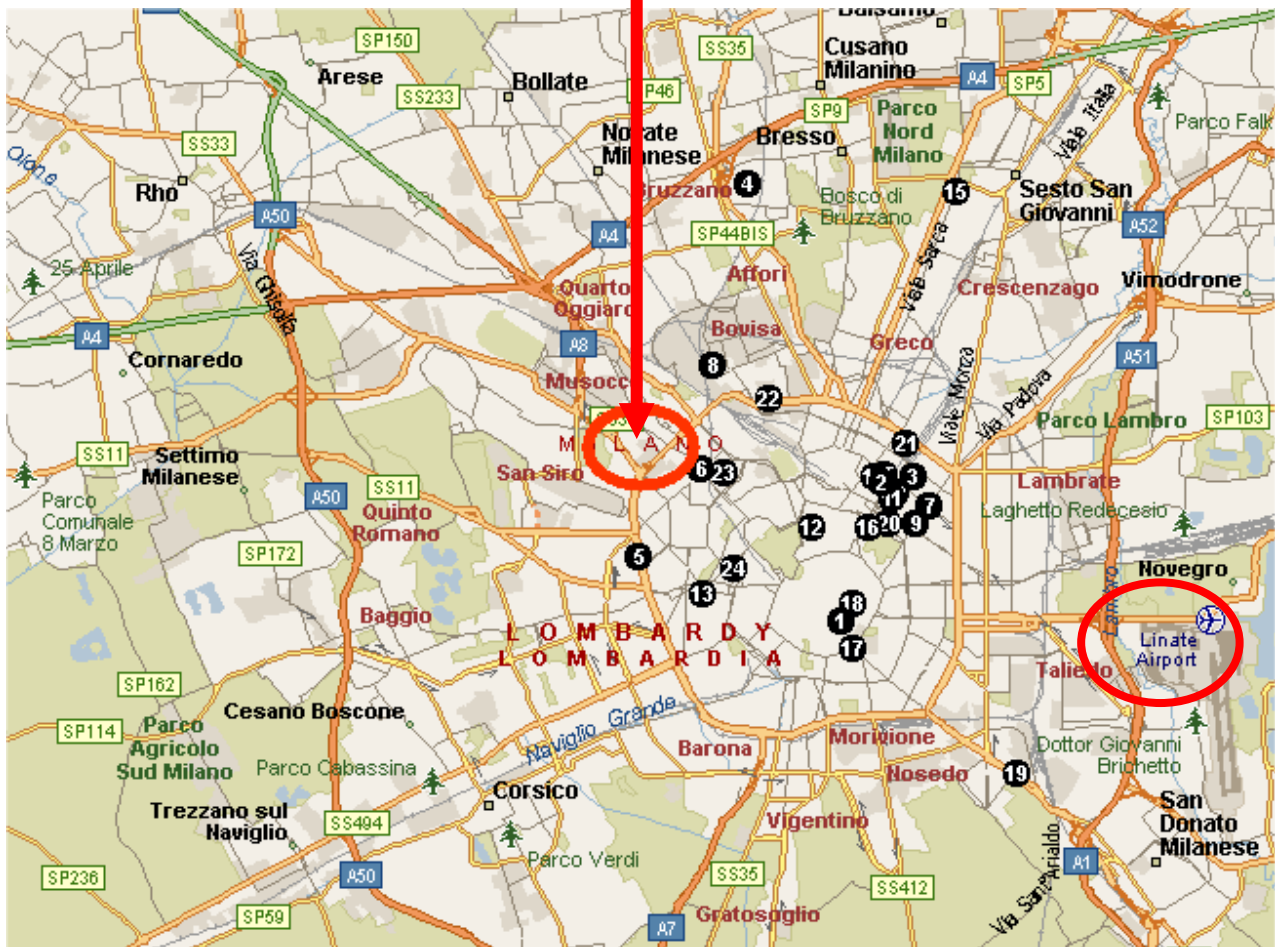
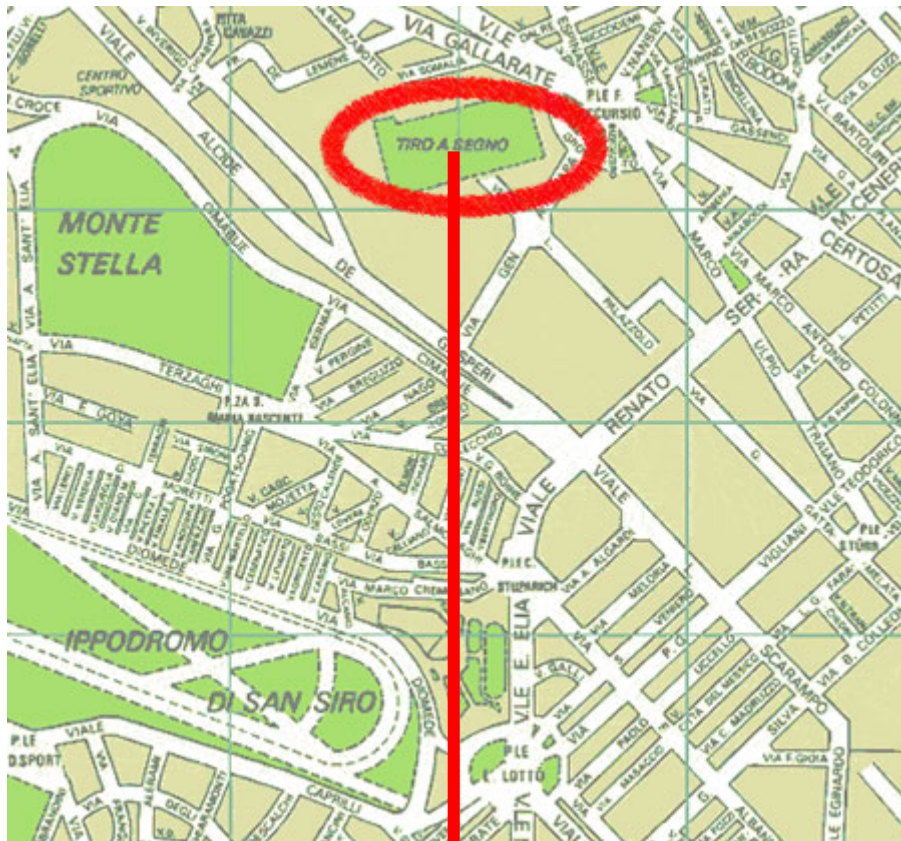
Watch the [website](#) - News pages, and this newsletter for more details in the future – [the website is updated three times a week at the moment.](#) **SORRY TO KEEP HARPING ON, BUT UK MEMBERS PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN THE NEAR FUTURE SO WE KNOW NUMBERS FOR THE EVENT. THANKS.**



TSN Milano. The venue for the European Championships 2007



<http://www.benchrest22.org/>



Milan Hotel and flight information at; <http://www.expedia.co.uk>

Flight information at; <http://www.flightmapping.com/Europe/Italy/Milan/>

Information about hotels, how to book a flight, maps etc are now on the website. You can visit the venue website at; <http://www.tsnmilano.it/index2.htm>



Lapua World Postal Rimfire Benchrest Championship Match 2007

Some Ideas about travel to Europe and Milano from Jim Andrews

Hi, Carl. Just a couple of snippets of info that may help our Members contemplating flying to Europe with a Firearm.

1. A number of Budget airlines will not take Firearms or Ammunition on any flights. British Airways WILL, but they state the gun must be dismantled and be contained in a fully lockable case. They WILL take Ammunition up to a weight of five kilo, (5Kg) and this must be in a locked metal case/box.
2. Your own Firearms Certificate PLUS the European Firearm Pass must be on the person purchasing the Flight. For the sake of undoing two bedding bolts and putting the ammo in a old military ammo box which can go with the "clothing" case/baggage I have faced no problems, and this is with my booking from Heathrow. (Millets, or any military surplus shop usually stock small ammo boxes which will hold 500 rounds of .22. Book now and the flights are cheaper; anything from £49 up to £70 ONE WAY.
3. The average hotel in Milano will cost approximate £ 68 for B & B equal to our three star, Book early, any in the VIALE CERTOSA area is within walking distance of the T S N complex
4. While the trip will take only one and a half hours, your kit will be in the planes hold at temperatures of Minus 25f to -35f. Undo the bedding bolts and large screws even if your stock is an alloy one. (Since alloy stocks are CAST they are prone to cracks in low temperatures.)
5. If taking your own ammunition, the effects can be very unpredictable at the other end when it comes to shooting. Next week I shall be doing Range tests with Eley Tenex, and their Match, also R50 and Lapua "Midus" M; after keeping that lot in a fridge for two hours. I will attempt to simulate the same temperature, and the duration of "thaw" time required on the Range when the ammunition and the rifle reach normal "English" temp. I think will be useful in the website notes. Kind regards, Jim Andrews



[We are still in negotiations with Lapua for sponsorship of the European Championships and we will let you know next month how things have gone.](#)

We are nearly at the stage where we can confirm the World Postal competition at the same time as the European Championships. The targets we shoot for the latter competition we hope will be used to enter the world postal.

<http://www.benchrest22.org/>

The Cicognani Front Benchrest Rest and Bag Kit

The following article I wrote for Target Sports in December. Hopefully for those that do not get this magazine it may be worth the read. The model I obtained for review is the R-C1, which comes with a speedscrew on the front arm. You can also get the R-C1 as part of a kit with the rear and front bags, which is the version I am looking at. The whole kit, including front and rear bags, is 500 Euros or £336 depending on currency fluctuations.

The bags.....



Having seen a number of bags available in the UK, but not all, I am impressed with the new ones on offer from Cicognani. They are much more 'up market' in term of quality, and more stable than those we often see in the UK. The Cicognani bags are made from a synthetic Condura type material on the upper body, which is quite a contemporary idea; as most bags are currently made completely from leather. With leather bags, talc or Teflon tape are used to lubricate them; which will allow the rifle to slide back without getting 'stuck'. With 'Condura' the problem of 'lubricating' the bags is not as pronounced; as the rifle will track backwards and forwards easily without talc! From testing these products I would say using a synthetic material



makes for a better and more consistent shooting experience. The front bag also has a horizontal 'spine' or 'hump' which reduces the rifles contact with the bag and therefore the amount of friction caused during shooting. This part of the design again allows the rifle to 'track' easily in the bags without getting stuck and causing poor shots. Choice for front bags is also available as they come in three sizes to fit your specific class of rifle; three inch stock (Bench Rest), large hunter stock and narrow hunter stock. What also comes with the bags is a spacer block (known as a donut) made out of the same materials. The 'donut' is just in case you need to raise the rear bag in a situation that may occur on the range. The rear bag, and donut, both have a non slip bottom surface, which aids the fact that it will reduce movement when shooting. Both bags came filled and this is something that can also be specified when purchasing, as it is sometimes a pain to find the right substance that works well!

The rest.....

First impressions are this is one of the better models of rest that is readily available, although you have to go to direct to Italy to get it. (A shame no one stocks these in the UK). It is well engineered and constructed from aluminium casting and steel assemblies; with a number of features that really help set you up for shooting consistently. Controls include the obligatory mariner's wheel for fine vertical alignment. However, the central post has two elements to it, for greater variety of course height settings. These run on a worm gear system





that allows quick and relatively precise movement. Locking is secured through two arms at the front centre and to the side. Additional fine vertical control is made using the speedscrew. (My original thoughts on this element of the rest, was that that a speedscrew was really only beneficial to centrefire benchrest shooters. How wrong can you be? The speedscrew provides a much faster movement than a normal front leg, with the very fine control needed by rimfire benchrest shooters). When speed does matter going from one of the twenty five target diagrams to another, or from sighter to record target, the speedscrew helps a great deal. Horizontal alignment is controlled via the windage top which is a simple parallel motion on runners forming a very fine control and stable motion. The front bag is held and adjusted by two knobs on the left and right. These need to be altered to suit your rifle and balance the bag. The front rifle stop is also adjustable so the rifle can be placed further forward or back, depending on the needs of the user. Of course the final

element is the level which is clearly visible on the front arm of the rest; which helps when setting up at the beginning of your shoot. If you want an off the shelf rest then I would look at this one or something similar. It has all the features you would want to adjust your rifle, both laterally and vertically. If you set this rest up to suit your own shooting style or position, it will be very easy and fast to use during a match. This is important, as we are shooting rimfire benchrest and this involves movement and fixing your aim on twenty five different target diagrams; more if you include all the sighter's you shoot. The rest can be set up for left handed use, with some handles easy to exchange over. However, I would leave this to the factory as a left handed version can be supplied at no extra cost, which will include the windage top.

Final thoughts.....



The quality and finish on these products are very high, from the anodised handles to the ergonomics of the adjustment screws – you can actually grip them! Overall, one off the best rests I have seen in the UK for rimfire benchrest and would suit most peoples needs. Prices for individual bags and rests can be found on the Cicognani website at; <http://www.varidecicognani.com/> You can also email him with any questions you have about prices, shipping costs, and information about his products.

I think I have mentioned before that Varide Cicognani now takes payment through Paypal, which is cheaper than his original

bank transfer system. At the end of this review I fell very pragmatic about the product; it works, is well made, is easy to use, is readily available and costs about the same as you would expect to pay for one from the US. VAT and excess transport charges will be incurred from shipments from the US. However buying in Europe avoids all of these extra costs; you only pay for shipping.....! All in all this rest is slightly more expensive rest than those we see at the gun shows in the UK. However, it may be worth saving that extra £50, as you do get a lot more for your money!

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, website, ideas for the association, articles please email me at; ukbr22web@fsmail.net

See you next time.....

Carl UKBR22 Webmaster