



Highlights of the 1st Rimfire and Air Rifle Benchrest World Championships in Milan, Italy 2008





I have to say I am still recovering mentally and physically from this event as ten days in very harsh conditions have taken its toll on me. I would like to thank my team mates for all their help during this event, as I couldn't have done it without them.

TSN Milano is a range with fantastic facilities, but a hard range to shoot at if you're not used to the conditions. For some of us, we remembered from the European Championships what we would be up against. The wind conditions can catch you out and we established that it was best to shoot when the wind was up. This is very different from how we shoot here in the UK as normally we wait for the wind to drop before pulling the trigger, but in Milan you have another problem to deal with; mirage. This I think caught a lot of us out, the wind drops you pull the shot and the bullet rises into the 8 ring! This is something that we will never be able to learn how to deal with back home as we never have these kinds of conditions.



With that being said, members who are starting to get competitive in the UK will need to get themselves some kind of wind flags. The number of competitors who took their own flags to the event and shot so well, left no doubt as to their worth.



But not everything went smoothly for everyone. For some members of the team we had damage done to our cases carrying equipment, which just about lasted the flight home. And there were people that had problems with their stocks splitting. What the reason for this is, no one is sure if it was to do with travel or the weather conditions. And for some they had put their stock together with the screws in the wrong place, which messed up their shooting, but they did borrow a real good rifle that got them to 5th place in the match. I won't mention his name as I'm sure he is a little embarrassed but he writes a good article for the Target Sport!

In the last newsletter I touched on the subject of shooting in the wind and having the equipment to tell you what the wind is doing is going to improve your aim. I know that there are some clubs that only have an indoor 25yd range and this would be difficult to do but those others that shoot outside need to look at what they do and practice on the real windy days using flags.

On the weekend of 10th August here in the south west we had winds up 15-20mph and I went out to shoot even though my friends at my club thought I was nuts! And I shot a 243 4x's, this was done using my wind flags that are made by Caldwell and are windmill type. My point is that, had I not used the flags, I would never have known where to aim or when to take the shot and the score would have been a lot lower.

You have to practice in all kinds of weather conditions, whatever you shoot, be it air rifle or Rimfire and not just wait for the calm quiet day to shoot on if you want to be competitive and maybe take part in shoulder to shoulder competitions, because you never know what the weather will be like on the day of that competition.

Air Gun Section

Hunter section: 19 competitors

Carl Boswell 2nd. Medal winner Colin Renwick 4th. Medal winner

Robin Brown 11th. Garry Kingaby 14th.

Andy Simpson 15th. Jim Andrews 17th.

Unlimited section: 33 competitors

Colin Renwick 3rd. Medal winner Robin Brown 18th.



Garry Kingaby 12st.

Jim Andrews 23rd.

Carl Boswell 25th.

Andy Simpson 26th.

Christine Stockham (JL) 29th. Medal winner

Andy Dubreuil 31st.

Ken Stockham 32nd.

Rimfire Section

10 ½ lb Rimfire 25yd: 44 competitors

Ken Stockham 17th.

Andy Dubreuil 22nd.

Carl Boswell 26th.

Jim Andrews 32nd.

John Farrell 33rd.

Christine Stockham (JL) 39th.

10 ½ lb Rimfire 50m: 67 competitors

Ken Stockham 15th.

Brian Kelly 39th.

Jim Andrews 50th.

Christine Stockham (JL) 52nd

Carl Boswell 61st.

John Farrell 64th.

Unlimited Rimfire 25yd: 52 competitors

Andy Dubreuil 7th.

Jim Andrews 29th.

Colin Renwick 31st.

Christine Stockham 34th.

Carl Boswell 37th.

John Farrell 38th.

Ken Stockham 40th.

Adrian Hasell 49th.

Unlimited Rimfire 50m: 85 competitors

Carl Boswell 5th. Medal winner

Jim Andrews 18th.

Andy Dubreuil 29th.

Brian Kelly 33rd.

Ken Stockham 57th.

John Farrell 60th.

Christine Stockham 70th.

Adrian Hasell 74th.

Colin Renwick 78th.



I think the team members can hold their heads up high in how well they have done in their first world championship against the best of the best. And I think all members would congratulate the team for its efforts.

Shoulder to shoulder shooting

I have made the point that you can't beat shooting shoulder to shoulder for experience and to learn from, so I have a challenge for members.

If you have clubs near you that do our kind of Benchrest shooting, why not try to arrange a one day shoot between clubs?

The nationals are next year and if you want to take part then this would be a good way of getting experience to shoot in this event. Like I have said before, it's easy to turn round and say "oh I won't shoot today as the wind is too high". In an event you don't have that choice and you will have to make the best of the conditions.

If you don't have club nearby but have an enough members to make a one day shoot or just a morning shoot then do it. And tell us how you got on and take some photos and send them into me.

Final thoughts

The world championship has been a success and now puts our sport up there with the rest of the shooting world. Next year is the Nationals and then the year after being the European and then the world championships will be round again.

Every member has the chance to make the British team and if you want it badly enough then you will have to start working for it now as these things come round quickly. Talk to those members at your club who have taken part in past events to get their view on what you need to do, I am sure that they will offer all the help they can if you show a real interest.

In the UK we do have only a small number of members that shoot Sporter (10 1/2lb) Rimfire or Air Rifle and if you have a rifle that fits into this class or are looking to find out more info on what you need to have to shoot this class, then check out the Rules link: [Air Rifle](#) - [Rimfire](#)

Here is a link to all the photos that I took at the event for you to look at and hope that you enjoy.



[Photos](#)

Till next time have fun

Andy Dubreuil