

Mini-Match Report 23rd March 2025

Hopefully everyone has recovered from Sunday, and have steeled themselves for the results! For our First Mini-Match I'm pleasantly surprised by how smooth the day went.

Turn out

We had 23 Shooters turn up to compete, which was a great turnout. Blenheim sent their two best shooters and it would appear that was all they needed to take 1st overall (Joel Yu), and 1st open (also Joel). Cable bay sent 8 shooters and placed 2nd overall (Brian Bishop) and 1st in Peck (Charles Hodges) and Production (Willem Dreyer). We had a great turn out with 13 Shooters, taking 3rd Overall (Myself) 1st in Classic (also Me), Production Optics (Mike Cochrane), Revolver (Peter O'Rourke) and Standard (Ian Nobel).

Stages

With the Help of Steve Piner, Vinnie and Mike, we built 7 stages that all felt complete and up to a standard that everyone could be happy with.

Steve's first week back in country was not spent idly, he made for the club 24 more target holders with a different base, to avoid the logistical challenge the target blocks create. These will live in the range 3 lockup, along with 6 of the poppers, that now live on racks he also whipped up. An additional 48 meters of charge lines were added, which was fortuitous, because by the end of setting up the stages we had one to spare. The pallets were also brought in on time to help with obscuring targets. The forest track was cut by Steve with the help of Mike, the two made a great "bush" stage that our club is becoming known for having at these events. Lastly Brian brought up a heap of new drums, we used every single one of these drums for the shoot and vinnie and I were constantly finding creative ways to get more mileage out of them. Seeing the condition of some, I think it's fair to say we could always do with more. The stages themselves had a good mix of challenges. They could all be shot extremely fast, but landing all the hits was a challenge for most. I only won Classic because Josh had one more Miss than me. We tried to keep the stages simple and I think it paid off because no one seemed to be having trouble with reset times (Something to be very mindful of when creating stages).

Reception

Typically it's hard to get the blenheim guys over the hill, just as we've struggled in the past to send guys there. However, I was Told by Joel Yu that the last one was really enjoyable and he'd be here for this one regardless of the others. It's a really commendable attitude to have, I have no doubt everybody squaded with Joel enjoyed seeing him shoot. The feedback from everyone was incredibly encouraging. Every time I bumped into someone they wanted to tell me how well the match was going and how good the stages looked. Charles (Cable Bay) said to me it felt like a distinct competition while having the charm of a club environment. It was a \$20 entry fee for away shooters. We had 10, so we should have made \$200. We ended up with \$220 because two people felt like we went above and beyond and wanted to give extra. I think this was helped by having a large crew of helpers for the stages.

Whenever I needed help with something I only had to ask someone and it was given. Likewise whenever someone saw an issue they'd let me know what they were doing about it. It really felt like people were stepping up to make it a great day. Squad 1 had Mike, Vinnie, Aaron and Chris Rogers (Cable Bay) doing the majority of the RO work. Squad 2 had myself, Steve P, Joel, and Josh Kenney (Cable Bay) doing most of the running. I'd like to thank all of them for keeping everything running well. If there was an issue it never reached my attention. Ignorance is Bliss.

The Lunch

Two hours into shooting we all stopped for a BBQ lunch, this was only made possible thanks to Richard Hoveden, who donated meat for the occasion, it really elevated the event in my opinion. Grill Master John brought up his BBQ and kept everyone fed, Colin and Pete brought drinks for everyone and Steve got the bread and onions. Overall it was a great pause in the day for a lot. Vinnie got a chance to perfect his public storytelling, and Kevin (who was busy being late) got caught up on the stages that he missed, thanks to Pete, and Steve.

Thanks

To everyone who helped with the event, Thank you. It seemed to me that all the club members present could see what needed to be done to make the day work. And for someone who hates organising this stuff, it made it a good time.

Results

Two lots of results will be sent out. The first lot will be the complete results from the shoot. This will include everyone who shot on the day.

The second lot will only include club members, those of us eligible for the end of year Mini-Match Awards, take note of your match points, these will be important to understand how you stand against your competition, a lot can happen to change this. The biggest being a lack of attendance. Note the 740 match points someone may achieve. Anyone who didn't attend will be short of these points. But might still get a strong placing if they persevere.

Cheers

Corban Piner