

17<sup>th</sup> August 1007

By This Correspondent

A new day dawned on Friday and it looked rather brighter than it had been. Still warm-up matches today, but the Grand Aggregate starts tomorrow – a day earlier than previous years, in order to fit in Thursday's "rain day" (or "sanity day" in the context of two and a half solid weeks of competition) – so it was important for people to be on top of their game by the end of today. This correspondent was showing few signs of that this morning!

Fortunately, others whose shooting ability is more important to the team were doing just fine. David Calvert ("DC") shot with a man of indeterminate nationality who cut both his bull-5 sighters at 900m, explaining to DC that he had done so because bullseyes were not good enough for him. But DC was the one who finished with a 50, just as he did at 500 yards to be the only team member to score the maximum 100, with 12 vees, which was enough to win him the Gooderham by a single vee bull over George Gilpin.

Meanwhile, Dr. Patel was surpassing himself. First he was heard commenting on the Americans' team brochure "it's good to see they have some young people in the team". Guess he must've missed the subtitle "Young Eagles" on the US Under 25s' brochure. He then impressed all with his knowledge of American shooting by telling us that "at Camp Perry, they all shoot F16s". Do they aim at the sky?

A decent length lunch break saw various members of the team follow their repast with bouts of reading, massage or, in the case of a select few, a DVD featuring, erm, basketball and other things.

Continuing the windy trend, the afternoon saw some excellent shooting and some tales of near inners just downwind. DC continued his fine form with another possible at 600 yards in the Army and Navy veterans match. Meanwhile, the 900 metres stage of the Army and Navy was also seeing a few wind-assisted shots, but a few of the team managed to persevere, and the wind began to die down just as it looked like the rain was moving in from the horizon. Or so it seemed...

The 15:50 detail saw one of the wickedest wind changes this correspondent has ever experienced. But it didn't happen until DC had finished. He shot with an 'F' Classer and shot quickly on a steady 11 o'clock wind, to finish with 50.9 and, surely, victory in the Army & Navy Veterans (with his "spare" rifle) and the Friday Aggregate.

However, others were not so fortunate. Both this correspondent and that correspondent were on the very same detail but were only half way through when DC finished. And it was at that point that, from nowhere, a gale appeared. The radio was talking Force 17 – I can only imagine they use different "Force" measurements than at home – but there were certainly 40-50mph gusts, as measured by Pat Vamplew. And even at a shallow 11 o'clock angle, that translated to a change from 3 to 6 to 8 to 6 and to 11 minutes of wind by the time this correspondent finished with an outer (although still 5 points ahead of his target-mate), while that correspondent had downwind inner on 17 minutes with his penultimate shot before missing with his last to count on 20! Mind you, the Captain managed a miss at 600 yards at the same time... it was THAT tricky. Long may it continue.

The day concluded with a spot of surreptitious shopping (more on that tomorrow), swimming, jogging and the usual slap-up meals. Oh and Cloudy said "hi" to Cat.

**Results**

The Gooderham (2+10 @ 500y & 2+10 @900m)

1. CALVERT, DAVID, GBRT	100v12
2. GILPIN, GEORGE, IRELAND	100v11
3. GALLAGHER, MICHELLE, LA HABRA, CA	100v6
5. MESSER, JANE, GBRT	99v13
13. RICHARDSON, DANIEL, CHANNEL ISLANDS	99v8
24. LANGLEY, JEREMY, GBRT	98v10
27. MC QUILLAN, ROSS, GBRT	98v9
32. LUCKMAN, ANDY, GBRT	98v8
33. MACE, NICHOLAS, CHANNEL ISLANDS	98v8
35. PUGSLEY, JOHN, UK	98v7
36. LANGLEY, WILLIAM, CHANNEL ISLANDS	98v7
37. DUNN, JAMES, CHANNEL ISLANDS	98v6
39. MORGAN, R B, ATHELING	98v2
40. LUCKMAN, DAVID, GBRT	97v13
49. HOLDEN, PETER, GBRT	97v10

Army & Navy Veterans result not yet available.