

29th August 2007

By That Correspondent

Another day sensible morning for those on first detail where the wind slowly drifted from one right to a half left, but many of those who had the "man's detail" at 900 metres yesterday also took a beating at 800 this morning, as the wind started to lift the flags off the poles and blow people into the eight ring. John Webster, who had been leading the World Championship agg until this point, was one of the unfortunates; although he did managed to limit his losses to a further four points. In doing so, he handed the reins to Parag Patel, who was leading with an astonishing three points dropped before lunchtime.

Su Doku champion of the day was Nick Hinchliffe, with an outstanding time of 12 minutes; however some have become suspicious at the alleged lack of witnesses to his lightning skills with a ballpoint. I shall say nothing further for fear of legal retribution on our return to the UK. Ross McQuillan continued to display his mastery of the crossword.

At lunchtime the daily awarding of the "Toys out of the Pram" award, DC beat out a challenging field for walking off to shoot with Roo's rifle. It was only when he got to the point and found out that the gunslip contained a left-handed rifle that he realised his error. The look on his face was unprintable; however this only just managed to trump out Matty Ensor's fine effort, where he forgot even to turn up to his detail. Oops. Trailing in third was Reg Roberts, who turned up with precisely fifteen rounds for a seventeen round shoot, only realising at the end of the shoot and being forced to retrospectively convert his less than impeccable 8, 9 sighters.

Again, those on the first of the three details got away with a relatively easy ride at 900 metres, with many scores in the mid to high 140's. Those in the second detail were in for something a bit more challenging, with many sub-140 scores being fired. Parag could only managed a 137.4 in the tricky winds, although the attractive, young Canadian cadet (Chantelle by name) shooting with him managed an impressive 146 in a detail that had experienced international shooters weeping onto their plot sheets. Apparently she achieved this mainly by winding off Parag's wide 8's and accidentally throwing shots left when the wind picked up.

Moving forwards again for the final 700 metres shooter, there were definitely some strange things going with the wind. On the first detail, despite the strength and angle changes, a number of shooters reported very steady true wind of about six minutes. David Luckman held his nerve and shot clean with 13 vees, having spotted many people losing shots upwind on apparent pick-ups. The second detail was of a similar character for the majority; however as the thunderstorm on the horizon menaced the Algonquin hills, the wind suddenly did a 180 shift and ended up coming up the range and from the right. The "Legend of the Day" award must go to our armourer, Anton Aspin, who made a nine minute wind change through zero between consecutive X's for a clean score. Unfortunately, the wind shift also started to bring the storm towards us, and those who had finished for the day watched the pyrotechnic display. Sadly, this brought the lightning a little too close for the comfort of the range officers and the final detail was postponed until 08:00 tomorrow.



After a hard day's shooting, the rain really came in and this report is being written with what appears to be a tropical rainstorm going on outside the door. Torrents of rain are coming down with frequent flashes of lightning. Hopefully this will clear the murk out of the air that was apparent later on in the day, and bring the humidity to a more reasonable level.

At the end of the day, David Luckman had taken over the lead in the World Long Range Championship aggregate from Parag, having only dropped two points on a challenging day for all involved. Bring on the final day's shooting.