

Girlie Diary Saturday

The day dawned sunny with a stiff northerly wind coming straight in off the sea – a pleasant surprise after yesterday's fog and forecast. Following the cancellation of Friday's shoot, we shot 2 + 15s rather than 2 + 10s at 300 and 600, making 2 individual range shoots for the 2 competitions. Having heard big 300x wind numbers mentioned it became obvious that everyone had actually listened when the first sighters came up as wide inners or maggies – Jon putting his on the wrong target! Although very strong, the wind was actually surprisingly constant, and after the odd warm-up blonde moment (Holly forgot her bolt and Maz fired a perfect shot with no round in the breach!), good first-shoot results were had by most. Jon Underwood won the 300x Parker Tankard with a tidy 75.11. Back to 600x for the Guernsey Can. Jon had been fulfilling his role as photographer so well that he very kindly allowed Paul to take both his place and his possible (75.7) in the first detail at the new range. Unfortunately that wasn't enough for Paul as Peter Jory won with 2 more Vs.

A lovely lunch was laid on by GRC ('special needs' eaters catered for beautifully!) and then back out onto the range for the match. The captain continued his trend of wrongly predicting the start time by half an hour, but luckily this was discovered in time!

One thing which has been drummed into the Team with great persistence is the fact that matches are won and lost at 300 yards... today was perfect proof of this, with Guernsey having a disappointing start which the NRA team was able to capitalise on – absolutely vital, given that we lost the other ranges on Vs. Having said this, the team score improved at every range, with Ian top scoring with a 148.22 and the Reserves winning their match comfortably with an impressive and thought-provoking 295 ex 300. The final team scores were NRA: 1176.139, Guernsey: 1164.143

Eventful moments during the match also included Peter thrillingly spotting a white rabbit on the 500x firing point, where Colin also happened to find some rabbit poo in his sandal. Much yelling was directed at two walkers who unwittingly wandered across the range in front of us – never have you seen a couple move so fast – history relates that the poor lady was positively manhandled from the vicinity by her beau. Subsequently, Charlie's shoot at 600x had to be paused at shot 6 while a small yacht floated by in the near distance and the post-match mini Toblerones had to be poured down peoples throats (accompanied by banana of your name is Peter) after having all melted in the car.

This evening, we are sitting in Les Charrieres hotel in Jersey after a smooth, fast post-shoot crossing. Cliff Mallett very kindly met us at the ferry terminal and escorted us to the hotel where he relieved us of the rifles, and we are now congregated in the bar, listening to cheesy 70s pop/rock and chewing over the day's events. Colin has been heard to declare that he has had a great day, breaking a nail and hitting his head on a fortress doorway, after having helped Stuart move his vernier the wrong way, resulting in a nice magpie first sighter 300x in the match. Don't you just love Van Halen...

Scribe of the day: Mary Boston, Charlie Aldridge, Holly Foster