

Monday 28th Match day!

An early start for the team at 6 30. With concentrated minds, light breakfasts and clear from any alcoholic self induced illnesses. The team was on tip top condition, psyched up and ready to defeat Jersey, only one problem. We had experienced the wrath of the fog and rain gods on Guernsey and now we were subject to the wind God at Crabbe. As a consequence it was decided that the wind conditions were too strong to safely operate the targets in the butts. This resulted in the individual shoots being cancelled (again!) with the possible cancellation of the match. Due to the wet and windy weather outside the team decided to carry out extreme wet weather drills and sight checking in preparation for the match.

It wasn't long before the team found new ways of entertaining each other with Texas hold em, cups of coffee and bacon sarnies. After much deliberation and constant checking of the wind and how this was affecting the targets, time was running out! Cliff Mallett announced that if the conditions did not improve by 3.00pm the match will have to be cancelled.

Fortunately, the wind did calm down enough to go ahead. Team selection was made difficult again as the Team Managers were expecting to have a few more scores under their belt to pick the team. However the teams were picked and we were off to 300x.

The match had started off with still a very windy and extremely buffeting start. Where the buffeting queen, Maz Boston, punches through the wind with a 50.5. Only one of two shooters to achieve this score on the entire range! The wind was slightly trickier for others and shots were let off at the wind God's mercy. As the wind was so severe firers from the NRA, Jersey the Barbarians and the Army all helped to mark the remaining firers for 300 xs. Amazingly though the NRA Team and Jersey were almost neck and neck with 385.36 from the NRA and 385.43 from Jersey. All to play for at 5 and 6.

The reserves match also affected by the difficult wind conditions shot a 95 to Jerseys 97. Two points down but recoverable!

The wind had calmed down tremendously at 500 and Jersey were knocking in the 50's but with only very few 50's from our team a 50.8 for Simon Shouler (Top score on the range), 50.6 from Paul Charlton and the same from Reggie Reggie Reggie ahahahahahaahhhhh! The team finished 2 points down from Jersey's score of 395.51

The reserves pulled it back scoring a fantastic 99 at 500 to Jerseys 99 also. So to follow suit the reserves were in the same predicament as the full team. All left to one range to go!

With the winding calming down it was down to straight shooting at 600x. A team huddle at a quick but down to the point encouraging speech from the Captain 'This is what we have trained for. If we shoot straight we will win. So concentrate and enjoy yourself'. Simply yet it appeared to work. 50's were coming in thick and fast from Maz, Reggie Reggie Reggie, Paul, Holly and Ian with one 47, one 48 and one 49. Making a score of NRA 394. Jersey however clearly did not have an encouragement speech and Jersey started to leak points and by the fourth firer we were seven ahead. Only a few of the Jersey crew went clean and after our last firer we finished six points clear of Jersey with a score of 388.

We had done it! We won. NRA scored 1172.138 to Jerseys 1168.151. All the training and the drills all paid off. Regretfully though the reserves shot a respectable 97 to Jerseys 95 which levelled Jersey on points yet we were pipped by V's.

But with many happy faces from the Team and an extremely happy Captain we had just enough time to put the rifles away and get back to the Hotel for a scrub up and change for the evening reception, held at Bistro Roque. A very pleasant meal followed with a few celebration drinks the Team were in a sense of glee and satisfaction for defeating both Guernsey and Jersey.

The night was followed with further drinks and a spot of clubbing and then back to the hotel where the Team was entertained by more drinks and a DVD of Borat's trip to the US of A. It's Nice! We Liked!

So what could turn out to be a disappointing day with bad weather and possible cancellation of the team we had the total reversal! The team match was won, great food and drink was consumed and excellent company. So we had achieved what we had set out to do and all that was left was to enjoy the rest of the tour before going home!

Scribe of the day: Simon Shouler and Stuart Young