



Team Journal – Day 21

Wednesday 12th April

There was no shooting this morning so the team had the opportunity to have a leisurely breakfast and to do some preliminary packing - this evening and tomorrow morning are going to be hectic with very little time available for preparing all of our kit for the flight back.

The final of the State Presidents began at 1 p.m. Another hot, sunny day greeted us - the weather for this meeting has been a full house of glorious days. At 800m the wind was difficult - quick changes in the range of 0 - 5R, with the near flags disagreeing with the far ones and both contradicted by the mirage. Four team members managed a 74 here (Vice, Stuart, Jeens and Shouler). At 900m the wind seemed somewhat easier, or perhaps one was just getting the hang of it. High scores here were 72 (Jeremy, Nigel, DC, Stuart and Vice). Once the dust had settled and the 2nd Stage scores were added it was Stuart who had come out top with 296.29 with DC and Vice just one point behind.

Before the announcement of the winners there was a tie-shoot to decide the winner of the 2nd Stage. This was a needle match between Stuart and Nick. Also taking part was none other than our Birdman of Bloem, Hennie Gerber (see diary of about 5 days ago).



Hennie keeps the two coaches apart prior to the tie-shoot

Both Stuart and Nick put their sighters into the inner. Nick then charged ahead, as Hennie dropped his first to count, finishing well before the others with 15.1. The next time Stuart's target came up it displayed an inner so Nick had won. Stuart's last to count was also an inner so the final order had him third after Hennie.

When we arrived back at 600m the announcement of the winners was being made. We did have hopes for Stuart's 296.29 in the Presidents but he was only able to claim 2nd place behind Tielman Breedt of Northwest Province. We did have a winner, however, of the Championship. General Mac prefaced his announcement with 'almost inevitably'. The reason for this is that the winner was our own DC who has won it every year from 2001 (and in 1996), making this his 7th win. A remarkable record in this highly competitive environment.



DC takes his place with the other winners



Tielman Breedt is chaired from the range

	STAGE ROOM	MISSILE ROOM	THIRD ROOM	STAGE TOTAL	Second Stage	STAGE PRESIDENTS' TROPHY
Captain	65-3	71.4		136.7	146-14	282.21
Chris Fitzpatrick	74	72.5		146	149-19	295
Jonathan Haward	71.5	68.5		139.5	148-14	287.27
Nick Tremlett	73.7	70.4		143.4	150-18	293.29
David Calvert	73	72.0		145	150-16	295
Stuart Collings	74.5	72.5		146	150-18	296.10
Nigel Ball	73.4	72.4		145.8	149-16	294.24
Matt Button					147-14	
Paul Charlton	69.5	70.2		139.7	141-11	280.5
John Deane	71.6	67.5		139.1	148-17	286.28
Rupert Dix	70.5	65.2		135.7	147-10	282.7
Peter Griggs	69	67.3		136	149-16	285
Peter Holden	69.6	71.2		140.8	147-18	287.29
Jonathan Holmes	73.6	70.6		143.8	150-15	295.27
Richard Jeens	74.5	67.8		143.7	149-12	292.23
Jeremy Langley	70.6	72.3		142.9	149-14	291.23
Richard Shouler	74.5	70.5		144.10	147-11	291.21
Alistair Speirs	70.4	70.5		140.9	147-15	287.24
James Watson	69.2	61.1		130.3	146-16	276.19
Alexander Woodward	71	67		138	145-13	283
JUDY SCOTT LAMLEY	68.4	65.8		133.7	144-11	277.5

Today's GB scores (nearly) in full

The programme from now is that we will be attending the prize-giving on the range. After that there is to be a team dinner. Tomorrow we leave for Jo'burg at 9 a.m. (apart from 4 team members who are going on elsewhere in South Africa for a further holiday) and fly back to the UK in the evening. It has been an excellent tour with some very significant successes and a few disappointments. The South African shottists have been extraordinarily hospitable, as always. Their constant plea to GB shooters is "keep coming please".