

Police Athletic Association V Scottish Small-bore Rifle Association Blairgowrie, Summer, 1993.

As last year, a friendly match was arranged between the Police Athletic Association and the SSRA on the day between the Scottish Police Championships and the NSRA Scottish Championships. This year the event was held on Friday 25th June at Blairgowrie and took the form of an English Match (60 shots at 50 metres) and a Scottish Match (60 shots at 100 yards) between teams of six.

The competition got off to a slow start while frantic efforts were made to find adequate communication facilities for the remote range safety look-outs (eventually solved by the generous loan of radios by the local police).

This was followed by a period of "musical firing points" as the SSRA shooters had their first exposure to the vagaries of the soon to be notorious field in which the Championships were being held. The previous day's acclimatisation was obviously beneficial to the PAA, who built up a 20 point advantage over the first 20 shots. The SSRA almost held their own for the next 40 shots, slipping

		50 metres			100 yards			Total		
PAA	W Long (Tayside)	195	197	194	586	195	191	192	578	1,164
	R West (W Yorks)	193	194	195	582	191	193	190	574	1,156
	P Hatton (Lancs)	196	197	196	589	195	194	196	585	1,174
	J Armstrong (Cleveland)	197	195	193	585	193	194	193	580	1,165
	A Roberts (Merseyside)	192	190	194	576	194	188	186	568	1,144
	K Brooks (W Midlands)	193	194	194	581	187	192	189	568	1,149
	Capt: D Goodfellow				3,499				3,453	6,952
SSRA	T S Hastings	194	197	197	588	190	196	195	581	1,169
	J Cole-Hamilton	191	191	192	574	193	193	192	578	1,152
	A S Bruce	196	195	191	582	194	189	192	575	1,157
	K MacMahon	186	196	193	575	195	188	189	572	1,147
	S MacDonald	190	191	195	576	193	189	195	577	1,153
	S R Bailey	189	193	194	576	193	185	197	575	1,151
	Capt: J Curtis				3,471				3,458	6,929
PAA	Reserves									
	S Yeoman (Met)	193	197	195	585	195	186	194	575	1,160
	A Germain (S Wales)	196	192	195	583	186	190	193	569	1,152
	D Hodson (Lancs)	192	195	195	582	192	190	185	567	1,149

only 8 further points to finish the English Match with a deficit of 28 points.

In view of the deteriorating weather conditions and the time required to withdraw and replace the safety look-outs only a short break was taken before proceeding with the Scottish Match. This was a much more even competition with the SSRA going 3 points on the 1st card, losing 12 on the 2nd and gaining 14 on the final card to give a gain at 100 yards to the SSRA of 5 points. This gave the PAA a well-deserved overall victory by 23 points.

The match was followed by a short informal ceremony in the Competitors' Tent during which pleasantries and mementos were exchanged and the PAA team captain, Dave Goodfellow, was presented with a bottle of cask strength malt whisky (64.9%) which had been donated from the winning team. Fortunately, the losing team captain came prepared with sufficient glasses for all to enjoy this beneficence and a very enjoyable and friendly competition closed on a high note as several of the visitors experienced the delights(?) of cask strength whisky without added water!

This match gives the Association the opportunity to make available semi-representative experience to a small group of shooters and we hope to make it a permanent event in the future shooting calendar. All those who took part or assisted in any way are extended our gratitude and we look forward to receiving a note of thanks from the ESSU for the valuable experience this competition gave to at least one of their Home Countries International team members!

John Curtis.