



## Team Journal – Part 17

### Saturday 28th August

Yesterday evening, as this journal was being uploaded, the promised rain arrived. When we went out for dinner (to the Ice House - excellent fillet mignons all round) the weather was quite unpleasant, cold, wet and with a strong wind blowing. As somebody commented, we could have got this at home. We were also treated to quite a lightning show.

This morning there was a thick duvet of cloud at first, but soon after we arrived at the range the clouds began to part and the sun made an appearance. Today is the first day of individual competition - the OK Weber Match, the course of fire being 2 & 10 at 300x, 500x and 600x and then 2 & 15 at 900x.

We all lined up, swipe cards in hand to be issued the stickers for our tickets. It seems that the system is less than random, assigning each target in turn so the team ended up on targets very close together, albeit on two different details. Before we began there was the ceremonial firing of the cannon. After yesterday's experience it must have been decided that it was safe to fire it while we were all back at 1000x and since it was fired without any announcement the effect was distinctly more startling than yesterday.

The prize lists for the K-Bob (yesterday's) match showed that David Richards' team had come second to the US Army Team which scored 1973.83 (1 point ahead). The Vice Captain's team came 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Captain's 5<sup>th</sup> and Jeremy's team 6<sup>th</sup>.

The short range is shot in pairs so 4 firers are assigned to each target with 2 marking and a switch made halfway through. There is a one-way road system through the butts so when the announcement "The pits are open, the pits are open" is made, cars leave both the firing points and the butts in a clockwise direction until all positions are swapped. When the dust has settled the opposite announcement "The pits are sealed, the pits are sealed" is made.

The long range shoots are shot 'in strings'. One shooter fires all 15 to count while the other person on his target keeps his score. After 22 minutes the process is reversed. Shooters can choose to use the whole of their 22 minutes, perhaps waiting for long periods if the wind appears to be changing and then firing a number of shots in rapid succession at a time when the wind steadies.

As a result of the system being operated here we mark the target which we have just shot on - we can therefore look at our patched groups (assuming being in the first relay) - see the Beauty Contest below. We also know who is shooting on the target we are marking, adding interest to the process. These two facts can combine

interestingly. At 900x Nigel and Parag were marking the target on which Alwyn was shooting when there was a shot just about touching the 9 ring - was it an 8 or 9? The six GBRT team members in close proximity all had a look and the Adjutant declared it out. An 8 was given. However, we knew Alwyn would be soon down in the butts and would undoubtedly have a close look. It was decided to ornament the target at that particular point with a suitable design in patches.

At 300x there was little wind at all - the odd ½ minute of wind being required. By the time we got back to 600x things were more interesting with a quickly fishtailing wind from the rear which was quite capable of moving a shot the 2 minutes required to dump it in the 8 ring if the shooter missed the change.

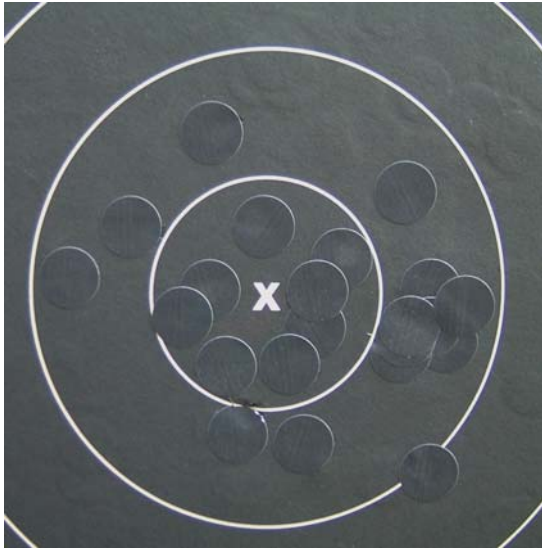
After each detail had shot the three short ranges we broke for a 1 hour lunch. The scoresheet on the side of the stats bus revealed that 3 team members had gone clean at that point - Jon Cload, David Luckman and Martin Millar.

After lunch there was just the 900x range to shoot. Compared to 1000x, 900x is considered a relatively easy range, however when the wind is variable it is possible to lose a significant number of points. And so it proved for some of the team. The most notable crash came from Toby who had, over the 3 ranges before lunch, dropped only 3 points - but dropped 14 at 900x. This was not, however, because of difficulties with the wind but with putting the shot on the right target. Toby claims that he has never before put a shot on the wrong target - tonight he is coming to the humbling realisation of his own fallibility.

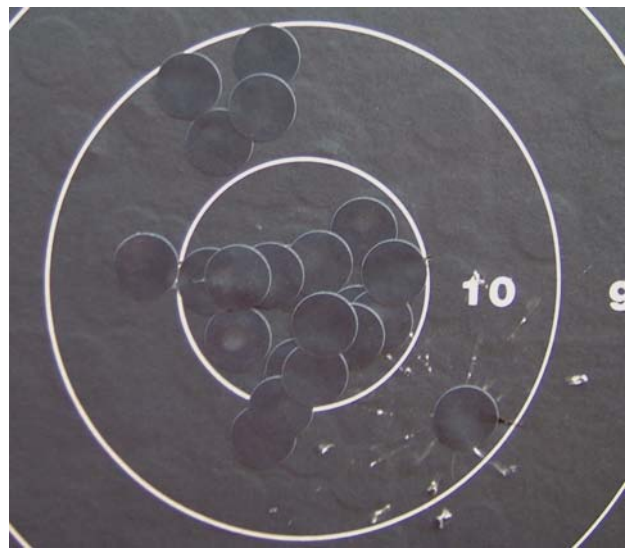
At the end of the day top honours went to Jon Cload who had a wonderful day's shooting, dropping only 1 point (at 900x). In addition to having the top score of the GBRT he also topped the wider leader board to win the competition - a tremendous boost for the team to have one of its number put their marker down so early. Also in the top 10 of the prize list were David Luckman (3<sup>rd</sup>), David Richards (8<sup>th</sup>) and Jon Underwood (10<sup>th</sup>).

## The Beauty Contest

Please vote for one of the groups (using the feedback tab on the website) fired in pairs at 300x below - for information the X ring is approximately 3" (7.5 cm) and the 10 ring 6" (15 cm). These groups do include sighters. Note that the white marks on picture 2 are the result of hitting the golf tee with which shots are marked (so that they can be seen by the firer through his telescope). Since the shooters were firing alternate shots this is pure chance in this case and should not influence your decision.



1. Parag & Nigel



2. Jumbo & Jeremy



3. Alistair and James Watson



4. The Captain and Larry Kilcullen  
of Santa Rosa, Ca

## Today's Gallery



Some of the firing points are a little rough - here we see Jumbo (CSM) doing a little gardening



Irish markers

## Today's Results in full

### OK Weber

	300x	v	500x	v	600x	v	900x	v	Agg	v	Posn.
<b>Jon Cload</b>	100	9	100	5	100	7	149	9	449	30	1
<b>David Luckman</b>	100	7	100	1	100	6	148	8	448	22	3
<b>David Richards</b>	100	7	98	3	99	2	149	9	446	21	8
<b>Jon Underwood</b>	100	4	100	5	99	6	147	5	446	20	10
<b>Parag Patel</b>	100	5	100	6	99	4	147	4	446	19	11
<b>James Watson</b>	100	8	99	5	99	4	147	3	445	20	17
<b>Jeremy Langley</b>	100	6	100	5	98	5	147	3	445	19	18
<b>Nigel Ball</b>	100	5	100	7	99	5	145	8	444	25	22
<b>James Lewis</b>	100	8	99	3	98	4	147	5	444	20	27
<b>Alistair Speirs</b>	100	5	98	5	97	4	148	5	443	19	35
<b>Martin Millar</b>	100	4	100	7	100	3	143	5	443	19	36
<b>Alwyn McLean</b>	99	4	98	5	100	3	145	5	442	17	39
<b>Andy Luckman</b>	100	4	100	4	96	3	146	5	442	16	40
<b>Jane Messer</b>	100	7	98	5	98	4	145	6	441	22	43
<b>Erica McMullan</b>	98	3	99	3	99	3	145	5	441	14	46
<b>John Webster</b>	100	5	100	3	99	3	142	2	441	13	48
<b>Mary Boston</b>	100	8	100	6	95	2	143	2	438	18	56
<b>Ross McQuillan</b>	100	5	99	5	98	3	139	4	436	17	65
<b>Nick Hinchliffe</b>	98	5	97	4	99	4	142	2	436	15	67
<b>Toby Raincock</b>	100	5	99	8	99	2	136	4	434	19	71