



# RIMFIRE ONLINE

## at the Nationals, Blenheim 2007

Date: Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2007.

### Weather Tuesday:

as read from thermometer on Hawkesbury Range

09:30 25.0C in the shade

13:00 28.5C end of days shooting – still in the shade

### Report from Hawkesbury Range:

The 50m matches have now well and truly started with 75 competitors settling down to shoot Day One of the Graded matches.

First up for the day was B Grade who started the morning at 08:30 with 17 or so targets shaded, but by the end all more or less had full sun. **Nikki Cookson** fended off **Ian Pottinger**, to start with a slim lead for the two-day event. **Jon Phillipps**, **Dudley Jarmen** and **Helen Freiman** all share third spot.

The second squad had a tricky shade on target one that caused some consternation, but **Martin Hunt** and **Kathryn Mead** were unaffected and led the pack, with **Sheryl Glass** a handy third in the A Grade.

Last to shoot for the day was the combined C and D grades. D Grader **Ashleigh Trainor** posted a score that would shame many C graders, with the exception of **John Chauval** who seems to be a burglar in the grade. **Jordan Craig**, **Charday Wooten-Lane** and **John Huges** are all equal second place at the end of day one of the Graded match.

The conditions were described as bright, a tricky wind that flicked from left to right and back again, and generally pretty challenging. It was hot by the end of shooting at 1 p.m.

A full set of results from today's events can be found at

<http://www.targetshootingnz.co.nz/outdoorNattChamps.asp>

### Did you know?

That the JDS program has been running for 4 years now.

The 15 original members were Abe Baigent, Craig Cookson, Adrian Black, Jamie Bonis, Sonia Lyttle, Ian Westcott, Roberta Wadsworth, Lee Harris, Amy Ensor, Caroline and Rebecca Rhodes, Helen Sorensen, Vilivahn Souvannavong, Mark Hyndman, and Sarah McConochie.

Of those 15, nine are attending this years Nationals and a few have posted new Personal Bests in Air and 3P.

The Manager was Gary Win, now Gary of Arabia, and the coaches remain Jonno Phillipps, Dave Sheely, Leon Griebel and Ian Pottinger

### Heard Around the Range: 1

"Range Officer, Target 22 doesn't work"

"That's because you are on mound 21" was the reply.

"In that case would you mind winding target 21 back three diagrams, please?"

### Heard Around the Range: 2

Which senior member of the Exec gave his motel room key to someone to open the boot of the car?

### Notice:

With the departure of Peter Werder, the **50m Jury** will now be **Craig O'Brien**, Chairman, **John Chauval**, and **Jon Phillipps**.

### Weather forecast for Wednesday:

Fine with light winds and Hot – the dawn just has that feel about it this morning.

### Events for Thursday:

Hawkesbury 50m Range:

ISSF Women (13 entries) and Junior (15 entries)

ISSF Men's Elimination – 2 squads of 21 each with 12 each to qualify for Friday

### Official of the day:



Julie Johnson from Hastings started shooting as a very young mum in 1961 when a neighbour introduced her to the sport. She met fellow shooter, George and they were married in 1983 and Julie has been to every Nationals since the late 1980's, although some years more recently George has preferred the company of his lathe, to the company on the range.

Julie gave up competitive shooting in 1990, then took it up again before the 1994 World Masters Games in Brisbane, and then retired from active shooting in 1995/6 due to poor eyesight.

Since 1990 Julie has been a volunteer at Commonwealth Games in Auckland, at 1988 Oceania in Christchurch, Head of Classification at the 1992 Oceania in Auckland, volunteer at the World Deaf Games in Christchurch in 1989, and a volunteer at Oceania 2003 in Auckland.

Julie has managed numerous Ladies Indoor postal teams, and North Island Outdoor teams, and is currently Manager of the JDS, and has been for 2 years, which she finds extremely rewarding.

Julie has been North Island Association Secretary "forever", and a member of the TSNZ executive for the last 5 years.

"You get back what you put in" is Julie's Motto.

---

### Competitor of the Day:

#### Random:



Roger Bawden, 25, a cartographer in Rotorua, shot during High School, but gave it away in favour of studying for his Bachelor of Earth Sciences at Waikato University.

When he returned to Rotorua he took up shooting prone again 4 years ago, and then took up Air Rifle 3 years ago and 3P just less than 12 months ago.

Roger has shot in the Rees Scroll Teams of Ten once in Palmerston North and then gave away shooting indoors in favour of

concentrating in his Air Rifle, with mixed results.

Roger has holidayed in such far-flung places as the USA, Australia, the Pacific Islands and Japan, but his favourite place on earth is the Rotorua Lakes.

This is Rogers third Nationals and is having fun so far.

Roger bought his Mountain bike with him and has found a track across the tops of the hills beyond the range so he declares that he is happy. He also plays Business House Cricket.

---

### Competitor of the day:

#### Family:



Ken and Sally Johnston were standing at the range this morning and made such a pretty picture that I could not pass up the opportunity to ask a few questions.

Both have been shooting for the Invercargill Club since they were each 13 years old – although a generation apart.

Both have represented Southland at the Andrew and Faulkner, but as Sally has moved around the country for University and work she has shot in the Rees Scroll variously for Hutt Valley, Manawatu and Taranaki teams.

Ken shoots Prone only and is the current National Veteran Record Holder, but Sally is a multi-talented woman who shoots Prone, and Air and confesses to dabbling in 3P.

Ken has been a member of the Southland A&F team for the last 30 years, but will miss this year when he goes to Australia for a holiday, putting shooting second, for the first time in his life. (Jenny laughs).

Sally's NZ rep honours include being a member of the World Champs team to Barcelona in 1998, and to two Commonwealth Games, in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, where she won a bronze medal in the Women's Sport Rifle (prone) and to Melbourne last year.

Ken has been in several NZ Indoor Postal teams.

Sally confesses to liking kneeling, but not the pain, likes standing, but wishes she was better, and loves prone where she can shoot 10's. It all just depends on the day.

Sally's worst ever shoot would be here at Hawkesbury at Labour weekend 2006 when it was so cold. She (and everyone else) had no game plan to cope with the level of cold.

Sally wishes everyone "shoot well, shoot 10's, Nothing but the dot!"



# RIMFIRE ONLINE

## at the Nationals, Blenheim 2007

### Graded competitor of the day Veteran:



I found Bernie Blackie in his van making a cup of tea and after introducing myself asked him for an interview, and settled down with a cup of tea and pen in hand and listened and scribbled notes in fascination.

This sprightly 81 year old started shooting at school in Scargill in 1939, although he tells me he was made in Sheffield (Canterbury, NZ.) During WWII all clubs went into recess, but after the war in 1949 he took it up again.

In 1948 Bernie moved to Darfield and helped build a combined pavilion and rifle range, ready to start shooting when the war was over. The circuit around the district included shoots at Wally Oakley's wool shed where, leaning around a wool bale, he shot his first possible.

Bernie moved to Lake Tekapo for 6 months and then in 1950 moved to Geraldine and shot for Pleasant Valley RC for 4 years.

The circuit saw Bernie shooting at clubs including Orari, Peel Forest, Woodbury, Gapes Valley, and Rangitata. Many of these clubs are long since defunct.

In 1955 another move saw him in Waimate, where he had some fun around a new circuit consisting of Waimate, Studholme, Glenavy, Hook, Makekehi, and Hilton clubs.

Later Bernie moved back to Ashburton, as he was an electrician working for various Power Boards. Here he shot at the Old Brick Kiln and again around the district at ranges in Pendavis, Seafield, Methven, and Mt. Somers. It was here that when the snow was on the mountain, shooting from the wool shed into open air, the northwesterners would whistle down and straight through the sights and make for watery eyes. Also in this circuit were clubs in Hinds, Ealing, Lynford and Willoughby.

Bernie went on to name the various indoor clubs that he has shot at over the ensuing years:

- Scargill in North Canterbury,
- Waikare
- Waipara at the Glenmark Club
- Hawarden
- Dommett
- Cheviot
- Kaikoura
- Sefton
- From 1965 Culverden
- Hanmer Springs
- Rotherham
- Wairau
- From 1970 Rangiora
- Southbrook
- West Eyrton
- Oxford
- Amberley
- Waikuku
- Kaiapoi
- Richmond Club (Nelson)
- Tasman Club
- Hamilton
- New Plymouth
- Te Ore Ore (Masterton)
- Hutt Valley
- Royal Tiger Range in Wellington
- Ashburton
- Temuka
- Christchurch
- Oamaru
- Dunedin in the town hall,
- Invercargill
- Balclutha

Bernie also followed the championships and shot on different ranges in:

- Geraldine
- Timaru
- Glen Iti
- Nelson
- Blenheim
- North Canterbury (Scargill)
- Kaikoura in Jon Blades' garage
- South Island in Oamaru
- The Wool Shed shoot for the Centennial shoot in Timaru in the 1960's

Bernie has shot in several South Island teams in the annual North South match; the first in 1965, and in the 1970's shot a postal for NZ vs. Canada.

Bernie went as a delegate to TSNZ Annual Conference in 1969 in Hutt Valley and has attended every year since, except in 1984 after a back operation when his wife and doctor refused permission for him to travel.

Bernie represented North Canterbury in his first Andrew and Faulkner Shield in 1970, and after he got Ashley Association affiliated to NZ in the 1970's has been a firm member of that team ever since.

As you can image Bernie has many contacts all over New Zealand shooting and has been known to use that network to improve shooting wherever he happens to be.

He states that his rifle was a part of the equipment in the boot of the car, as he was working around the districts in which he lived and worked.

He has introduced many shooters over the years to travelling to championships away from home, many to Nelson and Marlborough.

When he moved to Rangiora he joined the Canterbury Outdoor Club at McLean's Island, and has shot at many outdoor clubs across Canterbury, Otago, Marlborough, Nelson and the West Coast, and as far as Palmerston North, and even a foray into Ardmore as a member of the South Island team.

A few years ago Bernie was presented with a Merit Certificate, which was entirely unexpected and two years ago at the A&F in Oamaru was presented with a Gold Merit Certificate and appreciates that it was presented to him so that he can appreciate them both.

He laughed that too many of these awards are presented posthumously.

#### **Bernie is a Life Member of:**

- **North Canterbury Association,**
- **Ashley Association, and**
- **Rangiora Club.**

In August of 2003 Bernie had a mini stroke, which reduced him from a B grade to D grade outdoors and M to C indoors. His left arm and leg were like jelly, but he went to the Waitaki shoot in December of that year and struggled, so he got a lighter Anschütz 1407 and upgraded the stock to an 18 series with the 14 series barrel and action, and challenged himself to get back into it.

Over the years he has coached many young fellows and now and again one would beat him, and that's good.

He tells that one year he took his younger son to the Canterbury indoor champs, and there junior shot 100.5 and beat Bernie.

I had to cut short this interview as Bernie had a match to shoot, and I am very certain that given the chance he would have many stories to tell about the lists of ranges he has shot at over the last 60 years.

Alison Fursdon. Ed