

## TEAM WALES ALL SMILES OVER IN THE EMERALD ISLE

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 17 WCTSA members represented Wales at the 5<sup>th</sup> ICTSF World English Sporting Championship.

The event was held in the beautiful grounds of Dowth Hall, Co. Meath in Ireland and upon arrival it was clear to see the ICTSA hosts had pulled out all the stops. Using a green-field site for a major event is always a challenge but the work and effort that was put into creating the shooting village was excellent and this set the tone for the whole event. The hospitality was welcoming and the organisation and running of all the competitions was like clockwork.

Day one saw the team shoot the 'Gold' course which was set partly in woodland and partly in fields. It was clear to see the work that had gone into setting the targets and they didn't disappoint. With targets for every level of shooting ability it was a thoroughly enjoyable course which could be tricky in places. Many of the team felt they "let a few silly ones go" but, with some very respectable scores on the board, things looked good heading into day two. Andrew White was top scorer with 95/100 and heading back to the village he could be excused for thinking that was a good score only to be told a member of the Australian team had posted a 99/100 which was some phenomenal shooting.

Day two and it was off to the 'Green' course. Rumours around the village was that this was the tougher of the two courses and they were right!! Again, the course weaved its way through fields and woodland but it was clear the targets were definitely more technical and shooters had to work to build a score. Top score for the day was Phil Patch with an excellent 89/100 and Andrew White backed up his day one score with an 88/100 to give him a final total of 183/200.

Heading back to the village all anyone could do now was wait for the final scores to come in and hope they'd done enough.

Before any medals would be handed out, there was the small matter of a 'Super Final' shoot off which would consist of the top 6 from the semi-final shoot off. The semi-final was made up of the top 5 from each of the 2 day competitions and Wales had 2 representatives! Andrew White made the cut off from the Fri/Sat rotation and he was joined by Dorian Evans from the Weds/Thurs rotation who posted a 179/200. With the entire Welsh team behind them both shot extremely well and Andrew sailed into the super final while some of the best shots in the country fell by the wayside. The super final was a close fought battle with shooters changing positions after every 10 targets. When the final tally was made Andrew finished a very respectable =4<sup>th</sup> overall. Overall victory went to Derrick Mein of USA after a sudden death shoot off with Ross Straker of England.

Just as we thought it was all over, we were then told there was a shoot off for Super Veteran World Champion and it would involve Ian Palmer! Already in his formal uniform, Ian took it all in his stride, threw on his Welsh skeet vest and took to the stand. 5 on report pairs would decide the title and Ian faced none other than a former Welsh International now representing Scotland, Stewart Gordon. Ian was up first and put the pressure straight on his opponent by scoring a perfect 10. It only took 2 pairs for Stewart to hand the title to Ian.

Onto the presentation of awards and for the first time ever, the entire team would be on the podium to collect a medal of some colour in their respective categories.

### **Team success:**

- Open Team – Bronze Medal

- Junior Team – Bronze Medal
- Ladies Team – Silver Medal
- Veteran Team – Bronze Medal
- Super Veteran Team – Gold Medal
- Team Manager – Bronze Medal

**Individual success:**

- Super Veteran World Champion – Ian Palmer
- Lady Junior World Champion – Annalise Evans

Aside the main event there was also some Welsh success in the Preliminary Sporting competition with Edward Rees picking up the win in B class and Dorian Evans taking the overall high gun.

One other special award was also presented at the event. The Tony King Memorial trophy is awarded for the highest score by any member of the Welsh team at the World Sporting championship and this went to Andrew White.

Congratulations go to each and every member of the team for their fantastic results and a big thank you to all the support crew who followed the team around for the 2 days – I think it's fair to say it's very stressful being a shooter's parent!!

All in all this was a very successful event for Team Wales and also a huge success for the ICTSA. It was undoubtedly the best ICTSF World Championship to date and will most definitely be a major talking point for many years to come.

Nicola Walker  
Team Manager