**IT’S ‘GIRL POWER’ FOR WALES AT THE 2019 FITASC INTERNATIONAL**

On Saturday 28th September the CPSA hosted the 20th FITASC Sporting Home Countries International tournament at Atkin, Grant & Lang Shooting Ground near St. Albans.

16 WCTSA members (and one dragon named ‘Dafydd’) made the trip to fly the flag for Team Wales at the last of the International tournaments for 2019.

Practice on Friday was somewhat marred by heavy downpours of rain and even thunder & lightning in the afternoon, which made the viewing of the international targets by team manager’s & captain’s slightly perilous. With 4 layouts set on varying terrain, the variety of targets on offer was excellent so everything was set for it to be a great international competition.

Competition day was cloudy and dry but with a strong wind blowing-it was obvious targets would be wind affected and this would probably make things a little more interesting. With scores starting to come in from the first rotation it was clear to see that obtaining the perfect score on a layout was going to take some excellent shooting - and it did with only two 25 straights scored all day.

At the mid-way point in the day, things were extremely close at the top between 4 of the 5 teams and it was still all to play for. In the individual competition, Richard Hughes had started the morning strongly only dropping 3 targets out of the first 50.

As the day drew on, the wind seemed to gather more momentum and the scores started to dip slightly but one shooter who was scoring consistently throughout was Janine White. She was the first member of the team back to the clubhouse with all 4 layouts done and dusted and a solid score of 81/100 on the board for the rest to chase. This score would be good enough to see off all the other ladies in the competition and for Janine to pick up Ladies High Gun of the match. Congratulations Janine!

As the final scores continued to role in, it was obvious the team results would go down to the wire with the last few individual scores likely to make all the difference. Richard Hughes came in with a final tally of 88/100 which put him top of the pile for a while until Andrew White rolled in later-also with a score of 88/100. Once all the scores were on the board, this was good enough for =4th overall and joint Welsh High Gun. Only one way to decide the Welsh HG title……SHOOT OFF!!! After another round of 25 targets, Andrew just edged Richard to the title.

Also in a shoot off situation was Annalise Evans who had finished with a score of 73/100 which was good enough for her to be in a 3 way tie for runner-up in the Junior category at her very first FITASC international. She only narrowly missed out on the title after shooting extremely well.

In the team competitions, it was all ‘girl power’ with both Janine White & Lucy Pitt combining to make up the Wales ladies team who finished runner’s up. James Morgan and Annalise Evans also finished strongly in the Junior team category to finish 3rd overall. The senior team were unlucky to finish 4th overall with only 10 targets separating 1st and 4th in what has to be one of the most hotly contested internationals ever.

This year the team consisted of 4 new caps who all wore their Welsh uniforms with pride and stepped up to the international challenge admirably. Well done to Huw Stephens, Dale Owen, Sean Martin & Annalise Evans.

Once again, congratulations to Janine on a fantastic individual result and to everyone else who was part of the 2019 FITASC international team - roll on 2020!

Nicola Walker

FITASC Team Manager

**Welsh Awards Winners**

Overall HG of Wales Andrew White 88/100

Senior HG of Wales Andrew White 88/100

Ladies HG of Wales Janine White 81/100

Junior HG of Wales Annalise Evans 73/100

Veteran HG of Wales Phil Patch 78/100

Super-Veteran HG of Wales Mick Harding 78/100

**Overall Awards**

Ladies High Gun of the Match Janine White

Runner-Up Captain High Gun Richard Hughes

Runner-Up New Cap High Gun Huw Stephens

Runner-Up Ladies Team Janine White & Lucy Pitt