



SPORTING & FITASC HOME INTERNATIONALS 2021

TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT

❖ ENGLISH SPORTING

On Saturday 11th September, Team Wales travelled to the fantastic venue of Auchterhouse Country Sports near Dundee for the 2021 Home International. The weather was surprising favourable with the sun shining and only a light breeze, ideal conditions for a day's shooting.

The shoot consisted of 2 mini courses which allowed 2 squads to go out at the same time and this worked extremely well. The targets were tough and testing and this was evident by the scores with only overall high gun breaking the 90 barrier and a handful of scores in the 80's. Team Wales dug deep and shot well given the stiff task in hand.

Once all scores were tallied it was a fantastic 90 by Scott Barnett (England) which took overall high gun of the match. Meanwhile, Mick Harding had posted a solid 72 along with Robert Gray (England), to be tied for the overall Super Veteran high gun title. A shoot off would decide the winner. Robert Gray went first and posted 8/10 which left the door open for Mick, who then stepped up to the plate and never faltered shooting 10/10 to take the title. Mick's score also meant he was Wales Super Veteran high gun but, more importantly, was part of the winning Super Veteran team along with Ray Webb (70) & Phil Ash (62) by one point from England, thus stopping the England clean sweep. High gun of Wales also had to be settled by a shoot off after Dorian Evans and Dan Morgan both posted 80. Dorian stepped into the stand first and held his nerve to post 10/10 to put the pressure straight on. Dan kept the suspense going until pair no. 3 where one slipped the net and handed the title to Dorian. Other Welsh high gun titles went to Phil Davies (71) in the Veteran category, Becky Adlam (59) in the Ladies category and Jacob O'Loughlin (78) in the Junior category, who was closely challenged by Tom Boles (76). Team success was also had with the Veteran team of Paul Heywood, Phil Davies & Jerry Preece picking up runners up, as did the Junior trio of Jacob O'Loughlin, Tom Boles & Henry James. Only 6 clays behind the very strong England team. Both the Senior & Ladies teams finished a respectable 3rd.

The event was rounded off with an excellent banquet at the Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa, Dundee which was very much enjoyed by all following a 2 year hiatus.

Congratulations to the new caps who were Mark Legge, James Dalton, Garan Beard & Steve Clarke in the Seniors, Tom Boles & Henry James in the Juniors. Also to the Team Captain, Huw Stephens who lead the team well (I won't mention the shameless plugging of Barbury S.G. shoots ☺).

Great weekend as always with Team Wales and well done to Mick Harding on his success.

❖ FITASC SPORTING

This year's Home International was held on Saturday 25th September at Glamis Castle Estate, also near Dundee. This meant a number of the team making a second trip to Scotland in the space of 2 weeks.

Again, the weather was on our side with a very sunny morning which turned into a slightly overcast afternoon, but more importantly no wind or rain!!! Targets were set in the beautiful grounds surrounding Glamis Castle, a fantastic location for a shoot, but very much a green field site. The

layouts were spread over a large area with 3 out of the 4 requiring a 10 minute transport ride. Targets were good and presented at an International level which made the shoot very enjoyable.

As the scores started to trickle in, it was clear it was going to be an interesting day. By the half way stage, there was very little splitting England, Scotland & Wales, so all to play for in the afternoon. As more scores came in it was still very tight and a number of shooters headed out to their last layouts with the potential for a good final score. Two members of the Scotland team were on for 95, one from England was on for 93, with Nigel Hart heading out for a possible 96 & Richard Hughes a 93. As the final scores started coming in, news was Richard Hughes had managed to finish on a 92 and all he could do was wait for the rest to come in. One by one they fell by the wayside leaving Richard on top come the end of the day. Nigel Hart posted a final score of 91, which was more than good enough to take the Veteran high gun of the match, but also left him in a 3 way shoot off for overall runner-up with Stewart Cumming & Colin Will of Scotland. Also in a shoot off was Janine White for runner-up Ladies high gun of the match, after tying with England's Lorraine Baker on 79. After a slow start, Janine finished the round strong and put the pressure on Lorraine, who was obviously feeling the pressure, but held her nerve just enough to edge the shoot off by 1 clay. Nigel narrowly missed out also and finished 4th overall. Team wise, the Ladies team of Janine & Annalise Evans (70) managed to hold off the Scottish pair by 1 clay for runner's up and were only 4 clays behind the winners, England. The Junior team of Jacob O'Loughlin (81) & Rhys Powell (68) finished 3rd overall as did the Senior team, but it was very close between the top 3 with Scotland taking the honours. The Veteran team of Nigel Hart & Phil Patch (79) did however take top spot, 9 clays clear of rivals England.

Again, the team were treated to another great banquet at the Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa, Dundee.

New caps were Peter Rees in the Senior team and Rhys Powell in the Junior team. Both of whom shot very well at their first FITASC International. The team was led by Dorian Evans, who did a great job as Captain.

Huge congratulations to both Richard & Nigel on their respective titles, rounding off a successful season for both of them.

Top tip.....secret to winning an International.....take on an inflatable water assault course the day before!!! 😊

Fantastic two weekends for Team Wales with excellent camaraderie and banter as usual. It is my absolute privilege to manage such a great bunch. Bring on 2022!!!

2021 Team Manager over and out!!!

Nicola Walker