

Pipped at the Post - Saturday 11th May 2013

Once again the OFRC gathered at Bisley to be met by unseasonal weather: rain and cold gusting winds. Practice in the morning was sparsely attended because of it. Two out of three welcome appearances however cheered both of them from Andrew "Slimfast" Horton, and his rifle - regrettably, his bolt failed to make an appearance (his father John is pictured with one of those handy bolts!)

A common shooter error – though one usually made with a mild hangover - and one which can for obvious reasons have fatal consequences on one's competition hopes. The only choice then, was to reacquaint himself with an OF rifle after a long separation.



When the gang reconvened after lunch ready for the afternoon match heavy rain obscured the targets. An even heavier sense of déjà-vu descended on the shooters and delayed the start, but once this cleared Windmeister Larcombe had his work cut out dealing with a strong choppy breeze from the left.

Blood pressure

And the scoring reflected it, with no scores over 96 (ex 100) from any competitor, and a much reduced V-bull count. Again the butt markers did their best to ruin everybody's enjoyment. "Big C" Burnip's (pictured) blood pressure rose to aneurysmial levels when given an outer in the middle of a string of bulls, and a tiresome succession of "Message 4s" – meaning that a shot has been fired but the target has not been marked - spoilt any rhythm.



The talk was that the NRA really needs to deal with this nonsense - we shudder to think of the fearsome bollocking C will unleash on the first person he even thinks has such authority. In such testing conditions – yet again - all the opposition was finding it difficult.

But the OFRC were as good as any, and we knew this would be close. "Red Leader" Ford continued his consistent season, with Halahan playing a Captain's innings (for a change). Meanwhile, Burnip and Argent suffered true catastrophes, and were unceremoniously dumped into the B Team. Well, they would have been put in the C Team, but we didn't have one.

Sex dungeon

“Imodium” Mehta, showing off the first major accessory of the season - his American-imported leather jacket – which has so many straps it looks like it should be in a sex dungeon rather than a firing range. Still, he coolly slotted the highest score of the day, winning the medal for his efforts. Absent was the lanky buffoon McDowell, using the pathetic excuse of a once-a-decade family get-together. His name is now on “Ze List”.

In the dying moments of the match Slimfast was putting together a great score.....until his last shot went into the downwind magpie for the first double custard of the season (*see reports passim*), and victory was snatched away from us by the Bedfordians by a single solitary point.....but with less V-bulls. Arguably, then, perhaps only a fraction of a point. Well arguable if you're churlish, but this is the OFRC and we play to win.

Perhaps it is poetic justice following last season's victory over the talented Bedfordians by a similar margin. Indeed only four points separated the top four teams, so tight is the competition these days and perhaps it is evidence of how the quality of these competitions has risen in recent years. In any case, congratulations to the Befordians.

With the All Day to come in June, the OFRC needs to field its strongest team who need to be in top form to fight off the challenge from the Bedfordian usurpers. Sign up now to avoid also going onto “Ze List”.

Q Match: 11th May 2013			
Fram A			
James Mehta	49.3	47.4	96.7
Andrew Horton	46.4	48.5	94.9
Jon Ford	47.4	46.3	93.7
John Halahan	47.5	45.2	92.7
			375.3
Bedfordians			376.26
Fram A			375.30
Lancing			373.27
Lawrentians A			372.29

KCS A			368.31
Cranleigh			364.29
(Steward's enquiry into remaining positions)			
Also shooting:			
Chas Lister			92.5
Nigel Burnip			89.5
Neil Joy			89.4
David Argent			87.4
John Horton			83.0
Brian Smith			71.3