

2018 Speed Shooting event review

18 people recorded times this year which was three times as many as last year, but fewer than in previous years. Those who try it find it an interesting challenge - the aggregate time of each of ten shots, from sound of buzzer till report of shot, with 2 seconds added for each non-scoring shot on the Standing Boar; shot standing unsupported with any centre fire rifle.

Most competent shots take around 25 seconds, but few avoid some misses. Until this year only 2 people have bettered 20 seconds, i.e. averaging 2 seconds to lift and fire.

Alan Harvey did 19.9 seconds with no misses in 2014, the inaugural shoot, and 19.2 with one miss, to win with 21.2 last year. Alister Bullen did an extraordinary 18.8 with 2 misses to win with 22.8 in 2016. This confirmed in my mind that 2 seconds (rather than 3) was the correct penalty, fulfilling my criteria that it should be "unlikely but not impossible to win with misses". It also has logic in that, if one has a poor lift, one can take almost twice as long as usual to get a hit.

This year we had 3 more speedsters. Katherine Snow is a regular participant of a group who come down from the Midlands to compete in the Schools Veterans TM match. They spend the Thursday afternoons with us on the Unlimiteds. I well remember her, probably 10 years ago as perhaps a sixteen-year-old, showing a lot of talent and interest. This year she decided to try the Speed Test and shot in 19.3 second, the third fastest this year and, as Nick Thomas observed, looked so steady and organised, even with a strange rifle - a real riflewoman.

Darren Cottee and Alan Harvey had quite a dual according to the score sheet. Darren did 18.7 with 2 misses (22.7) which looked likely to win and later an even faster, 17.1 but with 4 misses (25.1). Alan did a 19.6 but with 2 misses (23.6) for third place.

Assad Wahid has not been a member for long and his scores have been improving noticeable. This year he was shooting so many events both, TR and F Class I think, and dashing back to us to shoot the Unlimited and the Championships betweenwhiles. Desperate to get a better Standing Boar score to beat Alan Harvey for a Butterworth Medal (we did not tell him till later that Alan was not eligible, having won a Sliver in 2016!), he was about to dash off to shoot somewhere but was told about the Speed Test and wanted to have a go. In shooting in 19.6 seconds with no misses, he shows just what a talent he has. With his apparently insatiable thirst to pick up what information and skills he can, I am sure that his haul this year of BSRC related medals and trophies will not be the last. Well done Assad. I hope you will enjoy having my Bronze Boar for a year.

But leaving aside these extraordinary scores, come and try it. It is a really fun test of what is a fundamental skill of all our MT shooting - the ability to raise the rifle accurately and take the shot when the aim is good enough; this of course varying with the target being used. The timing equipment is mine meanwhile, and we currently only shoot it during the Deer Championships. I would be happy to bring it out at other occasions if there was a demand.

John Kynoch
July 2018

