

Match Report Wed 22nd – Sun 26th August 2018 – Oslo Norway

Following the visit to Bisley in 2017 by our Norwegian friends we were kindly invited to compete against them in Oslo at the Løvenskiold ranges at the same time that the Nordic Region Shooting Championships were being held.

The BSRC fielded two teams consisting of John Maddison, Steve Wallis, Richard Jeffrey, Alistair Bullen, Bob Eves and Steve Castle. An excellent mix of members, some who'd previously competed against the Norwegians both at home and abroad and some welcome new faces experiencing competing overseas on unfamiliar ranges for the first time.

Travelling with firearms through airports can on occasions be a challenging experience but fortunately the Norwegian Air staff were familiar with the processes and dealt with us and other competitors flying out to the Nordics efficiently – even so it still took us over two hours to check through – very different to arrival in Norway where we went straight through the green channel to be met by our Norwegian hosts and taken to our accommodation for the evening.

The following morning, we zeroed our rifles and got in a few welcome practice shots before plunging into the Deer Doubles – certainly a great way to get started on the competitive action!

Steve Wallis put in two very solid scores to lead the BSRC challenge but the Norwegian first team demonstrated better consistency in score levels to remind us what the benefits of regular training and practice can deliver, leaving us in 2nd position at the end of the competition. The best individual performance was given by Even Nordsveen recording a superb 94 and 93 – a pleasure to watch – as always.

After the Deer Doubles the 50m range was opened up and we took the opportunity to set up our rifles and re-zero ready for the next day. It was interesting to have a chance to have a go at the biathlon training targets alongside the zero range – these are 45mm diameter knock down targets that are shot standing unsupported at 50m!

After dinner at the range our hosts took us to see the Holmenkollen Ski jump located a short distance from our accommodation. The views across to Oslo were well worth the visit as too was watching the locals training on roller skis for biathlon on the purpose built tracks around the area. Within the same complex was a 50m .22 range allowing the shooting to be practiced and train for the full

biathlon event. The shooting looked fine but the skiing definitely appeared to be a bit energetic for us to take on.

Next day and back to the Deer for the singles. Once again Steve lead the BSRC with an 87 & 89 supported with credible performances from the rest of the team to put us second against the Norwegians. Even Nordsveen once again showed everyone what to aspire to with a 99 & 88; the latter generating a bit of a frown from him nonetheless – he's still young!

Saturday and we moved onto the 50m range for the first event, 20 +20 mixed. The competitors in the main Nordic Championships were also shooting and whilst we were squadded separately it gave us a great opportunity to watch them and observe their technique and have a look at their kit.

Mixed runs is an event that we don't shoot regularly but is a great competition and really keeps you on your toes. Steve W, John and Richard for the BSRC put in a good solid performance pipping the Norwegians into second place. Steve Castle and Bob Eves, the latter of which hadn't shot mixed runs before, put in scores well in line with their results for the 30 + 30 'normal runs' shot on the final day.

On the Saturday evening our hosts treated us to a BBQ on the Deer Range and opened it up for a bit of fun with a variety of rifles and pistols – very enjoyable and it brought back memories of years gone by when many of us used to shoot pistol

The final day and after vacating our accommodation back to the 50m range for the 30 + 30 Running Boar. Whilst none of the BSRC teams shot any outstanding scores the first team was able to win the event close to 30 points ahead of the Norwegians bringing the trip to a successful end.

Throughout the event our hosts treated us extremely well. Lunches were taken with the rest of the Nordic competitors on the 50m static range allowing us to keep up with the other competitions being shot over the weekend.

All those who came to the match took a lot away from the experience and I hope it will encourage anyone who wouldn't ordinarily have thought of trying their hand at competing against, or with, other like-minded shooters to have a go.

We have of course extended an invitation to the Norwegians to return to Bisley this year and we hope that they will take this up. Sadly, at the time of writing it looks like funding from the Norwegian federation to support this may not be available. That said we have already been approached by a




number of their team to come over under their own steam and compete alongside us – something we hope will come to fruition.

The BSRC team



Our Hosts and the BSRC team



				Deer						Boar				
		Doubles		Total	Singles		Total	Slow	Fast	Total	Mixed 1	Mixed 2	Total	
BSRC														
	1st	Steve Wallis	86	80	166	87	89	176	272	249	521	175	159	334
	2nd	John Maddison	70	79	149	81	79	160	263	239	502	165	163	328
	3rd	Richard Jeffrey	59	68	127	77	83	160	261	243	504	148	166	314
				442				496			1527			976
		Alistair Bullen	67	67	134	81	77	158	255	226	481	142	154	296
		Stephen Castle	64	65	129	76	64	140	254	155	409	138	127	265
		Bob Eves	52	43	95	45	55	100	232	142	374	124	116	240
				358				398			1264			801
OSS														
		Tor Fleime	86	85	171	84	88	172	267	236	503	159	177	336
		Henning Utti	80	80	160	88	83	171	267	231	498	149	165	314
		Kato Nordsveen	76	85	161	87	87	174	268	227	495	164	160	324
				492				517			1496			974
		John H Larsen jr	62	60	122	68	68	136	255	226	481	175	165	340
		Tore Skau	54	74	128	71	76	147						
		Even Nordsveen	94	93	187	99	88	187						
				437				470						
		Oivind Friis	43	55	98	63	49	112	218	94	312	121	101	222
		Espen Nordseen							291	297	588			