

2015 Imperial Meeting at Bisley: Guernsey shooters have a lot to be proud about



Main picture: The Guernsey team shooting in the Mackinnon. Far left: Charlie Brewin. Left: Mike Martel.

(Pictures supplied by Bruce Parker, 9727678, 9727670 and 9727672)

Age is no barrier on range

IF PROOF were needed that rifle-shooting is a sport for all ages, then look no further than the 2015 Bisley Imperial Meeting and the achievements of the Guernsey team.

At one end of the age spectrum, Mike Martel, 76, qualifying for the Queen's Prize Final 100 for the 18th time.

At the other, separated from Martel by more than half a century, young Charlie Brewin, just 16 and still at school, registering exactly the same score in the St George's first stage as David Calvert, a quadruple Commonwealth Games gold medallist and this year's Queen's Prize winner.

On the first morning of the Imperial Meeting, four Elizabeth College cadets showed what they were made of in the Cadet International when Matt Le Maitre, Phin Barber, Seb Robinson and Ed Lawrence walked proudly off the range with gold medals in their pockets.

That same afternoon, Lawrence and Barber put in the first of their maximum scores in the Century competition at 500 yards.

Robinson then had the Guernsey contingent open-mouthed when he topped all of their scores in the Alexandra at 600 yards, just one central V-bullseye away from a first-place tie shoot.

RIFLE SHOOTING

by Bruce Parker

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Brewin, meanwhile, led the Guernsey contingent in the Duke of Cambridge at 900 yards, a difficult competition range for Guernsey cadets in the best of circumstances as they have no experience of that distance nor, indeed, that type of target.

Barber was a hair's-breadth away from a tie-shoot in the Prince of Wales and dropped only a point over four ranges on Queen's Prize first stage day while Lawrence put in 50 ex 50 in The Times.

Doing their stuff, too, were the likes of Saxon-Brewer Marchant, Mike Mann and Nick Kerins – call them 'young seniors' if you like – who all made the second stage of the Queen's Prize.

Kerins also had the distinction of being the only Guernsey shot to make the final of the St George's.

Not that those in their roaring 40s were left behind.

With his Hampshire shooting hat on, Nick Mace won the Champion of Champions involving NRA regional and Crown Dependency champions with Guernsey's Pierre Goubert second.

Goubert was also in cracking form in both the Wimbledon at

600yds and the Corporation at 1000yds with 50.7v ex 50.10v in each.

After a decisive tie-shoot, Peter Jory quickly saw off his one opponent to win the Northland Aggregate for his combined scores in the Queen's Prize first stage and the Prince of Wales at 600yds.

Both Nick Mace and Adam Jory were placed in the all-important leading 50 of the Grand Aggregate, both maintaining a stunning average of just a single point lost in each of the 11 competitions which make up the Grand.

There's a Queen's Prize winner in there somewhere. Perhaps, even more than one.