

ULSAN KOREA REPORT FROM THE WORLD TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Steve Clifton 4th in the world – so far!

On a day when many of the top names in men's compound exited early from the 45th World Championships in Ulsan, Korea, Steve Clifton grafted his way to the semi-finals, becoming the most successful male archer in New Zealand's history. No New Zealander has ever reached such heights in a World Championships at least in the modern era.

As the 5th seed Steve had a bye in the first round and then met a Belgian seeded 60th. This was a close match and Steve won it on the first arrow shoot off.

Next came Hendra from Indonesia who led after the first end of 6 arrows. However Steve came back with an excellent second end and the opposition crumbled for a Kiwi outright victory.

In the one eighth round Steve came up against Pizzaro from Puerto Rico who defeated Trevor Irvine in the first round. Clearly this was time for revenge and after a close match Steve was the winner.

In the final match of the day Steve was matched against German Paul Titscher. This was a grudge match because Titscher beat Steve in the semi finals of the Junior World Championships in 2004.

One point down after the first of the 3 arrow ends, Steve came back strongly to take a 1 point lead. The match ended in a tie. Steve shot a 10 and his opponent didn't!

Shaun Teasdale was not so fortunate succumbing in the round of 1/32.

WOMEN'S COMPOUND

These matches took place in the morning and as time progressed all the "big" names disappeared from the list.

Stephanie Croskery had a bye in the first round but lost her 1/32 round. After a weak first end of 6 arrows, Stephanie had a strong second end but unfortunately she was too far behind to overtake her opponent.

Linda Lainchbury worked hard against her opponent from Estonia, forcing her to a shoot off. Linda's shot looked perfect and we all gazed at the 10 and were amazed the arrow was not there. Unfortunately her opponent's was.

Mandy McGregor made life difficult for herself by having a tie in her first match. However she buried her one arrow in the X-10 ring and left her opponent floundering.

In the next round Mandy was up against the no. 4 seed, Andrea Weihe, from Germany. No problem to Mandy who was clearly on a roll.

Unfortunately the weakness caused by her intestinal problems seemed to take over in the 1/16 and Mandy lost to Almendra Ochoa from Mexico.

However, Mandy's efforts greatly helped her meet the NZOC criteria of finishing in the top 6 in the Commonwealth by finishing 3rd.

All the team worked well for each other, it was a successful day.

Tomorrow it is the turn of Stephen Florence in the men's recurve.

Carole Hicks

Team Captain