

ULSAN KOREA

REPORT FROM THE WORLD TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS

This report should have been sent on 3 September but as my machine kept losing the internet link, I gave up!

Prior to the start of the tournament on 1 September (Official Practice day) the team worked hard at the unofficial practice ground.

There were 3 of these and each hotel was allocated to a specified ground. The one we used along with Australia, South Africa, Norway and a bunch of other countries, had an alternative role as a wind tunnel. It was difficult but the team managed.

I was at Congress fighting a losing battle for most items of business apart from winning the New Zealand proposal to have the World Games (a multi-sport event for those not in the Olympics. Archery has a field shoot for recurve and compound) as the pinnacle event for compound archers since the ideal to get them into the Olympics is still not realistic.

There were complaints from a number of field archers that everything was being taken from them and given to the target archers who already had more events.

Clearly FITA had done some background work on the concept because we were offered a Council-backed compromise to have target added to the World Games and continue with field.

There will be more details about Congress when I return to New Zealand but suffice to say that apart from the Cadets and Juniors having an extension to the age at which they move to the next division, (1 January 2010 operative date) none of the other changes will affect the Nationals. JAMA has already put processes in motion to help these younger archers.

Official practice day saw the recurve archers shoot in the morning and the compounders in the afternoon.

In the morning the wind was light and the flags along the two outside edges of the ground and the target wind flags mostly went in the same direction.

In the afternoon for the compounders the wind was stronger, fickle in direction and the flags all over the place. I note there are no wind socks which are supposed to be mandatory for World Championships.

The men were not as badly affected because they were partly sheltered by the remains of a hill that had been excavated to add a further 35m to the shooting line.

There were no problems with equipment inspection.

Day 2 saw the Qualification round of a FITA, shot in one day for both women and men compound archers. As there are fewer than 128 archers in every division, everyone will go through to the match play.

Stephanie Croskery led the women's division after the first end with a 59. We have the photo of the leaderboard!

Steve Clifton and Shaun Teasdale were in the top 5.

Stephanie drifted down the order a bit during the day but finished a very credible 40th out of 83. Linda Lainchbury was 48th and Mandy McGregor, who had to have surgery on her bow sight in the lunch break, was 68th.

Steve Clifton kept the so-called big guns honest, never dropping below 3rd place until 30m when several arrow calls went against him and he dropped to 5th. Shaun Teasdale hovered around the 5th place for a considerable time but what appeared to be a mal-functioning electronic scoring terminal lost him way down the list. However he bounced back to the 5/6

place until dropping slightly to finish in 9th position overall. This was a stunning effort by both guys. Trevor Irvine completed the team in 85th of 114 men.

As a result of all these efforts both teams qualified for the 16 country team event, the men in 4 place where they meet Finland in the first match play and the women finished 15th and will meet second seeds Russian Federation. Having both Shane Switzer and Mike Lainchbury to work with the two teams has been extremely useful.

Everyone is talking about the “surprise package” New Zealand. Even in Congress the Secretary-General Tom Dielen commented on the pleasure it had been to hear the New Zealand anthem in Antalya. Well done our compound archers. ☺

Day 3 was for women recurve so a “rest” day for us.

The women decided to have a break because they had struggled in the wind all the previous day and took in the local sights including a beach which did not measure up to what we would expect from such a name!

The guys did some more shooting despite the wind. On Day 4 we will have Stephen Florence competing against 116 other recurve men.

I'll report again each day following the shoot.

Carole A Hicks

Team Captain