

## Marlborough Championships 25th-27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

On Saturday morning before shooting started the programme was amended to shoot 5 short ranges on that day and then the 4 long ranges on the Sunday. The weather for Monday had been forecast to get stormy and wet during the morning which may have led to the day being cancelled and 2 of the long ranges lost. We would just hold the teams matches on Monday morning if the weather permitted. With the weather that had battered us earlier in the week and metservice talking more possible warnings for Monday it seemed sensible.

One shooter travelling to the meeting on the Wednesday, the day before the storm, had had their caravan and towing ute overturned in North Canterbury, with no injuries luckily.

Saturday's weather was dominated by a shifting frontal westerly fishtail that proved tricky to read at times.

In TR Andre Du Toit was not worried only dropping 2 points and having a commanding 4 point lead by the end of the day. In B grade Sam Kershaw was equally dominant with a 5 point lead.

It was a lot closer in the strong F Open field with Mike Chui holding a 2 point lead and only 2 down. The closest race was in FTR Classic with the evergreen Geoff Smith having only a 6 X lead from Coby Snowden. The 303 lead was 2 points to Jonno Phillipps.

After shooting finished bambi was barbequed thanks to the efforts of Andre Doyle and Darryl May earlier in the week.

Sunday was again fine and sunny with the promise of a freshening nor'westerly wind. It didn't really build as much as forecast but still provided some challenging conditions, only gusting to about 12 minutes for the TR shooters.

In F Open Mike Chui continued his dominant form only dropping 2 points. He shot 7 possibles over the 9 ranges to win by 6 points from Ian Hughes with Shaun Ellis a further 4 points back.

The FTR Classic went to the final range with Coby getting a 3 point advantage there to win by 4 points from Geoff. Stephen Thudichum had a 31 point win in FPR from Peter Webster.

Phil Gardiner had an uncontested win in FTR, as did tyro Mandy Mathieson in C grade.

The 303s didn't shoot the 900 yard matches as their bullet speed would not have registered. Jonno was the winner with a 13 point lead from Andre Doyle.

In A grade Andre had his lead cut back by the chasers but managed to hang on to win by just 2 Vs from John Snowden with Brian Carter a point behind. With the top 6 shooters firing shoulder to shoulder the result had gone right down to the last shots fired. Sam continued his dominance of B grade with a 5 point win from Jacob Morriss and Darryl May a further point back.

We held the individual matches prize giving after shooting so anyone not involved in the teams matches was free on Monday.

Monday dawned fine and sunny and it looked like we had made the wrong call on Saturday changing the programme. We had 3 TR teams of 4, 3 teams of F Class and one mixed team for the 900 yard 15 shot coached match.

The TR match could not have been much closer. The Kaituna "Age and Treachery" team had a 1 point win with Malvern holding off the Kaituna "Kids" by 3 Vs for second. The top scorers were Jonno Phillipps with 73.5, not using his 303, and Dylan Mathieson with 73.2.

In the F Class match the Cheltenham team headed Ashburton by two points with the Kaituna team in third. The top scorers were Ian Hughes with 89.9 and Murray Cook on 89.3.

By the time we had finished shooting the sky had turned grey and the hills were disappearing into the mist. The rain started just as we finished packing away the last of the targets, so we had made the right call on Saturday morning. The travellers that wanted to get away were on the road before 11am.