

August 2018 Light Rifle Match Report

Simon Bailey

August sees the second 50-yard matches of the Light Rifle season with a 30 Shot "Iron's Only" match followed by a 30 shot Any Sight Match. This year's matches had some surprises!

The Iron's Only match, affectionately known as the "Gary Brockmiller Commemorative Match" was first on the Agenda. For those who don't know the history, Gary was a regular shooter for many years competing with Iron sights. He lobbied the MD to sanction a registered Irons only match to allow for RBGC's Iron sight shooters to set National Records. Gary got his wish in 2014 and the MD humorously named the match in recognition of Brockmiller's persistence. Gary moved out of state shortly after the matches started but has travelled back to RBGC each year to complete, winning the match in 2016. Unfortunately, he was absent this year, but 15 other shooters were in attendance.

The weather was partly sunny but very humid with little wind. Fifty-yard matches are always challenging, and the weather didn't make this one any easier!

Only 8 of the 15 competitors present fired Match 1 for record divided equally split between Marksman and Master (all Sharpshooter and Expert shooters were promoted to Master when forming the classes).

George Wilson jumped out to a comfortable lead firing a very solid 85-0X – 10 points ahead of Mark Dorlay in 2nd and 20 points ahead of Simon Bailey in 3rd. Throughout the match everyone suffered at least one missed shot reinforcing how tough 50 yards is, although all of Wilson's 1st match shots scored points, while the mere mortals all had misses.

Competitors held onto their relative positions through stage 2, with Wilson opening the gap over Dorlay by 6 points while Bailey closed the gap to Dorlay by 1 point (164.00 to 148.01 to 139.00). In the Marksman class, Bob Morris closed the gap on 3rd place by firing a 76 and Brad Reynolds was just a point back at 129.01

Wilson peaked in the 3rd stage by firing a 90-1X to cement his winning position with a score of 254.1X, just 6 points below the National Record. Dorlay also fired his best stage, 84.0X, to secure second, while Bailey had a disastrous stage with 3 misses – Bailey stated that he doesn't shoot open sights often & Wilson's playful retort being – "It Shows!" – Ouch! Bailey's 57-0X dropped him to 1st Master with Brad Reynolds shooting his best stage, 77-1X, to secure 3rd place overall. Bob Morris fired a 71-0X to finish as 1st Marksman.

George Wilson	- 254-1X	- Match Winner
Mark Dorlay	- 232-1X	- 2 nd Place
Brad Reynolds	- 206-2X	- 3 rd Place

In the second match, all 15 shooters were firing for record, with 2 new shooters and Wilson forming the Master class and everyone else being in their earned class.

Intermediate Junior, Ethan Wood, decided to show the old guys how it was done, by firing an 80-1X in the first stage to take the lead. Bailey was in 2nd place with a 79-0X with Dorlay in 3rd, with a 78-0X. Wilson managed a 71-0X despite suffering a missed shot and an internal cross-fire when his rear site came lose.

After Stage 2, Ethan was still in the lead by 4 points over Dorlay (158.1X, to 154-0X) while Wilson advanced to 3rd and Bailey fell to 4th (146-0X to 145-0X). In the Marksman class, Beth Reynolds was out shooting Sharpshooter hubby, Brad, posting a 134-1X to hold 1st Markman.

The final stage saw Ethan Wood fire a 73-0X to slip within 1 point of Wilson who, recovering from his earlier mishap, shot a match high 84-0X. Still, Wilson's late push was not enough, and, in an unexpected turn, Intermediate Junior Wood finished as Match Winner with a 231-1X over Wilson's final score of 230-0X. The author can't remember the last time a Junior took Match Winner honors, so a hearty congratulations goes out to Ethan on his accomplishment.

Both Dorlay and Bailey fired 75-0X with Dorlay finishing in 3rd place, 9 points ahead of Bailey who took 1st Sharpshooter with a 220.0X. New shooter, Chad Rogers won 1st Master posting a 167-3X (the high X count for the day). Beth Reynolds took 1st Marksman and family bragging rights finishing at 208-1X – a great outcome and testament to her improving skills with a rifle!

Ethan Wood	- 231-1X	- Match Winner
George Wilson	- 230-0X	- 2 nd Place
Mark Dorlay	- 229-0X	- 3 rd Place

Please see the Match Bulletin posted on the website for full results and congratulations to all the winners.

The next match will be the Labor Day match and will be held on Labor Day, Monday September 3rd. This match returns to the 60-shot format fired at 50 ft. Grab your 22 rifle and come on out and join the fun and friendly competition.