

NRA Light Rifle
May 2019

Six die-hard shooters defied the weatherman and showed up to compete in the May 4th NRA Light Rifle match at River Ben Gun Club. Despite dire predications for strong storms and wind, the day was warm and sunny with almost completely still winds.

With a small contingent on-hand, the match started a little early and proceeded quickly. All competitors were classified or promoted to the Sharpshooter class to comply with the program requirements for class formation and to maximize competition.

Simon Bailey and Mark Dorlay started strong by firing 92's in the first stage, followed closely by Bob Morris with a 91-1X. In the second stage, Bailey fired an extremely strong 95-0X to take a seven point lead over Mark Dorlay and King Stracke who bested Bob Morris with a 92-0X.

Stages three and four zipped by as shooting and scoring progressed very quickly. Bailey continued to shoot well and was in first place by nine points after the fourth stage with a 369.00. Dorlay was in second place and Bob Morris took over third from Stracke who was shooting uncharacteristically quickly.

With a nine point lead, Bailey was well on his way to shoot a personal best – and that's exactly when disaster struck.

The conditions remained excellent entering stage five allowing very solid sight pictures which made Bailey's finger jerk complete miss even harder to accept. Six shots and three bulls in, Bailey had dropped only four points. The seventh shot was a complete loss of focus finger twitching whiff – a complete miss outside of the scoring rings. Spotting the field 10 points is never a good idea, but Bailey refocused after the errant shot and managed to salvage an 84-0X. Morris and Dorlay were not able to significantly capitalize on Bailey's Bobble, with Dorlay managing an 89-1X and Morris shooting an 85-0X.

In the final stage, Bailey regained his footing and posted a respectable 93-1X, topping Dorlay's 91-1X. Morris however was not done for the day by tying the existing highest stage score, but added a center shot to boot to post a 95-1X.

Despite Morris's solid push, he was unable to overcome Bailey's lead and finished in 3rd place with an aggregate 535-2X. Dorlay finished in Second place at 540-3X and Bailey took top place honors with a 546-1X.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and we look forward to a more robust turnout for the June Match which will be two 30 shot matches fired at 50 yards with an unfired 60 shot aggregate.