

October Light Rifle Match Report

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October, the month when temperatures begin to dip, cool breezes blow, bluebird clear skies dominate, and thicker clothes tend to improve offhand scores – well not so much this year. The final match of the Light Rifle season was greeted with warm humid conditions ahead of a Category 1 hurricane. While the rain and winds were still 18 hours away, the dim lighting and muggy conditions were a struggle for competition.

Twelve competitors were on hand for the final match of 2017, which also serves as the club championship match. With changes in attendance for this year, a new champion was guaranteed with several regular competitors hoping to take club top honors.

The first stage saw only one score above the 80's, with Mark Dorlay starting out by posting a 90 0X. In the second stage however, scores took a major leap, with five competitors scoring 90 or above. George Wilson posted a 95 0X to take over 1st place. Simon Bailey posted a 94 0X to move into second and Brad Kanipe shot a 91 1X to move into third.

Despite suffering Sciatic nerve pain, Wilson continued to shoot well over the next two stages, posting a 90 and 94 to gain a solid hold first place at the end of the 4th stage with 1 367 0X. Dorlay continued to shoot consistently to move into second place with a 357 1X, followed by Brad Reynolds who upped his game posting a 93 0X in the 4th stage to tie for third place. Bailey, meanwhile has some poor shots, including a miss in the 4th stage. Despite this miss, he dropped only 5 additional points in the stage and managed to salvage an 85 0X which left him tied with Reynolds for 3rd place with a 353 0X.

In the Marksman Class, Kanipe held first Marksman at 351 – 1X, while Beth Reynolds posted a 347 0X by firing her first ever score over 90, posting a 92 0X.

Over the next two stages, Dorlay posted stage-high scores but was unable to overcome Wilson's lead. Wilson took the Club Championship ending the match with a 546 1X. Dorlay ended four points back at 542 2X. Brad Reynolds finished in third with a 537 1X.

Bailey saved all of his center shots for the final stage, but could not overcome the missed shot and finished as 1st Sharpshooter with a 530-3X. Brad Kanipe finished as 1st marksman, with Beth Reynolds, posting her second 92 this time with a center shot, taking second Marksman, Don Coleman finished as 3rd Marksman with a 515 1X.

This match provide clear evidence that skills are improving, as no less than five competitors shot personal best scores at this match: Brad Kanipe, Beth Reynolds, Tom Hollingsworth, Ethan Wood and Craig Wood all shot personal best scores!

After the formal match activities were complete , the traditional end of season one shot fun matches were held. The prizes for both matches was a brick of SK Standard ammunition, so the prize was definitely worth shooting for!

The first one shot match was a true one shot affair, with each competitor taking a single shot within 90 seconds and the highest score wins the prize. Despite close competition by Chris Sagar and both of the Reynolds, Brad Kanipe took home the first brick of ammo, firing a 9 closest to the 10 ring.

The second fun match was a single elimination affair, with the lowest half of the field eliminated in each round, again with a 90 second time limit per shot. Due to a tie, seven shooters moved from round one to round two (Wilson, Dorlay, Brad Reynolds, Bailey, Ethan Wood, Hines and Hollingsworth). Four shooters moved on to the third round (Hollingsworth – with a perfect center shot, Wilson, Reynolds and Bailey). The final two shooters, Reynolds and Bailey, faced off head to head for the final brick of ammo. Reynolds posted an 8 and Bailey a 9 to win the ammo and salvage some dignity from the event.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and especially to George Wilson who takes his place alongside the two previous Light Rifle Club Champions!