DURC Competition Attendance Report

NatWest Island Games 2001

Distribution

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Summary

Venue	Isle of Man
Date	July 7-13
Discipline	10m Air Rifle, 50m 3 Position Rifle

DURC Attendees
Steven Watterson, DURC Captain

Scores	
50m 3P Individual	1075(ex1200)
50m 3P Team	1091(ex1200)
10m Air Rifle Individual	561(ex600)
10m Air Rifle Team	554(ex600)

Prizes Won	
10m Air Rifle	3rd Place Individual
	4th Place Team event
50m 3P Rifle	2nd Place Individual
	2nd Place Team event

Report

The first Island Games were held in July 1985 as part of 'The Year of Sport' in the Isle of Man. The intention was to bring together sportsmen and sportswomen from a number of small islands from different parts of the world to participate in a festival of sport. So from 14 islands - Aland, Anglesey, the Faroes, Froya, Gotland, Guernsey, Hitra, Iceland, Jersey, Malta, the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands, St. Helena and the Isle of Wight - athletes came to the Isle of Man to compete in 7 sports - badminton, athletics, cycling, shooting, swimming, soccer and volleyball. The 'festival' was such a success that at its conclusion the Island Games Association (IGA) was instituted and the decision was taken to hold Island Games every two years in different member islands.

This year, DURC Captain Steven Watterson, a Manx native, was competing, and did spendidly well. In 10m Air Rifle, he placed third in the Individual event, shooting his first offical 'possible' (the maximum possible score, 100/100, also known as a 'tun'). Despite a setback of shooting a 7.0 on his first shot in the final, he fought hard and managed to fend off David Turner and Pierre Goubert for third place. In the Team event, Steven and teammate Jaccie Hamilton-Jones came fourth, beaten by the Gotland, Jersey and Aland teams - though Jaccie had some problems with her air rifle causing her to shoot a very low score of 493 to Steven's 554.

In 50m 3P rifle (the most rigorous and demanding of all rifle disciplines), Steven managed to take the silver medal, beaten only by Mattias Magnusson of Gotland. It was a close race for the qualification round, as Stevens 1075 beat Birger Johansson of Gotland into third place by only one point! However, in the final Steven widened the gap to 12.4 points, taking second place with no problems whatsoever. In fact, his 89.7 was the highest score shot in the final round. In the team match, Steven and teammate Barry Jones took second place, beating the Jersey team off by only eleven points at 2064 to 2053, thus securing Steven's third medal of the Games.

Thus, Steven has proven the level at which he shoots, which is certainly on a par with the Irish National Squad - had he shot these scores in last weekend's National Championships, DURC would now have three or four National Championship medals, instead of the two we currently hold. We're looking forward to Steven competing in more Irish events soon, starting with this weekend's DURC 50m Prone Open Competition – a full report will follow on that event next week!

Misé le meas,

Mark Dennehy, DURC Secretary