

City Vs Country Match 2016
March 18th to 20th
Windamere Range - Mudgee, NSW

I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in the City Vs Country Combined Services Discipline competition in March this year. I should point out that in addition to the Standard Rifle, 310 Cadet & 22 Trainer Rifle and Tactical Rifle matches I participated in there are also Carbine and Pistol components to the discipline. However, not owning a regulation carbine rifle or being a Category H license holder, I didn't participate in these classes. But I'll outline my own experience.

I arrived late on Friday night and camped on the grounds of Windamere Shooting Range, which is EXTENSIVE. I was up the next morning for the Standard Rifle 10-round Intentional match (300yds prone). I used a Lee Enfield No4 Mk1 rifle in 303 British for all Standard Rifle matches and the aperture sights on the No4 were very helpful.



At the 300yd firing line.

After the Intentional Match we began the core event, the 30-round 3 Position match. 3P is a challenging match shot at 3 distances with a time limit at each:

- 100m - 15 rounds (5 offhand, 5 seated, 5 prone) in 4 mins
- 200m - 10 rounds (5 seated, 5 prone) in 2 mins
- 300m - 5 rounds (all prone) in 1 minute.

Mostly competitors move quickly between distances and there's little chance to catch one's breath. I didn't break any records or place in the 3P match but it was a good challenge.



Shooting down range at 200m.



Scoring targets at the 300m butts.

Following the core match we shot Rapid Fire A. Basically, you can fire as many rounds as you wish at the large target from 100m. The catch – you have 15 seconds. I got 4 rounds out of 10 on target and none of them were very significant!



Rapid Fire A.

After the rapid fire the next match was a silhouette shoot. There are 5 Chickens, turkeys, hogs and rams at 100m, 200m, 300m and 400m respectively and shooters aim to knock these down with 20 rounds. There is, however, an additional 10 rounds allotted to “clean up” anything missed the first time around. However, any shot with the additional 10 don’t score as highly. Like most of the rest of the matches, it was an education rather than a success. I don’t think I hit ANY of the rams.



A view across the silhouette range.

After a full day's shooting we then retired to our tents to freshen up before heading to the clubhouse and enjoy an excellent repast, followed by the presentation of the day's prizes.



After dinner and a few hot beverages we were all ready for bed and hit the sack pretty hard. We certainly needed rest before the Cadet & Trainer and Tactical matches the next day.

Fortunately I'm better with a Martini Cadet and a 22 Trainer rifle than I am with a Lee Enfield. Both shoot the same 3P match as Standard Rifle, except that the distances are reduced to 50m, 75m and 100m. I had my own BSA Martini Cadet for this match and used a Lee Enfield No2 MkIV .22LR trainer rifle for the .22lr match. I was fortunate to take 3rd place in Grand Master Grade in 310 Cadet and 22 Trainer and 3rd in A Grade in 22 Trainer.



Seated at 75m with my Martini Cadet.



The field of competitors prone at 50m.



My target for all 30 Cadet rounds.



Competitors shooting 22 Trainer from the mound.

However, the next match was the Tactical match. It was a club detail, not a Combined Services match, and it was challenging to say the least. It's a 12 shot match that features the following combination of targets and stances:

- 100m – head-&-torso silhouette - standing using post rest
- 200m - head-&-torso silhouette – rested on a barricade
- 300m - head-&-torso silhouette – rested on a low barricade
- between 300m and 400m - bell silhouette – through a loophole
- 400m - head-&-torso silhouette – prone through a window
- 450m - head-&-torso silhouette – prone

The catch is, that you have to move from position to position and shoot the match in 4 mins. Which doesn't sound hard. But you need to move from position to position unloaded, and reload, and relax, and allow for distance. I used a heavy barreled Steyr 223 with a 6.5-20x50 scope. The first time I attempted the match I ran over time and was disqualified. The second I did it in time but still didn't shoot well. It was won by a 16 yr old who boy who spends almost all of his time fox shooting with his father. He even beat his father! The pics help to understand the process of the match:



100m



200m



300m



The Bell – between 300m & 400m



400m



450m

Suffice to say it was an enjoyable match that is really valuable for anyone who hunts. I wish our own range had these facilities.

So I finished the weekend with the odd bruise on my shoulder from the brass butt plate of the Lee Enfield but some ribbons to make me smile! I'd like to give special thanks to Ben Doherty who lent me his Lee Enfield No4 Mk1 and his 22 Trainer rifle for the weekend and gave me excellent advice throughout the matches. Bring on the State Titles in September!!

