

TOP GUN

He may not be Tom Cruise, but Neil Daniels of Castle FTC in Notts is showing he's better than a few good men.

With a stunning performance off the blocks in the MFTA Winter League he is still sitting pretty at the top of the table after 7 gruelling rounds. His latest victory was at Woodend where he managed a 29 to give him another maximum 100 points.

The Woodend course was fantastic, lanes were set amongst the reeds and rushes of the fishing ponds making for a very picturesque setting. The wind was very deceptive and at times impossible to read but thoroughly enjoyable. The last 4 lanes in the exposed wind were also tough, with some well thought out targets and the Golden Bunny destroying many a fine shooter - but that is part and parcel of keeping one of the top UK regions on it's toes.

So, if Neil can get one more top end result in the bag he is sure to take his first regional Winter League title - and with the competition around him that's an opportunity that doesn't come around very often!

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MFTA WINTER SERIES 08/09

So with the top slot pretty much sorted, who else is digging deep and on for a regional team place? Positions 1-10 in AA grade are fairly straightforward and we shouldn't see too many surprises in the names, but the remaining five places would certainly be worth taking a closer look.

Lee Marshall and Luke Williamson are flying the Purley Chase flag and Nick Murphy, after having a very good result at Woodend is now looking good for a qualifying place, he moved up the ladder a few places and is currently sitting 13th overall. Meanwhile, Bobby Banks and Chris Large are trying to hold off some top names to keep their 14th and 15th

places - not an easy task when the likes of Phil James and Steve Mason are hot on your heels. In my opinion, just like last year I feel the last two places will go all the way to the last target on the last lane at Round 10.

So, given the standard of shooting we currently have in the midlands, the Inters should once again be a close call and as always very exciting.

However, we must remember that although the regional team is a key objective for many of our FT shooters, it's not just about that. The midlands is regularly complemented on it's quality of courses and enjoyable, friendly atmosphere and we pride ourselves on

making the shoots as pleasant an experience as possible for the experienced shooters, newcomers and regional visitors alike.

The MFTA winter league really gets your heart racing with excitement... Great courses and great people.

We, like many other regions, treat our winter series as a breeding ground for new talent, trying to actively encourage the new or inexperienced shooters to get stuck in and have a go. With this approach, it's not surprising that we recruit a decent

number of new shooters into the GP series each year, many of which go on to a great career in high level FT.

So how's the table shaping up lower down the ranks? In A Grade Darren Tomes, Chris Large and David Lindley are battling for the top spot, B Grade sees Steve Swift having a great season, just managing to hold off John Waterfield and new MFTA Secretary Shaun Shore.

C Grade also has its fair share of new faces this year, combined with some top quality shooting. Karl Clarke has shot very consistently over the series to give him a comfortable top position, whilst Anthony Johnson and William Baskeyfield are chasing second and third respectively - no doubt we will see their names at the top of the other leader boards in years to come.

The MFTA also runs it's own Midland Masters Championship. This closed competition is designed to get the best of the midlands competing against each other in a last throw of the winter season.

Qualifying for the 40 shot course is no easy feat, with only the top 4 results from each round going through.

It's a bit of fun to end our season but the beautiful enamel badges and overall MFTA Master Champion title are certainly worth fighting for.



The Masters badge is a reflection of top shooting throughout the season.

Phil James was at a loss as to what to do at the second pond at Rnd 8 at the Woodend ground.



Almost every target was on the other side of a stretch of water – a refreshing change to dense woodland.



Well laid out targets and lots of changes in direction made a very challenging course very enjoyable.



Photos: James Osborne

GETTING INTO THE TOP 15 IN THE MIDLANDS IS NOT AN EASY TASK. WITH SOME OF THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS HUNGRY FOR GLORY IT'S A TOUGH BATTLE WHICH USUALLY GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE VERY LAST LANE.

It's a close call at the top of each grade, and the Stourvale Trophy is shaping up nicely too.

The Stourvale Trophy is awarded to a new season shooter each year. Its based on the points attained in the MFTA Winter League and it's a great way to get the competition and enthusiasm flowing in the lower entry grades. This season the top positions are so far are:

Peter Clarke	134
Anthony Johnson	114
William Baskeyfield	108
Paul Sheppard	104

KEVIN SAYERS TRIPLE BARREL AT DOWRY HILL FTC



It takes a brave man to tackle a midland winter league course with a springer.



Leaving the field with 50% is usually considered quite an achievement.



Mark Charlton was chuffed to take the 47yd rat on lane 8. He continued his good form at Woodend last week with a stunning 28!



ROUND 7 DOWRY HILL FTC
The course was hard, and an unreadable wind didnt help those trying to cement their overall positions with a decent result.

The scores were a little lower than usual, and even a 22 gained 91 points!

Top 3 results from the MFTA WL shoot Rnd 7.

Andrew Gillott	Castle	27
Darren Tomes	Millride	26
Nick Murphy	Dowry Hill	24



outside left edge
at 48yds... wasn't enough!

NOT A SEASON FOR STANDING STILL

ROB FARNWORTH REPORTS ON HOW CENTRAL SOUTHERN ARE USING THEIR WINTER LEAGUE TO GET THEMSELVES BACK ON THE FT MAP.



The CSFTA winter season has taken sometime to reach a momentum, but in the lulls we sent our spies into the neighbouring regions just to see how much work we had to do.

The short answer was 'quite a bit'!

However, there's been no slacking, North Oxon kicked off to a fine start with a win in Round 1, and this year could see Bisley's grip prised off the regional trophy even though they came back with a win in Round 2. And whilst the top clubs tussle over the big silverware, the placings are no easier

to hold with the Buccaneers and the revived Wendoverers both putting their top shooters back on the circuit to mix it up.

Individually, it's all there to play for still, but there's no room for error, being outside of 85% won't see you in the regional team, and with several new shooters performing well, it's not a given that there won't be some AA's twiddling their thumbs come the inter-regionals.

So with four rounds left to go, and a showdown to squeeze in, CSFTA should up and running and just peaking in time for an upset at the inter-regionals.

CSFTA TEAM PLACINGS AFTER 4 ROUNDS

CLUB	TOTAL POINTS
Bisley	38
North Oxon	35
Wendover	31
Christchurch	30
Buccaneers	27
Newbury	22
Carisbrooke	17

Glen Newman pokes fun at the Bisley crew on home turf.

www.csfta.co.uk
More words and pictures are also available on www.shooting-the-breeze.com

A new addition to the FT Review. Each issue we will be profiling an FT shooter from around the UK.

Whether they are an FT legend or a new shooter working their way up the ranks, we'll give them some press space and give you an opportunity to see how the other guys on the circuit go about the business of knocking over as many targets as possible.

This issue is Ian Cox of Dowry Hill, an up and coming shooter that we have high hopes for.

NAME AGE
IAN COX 23

CLUB
DOWRY HILL FTC, LEICETSERSHIRE

FT RIG
AIR ARMS S400 WITH MPR TRIGGER/GNIB
FIELD TARGET STOCK/BSA 10-60 x 50
SCOPE/JSB EXACT PELLETS

How long have you been shooting
About 2 years now, last year was my first winter series and I was hooked.

Where's the best course you've shot so far
I've enjoyed all of the shoots that myself and Graeme have managed to get to, but I particularly enjoyed the shoot at Far Coley, mainly due to one of my best scores being achieved there, even though it was one of the coldest days I've shot so far. I have also enjoyed the latest shoot at our home ground of Dowry Hill, despite getting one of my worst scores, it was the experience of setting the course and then shooting it. I personally think that every club is brilliant, when we first started shooting everyone was really helpful and full of advice.

Do you shoot any other air rifle disciplines
I also shoot 20 yard sporting rifle, which is what I originally joined our shooting club to do, not realising that there was any such discipline called field target.

20 yard sporting rifle is a standing only discipline with a paper target of with varying scoring rings. The scoring varies from a perfect ten in the middle right to a no score on the outer part of the target. In the 20yd Sporting Rifle league I'm currently doing quite well, with constantly improving scores, but of course everyone has their off day - well thats my excuse anyway! My scores have been around the 185 out of a possible 200.

news

BFTA GETS WEBSITE REVAMP

The BFTA website is undergoing a major revamp. The change is to make the site more accesible to those seeking information on national shoots, open events, up-to-date news, gradings, contacta and much more. For more information register at www.bfta.net

THE BIG ONE IS HERE...

Do you remeber the good old days of the big shoots with lots of targets? Does the Herts 100 springs to mind?

Well, this year there will be a new, large format hum dinger of an event - The Shires 100. This event has stemmed from the very enjoyable and successful 4 Shires Series, originally ran by Dowry Hill, Sywell, Hereward and Milton Keynes. Due to an increasingly busy shoot calendar, it's not been possible to stage this competition over a number of venues, so we've combined it into a 100 shot course - just like the good old days.



The shoot will be roughly held to BFTA rules, with the addition of a fewsurprise targets and very small kills. So, if you fancy it book the 10 May 2009 in your diary and look out for the literature and more details soon.

OVER 2K RAISED

Most of you will already know this information, but for those of you who don't I am not too ashamed to say thanks and give a very worthwhile charity one last plug!



Back in October last year I asked my family, friends and FT buddies to help me support a charity that does some fantastic work helping people of all ages and their families to cope with the turmoil of living with bone cancer.

My aim was to set a new Guinness World Record by hitting as many standard 40mm kills at 30m in a straight 8 hour session. I am pleased to say that the record was set - a total of 4,059 hits was achieved, that's a hit approx. every 7.2 seconds.

I am so pleased to say that the help and support I had from everybody has ben so great, it makes me proud to know such a great bunch of people. Your genorosity and encouragement has been overwhelming and has brought a tear to my eye more than a few times.

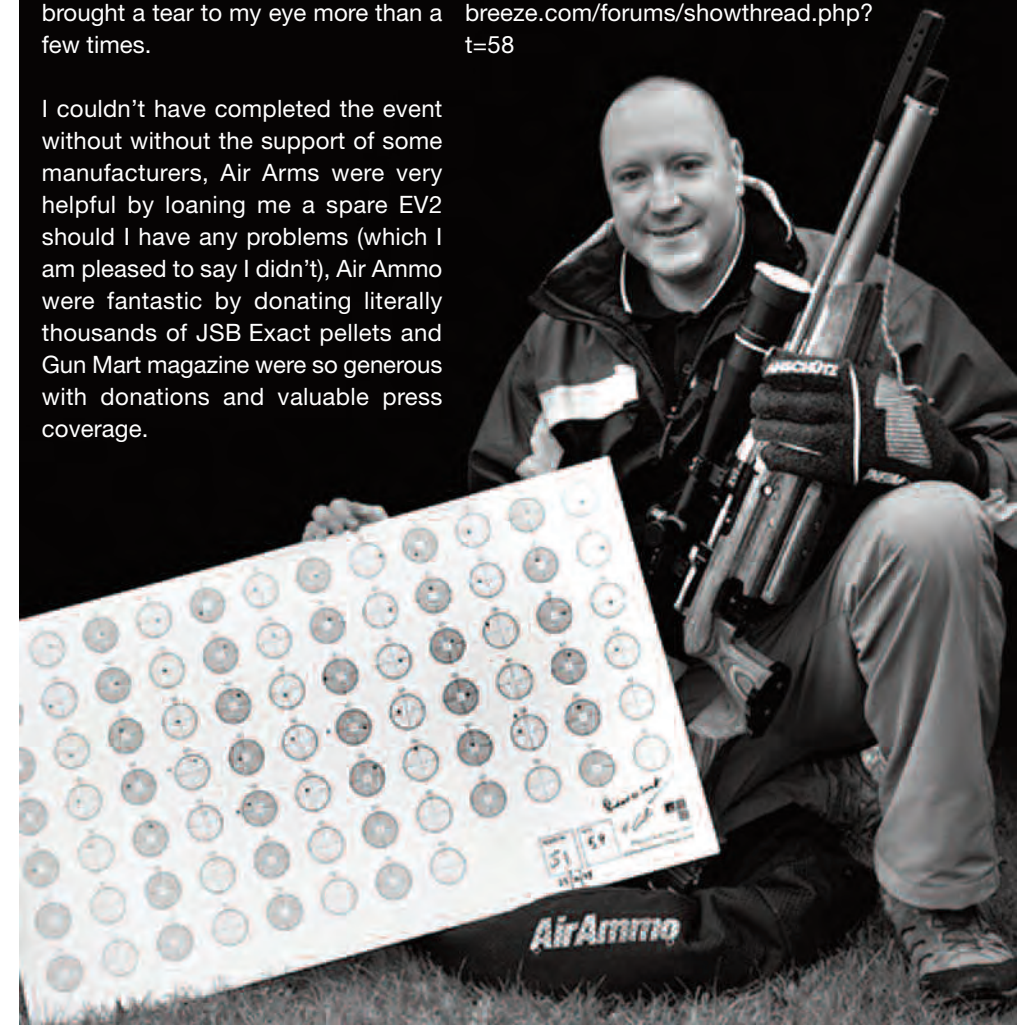
I couldn't have completed the event without without the support of some manufacturers, Air Arms were very helpful by loaning me a spare EV2 should I have any problems (which I am pleased to say I didn't), Air Ammo were fantastic by donating literally thousands of JSB Exact pellets and Gun Mart magazine were so generous with donations and valuable press coverage.

I also have to pay huge respect to my support team: James Osborne, Val Szulc, Nick Murphy and my business partner Marc Cram. They helped with the organisation and were behind me 100% and kept me going when I felt I was runing out of steam. They all had to endure the bitterly cold 8 hour session - for which I will always be grateful !

In total, with the hekp of the Gift Aid scheme, we all managed to raise over £2,000 for the Bone Cancer Research Trust, and both myself and the charity are eternally grateful for your efforts.

Chris Large

Read the full story at www.shooting-the-breeze.com/forums/showthread.php?t=58



FT SHOOTER

2009 SHOOT CALENDAR

NEFTA SHOOTS

18 JAN	HULL	WL
01 FEB	ANSTON	WL
15 FEB	HUNTINGTON	WL
01 MAR	REDFEARNs	WL

08 MAR	HULL	NEFTA CLOSED SHOOT
02-03 MAY	NEFTA CLASSIC	OPEN
06-07 JUNE	ANGLO-AMERICAN	OPEN

MFTA SHOOTs

08 FEB	HARRIERS	WL 9
22 FEB	CASTLE	WL 10

08 MAR	PURLEY CHASE	MIDLAND MASTERS/CLUBS CUP
15 MAR	FAR COLEY	FRAYED KNOT CHAMPIONSHIP

CSFTA SHOOTs

01 FEB	BISLEY	WL 4
08 FEB	WENDOVER	WL 5

SEFTA SHOOTs

22 FEB	ICENI	WL 7
08 MAR	KENT WOODSMEN	WL 8
22 MAR	ETL	SHOWDOWN

BFTA SHOOTs

04 APR	BFTA CHAMPS	NEWBURY
05 APR	INTER REGIONALS	NEWBURY
19 APR	GP1	HARRIERS, MFTA
17 MAY	GP2	MILLRIDE, MFTA
31 MAY	GP3	ICINI, SEFTA
14 JUN	GP4	NEWBURY, CSFTA
28 JUN	GP5	KYPSIDE, SARPA
12 JUL	GP6	BYLEY, NWFTA
26 JUL	GP7	TBC
09 AUG	GP8	NELSON, WAFTA
23 AUG	GP9 (THE FINAL)	SYWELL, FFTA

05 SEPT	BFTA MASTERS	NEWBURY, CSFTA
06 SEPT	BFTA SHOWDOWN	NEWBURY, CSFTA

19 SEPT	EUROPEANS	WESTON PARK, MFTA
20 SEPT	EUROPEANS	WESTON PARK, MFTA

www links

www.bfta.net
www.efta.org.uk
www.airgunforum.net

www.csfta.co.uk
www.freewebs.com/ffta-winterleague
www.nefta.org.uk
www.brisfam.demon.co.uk
www.swefta.org.uk
www.wafta.co.uk

Rob Farnworth has recently started an additional forum. Designed to work alongside the other sites, this is as much about providing people with info on all disciplines of shooting as it is FT, so have a look, register and get involved. It's a great site with lots of enthusiasm. Find it now and contribute at:

www.shooting-the-breeze.com

2009 BFTA SEASON SET TO BE A CORKER

The forthcoming BFTA season is set to be a great one. The dates and venues have been set, and this year they have been shuffled round a bit. GP1 will no longer be in Wales, a move that has hoped the Welsh GP will see some decent weather for a change, and in July we see a welcome return the Byley ground in Lancashire.

There are also some changes for the better regarding the Golden Bunny prize, keep checking the new BFTA website for full details and copies of the latest minutes.



GET YOUR INFO IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE
IF YOU HAVE A SHOOT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE, AN EVENT REVIEW, CLUB NEWS, GREAT PICS OR YOU WISH TO BE ON THE FT REVIEW MAILING LIST PLEASE LET ME KNOW. EMAIL ME YOUR INFO TO christopher@fsgdesign.co.uk