

Sunday 5 May saw the running of the 2019 Mattersey Open. The Mattersey Open is a multi-event Gallery Rifle competition with courses of fire for pistol calibre centre-fire rifles (GRCF), .22RF semi-auto rifles (GRSB), long barrelled pistols (LBP) and revolvers (LBR) and target shotgun (TS) using rifled slug.

The courses of fire used were the short-range events known as Timed & Precision and Multi-Target for GRCF, GRSB, LBP, LBR and TS and the 1500 for GRCF, GRSB, LBP and LBR which has stages at 10m, 15m, 25m and 50m. Full details of all the courses of fire can be found at nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/GRP-handbook-2019.pdf if you're interested and want to know more.

This year we also ran the NTSA Los Alamitos. This is a challenging course of fire for any type of Section 1 shotgun with a magazine capacity of eight or more. The entire course of fire requires 24 slug in total, shot on three targets. **(COF @ www.targetshotgun.org.uk/ntsa-approved-courses-of.pdf)**

Most of the events are run with shooters assigned to different national classifications based on your previous scores so you're only shooting against competitors of similar abilities to yourself.

With all event entries kept to an extremely reasonable £5 each, most competitors will enter multiple events on the day. There were at least three different events to be shot with each firearm type and when it's possible to shoot the Timed & Precision course of fire with up to nine different firearms the biggest challenge is squeezing them all in (that's the events themselves, not just the shots in the x-ring!). The bravest souls managed to shoot between eight and ten events on the day and in total there were 160 entries made by all the competitors.

The weather was kind to us and not too hot, and many of the competitors expressed their thanks for a very enjoyable day's shooting, along with a wish to return next year.

The prize table was a mix of wine or beer, Amazon e-gift vouchers and vouchers for a free event entry next time, and because of the classification system it's not just the top shots in with a chance. There were also prizes for second and third places dependent on entry numbers.

I would like to directly thank all the Mattersey members who helped run the competition on the Sunday or assist with the preparatory work getting everything ready in the weeks leading up to it. In no particular order they were Pete Whomersley, Dave Gwalter, Paul Stockill, Byron Wood, Pete Harvey, Dave Stanley, Alison Tedesco, Maurice Barrott and Simon Arnold with Dale Pearmain doing a sterling job in Stats.

The Mattersey Open for 2020 will be held on Sunday 3 May.