

STEVE NEGUS WINS NSW FULLBORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

With raining forecast across the state and solid rain falling all Friday night shooters rose on Saturday morning to more showers and overcast cloud. Despite the morning news assuring listeners' that conditions were on the improve it was with trepidation that shooters danced around the mud puddles on their way to the 300m start of the NSW Championships.

The sky cleared as first shooters took to the mound for the honour of representing their DRA and looked forward to the relatively benign conditions.

After a tight contest it came down to 800 metres with Steve Negus, Mark Buchanan and Steve Williams to only ones to go clean with Negus finally gaining the upper hand to take out the Senior Champion Trophy from Rob Seeger's with Duncan Davies sneaking in to take third.

Along the Junior ranks Robert Black from Northern Rivers nudged out Howard Sweeger's however Howard managed to clearly win the under 18 championship.

In F Class Dennis Smith came from a slow start to edge out Peter Drew to take home the F Class trophy.

After a quick lunch it was back to the range for the DRA Teams event. It was here that the city members started to really put their stamp on proceedings with clear wins in both the Fullbore and F Class teams' events.

COUNTRY TEAMS DOMINATE

Sunday morning dawned clear and bright with all eagerly anticipating a tough contest with strong winds being forecast later in the day. As a result of this forecast range officials took the initiative and changed the program to include the 800m event in the morning session rather than later in the day.

The NSW Country teams drew first blood with a 3 point lead after 300 which were extended to 22 points after 800. In the meantime NSW Country Juniors gained a narrow 1 point and one centre lead of City Juniors and the F Class Country team had a massive 44 point lead over their City "cousins".

After lunch the winds abated though now a fishtailing wind caused havoc as coaches struggled to ensure that they were on the correct side of the ledger to minimise damage. On more than one occasion a string of inners and magpies appeared with perfect elevation across the range as coaches were caught unawares with sudden gusts.

Despite these conditions Country teams remained solid as points mounted against the City Teams. At 600 metres it was again a case of de ja vu but now

with the end in sight some happy faces started to appear in County ranks as all contemplated the enormity of their win.

In summing up both Senior Team Captains acknowledged the assistance of a willing band of volunteers and the success of a weekend which is now becoming a must attend weekend to enjoy great shooting and friendly rivalry.