



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE November 2010 Edition

Greetings friends! Well, registered shooting in Ontario has concluded for this calendar year but the leagues around the province are in full blast. If any club managers or winter league administrators have news of extraordinary feats or successes that have occurred during their winter leagues, please let us know! In the meantime, we are pleased to bring everyone together again in The Clubhouse with recent news from our community.

ST. THOMAS GUN CLUB'S OPTA SPONSORED TEAM SHOOT:

Hearty congratulations to the following OPTA members for their winning performances on Labour Day weekend!

Individual Champion: Bill Zager = 200/200

Champion Team = 971/1000

Bert Blackburn 195, Terry Jordan 193, Paulo Sampaio 188, Frank Bonaiuto 197, Verne Higgs 198

Second Team = 924/1000

Alex Papastamos 172, Gene Bolton 185, Warren McLay 192, Ross Parker 180, Byron House 195

Third Team = 904/1000

Chloe MacDonald 173, Phil MacDonald 179, Joao Paulo Felix 191, Tony Nogaro 179, Rui Morais 182

Fourth Team = 892/1000

Manuel Domingues 181, Jose Monteiro 168, Antonio De Oliveira 176, Duarte Carvalho 182,
Jose Sousa 185

Fifth Team = 857/1000

Ralph Zadro 184, Mike Pickering 184, Doug Palmer 176, Gino Visentin 137, Domenico Marino 176

THE 2010 NORTHEASTERN GRAND AMERICAN

Thirty shooters from Ontario braved the extraordinarily chilly, windy and wet conditions for September in Cicero, New York. On second thought, that kind of weather is par for the course at the NY State homegrounds and undoubtedly our members were prepared – and kudos to all for giving it their best shots!

We are proud to report that **PETER TSEMENTZIS (99)**, **DAN GRIS (95)**, **ANDY MURDOCK (95)** and **MIKE PICKERING (92)** came home with trophies from the Class Doubles Event - and in the Singles Championship **DOMINIC ROSATI** and **PHIL MACDONALD** were victorious, each hammering 194's and securing trophies in their Classes. In the Handicap Championship, **BARNEY OGILVIE** earned the Sr. Vet category with an outstanding 95! **PHIL MACDONALD** also walked away with D Class HAA (360/400).



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE - November 2010 Issue

Page Two of Four

FROM ONTARIO DELEGATE PAUL SHAW

(Editor's note: As many of you know, this year Paul and Drew Shaw have been actively representing Canada in International (bunker) Trap around the world. As a result, they missed our 2010 Provincial Tournament and most recently they missed the NorthEastern Grand American in order to compete in the Commonwealth Games. There have been many members asking us about their recent experience in Delhi, India - so naturally we asked Paul to tell their story here in The Clubhouse!)

"I have been asked to provide an overview of Drew's and my experience at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India. This was a multi-sport event with 71 countries competing in 17 different sports, of which shooting was one sport. Security was very tight and we had armed escorts accompanying our buses to and from the Athlete's Village and the shooting range. The shooting facility was very acceptable with 6 fields and of course, ranges for handgun and rifle.

Drew outperformed his Dad and was 4 targets off the shoot-off round in trap with 116/125. As for double trap, Drew shot 133/150 which is respectable given the relatively minimal double trap training opportunities. I joined Drew in the double trap team events so that Canada could have an entry. We finished tied for 6th place.

It was amazing to see so many people from countries all over the world who shared a common bond – being members of our Commonwealth of Nations. Some countries I had never heard of previously. If you get a chance, read my delegate article in the December's Trap & Field Magazine as I discuss some of the characters we encountered from various countries.

It was a tremendous opportunity and Drew's first multi-sport event which he has described as 'life changing'. Sport brings people together on the playing field – even those who have political and other differences which, for a short while at least, can be set aside. The Commonwealth is still relevant and the old adage that the sun never sets on the British Empire is probably still true."

Paul Shaw shaw@smilaw.ca or 705-445-1382 (office)

WE NEED YOUR GUN CLUB'S GPS CO-ORDINATES!

We are still in the process of creating a comprehensive OPTA Club Directory – and need to hear from all OPTA Club Trap Directors with their GPS co-ordinates. Please contact Basil Zmiyiwsky at zeezee_m@hotmail.com with this information as soon as possible!

MEMBER UPDATES

We were remiss in reporting in the last issue of The Clubhouse the great milestone that Ron Calvert achieved with his first 100-straight at the 2010 Ontario Provincials. Well done Ron, we wish you many more in the new season!



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE - November 2010 Issue

Page Three of Four

HELP WANTED!!

In order to serve our membership and visitors better, we are looking to revitalize and broaden the scope of our website. We'd like to hear from any qualified techies within our community who'd be willing to donate their time and expertise to help us accomplish this. Please contact any of our Board members (see below) **a.s.a.p.** if you can assist us – or if you can point us toward someone who can!

President: Neville Henderson: neville.s.henderson@cogeco.ca

Vice-President: Bert Blackburn: bertblackburn@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Gord Kerr: gord.kerr.opta@sympatico.ca

Director: Bill Malcolm: billmalcolm@rogers.com

Director: Basil Zmiywsky: zeezee_m@hotmail.com

Director: Barbara Sheldon: sheldonshoots@rogers.com

Director: Pam Muma: ppmuma@rogers.com

Director: Warren McLay: (no email at this time)

AND NOW... A FEW WORDS FROM PRESIDENT NEVILLE HENDERSON

"Hello fellow trap-shooters. I hope you're still enjoying our sport during the off-season through league competitions or just having fun practicing for the upcoming season. Hopefully, some of you will have the opportunity to attend an ATA shoot in one of the Southern states. Many of you have in the past and made a very good showing of yourselves which reflects well on the quality of OPTA shooters.

The off-season is busy for the Board. There is a lot of preparatory work for the upcoming season and that work is underway. At our last meeting, the Board organized several groups to determine how we can improve the 2011 Ontario Championships and set up the infra-structure to ensure the changes are implemented effectively. The key areas we are working on include:

- improved administrative processes
- pro-active squad management to minimize /eliminate delays
- improved training for trap personnel regarding ATA rules and procedures
- review and updating of awards
- a contingency plan for uncontrollable delays such as weather, a power outage, or other issues.

Key issues with administration include: improving the computer system to eliminate downtime and delays and make in-putting more user friendly; increasing the number of classification stations and the pre-tournament hours available for classifying to reduce congestion; improving the cashiering process; accelerating the presentation of scores.



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE - November 2010 Issue

Page Four of Four

The Board is currently looking at an alternative system which has gotten a lot of positive support from a number of clubs about its simplicity and effectiveness. The system is currently at the Hamilton Club so our objective is to ensure it will suit our needs. We will need to acquire additional computers, however, and we may need more screens to meet our goals.

Getting squads through on a timely basis has been a perpetual problem. We will be setting up squad hustlers consisting of OPTA Directors and potentially some volunteers if needed. Additionally, all competitors will be asked and expected to take 50 shells to the line so there will be minimal downtime between 25's. There will be tight time frames which will be rigidly enforced for getting to the line and for downtime if a firearm breaks down.

There have been complaints in the past about inexperienced scoring staff and the inconsistent application of ATA rules. We will be providing training to as many scorers as possible at the start of the tournament and providing all of them with a concise, easy-to-understand summary of the most common and necessary rules to be enforced. (The Rule Book is not the place to go for quick solutions to most questions that arise!)

While our current award system is reasonable, we need to review it and determine what changes would better reward current competitors and encourage new shooters to participate - and do our current awards give good incentive to all shooters to strive for achievement?

Another area we are considering is the camp ground at Hamilton Gun Club. There were complaints last year about a number of issues including the length of the grass in certain spots and maintenance of the washrooms. In any case, the facilities should be clean and well kept. We are fortunate to have HGC's Trap Director Warren McLay on our OPTA Board, and we are supporting his efforts to see that HGC is compliant in making the entire tournament and camp grounds functional, efficient and pleasurable to all our competitors.

Our objective is to make the Ontario Championships as enjoyable and expertly managed as possible. If you have further ideas, please submit them. Your new OPTA Board is readily accessible and our contact info will continue to be published here in The Clubhouse. We will be depending heavily on you to help us achieve our objective!"

YOUR EDITION OF THE CLUBHOUSE

Please take this edition of The Clubhouse to your home club, post it on the bulletin board and share it with the folks in your shooting circle - and encourage them to register their email addresses with the OPTA for their own copy. We've got some real exciting news coming in the VERY NEXT ISSUE!

And remember, if you have important news about an Ontario shooter or about an interesting event that has happened at your club, please be sure to let us know by writing Barbara Sheldon at sheldonshoots@rogers.com

~ Stay safe and keep well... 'til we meet again on the field and in The Clubhouse! ~