



DRUMBEAT

THE JOURNAL OF ABERDEEN FULL BORE GUN CLUB

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Editorial



The 128th Aberdeen Wapinschaw took place on the 10th and 11th May and proved to be a fantastic weekend of shooting and socialising, with Wapinschaw regulars joined by many new faces from across the UK, including one competitor travelling from Northern Ireland.

This is arguably the most important event in the club's calendar-certainly it takes the most time and effort and the history of the competition combined with its regional and a growing national Scottish and UK profile adds to the pressure to get it right.

Thus, before describing the weekend, I would first and foremost like to thank all the club members who so tirelessly gave of their time. We could also not accomplish as much as we do without the considerable assistance and dedication of the service personnel and AUOTC, who put in a superb effort to prepare the range and man the targetry and, of course, the Aberdeen Wapinschaw Association Committee, without whom the Wapinschaw simply would not happen.



For the competition weekend, the atmosphere on both the Saturday and Sunday was a little muted due to fewer than usual military and cadet units but the civilian entry was high and the camaraderie between competitors superb. The Saturday Falling Plate team matches were immensely exciting. Although the civilian teams failed to repeat last year's success of reaching the finals, all three teams; AFBGC 'C', "Wapinschaw All Comers" and "Team Scratch" all won their first round matches and AFBGC and Team Scratch both progressed to the semi-finals. The civilian FP Trophy was finally claimed by AFBGC 'C'.

The large bore muzzle 200m loading rifle competition was won by Ken Hodge; both muzzle loading small bore and Quigley championships fell to David Craven; the 200m Vintage Service Rifle and Classic Service Rifle Aggregates were claimed by David Whyte; the 200m Veteran rifle was won by Jim McCall, Martin Kay the 200m sporting rifle, Don Robertson the 300m optical sight class and the 300m iron sights match was won by David Craven, gaining him a hat trick of competitions in this year's Wapinschaw. In addition to David Craven's all round results, the two outstanding performances of the day were undoubtedly those of Mike Hannaford who, in addition to the 300m F-class, achieved the Robertson Trophy in recognition of his simply phenomenal 98 ex 100 in 300m F-class (sub 0.5MOA for a 10 shot group) and that of John Crouch who achieved the highest VL score to become the 128th Wapinschaw Champion and so add the County Brooch to a trophy cabinet already burdened by the prestigious King George V trophy for the 200m open class aggregate.

Shooting aside, the weekend was not without its challenges. While the Sunday 200m precision and aggregate matches experienced dull but essentially benign conditions, an initially welcome warming prior to the 300m matches led to a thick haar that did its very best to thwart the match! Thankfully, the maker buoys eventually reappeared through the mist and we were given the all clear to re-start firing after a 1h wait. We still managed to complete the competition by 5:00pm, a feat that in no small measure is due to the stats and admin team who produce, changed, re-changed, altered and adapted the squadding list with lightning speed-at the FP we just did what they told us!!!

A new feature this year was the introduction of a Saturday evening competitor's meal at the White Horse Inn Balmedie and this was a very successful addition and one that we intend to continue next year. Essentially this provided an environment to chat with like minded sportsmen, meet many old friends and make new ones. I thank everyone who helped to make it happen-the nerves and risk are certainly worth it and from the civilian perspective, the 128th Wapinschaw was arguably the best to date.

Charles Bestwick June 08

Pictures courtesy of Mike Raeburn, Neil James, Steve Rider & Donald McLeod



128th Aberdeen Wapinschaw, 10th & 11th May 2008



AFBGC Allcomers ready to go!



Winning AFBGC team in action



Team Scratch ready to go!



Civilian falling plates competitors



Armed forces gun clearing exercise.



Wapinschaw Dinner



Winning Falling plate team



Best AFBGC Performance



2008 Wapinschaw Prize winners



Overall Marksman



Hard work in the butts



Shooting Fun



Fresh air a last!



ML Smallbore
David Craven



Muzzle-loading Large Bore
Ken Hodge



Quigley
David Craven



Vintage
David Whyte



Veteran
Jim McCall



Classic
David Whyte



Sporting
Martin Kay



Open
John Crouch



300M Iron
David Craven



300M F-Class
Mike Hannaford



300M Optical
Don Robertson