

# 129<sup>th</sup> Aberdeen Wapinschaw, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009

Report by Charles Bestwick

For those new members not familiar with the Wapinschaw, I've provided below a brief history of what is arguably one of, if not the oldest, surviving shooting competition within the UK and my apologies to long standing members who have read this all before, many times over!!

In recent years, the Wapinschaw Association and AFBGC have co-operated in running the Aberdeen Wapinschaw, with Neil James and Charles Bestwick representing the civilians on the association's committee. Tracing a lineage from 1496, Wapinschaw in their present form have been held at Aberdeen for more than 124 years. From a modern heyday in the 1970's, civilian involvement had progressively declined. However, after the low point of the handgun ban, much hard work and commitment from AFBGC and Wapinschaw Association, in particular the drive and enthusiasm of the former Chairman and current Wapinschaw President, Lt Col Cram, has seen the civilian and indeed the competition as a whole rejuvenated within the UK shooting calendar. As a measure of success, the civilian competition has been fully subscribed for the preceding three years. Competitors come from all over the UK and we have even had the occasional enquiry from abroad. The match takes place over a weekend, normally in May or June.

The civilian 'individual' competition takes place on the Sunday and traditionally consists of 200M and 300M matches. The 200M matches are subdivided into classes for open, sporting, vintage, veteran and classic military rifles shooting a composite course of fire of deliberate, snap and rapid fire stages and muzzle loading and black powder cartridge rifles each shoot a deliberate competition. The 300M match is subdivided into optical, iron sight and 'F' class formats. Essentially you should be able to find a class that either ideally or approximately suites your rifle type! On the Saturday the civilians also participate in the Falling Plates Team Matches in which teams of six run from the 300M point before engaging 10 plates at 200M in a knock-out team v. team format. This has proved very popular.

For 2009, however, the format was somewhat different! Out with our control, a trial change of date to September inadvertently clashed with the Vintage Arms Scotland meet. Thus, to avoid harming attendance at a fellow and long established event, we confined Wapinschaw civilian entries to the North East region and so the vast majority of competitors were from the club. The club responded magnificently to support the event but obviously the usual number of competitive categories could not be justified. So, to create meaningful competition, it was decided to steam line the number of classes within the Sunday Aggregate. However, to compensate for the fewer classes, the aggregate was complemented by an 'any rifle' pairs falling plate match and a Mad Minute competition. For the Saturday, the Falling Plate format was unaltered. Incidentally, the date change ultimately proved to have problems for military and cadet attendance as well!

Finally, when it comes to trophies, the Wapinschaw boasts one of the finest trophy tables in the UK. For the civilian competition, the centre-pieces of this table are The King's Cup, a magnificent 18" high solid silver trophy and presented in 1904 by King Edward 7<sup>th</sup>, which is currently awarded to winners in Open Class and one of the original prizes from the 1862 event, the County Ladies Brooch, which is awarded to the overall Civilian Wapinschaw Champion.

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> - Falling plate Service Team match



The weekend of shooting started on a high with both AFBGC teams [AFBGC 'A': John Crouch, Stevie Florence, Chris Overton, Steve Rider, Liam Sharkey, David Squires; AFBGC 'B': Charles Bestwick, Buchan Chesney, Paul Holder, Mike Meldrum, Graeme Moss, Kevin Thompson & Greg Rastall] contesting the falling plate final, with AFBGC B taking the title and the Kinghorn Cup (AFBGC 'A' received the Company Bugle as runners up). Earlier in the competition the situation was reversed with AFBGC A defeating B for the President's Plate!

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Individual and Pairs Civilian Match

The Sunday saw a trimmed down and modified day's events from those of a standard Wapinschaw but, despite that, the atmosphere was excellent and everyone was treated to an array of shooting with the Aggregate being contested in three classes (historic, service and open), followed by a Pairs Plate round-robin-match, a Mad Minute match and later in the day the 300M Precision match was competed for in the traditional three categories of iron, optical and F-class.

The whole weekend enjoyed excellent weather, with only a moderate to slight wind. However, in typical British tradition, we bemoaned the intervention of bright sunshine which obscured scopes, fore-sights and targets-particularly the snap but it all added to the challenge and enjoyment! Throughout the competition the level of shooting from teams and individuals was very high.

Many congratulations are due to the 2009 winners and full stats follow this report. I would also like to thank the AFBGC range staff who from Stats, Squadding, Range Officers, Safety Supervisors, Butt Officers, Scorers and Targetry all worked so hard to make the competition a success and without their commitment there would not be a civilian Wapinschaw. For the Saturday, the Range Safety Supervisors were Charles Bestwick, David Squires, Greg Rastall, Neil James. On Sunday there were a range of roles and tasks and these were: **Statistics, Sign-in and Squadding**, L. Bestwick (CSO) D. Smith; **RCOs/Safety Supervisors**, Morning Aggregate, Mad Minute & Plate Match, S. Rider (CRCO), C. Bestwick (RCO), N.James (RCO), D.Squires (RCO), I. Pallant (RS); Afternoon 300M Match, C.Bestwick (CRCO), I. Pallant (RS), S.Rider (RCO), N.James (RCO). **Butt Officers/Staff**, Liam Sharkey (CBO), John Crouch (Deputy CBO, Buchan Chesney, Paul Holder, Euan Munro; **Range/Butt Staff Volunteers**, George Smith, Greg Rastall and Bill Blackwood. Also, many thanks to Terry Stallard for setting up targetry early on the Sunday morning.

Finally, considerable thanks are also due to the Wapinschaw Association and service personnel, in particular RSM Campbell and the AUOTC for an array of assistance provided throughout the Wapinschaw.

### Match 1 - Open Class

Name	Rifle	Deliberate	Snap	Rapid	Total	Rank
Peter Smith	Pierce TG 6.5 x 47	46	49	45	140	1
Terry Stallard	Tikka T3 Varmint	44	50	44	138	2
Andrew Melrose	Fergusson/Sako 6mm BR	50	50	37	137	3
Greg Rastall	Steyr SSG69	50	45	39	134	4
Buchan Chesney	Remington VLS .308	47	47	34	128	5
Terry Stallard	Tikka T3	46	45	35	126	6
John Crouch	Tikka T3	0	0	0	0	7

### Match 1 - Service Class

Name	Rifle	Deliberate	Snap	Rapid	Total	Rank
Martin Kay	SGC Speedmaster	30	49	34	113	1
Andy McLeman	Fulton Armoury FAM14	34	40	31	105	2
Charles Bestwick	Speedmaster/Enfield	10	17	16	43	3

### Match 1 - Historic Class

Name	Rifle	Deliberate	Snap	Rapid	Total	Rank
Martin Kay	Swedish Mauser M1896	22	0	8	30	1



Service Class – Martin Kay



Open Class – Peter Smith



Historic Class – Martin Kay

### Match 2 – Pairs Falling Plate Teams

Team 1

Team 2

Team 3

Team 4

Photos courtesy of Rebecca Bestwick, Neil James, Bill Blackwood & Diane Smith

**9 points**Liam Sharkey  
Andy McLeman**6 points**David Squires  
Terry Stallard**3 points**Martin Kay  
John Crouch**0 points**Charles Bestwick  
Andrew Melrose**Match 3 – ‘F’ Class**

Name	Rifle	X	Score	Rank
Andrew Melrose	RG Rifles 6mm BR	3	98	1
Greg Rastall	Steyr SSG69	1	92	2
Peter Smith	6.5 x 47	0	79	3
Liam Sharkey	6.5 Grendel	0	69	4
Terry Stallard	Tikka T3 Varmint	1	40	5
Terry Stallard	Tikka T3	0	36	6
John Crouch	Tikka T3	0	0	7

**Match 3 - Iron Class**

Name	Rifle	Score	Rank
Euan Munro	7.62 Enfield Envoy	40	1
Andy McLeman	Fulton Armoury FAR15	39	2
Martin Kay	SGC Speedmaster	34	3
David Squires	No 4 Lee Enfield - Savage	17	4

**Match 3 - Optical Class**

Name	Rifle	X	Score	Rank
Andy McLeman	Fulton Armoury FAM14	0	69	1
Martin Kay	SGC Speedmaster	1	65	2



'F' Class- Andrew Melrose



Iron Class – Euan Munro



Optical Class – Andy McLeman

**Mad Minute**

Name	Rifle	No Scoring Shots
Greg Rastall	Steyr SSG69	16
Martin Kay	SGC Speedmaster	16
Andy McLeman	Fulton Armoury FAM14	15
Charles Bestwick	SGC Speedmaster	11
John Crouch	Saiga M3	7
David Squires	No 4 Lee Enfield	2



Overall Marksman – Martin Kay



Falling Plate Pairs – Liam Sharkey &amp; Andy McLeman



Mad Minute – M Kay &amp; Greg Rastall

## Overall Marksmanship Trophy

Name	Match 1	Match 2	Total
<b>Martin Kay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>
Andy McLeman	9	10	19
Peter Smith	10	8	18
Andrew Melrose	8	10	18
Greg Rastall	7	9	16
Terry Stallard	9	6	15
Euan Munro		10	10
Charles Bestwick	8		8
John Crouch	4	4	8
Liam Sharkey		7	7
David Squires		7	7
Buchan Chesney	6		6



The Prize Table

## Wapinschaw Photo Gallery of the Shooters and Helpers





Photos courtesy of Rebecca Bestwick, Neil James, Bill Blackwood & Diane Smith