

Matchreport DeltaCup, Serbia – “General rehearsal for the Europeans 2010”

Approximately 250 shooters from all across Europe had come to Belgrade, Serbia to battle it out at the Delta Cup – a 3 days of exciting shooting competition. As the Europeans 2010 will take place here, the match was especially interesting for those planning to go the Europeans next year. Believe me, getting familiar with the area and getting hints on what type of stages to expect IS a big deal. Top shooters from all divisions had taken the trip to Serbia for the “pre-Europeans” match. As usual in the Balkan area, production division was by far the biggest division followed by Standard and then Open. But even though Standard was half the size of Production division, the completion in Standard was without a doubt the toughest, with top shooters like:

Petr Znamenacek (CZE) (no. 4. World Shoot)

Juan Carlos Jaime (ESP) (no. 5 World Shoot)

Gregory Midgley (GER) (no. 6 World Shoot)

Georgy Batki (HUN) (no. 10 World Shoot)

I was on a great squad with 3 other shooters from the STI Euroteam and Johan Hansen just to name a few. We had great fun as you can tell by the pics. I never knew that Johan was that scared of rain though...



Picture above: OK, rain was bad but Johan might be overdoing it a bit here...



Picture above: "STI Gangbang"? See If you can spot Greg – I'm told he's in the picture somewhere 😊

So – how was the match? Well, actually was great! There was a lot of learning for me in preparing for the Europeans next year. The stages used a lot of hard cover areas on the targets resulting in half size targets. There was a lot of switch in distance to the targets – some short some long– all forcing the shooter to speed up, down, up during shooting.

Many of the stages could be shot in different ways, which really forced the shooter to think about his options. There wasn't that much technical equipment – a couple of movers, and fair use of bobbars, bear traps .



Picture above: Squad 1 – some of them..

Stages reminded me a bit of the European Championship in 2004/Tabor – which were some of the best stage design I've come across. Why? Because the stages demanded a lot of focus from the shooter and technical shooting was no.1 (you really had to watch your sights and have clean trigger pull! And very importantly: NO circus shooting at all! When I say "Circus stages" I'm thinking of stages where the slightest miscalculation in shooting sequence will hurt the shooter disproportionately – e.g. speed shoots that make use of too much technical equipment at the same time Movers, bobbbers, bear traps, gravity turners. Instead they focused on what's important: Shooting skill!



Picture above: Beep and Ralf K. Jensen is off.

Most stages seemed to have shooting through small apertures, which tended to make the stages more “fixed”. Fast, good setup into positions and exiting positions were skills very much needed at this match. I didn’t count the number of apertures myself, but was told that a total of 56 apertures were used in the match. According to Milan who was the Range Master, this probably is the one element they might change for the Europeans next year. Using bigger apertures will give the shooter more freedom (shooting on the move).



Picture above: Gregory Midgley – shooting on the move

Match organization could be better though – let me give you a couple of examples:

- 1) Squadding: Despite asking for squadding preferences on the web, these were completely ignored when match day came.
- 2) Squadding list weren't available the day before main match – they were posted approx. 1 hours before first shot.
- 3) Errors in stats office. I found 2 serious errors in my verifiers and I witnessed other suspicious results.
- 4) Verifiers were posted while the shoot-off was in progress. So if you were attending/participating in the shoot-off, the one hour limit was non-existing. After the shoot-off I discovered an error in the results (in one stage my real time was "25,36 seconds", but verifier had bettered my results to "23,36 seconds", so I went to protest (Don't want to beat some other shooter with a fake score). Initially they laughed at me, and I had to really put my foot down in order to have the change made, as the one hour limit had passed. That unfortunately cost me 2nd. Place by the narrowest margin I've seen in a while, but we have to play fair.

Anyway – regarding match organization: This was a match for 250-300 shooters, but next year the Europeans will most likely have 8-900 shooters in the main match, so changes need to be made. But I'm sure they'll pick up the learnings from this "general rehearsal".

The weather was funny: Friday Sunny 33-34 degrees and a little wind. Saturday 20 degrees, showers and heavy wind (it actually felt like 14-15 degrees).

Results:

In spite of really tough competition the STI Euroteam/Team Hornady did “fairly well” in standard division – pulling a “hatrick” by winning 1st. + 2nd + 3rd. place. Juan Carlos Jaime/SPA took first place, Gregory Midgley/GER took second and I finished third (0,02% behind Greg). The team event obviously was won by the STI Euroteam as well.

In the resulting shoot-off the STI Euroteam/Team Hornady showed its nerves again as Juan Carlos won against Greg in the finale. And yes you’re right – I got my butt kicked by Juan Carlos as well 😊

Below you’ll find top5-results for the 3 main divisions:

STANDARD -- Overall Match Results

Place	%	Points	Competitor
1	100.00	1949.8644	91 JaimeDiaz, JuanCarlos ESP
2	97.00	1891.2764	287 Midgley, Gregory GER
3	96.98	1891.0227	75 Jensen, RalfK DEN
4	96.73	1886.0722	66 Batki, Gyorgy HUN
5	96.48	1881.2957	235 Zanmenacek, Petr CZE

PRODUCTION -- Overall Match Results

Place	%	Points	Competitor
1	100.00	1845.9547	233 Tyc, Adam CZE
2	96.26	1776.8717	17 Vysny, Marian SVK
3	94.21	1739.0788	236 Zapletal, Miroslav CZE
4	93.90	1733.3813	350 Momcilovic, Ljubisa SER
5	86.26	1592.3658	99 Heller, Peter S

OPEN -- Overall Match Results

Place	%	Points	Competitor
1	100.00	2033.7401	214 Kamenicek, Martin CZE
2	89.74	1825.1539	224 Pijacek, Petr CZE
3	89.37	1817.5657	84 Hansen, Johan SWE
4	87.93	1788.2270	227 Sebo, Robin CZE
5	87.43	1778.1716	368 Gardner, Gerald GER

Before saying goodbye I’d like to thank my sponsors. I’m very fortunate to be backed by some of the nicest guys and girls in the industry – so please support them if you feel like it.

DVC & see you on the range,

Ralf K. Jensen

CENTERARMS (www.centerarms.dk)

As well as:

STI

Hornady

Fiocchi

Vectan

MSA/Sordin

C-More

Ghost

Slip2000

More pictures from the match...



6/7'ths of the STI Euroteam. From left: Frabrizio Pesce (Ita), Irene Canette (Ita), Ralf K. Jensen (Den), Gregory Midgley (Ger), Juan Carlos Jaime Diaz (Spa) and Emile Obriot (Fra). Only one missing was Saul Kirsch.



Top 3 Teams in Standard



The 4 amigos on squad 1...



Top 3 Standard overall.



Top 3 standard overall again



1st. place in Team category



Dinner with the team + friends..





Main area where shooters went for dinner and relaxation after the days shooting...



Pics from the range



Emile saying hi...



Milan was RM....and did a great job!



Some cool....sorry, pool pictures from the range: After Friday you really felt like jumping in with guns and everything on...



The banquet looked great...unfortunately it was not for the shooters. Some dignitaries came by for a quick snack with Nick Alexacos and the match organizers.



From left, Noemi (Juan Carlos wife), Juan Carlos Jaime Diaz and Gregory Midgley



Nice sunset over the Danube