

SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER, 2010

Olympic Trap Individual Men

After the first of their two days of competition, the Manx Olympic Trap shooters, Dave Walton and Neil Parsons declared themselves 'pretty pleased'.

Shooting 75 clays today, before a further 50 tomorrow, both Manx marksmen put in solid performances. Neil shot 23 + 25 + 22 for 70/75 while Dave shot 25 + 21+22 for 68/75. While the leader is sitting pretty on 75, both lads know that they are capable of shooting 25's, and a couple more today will catapult them right into the mix.

A place in the final six (who then go on to contest a 25 shot final) is an outside chance for both lads, but they'll be giving it their best.

Day 2

Knowing that their only chance of making today's final was to shoot two big rounds, Neil and Dave started well. Both shot 24 in their first round. That kept them both right up there amongst the leading group, but knowing that a straight final 25 would be needed to have any chance of a place in the final.

Neil shot first and he handled the increasing pressure admirably. Concentration is paramount and Neil was delighted to maintain his right up to the very last clay, and finish with a 25. His total of 119/125 was a new Manx Record and a personal best. It was unknown at that time whether it would be enough to make the final, but it was going to be close.

Dave was also on for a personal best, but he too needed to shoot a straight 25. It was not to be, but he still fired a 23, to finish on 115 – one of his best ever scores, and to do it in a competition at this level is excellent shooting. His score was enough to place him 20th overall.

When the scores were totted up, it was very close as to who progressed to shoot the final. Neil was one shot away from a shoot-off to make the top six. On countback, he finished in 11th place.

Neil said,

"It would have been great to make the final, but I can't be disappointed. I'm delighted to shoot so well, and to finish one shot behind the Olympic Champion (Ossie McLean of

Scotland) is amazing. I've put an awful lot into preparing for these Games and I'm so pleased it's paid off."

Olympic Trap Ladies

Clementine Kermode-Clague was taking part in her first major competition here, and had been training well. Her competition was inconsistent, and she admitted to suffering from nerves,

"I kept myself to myself as I waited to shoot. I think I definitely let things get to me a bit. I was very nervous, but I started OK with a 20. Then little things started distracting me and I had a poor second round."

Despite finishing with a strong round of 21, the damage had been done and the 21 year old sports science student was disappointed to finish on 56/75.