

TSRA HIGH POWER CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH APRIL 16-18, 2004

The bluebonnets were back for the 2004 TSRA Highpower Rifle Championship matches, but not in as great a quantity. Instead, Mother Nature supplied a new theme for the 2004 matches: The WIND CHALLENGE MATCHES of 2004 were on! All three days of this match featured ever-increasing winds. Friday arrived in a solid overcast, pleasant temperature, with winds that started in the AM about 5-7, and then steadily built during the day to an average of 16 gusting to 28-30. ALL THREE DAYS AVERAGED 16 gusting to 28-30, with some gusts running into the high 30's. During this 3-day period, there was a direction variation of 50 degrees. Depending on what time of day you shot, you had to contend with gusts and direction changes. At 1000 yards, that meant appreciable changes.

Friday AM saw two people clean 800- Mr. Gaines and Mr. Gusdal, but the winds began showing up at 900, with 3 people shooting a 148-Crawford, Gaines and Rhynard. When the time came for the 1000 yd. line, the wind was a real factor—2 scores of 147 – Crawford and Rhynard. The Match Aggregate winner was Jon Rhynard with a 443-21, followed Rick Crawford-443-13. Our F Class winner was Carl Urbanovsky with a 400-6. Please remember our F Class shooters were using the 300 yard target. The 1000-yard Any/Any match winner was won by Jon Rhynard, also with a score of 195-4...wind like this forced the cream to the top in a hurry! Congratulations to Mr. Rhynard.

Saturday saw most of the overcast gone, but partially cloudy with the clouds moving rapidly. R. Crawford jumped on the 200 yd. standing with a 194-6, but by the time the relay got to the line, the wind was present and caused very difficult conditions...lots of 160's and 170's. The wind stayed for 200 rapid, with only one shooter firing clean, a 200-8 fired by Darrell Barry. 300 Prone Rapid enjoyed the wind, but Mr. Rhynard was in form with a 200-8, the only clean score at that line. Mr.



Match Champion Eddie Newman shows off the Ike Lee Trophy he got for winning the overall match championship. Photo by Stan Jarosz.

Rhynard just got better with another clean at 600...a 200-5. A fantastic demonstration of a true High Master at work! Also hard at work was the All-Guard team including Eddie Newman. He shot consistently well and turned in the match winning score of 780-20X. High Senior Shooter was once again Bob Mullins (758-16). High Junior honors go to Chris Colacurci (714-6). Our High Woman shooter was our perennial winner Alonda Roy Flowers. We also note that Mrs. Flowers was celebrating her birthday, and looking forward to an even more important birthday later this year...her first little one!

Whittington Center belt buckles for slow fire aggregate went to Rick Crawford and



Stan Jarosz, far left, with the winners of the Team Championship, the All Guard team. Teams members were Wells, Newman, Smith and Barry. Photo by Stan Jarosz.

Justin Utley. Justin was also our Master Class winner with a 768-11. High Service Rifle went to Mrs. Flowers with a 777-16. Other class winners included Expert-Isaac Smith 757-11, Sharpshooter Jim Booker-(715-09) and Marksman Class-Amber Sivils with a 706-8.

Saturday's winds were challenging...and it simply cannot be overstated how much of a constant drain it was on the competitors. It beat you up while you were on the line, and then worked your back and legs when it came time to pull targets. Not only did you have to beat the wind mentally on each shot, but then you had to beat wear and tear in the pits.

Sunday morning witnessed three military teams, seven civilian adult team and three junior teams answer the call. The wind was also present in force...by 8:30 AM the winds were already in the 10 to 12 range and climbing. It seemed after two days of competition that everyone was running low on energy. There were no dissenting voices when the decision was made to cut off the team match after the 300 rapid event. In the team category, Texikan Amigos Uno, fired an 1104-20 to beat all comers. Members Flowers, Neira, Rongero and Stephens simply held the middle and squeezed off better than anyone else. The High Military Team was All Guard Newman (Berry/Smith/Wells/Newman) with an impressive 1088-21X. High Junior Team was TSRA Jr. Blue (Colacurci/Keys/Nieves-Vega/Maguire) with a 1006-5X coached by a newcomer, Mr. Nieves-Vega, father of one of the winning team members, and we applaud his courage and efforts!

We learned a few things, and look forward to an even better Match in 2005. We expect a probable return to the LR target for F-Class and several other changes.

Stay tuned. We are looking forward to the 4th weekend of April, 2005.

Stan Jarosz
Match Director