



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA June 2023



What time is it? Its Tahr Time!

Club Night – Tuesday June 27th

AGM and Branch 75th Anniversary

You need to RVSP to enjoy the Company and Food

2023 Competitions

Don't forget that to enter your great autumn hunts trophies and photos into our competitions. You must be a paid-up member!

See here for categories and rules.

[Nelson NZDA Competitions](#)

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Editorial

Frosts at last.....they feel very welcome.



Nelson NZDA's 75th Anniversary is on and you will have received notification via email.

Please RVSP using the link in your email invitation if you wish to attend this chance to meet, eat and celebrate this major milestone in our organisation's history. It will be great to see medals awarded to our stalwart long serving members.

Good to see the tahr ballot giving great hunting experiences, I have a feeling this month's story is the tip of the iceberg and there is plenty of banter across Facebook sites and I note Gwyn's success in the National Newsletter.

I have reproduced DOC's advisory notice below regarding proper and lawful use of Teetotal Flat Rifle Range at St Arnaud. If you are a user, please take note of these and abide by the rules. The new Range Regulations require it and everybody is expected to understand and comply. This also goes for any users of Red Deer Lodge (well everywhere actually) – the new requirements for carriage and storage of firearms (weblinks at end of Echo) basically mean you should be travelling with light wire cable or chain and padlocks to secure your firearms, be it in your vehicle or where you are staying (e.g. lodges and huts etc). So, get yourself kitted up and always be secure and lawful at all times. If in doubt ask someone who knows rather than winging it with the new rules, we expect little leniency from the enforcement perspective.

The National Conference (also 75th anniversary is looming – 21-23 July) with delegates from around the country convening in Ashburton – the three Branches there (Ashburton, Rakaia and Malvern) have clubbed together to organise this year event and all power to them for getting it on the launch pad. The MIA tent raffle is a feature of their work – be in to win!

Finally, other Board members (inc. President and Vice President) and I are gathering in Te Anau at the early July Wapiti Weekend ([Link to FWF](#)) to “man a stand” on behalf of NZDA and promote our cause and good works with the support of local branches. This is an SI version of NZDA's presence at the Sika Show which has occurred for several years now. Being a first time event we are running a very shoestring budget version but hope and expect it will all go well for the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and ourselves.

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

Tahr Ballot Delivers on All Fronts



Behind Camp – now that's a backdrop.....

Had a great trip into one of the more remote South Westland Tahr blocks in May with two keen mates. Saw a lot of animals, clearly still too many females present. Shot a few to reduce numbers and all of us managed some nice Bulls. Interestingly Bulls were on average 10 to 15% smaller in body size I would say based on my measurements of animals from blocks with better feed, and had correspondingly smaller horns, both in length and girth. Best bull was 9 1/2 years old yet only 12 3/8 long.

Not a trophy block but great hunting all the same. Only issue was coming down with Covid halfway through the trip necessitating lying in camp for the last 3 days.

Kea were entertaining and a continual issue at campsite, with quite a bit of damage, fortunately we had a pretty robust canvas tent with a fly, a nylon tent would have been destroyed. Ensuring no food is available to them seems to be the best way to deal with them. They eventually get hungry and spend most of the day and night foraging further afield.

Cheers *Warren Plum*



Camp Valley



Nice Bull



Naughty birds.....what could possibly go wrong!!

USA – NZ – AUS - Tassie Report

Previous local member Steve Parker recently moved to Tasmania for a long term work change. He and I hunted together in South Canterbury and it was interesting to hunt with someone from USA where rules and approaches are very different. Going from spending a day selecting an elk for meat to knocking over a bunch of wallabies on NZ high country (and gathering some meat) was quite a transition (one successfully made as the pics below show!).



However, now Steve is transitioning to the Tassie scene where wallys are still on the menu (despite being a native there) and fallow are plentiful (although access is much harder than in NZ) as his brief email to me below shows. The Editor

Steves's Report:

Was so successful that I took few pictures and was only away for 24h! Had to get back to process meat before I took off for a business trip. Was a fantastic trip with great weather, No people, deer everywhere. I think in 3 2h blocks I saw 18 deer, no stags, and as singles or small groups of does. Brown, grey, and cream coloured varieties. Wallabies everywhere but skiddish in the forest as they seem to get persecuted more than the deer. I got a doe, a yearling, and a spiker. Plus a Wally to try out. A couple pics of habitat and the result.
Cheers Steve



Nice gentle hills compared to the crazy steep of NZ bush.



Deer hiding behind every shrub! Fallow habitat in central Tasmania.



Not as big as a South Island red, but tasty.

Range Matters – DOC Range at Teetotal Flat St Arnaud & Zuppa Shoot

All Packers Creek Range users note that this Range is once again open as usual but always check our website and your email for important updates plus shooting events schedule [Nelson Ranges - Information and Updates](#)



Changes coming for the Teetotal

Rifle Sighting-In Range



The Teetotal Sighting-In Range has existed since the 1980s as a recognised place where hunters can sight in their rifles before heading into the park or other nearby conservation lands to hopefully shoot deer, chamois, goats etc. In more recent years, with the further development of mountain bike tracks in the area we have added a target backstop, placed some marked-up waratahs to define the area and, with some community help, done some maintenance such as removing ricochet prone rocks etc. We also introduced a separate permit system for those wanting to sight in their 0.22 rifles as these are not permitted with a standard hunting permit.

We appreciate the value of this facility to hunters and the benefits for conservation of having an active hunting community keeping wild animal numbers down. We are also aware that if there isn't a readily available site for this activity then there is increased risk of hunters sighting in their rifles at road end carparks and other places where there are no controls in place.

The recent amendments to the Arms Act 1983 require all ranges to either be formalised and brought up to a base standard or dismantled. There are also new requirements for every use of range to be under the direct supervision of a 'Range Officer'. After discussion with the Police and support from Bill O'Leary (whom many of you would know as a leader in various hunting circles, and a national range inspector), we have decided that we will formalise the range and work with the new requirements.

You will start to see works underway to formalise the range in line with the new requirements and advice from Bill. This will include an improved bullet back stop, a flag to raise when the range is in use, a sign shelter so that

we can display written material (such as the rules for use of the range) and some additional fencing and signs to delineate the area and discourage others from entering. Improvements have started and installation will be completed through June.

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From 1 July 2023

- Every use of the range will be under the supervision of a nominated 'Range Officer' who will need to obtain a **Teetotal Sighting-In Range Permit** in person from the visitor centre and sign up to their responsibilities under the Range Standing Orders. The appointed Range Officer must also be a licenced firearms holder and hold a standard DOC hunting permit.
- For licenced firearms holders who want to use 0.22s for rabbit shooting this will still be permitted with a specific **Teetotal 0.22 Hunting Permit** available only through the visitor centre. This is restricted to the lower river flats adjacent to the river.
- For other users of Teetotal. The range area will be more clearly delineated on the ground. The mountain biking and walking tracks will not be directly affected as they have been built to be in an area safe from the range users but there will be warning signs and some fencing in the vicinity advising to stay on the tracks. There are several informal 4WD tracks through the grass off the main Teetotal Road, one of which goes right through the range, which will be closed off with mounds and fencing so that there is only one established vehicle track to access the safe point of the range (by the sign shelter) or continue on. The furthest vehicle track seems to stop some 200m or so beyond that point before petering out.

This looks to be the only range in the country that is managed by the Department on public conservation land. There are others where the local NZDA branch or similar operates the range under a licence or agreement of some sort, but these are already in a more formalised state (such as the Murchison Range).

It can't be stated strongly enough how important it is that the rules around the use of the range are respected and fully observed. Individuals who misuse the range will be committing a criminal act. They will have their permits and potentially their firearms licence revoked and will likely face prosecution by the police. If this isn't done well, the range will need to be disestablished with all improvements dismantled.

We will post updates in this newsletter and through the NZDA about the range improvements and the new permit system.
Let's all make this work.

John Wotherspoon
DOC Operations Manager

Zuppa Shoot 2023

Readers may be interested to learn how this event came about and how it obtained its name. In the Benchrest world the one event that all shooters should try and attend (like going to Mecca) is the Supershoot held annually in the USA, recently at the family range of the Kelbly Clan in Ohio.

This writer has taken that journey on several occasions. Although the event is in a transitional change, this year been held in St Louis will ultimately find a new permanent home in Texas about 200k north of Houston.

We were considering establishing a mid-winter shoot at Queen's Birthday weekend so our group could fill the gap between Easter Nationals and South Islands in October. Having recently attended the 1999 World Benchrest Championships in Dobbiaco, Italy. Then National Champion Kevin Duckworth suggested seeing we were proposing to have hot soup available for the

competitors we should in Italian call the event the “Soup” shoot or in Italian Zuppa. There our event was born and continues to this day.

As to the 2023 event we certainly had an eventful mid-winter conditions. Saturday was fairly mild with a steady breeze, Sunday was overcast cold and little wind and Monday dry, cold and windy. So we got it all in 3 days.



Light Varmint

After a rough start Dunedin Shooter Ian Owen go his act together to lead home the 100-yard series. Sunday morning our attention turned to the 200 yard range with Tauranga shooter Grant Hammond leading home the pack, However Owen held on to take the overall match with an aggregate of .2469 followed by Hammond and our own Carina Jackson.

Heavy Varmint

Sunday afternoon was a little bit of a replay, with again Ian Owen heading the score sheet with a good aggregate in the circumstances. Monday morning the weather turned, became fine with a typical Nelson breeze doing enough to cause shooting errors. President Greg Couper found the touch and completed an aggregate of .2401.

It was time to tally the results. Heavy Varmint competition was won by Ian Owen, Carina Jackson 2nd and Greg Couper 3rd. The same order was the outcome of the 2 Gun Aggregate. Full results at the end of the Echo.

The soup was good, the shooting of a high standard and great camaraderie – what more could you ask for on a cold winter's day.



Story and results provided by *Graeme Smith*

If anybody out there is interested to try our sport you will be made most welcome. Give us a message on lvhvbr@gmail.com Graeme Smith

Club Night Tuesday 30th May

Annual General Meeting (6.30-7 pm) followed by

Nelson Branch's 75th Anniversary Celebratory Gathering (6-9pm)

Free pizza and great company in the warmth of McCashin's Brewery, Main Road Stoke

You must RVSP via the email request sent to you on 7th June by our Secretary!



Date & Time: Tuesday 27th June Opening @ **6.30.00 – 7.00 pm** for **AGM** followed by Anniversary Event **7.00 pm** till no longer hungry.....

Club Nights - Be There and Get a Shirt on Your Back!

Club night prizes of Sitka shirts are being collected by happy winners.....and I understand you don't have to wear a puffer jacket to be in with a chance! However, you DO need to attend club nights and fill out the slip provided to be in the following month's draw...rumours are that new prizes will be announced following the thermal night last week!

Mark, you will need to suck it in to get into that shirt mate.

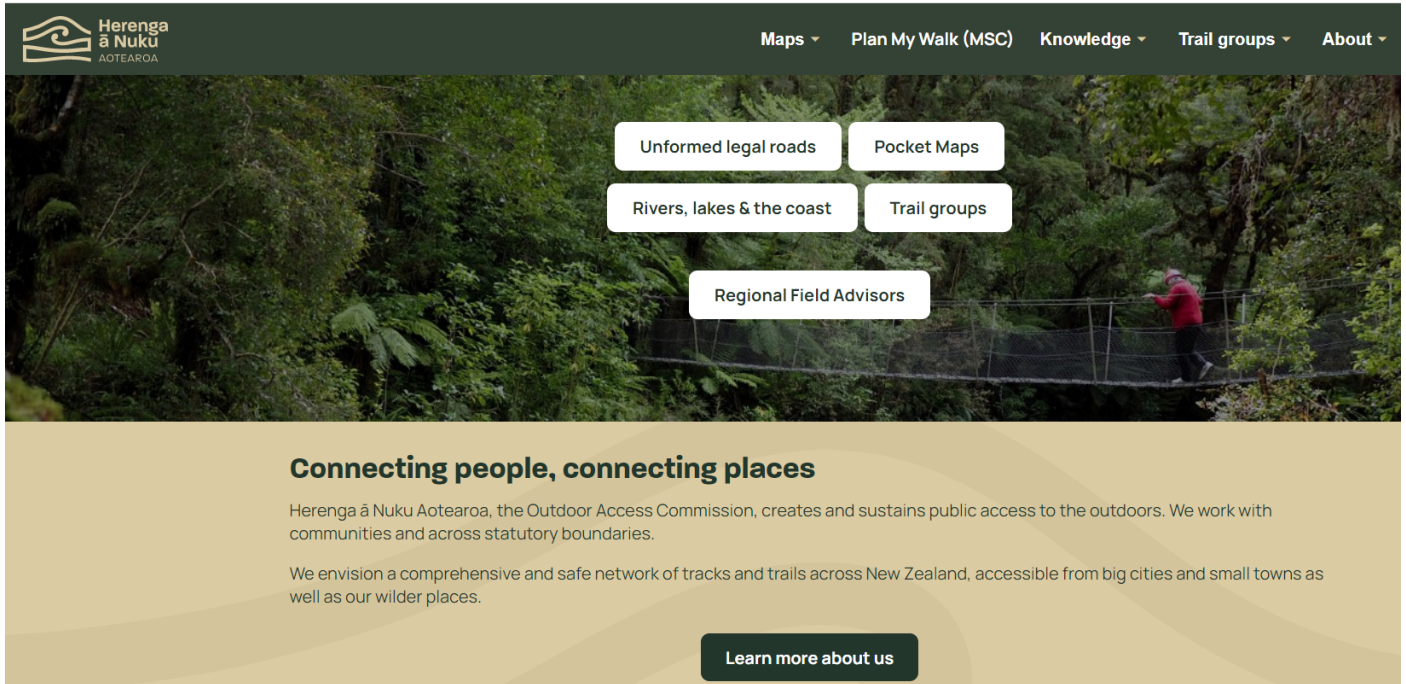


Access – Know Your Boundaries

It is worth having a thorough look through all the information laid out at Herenga a Nuku Access NZ

[Access NZ](#)

[Unformed Legal Roads](#)



Herenga ā Nuku AOTEAROA

Maps ▾ Plan My Walk (MSC) Knowledge ▾ Trail groups ▾ About ▾

Unformed legal roads Pocket Maps

Rivers, lakes & the coast Trail groups

Regional Field Advisors

Connecting people, connecting places

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, creates and sustains public access to the outdoors. We work with communities and across statutory boundaries.

We envision a comprehensive and safe network of tracks and trails across New Zealand, accessible from big cities and small towns as well as our wilder places.

[Learn more about us](#)

Trapped

Is eating mutton fat bad for your health? Well, it sure is if you're a dirty, filthy stoat!

Many thanks to James at Meat Solutions for a nice bag of mutton fat for my traps, its working a treat! A bit of maize courtesy of Greg to bring the rats in too.... Greg and Carina are using both attractants at Packers Creek too.



Hat Trick



Stag shot locally during 2023 roar, pedicle damage at some stage the likely cause of aberrant growth

Kiwi Back in Nelson Lakes – Note from DOC St Arnaud



Nelson Lakes **Department of Conservation** (DOC), alongside the **Friends of Rotoiti** (FOR) has warmly welcomed 8 roroa/great spotted kiwi into Nelson Lakes National Park, following a recent successful translocation. The translocation is required for helping to increase the founder population translocated into the park, beginning in 2006. Increasing the number of founding birds improves the genetic diversity and longevity of the population.

Working with roroa has been very enlightening and we are constantly learning how to best approach the birds' wellbeing when carrying out translocations such as this.



Figure 1. It was an emotional moment for the catching team to see the helicopter arriving to take the birds back to their new home at Rotoiti.

Translocations are no small task, and we would like to give a mihi to everyone involved, including West Coast DOC staff and Ngāti Waewae who enabled the birds to come from the source population at Kahurangi, and to Karamea Heli Charter for providing the birds safe transport to their new home.

Also, a big thank you to Ngāti Apa Ki Te Rā Tō, Robin and Sandy Toy (Friends of Flora), and the Friends of Rotoiti for helping to receive the birds at this end. Ngāti Apa Ki Te Rā Tō has given names to all the birds including two pairs (Moturoa and Waimeha, Matanohinohi and Tamane) and four Singles (Rātā, Kehu, Weka Kura, Okoroiti).

This is very special and specialised work and would not be possible without the input and collaboration of all these groups of people.



Figure 2. Health checks and attaching the transmitter to a roroa at the catch site.

All the birds are fitted with transmitters to monitor them from a distance over the next couple of years as they settle into their new home. DOC and FOR will regularly track the birds to see where www.nzdanelson.co.nz

they are roosting, and looking to the future, we will hopefully be able to track breeding events. We hope that we will be able to learn more about this species of kiwi, including how large their territories are in different habitat.

Some may have noticed recent media about a brown kiwi release in the North Island, that included pictures of kiwi being handled and viewed in the daylight. Roroa/ great spotted kiwi behave quite differently to North Island brown kiwi - roroa are much more sensitive to noise and handling, and can stress-moult in these situations. To limit this, we minimise the handling of roroa, we speak quietly around them and get them into their new burrows as soon as possible.

To see more photos and video clips of the translocation, follow Ngati Apa ki te Ra To and Friends of Rotoiti on Facebook and Instagram.



Figure 3. Roroa are put into burrows at the release site and left to rest before the burrow is opened after sunset for the kiwi to explore as normal.



Figure 4. DOC and FOR are excited to learn where the rooroa are settling in

Fish and Game News

See video about **Para Wetland** here: [F&G Wetland Video](#)

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



OPENING DAY WRAP-UP: Instead of the usual sunny skies in the top of the South, hunters were greeted with rain and wind on the Opening Day of the 2023 game bird season. The Tasman area experienced very heavy rain on Friday before Opening Day, and as a result, plan B was required for a number of hunters who would have been shooting on rivers or some estuary locations and couldn't get to their maimai. Rangers were out and about during the day and caught up with a number of groups, some hurriedly looking for another location as flood water timed with a high tide meant plenty of water was coming up from below as well as from above. One hunter was found braking the rules, not holding a gamebird licence. It's not often in this region that you get the perfect coastal hunting combination of a morning high tide timing with a strong northerly on Opening Day, but the Saturday was exactly that. Birds were flying all day and most hunters were happy. The Marlborough region had not experienced an Opening Day conditions like that in two decades, ducks that usually roost on the Wairau river were being moved off by rising floodwater, searching the countryside for flooded paddocks to dine on worms, and some great hunting was had, with good bags from both private and public land.

WINTER SPAWNING COUNTS UNDERWAY: Over the coming month, staff will be out surveying a range of streams looking for spawning trout. Some of the sites are historical, and others are completely new, which helps build a picture of where spawning occurs. Trout redds are often visible by a patch of clean gravels that have been overturned by trout to make redd.



A swamped maimai on the Waimea



Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out!

Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: [Benefits and Discounts](#) and NZDA Benefits APP as per email from NZDA HQ on 17 Se

NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

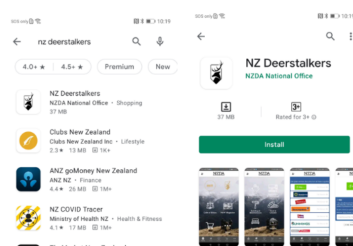
Available Now!



We are excited to announce the NZDA Membership App is now live and can be downloaded today!

How to download the app

1) Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for **NZ Deerstalkers**. Select **Install** or **GET**.



Exclusive NZDA discounts:

- Interislander Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
- [Go Native](#) outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
- [SWAZI Pro Deal](#), sign-up with your valid NZDA membership
- [Napier of London](#) shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
- [AJ Productions](#) - electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
- [Kilwell Sports](#) hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
- Hunting with [Huntahr Guiding](#), 10% discount
- Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
- [Murchison Heli Tours](#), 10% off your flights
- [NZ Taxidermy Ltd](#), 10% discount on mounts
- [Bullivant Taxidermy](#), 10% discount on mounts
-
- 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual [Backcountry Hut Pass](#) or 'Hut Pass'. [See the DOC website for more details](#)



Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue **More info here:** [Meat Solutions](#)

Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

All details can be found on our refreshed website: [Nelson Branch Committee](#)

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

Ballots

- [Haast Ballot](#)
- [Wanaka Ballot](#)
- Southland [Waikaia](#) [Leithen Bush](#) [Wainakarua](#) [Catlins](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)

COLFO [COLFO](#)

Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)

MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)

Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

NZ Police (Firearms Law) [Firearms](#)

Also see here for firearms storage and carriage: [NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms](#)

Zuppa Shoot 2023 Scores

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Date : 04/06/2023

Title: 2023 HV Zuppa Shoot

Range: Nelson

S.I.

Class: Heavy Benchrest - I

Name	W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Ian	S.I. 100	.149	.236	.192	.378	.354	.2618	1	
Owen	2004 200	.783	.353	.556	.385	.519	.2596	3	.2607 1
Carina	S.I. 100	.272	.221	.390	.373	.168	.2848	3	
Jackson	2103 200	.522	.736	.551	.275	.588	.2672	4	.2760 2
Greg	S.I. 100	.284	.313	.288	.237	.454	.3152	4	
Couper	1001 200	.636	.301	.721	.402	.341	.2401	1	.2777 3
Helen	S.I. 100	.187	.223	.358	.518	.297	.3166	5	
Owen	2005 200	.608	.742	.314	.478	.343	.2485	2	.2826 4
Grant	N.I. 100	.193	.337	.247	.293	.262	.2664	2	
Hammond	1019 200	1.365	.660	.652	.529	.628	.3834	6	.3249 5
Graeme	S.I. 100	.433	.675	.407	.383	.257	.4310	7	
Smith	2013 200	.528	.732	.538	.357	.853	.3008	5	.3659 6
Baden	N.I. 100	.396	.281	.376	.450	.220	.3446	6	
Prentice	1018 200	.534	.651	2.860	.534	.912	.5491	8	.4468 7
Michael	S.I. 100	.412	.487	.511	.690	.405	.5010	8	
Kidson	2106 200	1.312	.602	.838	.544	.728	.4024	7	.4517 8

Best Scores 100

Best Scores 200

A	I Owen	.149	A	C Jackson	.522
B	C Jackson	.221	B	G Couper	.301
C	I Owen	.192	C	H Owen	.314
D	G Couper	.237	D	C Jackson	.275
E	C Jackson	.168	E	G Couper	.341

SG	I Owen	.149 (Rec .068)	SG	C Jackson	.275 (Rec .203)
Agg	I Owen	.2618 (Rec .1622)	Agg	G Couper	.2401 (Rec .1819)

Date : 03/06/2023

Title: 2023 LV Zuppa Shoot

Range: Nelson

S.I.

Class: Light Benchrest - I

Name	W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Ian	S.I. 100	.382	.151	.210	.214	.207	.2328	1	
Owen	2004 200	.561	.346	.447	.720	.535	.2609	2	.2469 1
Grant	N.I. 100	.342	.216	.324	.127	.200	.2418	2	
Hammond	1019 200	.375	.331	.486	.920	.477	.2589	1	.2504 2

Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200	.221	.272	.367	.259	.351	.2940	3	.2799	3
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200	.338	.383	.225	.289	.270	.3010	4	.2905	4
Helen Owen	S.I. 100 2005 200	.279	.305	.379	.530	.262	.3510	5	.3210	5
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200	.295	.520	.236	.192	.562	.3610	7	.3284	6
Baden Prentice	N.I. 100 1018 200	.387	.308	.327	.263	.498	.3566	6	.3504	7
Michael Kidson	S.I. 100 2106 200	.562	.288	.517	.362	.683	.4824	8	.4598	8

Best Scores 100

| Best Scores 200

A C Jackson	.221	A G Hammond	.375
B I Owen	.151	B C Jackson	.322
C I Owen	.210	C H Owen	.438
D G Hammond	.127	D C Jackson	.432
E G Hammond	.200	E G Hammond	.477

SG G Hammond	.127 (Rec .065)	SG C Jackson	.322 (Rec .133)
Agg I Owen	.2328 (Rec .1812)	Agg G Hammond	.2589 (Rec .1978)

MULTI GUN RESULTS (Group) - 23Zup2Gun

03/06/23 04/06/23 2 Gun

LBI HBI

1 Ian Owen	0.2469	0.2607	0.2538
2 Carina Jackson	0.2799	0.2760	0.2779
3 Greg Couper	0.2905	0.2777	0.2841
4 Grant Hammond	0.2504	0.3249	0.2876
5 Helen Owen	0.3211	0.2826	0.3018
6 Graeme Smith	0.3284	0.3659	0.3472
7 Baden Prentice	0.3504	0.4469	0.3986
8 Michael Kidson	0.4597	0.4517	0.4557