

May 2026



In the 'Naki....Greg and Carina go north in search of fallow – more below



Club night this month will be a sharp presentation on all things knives! **7pm Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May** at the Saxton TSN Smallbore Range Building

## THIS MONTH

### EDITORIAL

Be a Star!

Molesworth  
for Old  
Blokes

Range  
Matters -  
Easter  
Champs &  
Summer  
Series  
Results

Guns in Utes

Plum On

Up the "Naki

Club Night

The Cutting  
Edge -  
Knives

7pm Wed 27<sup>th</sup>  
Saxton TSN

MEMBER  
BENEFITS &  
IMPORTANT  
LINKS

All Easter  
Benchrest  
Results

# Editorial



Hullo Hunters and Shooters,

Finally a few frosts....well if you are in the right place, like Molesworth.... where this month I found myself on bended knee trying to spot an animal. -4°C one morning so getting there at last! Our stalwart member Warren has written a nice piece on Molesworth and what it means for him.....Good Country for Old Men...if you know how to pace yourself. I responded to his story with a little bit of ancestry!

Terrible news and some good news – tragic fatal shooting accident in the North Island this year which will impact on many people. **Never forget the firearms safety basics.** However, it has been reported via media that the Police checking of permits in popular areas in NI have shown high compliance (i.e. hunters had DOC Open Permits), and initial reports are that the duck/waterfowl season has been trouble free. It is so important as a part of being a firearms owner and hunter to continually check your total awareness around carriage and safe use of firearms. Below, a great little report from Patrick regarding a member query on storing firearms in a ute...please read it. The really key message here is “If in Doubt, Check it Out!” – Te Pureke clearly answer in plain language on questions that may be the difference to being compliant versus being in trouble. The weblink to Te Pureke is always in the Echo.

Thanks to Phil for his joke contribution this month, he sends me a lot, but I have pretty heavy censorship rules! Anyone can send a cartoon/joke/meme provided it's tasteful! Email contact below.

There's a lot of Range news with results from Easter and Summer Series but also upcoming events. Particularly I encourage members and non-members alike to consider the Matariki event, its all .22 rimfire so quiet, no recoil, totally controlled environment (aka safe as) and fun. This is a grand opportunity to bring along youngsters and non-members to see and learn a bit about the discipline.

A special thank you to Ange van der Laan from Outdoor Access Commission (she is our regional field officer) for her talk last Club Night. I was surprised (as was she) I must say at the number of people who do not or have not used either WAMS or Pocket Maps [Link to WAMS](#) which show all public land, permitted hunting areas and legal access such as ULRs. I strongly recommend members to download pocket maps on their phone. These don't require internet once preloaded and you can choose regions so as not to hog memory. Then you can tell, at any time, whether you are legal in terms of where you are. OAC are updating to Version 2 of these soon but check it out!

Also, thanks Ange for organising a stakeholder meeting in the Avon/Teme River catchment to look at a ULR there where access has proven difficult for a long time (like a decade!). DOC, OAC, Marlborough Council, Marlborough NZDA and Tramping Clubs, plus myself, and Demelza (as Access Committee members) all walked up the ULR to get a feel for the real issues there in terms of reaching the Ferny Gair Conservation land beyond. There are many issues like this nationwide and OAC are working on these supported by NZDA and other stakeholders.



Happy and Safe Hunting – **Richard Wells**

Contact [richardw@nelsonnzda.co.nz](mailto:richardw@nelsonnzda.co.nz)

# Be a Star!!!!



## Open Invitation to All Benchrest Club Members, NZDA Members, Guests or Anyone Interested

### “The Rimfire Challenge”

### Holiday Weekend (Matariki) 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> July

We will again be holding a Rimfire Benchrest Weekend over the Matariki Holiday.

This will be an open event – all comer’s welcome.

The programme will be as follows:

Friday afternoon - Evening 10 July commencing 2pm Indoor Benchrest Match

1 x single 1 x double

Saturday morning commencing 10am 5 Target Hunter Class match at 50m

Saturday afternoon commencing 1pm 5 Target Group Match at 50m

Sunday morning commencing 10am 2 International 25 Bull Targets at 50m

We would expect the weather to be cool with Packers Creek short of sunlight during the day

If our indoor shooters wish to be part of the event, we will accept entries for Friday only if desired.

We will have to pay for the use of the ranges as normal so the set entry fee is:

**Friday only \$15.00**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday \$40.00**

We plan to hold a light supper on Friday evening, some finger food Saturday lunch time and a scone and cuppa on Sunday while final scores are being tallied. The Matariki Challenge Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner.

### **Don’t know the sport – but would like to?**

This is a great opportunity to learn about our sport, In Benchrest we shoot from pedestals and sandbags (great for us old blokes) .22lr Rifles and subsonic ammo (very quiet and no recoil). Don’t have the gear? – come anyway – we are happy to share our equipment. Just let us know so we can be prepared. We have a couple of club rifles available.

### **Contact and advise entry to:**

**Graeme Smith** PH. 03 5447138 TXT 027 5447139 or Email [lvhvbr@gmail.com](mailto:lvhvbr@gmail.com)

# Molesworth for Old Blokes – *by Warren Plum*

This is a plea for all hunters to support the hunter initiatives around retaining access to that wonderful recreational hunting resource Molesworth. I have to admit as an older hunter with crook knees and arthritis I have a vested interest. Where else can you find relatively easily accessible alpine type public land that is not helicopter shot? My mates and I of a similar vintage have enjoyed some of the best hunting of our lives in there over the last 15 years. Wonderful memories, plenty of meat animals taken, and adventures a plenty. And all ways the chance of a trophy red stag, chamois buck or boar. My goal of a big blue boar continues to elude me but draws me back like a siren, as I know they exist. I have seen them, but they don't get old by accident.



A trip in December with mates from Australia had me shooting yet another big lone blue pig only to find it to be a sow. A couple of days later I spent a few seconds checking that the big blue boar walking closely below me had grinds and tusks, big mistake he wined me and was gone in a flash. Gutted..... but something to dream about and encourage me back. A great trip – pigs, deer and trout taken by all of us, with the memory of that boar firmly etched in my mind.



January saw me back in another block. Fly camping by myself for a few nights. A number of pigs and deer sighted. When a group of blue pigs trotted up the hill through the scrub, I did not hesitate this time and shot the 2 largest. Exciting, yet only to find another sow and an immature boar so the search continues. A red spiker the next evening set the trip off, so was well laden with meat the following morning as I returned to the car which fortunately was only an hour away. As I have already mentioned, it is a great place for old blokes. Cheers Warren



# Range Matters – Easter Benchrest Champs

## Easter Champs Podium Finishers

### Light Varmint

Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN	
Peter Haxell	Ind. 100 1013 200		.176 .801	.239 .901	.190 .373	.195 .552	.217 .422	.2034 .3049	1 1	.2541	1
Tony Titheridge	Ind. 100 2012 200		.201 1.063	.387 .594	.159 .723	.247 .853	.415 .938	.2818 .4171	3 5	.3495	2
Greg Couper	Ind. 100 1001 200		.411 .767	.222 .829	.231 .501	.390 .709	.289 1.241	.3086 .4047	4 4	.3566	3

### Heavy Varmint

Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN	
Peter Haxell	N.I. 100 1013 200		.328 .575	.449 1.296	.228 .595	.239 .603	.220 .591	.2928 .3660	1 1	.3294	1
	N.I. 100 1014 200		.263 .426	.439 1.380	.373 .984	.224 1.008	.254 .703	.3106 .4501	2	.3804	2
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200		.118 1.110	.833 1.765	.189 .414	.226 1.202	.219 .446	.3170 .4937	3 3	.4053	3

### Rimfire

Name	State/No	A/D	B/E	C/F	Total	G Total	PN
Greg Couper	S.I. 50 1001 0	243.10	244.07	239.10	726.27		1
Carina Jackson	S.I. 50 2103 0	241.12	245.10	239.05	725.27		2
Graeme Smith	S.I. 50 2013 0	243.08	241.09	233.09	717.26		3

### Two Gun

		04/01/26 LBI	05/01/26 HBI	2 Gun
1	Peter Haxell	0.2541	0.3294	0.2918
2		0.3664	0.3804	0.3734
3	Greg Couper	0.3567	0.4053	0.3810

**3-Gun** results (overall result for Light Varmint, Heavy Varmint & Rimfire) were:

**1st** Peter Haxell 220 points **2nd** Greg Couper 210 points **3rd** Tony Titheridge 160 points

# & Summer Series Results – Winners & Standings

26-Apr-26 2 x International Targets

		T1	T2	Agg.
Graeme Vallance	1	236.06	240.07	<b>476.13</b>
Anne Marie Kidson	2	219.05	232.05	<b>451.10</b>
Michael Kidson	3	219.03	229.02	<b>448.05</b>
Simon Cotton	4	223.04	223.05	<b>446.09</b>
Ian Harper	5	216.04	229.02	<b>445.06</b>
John Mitchell	6	223.06	221.04	<b>444.10</b>
Warren Hitchcock	7	213.01	213.04	<b>426.05</b>
David Hill	8	225.04	197.02	<b>422.06</b>
Graeme Smith	9	210.01	207.02	<b>417.03</b>
Sam Wearne	10	232.06	0	<b>232.06</b>

## Series Points

Graeme Smith	6	10	9	8	9	7	9	2	<b>60</b>
Graeme Vallance		7	8	7	7	6	8	10	<b>53</b>
Simon Cotton		8	5	5	5		7	7	<b>37</b>
Michael Kidson	3	6	3	2	6	3	6	8	<b>37</b>
John Ronaldson	5	5	7	6	3	1	3		<b>30</b>
Ian Harper	4	3	2	4	2		5	6	<b>26</b>
Anne Marie Kidson	2	2	4	3	1	4	1	9	<b>26</b>
Warren Hitchcock					4	5	4	4	<b>17</b>
David Hill		4	6					3	<b>13</b>
Greg Couper		11							<b>11</b>

Chris Shelton						10				10
John Mitchell			1				2	2	5	10
Carina Jackson		9								9
Jim Love						8				8
Warren Smith	7									7
Chris Turner	1									1
David Quick		1								1
Donald Jaffray				1						1
Sam Wearne									1	1

Any competition and event queries please:

call **Graeme Smith - 03 5447138** or email [lvhvbr@gmail.com](mailto:lvhvbr@gmail.com)

# Packers Creek Range **Closure** - **All Note!!!**

**Range Closed Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**for the Zuppa Competition Shoot**

# When is the last time you refreshed yourself with our Ranges' Standing Orders?

**Always** be aware of and comply with our **Ranges' Standing Orders** – they are posted at the Ranges, but you should refresh yourself from our website:

Packers Creek – [Standing Orders](#)

Murchison Community Range - [Standing Orders](#)

[Friendly reminder regarding the bringing of guests to use the Packers Creek Range.](#)

You are welcome to bring along a friend/family member to be introduced to and use the Range. **But this should be on a “one-off” basis.** If your friend enjoyed it then they need to be encouraged to join our Branch and thereby properly support our Range. They should as it's a very good range! Constantly using Packers Creek Range as a non-member by “slipstreaming” is not allowed.

**If intending to using the Range always check the calendar on our website (or follow our Facebook page):**

[Nelson NZDA Range Info](#)

Range Use Etiquette - [Etiquette and Golden Rules Click Here](#)

## Packers Creek Range Access Reminder:

1. Check website for opening days and hours
2. Be at gate **before** 0900 hrs not after
3. All vehicles **must have** headlights on and conform to convoy (i.e. **follow** the duty officer in and out on Sharlands Road – these rules are set by landowner/operator and are compulsory
4. Ensure you have your membership card (fill in the logbook) and hviz & hearing protection
5. When it's wet up there, avoid driving on the grass as it makes the mower's job that much harder.

**Make Sure You Comply with Carriage of Firearms Law When Coming to the Range (and at all other times, of course)**

**Link to All Rules Here:**

[NZDA - Te Pureke Firearms Rules - Transport and Storage](#)

# Guns in Utes *from Patrick Savill*

At the BMG club night the question was raised by one of our NZDA members about lockable boxes in the trays, and how that relates to the laws around leaving firearms in vehicles.

I reached out to the firearms authority, and this is their response. The short summary is no: you still cannot leave for more than an hour.

## **Question:**

We understand the requirement that a firearm, bolt, and ammunition are all stored safely and securely, out of sight, within a vehicle when travelling to/from a hunting location or range. And alongside that only being able to leave the vehicle for a maximum of one hour whilst remaining close by with it locked.

The exception to that, and I quote from the firearms secure storage guide, is:

*“The exception to this is if the vehicle is a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit with secure storage in accordance to regulation 19A where that mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit is being used as the person’s temporary or permanent home”*

**So, does this situation change at all with locked boxes bolted into the tub of a ute with a lockable canopy?**

These boxes are bolted through the tub to the vehicle, and have their own locks. The tray itself then has a lockable canopy. It's not a motorhome, but if such a box was installed **would it be able to be inspected and approved by police as secure storage is for motorhomes/campervans?**

## **Answer from Te Tari Pūreke:**

This is actually a good question, but it has an unfortunately **simple answer, that being no**. As is quoted in the excerpt the rules only change in the case that the vehicle is a mobile home that is being used as a primary residence “temporary or permanent home” so even if it were a secured campervan lockbox. **If you were not living in it the one-hour rule would still apply, this extends to your case as well**. Though I accept it is a higher standard of storage it doesn't meet the regulation for it to be left for an extended period. Hope this answers any questions. And feel free to follow up with an email or give us a call, and we will do our best to assist.



# Plum On - The Editor

Recently while visiting Warren's fine emporium of "absolutely stuffed" animals I saw a framed picture on the wall..."who is that?" I asked.... well it's Warren's Great Grandfather, and while the days of posing with a large bag of kaka and kereru are well and truly over, he and his chums were on rabbits hard too. He has the knowing look seen in our veteran member as well.....Warren continues.....



*Yes, that's my Great Grandfather Francis Plum, the man with the big beard [no kidding!], in middle of the kaka / pigeon bag from Maitai Valley. And to side in the other photo of rabbit bag, they went via train to Tapawera with horses and dogs in tow. He hunted deer under license in the Nelson district. Had a couple of red stag heads he and my grandad shot mounted and hanging in the family home I saw as a child and was fascinated by. Would have definitely influenced my interest in taxidermy. As to dates not sure. Somewhere between about 1895 early 1900's. They started with black powder shot guns, but these photos are with the newfangled cartridge guns.*

*Cheers Warren*



# Up the 'Naki - *by Greg Couper*



Above - a couple of fallow down and the carry out. Below – fellow fallow hunters.



A mate and his son soaking in his sons first buck after a failed stalk the previous day (got to within 15m) and then a successful stalk the next day on the same buck and area for a result.



My best Buck to date, fantastic skin to tan & nice head to Euro mount.



Taking in the views on a glorious day – Carina happy in her work.

# Branching Out



# Club Night – Last..... and Next



**Outdoor Access  
Commission**  
Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa

**Ange van der Laan**, our local OAC field officer gave a great talk about Herenga a Nuku's work, plans and services, especially regarding maps and legal access. **Thanks Ange and OAC**

**Hone your Knife Knowledge - with a cutting edge presentation by David Younghusband - knifemaker and expert**



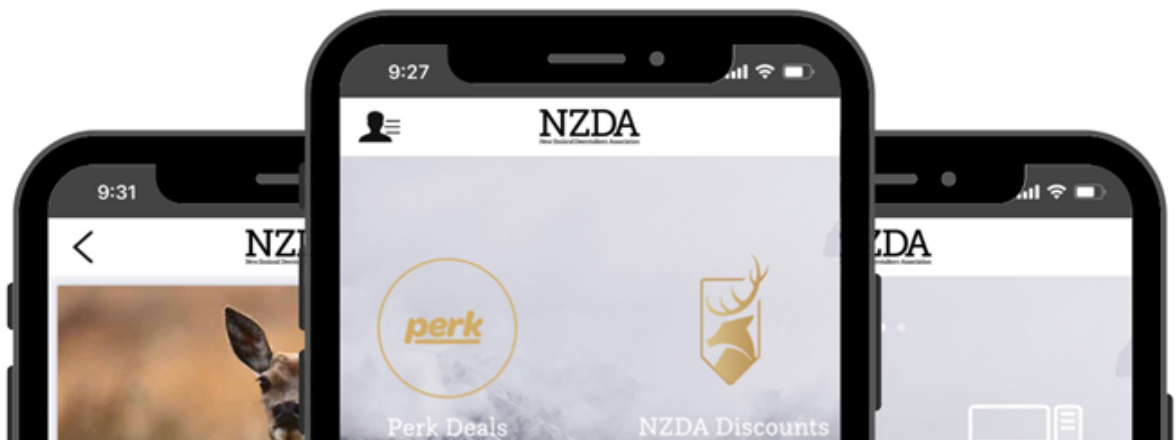
**When and Where: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May starting 7pm @ TSN Saxton Field Smallbore Range**

# Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!



## New App Update

Download or Update the NZDA Member App to Access Your Digital Membership Card



Save your membership fee by using the NZDA discounts - click here:

[NZDA APP Discounts and More](#)



SUPPORTERS OF NELSON NZDA HUNTS COURSES AND KAI RESCUE [MORE INFO HERE:](#)  
[MEAT SOLUTIONS](#)

# Contacts & Important links

## Key Branch Contacts

President G Couper [gregc@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:gregc@nzdanelson.co.nz)

Secretary D Woods [dave@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:dave@nzdanelson.co.nz)

Membership Secretary C Jackson [carina@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:carina@nzdanelson.co.nz)

## Red Deer Lodge

- Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)
- Contact for Accom: [info@rotoitibaches.co.nz](mailto:info@rotoitibaches.co.nz)
- **Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**

## 2025 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 orange.**

### *Advocacy and Access*

- NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)
- DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)
- Game Animal Council [GAC](#)
- Outdoor Access Commission [OAC](#)
- Walking Access NZ [WAMS Maps](#)
- LINZ Basemaps [MAPS Link](#)
- 141 Forest Access Information [141 Access and Permit Info](#)

### *Hunting Permits*

- [DOC Hunting and Permits Site](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)

### *Firearms and Safety*

- COLFO [COLFO](#)
- NZ Firearms Safety Authority [Te Pureke](#)
- Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)
- MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)
- Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

# Easter Benchrest Championship – All Results

## Light Varmint

Date : 04/01/2026

Range: Nelson

S.I.

Title: 2026 LV Nationals

Class: Light Benchrest - I

Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Peter Haxell	Ind. 100 1013 200		.176	.239	.190	.195	.217	.2034	1	
			.801	.901	.373	.552	.422	.3049	1	.2541 1
Tony Titheridge	Ind. 100 2012 200		.201	.387	.159	.247	.415	.2818	3	
			1.063	.594	.723	.853	.938	.4171	5	.3495 2
Greg Couper	Ind. 100 1001 200		.411	.222	.231	.390	.289	.3086	4	
			.767	.829	.501	.709	1.241	.4047	4	.3566 3
Graeme Smith	Ind. 100 2013 200		.318	.280	.294	.280	.397	.3138	5	
			.712	1.332	.676	.761	.531	.4012	3	.3575 4
	Ind. 100 1014 200		.319	.207	.236	.285	.211	.2516	2	
			1.462	.948	.961	.629	.812	.4812	6	.3664 5
Carina Jackson	Ind. 100 2103 200		.471	.335	.285	.394	.368	.3706	7	
			.855	.687	.821	.288	1.187	.3838	2	.3772 6
Michael Kidson	Ind. 100 2106 200		.285	.529	.182	.348	.366	.3420	6	
			1.557	1.261	1.674	1.674	1.163	.7329	8	.5374 7
Charles Kidson	Ind. 100 3085 200		.252	.410	.344	.381	.484	.3742	8	
			1.439	1.694	1.532	1.532	1.112	.7309	7	.5525 8
Oliver Kidson	Ind. 100 3087 200		.344	1.449	.524	.449	.789	.7110	9	
			1.405	1.943	1.688	2.096	1.747	.8879	9	.7994 9
Best Scores 100						Best Scores 200				
A	P Haxell		.176			A	G Smith		.712	
B	S Gavin		.207			B	T Titheridge		.594	
C	T Titheridge		.159			C	P Haxell		.373	
D	P Haxell		.195			D	C Jackson		.288	
E			.211			E	P Haxell		.422	

## Heavy Varmint

Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Peter Haxell	N.I. 100 1013 200		.328 .575	.449 1.296	.228 .595	.239 .603	.220 .591	.2928 .3660	1 1	.3294 1
	N.I. 100 1014 200		.263 .426	.439 1.380	.373 .984	.224 1.008	.254 .703	.3106 .4501	2	.3804 2
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200		.118 1.110	.833 1.765	.189 .414	.226 1.202	.219 .446	.3170 .4937	3 3	.4053 3
Charles Kidson	Int. 100 3085 200		.390 1.500	.431 1.456	.804 1.198	.380 .794	.431 1.396	.4872 .6344	7 4	.5608 4
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200		.316 .997	.263 2.263	.450 1.825	.396 1.010	.349 1.709	.3548 .7804	4 6	.5676 5
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200		.619 .940	.534 1.587	.345 1.587	.318 1.290	.321 1.723	.4274 .7127	6 5	.5700 6
Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200		.351 .940	.247 1.582	.277 1.587	.644 1.221	.311 2.933	.3660 .8263	5 7	.5962 7
Michael Kidson	S.I. 100 2106 200		.923 3.181	.463 .775	.461 1.470	.421 1.614	.535 2.732	.5606 .9772	8 8	.7689 8
Oliver Kidson	Int. 100 3087 200		.674 2.025	.666 5.721	.637 1.929	1.054 3.591	.820 1.836	.7702 1.5102	9 9	1.1402 9
Best Scores 100					Best Scores 200					
A	G Couper		.118		A			.426		
B	C Jackson		.247		B	M Kidson		.775		
C	G Couper		.189		C	G Couper		.414		
D			.224		D	P Haxell		.603		
E	G Couper		.219		E	G Couper		.446		
SG	G Couper		.118 (Rec .068)		SG	G Couper		.414 (Rec .203)		
Agg	P Haxell		.2928 (Rec .1622)		Agg	P Haxell		.3660 (Rec .1819)		

## Rimfire

Name	State/No	A/D	B/E	C/F	Total	G Total	PN
Greg Couper	S.I. 50 1001 0	243.10	244.07	239.10	726.27		1
Carina Jackson	S.I. 50 2103 0	241.12	245.10	239.05	725.27		2
Graeme Smith	S.I. 50 2013 0	243.08	241.09	233.09	717.26		3
Peter Haxell	N.I. 50 1013 0	239.03	237.04	234.04	710.11		4
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 50 2012 0	227.03	237.06	238.05	702.14		5
Michael Kidson	S.I. 50 2106 0	220.05	233.07	239.11	692.23		6
Charles Kidson	Int. 50 3085 0	219.06	236.08	228.04	683.18		7
	N.I. 50 1014 0	230.03	225.03	209.02	664.08		8
Oliver Kidson	Int. 50 3087 0	208.04	222.05	222.05	652.14		9
Anne Marie Kidson	S.I. 50 2010 0	221.03	214.03	206.00	641.06		10
Best Scores 50		Best Scores 0					
A	G Couper	243.10					
B	C Jackson	245.10					
C	M Kidson	239.11					

## Two Gun

MULTI GUN RESULTS (Group) - 26Nats2g

		04/01/26 LBI	05/01/26 HBI	2 Gun
1	Peter Haxell	0.2541	0.3294	0.2918
2		0.3664	0.3804	0.3734
3	Greg Couper	0.3567	0.4053	0.3810
4	Tony Titheridge	0.3494	0.5676	0.4585
5	Graeme Smith	0.3575	0.5700	0.4638
6	Carina Jackson	0.3772	0.5961	0.4867
7	Charles Kidson	0.5525	0.5608	0.5567
8	Michael Kidson	0.5374	0.7689	0.6532
9	Oliver Kidson	0.7994	1.1402	0.9698