

Gold Coast 2018
Commonwealth Games
April 8th - 14th 2018

Shooting Report
(Welsh Target Shooting Federation)



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1. Preparation for Gold Coast 2018

Preparation started immediately after Glasgow 2014. The Welsh Target Shooting Federation (WTSF) having developed a selection policy based on the Nomination Document developed for 2018 and revisited by the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales/WTSF during 2015/16.

Sports Wales invested heavily into all the Wales Commonwealth Games sports. Shooting was ably assisted by Susie Osbourne, Sports Wales Senior Officer, who helped the WTSF with all coordinating aspects of Sports Science and Medicine for the period leading up to Gold Coast 2018.

The team was developed with current modern day thinking and to prepare it for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018. Our thanks must go to the Board and Executive of the Welsh Target Shooting Federation. We would also like to thank Sport Wales, the four WTSF member associations, The Commonwealth Games Council for Wales and the Wales Assembly Government for their professional manner and help in ensuring that Team Wales shooting team were prepared for CGF 2018.

2. Pre-Games Training 2017-18

The busy competition schedules of the four Association members made it extremely difficult to assemble all the team together for group training prior to departure for Gold Coast. The Team managed regular training camps for Small bore and Air disciplines in Cardiff, Shotgun in Cyprus, Italy and Spain, Fullbore in Bisley/Jersey. Prior to departure, all team members were given the opportunity to carry out overseas warm weather training during 2017 and during the autumn and winter of 2016/17. Capped by a successful Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championship (CSF) held in Brisbane in Autumn of 2017. All these provided invaluable opportunities to prepare for Gold Coast 2018. Preparation funding, from Wales Sports Council (WSC) and WTSF was made available in 2015/16 making it possible for all team members to attend top level overseas matches in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

As in previous CSF's (sadly there was none for Glasgow 2014) these Championships were to be used also as a test event for GC2018 to give the Athletes and Officials an insight and feel for the Commonwealth Games these proved greatly beneficial as in past games.

Those Championships undoubtable gave the team invaluable experience and important bonding with other team members.

The WTSF in conjunction with Sport Wales and Wales Commonwealth Games Council for Wales produced a robust nomination policy <http://www.wtsf.org.uk/wtsfcg2018-06-2018.pdf> where scores and performances were tracked during 2017 with Nomination taking place late November 2017. The WTSF nominated a strong team for the Commonwealth Games selection committee, who confirmed selection of a team of 8 men and 3 women along with three discipline coaches and one Sport Science support officer.



3. Team Wales team members

Team Wales Shooting Competitors

Clay Target (Skeet & Olympic Trap)

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Ben Llewellyn; |
| Sarah Wixey; |
| Jon Davis, Mike Wixey; |

Small-bore (.22 & Air Rifle)

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|--|
| Sian Corish; |
| Mike Bamsey & David Phelps; |

Pistol (25m & Air pistol)

| |
|---|
| Craig Auden & Coral Kennerley; |
|---|

Fullbore Rifle (Queens Prize & Pairs)

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|--|
| Gareth Morris & Chris Watson; |
|--|

Team Wales Shooting Officials

| | |
|--|--|
| Small-bore Rifle Coach -- Steve Downes; | <i>Shooting Manager</i> -- John Dallimore; |
| Air pistol Coach -- Steve Pengelly (Gibraltar); | <i>Sports Support/Asst manager</i> -- Mike Gross; |
| Clay Target Coach -- Richard Stepney; | <i>Physio</i> -- None appointed. |
| Fullbore Target Coach -- Martin Watkins; | |

4. Travel & Arrival

The main party of Team Wales (shooting) departed in several groups from Cardiff first on 23rd March, meeting up in Gold Coast with two members arriving from World University Shooting Championships in Kuala Lumpur. Sarah and Mike Wixey with Richard Stepney travelling on the 5th April. The Main Team travelled by Official Team Wales coach from SWNC Cardiff to Heathrow, then via Dubai with Emirates airways. There were considerable problems booking in with the excess baggage but was all resolved amicably. Other than that, Emirates was very helpful. Travelling direct to Gold Coast. (not through Sydney) was considered the better option with a view to ease of importing and exporting firearms. The flight times from Heathrow was about 23 hours, (37 hours from Cardiff-Gold Coast) this was eventful with firearm transfers and considering these flight times, was tiring for all groups. The first group to Gold Coast were met by the organisers who collected the firearms and transferred them to the armoury at Belmont ranges. Team was then transferred by Coach to the Gold Coast village!

Firearm Registration and Accreditation proved no problem; the whole team were through the system in less than 45 mins. The firearms, kit bags and ammunition were deposited in the BSC armoury; and held there until the first visit to the training/competition venue. The second group followed a similar arrival path to the first group.

5. Accommodation at Gold Coast Athlete Village

After an 80min coach journey we arrived at village accreditation where we were quickly supplied with our accreditations and we were housed in a multi-story apartment block, majority of the shooting team were together on the first floor. The rooming was on a twin share basis. Each room was adequate with mainly two bathrooms between three bedrooms. The Wales Team Headquarters were based in town houses on other side of road from the apartment block.

Meals supplied to athletes were on a 24 hour basis and were of excellent quality and varied from day to day.

6. Competition venues Belmont Shooting Centre Gold Coast

The Belmont Shooting Centre is located approx. 40 miles (65km) from the main Games Village in Gold Coast 60/70 minutes travel by luxury coach (it must be noted that with the length of travel everyone was pleased the team was based in the village). The Shooting facility is constructed on the well-established Belmont shooting centre. All shooting facilities have a planned legacy that will accrue from the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

On the first visit to BSC it was noted that the Shotgun and Fullbore Range infrastructure was still in the process of construction, with more seating planned for the 50/10 mtr ranges but with all the actual ranges facilities in full working order.

Much of the road/pathway infrastructure was complete and serviceable.

All infrastructure completed by first day of official practice on April 3rd

- **Fullbore Ranges Belmont**

The Fullbore range, is a permanent facility used for the 2011 World Championships, it is facing South and an ideal size to run a major Fullbore Commonwealth Games with all required firing points available at both short range and at the longer 900/1000 yards.

Athletes at Belmont Fullbore ranges suffered from the often-intense heat but thanks to Mike Gross, cooling strategies were put in place.

The competition itself was well run but poor score posting was noticed as no live results in real time were posted onto the internet.



- **Shotgun layouts Belmont**

There were three International standard shotgun layouts which were of a temporary construction where the Commonwealth disciplines were competed: Skeet, Double Trap and Olympic Trap. The main layout for finals was situated on the central layout, with a large grandstand constructed on this layout. A green plastic netting was erected to collect the fall out of the shot, this was 100-mtrs away.

There were tremendous problems with the sun and the heat with the range surface being constructed from white broken type limestone causing the heat to be reflected but again thanks to our cooling strategies, our athletes gained some relief. All shotgun scores/results available instantly on Internet.



- **50/10mtr range & 25mtr range Belmont**

The 50/10mtr ranges (60 lanes on each) were located back to back. For the CG it is not intended for multi discipline shooting to take place at the same time, as spectator seating areas will make use of the space behind the range not being used. For the first three competition days the 10mtr range was used and during the following five days, the 50mtr Range. The 25mtr range (40 lanes) was used solely for the two 25mtr pistol events

The competition Finals were held in the purpose built ten lane Finals Hall, set for 10m, 25m and 50m events.

All targets were Sius Ascor the 10m being Laser Score and the 50m Hybrid Score targets with all results updated instantly on the Internet.

7. Training at Belmont:

The first day of arrival was spent on range and facility familiarisation but with no actual shooting. Security was also in place. Much of the road/pathway infrastructure was complete and was ready by the time of the opening.

All athletes came with coach-agreed training plans which involved training most days but at times commensurate with the published competition schedule. Time of day was also varied to observe the

effect of daily variations on wind direction and strength.

The ranges are situated to the East of The City of Gold Coast and quite near to the M1 (Pacific highway) between Brisbane airport to the North and the Gold Coast 75km (where the village of the GC2018 was situated) to the South. Pre-competition training days, range time booking was plentiful and well organised, while formal booking was required this never caused any problem.

8. Official Competitions 8th April -14th April.

Full Results can be found on:

https://www.gc2018.com/sites/default/files/2018-04/GC2018_SHO_ResultsBook_v1.0.pdf

Competitions were scheduled for seven days of GC2018 from Day five - Day 11. 8th – 14th April

The schedule was split into disciplines on the eight consecutive days, PET and Individual events.

There were 19 separate competitions in the shooting programme;

Team Wales competed in 13 of the 19 shooting competitions.

Medallists at Gold Coast 2018 Shooting Team

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 8/9 th April: | Men's Skeet | SILVER medal | Ben Llewellyn |
| 9/10 th April: | Fullbore pairs | SILVER medal | Gaz Morris and Chris Watson |
| 10 th April: | Men's Prone 50m | GOLD Medal | David Phelps with a CG record |
| 13 th April; | Women's Olym Trap | BRONZE medal | Sarah Wixey |
| 13/14 th April: | Men's Olym Trap | GOLD medal | Mike Wixey with a CG record |

Finalists Gold Coast 2018 Shooting Team

(top eight)

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 8 th April: | Women's 10m air pistol | 5 th | Coral Kennerley |
| 8 th April: | Men's 10m air rifle | 5 th | Mike Bamsey |
| 9 th April: | Women's air rifle | 6 th | Sian Corish |

Other positions

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 9 th April: | Men's air pistol | 15 th | Craig Auden (competed with wrist injury) |
| 10 th April | Men's Prone 50m | 18 th | Michael Bamsey |
| 13/14 th April | Men's Olym Trap | 26 th | Jon Davis (competed with Knee injury) |
| 13 th April | Women's 3x20 | 9 th | Sian Corish |
| 14 th April | Men's 3x40 | 9 th | Michael Bamsey |
| 11/14 th April | Fullbore individual | 10 th | Gaz Morris |
| 11/14 th April | Fullbore individual | 16 th | Chris Watson |

9. Conclusion

On day one, two finalists! This proved an ideal start, then day two our first medal, a silver by Ben Llewellyn in the Men's skeet, this was quickly followed on day three by Chris Watson and Gaz Morris winning a hard-fought silver medal in the full-bore pairs and then David Phelps with a games record securing a Gold medal in the prone 50m competition. With day six ending with another hard-fought medal with Sarah Wixey and Day seven another Gold Medal by Michael Wixey with a games Record. In the windy weather environment of Gold Coast 2018, the athletes of Team Wales Shooting Team performed to a high standard in most of the competitions. Two Gold medals, Two Silver medals and One Bronze medal contributed to the overall Wales team record medal tally

Looking at the overall performances at Gold Coast I'm sure that all Athletes and coaches had a lot of pre-Commonwealth Games experience to work on for readiness for these Games. The shooting competitions along with the rest of Gold Coast GC2018 were well-run at a World Class competition venue and our thanks must go out to Peter Underhill, Technical Delegate GC2018, and Cat Berry, the Competition manager and her team for producing a World Class venue and competition.

Special mention must go to Shae Berry helping with the paperwork to get us in and out of Australia.

All members of the Team Wales shooting team, wherever possible, were a great support to each other at the ranges during competition and off the ranges at the village producing a great team atmosphere.

Gold Coast 2018 was a success for Shooting Team Wales in exceeding the goals set by Sport Wales and the WTSF executive (two medals). The shooting section of Team Wales performed excellently giving 100% effort at all times.

My thanks for an excellent performance go to our shooting athletes who contributed to this outcome and to the Sport Wales team at SWNC Cardiff, ably led by Malcolm Zapple and Wayne Jenkins. Also Jane James, Joy Bringer and the World class Sports Science/Medical dept at Sport Wales without whom, we would not have been able to properly prepare our athletes and coaches for these important competitions.

I must thank Paul Donovan for his unstinting work prior to and during the event. Michael Gross Sport Wales & University of South Wales, who worked hard for the team in support over the last four years. I also thank my coaches Martin Watkins, Richard Stepney, Steve Pengelly and Steve Downes for their full unstinting support and assistance over the last four years. One of the GC2018 International Technical Officials, Paul Gumn was appointed Chairman of the Rifle Jury and it was pleasing to see the recognition of his professionalism by his selection to this important position by GC2018.

Wm. John Dallimore. Welsh Target Shooting Federation

Shooting Team Manager Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games





Appendix.

Daily reports

Sunday 8th April – Day 1

Lots of Welsh excitement on the first day of shooting. In the Women's Air Pistol, Coral Kennerley qualified to compete in the eight-athlete final, shooting multiple series of time-limited shots. Coral shot superbly against previous Commonwealth champions & Olympians, a new Games Record was set, and 5th place improved upon her Glasgow finish. Mike Bamsey shot in his first of three events, qualifying for the Men's Air Rifle for a dramatic final filled with Olympians and Commonwealth medallists. Placing 5th like his team-mate, Mike shot exceptionally to stay in medal contention but lost out by tiny margins. Ben Llewellyn began his Men's Skeet campaign by hitting 49/50 clays to head into Day 2 in joint 1st place.

Monday 9th April – Day 2

Ben Llewellyn finished his Men's Skeet qualification in 2nd place and began preparation for his final against World and Commonwealth champions. In a nail-biting 60-clay final, Ben won the silver medal with 56 to the three-time Commonwealth champion who shot 57. Craig Auden shot remarkably well in the Men's Air Pistol despite breaking his wrist 2-weeks ago. In a very strong field, he placed 15th with a respectable score and shot world-class scores in his last 30 shots. Sian Corish qualified for the Women's Air Rifle final in her first of two competitions. Comprising World-Cup, Commonwealth, and European champions, the final proved to be dramatic. Sian fought hard for her 6th place finish, her best Commonwealth Air Rifle placing. Gaz Morris & Chris Watson got their Queen's Prize Pairs campaign off to a great start, currently standing in equal 2nd place prior to tomorrow's finale.

Tuesday 10th April – Day 3

Gaz Morris & Chris Watson continued their excellent form on day 2 of the Queen's Prize Pairs, despite strong and gusty wind. Many teams struggled, but the Welsh lads shot to win a silver medal. Having finished 5th in Glasgow, this silver demonstrates their improved form ahead of the individual competitions tomorrow. David Phelps & Mike Bamsey shot in the Men's 50m Prone Rifle competition. Mike, competing less than 48 hours after his first event, placed 18th on a challenging range where even world champions and the local Australians struggled to score high points. David used all of his wisdom and skills to qualify for the final alongside fellow Commonwealth champions and Olympic medallists. David used every tool in his tool box to shoot for gold on his birthday and 12 years after gold in Melbourne, his story is surely worthy of a Disney movie.

Wednesday 11th April – Day 4

Following on from yesterday's medal haul, the Fullbore Rifle team were the only Welsh representatives at the Belmont Shooting Ground today. Chris Watson and Gaz Morris, along with their coach Martin Watkins, began day 1 of 3 in their Queen's Prize Individual competitions. Both had one very strong and one not so strong shoot to leave them with 103 points out of a total 105. They are still very much in medal contention with 150 more points to score on each of the next two competition days. Gaz has a high V bull count, which means he will rank higher than his competitors if tied on scores, a common occurrence in such high quality Fullbore competitions as the Queen's Prize.



Thursday 12th April – Day 5

Gaz Morris and Chris Watson finished the 60-shot short range component of their Queen's Prize Individual competitions today. Gaz & Chris head into Saturday's long-range finale in 17th and 19th positions (respectively). They are in with a medal chance being only 3 points below medal positions, & they won their Pairs silver medals in the long-range shots just a two days ago. Sarah Wixey, Mike Wixey, & Jon Davis had their shotgun pre-event training ahead of tomorrow's Olympic Trap. Sarah shoots 75 clays tomorrow, aiming to qualify as a top 6 scorer & compete for a medal in the final. Mike & Jon shoot 50 of their 125 clays tomorrow & conclude their competition on Saturday. Sian Corish completed her pre-event training for the Women's 50m Three Position tomorrow, her strongest event. Having placed 6th in the Air Rifle competition, she will use her experience to shoot for her first Commonwealth medal.

Friday 13th April – Day 6

Another medal for the Welsh shooting team today, Sarah Wixey qualified in 1st place after a shoot-off and carried that momentum into the final to win a Bronze medal in the Women's Olympic Trap. This 4th medal makes Gold Coast 2018 Wales' most successful shooting campaign. Sarah's husband Mike finishes his Men's Trap competition tomorrow alongside team-mate Jon Davis. With 75 qualification clays left to shoot, Mike is in joint 4th position, and Jon is only 3 clays behind despite competing with a fresh knee injury and limping between stations. Sian Corish concluded her Games competitions with the Women's 50m Three Position Rifle competition. In a very strong field, Sian narrowly missed qualification for the final by one point, the smallest possible margin. With higher quality 'bull' shots, Sian scored a higher 'X' count than some above her however her points did not quite get her into the final. Sian's team-mate Mike Bamsey competes in the Men's 50m Three Position Rifle competition tomorrow on the final day of Gold Coast 2018 shooting.

Saturday 14th April – Day 7

A great start for Wales on the final day of shooting at Gold Coast 2018. Mike Wixey improved upon his day 1 scores to shoot 74 of 75 clays, qualifying with bib number 1 (first rank) for the Men's Olympic Trap final. Evidently enjoying the spot at the top, Mike went on to win a riveting final and claim Gold. Two shooting medals in as many days for the Wixey family, and Wales' 5th which puts the team performance 4th among the shooting nations. Jon Davis, who suffered a knee injury just two days before his competition, finished a respectable 26th place in the world class Trap field of 40 entrants. In his third event, Mike Bamsey narrowly missed out on qualification by one point, just like team-mate Sian Corish yesterday in the women's event. Mike matched his Glasgow performance by placing 9th but improved upon his overall his score by 8 points. Gaz Morris & Chris Watson completed their Queen's Prize Individual competitions with similar points to the overall winners at the long ranges. Gaz placed 10th & Chris placed 16th in a field where the top 5 shooters broke the previous Games record. From 11 athletes, the shooting team brought home 5 medals for Wales.

