

SWEFTA Bench Rest League:

As the BR season is kind of drawing itself to a close, here is a very brief roundup of the clubs who have been involved in 2019.

With a bit of luck we will have Ashcombe joining the BR league for 2020 and hopefully one or two more with them, it would be great to make this a really competitive league to rival the FT and HFT competitions.

Mendip's course is difficult to access at this time of year and this year in particular given all the rain (now snow) we have had, that plus Tony Fouracres immanent first knee operation and the time spent preparing the Winter League shoot all mean that we have effectively finished for 2019.

West Devon are still holding competitions, their next shoot I think is in a couple of Sunday's time, but I don't have scores for their last shoot.

Dartmoor's last two scores are listed below complete with an end of year review from Paul Salmon.

DARTMOOR Round 8.

Paul Salmon	246:10	248:11	247:7	741:28x	100%
Gary Shuttlewood	243:4	244:6	244:7	731:17x	98.64
Rob Taylor	246:4	236:2	237:6	719:12x	97.01
Rob Meatyard	243:6	235:4	233:3	711:13x	95.93
Vern Wearing	235:5	239:2	237:4	711:11x	95.93
Malcolm Elliott	233:5	231:2	230:6	694:13x	93.64

DARTMOOR ROUND 9.

	1	2	3	Total	%
Rob Meatyard	239:3	237:2	239:2	715:7x	100.00
Vern Wearing	238:3	243:5	233:2	714:10x	99.86
Paul Salmon	242:5	237:5	230:5	709:15x	99.17
Gary Shuttlewood	237:5	234:4	227:3	698:12x	97.63
Malcolm Elliott	225:4	231:3	219:4	675:11x	94.41

Dartmoor 2019 Benchrest - FINAL RESULTS (best 6 scores to qualify).

1	Paul	99.49%
2	Rob M	99.29%
3	Gary	98.85%
4	Vern	98.74%
5	Rob T	97.96%
6	Malcolm	93.90%
7	Dave	93.00%

Dartmoor Benchrest report 2019.

Dartmoor has just concluded it's second season of formal benchrest competition. Support has grown this year with nine competitors taking part, six of whom managed to complete the necessary six qualifying rounds, this compares with just three shooters finishing last year.

Scoring in outdoor benchrest is hugely dependent on the weather, and this year has given us plenty of challenging conditions. The strong winds encountered during the first two rounds were so extreme that the top scores recorded were just 678:14x and 679:9x respectively. We did enjoy just one day with relatively light breezes and this enabled the years highest score of 741:28x to be recorded.

The final results were pleasingly close again this year which kept the competition interesting and exciting right up to, and including, the last round. Five participants managed to record the highest single card score in a round, and five shooters also produced the top overall match score within each of the nine monthly competitions.

Four competitors recorded 100% in two of the rounds, and special mention goes to Mike Foster, who, due to work commitments, was only able to shoot in three rounds but achieved a 100% score in two of them!

Next year's club competition will begin in March, and we are hoping that several more of the SWEFTA clubs will be participating. Because of the differences in range location, course topography, and weather conditions, actual points scores cannot be meaningfully compared across the region, but by converting the scores into a percentage of the best achieved on the day at each club, we can get some idea of how we are doing in relation to our neighbours.

The intention is to hold a concluding 'shoulder to shoulder' match at the end of the season, with the top scorers from each club qualifying for a place in the final. The highest score on the day will determine the SWEFTA Benchrest Champion.

For those who have not yet tried benchrest, the club has some practice targets available, and we also have the necessary rests for members to use. It looks easy, but this is deceptive - a 2mm circle at 25 metres is a tough target, throw in a dose of Dartmoor wind and it sometimes seems all but impossible! But don't be put off, give it a go, you don't need any fancy equipment, any PCP rifle, and scope of 10x or more, is capable of a winning score.

Bi-pods seem to be just as capable as separate rests, and some people actually prefer to shoot off a simple front sandbag. Spring powered recoiling rifles could be used but would put shooters at a severe disadvantage in consistently hitting such a small mark - the game is difficult enough already!

If anybody is genuinely serious about getting involved, any of the regular competitors would be more than happy to offer some help and instruction in correct technique and understanding of the rules. We have at least three months to prepare and get some useful practice in before the next season begins.

Paul Salmon.