

Southland Championships & Eastern Southland Championships

5 & 6 February 2022

When it comes to clear skies and fine weather, Southland springs to mind. The weather didn't disappoint in Southland over Waitangi weekend. However, this year, the Southland Championships were in Otago. The forecast for Oamaru was heavy rain driving in from the West Coast. The weather pickers were spot-on but for the timing. The heavy rain fell persistently all-day Friday and there was a good deluge overnight but, as luck would have it, the rain ceased for the start of the Championships and it remained fine all weekend.

The clubhouse at the Boundary Creek Rd Rifle Range in Oamaru:



Saturday – Eastern Southland Championships and Day 1 of the Southland Championships

The wind was fairly tame for most of the day, with the occasional change in strength and direction which was enough to take you firmly into the 4-ring. The biggest challenge came from negotiating the muddy undulations when driving between firing points and perhaps the all-terrain trophy should have gone to Gareth Miller (Ashburton) for his fine off-road manoeuvring.

Indeed, Gareth got off to a cracking start - leading A Grade with two 50s, the second one commencing with 9 Xs and Vs. Chris Kershaw (Malvern) and Bruce Horwood (Invercargill and Ashburton) were hot on his heels. Bruce finished strongest and ended the day on 199 with

Gareth 2nd and Chris 3rd (on countback) just a point behind Bruce but with much healthier centre counts. Martin Fleming handicapped himself by travelling with just one foresight element and, in spite of a nasty snatch early on, adapted well over the course of the weekend to finish strongly.

Oamaru local Robbie Gilchrist led the Grade B shooters from start to finish, whilst John Fleming from Ashburton District Rifle Club sneaked a Grade C win over Malvern's Barry Brown at the final 600 shoot of the day.

Left: Robbie Gilchrist fires an effective right jab to snatch Grade B

Right: More gracious sparring from John Fleming in C Grade (taking out Barry Brown after 4 rounds, which is why Les is taking no chances and remaining on high ground)



In the Flash Class (better known as F-Open), Mike Chui from Ashburton was showing off his skills with a superb 238 ex. 240. John Pearce of Oamaru fired a respectable 233 in the FTR-Classic.

Left: Mike Chui

Centre: John Pearce

Right: Bruce Horwood



Sunday – Day 2 of the Southland Championships

A drier firing point meant less focus on the rally driving and more attention on the shooting. Accordingly, the shooters fared better despite the fickle wind flicking around at 600 yards to spice things up at the finish.

The wind didn't deter Les Grimsey who knows the range all too well. He nailed two 60s to finish. Bruce Plant also got in on the act displaying his experience at 500 yards with a 50 in the TR (Grade C).

Grade A and B shooters were all pretty solid. There were two 149s, two 148s and a 146. Bruce Horwood led the way, producing a carbon copy shoot of Gareth Miller's 50.9 at 500 yards from the previous day (starting with 9 Xs and Vs).

At 600 yards, Horwood was caught on aim to lose one wide out on the right. $\frac{3}{4}$ minute change and patience was required before firing the next shot and he held on with a 49 to secure the win ahead of the ever-consistent Chris Kershaw.



Above: Barry Brown and Gareth Miller

Below: Mike Chui





Above: Bruce Horwood receiving Grade A trophy from Les Grimsey.

Robbie Gilchrist took Grade B and Barry Brown won a well contested Grade C.



Mike Chui (pictured below) took the F-Open and John Pearce the FTR-Classic.



Meanwhile, Big John (Miller) stepped up to win the Veterans TR, dropping just one point in his final four shoots.

Ashburton won the close fought teams match: [Left to right: Mike Chui, John Fleming, Big John, Murray Cook].



Many thanks to Oamaru RC for running the range and the provision of targets.

Below: Back to Southland with memories of Oamaru splashed over my windows...(note the fine weather).



Yours

The Southlander

Name	Grade	300(1)	500 (1)	600 (1)	600 (2)	300 (2)	500 (2)	600 (3)	SOUTHLAND	Eastern Agg	TR	
											600 AGG	Veterans
Mike Chui	F-Open	59.004	59.005	60.006	60.003	58.005	60.008	57.005	413.036	238.018	177.014	0.000
Les Grimsey	F-Open	57.003	57.002	57.004	59.007	57.003	60.007	60.004	407.030	230.016	176.015	0.000
John Pearce	FTR-C	58.002	59.006	59.004	57.002	59.003	58.003	55.001	405.021	233.014	171.007	0.000
Murray Cook	F-Open	59.004	58.007	56.001	56.001	50.000	58.004	54.003	391.020	229.013	166.005	0.000
Brian Graystone	FTR-C	58.004	56.003	49.000	56.002	56.003	56.002	56.002	387.016	219.009	161.004	0.000
Bruce Horwood	A	50.004	49.004	50.003	50.006	50.007	50.009	49.005	348.038	199.017	149.014	0.000
Chris Kershaw	A	49.005	50.008	50.005	49.006	49.006	50.006	49.003	346.039	198.024	148.014	0.000
Gareth Miller	A	50.002	50.009	49.006	49.007	47.005	49.005	50.004	344.038	198.024	148.017	0.000
Martin Fleming	A	46.004	50.004	48.006	49.004	50.005	50.004	48.004	341.031	193.018	145.014	0.000
John Miller	A	48.005	49.005	45.003	50.004	50.003	50.004	49.003	341.027	192.017	144.010	341.027
Robbie Gilchrist	B	49.007	47.005	46.001	47.003	46.002	48.004	49.004	332.026	189.016	142.008	332.026
Barry Brown	C	48.005	44.002	48.001	43.001	47.003	46.003	42.000	318.015	183.009	133.002	0.000
John Fleming	C	46.002	47.002	44.001	47.004	41.002	45.001	39.001	309.013	184.009	130.006	309.013
Brian Hawksby	C	46.003	43.000	43.001	46.001	45.001	47.001	36.000	306.007	178.005	125.002	306.007
Bruce Plant	C	43.002	45.002	40.002	43.001	38.001	50.003	44.001	303.012	171.007	127.004	303.012