

## HCIT Match report

The 58th Home Countries International took place on Sept 13th in the hills of Wales, at the Dovey Valley Shooting Ground.

142 competitors from six home countries tackled well-set targets in some of the most variable weather of any competition in recent memory. Heavy rain followed minutes later by bright sunshine and again moments later, heavy rain, had shooters performing more costume changes than Taylor Swift. The wind picked up after lunch and made for a challenging stand or two but target setter Andy White and his team had worked hard to mitigate the variables.

Teams were shipped up the hill in 4x4s to a grazing pasture overlooking the Welsh hills where after six stands, they dropped into the woods and down through the valley to finish stand 14 in front of the buildings. The penultimate stand was perhaps the most challenging with a fast left to right midi under your feet followed by a fast-rising teal. Many fine shots emerged from the stand shaking their heads but acknowledging they had really enjoyed the course.

Team England took home the main trophies in all the categories with Amy Easemen the top Lady and Sam Ward storming home with a 93 to take High Gun. Other notable individual winners were Steven Trout as top Veteran and Adrian Johnson as the winning Super Vet. Amy Easeman was one of the team members who was shooting with her Dad, Phil, also in the team after a successful run as manager (and who was Veteran Runner up). Junior Harry Jude also joined father Andrew to add to the family feel.

The extended family of home countries competitors then retired to Aberystwyth for the socialising and dining that is a highlight of this event. Team captain Scott Barnett introduced the new caps at the banquet, Seth Peters, Harry Jude, Sam Linington, Steven Trout and Mark Delf before the prizes were awarded by the Welsh Clay Target Shooting Association team. They were genuinely congratulated on a job well done and an excellent Home Countries event.

Colin Burrows  
ESP Team Manager  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2025