

Marlborough Autumn Championships May 9th 2026, Kaituna Range.

The day and night before it blew and rained. 70 mm had fallen on the range and the wind was abating by Saturday morning, although showers still threatened. A slightly delayed start ensured no one got wet from above and the shooting got underway at 300 yards with 33 shooters on the range. The light westerly frontal fishtail breeze looked easy but proved to be fickle and tricky all day with few possibles being shot by either the F Class or TR competitors. The warm sunny day was appreciated by all though.

Four of the eight F Open competitors got 60 at 300 with Bjorn Haaber topping with 7 X's. In TR Clinton Whyte in B grade and Jacob Morriss in A got the only 50s, both with 5. John Pierce topped FTR with 58.5, Sharon Grimsey with 58.3 in Classic and Ian Woods 58.4 in FPR.

On to 600 and again it proved to be tricky with Helen Freiman in A and Dylan Mathieson in B with 50.3's getting the only possibles.

Best of the F's were Frank Duckett and Karl Eggers in F Open with 59.5.

Other top scores were Phil Gardiner's 56.2 in FTR, Ian Woods 54.2 in FPR and Sharon Grimsey's 54 in Classic.

The 15 shot match to finish the day at 900 provided some close scoring but possibles proved to be impossible for all competitors.

Bjorn Haaber again topped F Open with 89.5 chased by Frank Duckett with 88.6 and Craig Hunt with 87.4. Frank's score helped him take out F Open on 207.15, with Les Grimsey 2nd on 204.14 and Stefan Thudicum on 203.9 in 3rd.

Sharon Grimsey's 84.5 was the decisive score in Classic to give her the win on 196.8. Chris Burgess was 2nd on 183.7 and the evergreen Geoff Smith was 3rd 179.5.

Ian Woods got 80.2 in FPR to finish on 192.8 which was enough to head clubmate Peter Webster 181.5 who had 80.3 at 900.

Phil Gardiner's 79.2 to John Pierce's 79 in FTR was enough to win the day with an aggregate of 193.6 to 185.6.

Mandy Mathieson's 70.4 in C grade was not enough to catch C Grade tyro Milo Unkovich who had 68.6. Milo taking out C grade with 158.10 to Mandy's 147.8.

In B grade it was a tussle between clubmates and neighbours Dylan Mathieson and Riley Morriss. Riley's 72.6 was better than Dylan's 72.4 but Dylan took the day with 170.12 to Riley 169.12 with Clinton Whyte 3rd on 168.10.

The top A graders at 900 were Helen Freiman and Chris Kershaw with 74.8's but Martin Fleming's 74.6 was enough to win the Marlborough Autumn Championship with an aggregate of 172.17 from Malcolm Dodson on 171.20 and Chris Kershaw on 170.19.

Tui Black Shield Teams Match May 10th 2026, Kaituna Range.

On Sunday the inter association teams match between Marlborough ,Canterbury and Wellington was held for the Tui Blach Shield.

The course of fire was 10 shots coached at 300, 600 and 900 yards.

Teams are made up of F Class and TR shooters, basically whom ever the teams want, with the team scores and top scorer decided by points dropped and Vs and Xs added up. Wellington only had a part team so their team was bolstered by the Oamaru contingent.

The beeze continued from Saturday with the rarely seen westerly frontal fishtail except the strength was up a notch or two, but it was warm and sunny.

300 and 600 were not too bad with some possibles being shot and the coaches having some work to do but the fun really started at 900. The wind at times looked zero and but needed either left or right, or sometimes both, and at other times itswung strongly either side. A common comment from the coaches was I didn't see that.

Canterbury, Kaituna TR and F Class all had 7 shooters but Wellington / Oamaru only had six so the first 3 teams could cut their lowest aggregate score.

The Kaituna team made the most of the conditions with some consistently good shooting and classy wind picking from their two young coaches, Jacob Morriss and Dylan Mathieson.

The Kaituna TR team finished the day 40 points off and 69 V's for the six shooters.

Canterbury were second 72 points off and 48 Vs and Xs.

Wellington/Oamaru were 94 points off and 48 Vs and Xs.

Kaituna F Class were 126 points off and 31 Xs and Vs.

The two top scorers were Malcolm Dodson on 147.14 (3points off and 14 Vs) and Riley Morriss 147.11(3 points off and 11 Vs), both coached by Jacob Morriss. Les Grimsey was third coached by Craig Hunt with 176.14 (4 points off and 14 Xs).