

Commonwealth Youth Games Samoa 2015

Selection Shoot 2 - 4th May 2015

Eight archers continued over from Selection Shoot 1 (SS1) to the final stage of the Selection process. Four Cadet Girls and four Cadet Boys were shooting for a place in each category to travel to Samoa in September 2015 to compete in the Junior Commonwealth Games.

They would be joining an elite few as there are only 32 archers in each category competing to become Commonwealth Champion from a possible 53 countries spanning all six inhabited continents. Also the non traveling reserves would be picked from these lucky eight.

Weather conditions had been forecast to be wet and windy but by Monday morning we had blue skies, sun and a light breeze. Perfect conditions for everyone to shoot their best on the AGB Performance Unit astroturf range.

The two 720 scores were carried over from SS1 and adjusted scores from the round robin H2H matches were added to this with a five point win bonus added to give a cumulative score.

Following the presentation of certificates to all those attending on the day, practice commenced. Everyone seemed calm and collected at this stage, quickly losing any nerves they may have had as they got in to their shooting. However once the first set of matches started it was apparent not everyone had lost all their nerves and some very quick and decisive matches followed.

By the end of match 3 everyone had settled down and matches became harder fought. This also became apparent as those competing became more noisy as they chatted with each other as they walked to and from the target. Throughout the day it was pleasing to see such good competition coupled with congratulations and handshakes after the end of each match.

I am pleased to say our judges had only a few line cutters to call throughout the day as everyone knew the rules and where they had to be and when for each match which made the day run very smoothly. Again a credit to these young archers.

By the end of match 6 there was a clear leader on the Cadet boys side. However for the Cadet Girls it was a different story. Coming in to SS2 there had been a significant gap between the number 1 and number 2 ranked archers. Throughout the morning of SS2 the archer in second place gradually reduced the lead, pulling level by match 5 and going into the lead after match 6. This meant it was all to play for in the 6 matches of the afternoon session.

Throughout the afternoon matches there was no change in the cadet boys placings but match by match the number one ranked cadet girl from SS1 fought back to regain her first place spot.

As for who will be representing England in Samoa in a few short months time, that is subject to ratification by Commonwealth Games England and will be announced on the 25th May. Keep your eyes peeled on the EAF website and We are England website for those names and to follow the Games in September.

I would like to thank our judges on the day Susan Richards and Richard Custance. Also the assistance of the AGB Performance Unit, especially Hilda Gibson and John Nott.