

Gold Coast 2018
Commonwealth Shooting Championships
April 8th- 14th 2018

Shooting Report
(Welsh Target Shooting Federation)



	<i>Page</i>
1. <i>Preparation for Gold Coast 2018</i>	3.
2. <i>Pre-Games Training 2018</i>	3.
3. <i>Team Wales team members</i>	4.
4. <i>Travel & Arrival</i>	4.
5. <i>Accommodation at Gold Coast Village</i>	5.
6. <i>Competition venues Belmont Shooting Centre Brisbane</i>	5.
7. <i>Training at Belmont</i>	6.
8. <i>Official Competitions 8th April - 14th April 2018</i>	7.
9. <i>Conclusion</i>	7.



Craig Auden finalist mens Air Pistol

1. Preparation for Gold Coast 2018

Preparation started immediately after Glasgow 2014. The Welsh Target Shooting Federation (WTSF) having developed a selection policy based on the Nomination Document developed for 2018 and revisited by the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales/WTSF during 2015/16.

Sports Wales invested heavily into all the Wales Commonwealth Games sports. Shooting was ably assisted by Susie Osbourne, Sports Wales Senior Officer, who helped the WTSF with all aspects of Sports Science and Medicine for the period leading up to Gold Coast 2018.

The team was developed with current modern day thinking and is prepared for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018. Our thanks must go to the Board and Executive of the Welsh Target Shooting Federation. We would also like to thank Sport Wales, the four WTSF member associations, The Commonwealth Games Council for Wales and the Wales Assembly Government for their professional manner and help in ensuring that Team Wales shooting team were prepared for CGF 2018.

2. Pre-Games Training 2017-18

The busy competition schedules of the four Association members made it extremely difficult to assemble all the team together for group training prior to departure for Gold Coast. The Team managed regular training camps for Small bore and Air disciplines in Cardiff, Shotgun in Cyprus, Italy and Spain, Fullbore in Bisley/Jersey. Prior to departure, all team members were given the opportunity to carry out overseas warm weather training during 2017 and during the autumn and winter of 2016/17. Capped by a successful Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championship (CSF) held in Brisbane in Autumn of 2017. All these provided invaluable opportunities to prepare for Gold Coast 2018. Preparation funding, from Wales Sports Council (WSC) and WTSF was made available in 2015/16 making it possible for all team members to attend top level overseas matches in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

As in previous CSF's (sadly there was none for Glasgow 2014) these Championships were to be used also as a test event for GC2018 to give the Athletes and Officials an insight and feel for the Commonwealth Games these proved greatly beneficial as in past games.

Those Championships have undoubtedly gave the team invaluable experience and important bonding with other team members.

The WTSF in conjunction with Sport Wales and Wales Commonwealth Games Council for Wales produced a robust nomination policy <http://www.wtsf.org.uk/wtsfcg2018-06-2018.pdf> where scores and performances were tracked during 2018 with Nomination took place late November 2018. The WTSF selected a strong team for the Commonwealth Games, who confirmed selection of a team of 8 men and 3 women along with three discipline coaches and one Sport Science support officer.

3. Team Wales team members

Shooting Competitors

Clay Target (Skeet & Olympic Trap)

<p>Ben Llewelin; Sarah Wixey ; Jon Davis, Mike Wixey;</p>
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Small-bore (.22 & Air Rifle)

<p>Sian Corish; Mike Bamsey & David Phelps;</p>

Pistol (25m & Air pistol)

<p>Craig Auden & Coral Kennerley;</p>
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Fullbore Rifle (Queens Prize & Pairs)

<p>Gareth Morris & Chris Watson;</p>

Team Wales Shooting Officials

Small-bore Rifle Coach -- Steve Downes;	Shooting Manager -- John Dallimore;
Air pistol Coach -- Steve Pengelly (Gibraltar);	Sports Support/Asst manager -- Mike Gross;
Clay Target Coach -- Richard Stepney;	Physio -- None appointed.
Fullbore Target Coach -- Martin Watkins;	

4. Travel & Arrival

The main party of Team Wales (shooting) departed in several groups from Cardiff first on 23rd March, meeting up in Gold Coast with two members arriving from World University shooting Championships in Kuala Lumpur. Sarah and Mike Wixey with Richard Stepney travelling on the 5th April. The Main Team travelled by Official Team Wales coach from SWNC Cardiff to Heathrow, then via Dubai with Emirates airways. There were considerable problems booking in with the excess baggage but was all resolved amicably. Other than that, Emirates was very helpful. Travelling direct to Gold Coast. (not through Sydney) was considered the better option with a view to ease of importing and exporting firearms. The flight times from Heathrow was about 23 hours, (37 hours from Cardiff-Gold Coast) this was eventful with firearm transfers and considering these flight times, was tiring for all groups. The first group to Gold Coast were met by the organisers who collected the firearms and transferred them to the armoury at Belmont ranges. Team was then transferred by Coach to the Gold Coast village! Firearm Registration and Accreditation proved no problem; the whole team were through the system in less than 45 mins. The firearms, kit bags and ammunition were deposited in the BSC armoury; and held there until the first visit to the training/competition venue. The second group followed a similar arrival path to the first group.

5. Accommodation at Gold Coast Athlete Village

. <https://thealexandrahillshotel.com.au/>

After a 80min coach journey we arrived at village accreditation where we were quickly supplied with our accreditations and we were housed in a multi-story apartment block, majority of the shooting team were together on the first floor. The rooming was on a twin share basis each room was adequate with mainly two bathrooms between three bedrooms. The Wales Team Headquarters were based in town houses on other side of road from the apartment block.

Meal supplied to athletes were on a 24hour basis and were of excellent quality and varied from day to day.

6. **Competition venues Belmont Shooting Centre Gold Coast**

The Belmont Shooting Centre is located are situated approx. 40 miles (65km) from the main Games Village at Gold Coast 60/70 minutes by luxury coach (it must be noted that with the length of travel everyone was pleased the team was based in the village). The Shooting facility is constructed on the well established Belmont shooting centre. All shooting facilities have a planned legacy that will accrue from the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

On the first visit to BBS it was noted that the Shotgun and Fullbore Range infrastructure was still in the process of construction, with more seating planned for the 50/10 mtr ranges but with all the actual ranges facilities in full working order.

Much of the road/pathway infrastructure is complete and is serviceable.

All completed by first day of official practice on April 3rd

- ***Fullbore Ranges Belmont***

The Fullbore range, is a permanent facility used for the 2011 World Championships, it is facing South and an ideal size to run a major Fullbore Commonwealth Games with all required firing points available at both short range and at the longer 900/1000 yards.

Athletes at Belmont Fullbore ranges suffered from the often-intense heat but thanks to Mike Gross, cooling strategies was put in place.

The competition itself was well run but poor score posting was noticed as no live results in real time were posted onto the internet.

- ***Shotgun layouts Belmont***

There were three International standard shotgun layouts which were of a temporary construction where the Commonwealth disciplines were competed: Skeet, Double Trap and Olympic Trap. The main layout for finals was situated on the central layout, with a large grandstand constructed on the central layout. A green plastic netting was erected to collect the fall out of the shot, this was 100-mtrs away.

There were tremendous problems with the sun and the heat with the range surface being constructed from white broken type limestone causing the heat to be reflected and again thanks to our cooling strategies, our athletes gained some relief. All shotgun scores/results available instantly on Internet.

- **50/10mtr range & 25mtr range Belmont**

The 50/10mtr ranges (60 lanes on each) were located back to back. For the CG it is not intended for multi discipline shooting to take place at the same time, as spectator seating areas will make use of the space behind the range not being used. For the first three competitions days the 10mtr range was used and during the following five days, the 50mtr Range. The 25mtr range (40 lanes) was used solely for the two 25mtr pistol events

The competition Finals were held in the purpose built ten lane Finals Hall, set for 10m, 25m and 50m events.

All targets were Sius Ascor the 10m being Laser Score and the 50m Hybrid Score targets with all results updated instantly on the Internet.

7. **Training at Belmont:**

The first day of arrival was spent on range and facility familiarisation but with no actual shooting. Security was also in place. Much of the road/pathway infrastructure was complete and was ready by the time of the opening.

All athletes came with coach-agreed training plans which involved training most days but at times commensurate with the provisional competition schedule. Time of day was also varied to observe the effect of daily variations on wind direction and strength; the ranges are situated to the East of The City of Gold Coast and quite near to the M1 (Pacific highway) between Gold Coast airport to the North and the Gold Coast 75km (where the village of the GC2018 will be situated) to the South. Pre-opening range time booking was plentiful and well organised, while formal booking was required this never caused any problem.

8. **Official Competitions 8th April -14th April.**

Full Results can be found on:

https://www.gc2018.com/sites/default/files/2018-04/GC2018_SHO_ResultsBook_v1.0.pdf

Competitions were scheduled for eight days of CSF 2018 from Day two - Day nine. 30st Oct-6th November

The schedule was split into disciplines on the eight consecutive days, PET and Individual events.

There were 19 separate competitions in the shooting programme;

Team Wales competed in 13 of the 19 shooting competitions.

Medallists at Gold Coast 2018 Shooting Team

8/9 th April:	Men's Skeet	SILVER medal	Ben Llewelin
9/10 th April:	Fullbore pairs	SILVER medal	Gaz Morris and Chris Watson
10 th April:	Men's Prone 50m	GOLD Medal	David Phelps with a CG record
13 th April;	Women's Olym Trap	BRONZE medal	Sarah Wixey
13/14 th April:	Mem's Olym Trap	GOLD medal	Mike Wixey with a CG record

Finalists Gold Coast 2018 Shooting Team

(top eight)

8 th April:	Women's 10m air pistol	5 th	Coral Kennerley
8 th April:	Men's 10m air rifle	5 th	Mike Bamsey
9 th April:	Women's air rifle	6 th	Sian Corish

Other positions

9 th April:	Men's air pistol	15 th	Craig Auden (competed with wrist injury)
10 th April	Men's Prone 50m	18 th	Michael Bamsey
13/14 th April	Men's Olym Trap	26 th	Jon Davis (competed with Knee injury)
13 th April	Women's 3x20	9 th	Sian Corish
14 th April	Men's 3x40	9 th	Michael Bamsey
11/14 th April	Fullbore individual	10 th	Gaz Morris
11/14 th April	Fullbore individual	16 th	Chris Watson

9. Conclusion

On day one, Two finalists, proved an ideal start with day two our first medal silver by Ben Llewelin in the Men's skeet, this was quickly followed on day three by Chris Watson and Gaz Morris winning a hard fought silver medal in the full-bore pairs and then David Phelps with a games record securing a Gold medal in the prone 50m competition. With day six ending with another hard-fought medal with Sarah Wixey and Day seven a nother Gold Medal In the windy weather environment of Gold Coast, the athletes of Team Wales Shooting Team performed to a high standard in many of the competitions. Looking at the overall performances at Gold Coast I'm sure that all Athletes and coaches had a lot of pre- Commonwealth Games experience to work on for readiness for the Commonwealth Games in April next year. The shooting competitions along with the rest of Gold Coast CSF 2018 were well-run

at a World Class competition venue and our thanks must go out to Peter Underhill, Technical Delegate GC2018, and Kelly Wright, the Competition manager and her team for producing a World Class venue and competition.

All members of the Team Wales shooting team, wherever possible, were a great support to each other at the ranges during competition and off the ranges at the hotel.

Gold Coast CSF 2018 was a success for Team Wales in obtaining the goals set by the WTSF executive (two medals). The shooting section of Team Wales performed very well giving 100% effort at all times. My thanks go to our shooting athletes who contributed to this outcome, an excellent effort, also to Sport Wales team at SWNC Cardiff without whom, we would not have been able to properly prepare our athletes and coaches for these important competitions.

One of the CSF2018 International Technical Officials, Paul Gumn had been appointed Chairman of the Rifle Jury and it was pleasing to see the recognition of his professionalism by his selection to this important position by GC2018.

I must thank Paul Donovan for his unstinting work prior to and during the event. Michael Gross Sport Wales & University of South Wales, who worked hard for the team in support prior to and during the Commonwealth Shooting Championships.

I also thank my coaches Martin Watkins, Richard Stepney, Steve Pengelly and Steve Downes for their full unstinting support and assistance over the last three years.

Wm. John Dallimore.

Welsh Target Shooting Federation

Team Manager CSF 2018 Commonwealth Shooting Championship

Team Leader Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games