County WA18 - 4 Way Indoor Match March 2nd 2024

Essex v Kent, Sussex and Hampshire

The all purpose built indoor venue at Sittingbourne, Kent has changed from when I last appeared as shooting member of the team. As my first attended shoot, as team manager, I had the pleaseure to introduce three new members to the Essex Team, Bradley Hurr, James Roberts and Phillip Dunn.

The morning session started with recurve and compound archers. Nerves were in the air but not from the Essex archers who seemed composed and ready to compete. With a slightly delayed start we all kicked off at 10:10 with the normal practise ends. Early on into the shoot, one of the Essex archers had an equipment failure but with great composure he grabbed his second bow and continued shooting unwaveringly.

As a team they worked well together keeping their average score consistent throughout the day. With a short break halfway through we came to the end with all scores turned in. I kept score of how each archer was doing but had no idea how we were doing as a team. Announcing the results, I was pleased to hear the recurve team of Ian Bugbee, Bradley Hurr, Paul West and James Roberts achieved first place with a 91-point lead over second place. They seemed so shocked, and half struck by the result bizarrely Sussex went up and collected their medals. With a little intervention from myself I sorted out the problem and Essex recurve team got awarded what was rightly there’s. The compound team comprising of Phillip Dunn, David Fellman, Sean Fortune and Brain Lock came 4th, this still left us 1st overall with a 27-point lead.

It is now the afternoon session, both barebow and longbow archers step up to the shooting line. This well oiled and established team was fully in the driving seat. The longbow team, looking at their competition felt confident, and why not, they came away with first place. The longbow team comprising of Harr Cossey, Sharon Lawrence, Mark Lawrence and Tony Maher took a 421-point lead over second place. The barebow team comprising of Tony Gedalovitch, Mark Turner, Richard Burgess and Amelia Chumber came 3rd.

I am proud as to how everyone represented Essex, whilst the individual team results are good the overall result was fantastic. I was overjoyed to hear the Essex team came away with the win over the three other counties with an overall score of 7737.

Thanks again to the Essex team and a wonderful result.

Good luck to all for the season ahead.

Matt Webb

Essex Team Manager