

Seminole Cup

MICHAEL BRUNTON REPORTS FROM QUAIL CREEK, FLORIDA

Florida in late February signals the start of the competition season – specifically the Seminole Cup. Previously held at TM Ranch, this year Quail Creek, a 90 minute drive south of Orlando, was the venue for a 200 target FITASC, 100 target Compak and 200 target sporting clays Main Event. The facility is best known for its 2,700 acres of quail hunting, but three years ago they dedicated over 150 acres to a sporting clays facility. To

date they have held a dozen 100 target registered events and a State shoot – now they took on the Seminole Cup!

Driven by the enthusiasm of Randy Mitchell at Seminole Gun Works, and supported by title sponsors Caesar Guerini – and a wide selection of gold, silver and bronze sponsors – Quail Creek can be proud of a job well done. Mick Howells set the two Pre-lim courses and the Compak while

Garry Bloom set the FITASC and Main Event targets. Scott Williams (Claythorne) and his referees did a first class job and Shereen and her ladies on the front desk and Lois Lessing handling scores and results was an added bonus to a first class administration set up.

FITASC FIRST

The 8 Parcour 200 target old style FITASC event was shot over

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Attracting 193 competitors, the class split was Masters – 66, AA – 43, A – 33, B – 17, C – 20, D – 9 and E – 5. Concurrents were represented by 129 competitors – 102 of which were Veterans and SuperVeterans!

The terrain at Quail Creek – as flat as a billiard table – does not easily lend itself to FITASC, but Bloom did a great job in creating some testing targets. The Parcour





MAIN PICTURE: THE PARCOURS IN AMONGST PALM MEADOWS AND PINE TREES WERE PARTICULARLY ENTERTAINING. ABOVE: THE PARCOURS IN THE OPEN WERE SHORT OF A SPECIALITY TARGET OR TWO. BELOW: FITASC HOA DOUG VINE.



in amongst palm meadows and pine trees were particularly entertaining. However, on the Parcours in the open there was an emphasis on quartering and crossing targets – a few more tower and speciality targets would have spiced up the variety.

Parcour 6 proved to be the toughest of the layouts. Other than Andy Duffy's 24, only 14 competitors managed to post scores of 21 and 22. A fast quartering away teal, a left to right crosser and a right to left

quartering crosser – both curling and fading at 40 yards plus – were particularly difficult on pegs one and three.

With its closer range targets in amongst the palm meadows, complemented by the long crossing tower target on all three pegs, Parcour 3 proved to be the softest of the eight layouts. Jon Kruger posted the only 25 straight of the whole competition and Brandon Powell and Tom Mack dropped single targets. 15 competitors registered 23s and

some 60 scores of over 20 ensured that this was the highest scoring Parcour.

At the half way point, Doug Vine was leading the pack with 182 (23, 24, 23, 22, 23, 22, 23, 22), eight targets ahead of Steve Nelson (174) with John Woolley a further four targets back. Vine felt that his 22 on the tough Parcour 6 was about right but that his 22s on Parcour 4 and 8 had left the door open – just a crack.

Come day four, Vine had clearly shot far better than he had thought – the best the chasing pack had to offer was Andy Duffy's 175 for Runner-up, seven targets adrift.

General consensus amongst the competitors was that this was an entertaining but challenging championship. However, it could have been the better for using conventional rotations rather than shooting two Parcours back to back and then having to wait three hours to shoot the next 50 targets! It certainly made for long days with shooting having to start at 7.30am – a distinct disadvantage for some because of poor light. That apart, this was a great opener prior to the Main Event.

FITASC RESULTS

HOA	Doug Vine	182
Runner-Up	Andy Duffy	175

MASTERCLASS

1	Steve Nelson	174
2	Gary Fitzjarrel	173
3	Wendell Cherry	173

AA

1	Alvaro Ramos	160
2	Randy Travalia	154
3	Steve Wilbanks	152

A

1	Jessica Kent	146
2	Pierre Dubois	146
3	Michael Licata	146

B

1	Larry Rushing	138
2	Marion Wier	133
3	Jerry Hatfield	132

C

1	Wayne Williams	133
2	Hubert Jackson	133
3	Charlie Cato	133

D

1	Jim Burns	114
2	Andrew Spann	112
3	Karen Dolan	111

E

1	Joshua Deringer	124
2	Steve Seever	117
3	David Campbell	99

LADY

1	Diane Sorantino	159
2	Diane Nelson	153
3	Deborah Wall	150

VETERAN

1	Curtis Anderson	172
2	Gonzola Vargas	166
3	AJ Smith	164

SUPER VETERAN

1	Edward Couture	164
2	W. Ray Newman	154
3	Dick Phillips	152

JUNIOR

1	Cory Kruse	171
2	Brandon Powell	166
3	Gebben Miles	164

PRE-LIMS AND COMPAK

Both the Weekday Pre-lim and the Phil Hughes were 100 target competitions. Just over 130 competitors took part in the Weekday Pre-lim. With only five scores over the 90 mark it was Jon Kruger (96) that took HOA followed home by Jamie



JON KRUGER TOOK THE WEEKDAY PRELIM HONORS WITH 96.

Brightman (95) from England. Joseph Carey (95) took M1 one target ahead of Wendell Cherry (94). Honors in the other classes went to Michael Canale (AA-91), Roger Button (A-81), Bruce Potter (B-84), Lanny King (C-77), Daniel Sperr (D-75) and Carla Baber (E-66).

Sherri Megargee won the Ladies, Dan Schindler (87) was the Veteran winner, Edgar Freeze (80) won SuperVeterans and the two Junior Concurrents went to Tom Wasson (J-86) and Myles Miller (SJ-82).

The Phil Hughes 100 proved to be a little more demanding and for a while it looked as if Brightman would take the honors with a solid 93 – but it wasn't to be. Wendell Cherry put together a well crafted 94 to take HOA. Class honors went to Mark Kiddie (M/V-89), Matt Tatum (AA-85), Murray Brown (A-83), Stephen Dale (B-88), Lanny King (C-72), Marcel Neptune (D-68) and Carla Barber (E-59). Diane Sorantino (84) took Ladies, Wayne Mabry (80) won SuperVeterans, Hub Johnson (89) Juniors and Travis Carroll (68) won Sub Juniors.

The Compak event was a four layout 100 target event. Restricted for space, this was a very tame affair with Anthony Matarese Jr taking the honors with 98 followed by Will Fennell (96).

Class and Concurrent winners included John Ray (M and SJ-95), Keith Mills (AA-90), Michael Giery (A-85), Kevin Slade (B-81), Jason Forsythe (C-80), Noah Wright (D-71), Lee Shenberger (E-66), Diane Nelson (L-83), Greg Oliver (V-89) and Bill Wall (SV-88).



QUAIL CREEK CLUBHOUSE.

MAIN EVENT

Red, Green and Blue represented the three courses that made up the 200 target Main Event that attracted just over 370 competitors. Gary Bloom, who set the targets, told me prior to the event that he reckoned it would be won on 190 – we would see!

Red course, based on Quail Creek's existing sporting clays

course, with its numerous shooting platforms, was particularly entertaining – and possibly the more technical. Green and Blue courses were over the more open terrain that had been used earlier for the FITASC event. As such, they were predictable and heavy on quartering and crossing targets – both courses were very much suited to gun up and would have benefited from more speciality targets.



RED, BLUE AND GREEN COURSES ON THE MAIN EVENT HAD PLENTY OF TRICKY TARGETS TO TRIP UP EVEN THE BEST.





ABOVE: DAN CARLISLE WAS CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF THE LEADERS ON DAY TWO.



ABOVE: BUT IT WAS CHRIS McCLELLAND, A JUNIOR, THAT TOOK HOA.



After two days it was Doug Vine – maintaining his form from the FITASC – that was heading the leader board with 126. The four competitors in closest contention included Chris McClelland (124), Will Fennell (122), Anthony Matarese Jr (122) and Dan Carlisle (120). Everything was set for the final day – and then the rain came!

All eyes were on Vine, and in difficult shooting conditions he managed a 56 on the more difficult Red course. The strong 60 from McClelland saw this accomplished Junior take the HOA, two targets ahead of Vine. While the challenge from Matarese Jr, Fennell and Carlisle fell away, Tom Mack picked up the pace with an outstanding 64 on Red course to take Master class. Full results are show in the adjacent panel. ■

MAIN EVENT

HOA	Chris McClelland	184
Runner-Up	Doug Vine	182

MASTERCLASS

1	Tom Mack	181
2	Joseph Carey	180
3	Anthony Matarese	180

AA

1	K Jonas	159
2	Eric Stafford	157
3	Kelly Childs	156

A

1	Wesley Lang	152
2	James Warren	150
3	William Trotter	149

B

1	Warren Hitt	154
2	Gary Farmer	151
3	Stephen Dale	149

C

1	Jason Forsythe	149
2	Travis Carroll	139
3	Jason Frazier	138

**D**

1	Daniel Sperr	129
2	Ken Briehof	124
3	Darral Bowers	122

E

1	Stephen Oseth	129
2	Otto Vega	121
3	Wiley Hunter	113

LADY

1	Diane Nelson	158
2	Diane Sorantino	156
3	DeeAnn Massey	150

SUB-JUNIOR

1	John Ray	157
2	Justin Fox	149
3	Myles Miller	148

JUNIOR

1	Chris McClelland	184
2	Anthony Matarese	180
3	Brandon Powell	174

VETERAN

1	Mark Kiddie	166
2	Steve Fischer	164
3	Curtis Anderson	161

SUPER VETERAN

1	Bill Wall	162
2	W. Ray Newman	152
3	John Farrell	151