

Damon's Elog

Races in Switzerland 21/1 – 22/1



First race, sprint, 3x 2.5km loops. It snowed very hard today (seems to snow whenever we race) so sight-in was difficult because we were hard pressed to see the targets clearly and we froze because we were laying on mats covered in snow. While we were shooting we would get a thin layer of snow on us (which took about 40sec).

There were about 16 competitors in my race and I was starting off second. I hoped that the new, soft snow would help me because I am light and would not sink into the snow as much as the other people. The soft snow did help me a lot and I felt fast on the skis, but when I came to the into the first shooting, the targets were covered in snow so I could only see half the targets. Because of this I only hit two out of five, but luckily everyone else had similar problems and it wasn't until the last few people came into shoot that the snow had fallen away and you could shoot properly.

My second shooting was slightly better, hitting three out of five and I came into the finish in 4th, missing third by half a second and first by 20sec. As it turned out my missing was good because my team mate (Daniel Walker) made 10% behind the winner qualifying him for World Youth Juniors with me, but that may not have happened if I had hit all my targets!

The next day was a Mass Start race, 5 x 2km loops and 4 shoots. The day started well as the snow had stopped, to be replaced with a light drizzle, but it was not heavy enough to be more than a minor discomfort. The starting of the race went well, no broken poles, and I came into the range in third and shot four out of five and after the penalty lap came out second with a good lead over the other competitors. Unfortunately, because this was a flat course with only one medium sized hill (all races are required to have at least one hill) the other competitors soon caught up because they were really tall with big arms and flat courses benefit people like that. Luckily my 2nd shooting was really good, hitting clean while the other athletes missed 2s and 3s, but all I could think about was that I had won a chocolate for shooting clean (our team's incentive prize). Annoyingly, even with my big lead one of the larger boys still caught up. However, shooting four out of five in my first standing made me able to drop him for good. By then the commentator had noticed me and when I came into the last shoot he was saying stuff about me being Australian and being in front, so when I hit clean in my last standing shooting (something that does not happen very often) the crowd cheered very loud and after my final lap I came into the finish 1min 42sec in front of the next person. When the presentation came I found that I had won 100 SF for my efforts.



Going to Rupholding tomorrow where hopefully I can finally go on the waterslide there and buy something that isn't food. Will write again after the British Military Champs.

Damon

Right – everyone was recognised at the presentations and presented with a prize for participating (a Swiss Salami and Swiss Muesli)