

## Swiss Cup Report \_ Cameron Morton

Everywhere we go the snow seems to follow. Since arriving at Trin on Thursday it hasn't stopped snowing. On Friday we went looking for the biathlon range to find that it was yet to be set up and as it was snowing would be erected on the morning of the race.

This morning we awoke to nearly 1mt of snow on the car and had to wait until the road got cleared before we could drive to the range.

We arrived at 8.30am to see the whole race infrastructure being put in place. The targets were all being put in, portable huts built and the course flagged. Due to the abundance of snow the race was put back half an hour. I remember talking to Markus Segessenmann, Swiss Coach, in 2005 that they had just purchased a trailer for air rifles and targets so these could travel around Switzerland for training and competition purposes to promote biathlon. The concept has grown to include the 50 m range targets being taken to temporary range venues throughout Switzerland for their Swiss Cup series. As you can imagine biathlon has also taken off in popularity with a hundred or so youngsters involved in the afternoon's air rifle Swiss Kids Cup. During the day a special announcement was made about a Swiss athlete having just placed in the top 5 at the World Cup in Italy.

We were made to feel welcome with lots of acknowledgements and were given lane No. 5 to sight in on, which was right in the middle of the range.

The race for the three boys was a 7.5km Youth (U19) Swiss Cup. Damon was the 2<sup>nd</sup> boy to start and followed the Youth Girls. While Alex and Daniel started at the back of the Youth field of 15.

At the end of the race all competitors took part in the prize ceremony and was award a small prize for participation.

Damon's skiing again excelled in the soft snow and he was first across the line and thought that he had skied really well. He had problems in the prone though and was directed into Lane 1 to find the black target plates to be half covered in snow. He missed 3 and rued his misfortunes as I had told him to avoid Lane 1. However, this a good number others were also missing due to the heavy snow conditions. Dan came in and shot clean on prone and went out in a strong position. Unfortunately Alex couldn't find a good position and also had problems and missed 3.

In standing Damon missed 2, Dan 3 and Alex 4.

In the end the results were really positive.

Damon finished 4<sup>th</sup> – 19 seconds behind 1<sup>st</sup> and just half a second from third. He couldn't believe he was so close.

Daniel finished 9<sup>th</sup>, 2min and 44 seconds behind the winner, who like Damon had 5 penalties.

The result for Dan was even more fantastic because it was 8.8% behind and meets the ABA's 10% qualifying standard for Youth World Junior Championships in Finland. Congratulations Dan – all the hard work is paying off.

Alex found the soft tracks hard going and didn't have his best race.

Tomorrow all three will start in the 10km Youth Mass Start. We are finding that the Mass Start events are a fantastic experience as the boys get to experience the fast ski pace and learn to have to shoot under pressure in the range.

Result Summary

**RWS Swiss Cup Sprint, Trin. 21<sup>st</sup> January, Youth – 7.5 km**

1<sup>st</sup> – 26.16

2<sup>nd</sup> – 26.22

3<sup>rd</sup> – 26.35

4<sup>th</sup> – Damon Morton 26.36

9<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Walker 28.44 (plus 2.28 )

15<sup>th</sup> – Alex Lewis 33.44

**Cameron Morton - Coach**