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TACTICAL RIMFIRE IN CZ!

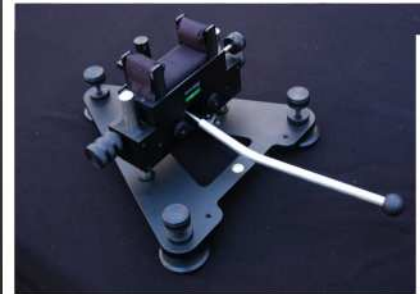
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Tactical Rimfire

... a new direction for rimfire shooting in Czech Republic

by Martin Šlaicht

Today, there are only a few club rimfire competitions in the Czech Republic. It means that many club shooters are excluded from having fun with their rimfires. Benchrest is not always their 'cup of tea' - they need more 'action' - not only the youngsters, there are many experienced shooters who were involved in serious rimfire competition but now, they would like to shoot again. Rimfire shooting is by far the cheapest way to shoot a scoped rifle.

A typical example of rimfire competition in Czech is a 50m shooting range with competitors shooting only at this distance. Sometimes the range regulations do not permit shooting

at shorter distances, usually owing to range construction but mostly, the organisers are just not prepared to organise a proper competition. There are longer ranges available, up to 300m but too expensive to rent - rimfire shooters are not willing to spend so much money!

These competitions are presented as 'sniper simulation shooting' but really it has nothing in common with sniping - except the name. Competitions are held at only one distance (50m) and the targets are defined at the beginning of shooting season and they are not changed until next year.

These targets require benchrest accuracy and





often, they are so small that it really challenges rifle accuracy. Matches tend to vary due to the range and organisers specifics but the

only similarity with a sniper is a rifle that looks like sniper rifle. Matches lack scenarios with physical and psychological stress, solving





logical problems etc. and we could call these competitions a corruption of benchrest/ F-class competition, due to the predominance of heavy-barrel, single-shot target rifles – the exceptions are a few Anschütz 1907 reps. The targets and time limits are adjusted to these rifles and shooters using repeater rifles made

in Czech or other countries with lower accuracy have no chance. Unfortunately matches are without challenges that could possibly level these accuracy disadvantages i.e stress or shooting in different positions, quick changing positions etc. However, a big change came in form of a new





series of matches organized by Guncenter Otrokovice (GC) called the Rimfire Sniper Competition. Their range is indoor and 150m long and the organizers successfully built a competition that pretty well replicates a centerfire tactical sniper competition. No wonder - they used their experiences from sniper centrefire competitions and modified them for rimfire use. The match itself is very fast and there are many different scenarios and shooters have to shoot from different positions at targets from 10 to 150m and often they include some physical exercises. These matches are intended for shooters who enjoy moving around and shooting more realistic situations from not necessarily comfortable positions.

Unfortunately, the GC Otrokovice range is a long way to travel for many shooters, so mostly only local shooters attend these competitions. Another problem is the lack of 150m ranges to be able to practice. Actually, there would be enough ranges but rimfire shooters are not willing to pay the cost of hiring these ranges - rimfire is still regarded as a 'low cost' shooting sport. Nonetheless, these competitions are the best of this format that are available.

This got me thinking and I finally decided to start a new competition in Czech republic: Tactical Rimfire. The plan was to devise a competition that would test a shooter's logical, mental and

physical ability to manage various competition scenarios within a given time limit and with the best possible accuracy, that would show their ability as versatile shooters.

Co-operation with the GC Otrokovice organisers and other tactical shooters was very beneficial and the result is a new competition that demands a rifle system capable of 1 1/3 MOA accuracy any time and under any condition. Competitors are exposed to time constraints, physical stress, changing shooting positions and solving logical problems. We did our best to ensure that there wouldn't be any special demands or requirements for competitors to practice. All situations are shot from 10 to 50m and are well described.

A big 'thanks' must go to Mr. Ladislav Ninger, the Chairman of Czech Benchrest Association, for his advice and recommendations based on his experiences of organizing competitions at international level and from his tactical shooting background.

Each course of fire is put together in such a way that shooters have to show their ability to 'resolve' the situation. The abilities are endurance, resistance to stress, adaptability to a new and unknown situations and to apply their knowledge and experience of weapons and shooting.

A match is designed to contain three elements



to try and achieve a fair and level playing-field. One third will favour repeaters and semi-auto rifles; one third is in favour single-shot, heavy target rifles and the remaining third is based on solving logical problems including communication between a shooter and his spotter and their resultant shooting. This part is probably the most inventive element. Shooters can have two-man teams and practice together, simulating the sniper's work or, they can just pick up a partner for that particularly match. This brings another aspect to the match - how these teams would cope in a stress situation and how they communicate under these conditions.

The idea is that each competition should maintain the aforementioned three elements and each part should contain the same type of

situation to be solved. For example - a hostage situation. Knowing your shooting limits should be in the precision part, selecting and changing shooting position should be at the tactical part and similarly with target recognition.

We have scheduled a series of eight competitions for 2011. The winner will be determined from his five best scores. Scores in each competition will be measured and calculated by a percentage ratio based on the winner's score. Therefore it's very important to shoot your best in each course of fire to minimise the difference between yourself and the winner. During the match, targets from each course of fire are sealed and scored during the match. Partial scores are not revealed until match is over. Competitors have to do their best all of the time. In addition to these competitions, we decided to hold the

'Tactical Rimfire Challenge Cup' This competition will be stretch over a weekend (two days and one night). The regular courses of fire will be complemented with extra physical activities (squatting, exercising in a ballistic jacket etc.) together with the results of solving a logical problem within the period of the competition. We also plan to hold some survival classes and other tactical skills.

Our first 'test' competition revealed a few errors and incorrect assumptions which proved a valuable learning aid and more accurately indicated the time needed for actual shooting as against what we assumed would be appropriate. However, the shooters really liked it and were very enthusiastic with the innovative scenarios



we used so it was deemed to be a great success. We know that this kind of competition will not suit everyone – the requirement for physical and mental strain and stress can be difficult for older shooters to handle but, for the time being, we do not intend to make any allowance based on the age of competitors.

Thank you Martin for a very interesting article. This sounds a great idea for those clubs with

limited range space. If any UK shooters like the idea, why not give it a go? It sounds a bit like mini-rifle but with a great accuracy requirement and would be perfect for a bolt-action, mag.fed rimfire rifle. If any club decides to put on a rimfire sniper shoot, please let us know. Meanwhile, I invite Martin to send us a few photographs of one of his comps. so that clubs can get a better idea of courses of fire etc. Vince.

