

The senior Euronations 2007 took place on 7 July at Pontypridd near Cardiff in Wales. In the run up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games this competition is beginning to take on greater importance. For the Commonwealth countries taking part it will be the benchmark as to whether or not they can convince their Commonwealth committees to allow them to compete in India in 2010. An English team's inclusion in the Commonwealth Games must be taken as a given, therefore other nations such as Scotland, N Ireland and Wales will be looking for results which demonstrate they can achieve a comparable standard to the English archers over next two years.

As with the rest of this summer the weather reports predicted wet and windy conditions for the competition, and although the competitors were spared the rain it was definitely windy. In the ladies' recurve division no-one challenged Lana Needham's supremacy throughout the day, with the Scottish team member shooting 1,274 for a comfortable win. Second and third places were between two English archers, Amy Oliver who finished on 1,222 and Philippa Lowe in third with 1,187. However, Lana's score together with her Scottish team mates held off the challenge of the English, and Scotland the ladies' recurve team trophy.

In the gents' recurve division four archers shot in excess of 1,200. Martin Evans, shooting for England, shot 1,209, Simon Needham of Scotland scored 1,210 and the winner, James Keogh, on his debut for England, held on to first place throughout the day with a final score of 1,235. The two English archers, along with teammate Lee Millar, comfortably won the gents' recurve team. Also shooting but not competing in the Euronations was Andrew Calloway, who has been selected for the gents' recurve team for the Dover World Cup Match, scoring 1,218.

Ladies' compound was the closest-fought individual division, with only three points separating the top three. Sheila Har-

# EURONATIONS 2007

## Eurotrash, dodgy bands and cheesy music? Oh no, wrong competition. This year's Euronations event saw some fierce battles in Cardiff

England's Andrea Gale takes aim in Pontypridd



Stunning debut: James Keogh, gents' recurve winner

Far left: Scotland's Emma Downie in the recurve competition

ris of England was the eventual winner with 1,301. She held off the tough challenge of Pippa Britton from Wales with 1,300 and Jan Howells, also from Wales, on 1,299. As the compound teams are made up of just two archers this gave Wales the win from England. Also shooting but not competing in the Euronations was Rebecca Gridley of Edinburgh University Alumni, who shot an impressive 1,330 in the challenging conditions.

In the gents' compound division there were two archers who had a commanding lead over the field after the long metric – Mark Franklin shooting for England and Andrew Ward shooting for Scotland. After lunch this battle was quickly decided when Mark Franklin shot on the wrong boss, on a field which many archers had found testing. Andrew Ward continued to deal with the conditions in his own inimitable way finishing on 1,352 to the Englishman's 1,330. Third place went to Gary Fowler of



England with 1,311, due to Ben Jones (also England) failing to shoot an arrow at 50m and finishing on a total of 1,306 and Tim Keppie of Scotland shooting a costly six at 30m to finish on 1,309. The combined scores of the two Scottish gents, however, pushed England into second place giving an unprecedented victory for Scotland in this division.

England's overall strength meant that they won all of the other team awards: combined compound, combined recurve and overall team. But with three years to go before the Commonwealth Games this competition has shown that other teams in the Home Nations are capable of beating the normally dominant English teams. It will be interesting to see if England sticks to its gentleman's agreement of not fielding British team members over the next few years, as there can be no doubt that they will send their strongest team to the Commonwealth Games in India. The Euronations could prove an ideal testing ground for those experienced archers to gel as a team if England is looking to win medals at the Commonwealth games and improve on its placings at the commonwealth cup in India last winter.



Norrie Mclean, Scottish team manager, and Mathew Nowicki, who shoots recurve for Scotland



Wrong boss: one mistake cost Mark Franklin a win



Pride of Scotland: Andrew Ward took the gents' compound

