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## Swiss News

### Shooting Report "Any Sights Any Rifle" (ASAR)

The ASAR competition of 2014 has once again been held over a three-weekend period. It was also the second year where the online booking system was the main booking feature. As we are still trying to fine-tune this event, including the booking system, we decided to hold each competition three weeks apart to give the main helpers a bit more time to recuperate from a full-on weekend.

The first weekend was a wash out caused by persisting rain and strong winds. The ground to the shooting hut was very soggy. To top it all off a lot of shooters had booked online but did not turn up on the day of their booking.

The second and third weekend where well attended but still some of the booked shooters did not show up on the day. This is something we need to address and have a closer look at shooters continuously booking 2 berths but then not attending. I, (we) have started to remove them from future bookings.

Once again shooting was of very high standard with 5 shooters scoring 199 points. Only the bull's-eyes count could finally determine the winner. The position for second and third could only be settled by a count-back (International ruling).

Top shooters of this event are:

1. David Malcolm: 199.13
2. Michele Riva: 199.11
3. Christian Neubauer: 199.11
4. Peter Keyzers: 199.09

All in all 192 competitions were shot.

As for next year's competition (ASAR15) I am considering the following dates:

- 1st weekend: 10-11 October 2015
- 2nd weekend: 31 Oct – 1 Nov 2015
- 3rd weekend: 21-22 November 2015

An event like this can only be happening with some very dedicated club members and helpers.

Erika, Melissa, Lorraine, Daniel, Marcel, Ernst, Steyn, Andrew and Andre: you guys rock! Thank you so much for your help, weekend after weekend. You guys are the pillar of this event. Thank you.

By Henry Werffeli

### Swiss speak only mediocre English

When it comes to speaking English, the Swiss are left stuttering by their German and Austrian neighbours, according to an international language proficiency study. Scandinavians come top of the class.

Switzerland had improved its absolute score for the third consecutive year, but because other countries had improved more, it fell two places to 18th out of 63 countries – or 15th out of 24 European countries – surveyed for the fourth edition of the EF English Proficiency Index.

The study, released in November 2014 by international education company EF Education First, ranked the English skills of 750,000 non-native speakers around the world. Denmark topped the list, followed by the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland and Austria, who were all classed as "very good". North African and Middle Eastern adults found themselves near the bottom. The top ten countries in English proficiency are all European, although notable poor performers include Italy (27th) and France (29th), who have been overtaken by Spain (20th) and Portugal (21st).

Economic importance:

The authors note that, worldwide, most countries with strong English skills continue to improve, while countries with weaker abilities are often stagnating or declining. The report also concludes that English proficiency remains a key indicator of a nation's economic competitiveness, with strong correlations between English proficiency and income, quality of life, ease of doing business and international trade. Also, women speak better English than men worldwide in nearly every country surveyed, including Switzerland.

[www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch)

### History of Swiss in Taranaki

The Taranaki Swiss Club committee would like to have a book compiled about the Swiss people of Taranaki to ensure our history is documented. Is there anyone out there who could help us out by approaching people and collating information?

If you're interested and would like to know a little more, please ring Othmar Hebler on 06 278 6878. Any help would be appreciated.



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