

● SHOOTING

Canning shoots his way to silver



Newtownstewart's Matthew Canning.

AT the BRC Open International Silhouette Shooting Competition, hosted by BRC Shooting Club, Dublin, Newtownstewart's Matthew Canning secured second place overall in the Smallbore Rifle event.

On day one Canning had a two point deficit with a score of 32/40 behind the leader France's Emmanuel Boudsocq on 34/40. Two points could indeed be clawed back on day two but never guaranteed in the sport of silhouette shooting.

On an early morning detail with a chilling northerly wind sweeping across the range the Irish man once again lined out standing shoulder to shoulder with Master Class competitors from Finland, France and Germany. The result from this match would decide the top three.

As the match got underway

Canning got off to a great start scoring a perfect 10 points on his first set of targets. In the next three stages the Newtownstewart native dropped a total of six points and at this level of competition one point can see you win or lose a match.

As the final shots reported down range and the score tallied, Canning produced a total of 34 points, giving him an aggregate of 66/80. Would

this be enough to secure a top position in the event?

It was not until the stats officer marked up the final results that the truth was known. Finland's Marko Nikko with an excellent score in his second leg of 39/40 was awarded top honours and first st place with

Ireland's Matthew Canning securing secondnd place and France's Martin Welter in third place.

BRC Open International 2008