

SPORT | In Brief

● Omagh Harriers qualify for September's World Trophy event in Switzerland

SHOOTING

Canning moves up the rankings

NEWTOWNSTEWART'S Matthew Canning improved his world ranking to seventh at the VIII IMSSU (International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union) World Championships held in Heinola, Finland earlier this month.

In the Smallbore Light Rifle and Silhouette Rifle events Canning shot an impressive 30/40 and 34/40 on the opening day and followed that up with a superb brace of 32/40 scores the next day to edge three places further up the World rankings.

He finished with an average of 64/80 in both events and this result also secured him third place in his International Class Smallbore Silhouette Rifle competition.

Although he specialises in Smallbore Light Rifle and Silhouette Rifle, Canning availed of the opportunity to test himself at Bigbore rifle where targets are shot from distances of 200 to 500 metres in the standing off-hand position.

Despite making his debut in the event the Irishman was extremely satisfied with his accomplished scores of 19/40 and 15/40.

"These results give me a marker to work from and although I have a steep learning curve ahead of me to break into the upper ranks of this event it is possible," he said. Matthew is now looking forward to competing in the Irish National Championships hosted by BRC Shooting Club, Dublin on September 20-21.



Matthew Canning, who improved his world ranking after competing in the World Championships in Finland. Photo Steve Saunders

World Championships, Heinola, Finland 2008