

# TARGET Shooter

July 2011





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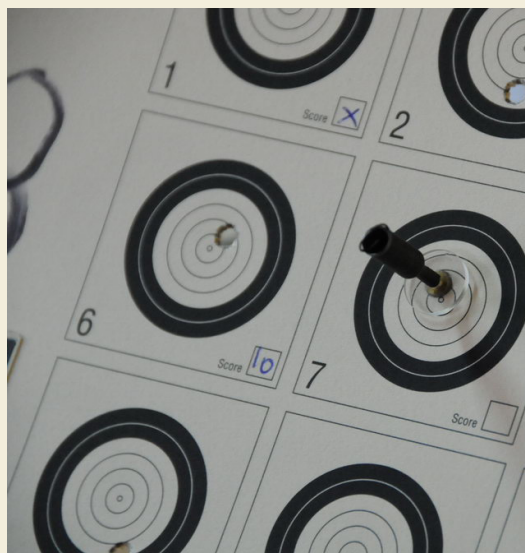
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# TARGET Shooter

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## Webitorial - July 2011

Our long-awaited Apple app launch finally went ahead - even if it was a little later than planned. If you have an iPad or iPhone, do please try it. Put 'Target Shooter' into the search box at the top of the iTunes webpage and it will take you straight to our free app.

The May and June editions are already available for a free download and hopefully the July issue will be include very shortly, though Apple hold on to it for a week or so to check that the content is not in any way offensive. As if.....!

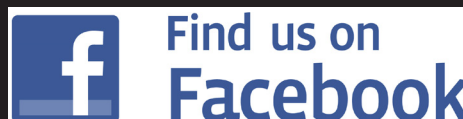
As always, we have another bumper issue for you. Our writers have been very busy and some items have had to be held over until August due to lack of space. You may also have noticed that the magazine is now hosted by Yudu, who are specialists in on-line magazines and we hope that the new format will download quicker and the new features will add to your enjoyment. If you have an iPad, or similar tablet device, this is really the way to enjoy the magazine – even more convenient than a paper copy.

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Good shooting

Vince, Carl & Yvonne

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# Benchrest 50 .22 LR - The Portuguese Scene



By P. Mateus

Above - J. G. ANSCHÜTZ custom rifle by Varide Cicognani with 36X Weaver scope



Benchrest 50 (BR50) with the 22lr rimfire started in Portugal about ten years ago with 'proof of concept' training, informal matches and internal competitions coordinated and promoted by the second largest shooting club in Portugal - the Clube Português de Tiro Prático e de Precisão (Practical and Precision Shooting Club, Portugal) - CPTTP .

The Portuguese Shooting Federation approved this shooting discipline on February 15th, 2008, following the European Rimfire and Air Rifle Benchrest Shooting Federation (ERABSF) regulations and good practices and the first National Championship was held, as a 'pilot year' during 2009.

## **The Nationals from 2009 up to date**

The 2009 Nationals were held within three divisions - International Sporter, Light Varmint and Unlimited - with four matches held from north to south of Portugal and with the final score based on a 'best three from four matches' rule.

After this first pilot year, 2010 saw almost double the number of shooters, both male and female and was the real foundation

**Portuguese shooters at the May 2011 Nationals at Fervença, Barcelos**





### 50 match logistics - handling targets on lane holder

year for the Portuguese BR50 community. Scores improved, new top of the line equipment showed up on the ranges (rifles, scopes, rests, tables, stools, wind flags, harmonic tuners, etc) and a global excitement within all the other shooting communities raised around this 'new kid on the block'.

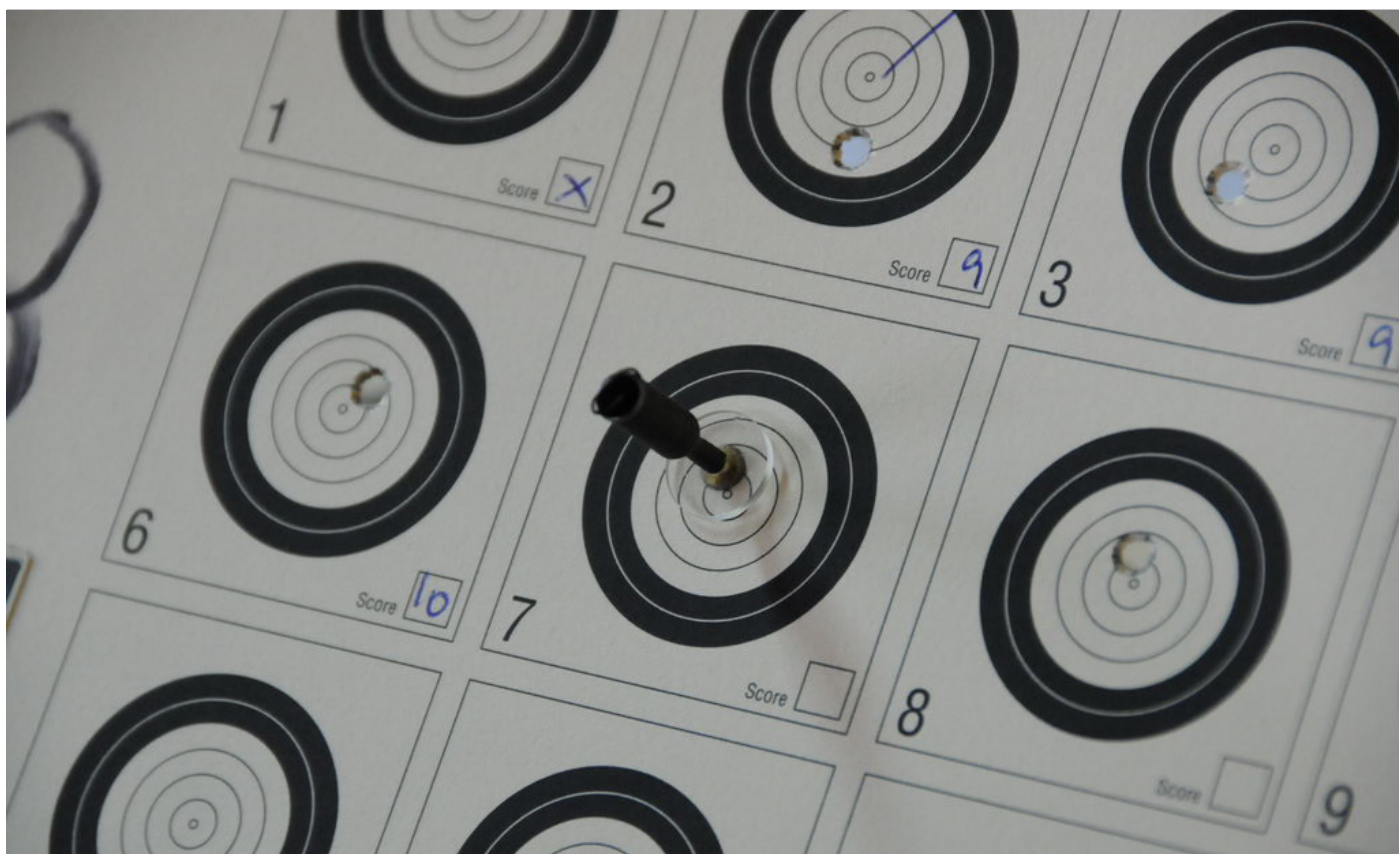
In 2009 only a few shooters managed to break

the 240 points barrier (average top scores were around 235s on the Light Varmint and Unlimited/ Heavy divisions) but in 2010, many shooters were already scoring consistently above 245 and the national record was set at 248 points with 11 Xs (with many other 248s and 249s showing up on Club matches and scored formal training sessions).

### Competition within the International Sporter division at the May 2011 Nationals







### Target scoring with extreme precision

From a Club initiative around one single shooting range, the BR50 sport was now established throughout Portugal, with regular training sessions held at many shooting ranges - including the prestigious National Shooting Complex at Jamor, Dafundo, Oeiras (just around the corner from where the international Estoril Tennis Open is held yearly) and the first formal certification course for BR50 range officers was held during the summer of 2010, which resulted

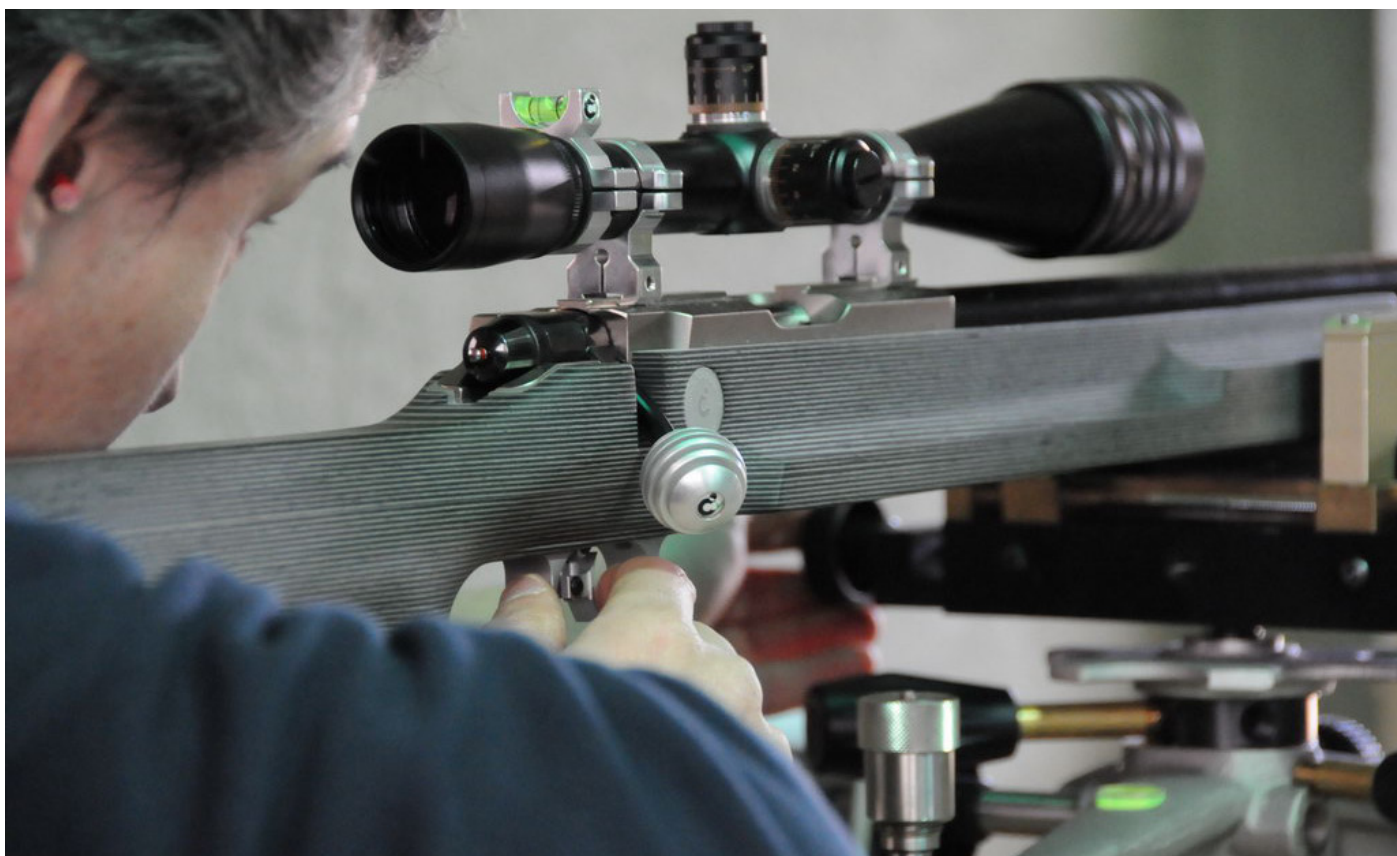
in an impressive number of 15 certified officers.

The BR50 2011 Nationals are ongoing with two matches already contested (3 more to come), the last one, at the end of May had around 50 competitive entries (distributed along the 3 divisions). Benchrest 25 (BR25), for air rifles, is at the pilot stage, with 'proof of concept' open matches already held and formal national regulations in the final approval stage.

### March 2011 Nationals at "Centro de Tropas Comandos" shooting range at Belas, Sintra







### **J. G. ANSCHÜTZ custom rifle by Varide Cicognani with 36X Weaver scope**

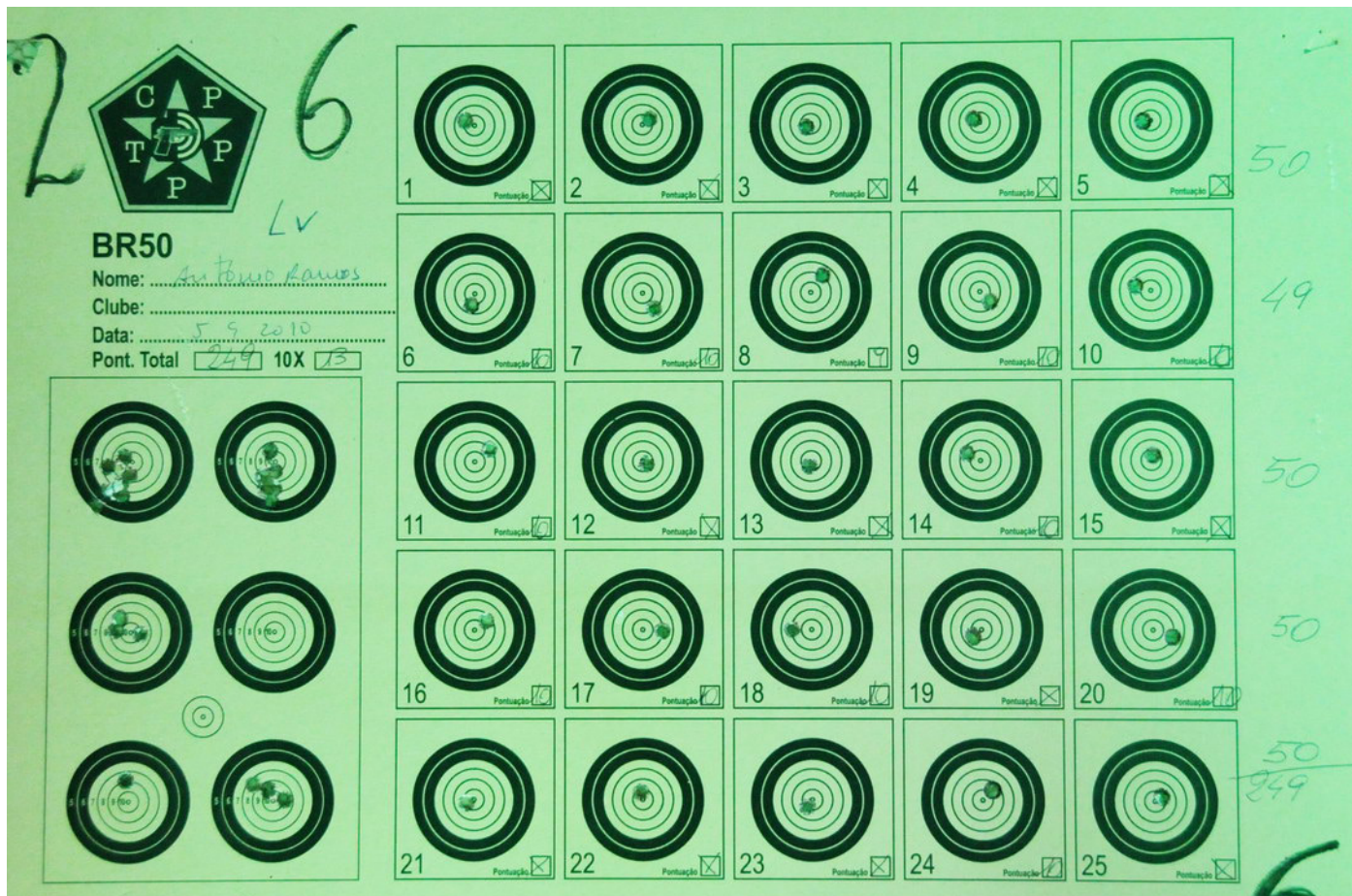
Benchrest, as a pure precision discipline, is now well known and respected within the Portuguese sport shooting scene, currently expanding to the air-rifle variation (an important show case for a wider range of shooters and easy access path for many enthusiasts) and, pretty soon, to the center-fire variant.

### **Equipment selection**

On the International Sporter division, with scopes limited to 6.5x zoom and low weight non-plain profile stocks, the CZ rifles and Caldwell rests with Protektors sandbags are the most common choice as the Portuguese shooters preferred kit. In the Light and Heavy divisions, the top







### 249 / 13X target at a Light Varmint Club match

shooters are using Anschütz rifles, Leupold and Weaver scopes and Varide Cicognani rests, sandbags and semi-custom rifle stocks. Ammunition selection tends to be either Eley Tenex or Lapua Center-X.

Individually owned wind flags are not very common - only a couple of shooters have them (USA semi-custom made imports, such as the ones made by Carbon River). The basic ribbon that most shooting ranges already have in place are what most competitors rely on for wind reading.

However, many of the top Portuguese shooters

have their own adjustable stool from the music drum industry, with brands such as Gibraltar, Roc 'n' Soc and Pearl showing up regularly on range.

### Typical match

A typical national match in Portugal attracts about 50 entries (a very good number when a national ISSF match has the same or, on many occasions, less) and is held over one day of the weekend - usually Sunday. It takes three or four volunteers to assemble and disassemble all the logistics (the shooting benches are portable, with heavy laminated tops and metal legs) and

### J. G. ANSCHÜTZ custom rifle by P. Mateus & R. Vilhena with 45X Leupold scope







**2010 Club Match at “Centro de Tropas Comandos” shooting range at Carregueira, Belas**

two to three range officers to handle equipment verification, match safety and time keeping and of course, scoring.

The formalities start with equipment checking by the Portuguese Shooting Federation designated range officers (sealing 6.5x zoom power-levels on the scopes, checking stocks for size, weighing the overall kit) and allotting shooters their random-selected bench number and lane. Then the time-controlled equipment is set up (safety is paramount whilst this is undertaken with breech-flags in rifles and magazines and bolts removed). The match can now start.

When the match ends, all rifles are safely removed and the range officers split their duties to deal with the next relay and start scoring the previous one. Once targets are scored (and available for public cross-checking on the wall) the score document is accepted and signed by the shooter and final classification takes place.

### Comparisons

The Portuguese BR50 scene has some peculiar demographics when compared to the rest of their European counterparts – we have many shooters below 35 years of age competing, many female shooters competing (approximately 20% overall), many shooters competing on all 3 divisions and one of the largest ratio of participants on the International Sporter division - not only as a ‘low cost entry division’ but as a highly competitive division per se.

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**Below from left to right - Portuguese Shooting Federation National Champion Medal and Master Shooter Medal**

