

(No. 40A.)



1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS:

REPORT BY SUPERINTENDENT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



REPORT ON COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

Strength.

At the date of last Report, 9th July, 1887, there were 24 Clubs, having 739 active and 44 honorary members; total 783.

At the present date there are 35 Clubs with one branch Club (Bagdad), numbering 1223 active and 56 honorary members, many of which latter have been active members.

The increase, therefore, is 11 Clubs—484 active and 12 honorary members.

Firing.

Sixteen Clubs fired the annual course with Martinis, and 14 with Sniders. The remaining five have been but lately formed, and are mostly unarmed, but will soon receive Sniders, collected from older clubs. The numbers who fired the entire annual course during the year and classified were:—

Martini-Henry Rifles—184 Marksmen, 123 First Class, 21 Second, 69 Third; total, 397.

Sniders—41 Marksmen, 95 First Class, 55 Second, 165 Third; total, 356.

The firing for both arms was at the same distances, and the same number of rounds; the above comparison is therefore a very fair proof of the comparative value of the two arms: but allowance must be made for the fact that the Sniders are old, much worn in the rifling, and many unserviceable for reliable accuracy. The highest average with Martinis was—Ulverstone, 157·64, “very good;” the lowest, Mersey, 91·40, “moderate;” the general average, 126·03, “good.” The average with Sniders was “moderate.”

Prize Firing.

On the 24th May the competition for Government Prizes took place simultaneously on their respective ranges, under the supervision of “firing committees,” of which two out of the three committee men belonged to Clubs other than the one the committee was supervising.

Competitors—

Martini-Henrys—133 Marksmen, 59 First Class, 4 Second, 7 Third.

Sniders—33 Marksmen, 60 First Class, 27 Second, 28 Third.

Rifles.

650 Martini-Henry Rifles have been distributed, and 350 are *en route* from England, as also accoutrements complete for 1000 men. The Sniders are distributed as far as they will go; these are worn out, and unreliable for accurate shooting, causing much disheartenment to the men, preventing many from enrolling, and those enrolled from practising, as is shown by the following Return of Ammunition purchased since 1st July, 1887:—Martini-Henry, 126,500 rounds; Snider, 62,500.

Camp of Exercise.

The Clubs sent 312 representatives. Their behaviour was admirable in every respect; there was not a single “guard-room case” amongst them. They showed themselves most eager to learn and evinced an excellent spirit of emulation and a desire to conform to military discipline.

There would have been a much larger attendance but for the prejudice against the khakee uniform, which, though admitted by them as most suitable in colour for modern warfare, is hated as a parade dress; and I trust that the scheme I have submitted for a "full dress," to last three years, and a khakee suit for war or ordinary drill, to last two years, will be favourably considered.

I should here remark that it is considered very invidious, and, as regards my own opinion, wrong in principle, that Clubmen should only have free passes by rail, and that those on the North West Coast from Formby to Circular Head, those in the Ringarooma District, in the Upper Derwent District, and South down the Channel, should have to pay their own expenses to and from the line of rail.

Instruction.

Many of the Clubs enjoy the advantage of having amongst them old retired soldiers, or ex-volunteers, who undertake the instruction in drill as well as they can. The Drill Book, Field Exercises, and Musketry Regulations have been distributed to each Club, and a considerable number procured from England for issue on payment.

On the 1st January a second Sergeant-Instructor was appointed. The Instructors are sent in turn to drill the Clubs and inspect the arms; one remaining to assist in the clerical work of my office, which has now become very heavy,—a Club of 20 members giving nearly as much work as one of 200. The following shows the number of days from 1st July, 1887, to 30th June, 1888, employed in instruction and inspection:—Superintendent, 46 days; Sergeant-Instructors, 132 days. Bearing in mind that the second Instructor was only appointed on 1st January,—that there was no clerk in the office,—and that the "travelling allowance" is limited, and has to be eked out very sparingly, this must be considered satisfactory.

H. BERNARD, *Colonel,*
Superintendent Country Rifle Clubs.
 25th June, 1888.

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

Government Prizes, to be competed for simultaneously on the 24th May, 1888.

Open to those only who have completed the Course (80 rounds) for the Season 1887-8, and have classified; and who must have returned the Government property called in, and be also free of debt to their Clubs.

ABSTRACT OF CLASSIFICATION.

	M.-H.	S.	TOTAL.
Marksmen	165	39	204
First Class	95	83	178
Second Class	9	43	52
Third Class.....	17	55	72
	<u>286</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>506</u>

	Shares.	£	s.	d.
Marksmen, at 6 shares per man.....	1224	88	0	0
First Class, at 3 ditto	534	38	10	0
Second Class, at 2 ditto	104	6	15	0
Third Class, at 1 ditto.....	72	4	15	0
		<u>£138</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

<i>Skirmishing Prizes—</i>				
M.-H. Rifles.....	286 classified	6	15	0
S. Rifles	220 ditto	5	5	0
GRAND TOTALS...	<u>506</u>	<u>£150</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Each Competitor to fire with the same description of Rifle as that with which he classified, and as issued by the Government.

SKIRMISHING PRIZES.

For teams of 8 men; one representative team for each Club. The money to go to the winning Club, and to be devoted to such purposes as the President, in Council, may decide. One prize to Clubs armed with Martinis; one to those armed with Sniders. The targets to be of scrim or canvas pasted over with brown paper, fixed on iron frames, which will be supplied from this office.

PRIZES FOR THOSE CLASSIFIED WITH MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES, 1887-8.

Prizes.	Marksmen.	Prizes.	First Class.	Prizes.	Second Class.	Prizes.	Third Class.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1	10 0 0	1 of	5 0 0	1	1 10 0	1	0 15 0
1	7 0 0	1 of	3 0 0	1	0 15 0	1	0 10 0
2 of £5.....	10 0 0	1 of	2 0 0				
2 of £4.....	8 0 0	5 of £1.....	5 0 0				
2 of £3.....	6 0 0	10 of 10s.....	5 0 0				
3 of £2.....	6 0 0	2 of 5s.....	0 10 0				
8 of £1.....	8 0 0						
8 of 10s.....	4 0 0						
<u>27</u>	<u>£59 0 0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>£20 10 0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£2 5 0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£1 5 0</u>

*Skirmishing—*For a representative team of 4 files, i.e., 8 men per Club:—
1 prize..... £6 15s.

PRIZES FOR THOSE CLASSIFIED WITH SNIDER RIFLES.

Prizes.	Marksmen.	Prizes.	First Class.	Prizes.	Second Class.	Prizes.	Third Class.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1	10 0 0	1	5 0 0	1	1 10 0	2 of 15s.....	1 10 0
1	7 0 0	1	2 10 0	1	0 15 0	2 of 10s.....	1 0 0
1	5 0 0	1	1 10 0	3 of 10s.....	1 10 0	2 of 5s.....	0 10 0
1	3 0 0	5 of £1.....	5 0 0	3 of 5s.....	0 15 0	4 of 2s. 6d....	0 10 0
2 of £1.....	2 0 0	8 of 10s.....	4 0 0				
4 of 10s.....	2 0 0						
<u>10</u>	<u>£29 0 0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>£18 0 0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>£4 10 0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>£3 10 0</u>

*Skirmishing—*For a representative team of 4 files, i.e., 8 men per Club:—
1 prize..... £5 5s.

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

RETURN showing Results of Annual Course of Rifle Practice with Martini-Henrys, Season 1887-1888.

Distances, from 100 to 700 yards—Targets and Scoring, Hythe Regulation—Allowance, 80 rounds per man—Highest possible score, 300 points.

Relative Order of Merit.	Clubs.	Strength of Clubs. — Active Members.	1st Period.		2nd Period.		3rd Period.		Total Points.	Individual Figure of Merit.	Skirmishing.			Club Figure of Merit.	Classification.			
			Men.	Points.	Men.	Points.	Men.	Points.			Men.	Points.	Average.		3rd Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class.	Marks- men.
1	Ulverstone.....	48	28	1612	27	1340	27	1462	4414	157.64	16	402	25.12	182.76	2	1	2	23
2	Scottsdale	41	36	2120	36	1418	32	1765	5303	147.30	32	741	23.15	170.45	2	1	13	20
3	Channel	40	34	1898	34	1351	32	1585	4834	142.17	30	615	20.50	162.67	4	2	4	24
4	Latrobe	25	12	686	12	414	10	506	1606	133.83	7	165	23.57	157.40	2	..	4	6
5	Table Cape	32	21	1148	20	548	20	1174	2870	136.66	20	390	19.50	156.16	2	1	7	11
6	Bothwell	39	36	1958	36	1293	31	1446	4697	130.47	28	597	21.32	151.79	3	2	12	19
7	Hollow Tree	22	20	1152	19	730	19	876	2758	131.33	20	381	19.50	150.83	3	..	6	12
8	Ross	40	7	368	7	195	7	308	871	124.42	7	120	17.14	141.56	..	1	4	2
9	Beaconsfield	31	31	1865	20	887	13	840	3592	115.87	11	261	23.72	139.59	11	2	7	11
10	Midlands	40	36	1847	36	1150	34	1286	4283	118.97	31	537	17.32	136.29	6	1	14	15
11	Ouse	25	24	1247	22	601	22	882	2730	113.75	22	393	17.86	131.61	3	2	12	7
12	Emu Bay	53	36	1879	31	1036	30	1189	4104	114.00	26	453	17.42	131.42	11	2	11	12
13	Derwent.....	29	28	1459	25	740	23	934	3133	111.89	22	396	18.00	129.89	6	2	9	11
14	D'Entrecasteaux..	27	22	1208	21	731	18	555	2494	113.36	12	198	16.50	129.86	6	2	6	8
15	Longford	40	3	166	3	120	3	49	335	111.66	..	..	..	111.66	..	..	3	..
16	Mersey	25	22	1045	21	494	18	472	2011	91.40	18	285	15.83	107.23	8	2	9	3
	Men.....	557	396	..	370	..	339	..	..	..	295	..	..	..	69	21	123	184
	Points	..	..	21,658	..	13,048	..	15,329	50,035	..	..	5769	..	..				
	Average	..	..	54.69	..	35.26	..	45.21	..	126.03	..	..	19.55	145.58				

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

RETURN showing Results of Rifle Practice with Sniders, Season 1887-1888.

Distances, from 100 to 700 yards—Targets and Scoring, Hythe Regulation—Allowance, 80 rounds per man—Highest possible score, 300 points.

Relative Order of Merit.	Clubs.	Strength of Clubs. Active Members.	1st Period.		2nd Period.		3rd Period.		Total Points.	Individual Figure of Merit.	Skirmishing.			Club Figure of Merit.	Classification.			
			Men.	Points.	Men.	Points.	Men.	Points.			Men.	Points.	Average.		3rd Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class.	Marks- men.
1	Stanley	30	30	1395	26	570	25	801	2766	92.20	25	369	14.76	106.96	9	5	8	8
2	Somerset	35	28	1305	27	527	27	824	2656	94.85	23	261	11.34	106.19	9	3	10	6
3	Franklin.....	22	21	1023	20	440	20	505	1968	93.71	20	237	11.35	105.06	5	7	4	5
4	Fingal.....	34	28	1287	26	592	24	655	2534	90.50	24	333	13.87	104.37	8	6	9	5
5	Northdown.....	35	28	1427	28	617	28	638	2682	95.78	26	222	8.53	104.31	4	5	16	3
6	Table Cape.....	32	10	366	10	161	10	401	928	92.80	10	93	9.30	102.10	3	2	3	2
7	Esperance.....	21	21	867	15	366	15	417	1650	78.57	12	192	16.00	94.57	10	2	6	3
8	Don.....	27	18	684	16	340	16	388	1412	78.44	14	201	14.35	92.79	9	1	6	2
9	Ross.....	40	31	1376	27	419	27	640	2435	78.54	25	327	13.08	91.62	13	5	12	1
10	Penguin	42	31	1248	29	487	29	648	2383	76.87	28	300	10.71	87.58	14	5	9	3
11	Longford.....	40	27	1280	16	344	7	109	1733	64.18	1	21	21.00	85.18	19	3	4	1
12	Kingston.....	39	29	1226	24	482	24	363	2071	71.41	18	48	2.66	74.07	15	8	5	1
13	Sheffield.....	28	21	750	17	251	5	132	1133	53.95	...	...	...	53.95	19	...	1	1
14	Green Ponds.....	45	32	1322	25	458	...	...	1780	53.93	...	...	...	53.93	28	3	2	...
	Men.....	470	355	...	306	...	251	...	...	...	226	...	...	...	165	55	95	41
	Points.....	...	...	15,556	...	6054	...	6478	28,131	...	...	2604	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Average	...	...	43.81	...	19.78	...	25.80	...	79.04	...	...	11.50	90.54	...	...	...	...

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

LIST of Prize-winners on Queen's Birthday, 24th May, 1888, with Martini-Henry Rifles. Hythe Regulations and Scoring. Five rounds at each distance. Highest possible score, 60 points.

Number of Competitors :—Marksmen, 133 ; First Class, 59 ; Second Class, 4 ; Third Class, 7.

CLUBS.	Order of Merit.	Names of—	Points at				Amount of Prizes.
			250.	500.	700.	TOTAL.	
Marksmen.							£ s. d.
Beaconsfield	1	P. M'Nally	18	20	17	55	10 0 0
Scottsdale	2	B. L. Pirani	19	19	17	55	7 0 0
Beaconsfield	3	H. A. R. Mathieson	17	17	18	52	5 0 0
Scottsdale	4	A. H. Field	17	19	16	52	5 0 0
Emu Bay	5	T. Whitton	15	18	18	51	4 0 0
Ulverstone	6	J. Quantrill	16	16	18	50	4 0 0
Ditto	7	H. G. Brown	14	18	17	49	3 0 0
Scottsdale	8	T. Easterbrook	12	17	19	48	3 0 0
Ditto	9	C. S. Richardson	14	16	18	48	2 0 0
Beaconsfield	10	J. Lutroyche	16	14	18	48	2 0 0
Emu Bay	11	H. Dowling	17	16	15	48	2 0 0
Beaconsfield	12	C. Studwell	12	17	18	47	1 0 0
Emu Bay	13	J. H. Seward	15	17	15	47	1 0 0
Beaconsfield	14	R. Wyett	16	12	18	46	1 0 0
Latrobe	15	T. Clements	15	16	15	46	1 0 0
Emu Bay	16	A. H. Edgar	15	18	13	46	1 0 0
Ulverstone	17	F. Boyles	13	15	17	45	1 0 0
Scottsdale	18	J. J. Westbrook	14	14	17	45	1 0 0
Ditto	19	J. Easterbrook	15	17	13	45	1 0 0
Bothwell	20	C. Hallett	18	15	11	44	0 10 0
Beaconsfield	21	W. H. Allison	12	17	14	43	0 10 0
Scottsdale	22	R. Counsel	16	14	13	43	0 10 0
Ulverstone	23	H. Frith	15	15	12	42	0 10 0
Beaconsfield	24	G. Webb	18	12	12	42	0 10 0
Ditto	25	L. Jolly	13	12	16	41	0 10 0
Table Cape	26	E. Slater	13	14	14	41	0 10 0
Latrobe	27	W. Bilson	15	15	11	41	0 10 0
Emu Bay	28	E. Burton	14	17	10	41	...
1st Class Shots.			250.	400.	600.		
Ouse	1	W. Cooper	17	15	14	46	5 0 0
Mersey	2	D. Smith	15	18	10	43	3 0 0
Table Cape	3	J. Shevenan	17	16	10	43	2 0 0
Emu Bay	4	T. J. Crisp	12	18	12	42	1 0 0
Scottsdale	5	R. T. Dyer	15	16	10	41	1 0 0
Ouse	6	W. Higgins	15	18	8	41	1 0 0
D'Entrecasteaux	7	A. Street	16	14	10	40	1 0 0
Derwent	8	A. Jackson	13	20	6	39	1 0 0
Emu Bay	9	A. K. Chapman	12	14	11	37	0 10 0
Hollow Tree	10	J. Chivers	14	18	5	37	0 10 0
Derwent	11	W. Bailey	11	12	13	36	0 10 0
Scottsdale	12	G. James	11	15	10	36	0 10 0
Ouse	13	E. Presnell	10	18	8	36	0 10 0
Ross	14	T. Mulranan	15	15	6	36	0 10 0
Midlands	15	T. Verdon	15	7	13	35	0 10 0
Latrobe	16	H. Murray	11	13	10	34	0 10 0
Scottsdale	17	F. M. Field	13	11	10	34	0 10 0
D'Entrecasteaux	18	Ohio Brown	10	16	7	33	0 10 0
Ouse	19	T. Burris	15	12	6	33	0 5 0
Mersey	20	H. Buxton	14	14	4	32	0 5 0
2nd Class Shots.			250.	400.	600.		
Ouse	1	T. A. Triffett	7	15	4	26	1 10 0
Ditto	2	J. Burris	6	5	9	20	0 15 0
3rd Class Shots.			200.	300.	500.		
Hollow Tree	1	R. Beard	16	13	2	31	0 15 0
Mersey	2	S. Ladelle	13	12	5	30	0 10 0

COUNTRY RIFLE CLUBS.

LIST of Prize-winners on Queen's Birthday, 24th May, 1888, with Snider Rifles. Hythe Regulations and Scoring. Five rounds at each distance. Highest possible score, 60 points.

Number of Competitors :—Marksmen, 33 ; First Class, 60 ; Second Class, 27 ; Third Class, 28.

CLUBS.	Order of Merit.	Names of—	Points at				Amount of Prizes.
			250.	500.	700.	TOTAL.	
Marksmen.							
							£ s. d.
Esperance	1	T. Stubbs	14	13	16	43	10 0 0
Fingal	2	T. Hoskins	14	13	15	42	7 0 0
Somerset	3	W. Old	17	15	9	41	5 0 0
Ditto	4	W. Gale	13	14	12	39	3 0 0
Ditto	5	W. Harnett	14	14	9	37	1 0 0
Ditto	6	J. Webb	10	13	13	36	1 0 0
Table Cape.....	7	A. Shekleton	14	6	14	34	0 10 0
Penguin	8	J. Bruce, jun.	13	14	7	34	0 10 0
Fingal	9	H. Stone	8	11	14	33	0 10 0
Don	10	R. H. T. Hull	14	9	10	33	0 10 0
Franklin	...	T. Harrison	15	12	6	33	...
1st Class Shots.			250.	400.	600.		
Somerset.....	...	M. Deayton	16	18	10	44	5 0 0
Ditto	...	G. Gale	15	16	12	43	2 10 0
Northdown	...	T. Clarke	12	16	10	38	1 10 0
Franklin	...	E. Linnell	13	12	12	37	1 0 0
Penguin	...	J. Clarke	13	16	6	35	1 0 0
Don	...	J. W. Whisker	10	13	11	34	1 0 0
Fingal	...	T. W. Dodge	13	10	11	34	1 0 0
Esperance	...	A. Park	13	13	8	34	1 0 0
Franklin.....	...	M. O'Beirne.....	12	15	7	34	0 10 0
Ross	...	H. Brown	16	11	7	34	0 10 0
Penguin	...	H. Clarke	9	14	9	32	0 10 0
Fingal	...	B. Webb	11	13	8	32	0 10 0
Northdown.....	...	G. Brown	15	12	5	32	0 10 0
Penguin	...	C. J. Webster	13	9	9	31	0 10 0
Fingal	...	A. Barnes	14	12	5	31	0 10 0
Penguin	...	J. Truscott	13	10	7	30	0 10 0
Esperance	...	J. Sawers	12	14	4	30	...
2nd Class Shots.			250.	400.	600.		
Penguin	1	W. Brown	13	13	12	38	1 10 0
Ditto	2	C. J. Plapp	16	13	9	38	0 15 0
Kingston	3	E. Meredith	12	20	0	32	0 10 0
Fingal	4	F. Williams	9	13	7	29	0 10 0
Somerset	5	W. Street	16	6	7	29	0 10 0
Esperance	6	J. Connolly	12	11	6	29	0 5 0
Franklin	7	R. Leitch	11	16	2	29	0 5 0
Kingston	8	S. E. Weston	9	14	5	28	0 5 0
Stanley	...	J. March	13	15	0	28	...
3rd Class Shots.			200.	300.	500.		
Franklin	1	J. Haywood	14	15	5	34	0 15 0
Kingston	2	H. Morsley	16	6	11	33	0 15 0
Fingal	3	T. Holden	5	12	14	31	0 10 0
Stanley	4	D. D. Breheney	14	7	10	31	0 10 0
Kingston	5	C. Firth	13	8	9	30	0 5 0
Northdown	6	E. Thomas	16	7	7	30	0 5 0
Table Cape	7	G. Easton	14	11	5	30	0 2 6
Ross	8	J. Clarke	11	9	8	28	0 2 6
Kingston	9	A. Firth	6	12	9	27	0 2 6
Don	10	W. Hutchins	10	13	4	27	0 2 6

RESULT of Skirmishing Practice.

Teams of 8 Men per Club ; eight rounds per Man.

Order of Merit.	Clubs.	Advancing.		Retiring.		TOTALS.		Average Points per Man.
		Hits.	Points.	Hits.	Points.	Hits.	Points.	
1	Ulverstone	23	69	28	84	51	153	19.12*
2	Bothwell	27	81	22	66	49	147	18.37
3	Emu Bay	25	75	21	63	46	138	17.25
4	Scottsdale	18	54	23	69	41	123	15.37
5	Derwent	22	66	19	57	41	123	15.37
6	Beaconsfield.....	22	66	18	54	40	120	15.00
7	Midlands	20	60	16	48	36	108	13.50
8	Mersey	15	45	20	60	35	105	13.12
9	Hollow Tree	18	54	17	51	35	105	13.12
10	Ouse	11	33	21	63	32	96	12.00
11	Table Cape	17	51	14	42	31	93	11.62
	Channel	13	39	9	27	22	66	8.25
	D'Entrecasteaux.....	8	24	10	30	18	54	6.75
	TOTALS	239	717	238	714	477	1431	13.75

* Prizes, £6 15s.

RESULT of Skirmishing Practice.—Eight Rounds per Man.

Order of Merit.	Clubs.	Advancing.		Retiring.		TOTALS.		Average points per Man.
		Hits.	Points.	Hits.	Points.	Hits.	Points.	
1st Com- petition	{ Franklin.....	17	51	19	57	36	108	13.50
	{ Ross	12	36	24	72	36	108	13.50
2nd Com- petition	{ Franklin.....	13	39	14	42	27	81	...
	{ Ross	9	27	18	54	27	81	...
3rd Com- petition	{ Ross	22	66	15	45	37	111*	...
	{ Franklin.....	12	36	17	51	27	87	...
3	Kingston	...	...	...	...	30	90	11.25
4	Penguin.....	...	...	...	...	28	84	10.50
5	Northdown	...	...	...	...	24	72	9.00
6	Fingal	...	...	...	...	20	60	7.50
7	Don	...	...	...	...	17	51	...
8	Stanley	...	...	...	...	17	51	6.37
9	Esperance	...	...	...	...	16	48	6.00
	Somerset			Did not compete.				

H. BERNARD, Colonel, Supt. Country Rifle Clubs.

* £5 5s.