



MEDIA RELEASE

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POKLJUKA RACES FINISH AND XMAS TIME IS ALMOST HERE

The last race of the first trimester is now over and its time to take some time off, enjoy the xmas period and refocus on races due to start early in the new year.

Pokljuka saw Mark and Alex race the 20km individual and 10 sprint races during the week in very cold conditions of around -12C. Cold conditions and wind are not a great mix at times and most athletes suffered cold fingers that also mean it's difficult to feel the trigger on the rifle.

Alex posted a great result in the 20km Individual race with almost perfect shooting. He dropped only one shot out of 20 and finished a very credible 76th out of a field of 123. This is the best shooting result in a distance race that Australia has had for over 15 years, with only two years into the sport it certainly shows that Alex has a lot more potential we are yet to see as he further develops his skills. Mark unfortunately didn't finish the race this day and joined a number of other athletes who either didn't start or simply didn't finish due to a variety of reasons.

The sprint race two days later saw the conditions remain very cold yet also dump around 8cm of fresh snow onto the track which was quite a nightmare for the wax technicians to work out which wax to use. Alex's father Nick is the wax tech and jack of all trades for Alex whereas Mark prepares his own when he doesn't have the service team of TOKO to support him.

Alex could not repeat a near perfect shoot this time around and shot 3 penalties with Mark shooting 4 penalties. The end result saw Alex and Mark finish 101 & 114th respectively from a field of 122. It goes to show how much pressure is on shooting near perfect on the range whilst pushing yourself to the maximum out on the course. So now with time off over xmas, Alex and Nick have gone back to Russia to see their family whilst Mark heads back to Obertilliach in Austria to meet a bunch of other Aussies that are training there for other Biathlon competitions also in the new year.

A merry xmas to all back in Oz while we sit down to a hearty xmas meal of reindeer surrounded by snow laden trees we will think of you all sweltering in the heat.

Interviews and media enquiries may be directed to:

Paul Connor
Executive Officer
Australian Biathlon Association
E: aus_biathlon@bigpond.com
W: www.biathlon.asn.au
M: +61 0 413 189 958