

Hi Phil,

In response to your soap box entry:

1) First of all let me say that I have always enjoyed shooting your matches and never found your Courses of Fire to be lacking in any way. In my opinion, there is NO NEED to need to change your COF's or your thinking.

2) You are quite correct that Practical Shooting has progressed dramatically over the years (and of course this has happened in the speed department). Ask Roger and he will tell you that in the Good Old Days an El-Pres shot in 8 seconds was considered exceptionally good (this gives a factor of only 7.5). Nowadays a guy like Todd Jarret shoots the same event in under 4 seconds with a Standard Gun! (that pushes the factor up to 15). The COF has not changed, the scores have not changed, the accuracy required has not changed, but the speed has changed.

3) As for the "Level 3" argument, it has been my experience that the recent Level 5 IPSC matches had absolutely the worst course designs. So it seems the higher the IPSC level, the poorer the course design.

4) In my experience it is always those who work the least that whine the most. So, let all the proponents of a "accuracy-oriented course design" get together and set up the next NGPSA league. I am sure you will not mind putting the Eeufees range at their disposal. The results should be interesting, although I do not think you will see much change. The top shooter will simply adjust his speed in order to make the required shot. It is a myth to think there are top shooters out there who cannot make an accurate shot on demand. Most top shooters shoot 90-95% of the available score on a stage, no matter how difficult the required shots.

5) As for athletic ability, remember this is an action shooting sport. If you don't want to run go and shoot NPA or BIANCHI or 1500.

6) Now that we are discussing course design, I have a pet topic of my own. How come we are still stuck with the silly 3:2:1 ratio for SHORT:MEDIUM:LONG courses in the IPSC rules? I have not spoken to a single shooter who wants to shoot courses in this ratio. Most seem to think that a 1:1:1 ratio would be OK. In fact why should a ratio be prescribed at all? We already have the maximum round count rule (32 rounds). Why does nobody propose to remove this rule? Don't tell me we cannot run a match with a 1:1:1 (or any other) ratio as we have been doing it at our leagues forever, and we did it at the Polokwane World Shoot and the Yanks have been ignoring the ratio since the beginning of Practical Shooting.

Hubert