

## CSSU TOURNAMENT CONTESTS AND PROCEDURES

This article describes the tournament contests of the Grand Schuetzenfests of the Central Sharpshooter's Union (CSSU). The Contests of the Davenport Club will be described in another article. Although other schuetzen organizations also competed at benchrest shooting or with a front rest for the rifle, all of the shooting at the tournaments of the CSSU was off-hand (standing) at 200 yards. There were also .22 caliber-only off hand rifle events at 50 yards in Saint Louis in 1925, and bowling contests at Davenport and Saint Louis: those are not detailed here.

In the biennial tournaments, each competitor was given a numbered tag to wear when he registered. This number was written on all his scorecards when they were purchased. The procedure to shoot was that the schuetzen would prepare his rifle at a table away from the firing line, and when ready would place his rifle in a rack behind the scorer for the target where he wanted to shoot. The rules stated that rifles were to be taken from the rack in the order they were placed, i.e. wait your turn. Muzzle loading rifles would have the bullet and charge in place, but no primer. Cartridge rifles would have the bullet in place and the cartridge ready but not in the rifle when placed in the rack. On his turn, the schuetzen would approach the window of the shiesshaus (shooting house), give his scorecard to the scorer at that window, and place the primer or place his cartridge in the rifle as appropriate. He would have three minutes to take his shot. The target marker would repair the target, signal the score back from the schiessbahn (target house), the scorer would write the score on the scorecard and in a ledger book, and the schuetzen would retreat to his place at the table to prepare his rifle for the next shot. According to Westergaard, two or three schuetzen would keep a window busy.

The method of signaling the score, at least at Davenport, was the same as it is now. The marker placed a paddle at a corner of the target, the upper left corner for 5 points, upper right 10 points, lower left 15 points, lower right 20 points, with a "punch" up with the paddle for each additional points. Waving an American flag indicated a 25. Note the black and white disc hanging from the table in the picture: it is probably from one of the original paddles at Schuetzenpark.

The tables used for loading at Davenport's Schuetzenpark are still in use today. There are still two tables in their original configuration in our shooting house at the Princeton range. The tables are divided into squares of approximately two feet on a side. In the edge of the table in front of each position is a notch to fit the barrel of a rifle, where a rifle could be leaned. A picture of one of the tables is shown here. Two rails run the length of the table.



I do not know what loading equipment was used in those days; perhaps it could have been mounted on the rails provided. Above each position on the top rail is a coat hook. The rules allowed each shooter to have no more than one pound of powder in the shiesshaus. Extra powder had to be stored in the magazine. With all the powder about, the rules prohibited smoking in the schiesshaus.

As these were German 'fests, there was also beer. The rules allowed the Schuetzenmeisters to remove anyone from the schiesshaus who appeared to have had too much to drink.

Each window of the Schiesshaus was dedicated to one contest, because the ledger (scorebook) for that contest was at that window. For the Union events (described below) the amount of shooting to be done was limited so there would be only one window for each event. Events with reentry would have multiple windows. The tournament program for 1915 said that that tournament would begin with 14 windows of 20 for the practice or points target, which means that each of the other contests had one window each. The numbers of windows per contest were adjusted as the tournament proceeded, depending on the demand.

Central Sharp Shooter King July 1915		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
66	Paul J. Bollen	18	24	18	18	24	01	22	19	23	22	181
74	Albert S. Lindt	22	16	23	22	25	24	19	21	19	21	201
75	Carl Wackel	25	24	21	22	22	17	23	20	22	23	207
68	J. H. Thielke	23	19	15	15	15	24	20	16	21	24	187
10	Joh. Ackermann	16	22	16	19	19	19	15	20	22	21	181
81	Walter Peters	22	22	17	17	20	24	25	19	18	19	203
4	Carl Kutzgang	24	20	21	24	18	22	23	24	22	21	211
6	Carl Kutzgang	17	24	21	16	17	24	22	24	19	21	201
24	Oliver Dwyer	19	22	20	19	19	20	19	15	21	24	171
8	Chas. Hoff	22	17	15	24	13	22	22	20	13	21	171
37	Tom J. Kuebler	14	14	19	19	22	19	13	18	20	14	172
31	John Koch	22	16	16	18	21	14	20	19	14	21	161
72	Julius Muhl	10	11	21	20	18	24	20	17	18	21	181
46	Ed. Peters	22	24	24	23	22	24	21	22	20	20	211
16	C. Motta	24	24	24	01	01	22	22	24	22	22	181
24	John Heiler	21	19	14	20	19	23	21	13	19	20	181
43	Wm. S. Sackler	24	0	24	23	24	22	25	23	23	25	211
5	Edmund Blum	22	24	23	22	22	21	17	17	24	19	201
9	Anton Heiser	23	24	22	21	23	22	23	24	19	16	207
14	Leo Letman	17	22	18	17	23	23	22	20	13	17	181
73	H. Muhl	19										

The photo shows the top of the first of four pages of the Koenig Scheib from the 1915 tournament. This same book was used to record the scores for the Zehn Sheiss Scheib (ten shot target) of the monthly matches of the DSG from August 19, 1894 to October 7, 1923 and the Medal (King) target for the Grand Schuetzenfests of 1927 and 1929.

Financial reports show that the target markers, scorers, and ladies that sold the score cards were all paid. Security was also hired.

Entry fees varied 'fest to 'fest. To give some idea of the fees, in the descriptions that follow the entry fees for the CSSU Schuetzenfest in Davenport in 1915 are given. Every shot taken at the tournament was connected with an entry fee.

With entry fees and prizes totaling in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000 for these tournaments, there was a significant amount of money around. There is this story from the Dubuque Telegraph for 1899, during the second CSSU tournament.

A little event occurred Friday night at the Shooting Park which came very near resulting in the robbery of the cash drawer in the secretary's office. There was a large surging around the place and a local crook who is said to make his headquarters at an Eighth Street saloon had dressed himself up in female attire for the purpose of working a graft on someone. He appeared at the secretary's office and was in the act of making way with the funds when his identity was discovered. He made his way through the crowd and soon disappeared and no doubt changed his clothes to cover his work. (June 26, 1899)

The basic program for the tournaments included the Koenig Scheib, Stich Scheib, Ehren Scheib, Volks Scheib, Mann Scheib, and Kehr Scheib. These contests were used by the OMSB, WSB, and CSSU. The team scheib was held in tournaments of the CSSU and the WSB, but not at the tournaments of the OMSB.

## UNION TARGETS

The Koenig Scheib, Stich Scheib, and Ehren Scheib were member-only events. Collectively they were known as the Union targets, though at various tournaments any combination of them might be referred to as "the union target(s)" depending on the tournament program. In 1915 the entry for all three union targets was sold as a group for \$10.

**Koenig Scheib (King target).** At the events of the OMSB, WSB, and CSSU, this was a 10 shot event, without reentry. Shot on the German ring target, to win the king was the highest honor of the tournament. The German ring target consisted of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch rings worth from 25 to 1 points. The central white bull worth 25 points was 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. The black was 12 inches in diameter, which means that the 18 ring and up were within the black. A 12-inch black was common to most of the targets to be compatible with iron sights.

The King won a gold medal plus \$15. Second place won \$30. There were 50 prizes awarded totaling \$325.

**Ehren Scheib (Honor Target).** The honor target was a three shot event, without reentry, shot on the German ring target. Every entrant received a prize. The top prize, usually \$100, contributed by the CSSU, or \$50 to \$75 for the events of the OMSB. Member clubs would contribute lesser prizes of various amounts. In contributing the prize, the contributing club did not just hand over the money, but would create a framed display.

A photo of the honor prize won by John Regennitter at the OMSB tournament in La Crosse (1892) was included in the article on the OMSB. This tradition may have been discontinued in late events of the CSSU but was in place at least to 1915.

**Stich Scheib.** Each member got three shots on this target, with no reentry. For this contest, a 9-inch cardboard “carton” was placed over a 12 inch black. The Schuetzen would take his three shots consecutively, and the insert was placed in a box for later measuring. The best shot from each entrant was measured to the hundredth of an inch from center, with the closest to the center winning. There was commonly also a premium prize of \$3 for three hits on the insert. In 1915 there were 40 prizes awarded, with the top prize of \$35 and a total of \$275 in prizes

## RE-ENTRY CONTESTS

**Volks Scheib (Peoples target).** This consisted of 3 shots on the German ring target, with unlimited re-entry. The 1915 entry fee was \$2 for the first entry and \$1 for each re-entry. All events with re-entry allowed a schuetzen to win only one prize in that event. In some early events there was a special added prize for the schuetzen who had the best three cards. In later tournaments the first prize was awarded to the schuetzen who had the best three cards and second to the schuetzen who had the best two cards. The rest of the prizes were divided according to the schuetzen’s best card. In 1915 there were 60 prizes given for this target, from \$65 down to \$1, a total of \$500.

**Mann Scheib (Silhouette target).** This consisted of three shots on a target which was the silhouette of the torso of a man. The silhouette was divided into vertical ½ inch stripes with the center stripe worth 20 points. There was also a “heart” consisting of a white circle spanning three vertical stripes. A heart shot also counted 20 points and served as the first tie breaker between equal scores. There was unlimited reentry. This is the same man target used by the DSA today. In 1915, the prizes were the same as for the People’s Target.



**Kehr Scheib.** In English this target was referred to as the “practice” or “points” target or “practice points” target. The target on this event consisted of a 12 inch black, divided into three rings, 4, inches, 8 inches, and 12 inches in diameter. These rings were worth 3 points, 2 points and 1 point. A shot placed outside the black did not score. The target marker signaled the score on this target by a red, blue or white flag for 3, 2, or 1 point respectively. The prize in this event was typically a Golden Medallion, struck for the tournament, which would serve also as a souvenir of the event. Any

shooter that reached a set number of points, usually 200 or sometimes 300 points received a Golden Medallion, regardless of the number of shots it took. Typically a 20 shot scorecard would cost \$1.00. Since there was no shooting from the bench or sighting-in at the tournament, there was a lot of shooting at this target!

The shooting program for the 1915 Schuetzenfest in Davenport says that for the first day of the tournament 14 of the 20 windows were for the points target. The number of positions of the other targets was to be increased, and the number on the points target correspondingly reduced, as the demand required.



At the 1915 tournament in Davenport, the points target was run differently than at any of the other CSSU tournaments. A points championship trophy valued at \$100 (see photo) was awarded for the highest number of points in 100 shots: 29 other prizes totaling \$130 were also awarded for this 100 shot contest. The trophy was silver with a gold lining. A souvenir gold medal was awarded for the first hit by any schuetzen in the 4-inch ring on the target. The entry into the 100 shot points contest cost \$10. Separate practice cards could be purchased for \$1 for 20 shots. The practice cards returned 2.5 cents per point scored. Following the tournament, the regular 100 shot tournament was also held.

## **TEAM SCHEIB**

The team contest was open to members of clubs in good standing in the CSSU; each club could enter as many teams as it wished. The entry fee was usually \$6 for the team with prizes awarded equaling 75 percent of the entry fees plus \$200 in 1915. The team contest was held on one of the mornings or afternoons of the tournament. Other shooting was suspended until the team contest was complete. Each team consisted of six schuetzen; normally each firing ten shots on the German ring target, though one team match was conducted with each team member firing 20 shots. If one of the six team members was absent, the remaining five could each fire two shots for a “dummy” to be the sixth. The 1929 and 1931 contests were held with five-man teams. During the Team scheib each team had its own target. Some programs indicate that the team’s target was to be presented to the team after the tournament. The winning team was awarded a travelling championship banner that would be retained if won three times successively by the same team.

## **OTHER CONTESTS**

To add interest, and increase revenue, various other targets and contests were added at the discretion of the organizing committee. This happened at the tournaments of the CSSU in 1907 and after. Some examples follow. All of these were unlimited re-entry.

**Milwaukee Target.** This target was used in 1907 at the biennial 'fest in Milwaukee. No description of the target is available, but the target was such that the low score won. The scores are listed as "deg" and numerically are to three decimal places.

**Highland Target (1909 and 1919) and St Louis Target (1913).** This target had a 12 inch diameter black divided into 25 rings, scoring one to 25. Each ring was therefore  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide. Two shots were fired on the target with the highest total score winning. This contest was used at the schuetzenfests in Highland, Illinois in 1909 and 1919 and in Saint Louis in 1913.

**Monroe Target.** Used at the 1911 tournament in Monroe, WI, this target was the regulation German ring target, except that inside the 1.5 inch 25 ring was a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch diameter ring worth 26 points. The contest was the total of two shots. The same contest was used at the 1917 tournament up the road in New Glarus, WI when it was called the **New Glarus Target.**

**Jubilee Target.** Named in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the first Great American Schuetzenbund at Highland, Illinois in 1863, this target was used in St Louis in 1913 and New Glarus in 1923. The target was a 12-inch black divided into 50 rings. Each ring was  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide. The contest was for one shot.

**Davenport Target.** This contest was used at all the Grand Schuetzenfests in Davenport starting in 1915. The contest was one shot. The Target was a 12-inch black divided into  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch rings, with a maximum score of 25 points. In 1915 the entry fees were \$1 for the first entry and \$0.50 for unlimited re-entries. In 1915 the top prize was \$50. There were 40 prizes awarded totaling \$325. The target is the same as the Highland and Saint Louis Targets, but the contest is one shot instead of two. This is the same target the DSA now uses for the one shot event at the monthly shoots.

**Wisconsin Target (1917) or Illinois Target (1919) or Jubilee (1925).** Used at New Glarus in 1917 and Highland, IL in 1919 and Saint Louis in 1925, this was a 12-inch black with a 3-inch white center. The 3-inch center was divided into 6 rings of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch numbered from 45 to 50. Only shots in the white center counted. The contest was one shot.

**Mutt and Jeff.** Used in the Saint Louis tournament in 1925 and New Glarus, WI in 1923, this contest was for two man teams, each member of the team shooting one shot. The target used was the  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch ring target. The score for the team was the total of the two shots.