

## **Competition report – Turkey and Paris, Archery World Cups**

Earlier in the year I competed in two of the World Archery World Cups, firstly in Turkey in April and secondly in Paris in July. These were my first experiences competing for Australia and while it was certainly weird to be putting on the green and gold, it was exciting to be a part of a new team.

### **Turkey**

The first event of a year and my first time back on the international circuit following the infamous covid pandemic was an interesting experience, travel for starters is more complicated than I had been use to, having to wear masks everywhere and seemingly having to provide evidence of vaccinations every 5 minutes as if it was required to breath was rather cumbersome. But once we arrived in Antalya, things seemed a bit more normal with the hotel being overrun with archery teams and the ever-changing schedule of complicated bus routes, training venues and competition times being the norm.

After a couple of days of acclimatization and practice it was finally time to get into the real tournament; for those who may not be aware the format for international tournaments is a little different to what you might have seen in Australia. Firstly they take place over 6 days, with a ranking round the first day (being 72 arrows shot at 70m), followed by a day of team head to head match play (3 people of the same gender from each country), mixed team match play (1 of each gender from each country) and then individual match play, culminating in a weekend of finals matches (for those lucky enough to be in them at least).

For myself I shot a respectable if not overly exciting ranking round landing me in the middle of the pack going into the head to heads. Sadly in the individual competition I found myself in a shoot off in one of tightest matches on the field, to which I shot a 9 to my opponents X. This was certainly disappointing but sometimes its just the way the game plays. In the team competition we had a much better fairing, finishing in 9<sup>th</sup>, with some excellent scoring ends, particularly from a team who had never shot together before.

All in all it was an enjoyable trip, with a particular highlight being able to watch Ryan (one of my teammates), win the silver medal.

### **Paris**

Our trip to Paris ended up being a rather different experience to Turkey, with the tournament being held in a stadium in the centre of the city, as oppose to on the beach in Turkey. The format for this tournament was the same as for Turkey, but this time there was a much better turn out from the top countries.

I found myself in a very similar position in this tournament, with a very similar ranking score and position. The highlight for myself in this tournament, was definitely in our team round, where we took a commanding win over Brazil, before coming up against the infamous South Koreans. As team we shot strong and had some great results, but when faced with some perfect scores it is always hard to get many points on the board. Again we finished ninth following the tough fight.

I know there is a lot more to come in terms of my shooting, and I am looking forward to my next major tournament, the Field world Championships in October. Field is a rather different style of

Archery, and following my failed plan to “just do field for a bit of fun”, I can say this will be my debut on the international stage.