

Live final of the PARDINI Slovakia online league 2020/2021

When the government of the Slovak Republic introduced lockdown in October 2020, we had a choice to either sit at home, and the more hard working ones could just train when they had the conditions to do so, or we had to come up with something so that we could compete and motivate the shooters to continue to enjoy shooting.

From 19.10.2020, we launched the PARDINI Slovakia online league, which had 2 parts and lasted until March 2021. In each of the two parts, there were 8 rounds, the average of the two best and two worst results of each part was counted in the overall result. Based on the results calculated in this way, the overall ranking of the online league in the four events, AP40, AP60, AR40 and AR60, was created. In total, more than 150 shooters from five countries participated in the online league.



The online league was competed in with no age categories, both young shooters and representatives competed together in the same events, with the national team members receiving a deduction of 5 points from the final score. The top 16 shooters from the overall event ranking were nominated for the live final.

In the live finals, we chose a non-traditional format of mixed pairs, where unlike in classic mixed pair form, where mixed pairs compete in the same event, we chose mixed pairs so that the pair consisted of one rifle shooter and one pistol shooter.

Such a format is probably unique in the world, but we wanted to try something new, something that could bring variety as well as allow the getting to know of the rifle and pistol shooters, who normally often form separate groups and do not know each other very well. At the beginning of the online league, we determined that a mixed pair would consist of a shooter in the 60 event and a shooter in the 40 event, e.g. AP60+AR40.

We had several options as to how to create mixed pairs, from drawing lots, to administrative determination according to the chosen key, to selecting the actual shooters among themselves. In the end, we chose a combination of these options. There were 64 shooters nominated, so 32 mixed pairs. We divided the 32 pairs into 4 groups (baskets) of 8 pairs of the same combination of disciplines.



We were aware that some disciplines, e.g. AR60, lead to higher scores and so it could happen that more such pairs would get to the finals for first and third place than pairs from other events. Therefore, we determined that the top 8 pairs to advance from the 30-shot basic qualification would be the top two pairs from each basket, as opposed to the top 8 pairs from all competing pairs advancing to the next round, e.g. to the Olympics.

The modified advancement system (compared to the system that will be in the Olympics) ensured that a representative of each of the original 4 events of the online league would definitely shoot for gold, but who exactly that would be depended on the shooters themselves and their performance.

From the basic qualification of 30 shots, which was shot by all 32 pairs on paper targets on pull-up target devices, only 8 pairs passed to the next round, unfortunately the other 24 pairs finished in the competition and could already have a fun and win prizes in the raffle.

The second round was for 20 shots, with the top two pairs from each basket and baskets competing against each other into each basket. The better of these pairs passed to the third round, the worse ones finished their competition and finished in fifth to eighth place overall, and at the results announcement took away shooting belts from a shooting accessories manufacturer and RWS pellets from the competition organizer.

The better pairs passed to the third round, in which it was for 10 shots which pairs would advance to the finals to compete for the first place and which pairs would advance to the finals for third place.

In the finals, these four couples fought for valuable prizes donated by the main sponsors of the competition.

The prize for the winners was a PARDINI GPR1 air rifle and a K12 air pistol,

for the second pair it was electronic Inband targets in Bluetooth version,

for the third pair electronic shooting simulators SCATT BASIC

and for the fourth pair shooting cases and a voucher for bioresonance diagnostics

The pairs Vladimír Rozina with Jakub Hudymač and Martin Kubeš Sr. with Emou Fungáčová qualified to the final for the third place and the pairs Diana Beniková with Martin Cunda and Martin Kubeš Jr. with Milan Prusek qualified to the final for the first place.

The highlight of the third elimination round was a direct father-son duel to see who would advance to the finals for the first place, and it was the son who advanced. Such a thing probably doesn't happen normally, but the father didn't give the son a free card.



I think the spectators had quite a good time at the final and made life a bit difficult for the shooters in the finals, because I'm sure that for many of them this was their first experience with loud cheering and escalating applause during the shooting.

The final escalated as it should have, the duel for the first place was very dramatic, decided only by the last series of final shots, and certainly was deservedly won by the lucky pair Diana Beniková with Martin Cunda, beating the pair of young men Martin Kubeš Jr. with Milan Prusek.

Diana Benikova should be singled out, she scored a ten in every shot in the final, alongside that she managed to encourage and motivate her young pair player and I think she showed that she has great mental resilience and it would be worth the national coaches taking more notice of her and giving her more chances to prove herself. She will now have the air rifle that won gold at the last Olympics, so she has a good foundation to be even better.

The duel for the third place had a much more unambiguous course, from the beginning the pair Vladimír Rozina with Jakub Hudymač was leading over the pair Ema Fungáčová with Martin Kubes Sr.

Now for some statistics in the final,

64 competitions were from a total of 26 clubs, 4 clubs had the most numerous representation, with 5 shooters each, coincidentally:

2 Slovak clubs - ŠKP Bratislava and Strelecká akadémia PaedDr. Štefana Bumbála from Nové Mesto nad Váhom and 2 Czech clubs, namely Olymp Ostrava and SSK Policie Ostrava



34 Slovak and 30 Czech shooters competed, 25 shooters were under 18 years old, 22 shooters were from 19 to 45 years old and 17 shooters were over 45 years old. 44 were men and 20 women.

In the four-person final there were 3 mixed Czech-Slovak pairs and one purely Czech pair.

Only one of the finalists forgot his prize, so we will somehow have to deliver it to him to Pilsen, two shooters who placed in the 5-8 place didn't receive their prize and diplomas, we will also solve this somehow.

In the raffle, everyone received prizes, thank you to everyone who contributed to the raffle, since nothing was left here, all the raffle prizes were probably interesting.

A lot of people contributed to the smooth running of the competition, it would take a lot of space to list them all, so I hope they won't be offended by everyone I won't mention by name, I would only mention four of them:

Pavel Kučo and his team, who prepared the hall and the perfect conditions for us, we can see that they are an experienced and well-knit team and within two months they organized two of the biggest air rifle competitions in Slovakia

Josef Valvoda and his team of referees, who took care of the paper results and the smooth sporting course of the competition; they clearly did not do this for the first time. As for the paper targets, I also want to thank Mr. Benca, Slovak shooting federation president, for agreeing to use two DISAQ scoring machines despite the fact that the online league and its live finals were held without the support of Slovak shooting federation.

Jaroslav Mišove, who provided us with immediate transfer of results from the electronic Inband targets to the results lists. This was only the second time that the Inband electronic target competition was held in Slovakia, so the results processing is still being fine-tuned, but the electronic targets worked without a single fault, the shooters were satisfied, so we can deploy them in the autumn for competitions in clubs that will be interested in borrowing them.

And finally, I'll mention Angemy, the company that took care of the beautiful starting numbers, stickers and all the advertising banners of the competition sponsors.

I believe all shooters will treasure the sticker on their gun because stickers are unique, every shooter had their own and no one else in the world will have one.

The competition had an unconventional format, probably unique in the world, the combination of a rifle shooter and a pistol shooter in a mixed pair is an experiment that may take off, because everyone liked such a combination and the shooters got a chance to get to know each other.

There were no protests except for a complaint about the music on the shooting range, which one coach didn't like, claiming the music made it difficult for the shooters to concentrate, which is actually true, so we turned the music down and then turned it off altogether, because then it was replaced by the cheering of the spectators during the finals.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who participated in the competition, all 64 nominees turned up, the substitute players present in the hall did not get the opportunity, although we almost needed 3 rifle shooters, because three shooters entered the second shift already when the shooting was running and almost missed it.

The participants also asked the same question - whether the competition will take place again in future years, so we have to think about the format, approach sponsors. I believe that it will not be necessary to shoot only online as it was in this first year, but if so, we already have experience that we can use.

We have received a lot of reactions to the organisation of the competition, it would probably be worth publishing at least one of them:

Good day to all organizers and especially to Mr. Mlynarcik, the Pardini online league was a great fulfilment of an otherwise poor winter. Perfect organization suggested that the final will be a nice competition, but with a slightly different form and unprecedented prizes.

From the point of view of a "competitor", participation in the final match seemed easy to me, because it was not about points for the score ladder and there could not even be a bad

comparable result on 40/60 shots. Just a relaxed competition between people who often know each other personally, or at least from the online league.

I realized that everything was different when I (considering the summer weather and the distance of 600 km) walked in sandals into the beautiful hall, where the atmosphere was like at the national championship. I was ashamed and regretted that I didn't have at least a club shirt.

Well, at least I'll show that I'm hitting the target, no reason to be shy. It was already clear in the shooting that I was wrong again and that I can't fool my own head so easily.

The combination of hope for a fantastic prizes for winners and the knowledge of responsibility to the other member of the pair proved to be devastating. I've seen it happen to others, but only the really good ones have been able to do something about it, and often even that didn't help. You couldn't do it without a little luck.

The match was completely different, unpredictable, full of emotions and especially for those who were lucky enough to advance to the next rounds, it brought a great opportunity to experience the stress of the final several times in one day, which must be a tough lesson for e.g. the youth. As for the form of the eventual continuation, I have no clear impression for the premiere and it is up to the more experienced ones and I am already headed out to the ball.

Special thanks to the sponsors for the raffle and prizes for the placement - such quality and quantity probably none of us have seen at shooting competitions before. Thank you for a great competition. M. Kubes Sr. and M. Kubes Jr.

From this and similar reactions, it is obvious that the PARDINI online league fulfilled its purpose, motivated shooters to train and compete at a time when nothing was organized, and finally gave them the best the opportunity to test their skills and the opportunity to try what many have not even experienced and at the same time have fun. Let's have fun with shooting and this is one way to do so.

More about the competition, detailed results, photos, documents, reactions of participants can be found at www.onlineliga.sk

So, in the end, maybe it's just the results that the photo conveys:



From the left

second Milan Prusek, Martin Kubeš Jr.,

first Martin Cunda, Diana Beniková

and on the right third Jakub Hudymač and Vladimír Rozina, all with very valuable prizes.