



FREE THIS ISSUE! 2020 SEASON WALLPLANNER

Clay

FABARM L4S

Mike Yardley reviews a fast handling Italian Sporter

SHOOTING

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BASC
BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SHOOTING CLUBS

Champion Colt
Tristan Hockey
reveals his training
regime for success

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Nation's Favourite
**SHOOTING
GROUND
REVEALED!** 2020

the
Great British
Shooting Awards

WINNERS!

INSIDE: We announce
the Shotgun, Ammo,
Innovation of the Year
and more

HOW TO GET

SPONSORED!

It's not all about winning shoots and taking selfies
— top shots share their best tips for getting noticed

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HOW ORSTON PLAN TO
MAKE IT UNFORGETTABLE



EDINBURGH CUP
STUDENTS HAVE A
BALL AT BRAIDWOOD

DARTFORD
FLOODLIT SHOOTING
BESIDE THE THAMES



ISSUE 146

Digital Edition



Perazzi

HIGH TECH 2020

As a celebration of their unrivalled history in Olympic shooting competitions and in honor of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Perazzi are proud to unveil the new High Tech 2020

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The new High Tech 2020 is available in both High Tech and High Tech Sporting versions; this gun with its distinctive engraving, offers all the usual Perazzi advantages.

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Welcome

S

pring is just around the corner, and not a moment too soon! After all the grey, wet and windy weather, I can't wait to get out shooting on a lovely warm spring morning with the sun shining, birds singing and buds bursting. One of the side benefits of our sport is that it gets us out in the fresh air to enjoy the countryside. We are lucky here in the UK to have some stunning shooting grounds set in lovely scenery. I'm always amazed how the wildlife doesn't seem remotely bothered by all that banging. I've shot on a stand where blue tits are nesting in the soundproofing, just feet from the muzzle, and many's the time shooting has been halted while a herd of fallow deer run across in front of the traps.

Before we get too carried away about the coming season, however, there's some unfinished business from last year. It's time for the annual round of awards recognising those who have excelled in the past twelve months – not just in competition but volunteering, coaching, running grounds, cooking meals, setting courses, bringing us ever better guns and cartridges, and all the other things that make our sport what it is.

This issue is a celebration of all that. We report on the annual CPSA Awards, where Amy Easeman deservedly won the coveted Clay Shooter of the Year award.

Then there's our own Nation's Favourite Shooting Ground awards, with more regional and category winners than you can shake a stick at, on page 28.

Plus of course there were our Great British Shooting Awards, presented at the British Shooting Show at the NEC in mid-February. That one is run in association with our sister magazines Sporting Rifle, Airgun Shooter and Gun Trade News, and covers the whole range of shooting sports. Clay shooters will be particularly interested in the Shotgun of the Year and Shotgun Ammo of the Year awards, as well as the Innovation and Retailer categories, and you can find all the details on page 12.

Of course there's much more than awards in this month's issue. Our main feature, on page 16, is a subject we're often asked about – How do I get sponsored? We talked to the head honchos at some of the main sponsoring companies in the sport, as well as asking some of the most heavily sponsored shooters for their tips. If you'd like to get sponsorship for your shooting, it's packed with invaluable advice.

All that plus the usual mixture of advice, tips, technical reviews, shooter profiles, buying guides and more, aimed at every level from the complete beginner to seasoned expert. We've enjoyed putting this issue together and I hope you enjoy reading it – and as always, I'll be delighted to hear any feedback and suggestions you have to make the magazine even better. 📷

James Marchington, Editor



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Clay SHOOTING

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Tristan Hockey defending his Colt Championship title at the Game Fair – see page 44. Photo: James Marchington

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With our onsite shooting ground you are able to try before you buy with various makes, models and specifications available



New Blaser £6,495

F3 Super Sport – Left handed, 32" Barrels, Extended multi chokes, Adjustable rib for altering point of impact, Centre bead, Blued action for modern look, True left handed opening, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Palm swell, Adjustable Monte-Carlo stock, Well figured honey wood, Stock & barrel weighting system, Handles effortlessly.

Used Beretta £5,795

DT11 ACS – Left handed, 30" Barrels, Extended multi choke, Adjustable high rib for altering point of impact, Centre bead, Detachable trigger group for easy maintenance, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Adjustable comb for altering gun fit, Dark wood, B-fast stock weighting system, Very good condition.



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New Browning £3,295

Ultra XS – 32" Barrels, Extended multi chokes, Flat tapered rib with centre tramline, Centre bead, Beavertail forend for enhanced feel, Modern engraving with gold accenting, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Full stock & barrel weighting system, Stunning wood.

Used Krieghoff £16,995

K80 Supersport – 30" Barrels, Extended titanium multi chokes & hanger, Detailed Renaissance scroll engraved action with Gold accenting, Gold ventilated trigger, Barrel selector, Adjustable comb for altering gun fit, Stunning honey & black figured wood, Effortless feel, Immaculate condition.

Used Krieghoff £8,125

K80 Supersport – Left handed, 32" Barrels, Extended titanium multi chokes & hanger, Arabesque engraved action, Vented trigger, Barrel selector, Palm swell for added comfort, Adjustable roll over comb for altering gun fit, Well figured wood, Great condition.

Used Perazzi £8,250

High Tech S Black Edition – 31" Barrels, Fixed choke 1/2 & 1/2, Flat tapered rib, Blued matte action for modern look, 14 7/8" Pistol grip stock with deep marbling grain throughout, Effortless balance, Great condition.

Used Perazzi £4,995

MX12 Sport – 32" Barrels, Extended Teague multi chokes, Flat tapered rib, Blued action with scroll engraved borders, Barrel selector, 15" Pistol grip stock with dark wood, Responsive handling, Very good condition.

New Beretta £7,765

DT11 Gold Trap – 30" Barrels, Fixed choke 3/4 & full, Flat parallel rib, Limited edition with gold styled engraving with only 250 made, Wide action for ultra smooth shooting & recoil absorption, Palm swell, Adjustable trigger, B-fast stock weighting system, Very stable feel.

Used Krieghoff £7,500

K80 Supersport – 30" Barrels, Extended titanium multi chokes, Titanium hanger, Flat tapered rib with centre tramline, Centre bead, Arabesque style engraved action, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Palm swell, Adjustable comb, Honey & black deeply figured wood, Immaculate condition.

New Perazzi £9,185

MX2000 S Sport – 30 3/4" Barrels, Fixed choke 3/4 & full, Flat tapered rib, Blued action with hand engraved scroll, Barrel selector, 15" Pistol grip stock with upgraded SC2 wood, Very refined handling.

Used Perazzi £11,750

MX12 SC3 Sport – 30 3/4" Barrels, Fixed choke 3/4 & 3/4, Flat tapered rib, Slim beavertail forend for enhanced grip, No 101 hand scroll engraved action, Pierced top lever, Barrel selector, 15" Pistol grip stock with dark well figured wood, Palm swell for added comfort, Effortless balance, Immaculate condition.

Used Perazzi £4,950

MX12 Sport – 32" Barrels, Extended Teague chokes, Flat tapered rib with centre tramline, Nickel finished action with blued parts & engraved borders, Barrel selector, Adjustable comb for customising gun fit, 14 5/8" Pistol grip stock with honey wood, Handles superbly, Great condition.

New Krieghoff £14,245

K80 Parcours – 32" Barrels, Flush fitting multi chokes Flat tapered rib, Sovereign scroll style action, Strong action lockup, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Palm swell for extra comfort, Adjustable comb, Upgraded wood, Superb handling.

Used Krieghoff £7,750

K80 Trap Special – 30" Barrels, Steel multi chokes, Steel hanger, Adjustable rib for altering point of impact, Beavertail forend for added control, Black Arabesque engraved action with Germanic scroll and Gold border giving unique look, Adjustable trigger, Palm swell for added comfort, Adjustable Monte-Carlo with roll over comb for head up position, Beautiful honey coloured wood, Immaculate condition.

Used Beretta £5,650

DT10 EELL Trap – 30" Barrels, Fixed choke 3/4 & full, Flat tapered rib, Beavertail forend for added control, Fine scroll engraved sideplates for traditional look, Detachable trigger group for quick access, Palm swell for added comfort, Adjustable trigger, Honey coloured wood, Superb condition.

Used Perazzi £6,450

MX8 SC3 – 29 1/2" Barrels, Fixed choke 3/8 & 5/8, Flat parallel rib, Hand finished scroll engraved action, Blued parts, Detachable trigger group for easy maintenance, 15 1/2" Pistol grip stock with deep figuring, Very responsive feel, Very good condition.

New Guerini £5,295

Invictus III Ascent – 32" Barrels, Extended multi chokes, Ramped tapered rib with centre tramline, Centre bead, Beavertail forend for added control, Scroll engraved action depicting gold Dragons, Barrel selector, Adjustable trigger, Fully adjustable comb for customised fit, Well figured wood, Very stable feel, Suitable for shooting multiple disciplines.



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Young shots stand out at 2020 CPSA Awards



my Easeman was crowned Clay Shooter of the Year at the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association Annual Awards on 1 February at the Belfry Hotel in Sutton

Coldfield. The junior shooter won the World Compak Lady Champion title in 2019 at the age of 18, a remarkable achievement marked by the prestigious award which in previous years has gone to noted shooters such as Mark Winsor, Richard Bunning, Ed Ling and Abbey Ling.

Ami Hedgecock was named Emerging Shooter of the Year, a recognition not only of her championship titles over 2019, but also of her great sportsmanship. The CPSA noted that this was a superb feat for a Colt to have won in a category that is open to all ages.

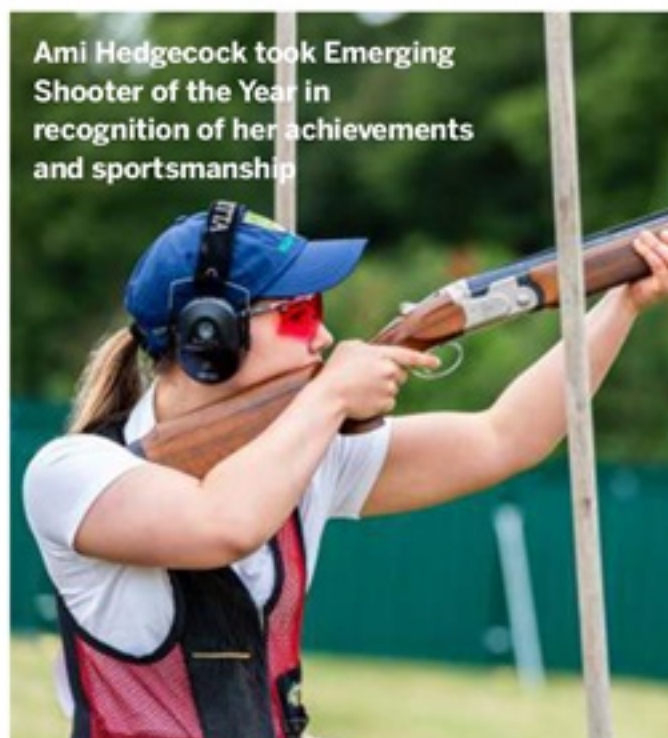
Former British Schools & Young Shots champion Alfie Tibbles won Young Shot of the Year, in his last year of eligibility for the award as he has just moved up to Juniors and is already winning prizes in that category.

Popular CPSA Referee Tony Axcell was named Sports Personality of the Year, a recognition of his cheerful and professional manner of officiating that exemplifies the best of CPSA referees. Coach of the Year went to Lee Wilcoxson, who gave up his previous career just six years ago to train as a CPSA coach and become a full-time shooting instructor.

Paul Bailey was named Disabled Shooter of the Year, having achieved a series of championship titles over 2019, including



Clay Shooter of the Year
Amy Easeman became World Compak Lady Champion at the age of 18



Ami Hedgecock took Emerging Shooter of the Year in recognition of her achievements and sportsmanship



Alfie Tibbles was Young Shot of the Year in his last year of eligibility for the award

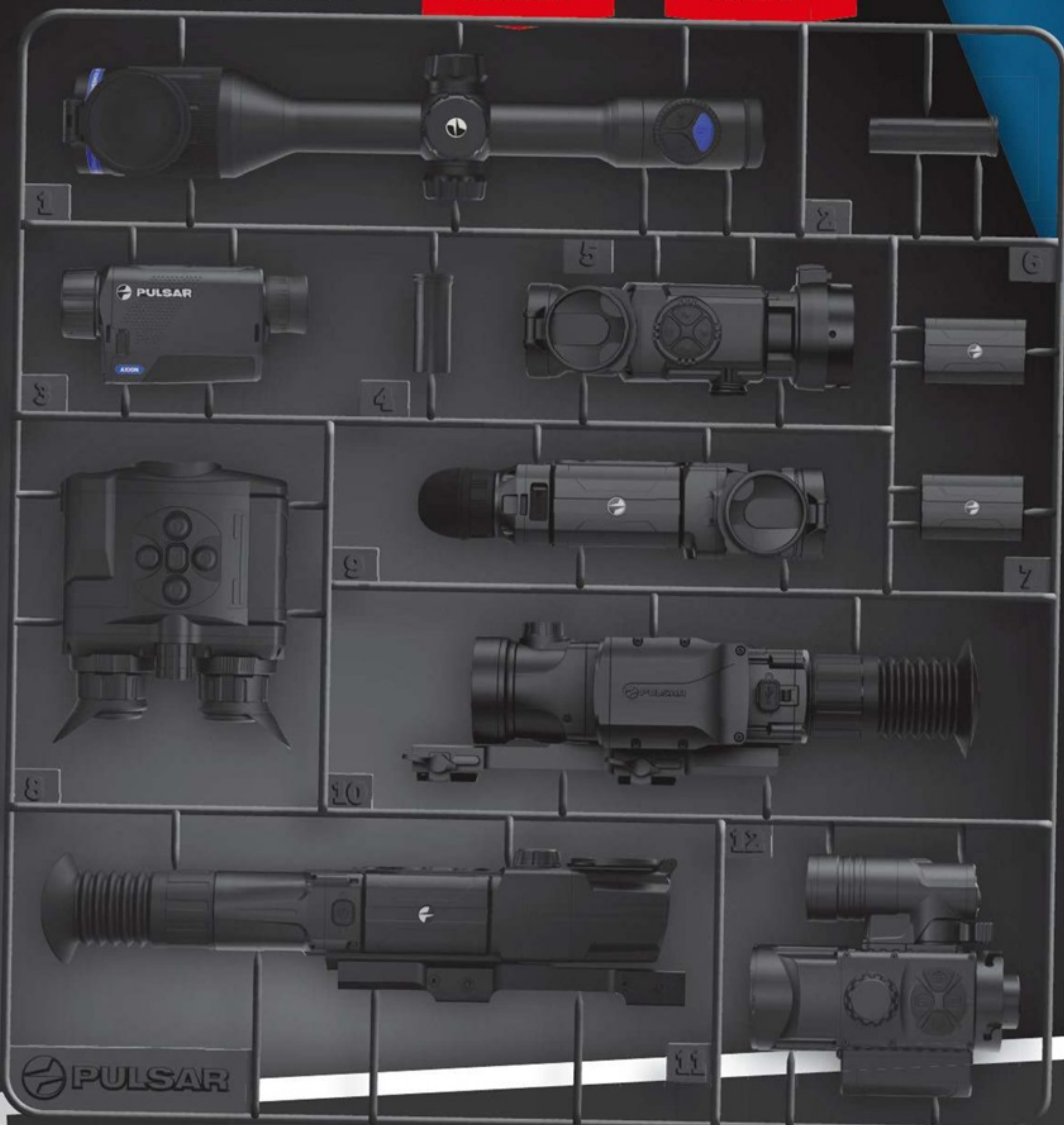


John Bidwell and Andy Coppen were recognised for their excellent British Open courses

wins outside the Disabled category against able-bodied competitors. Sporting Targets was named Club/Ground of the Year, with Managing Director Andrew Clifton accepting the award on behalf of the ground that he has built over the past 30 years.

John Bidwell and Andy Coppen won the Course Setter Recognition Award,

which was particularly a recognition of the excellent British Open English Sporting and Sportrap courses that they set in 2019. Their courses were praised for their crowd-pleasing qualities that provided an enjoyable event for the less-experienced shooters in attendance, and yet still challenged shooters of the highest level. 📷



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The new initiative aims to give under-16s a taste of shotgun and airgun shooting for a nominal fee

Kids get 'Passport to Shooting' at the Northern Shooting Show

The Northern Shooting Show has come up with a new scheme to get young people into shooting. Courtesy of BASC, under-16s will get free admission to the show, on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May at the Yorkshire Event Centre in Harrogate.

Then for just £5 they can purchase a 'Passport to Shooting' to shoot clay pigeons with the CPSA coaches on the clay line, shoot air rifles with the amazing Weihrauch HW30, have a go on the BASC shooting simulator on the AimCam stand, shoot Bell Target with the Lincolnshire Bell Target League and watch a game preparation demo from Simon Whitehead.

The show organisers say the offer was only made possible because of the partners who are working with them, and also

thanks to the generous support of the team at AimCam that were kind enough to have sponsored it. AimCam's Jamie Marston said: "We are proud to sponsor this new initiative and look forward to ensuring the Passport to Shooting helps inspire the next generation."

He adds: "AimCam recognises how important it is to give young people a chance to experience our fantastic sport and engage in our exciting way of life. The Northern Shooting Show is the perfect place to do that and we have worked with their team to be able to give young visitors to the show that chance."

To find out more about the show – and also to save money on advance tickets! – go to www.northernshootingshow.co.uk

WIN EAST ANGLIAN GAME FAIR TICKETS!

We've got ten family tickets to the East Anglian Game & Country Fair to give away to *Clay Shooting* readers. Each ticket admits two adults and two children aged 5-16 – under 5s go free.

The show is at the Euston Estate near Thetford on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April, and has a full range of trade stands, displays and attractions covering every aspect of the countryside, including a 40-bird clay competition run by the team from High Lodge. There's a special entrance and car park for clay shooters. For more about the show, see www.ukgamefair.co.uk.

To enter our competition and be in with a chance of winning a family ticket to the show, you'll need to answer this simple question:



Which well known clay ground is running the clay competition at the East Anglian Game & Country Fair?

Go to www.ukgamefair.co.uk/cscomp to give your answer and provide your name and address details. Entries close on 10 April. Terms and conditions apply – details on the web entry form.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New shooting glasses have the Edge



Evolution Eyewear have launched new shooting glasses, the Evolution Edge, suitable for clay and game shooting. The new glasses have been 12 months in development and have top grade polycarbonate lenses for optical performance and impact protection. The lenses, available in six colours, resist smudges and fingerprints, are hardened against scratches, and also have an anti-fog coating.

Bisley Shooting Ground's John Heagren has given the glasses his seal of approval: "I'm very impressed. They're so light you hardly know you're wearing them and the lenses really are exceptional quality. Pretty much everything you could want in shooting eyewear, yet at sensible prices." Prices start at £39.95, with a five-lens set costing £129.95. See www.evolutionsunglasses.com

Shooters give VAR the thumbs-up

A poll of *Clay Shooting* readers has given the thumbs-up to VAR (Video Assistant Referee) being used at international shooting finals. Readers voted 78% to 22% in favour of it being introduced, with comments suggesting it could disrupt the flow of a final and add stress for the participants, but would ultimately be more fair.

Tokyo 2020 will see VAR used for the first time in Olympic Games shooting events. The system is similar to those used at major football and tennis matches, and will mean a shooter or coach can dispute a 'lost' target which will then be reviewed on slow motion video, and if necessary the call will be overturned. After trialling VAR in shotgun events last year, the sport's governing body, the ISSF, amended its rules to allow VAR with effect from 3rd February.

Future Publishing's Pete Carr (left) returned to host the awards ceremony for the second time



the Great British Shooting Awards **THE WINNERS**

Browning, Eley Hawk and Gamebore are among the winners as the Great British Shooting Awards 2020 results are revealed

The Great British Shooting Awards crowned their second set of winners on 15 February, with BASC's Duncan Thomas receiving a Lifetime Achievement award and Browning, Tikka, Nightforce, Gamebore and Pulsar among the industry giants to receive an accolade.

First launched in 2018, the Awards' aim is to give recognition to the products, organisations and people that make shooting tick. From cartridges to clothing, scopes to shotguns, the awards represent every corner of the market.

They announced their first winners at the British Shooting Show in February 2019 – and returned bigger and better this year, adding three new categories including an award specific to shotgun ammunition and

another for the most innovative product launched all year.

Hosting the awards for the second year, head judge and Future fieldsports editor-in-chief, Peter Carr, reflected on an eventful 2019 for the gun trade: "It seemed that at every turn, someone was trying to ban what we do, or restrict it, or make it more expensive. But we have plenty to celebrate. I have personally seen some of the amazing work done to fight back against prejudice.

"I've seen visionaries, coming up with the next new product or way to get newcomers hooked on shooting. I've seen captains of industry, branding gurus and digital pioneers. I've seen people working damn hard, keeping their businesses going or out there supporting our countryside and the wildlife in it. At our core, that's what we are – a tribe of hard workers."



Leading figures from the industry attended the ceremony, held at the British Shooting Show



Shooting Apparel of the Year
Deerhunter Pro Gamekeeper Jacket



Shotgun Ammunition of the Year
Gamebore Black Gold



Optics product of the Year – over £1,000
Nightforce SHV 5-20x56 ILL scope



Optics product of the year – Under £1,000
Vortex Diamondback Tactical 64x50 scope



Night vision/Thermal Product of the Year
Pulsar Thermion XP50



Airgun of the Year
Air Arms S510



Rifle of the Year [Sponsored by ATN]
Tikka T3X Cerakote



Shotgun of the Year
Browning 725 ProSport

WHAT THE WINNERS SAID...

David Stapley, Browning
"It's always great to win an award, particularly when it's voted for by your own peers in the industry. It's a proven winner in competitions, and sales volumes are excellent, so we're really pleased to win."

Duncan Thomas, BASC
"What a surprise! To be frank, this is down to a massive effort from an extended team. Someone once said to me, 'Surround yourself in competence', and I really do have a good, skilful, enthusiastic team around me. Our volunteers are absolutely priceless too. What a fantastic result from a team effort."

Geoff Garrod
"I'm humbled, knowing how many good gamekeepers are out there. To have the public vote for me is a great honour. I'm chuffed to bits!"

Rodrigo Crespo, Eley Hawk
"We have to say thank you to all the British shooting community. If we want to make sure the sport is able to survive over a number of years, we have to take part in the eco revolution, and we like to think that embracing the Pro Eco wad is a step in the right direction."

Martyn Buttery, Eley Ltd
"I'm ecstatic. To actually win with our subsonic hollow points is fantastic. Thanks to the team at Eley – all the people on the floor who actually manufacture the product – really, the award is for them."

Mark Davies, Thomas Jacks
"We're delighted. The Thermion has been a massive success for us. It's got a revolutionary design, and it's nice to see the hard work the manufacturers put into it being rewarded."

Browning's 725 ProSport won Shotgun of the Year, while two shotgun cartridge makers were celebrated this time around – Gamebore's Black Gold won the Shotgun Ammunition award, and Eley Hawk's water-soluble Pro Eco wads were crowned the most innovative product.

Pulsar returned as the awards' headline sponsor, and also picked up the Night Vision/Thermal Product of the Year award for the Thermion XP50. The Tikka T3X Cerakote was Rifle of the Year, while Air Arms's S510 won Airgun of the Year for the second year in a row. Deerhunter's Pro Gamekeeper jacket won the Apparel of the Year category. See elsewhere on this page for the full list of winners. 📷

“The public voting for me is a great honour, I'm chuffed.”



The awards recognise the products, organisations and people who make shooting tick



Innovative Product of the Year
Eley Hawk Pro Eco Wad



Gamekeeper of the Year
[Sponsored by BASC] Geoff Garrod



Professional Stalker of the Year
[Sponsored by Norma]
Chris Dalton



Retailer of the Year
[Proudly Sponsored by Streamlight]
Sportsman Gun Centre



Lifetime Achievement Award
Duncan Thomas

Rifle Ammunition of the Year
Eley Subsonic Hollow

Outstanding Contribution to Conservation [Sponsored by Ariat]
Sporting Rifle magazine

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GET SPONSORED!

Bagging a sponsor can put your shooting career on an entirely new trajectory – and **James Simon** explains how to do it

Fame, status, free stuff – what's not to like? It's easy to see the benefits of being sponsored by some of clay shooting's top brands, but harder to understand how to attract them in the first place. We explore the steps you need to take and ask some well-known shooters for their tips on how to get brands excited enough to want to sew their logos on your shooting vest.

1. Show potential

For the vast majority of shooters, sponsorship gives them a huge leg up because it funds their practice sessions. The more practice you put in, the more likely a big win is going to come your way. In theory, the more wins, the more sponsors come calling – a virtuous circle. In reality, although



SHOOTER TIPS

Ami Hedgecock

Awarded CPSA Emerging Shooter of the Year 2019.

Sponsors: Laporte-CPC, Eley Hawk, GMK, Sam Green, Robert Newsham - The Royal Oak Team.

- I wouldn't be able to achieve at the level I am now without sponsorship. Support with clays from Laporte CPC and cartridges from Eley have made competitive shooting affordable.
- I put a lot of effort into shooting, but also into social media and the way that I conduct myself at shoots. These three things have really helped me to gain sponsorship and develop further with my sponsors.
- Never feel too much pressure. Everybody makes mistakes from time to time, so my approach is to be open and honest about any that I do make.



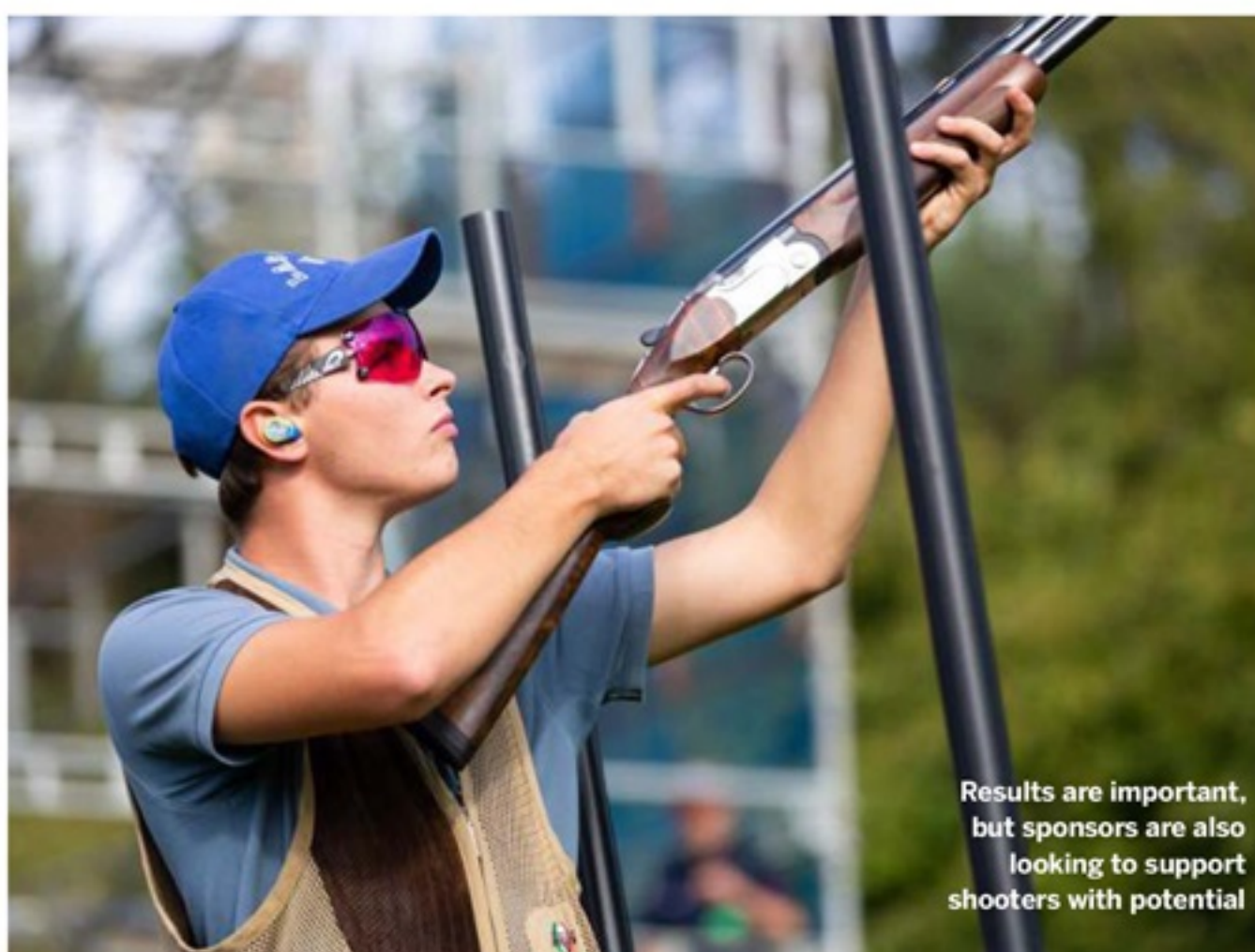
SHOOTER TIPS

Emma Parkinson

Lady International English Skeet Champion, currently ranked No. 1 in CPSA rankings.

Sponsors: Eley Hawk, Ed Lyons, Le Chateau, Manuel Ricardo.

- Never be afraid to approach people – you have absolutely nothing to lose. Get up the courage to have a chat with them at any big event and let them know what you do.
- Try to be as active as possible on social media, and don't be shy to let your personality come across. Always tag the brands you are using, because they will notice and appreciate it.
- Make sure to associate yourself with companies who genuinely care about you and not just themselves. All of my sponsors welcome feedback and are really concerned about my happiness with their products and services.



scores are very important, it's not just about winning, it's about potential.

"If people want to get involved with Eley Hawk then the first step is to submit their shooting CV – essentially, what they've shot, where they've shot and what their goals are," says David Thompson, Marketing Manager at Eley Hawk. "But don't get disheartened if you are young or new to shooting," he adds. "We started sponsoring Amber Hill at 12 years old because we recognised her potential. For us, that's what sponsorship is about – finding potential and supporting those shooters to help them achieve everything they can."

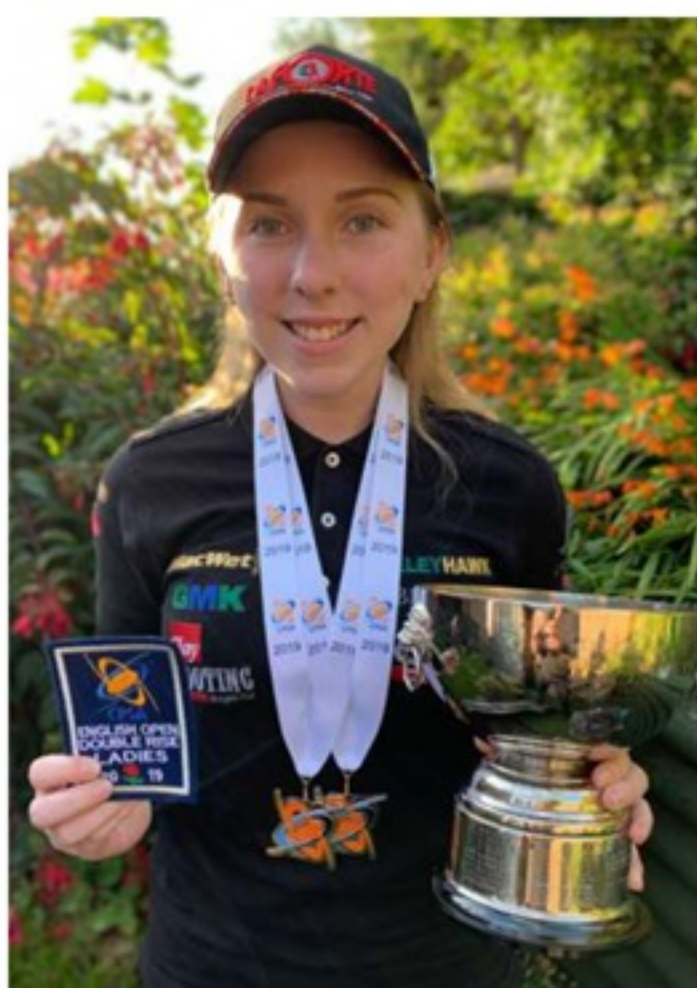
It is a similar story at Laporte-CPC. "A well laid-out CV with your wins and goals gives us a lot of information on which to base a decision," says Gaylia Fallon, general manager. "However, every shooter is assessed individually, and their character is more important than their scores. We consider everyone equally from teenagers to seniors, and it's amazing to watch the development of someone starting out, beginning to improve, competing and then progressing to world championships."

So the first lesson is that proving your potential by demonstrating commitment to the sport can be just as effective as a long list of wins.

2. Be professional

In some markets – music and fashion spring to mind – it's not uncommon for brands to promote themselves with shock tactics and provocative statements. Let's get real, this is unlikely to happen in clay shooting. Not least because safety is paramount, and the sport has to fight hard to protect its image to win public support. What clay shooting needs is upstanding brand ambassadors.

"We look for those who are clearly excelling in their discipline, who present themselves well and conduct themselves in a professional way at shoots," says GMK



SHOOTER TIPS

Leah Southall

DTL England Squad and CPSA Young Shot of the Year 2019 nominee.

Sponsors: Laporte-CPC, GMK, Eley Hawk, Ed Lyons, MacWet, Cens Digital.

- I had quite a big social media presence and I believe this exposure helped me to attract sponsors. I was always posting when I was training and competing.
- Present yourself really well at competitions, and around shooting grounds generally. You just never know who is going to be there to take notice.
- If you are seen as a responsible ambassador for the sport, then brands will want to work with you.
- Remember to be friendly and polite, even if you are having a bad day!



marketing manager Warren Thackeray. "It's important that we select those who are true ambassadors of clay shooting sports as a whole, not just us here at GMK and Beretta."

3. Embrace social media

Love it or hate it, social media is the primary way for brands to reach out to their markets, so a presence on Instagram and Facebook are an absolute must. There has to be a harmonious relationship between your channels and your sponsor's.

"We've seen phenomenal growth in social media in the past few years," says David Thompson. "Our Instagram following is heading towards 30,000. The public now finds out about the sport via posts from key enthusiasts like our sponsored shooters. It generates leads, it generates interest."

"If shooters are being positive on social media about the sport by promoting the great things that they are doing, the great places they have visited and the great people that they have met, then that's exactly what we are looking for. It gets a wider reach and more people take it up. The motivation to promote the sport for everybody, not just Eley, is a green light for us."

GMK rates a positive social media profile. "An active social media presence is enormously helpful," says Warren Thackeray. "Many of our shooters do post their results online, which is a really effective way to reach our wider audience. It's great to see the community spirit we have among our shooters – they all celebrate each other's success with positive comments and congratulations. It also keeps communication

open with our sponsored shooters so we can see their progress."

4. Be tenacious

Gaining sponsorship can be a long, hard slog. But, stay focused, don't get disheartened and keep at it. Learn from every rejection by always politely asking for feedback and then act on the advice you have been given. "Be active," urges Gaylia Fallon. "Sending in CVs, being on social media and saying hello to us at events is always a great place to start. We can't sponsor you if we do not know about you!"

5. Be resilient

There's no such thing as a free lunch, and some find the mental strain that can come with sponsorship an issue. The best sponsors will support your route to success, the worst



SHOOTER TIPS

Lucy Hall

GBR Olympic Trap Shooter.
Sponsors: GMK, Eley Hawk, Promatic, Manuel Ricardo, Corsivia and Pilla.

- Hard work, dedication and results are required before you start to look for sponsorship. But there's more to it than just winning – they want athletes who are true ambassadors for the sport.
- You have to have commitment and belief in yourself. If you show confidence and create a shooting CV, then the sponsors will start to believe in you too.
- It can be really hard, but you have to put yourself out there. If you fail initially then try to get feedback, act on it and try again. Don't give up trying!



A good sponsor will recognise they have responsibilities, particularly to their younger shooters, and not pile on excessive pressure



SHOOTER TIPS

Steve Clark

Champion shot, sponsored shooter and brand ambassador.

Sponsors: Eley Hawk, GMK, CJC Developments.

- Keep banging in those good scores. Sponsors are not bothered by a drop in form, but work hard to get back up there as quickly as possible.
- Be respectful to the people who have helped you so far. Always carry yourself in an appropriate manner and dress smartly.
- If things go wrong, talk. Be upfront. Sponsors are there to help, which is why they are sponsoring you.

just pile on pressure. Ask yourself: are resilient enough for sponsorship? Is this something that you really want?

"People think it must be wonderful to be given loads of free stuff," says David Thompson. "But the reality is that they will have responsibilities to face up to, and be under increased scrutiny on social media.

"We have a responsibility to our shooters, the younger ones in particular, so we make it clear that school and family must come first. We also reassure parents that we are not going to place unreasonable expectations on their children, and we will support them through any difficulties they may encounter. Our relationships are well-managed, so shooters are never under huge pressure to please us. Instead, our aim is to facilitate their success through support, so that both parties benefit from a sustainable career in shooting."

So be resilient, but know when to say no, and when to ask for help.

6. Be yourself

It's easy to put on a façade, to pretend to be a version of ourselves that we think is more attractive. But these personas are exhausting to keep up, often unconvincing and always unsustainable. Those are not positive attributes with which to attract a sponsor that aims to support you through your entire career.

"The watchword we live by is authenticity," says David Thompson. "Is the person looking for sponsorship authentic, are they looking to better themselves, to give their best? Can they be a true ambassador for the sport? If that authenticity is there, then we are willing to back them because we know we will end up with a really positive relationship."

Next steps

Trying to bag a sponsor can certainly be worth the effort. Eley Hawk give more than £15,000 in sponsorship value every year, usually in the form of free or discounted cartridges. Last year Laporte-CPC gave away 250,000 clays. GMK don't fix a yearly quota, but they typically loan guns to their sponsored shooters.

Eley Hawk finalises sponsorship deals in December, so start building your results and your social media presence now so that you are ready to submit your CV in October. Laporte-CPC reviews sponsorship every six months, and GMK is always open to proposals. These three firms are just the tip of the iceberg. Look around and think about which companies might work with you, and when you've done that, then plan your approach. 📌

STOP PRESS!

BASC confirms their sponsorship for 2020
The 'black' course will be known as the BASC Course
Details in next issue



PETER WILSON TO PRESENT PRIZES

The 2012 Olympic gold medallist will be at Orston on 25 April – will you?

T

he 2020 British Schools & Young Shots Championship is the big one for individual young shots and school teams from around the

country – and this year's event will be extra special, with a guest appearance from 2012 Olympic gold medallist Peter Wilson MBE.

The UK's national championships for under-18s will see the country's finest young talent competing over three courses of varying difficulty – Red, Blue and Black – at Orston Shooting Ground in Nottinghamshire on Saturday 25 April. More than just a competition, it will be a showcase for young shooting talent, with with a chance to catch the eye of British Shooting who are attending to explain their

Josh Bennion won the 2019 championship with a phenomenal 50-straight



The competition attracts schools and young shots from around the country

Talent Pathway.

The competition has become renowned for highlighting emerging talent in the world of clay shooting, with previous winners including Brody Woollard, Ronnie Green and Alfie Tibbles. Last year the trophy went to Joshua Bennion, who shot a perfect 50-straight around the course at Atkin Grant & Lang. In the team categories, Bloxham School put in a tremendous performance, winning the Red and Black course prizes and scooping first and second place on the Blue; their shooters took the first three individual placings on Blue as well.

Orston Shooting Ground is on a stunning 53-acre site between Nottingham and Grantham, with great facilities and good access from all over the country. There will be trade stands around the warm and friendly Orston clubhouse, which will be serving food and refreshments all day – plus there's a gun shop where you can

browse the guns, clothing and accessories on display.

As always there will be a host of trophies to be won, as well as sponsored prizes. We're in negotiations with some exciting sponsors and will be announcing the details in due course, but rest assured there will be plenty of tasty prizes on offer!

Get booked in

Entries are filling up fast, and this is one shoot you won't want to miss – so make sure of your place by booking in with Orston Shooting Ground. If you want to shoot with a school team, it's specially important to book ahead, even if you don't yet have full details of all the team members. Download an entry form at www.orston.com/competitions, or for more information contact the ground via email on info@orston.com. You can also call them 01949 851181.

We're thrilled that Olympic gold medallist Peter Wilson will be the celebrity guest at Orston



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John Heagren, Shooting Manager, Bisley Shooting Ground.



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DON'T MISS IT!

The 2020 Clay Shooting Classic is shaping up to be one of the highlights of the year – get booked in now!

Plans are coming together for a truly memorable Clay Shooting Classic at Orston Shooting Ground in Nottinghamshire on 27-31 May. The

Classic has a long history of exciting targets, stiff competition and a terrific atmosphere – and this one is set to live up to expectations, with some big name sponsors such as Pilla already lined up, and prizes including cash and Clever cartridges down to 10th place in all the classes and categories.

Orston's Emily Martin says: "We're really excited and looking forward to hosting the event. For those of you that haven't been to Orston, it's a 53-acre site based between Nottingham and Grantham. We've got great access from all over the country, meaning hopefully lots of you will be able to reach us."

"We've got Sporting and Sportrap running on all days, Wednesday through to Sunday, with Wednesday being the Services day. The Sporting consists of two 75-bird courses and the Sportrap comprises four layouts of 25."

Orston's Dan Martin and his team will be setting the targets. He says: "We hold a lot of competitions here every weekend on Sporting and Sportrap. It's a flat ground but we are bringing in a number of telelifts to add a bit more variation to the targets."

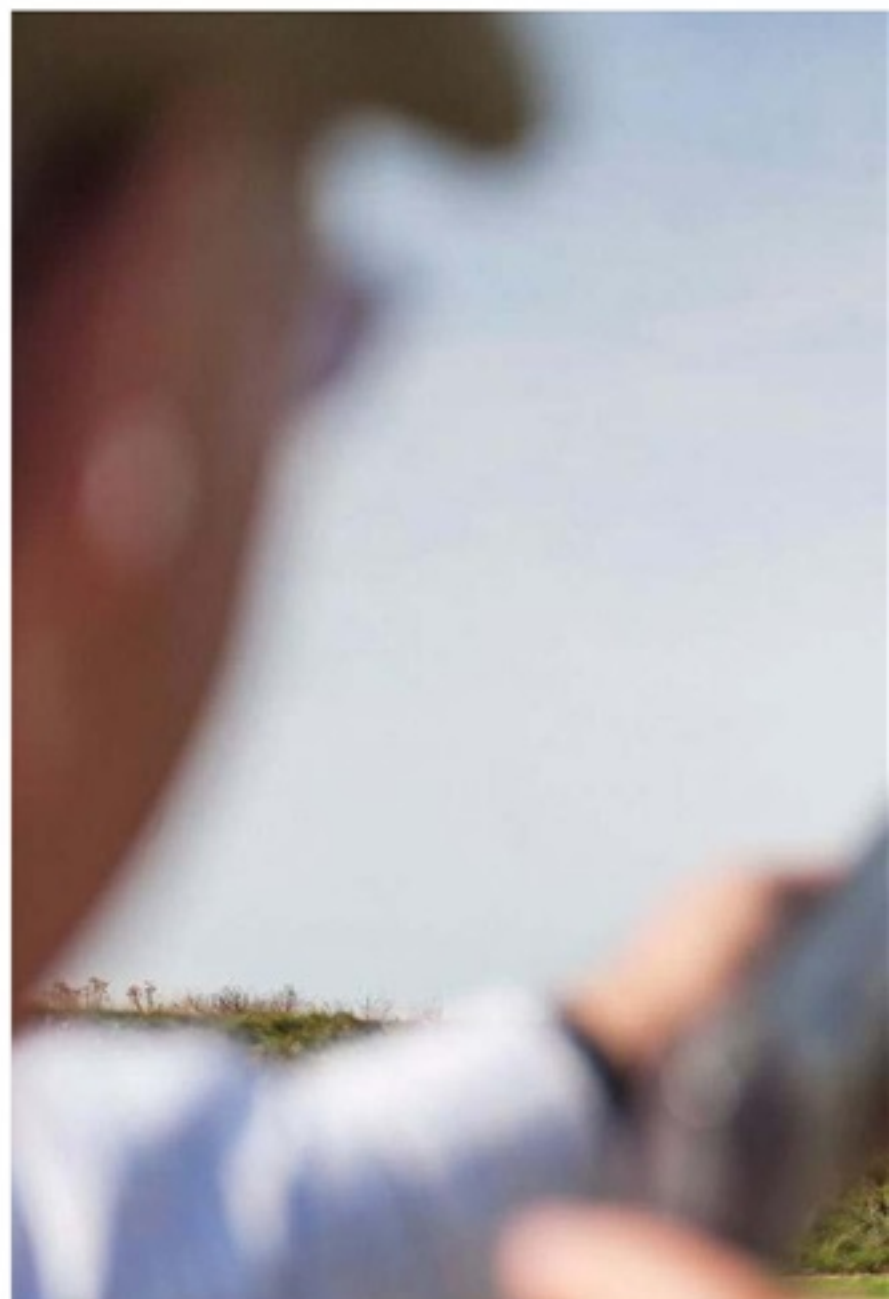
"It's there to be enjoyed. Looking at Classics from the past, you get a broad section of people that come and shoot the course, from the high-end competition shooters to those who shoot club shoots once in a fortnight. It's going to be fun, challenging, interesting – and the format is going to be slightly different."

"There are going to be speciality stands, which we've already got sponsorship for, adding something a bit different. It's about keeping it fun, keeping it exciting, challenging those at the top but remaining nice and enjoyable for those who are doing it just for fun."

Bookings are already open, and Emily says that entries are coming through thick and fast: "Don't be afraid – get booked on. Call us on 01949 851181, or take a look at www.orston.com. We've got three guys in the office, so if you've got any questions at all, just call – we're here to help." 



Orston's Dan and Emily Martin are excited to be hosting this year's Classic



The Classic attracts shooters of every level, and should be enjoyable for all



PRIZE FUND

SPORTING

High Gun	£1,500
2nd	£1,250
3rd	£1,000

LADIES, VETS, JUNIORS

1st	£500
2nd	£300
3rd	£100
4th-10th	250 Clever cartridges

COLTS

1st	£300
2nd	£200
3rd	£100
4th-10th	250 Clever cartridges

CPSA CLASSES AAA, AA, A, B, C

1st	£500
2nd	£300
3rd	£100
4th-10th	250 Clever cartridges

SPORTRAP

High Gun	£500
2nd	£250
3rd	£150

LADIES, VETS, JUNIORS, COLTS

1st	£100
2nd	£75
3rd	£50

CPSA CLASSES AAA, AA, A, B, C

1st	£100
2nd	£75
3rd	£50



Dan will use telehandlers to add variety to the targets

Last year's winner, Richard Faulds, receives the coveted trophy and sponsored high gun prize





The British Association for Shooting & Conservation



Image © Tweed Media

BASC will deliver on:

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Get in touch!

Send your questions for our panel to **fieldsports@futurenet.com** or to the Bromsgrove address on our contents page

Let us know if you have any questions – we have the experts to answer them

Prescription inserts or lenses?

Q I read James Marchington's column in last month's magazine and it struck a chord with me, because I too have tried prescription inserts and been less than delighted with the results. Do you suggest I go to a shooting vision expert like yourself for inserts better suited to the sport, or would I do better to bite the bullet and go for shooting glasses with full prescription lenses?

A James was quite right that the prescription as measured by a high street optician is meant for glasses where the lenses are in a relatively flat plane. When this 'flat' prescription is put into a curved insert, "fishbowl-type" distortion can be experienced. There are limitations

to what strength of prescription inserts can handle, too. It all depends on the level of curvature the design uses.

There are ways that even higher order prescriptions can be optimised – this involves recalculating the values taking the base curve, wrap, forward tilt and other measurements into account. These are termed 'individualised digitally surfaced lenses' and whilst more costly than generic plastic resin can be a lot better quality-wise.

That being said, inserts are always a compromise as they can sometimes steam up in adverse conditions and limit one's field of vision, and so many people are moving towards fully glazed prescription lenses. At present, we cannot make a



Prescription lenses require a dual lens frame

prescription lens in a single wraparound shield so a dual lens frame needs to be used. There are plenty of good designs to choose from – you can see some examples on our website www.flintandpartners.co.uk.

Ed Lyons

Do fibre wad cartridges recoil more?

Q With the ongoing moves against plastic wads I have started using the fibre wad version of my favourite cartridges and I'm getting on well with them. However I'm convinced I feel more recoil with the fibre loads, despite using

the same 28g shot load as before. A friend I shoot with tried a few and said he couldn't tell for sure. Is it possible that fibre wad cartridges can recoil more?

A In a word, yes! Fibre loads can feel sharper than an equivalent plastic wad load. However there is no simple answer because several factors influence recoil. The key factors in the actual recoil produced are the weight of the 'ejecta' (everything that exits the barrel upon firing) and the velocity at which it is ejected.

The most obvious component of this is the shot load. This is nominally the same in cartridges marked as being 28 grams, but if you look back through past cartridge reviews in this magazine, you'll see it's not unusual for there to be a few pellets' weight difference between any two cartridge types.

Then there are the wads used – plastic wads typically weigh less than the fibre type wad and the thick 'nitro' card used with them. Propellant powder charges are often larger in fibre wad loads too, to make up for some gas leakage past the fibre wad. This requires more energy initially to achieve a similar velocity – fibre wads are less efficient than plastic wads.

So the combination of more powder, heavier wads and the possibility of a slightly greater payload will mean an actual increase in recoil due to the increased momentum produced. Then there's the factor no-one can precisely quantify: felt recoil. Our



There are always differences between plastic and fibre wad

bodies feel the effects of recoil differently; your shooting pal may be less sensitive to recoil than you are.

On top of all this, the way the ballistics are achieved affects felt recoil. This is too complex to fully detail here but one factor is the compressibility of the wad. Plastic wads in lead shot loads have a long, collapsible, centre section. This compresses substantially upon firing. Some say this alone allows them to 'feel the difference' between fibre and plastic wad loads.

It's difficult to quantify, but it is certainly a factor. Baschieri & Pellagri invented their Gordon cartridge case, where the base wad in the cartridge case compresses slightly, especially to reduce felt recoil. It therefore seems a reasonable assumption that plastic wads, which compress much more, can achieve something similar.

Richard Atkins

YOUR EXPERTS



Richard Atkins
Clay Shooting's resident technical expert, Richard has decades of experience reviewing guns, cartridges and accessories. He's well equipped to solve problems on everything from shot sizes to stock dimensions.



Ed Lyons
Director of Flint & Partners, Ed's optometry work has helped top-level athletes reach their goals on domestic and international level. Countless shooters rely on him to keep their vision in top shape.



Stuart Farr
A lawyer specialising in the shooting sports, Stuart has extensive experience in all things legal – from solving civil disputes relating to firearms ownership, to helping a governing body draft its code of ethics.



Some drugs are banned in competition, even when used for legitimate medical reasons

Will my medicine get me banned?

Q I am an experienced clay pigeon shooter and have shot many domestic competitions. I'd like to spread my wings and try something with a more international flavour – but I have a concern. I have recently been diagnosed with high blood pressure and prescribed a number of medications as a consequence. I am not sure whether this would effectively disqualify me or cause problems for me if I wish to compete. What should I do and where can I go for advice? I am naturally reluctant to follow this new path if my new medication is unlikely to be permitted.

A The first thing I would say is that shooters are human and can succumb to medical issues or conditions just like anyone else. The question is how those conditions are dealt with and whether they are long term. The important point for you is whether your medication is prohibited in an international competitive environment.

Blood pressure is one of those long term conditions which can be controlled in a variety of different ways, and sometimes with drugs which work in different ways on the body. Often, several drugs are used in combination, because this can keep the relative dosages smaller, and help the patient to manage any potential side-effects.

Some drugs are expressly prohibited, while others are not. Beta-blockers, for example, are prohibited in shooting disciplines because they have a direct impact on the heart rate. Diuretics are another class of drugs which are banned from competition. Organisations such as the CPSA subscribe to the policies of the World Anti-Doping Agency, which in turn publishes up-to-date information on all the prohibited classes of drugs and specifically lists the most common types. This is available to download on their website – see www.wada-ama.org. You would be advised to check this initially, as well as the ISSF rules – which include exemptions for 'therapeutic use' of certain drugs – at www.issf-sports.org/theissf/antidoping.ashx.



SOLIDARITY MAKES US STRONGER

Shooting is under attack from many directions, and we need to stand together

O K, I know this is *Clay Shooting* magazine, so you may well ask why is David from BASC putting up an article about the general licences? Well it's simple. First, I know from magazine research that many of you will help farmers and landowners with their crop protection and conservation projects through the year as well as enjoying regularly going clay shooting.

Second, let's not forget that we are all shooters. An attack or restriction on one form of shooting is a potential threat to all of us. So it's important that you know what's going on and important to know that BASC is fighting for all types of shooting.

As I write this, Defra is not in a position to issue new general licences for the shooting and trapping of pest birds in England when they expire in February. BASC has made that clear in a letter to Secretary of State Theresa Villiers.

Farmers, conservationists and pest controllers are increasingly concerned that Defra will not be able to issue new licences. In the letter, BASC recommends an extension to ensure clarity and time to issue general licences that will be fit for purpose and future-proofed.

Caroline Bedell, BASC's executive director of conservation, said: "With the sheer quantity of evidence submitted to Defra throughout their consultation, it has become clear that they will struggle to issue new general licences by the end of February. They need to seriously consider extending the licences now to avoid the same mistakes as last year.

"With the start of the breeding season for a wide range of vulnerable birds approaching, the general licences are of vital importance. We cannot allow the same confusion and concern as last year when BASC dealt with over 10,000 member enquiries."

She continues: "We have called for an end to this uncertainty with the implementation of licences that are both fit for purpose and future proofed and, if that takes another year, then so be it for the sake of our countryside and the people who live and work in it."

There are many issues facing shooting today, probably more than at any time in the past. It's important that all shooters stand together; now is a time for unity. So please keep an eye on the BASC website to see what's going on and how you can help: www.basc.org.uk



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Thimbleby Shooting Ground

Part of the Thimbleby Estate and surrounded by thousands of acres of heath and woodland, Thimbleby is one of the country's premier shooting grounds and lies in an idyllic rural setting on the edge of the North York Moors National Park.

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Our new and exciting simulated game days let you explore some of the estates most iconic drives and offer all the trappings of a traditional game day for you and your party.

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T Professional tuition for all abilities

T Club house serving refreshments

T Simulated game days



Nation's Favourite SHOOTING GROUND 2020

AND THE WINNER IS...

With the votes cast and tallied in the Nation's Favourite Shooting Ground Poll, let's find out the results...

F

or the ninth time, the UK's clay shooters have cast their votes in the Nation's Favourite Shooting Ground poll – and now, after two months of voting

and a further month of counting up the results, we can finally reveal who's won.

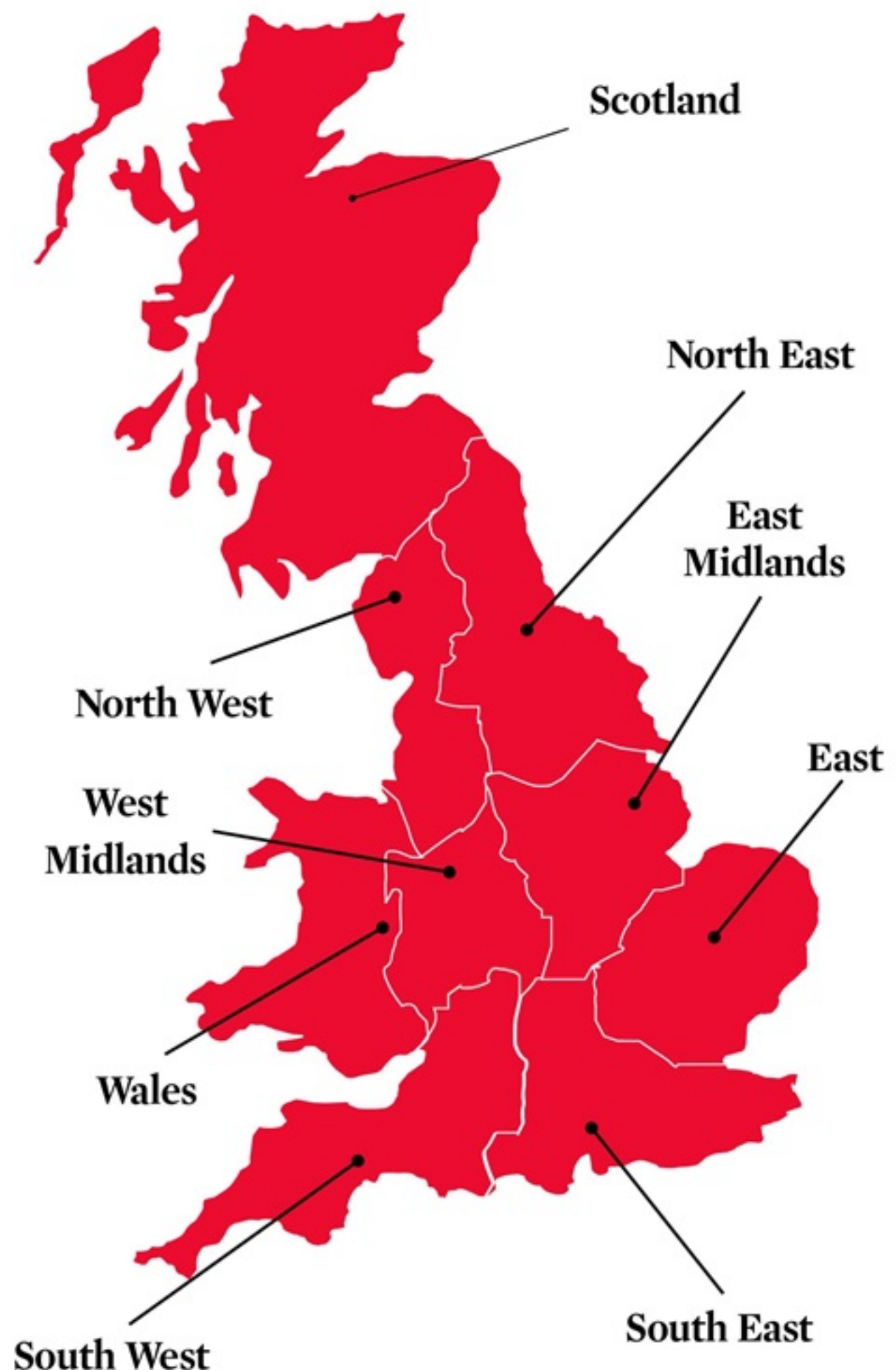
You'll find the overall winner at the end of this feature – and we're thrilled to reveal that we have a new champion this year. But don't just skip to the end – read on to find out the regional, discipline and Best Breakfast winners, all of whom are clay-shooting heroes.

Once again we'd like to say a big thanks to every single one of you who voted. Since its dawn nearly a decade ago, this poll has become a major part of our calendar and something countless shooters and grounds look forward to every year. But we couldn't have done it without you – the awards are 100 per cent based on a public vote, so it's your participation that really gives them meaning.

Enough talk! It's time to run through our winners and runners-up. Is your local ground in there? Did your vote help swing a victory? Let's find out... 📍



REGIONAL VOTES





SCOTLAND

WINNER

AUCHTERHOUSE COUNTRY SPORTS

Burnhead Farm, Auchterhouse, By Dundee DD3 0QN

01382 320476

www.auchterhousecountrysports.co.uk

We have to admit this is one of the least surprising results in the entire poll. Auchterhouse was on a five-year winning run in the Scottish regional category, and now they've gone and made it six. What an incredible achievement – and we can hardly say it's undeserved. Whether it's for the targets, atmosphere or food, Auchterhouse just keeps people coming back. You said...

"A great family business who go the extra mile."

RUNNER UP

CLUNY ACTIVITIES

Cluny, Kirkcaldy KY2 6QU

01592 720374 www.clunyactivities.co.uk

You said...

"Friendly staff and good activities."

NORTH WEST



WINNER

CRABTREE CLAY SHOOT

Crabtree Farm, Crabtree Lane, Cow Brow, Carnforth LA6 1PJ

07818080841 / 07824396945 / 07970065667

www.crabtreeclayshoot.co.uk

Congratulations to Crabtree, who move from runner-up to victor in the North West region. A family business, Crabtree was applauded for its friendly, personal approach. And their win shows that you don't have to be a massive, big-money ground to win the

hearts of the clay shooting nation. You love to see it!

You said...

"Fantastic facilities and friendly staff. Can't wait to shoot there again."

RUNNER UP

MICKLEY HALL SHOOTING SCHOOL

Broomhall, Mickley Hall Lane, Nantwich CW5 8QN

0800 772 0058

mickleyhall.com

You said...

"Loads of fun!"

NORTH EAST

WINNER

HAZEL BANK SHOOTING GROUND

Boroughbridge Rd, Knaresborough HG5 0QQ

07852 785590

www.hazelbankshooting.co.uk

Another dominant force, Hazel Bank is now a five-time winner in the North East region – a massive achievement given how competitive this category is. You can't say they don't deserve it, though. Mark Lawson's ground attracted the plaudits for its range of targets, friendly staff, and simply how fun it is to shoot there.

You said...

"Continues to set the standards for customer service and friendliness. Nothing is too much trouble for the team."

RUNNER UP

MARNE CLAY PIGEON CLUB

Marne Barracks, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire.

DL10 7NP

www.marneclayshoot.co.uk

You said...

"Run by a very good team."

WALES

WINNER

MID WALES SHOOTING CENTRE

Ffynant, Powys SY17 5QY

01686 430654

[www.](http://www.midwalesshootingcentre.com)

[midwalesshootingcentre.com](http://www.midwalesshootingcentre.com)



You never quite know who's going to come out on top in the Welsh category, but Mid Wales would surely be one of the bookies' favourites. They've put a second consecutive regional win in the history books thanks to their huge array of targets and disciplines, professional approach – and the postcard-worthy scenery does them no harm either.

You said...

"The best shooting ground out there."

ST DIALS SHOOTING GROUND

St Dials Farm, Monmouth NP25 4HY

07850 854016

www.hartevents.org

You said...

"A magnificent place."

DISCIPLINE RESULTS

TRAP

WINNER

Auchterhouse

RUNNER UP

Headley CPC

THIRD OVERALL

Eriswell Lodge

SKEET

WINNER

Auchterhouse

JOINT RUNNERS UP

Eriswell Lodge

High Lodge

SPORTING

WINNER

Southdown

RUNNER UP

Auchterhouse

THIRD OVERALL

Sporting Targets

BEST BREAKFAST



WINNER

Southdown

RUNNER UP

Auchterhouse

THIRD OVERALL

Headley



WEST MIDLANDS

WINNER

IAN COLEY SPORTING

nr Andoversford, Cheltenham GL54 4AX

01242 870391

www.iancoley.co.uk

The legendary Ian Coley MBE seems to be achieving more than ever with his ground lately. Not only was it shortlisted for Retailer of the Year in the Great British Shooting Awards, it's also come out on top in the West Midlands region (we pored over our map and determined that it's just that side of the boundary from the south-west). Congratulations to Coley's.

You said...

"Good variety, great team and service, excellent gun shop."

RUNNER UP

MILLRIDE COUNTRY SPORTS

Bognop Road, Essington, Wolverhampton WV11 2AZ

01902 725165

www.millridecountrysports.com

You said...

"Very helpful staff and a great atmosphere."

EAST MIDLANDS

WINNER

SPORTING TARGETS

Knotting Lane, Riseley, Beds MK44 1BX

01234 708893

www.sportingtargets.co.uk

Once an overall winner in the NFSG poll, Sporting Targets posts a strong showing year-in, year-out. Here it is again with another regional victory – and Andrew Clifton and his team will be thrilled to know they did well in the national poll too. How well? Read on and find out...

You said...

"Friendly, knowledgeable staff and a great selection of stands."

RUNNER UP

GRIMSTHORPE ESTATE SHOOTING GROUND

Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, Bourne PE10 0LN

01778 591128

www.grimsthorpeshootingground.co.uk

You said...

"Friendly, efficient and fun."

EAST

WINNER

HIGH LODGE

Haw Wood, Hinton, Saxmundham
IP17 3QT

01986 784347

www.highlodge.co.uk

The 'best ground in the East' is typically a close-run thing, with High Lodge and Eriswell Lodge trading victories in recent years. We love both grounds, but in 2020 it's John Bidwell's shooting paradise that squeaked the victory. And with its mixture of clay shooting and holiday-destination hospitality, it's not hard to see why it's so popular.

"Fantastic stands and the most helpful and friendly staff."

RUNNER UP

ERISWELL LODGE

Brandon Rd, Eriswell, Lakenheath IP27 9FB

01638 534045

www.eriswell-lodge.com

You said...

"Well organised, lots of different challenges, friendly staff."



SOUTH EAST

WINNER

SOUTHDOWN GUN CLUB & SHOOTING SCHOOL

Muntham Farm, Findon, Sussex BN14 0RQ

01903 877555

www.southdowngunclub.co.uk

What more can we say about the enduring popularity of Southdown – it's our only ever two-time winner in the overall poll, has hosted the Clay Shooting Classic twice, and pretty much always puts up a strong showing in the votes here. Once again, it received a flood of support in the postal vote from happy customers.

You said...

"Well kept ground, lovely helpful staff. Good variety of traps."

RUNNER UP

HEADLEY CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING CLUB

Costal Woods, off Church Lane, Headley, Surrey

KT18 6LD

07831 879 200

www.headleyclaypigeon.com

You said...

"What a warm welcome from the owner and his crew. Great environment, great atmosphere, great shoot."

SOUTH WEST

WINNER

BARBURY SHOOTING SCHOOL

Wroughton, Swindon SN4 0QH

01793 940420

www.barburyschoolshooting.com

This jewel of the south-west, and former winner in the overall NFSG poll, has rocketed to the top in its regional category this year. The messages voters sent in underline just how much appeal Barbury has: it was praised for its friendly, welcoming staff, beautiful setting, ease of access, great range of targets, suitability for beginners through to more experienced shooters, appeal to game as well as

clay shooters... and breathe!

You said...

"Always a pleasure to visit here."

RUNNER UP

SOUTH WEST SHOOTING SCHOOL

Ettiford Farm, Ilfracombe EX34 9RG

01271 864784

www.southwestshooting.co.uk

You said...

"The targets are among the best I've shot."

OVERALL RESULTS

5TH PLACE

HIGH LODGE

Haw Wood, Hinton, Saxmundham IP17 3QT

01986 784347

www.highlodge.co.uk

You said...

"Great ground with a wide variety of stands. It is often busy but very rarely is there a need to wait for a stand as there are so many to choose from."

"Simply the best!"

4TH PLACE

HEADLEY CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING CLUB

Costal Woods, off Church Lane, Headley,
Surrey

KT18 6LD

07831 879 200

www.headleyclaypigeon.com

You said...

"An absolutely outstanding club."

"Wonderful, welcoming family-run ground."





SPORTING TARGETS

Knotting Lane, Riseley, Beds MK44 1BX
01234 708893
www.sportingtargets.co.uk

Voters flocked in droves to Sporting Targets, which returns to the podium four years after it took the overall number one spot. And it's a sign of how much the UK's clay grounds have upped their game in recent years – Sporting Targets is truly phenomenal and would surely have been a deserving winner, but will have to settle for third place. Its range of competitions came in for particular praise, with the Jack Pyke and the High Tower Challenge combining a 'fun' aspect with the prestige of a major competition.

"Excellent facilities along with a range of stands to suit all levels of ability."

"Efficient, great service, value for money and variety of stands."



SOUTHDOWN GUN CLUB & SHOOTING SCHOOL

Muntham Farm, Findon, Sussex BN14 0RQ
01903 877555
www.southdowngunclub.co.uk

No surprise to see Southdown amid the upper echelons of our poll, though perhaps it's a surprise that it's not the overall victor. You name it, Southdown has it – challenging layouts, good facilities, major competitions, a dedicated following, and of course, the Talent Pool that aims to find the next big star of the shooting world. It's investing in the sport as a whole, not just in itself, and that surely helps boost Southdown's popularity to stratospheric levels. It's not the Nation's Favourite Shooting Ground this year, though. Who is? Let's find out.

"The best ground with the best choice of targets."

"Targets, staff, shop, atmosphere... they have everything!"



AUCHTERHOUSE COUNTRY SPORTS

Burnhead Farm, Auchterhouse, By Dundee DD3 0QN
01382 320476
www.auchterhousecountrysports.co.uk

For so long it was a case of 'always the bridesmaid, never the bride' where Auchterhouse was concerned. Second and third in the poll were regular achievements for the Scottish ground, but never the number one spot.

No longer! Awesome Auchterhouse finally breaks its curse and wins the overall crown. It was a close vote – maybe our closest ever – but after triple-checking and verification of the numbers, we can confirm that Auchterhouse is number one.

This victory is even more momentous when you consider that we've never had so much as a single winner based north of Birmingham before. We always thought this was the natural result of there being more grounds and more shooters in the south of England than anywhere else. But so extraordinary is Auchterhouse, so universal its

appeal, that it overcame all of this. What a story, and what a winner.

What do you like most about Auchterhouse? Its array of disciplines and stands? The atmosphere? The food at the Pear Tree Restaurant? There's plenty to pick from, and voters in the poll certainly let us know. If you want to congratulate Auchterhouse on its first ever win – or let us know why we got it wrong! – email us at fieldsports@futurenet.com.

You said...

"Great all round facilities, and a diverse activity programme."

"Simply everything you need to enjoy shooting."

"Friendly ground with ever-changing, challenging targets."



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website www.robertlouisco.com



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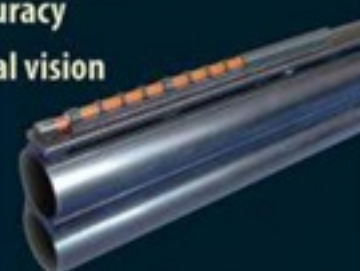
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ABOVE Italian styling is evident in the design of the gun's receiver

FABULOUS FABARM

Mike Yardley is impressed with the L4S Sporting, a light and nimble claybusting machine from Italy

Having shot with a Beretta 303 for years, I am a big fan of semi-automatics for some forms of clay shooting, notably Sporting and Skeet. It wouldn't be my first choice for DTL and the like, although I have shot a 100-straight at domestic Trap with one. This month our test spotlight falls on the Fabarm L4S Sporting, a dedicated clay model brought into the UK by Anglo Italian Arms based in West Warwickshire. This dynamic firm are also well known for distributing Guerini, a brand that has made great strides in the UK in recent years thanks to eye catching styling, technical innovation and a competitive pricing policy.

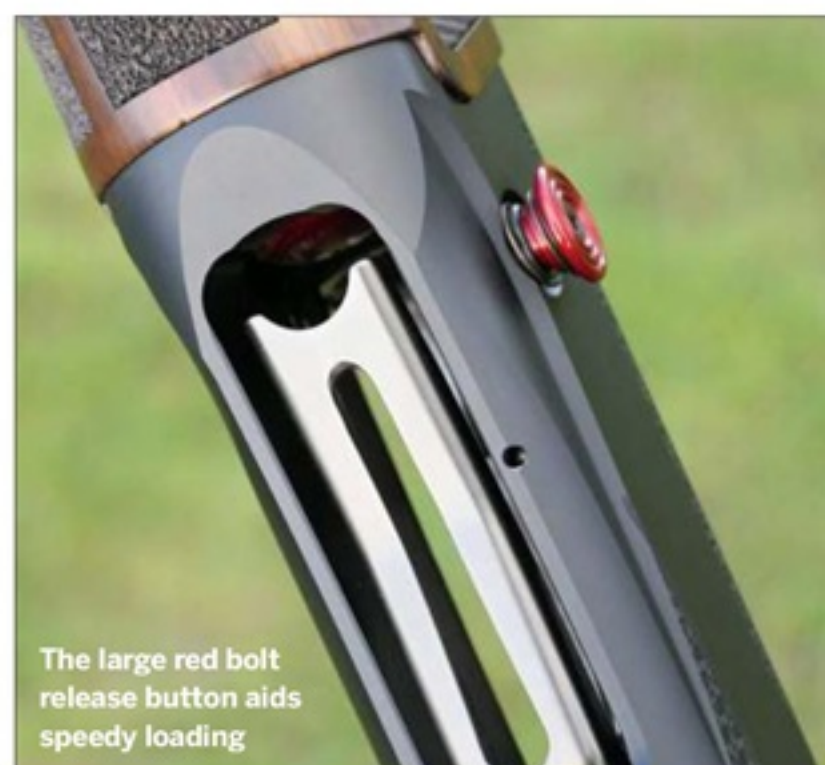
First impressions of the L4S are positive. This is a particularly attractive semi-auto with Italian design flair clearly evident. The gun weighs in quite light for a repeater at 7 pounds with its barrel a bit over 29 inches (it's listed as 30ins). It has a smart black receiver, and a grain enhanced walnut stock. Fabarm call this effect Tri-wood, and I would guess it is some sort of inking process applied to real, but plainly grained, walnut. The result looks good nevertheless.

The stock of the L4S has a full grip with quite an acute radius, which is a little tight for my hand. There's a fulsome comb, much more to my liking, and a cleverly attached, unstressed fore-end which may be easily removed by means of its front nut for routine cleaning without a full take-down of the gun. The barrel remains firmly attached to the receiver even with the fore-end off. As well as the externally visible one, there is an additional fixing nut forward of the gas collar. Unlike most repeaters you could theoretically shoot the gun with the fore-end removed – although that would not

be advisable, or safe, because the working parts are not covered.

The profile of the fore-end itself is fairly slim. The shaping pleases the eye and is ergonomically efficient. Both grip and fore-end have a mix of conventional chequering and stippling, which offers better than average purchase and suits a competition gun well. Getting the shape and proportion of the fore-end right is a big deal in any semi-auto design. Fabarm seem to have succeeded well. This one is not too bulbous, nor is it too slim. It is comfortable in the hand and offers good muzzle control.

The L4S has various bells and whistles. These include five Fabarm Exis HP 2 extended choke tubes, and an especially nice 11-8mm tapered rib with a shallow centre channel and twin beads. The small mid



The large red bolt release button aids speedy loading



Mike Yardley is one of Britain's best known shooting instructors and writers. A clay shot for 50 years, he is a founding fellow of APSI and a former British side-by-side champion.

bead is white metal; the front bead is a white plastic globe and well proportioned – not over dominant. This presents a good picture to the eye. The gun is also distinguished by an extended bolt release handle and a red anodised and comfortably enlarged bolt-release button. The alloy fore-end iron nut is similarly finished in red, the anodising making a pleasing contrast with black receiver finish and the fore-end wood.

The L4S's streamlined Ergal alloy action is essentially plain – satin, black, with some knurling-like engraving to the bottom rear half. The trigger unit is fixed by two drift pins. It is made of composite material as is the modern norm and has an elegantly shaped trigger guard with some simple decorative lines to its front sides. The overall effect is pleasing. The words 'L4S SPORTING' in white and gold adorn the right receiver wall to the rear of the ejection port. There is a bar safety to the rear of the trigger guard.

This test gun is 2 3/4in (70mm) chambered. The field model, which has been out a little longer, is 3in (76mm). There are 28, 30 (29+), and 32in barrels on offer too. They are all 'Tri-bored' with an extended forcing cone, a mildly back-bored section at 18.7mm, and a tapered section going down to 18.4mm leading to the long chokes. The barrels are proofed at 1,630 bar, an unusually high figure – the industry norm is 1,320. They are designed for steel shot, and thanks to the long 'Hyperbolic' chokes which incorporate a curved conical section, can be used with steel shot even in tight constrictions.

Feel the pulse

The L4S, like its stablemate the XLR5, is a gas operated semi-automatic with an interesting gas regulation system introduced in 2003 and improved in 2005. The barrel has the usual ports and gas collar but a novel piston arrangement, at least in standard field models. Gas arrives in the cylinder and acts on a two-part unit. It is made from a softish polymer and stainless steel.

The gas pushes the stainless component rearwards and compresses the polymer element. The latter expands to a degree dependent on the load and regulates the speed of cycling by the resulting change in friction.

It's very clever. Fabarm call this the 'Pulse' system. It is not, however, part of the spec of the firm's 2 3/4in chambered target guns, at least not at the moment. In these – the L4S Sporting on test here and the XLR5 Velocity – the expanding polymer component is replaced with a solid brass one. The mechanism is regulated to a range of target loads in a conventional manner. I mention the Pulse system not only because it is clever, but because it might – at least by tinkerers like me – be retro-fitted by replacing one component.

The Pulse system is of possible interest to high volume competitive shooters because of the potential to further reduce recoil. The degree of compression, as discussed, will depend on gas pressure. If you shoot a light load the pressure is just strong enough to push back bolt and eject and recycle, but when you shoot heavy loads, it will compress as much as 5mm. It is a progressive system. "We can change the sensation of recoil..." the factory once noted to me when I visited them a decade or so back.

Shooting impressions

I routinely shoot a gas operated semi-automatic and have tried most that are on the market including the forerunner of the L4S, the XLR5, in various guises. The newer L4S guns are distinguished by their restrained aesthetics and lighter weight than previous Fabarm semi-autos. The gun as tested weighs about 7 pounds with a 29+ inch barrel. With a longer 32in barrel and a Fabarm recoil reducer placed in the butt, it would come very close to my ideal for a clay-shooting semi-auto. I am not a fan of super heavyweights.

The test gun shot and handled nicely. Pointability was first class. The L4S has a distinctive,



“With the 32in barrel this would come very close to my ideal clay shooting semi-auto.”





Mike found the stock slightly low in the comb, but it can be adjusted

subjectively quite short, stroke with the brass piston fitted to the gas mech as discussed. Recoil was not excessive, though a bit more than my memory of the XLR5's. There was a little drag on the trigger pull, as there is on most repeaters, and I found the palm swell of the acutely angled pistol grip didn't anchor my hand fully and tended to push it forward. I liked the comb profile of the stock. The over-sized controls were just the ticket for clay-busting in all weathers. The tapered rib was excellent too, giving a great picture to the eye.

Although I was using only improved cylinder up front, I had no difficulty breaking Trap birds or anything else. My impression is that the Fabarm boring and choke system really does work well. I had one slight feed issue when loading a pocketful of remnants (not my usual Lyalvales). The overall form of the gun was especially good. The stock was a whisker low in the comb for me with industry standard 35 and 55mm – I did not explore the fitting shims that came with it. It would suit many shooters out of the box, however; the length was ideal at 14 7/8in. The plain 22M black recoil pad was an ideal pattern; there are 12 and 27mm options.

Overall the quality and presentation of the L4S was impressive. It handled and shot well, with plenty of life forwards. I let my friend Kevin Lock at Fennes shoot the gun. Another semi-auto aficionado, he too liked it, commenting on the lack of felt recoil but relatively light weight. My perception, as I've noted, was the the recoil was average though not harsh.

Summing up

In conclusion, the L4S would make a very good basis for a serious competition claybuster, especially for those who prefer a lighter, faster handling, gun. For those that want something heavier, the 32in XLR Velocity is still in the Fabarm line-up, weighing in near the 9 pound mark. My preference would be the newer gun but with the 32in barrel option. I would be most intrigued to try the polymer piston in it too. Overall, I was impressed with the spec, the quality and the design of the gun. Fabarm semis already have a strong following in the US, and deserve more attention in the UK. 📷

Thanks to Lyalvale Express for the cartridges used in this test.

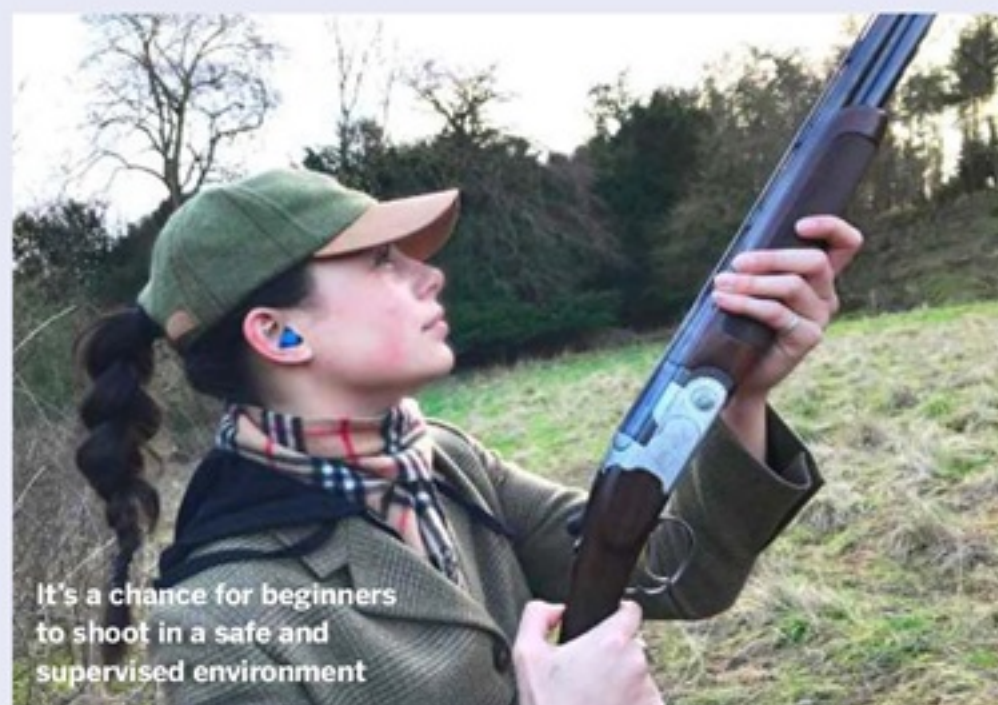


The red anodised fore-end retaining nut is a stylish touch

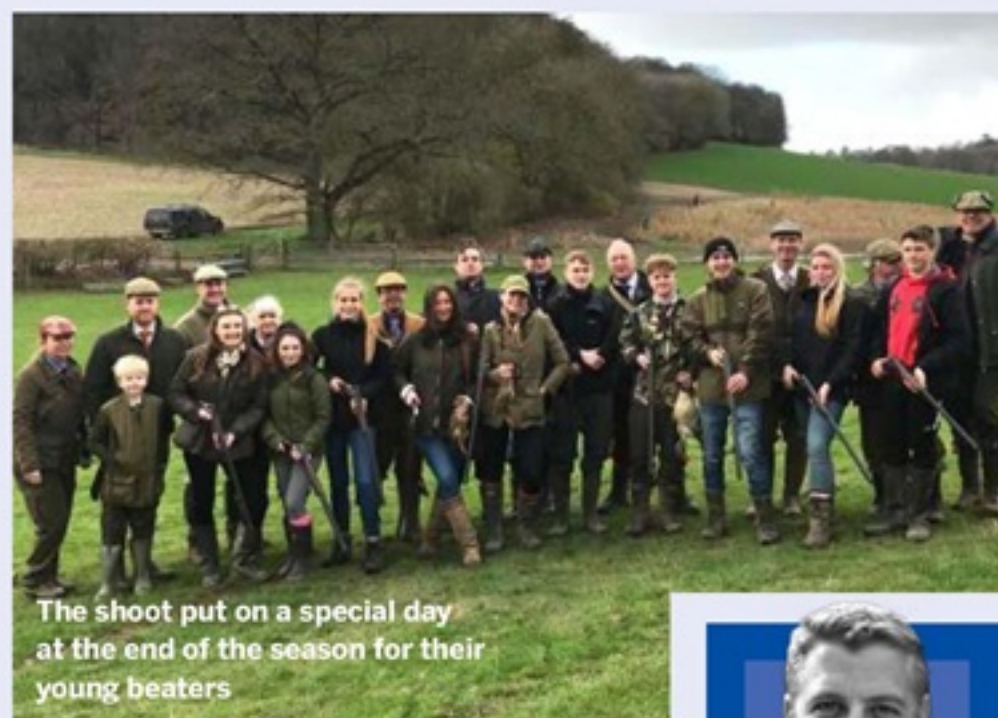




Cheryl's protégé was delighted to shoot her first partridge



It's a chance for beginners to shoot in a safe and supervised environment



The shoot put on a special day at the end of the season for their young beaters



Mike Bartlett is a familiar face on the Sporting circuit and the man behind Magic Bore gun cleaning products. He is a UK ambassador for Zoli guns and an AA Sporting shot

BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH

Mike Bartlett and Cheryl Hall enjoy introducing some youngsters to game shooting before getting back to the clays

The early part of the year sees many clay shooters and other countryside loving people venturing out on beaters' days. What made this year's game season special for me was seeing a number of children getting out beating on a Saturday, rather than lying in bed or sitting in front of a TV screen. I encourage my son to join me on the beating line. Since the age of three, he has accompanied me either on a peg or as a walking gun, but now he is old enough to join the beaters – it means that he has seen game shooting from two different sides now.

One of the shoots I go to is on Saturdays, and the beating line is almost entirely made up of youngsters that are still at school or sixth form college. Some of their parents attend as beaters or pickers-up as well. The keeper really encourages the youngsters, and they are all paid the same as the adults – after all they do the same amount of walking, if not more.

When it comes to the end of the season they put on a beaters' day for experienced shots, and run a separate kids' day for these dedicated young beaters. Loaders like Cheryl and I give our time to load and instruct, to give these youngsters the opportunity to shoot in a safe, supervised environment – and hopefully hit a few.

From our point of view this was a great day and really rewarding. It's great to see someone hit their first ever pheasant or partridge, and the joy on their faces will live with us for a long time. The young lady that I was looking after had only shot twice before: once at last year's youngsters' day and a supervised last drive on this year's beaters' day. She hadn't connected with anything until now – but managed to get six in total with some lovely shots on good partridge and pheasant, which made both of our days.

Cheryl's young lady had never picked up a gun before, but she managed to hit a partridge and two pheasant – and it made her day too! 🎯

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YOUR FIRST GUN

James Marchington offers some advice on selecting a shotgun that will help you grow without breaking the bank

M

ost shooters will have fond memories of their first gun. It's one of those milestones you don't forget, like your first car or first love!

Buying your first gun is an exciting time, but it can be worrying too. You're making a big investment, and you don't yet have the experience to feel confident about your choice. You'll be offered all sorts of conflicting advice by well meaning friends and fellow shooters – who are probably little better qualified than you are!

First of all, remember there's no rush. I'll assume you applied for your Shotgun Certificate as we described last issue, everything went to plan and you are now the proud owner of your very own SGC, along with an empty gun cabinet just

aching to be filled. You're keen to get stuck in, and it's tempting to rush off and buy the first gun that takes your fancy – but don't. You'll have to live with your choice for some time, and it can make a big difference to your early shooting progress, so take the time to choose wisely.

Set your budget

Start by narrowing down your options. Decide what you can sensibly afford to spend, remembering that there will be other costs as well as the gun itself. You will need a bag for your shooting gear, eye and ear protection, a gun sleeve, a shooting vest, and maybe some sort of security cable for the car. After all that, you will still want something left over for clays and cartridges, otherwise what was the point!

I can't tell you how much to spend; that depends entirely on you and your circumstances. However I can tell you that you needn't spend a fortune to get a good gun that will do a fine job of breaking clays and needn't hold you back. Anything from £500 to £1,000 will get you started, while if you can stretch to £1,500 or so you can start to look at the big name brands.

What type of gun?

Once you've decided on your budget, your next decision is what type of gun. Not just whether it's an over-and-under or something else, but whether it's primarily a clay gun, a game gun or an all-rounder. That depends on the type of shooting you expect to do most. At this early stage it can be difficult to be sure which direction your shooting might take, but you probably know



Does it fit?

As you look around the range of guns on offer, all sorts of features will catch your eye – perhaps the stylish engraving on the action, a lovely pattern of grain in the wood of the stock, or an attractive rib design. Perhaps the gun comes in a nice travelling case, with a selection of multichokes. All those are nice to have, but the one overriding factor should be the one you can't see – does the gun fit you?

We'll look more closely at gun fit in a future article, but essentially it means that when you mount the gun in your shoulder, it points where you're looking. Buy a gun that fits and you're half-way there. If you buy a gun that doesn't fit, on the other hand, then your shooting will be an uphill struggle – and having a pretty stock or nice engraving will be little consolation.

The problem is, finding a gun that fits is easier said than done. At this early stage in your shooting career, you are still finding your style, refining your technique and learning a consistent gun mount. As you continue to develop and improve, your requirements will change. For this reason I always advise that a shooter's first gun should be adjustable.

Many guns are available with an adjustable stock, and I feel it's well worth paying a little extra. It's true that a gunsmith can alter your stock's measurements, adding or reducing cast and comb height – but it's a lot easier, and cheaper, if you can simply loosen a couple of screws and move the comb yourself. Later on, when you have developed your technique and have a consistent gun mount, by all means get a stock to the right measurements, but for now some flexibility is a great help.

Try before you buy

It's a very good idea to shoot your chosen gun before parting with your money. Ideally you would narrow down your choice and then try the three or four guns on your shortlist before reaching a final decision. If you can do this with your regular coach, so much the better, as they can offer expert advice on which gun suits you best.

Many shooting grounds have their own gun shop, or have an arrangement with a local gun dealer, so you can try before you buy. There may be 'demo guns' available so you can compare makes and models. Take full advantage of any opportunities offered – the more guns you try, the better you can refine your choice. Don't dismiss the 'easy' targets when you're trying different guns. A simple 'point and shoot' target can highlight a problem with gun fit which might not be obvious if you're shooting a tricky crosser.

Taking the leap

So you've taken your time, you've looked at all the options, narrowed down your choice, tried a few guns and finally made your decision. At last, you are the proud owner of your first gun, and you're embarking on a brand new chapter in your shooting career – congratulations! Don't forget to notify the police about the details, as required under the terms of your certificate.

Take care of your new gun, enjoy using it and getting the best from it. The road ahead won't be straightforward. There will be highs and lows, with frustration and disappointment as well as progress and success. We've all been there, and it's all part of the addiction that keeps us coming back to smash clays and try to do just that little bit better than before. 📸

already whether game shooting is a possibility. If so, you might go for an all-round gun suitable for game and clays, perhaps a 'field' or 'hunter' model over-and-under.

If game shooting is unlikely, then you can concentrate on purpose-built clay guns, with the advantage that they will have features that make them more suited to claybusting. For instance the safety catch will probably be the manual type, meaning that it won't re-set itself to the 'safe' position when you open the gun, and the gun's weight and design will be optimised to handle the recoil of clay shooting cartridges.

An over-and-under is probably the obvious choice, but don't discount the semi-autos. These can offer excellent value and many people find them more comfortable to shoot, due to the reduced recoil. Just remember that there are extra safety rules if you're using a semi-auto at a clay ground, such as loading only two cartridges, and using a safety flag to show that the breech is clear.



Narrow down your choice, then take the opportunity to shoot your shortlisted guns

IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A YEAR!

Leah Southall will have her work cut out as she ramps up her shooting and tackles her AS exams

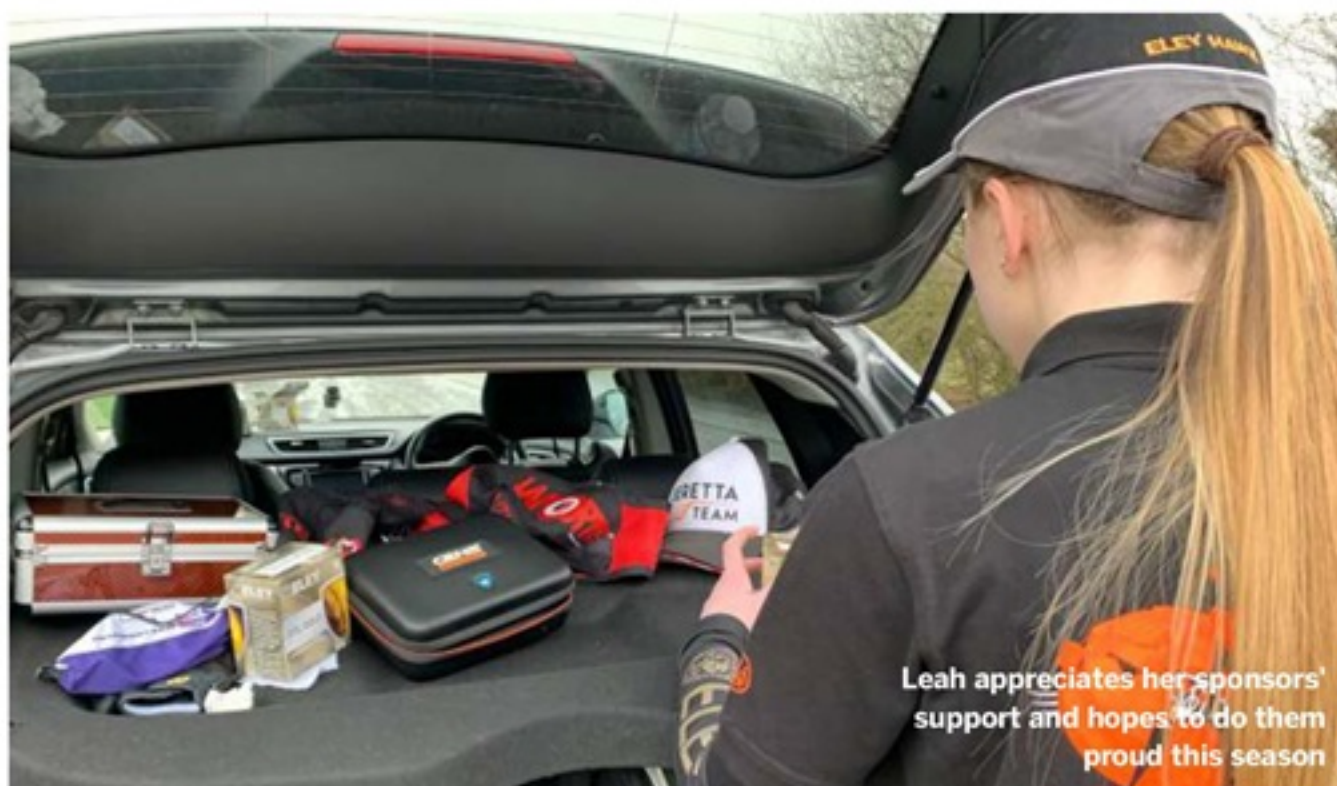


Leah Southall is a 16-year-old DTL Junior Lady shooter who has made phenomenal progress since taking up the sport in 2016.

This year marks my fourth year of shooting – I started in March 2016 – and 2020 is also going to be my biggest, from trying out for the England DTL team once again, to competing in the World DTL Championships! It's going to be an extremely busy year for me as I will be trying to balance my shooting with my AS Level exams which will determine whether or not I will continue onto the second year of my courses.

I am extremely pleased to announce that I have received sponsorship from Eley Hawk for the 2020 season, and I am very grateful to be sponsored by such a prestigious company for a third year! I hope to continue to do all of my sponsors proud for the 2020 season!

My first real shoot of 2020 was the 4th DTL Winter Series at East Yorkshire Clay Shooting Ground on 5 January. I had done a bit of training on 3 January with my coach, Phil Morgan, where we ironed out a few issues, so I felt quite confident going into the competition. That was until I came down with the flu! Despite seeing double and not being able to stop sneezing, I decided to compete because I didn't want to miss out on a competition. All I can really say about



Leah appreciates her sponsors' support and hopes to do them proud this season

“After that I can only improve, so it's onwards and upwards!”

this shoot is that it didn't go to plan. I was gutted that I didn't get the 2020 season off to a great start, but I can only improve, and as they say, it's onwards and upwards and on to the next shoot!

On 18 January, I went to use some of my Laporte/CPC sponsored clays at Mid Wales Shooting Centre, to try to get my head back in the right place after a few issues I had experienced with my personal life during the week. I find that shooting is a great thing to do in order to take your mind off things.

As it turned out, I shot the best that I have done in a while, which just proves my theory that shooting does help you take your mind off things. I can honestly say that I felt much better after I shot.

On 25 January I returned to Mid Wales Shooting Centre to use some more of those sponsored clays. I was extremely pleased with how I shot and how my kills were, and I was even more pleased that I did not miss a single target all day!

By the time you read this the CPSA Awards will have been announced, but as I write I am looking forward to the evening at the Belfry Hotel & Resort, as well as looking beyond to the various competitions that I will be entering, to get some more scores in and, I hope, be able to compete in the England selection shoots. 🎯



A dose of flu meant Leah's year didn't get off to a great start



Mitchell Brooker-Smith is a promising young British shooter. He is 16 and comes from Gloucestershire. Having started shooting at the age of 12, he now shoots Olympic Skeet for England and Great Britain.



Mitchell looks forward to every opportunity to visit his "happy place"

HOME ON THE RANGE

With one exam behind him, Mitchell is preparing for some big competitions

For me, January was a month of sacrifice but also success. It would be hard to ask for a better start to 2020, what with my average gradually increasing in training, as well as getting my GCSE English Language results back.

Towards the end of last year I wrote about my thoughts and emotions on taking my first real GCSE exam. It was a surprisingly different experience from what I thought

it would be. I knew how it worked, but experiencing it for myself was very different to walking by and seeing all the older students taking their exams.

It's been an anxious few months waiting for the result, knowing that my best might not have been quite enough. However, on 16 January, the little brown envelopes marked "highly confidential" arrived with the students – and I was delighted to see that I had passed my English Language with the required C grade! With that one crossed off my list, I am taking English Literature, which I hope will help me with my career choices in the future.

Meanwhile, with the exam out of the way I was able to head back to the range. Ever since I got back from the European Championships I have been very busy with little time for training, so when a work-free day appears it's great to leave everything behind and go back to my happy place.

My scores in training are slowly rising back to where I want them. I'm currently averaging around 23 in training – and with plenty of time to prepare before the first domestic competition of the season, I like to think the best is yet to come! It's been good to catch up with some fellow shooters and hear what

they've done away from shooting during their time in hibernation.

Sadly, I have had to miss the Malaga Grand Prix and the Cyprus Grand Prix this year. It's disappointing to miss out on the opportunity to compete on different ranges and visit new countries such as Cyprus, but a part of me feels that I'm making the right decision as I do have to put my exams first. This is an important year for me academically, and I will have to wait until my schedule becomes less demanding.

As I head into this season I've still got a fantastic support team behind me. My family continue to show me much support, taking me training as much as possible and supporting me with the decisions I've had to make off the range. Des Davies and the Welsh team are also showing the same encouragement that they have never ceased to provide. It's really nice having support like this behind me. Having great people to share my successes with is what makes it worthwhile.

Before long it will be my first domestic competition of the season. I look forward to updating you on how my training is coming along as we head further into 2020. 📷



Exams must come first, so Mitchell missed a couple of Grand Prix this year



COLT SENSATION

Jasper Fellows talks to Tristan Hockey about his meteoric rise, training, gear and ambitions for the future

Since bursting onto the scene four years ago, Tristan Hockey has come to dominate Colt shooting across the UK. In 2019 alone he was crowned Lyalvale Masters Colt Champion, National Skeet Inter-Counties Colt Champion, British Skeet Colt Champion, British Sportrap Colt Champion and CPSA Young Shot of the Year – plus he reclaimed his title as Colt Champion of Champions at the Game Fair. At just 15 years old Tristan already has made more of a name for himself than most of us could dream of, and has firmly positioned himself as one to watch in 2020 and beyond.

So how does one become so acclaimed at such a young age? Well, it helps if you grow up on one of the country's top shooting grounds – in this case, the fantastic Dartford Clay Shooting Club in Kent. "My parents, Kelly and Scott, run the grounds at Dartford so I have always had the chance to practise there," says Tristan, "I first picked up a shotgun there when I was about 7 years old. I started off with a small .410 before quickly moving on to a 20-gauge semi auto, which I practised with until finally I was big and strong enough to handle a full 12-gauge."

"Before I hit the competition circuit I spent a lot of time out on the grounds practising and improving my shooting. My dad had me perform 50 gun mounts every other night, just to perfect my movements and build my upper body strength. He spent a lot of time helping me prepare for my first competitive season and really helped me to realise that I could perform, and win, against other shooters."

With such a rigorous training regime from such a young age, Tristan was ready, aged 11, to take on the world. He didn't have to go far to claim his first title though, the 2014 Dartford CSC All Round Colt Champion. "It seems like a long time ago now," says Tristan of his first win, "26-time World Champion George Digweed won High Gun at the same event and kindly helped to hand out the trophies at the end of the day. I remember he signed the back of my trophy before presenting it to me. It felt incredible to be recognised by someone as renowned as George. That moment will always stay with me."

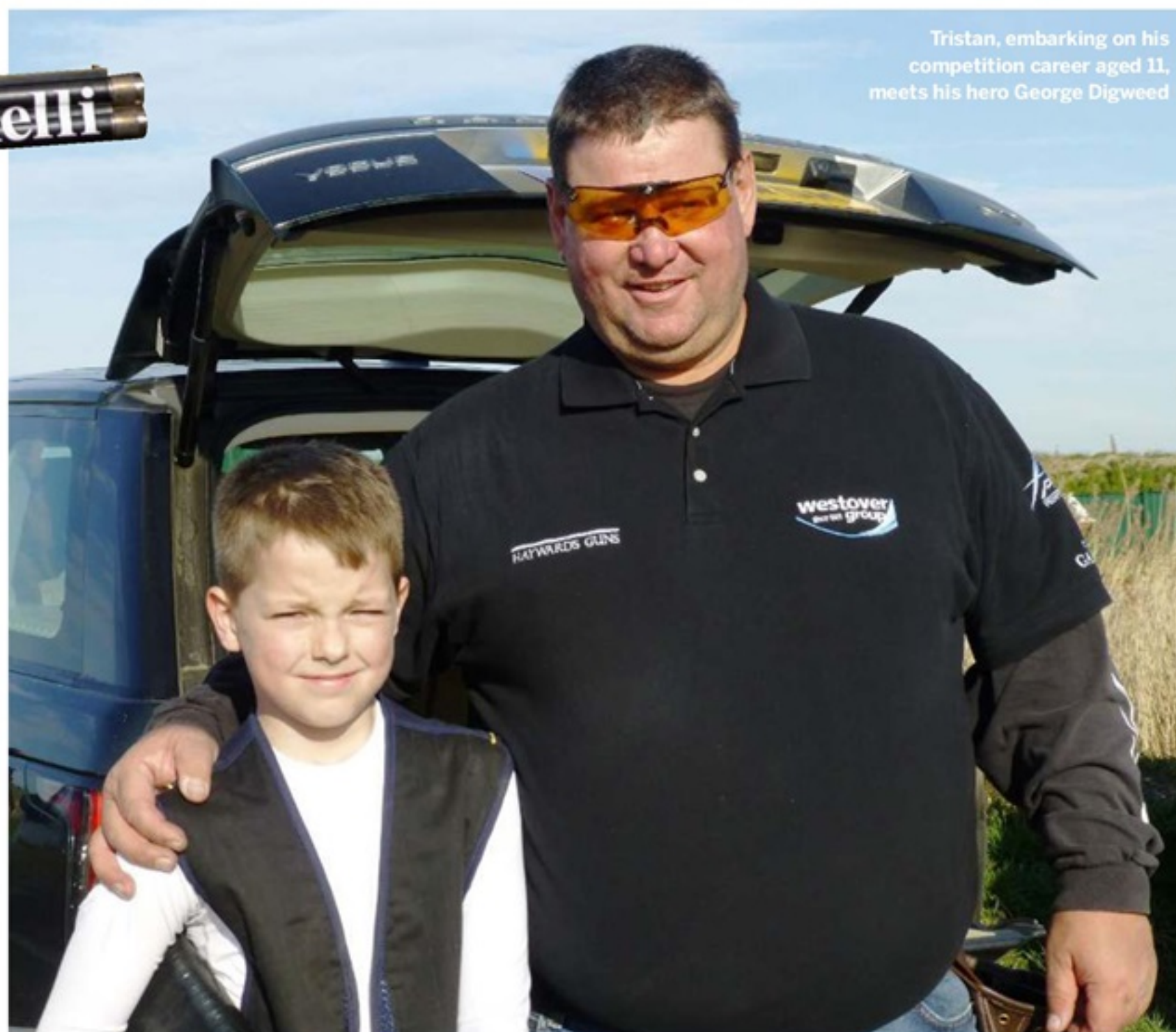
For the next couple of years Tristan kept his head down, kept on lifting that 12-gauge in his front room, kept out there on the ranges at Dartford and kept claiming regional and local titles. But it's fair to say that he really started making an impact in 2018.



ABOVE: Tristan reclaimed his Colt Champion of Champions title at the 2019 Game Fair

Salvinelli

Tristan, embarking on his competition career aged 11, meets his hero George Digweed



2018 saw Tristan crowned CPSA Young Shot of the Year



Tristan followed a rigorous training regime from an early age under his father, Scott

He began the season quite casually, scooping up both the Sporting and Sportrap Colt Grandmasters titles at Southdown, before collecting a further 14 national and county titles to finish the most successful season of his young career.

"It really was a superb year for me," explains Tristan, "I followed those Grandmasters titles with the CPSA English Sporting Colt Champion title at Atkin, Grant & Lang, two bronze medals at the World English Sporting Championship at E.J Churchill, a Colt Champion of Champions win at The Game Fair, a British Colt Sportrap Championship title at Oakedge, eight county titles and was named as Kent's County Colt of the year."

If you are a young shot looking to get noticed, this is how you do it. Sure enough, once the votes had been counted, Tristan was crowned as CPSA Young Shot Of The Year 2018 at the annual CPSA Awards, beating out tough competition from Ross Lester and Alfie Tibbles.

"Despite all of my successes during my 2018 season, this was the win that meant the most to me. It was a season packed with high points, but it was truly humbling to receive this award. It really made all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes worthwhile – the award is voted for by your fellow shooters, so to me it really felt like a win that came from the heart of the community."



Tristan used his incredible 2018 season as a learning experience and developed his training regime based on the areas in which he had struggled. "I knew it was going to be hard to replicate my 2018 season," says Tristan, "but 2018 also helped to highlight what aspect of my shooting I had to work on. Alongside general shooting training with my dad every other week, with practice sessions in-between, I realised that I had to work on my mental game."

"I had to find a way to shoot in a more relaxed manner and to not let the pressure of the day get to me so much. We worked hard to remove any tightness from my shooting and to avoid the inevitable stress that comes with competition." The new training programme worked – by the end of April Tristan picked up three wins, including the Lyalvale Masters Colt Champion title. He continued the 2019 season by filling his parents' house with awards and trophies.

"2019 turned into another very good season for my shooting," enthuses Tristan, "I managed to regain my Colt Champion of Champions title at The Game Fair, as well as my British Open English Sportrap title, alongside being crowned Supreme Kent Champion 2019. I am particularly proud of retaining my Champion of Champions title as I had been nervously looking forward to that competition, but thanks to my hard work in training I managed to keep my nerves in check and come out on top on the day."



Tristan collects another trophy, from the CPSA's John Martin

"My dad had me perform 50 gun mounts every other night."

When you look at Tristan's achievements and his training regime, it's easy to forget just how young he is. He is still in secondary school, with all the worries and stresses of GCSEs to look forward to in the near

future. "Unfortunately there are no other clay shooters at my school," Tristan laments, "but my teachers have been very



Building on his mental game helped Tristan move his shooting up a notch in 2019

Tristan shoots a Salvinelli Exclusive from Chris Potter Country Sports, and has recently been using Eley Hawk Titanium Strike cartridges



BELOW Defending his Game Fair title tested Tristan's nerves, but he came out on top again



supportive. They let me have the time off to shoot major competitions when they over run with school time. I've got my GCSE's coming up in 2021, I'm interested in woodwork so after that I hope to find a career in carpentry."

It isn't just his teachers who have been helping Tristan through his clay-shooting career. Tristan has caught the attention of an impressive array of companies and has built up a support network to rival those twice his age. "Of course Dartford CSC have been amazing in their support, letting me use their grounds for my never ending training," says Tristan.

"Air Brake Connections Ltd have helped with the costs of cartridges and clothing. Chris and Dee at Chris Potter Country Sports kindly supplied me with my Salvinelli, with Kristen Reilly at Midlands Gun Services helping out with stock adjustments. Tom at Starkey Headsets has supplied Pilla shooting glasses, Gaylia at Laporte has helped to supply clays, while Jason at Vario has helped with hearing protection and support services."

"Then, of course, there is the Kent CPSA." He continues, "who have always been a huge help. It may seem like a long list of names, but I have known many of these people since I was very young, so for me they are like a family. It is very humbling to have such a fantastic group of people support me throughout my career. I cannot thank them all enough for everything they have helped me to achieve."

For a growing lad, one of the most important considerations has to be gun fit. A quick growth spurt between competitions can make all the difference in the world, and

this is something that Tristan has struggled with. "I've been very lucky really," explains Tristan, "my dad has generally been able to change my stock to suit whenever I've needed to make adjustments. Recently, however, I've had a custom stock made courtesy of Kristen at Midlands Gun Services. This new stock allows for quick alterations when I need them. I'm now 6ft 2in, so hopefully there won't be many more spurts, as I think we may have run out of spacers!"

As for the gun itself, "Fairly recently, Chris Potter Country Sports kindly supplied me with a Salvinelli Exclusive 32in," continues Tristan. "Chris and Dee have been amazing with the support they have provided, and I've been really enjoying the Salvinelli. I had been running Focchi F3 28g in 7.5 and 8.5 through it, but after a bit of experimentation and testing I am seriously thinking of switching over to the new Eley Hawk Titanium Strikes 28g in 7.5 and 8. Their performance has been phenomenal in training, so I think that I will continue with the Eleys for the rest of 2020 at least."

If you're looking to spot Tristan on the stands showing off the killing potential of his Salvinelli/Eley Hawk combo you will surely see him climbing the leader boards of every major sporting competition this season. "I'm particularly looking forward to the Worlds at EJ Churchill this summer," he says, "it's a fantastic ground and some of the world's best shooters will be there. If I can pick up some of the ease with which George Digweed takes down the competition or the silky smoothness of Richard Faulds, then I think I would have a chance of competing, and winning, anywhere." 📺



AROUND THE GROUNDS

ABOVE Eriswell has great facilities for Skeet, Trap and Sporting

Four top-notch shooting grounds from around the country to satisfy your every shooting need, whether you're a beginner or an experienced shot

ERISWELL LODGE

CLAY SHOOTING | CORPORATE EVENTS | FUNCTIONS | RETAIL | CONFERRING

Eriswell Lodge

Following its reopening in April 2015, Eriswell, which was formerly the Lakenheath Clay Target Centre, has a new lease on life and is making a bid to become the centre of Suffolk's shooting community. Eriswell is owned by father-and-son team Nigel and Stuart Smith, keen shooters with 12 years of experience apiece. Nigel and Stuart have hosted notable events that include the National Inter-Counties Sporting

Championship. They have available qualified instructors from CPSA, BASC and APSI for beginners up to advanced levels of ability.

Eriswell has four Skeet fields, two with DTL layouts on and two with ABT, plus a separate DTL/Sportrap/Compak layout. There are two more Sportrap layouts on top. Sporting shooters have 16 stands to get around, including two raised platforms and multiple traps on platforms and lifts. You can't

shoot anything bigger than a 7 shot or a load heavier than 28 grams, either plastic or fibre.

The café serves food and drinks, while the shop has a range of stock. Disabled shooters are catered for via ramps and flat grounds.

Suffolk's shooters know they'll have access to quality shooting for years to come.

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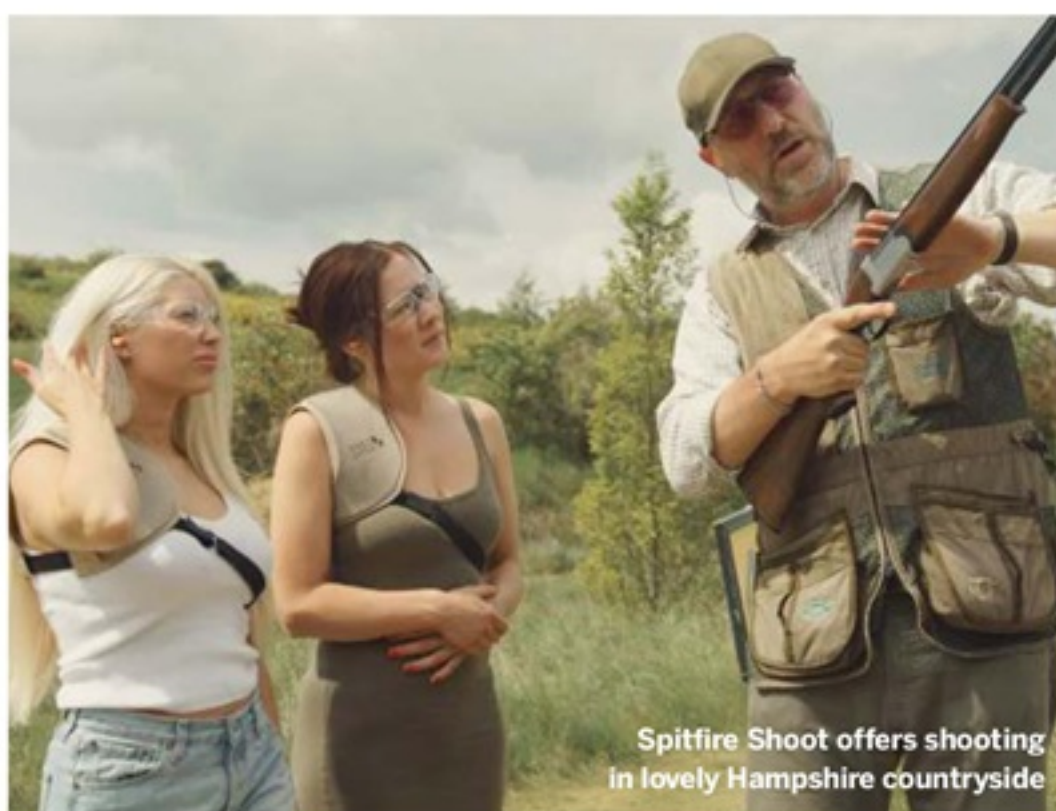


Spitfire Shoot

Spitfire Shoot is one of the only purpose-landscaped shoots in the South of England. Set in the beautiful Hampshire countryside, we can accommodate all levels of shooter, from the first timer to the experienced shot looking for pre-season practice. The shooting ground offer a wide choice of stands and can simulate all the popular varieties of game and competition shooting.

Whether you are interested in just giving clay pigeon shooting a go or are an experienced gun then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We can offer a range of shoots – group, practice, instruction, or corporate entertainment.

<https://spitfireshoot.co.uk/>
info@spitfireshoot.co.uk
01264 810 312



Spitfire Shoot offers shooting in lovely Hampshire countryside



Orston Shooting Ground

Our ever-expanding layouts consists of 20 Sporting stands over 53 acres, game shooting arena that includes 2 High Towers ranging up to 100ft as well as a grouse butt, two Down-the-Line (DTL) layouts, 2 Skeet layouts, ABT Layout & Sport Trap Layout.

We are set within a manicured piece of Nottinghamshire countryside with gravel pathways to guide you around the course and layouts; a welcoming clubhouse to relax in with full catering facilities and licensed bar.

You will never be disappointed with the vast array of different targets we offer, as the Sporting targets are changed every week.



Orston is hosting this year's Clay Shooting Classic and the British Schools & Young Shots

We also have a tuition Sporting course that is perfect for beginners, and this is where we host most of our groups and party shoot days.

The ground is available for individual practice, with self-timer release clay traps available (Promatic Claymate). Tuition is available with any of our friendly and fully qualified coaches, or to advise on trying

guns and fitting from the gun shop. It's also the perfect venue for corporate events and stag or hen parties.

We host local and national competitions and events throughout the year, including ladies' days and young shots' days.

www.orston.com
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Thimbleby's Head Coach and Ground Manager Philip Thompson



Thimbleby Shooting Ground

Part of the picturesque Thimbleby Estate and surrounded by thousands of acres of heath and woodland, Thimbleby is one of the country's premier shooting grounds and lies in an idyllic rural setting on the edge of the North York Moors National Park.

Easily accessible from the A1 and A19 and only 10 minutes from both Northallerton and Thirsk, we provide a range of stands to suit all abilities and our team of highly professional, qualified instructors lead by Head Coach and Ground Manager Philip Thompson, can offer everything from one to one tuition through to large group events.

Launching this spring, our new simulated game days let you explore some of the Estates hidden corners and shoot simulated quarry across some of Thimbleby's most iconic drives including the the grouse moor and the impressive high pheasants at the famous Allum Works.

For more information, to book a lesson or enquire about a simulated game day contact the team.

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Cost can be a big factor for juniors making their way in the sport



Georgina Roberts is an athlete, ambassador, and the youngest coach in British Shooting. She is also the first woman to captain the Welsh OTR team.

YOUNG GUNS

Georgina Roberts is delighted with the efforts to get young people shooting – but says more could be done

Shooting is a very inclusive sport. It can be enjoyed competitively or as a bit of family fun. In order for shooting to grow and develop, we need to work to encourage and support the next generation of shooters and find new ways of engaging with young athletes who may not necessarily come from shooting backgrounds.

So how can we help get more youngsters into shooting? There are so many inspiring new schemes and programmes which have really come to life over the past few years, such as the British Shooting Talent Pathway, The Schools Challenge and BASC Young Shots – but is there more that we can be doing?

Cost is a big factor. As a junior, I was very fortunate that my parents supported my shooting. Whilst I never took it for granted, I now realise that I never had a true understanding of the cost of the sport. This appreciation has enabled me to see how those who aren't in a similar position to myself might see shooting as an exclusive

sport. It's brilliant to see more events and shooting grounds offering cheaper entry fees for competitions in the juniors and colts categories, however it's rare to see cheaper junior rates in other areas such as clays, cartridges and other associated training costs, unless they are sponsored athletes.

Whilst I understand that businesses need to make a profit, if we want to make shooting a more inclusive sport, we should be trying to reduce costs for young people who might want to take part, but feel like they can't due to financial restraints. As we try to promote the sport, we should be trying to minimise barriers for those starting out, instead of making them more difficult. This could also see an uplift in performance throughout junior categories across the board, if they have access to more training resources.

Categories and incentives

Whilst most competitions feature a junior category, it is much less common to see colts get a mention. Sporting as a discipline seems to be the most supportive of younger athletes, with the

Shooting is an inclusive sport that can be enjoyed by all ages





Reducing costs for juniors could increase participation and performance



There are more competitions for under-21s than ever

majority of significant shoots hosting a colts competition. Although participation in colts is always likely to be less than in other categories, I think it's worth celebrating them taking part.

Even a small act of recognition, like presenting the top scoring athlete with a box of cartridges, can go a long way. Simply adding a colt category to a shoot can help encourage participation, as athletes that fall into this category are more likely to travel to take part if they know there is something in place for them. That is an incentive in itself, for the shooter and the host! The same can be said for junior ladies. So many shooting events are really upping their game with prizes, but it's also important to recognise that there is often a significant difference in winnings across categories – improving

these could also act as a good incentive for those who are starting out. The Corsivia Grand Prix was recently hosted at Griffin Lloyd Shooting Ground, and was a brilliant example of an event which had prizes for the top three athletes in both juniors and colts.

Competitions for juniors

I'm pleased to see that there are more competitions on offer for athletes under the age of 21 than ever before, and I really hope this is going to keep growing. The variety of competitions available can now cater for all ages and abilities, across a wide amount of disciplines.

British Shooting

The British Shooting Talent Pathway is a brilliant way for young people to try their hand at Olympic Trap and Olympic Skeet. This programme is designed to help athletes develop a winning mindset as well as a technique that can stay with them throughout their shooting career. Whilst Olympic ranges are relatively low on numbers in the UK, British Shooting ensure that they use as many as possible to host development programmes and taster days nationwide. The aim of these sessions is to help juniors progress from grassroots level shooters into national and international athletes who can represent Great Britain at European and World championships.

BASC

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation hosts a series of Young Shots days throughout the year, all over the country. These taster days are intended to help introduce juniors to the shooting sport in a safe and welcoming environment. They are incredibly family friendly sessions which are run by qualified instructors, aimed at grassroots level, and teach juniors gun safety as well as getting them started on clay shooting.



Younger shooters are more likely to travel if there are prizes on offer



ABOVE The Game Fair showcases the best of colts shooting with the CPSA's Colts Challenge

ABOVE LEFT The Oxford Gun Co's TSC Championship offers prizes for young shots



CPSA

The Game Fair sees the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association host an incredible sportrap competition called the Colts Challenge, which has been won twice by Tristan Hockey and always gathers a large crowd. Whilst the challenge is invite only, athletes from the top 10 in the national rankings are chosen by the CPSA to come and take part. This competition offers a brilliant incentive, encouraging colts to take part regularly in competitions in order to secure their place in the rankings and earn a place in the top 10.

The Schools Challenge

The Oxford Gun Company has firmly secured its place as one of the most famous competitions for young shooters in the UK, offering the biggest prize in clay shooting

history, a car – or two in fact, one each for the top boy and top girl. Prizes like this can be life-changing, so it's no surprise that the competition has very quickly become one of the nation's favourite events in the junior calendar for Sporting shooters.

The future

Juniors are quite literally the future of our sport, so we should do everything we can to support them. The shooting industry as a whole needs to keep re-inventing itself in order to spark interest in a new generation of athletes, as well as retaining that of those who are already aiming to be the next Peter Wilson or the next Cheryl Hall. With numerous plans already under way, I'm personally so excited to see them come to life throughout the year and look forward to seeing more and more juniors take up the shooting sport! 🎯

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Anita North won silver and gold in Women's Trap at the Commonwealth Games in 2002 and 2010. She is now a British Shooting GB Talent Programme coach.

SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA

Anita North explains how photos and video can help you improve your performance

Do you have photos and videos of yourself shooting, either competing or training? Visual images are a great aid to your development.

You can often pick up on things that you could not take in at the time. Indeed a coach can use them to help you better understand something they have been talking to you about.

A photo is a snapshot of an instant, while a video gives you an action record. There can be lots of great information in both.

For example, take a photo of your feet to remember the correct shooting position. A video can show you if you move before or after you see the clay and will show how you move. Videos and photos could be over your shoulder or set back so that you get a wider picture of all of you while shooting. Use the information to improve and develop.

Visualise your surroundings

How many times do you take photographs of the shooting grounds that you visit? Photographs can be particularly useful with the more formal disciplines like any of the

© ISSF



LEFT Where possible the ISSF livestream their finals on their Facebook page and then upload the videos to YouTube
ABOVE A photographer in action at an ISSF event





A panorama can help you prepare for an important competition

Trap disciplines or Skeet. A photograph of the background can help you when you do your dry gun mount practice incorporating visualisation. If you're not sure what visualisation is, ask your coach. Effectively, you can rehearse what you do in a context – you can imagine yourself at that shooting ground, on that particular layout. Photos can also be used with a shooting simulator, but that's a subject for another article.

Another use of photos is that they can be a good reminder of the layout and set-up of a shooting ground. For example, if it's a ground that will be hosting a major competition, it can be useful to use those photographs to remind yourself so that you feel a little more comfortable when you go back to the ground for that big competition. You could also use the photographs to choose another venue to train at in preparation for that major competition – you might select somewhere with a similar background. All of this can help you with preparation for your shooting.

Watch and learn

As well as reviewing your own shooting, you could also take the opportunity to watch some of the experts in action. Technology permitting, the finals of ISSF events are streamed live on the ISSF's Facebook page. They can make great viewing and include snippets of good information about the discipline in their presentation. Subsequently, the videos are available on the ISSF's YouTube channel.

If you are curious about the world of the ISSF disciplines, or just interested in developing your shooting, I would encourage you to watch the videos from the finals. Even if you do not shoot Olympic Trap or Olympic Skeet, you can still learn lots and find things that can help you. You can see the variations in stance, technique as well as the customisations of equipment. Guns have different set ups – stocks are very personal. Different shooters opt for different coloured lenses. You will see how individuals have their own set up.



Photos are a reminder of the set-up at a ground

It can be good to observe the behaviours of the finalists. Certain things stand out – you will see how shooters keep their cool or not; body language can be interesting and at times a look can say a thousand words. Note how shooters cope – or don't – when things go wrong. Tensions can run high and sometimes there are moments of drama with contested targets. You can also see the emotional engagement of spectators and coaches as they respond to situations. Fans cheer and make noises – they clap and shout. You'll see that in an individual sport there is a high level of support from fellow team members.

There's also another angle to the use of video, with the ISSF introducing the use of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR). Last year saw the ISSF using VAR in finals. This can be called on by officials and competitors when targets are disputed. Targets initially called as a loss can be questioned. Discussions can sometimes be complicated and long, but if you watch the videos from ISSF competitions last year, you will see that decisions do get overturned as the cameras catch the flight of the clays.

You can see the full results as well as videos from the finals on the ISSF website – for links to these check out www.issf-sports.org.

Well, that's it until next month. If you have never tried Olympic Trap or Olympic Skeet, but are inspired by what you see, then do give them a go – a taster coaching session in your chosen discipline is a great start. I hope you're enjoying your shooting and, if you are training, enjoy and embrace the hard work. Don't forget to get behind our teams as they continue on the quest for medals in this Olympic year! Go GB! 🇬🇧



You can use a photo to help with your visualisation – this is a DTL layout at Cambridge Gun Club



Rhys is looking forward to warmer weather and the chance to get back at the clays

THE REAL WORK BEGINS

With the game season over, Rhys Plum is getting back into training for competition



Rhys Plum is a 16-year-old English Sporting junior shooter from Hertfordshire, who writes a monthly column about his experiences in competition shooting.

I was lucky enough to have a few days of game shooting last season. These are a welcome change of scenery from the clay ground, and an opportunity to be immersed in the great outdoors. Just as you would practise before shooting a clay competition, I like to make sure that I'm prepared for the types of targets that will present themselves on the peg. Most clay grounds offer a variety of game flavoured targets, with high towers, a grouse butt and the like.

I do enjoy game shooting, and there's nothing more refreshing than stepping out on a frosty morning – but I'm eagerly awaiting the warmer weather and the upcoming clay competitions. With the game season behind us, it's time for me to get back into the swing of things – no pun intended. I am thoroughly looking forward to shooting the British, English and World Championships that are coming up in 2020.

One small problem I encountered over the New Year was that I had an abrupt and dramatic growth spurt, resulting in my gun's stock being much too short. I have

left my gun with the gunsmiths at Atkin Grant & Lang, who recommended that I should have a spacer fitted which will correct the problem.

As well as the Sporting competitions, I am preparing myself for the English Open Compak at Owls Lodge. I have shot Sporting before at this ground and love the challenging targets set by Richard Faulds – but I anticipate that my first Compak competition will end up being a very different experience.

A few weekends ago I shot a registered Sporting shoot at Sporting Targets, which I found to be a huge learning experience for me. One thing to remember is to book in advance at these shoots, as they are squadded! I remembered to do this, but the tricky course highlighted to me that there was something not right with my technical game. It became apparent on the quartering birds that I was holding my gun too far out, therefore not allowing myself enough time to make the correct move. Also I lack consistency on my kill point on battues, and am often leaving them too long.

I need to work on both these points in training. Fortunately the targets from this



A growth spurt meant Rhys needed to get his stock altered to fit again

registered shoot were left on for a few days, so I returned to Sporting Targets a few days later, to try to iron out these mistakes.

I'm also shooting the CPSA Premier League, which is now under way. I am making a real effort to get around and shoot the grounds where I will be competing at these events, so you may spot me shooting – or indeed missing. If you do, come and say hello! 📷

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EDINBURGH CUP 2020

Oxford Brookes shine at the annual universities championship at Bisley at Braidwood. Murray Thomson reports

ABOVE Smiles from the Newcastle University team, despite the weather

The University of Edinburgh's students and alumni have a proud tradition of hosting The Edinburgh Cup. For years uni teams have travelled from all over the country to compete – and this year more than 40 teams made the trip to Bisley At Braidwood on 1 February, hoping to take home either a team or individual prize. The event consisted of a 60 bird Sporting course followed by a 45 bird flush which ran as two separate events, so there was more than one chance for glory. After the competition the Edinburgh team hosts a black tie ball, which this year was held at the beautiful Prestonfield House.

Bisley at Braidwood took the main event seriously, and closed their entire ground to the general public to ensure that the students could enjoy a seamless and professional event, with a full contingent of referees and support staff on hand at all times. It's been a mild, wet winter in the borders heartlands, but the day started with strong, cold winds driving a persistent misty rain.

The course was set by Bisley at Braidwood's director, Ian Braithwaite, who had done his utmost to keep wind interference to a minimum while still providing some very interesting and exciting presentations. Ian knew that the shooters would be of mixed abilities, and said his goal was to ensure that there was something for everyone. Sure enough every stand offered targets with belly or dome. There were one or two more challenging stands to separate the pack, with clever angles and fades to catch out the careless gun without the need for an eye test.

Students had travelled from as far away as Wales and the south of England, so Ian and his team ensured that Oscars Cafe, at the heart of the Braidwood clubhouse, never stopped churning out food and warm drinks to those who had completed their endurance test with the elements. He said: "Making everyone feel welcome here was our goal, and I think we have surpassed our own expectations."

This year the Bisley team had decided to give each squad a start time, and the

system worked well. There were no queues at stands and even the usual choke point of the flush ran without the competitors needing to wait too long. Early cards in showed a mixed level of abilities, but there was no shortage of smiles and laughter on the stands, with groups encouraging one another.

Josh Billington of Oxford Brookes stood out as an early leader, showing smooth form and poise as he filled the borders sky with vaporised clays. Excellent performances were also seen later on in the day from contenders such as Matt Townson and Harry Clark, but Newcastle University's Aaron Hall took the win over Josh by two birds to securing the overall High Gun position.

There were some outstanding displays of marksmanship from the lady shooters too. At one point Aberdeen University's Polly Lightbody looked like she was shooting heat seeking shells. Clearly her experience as a new cap with the Scottish National Sporting team has served her well. Victoria Roxburgh also looked like she could keep her cool long enough to take the

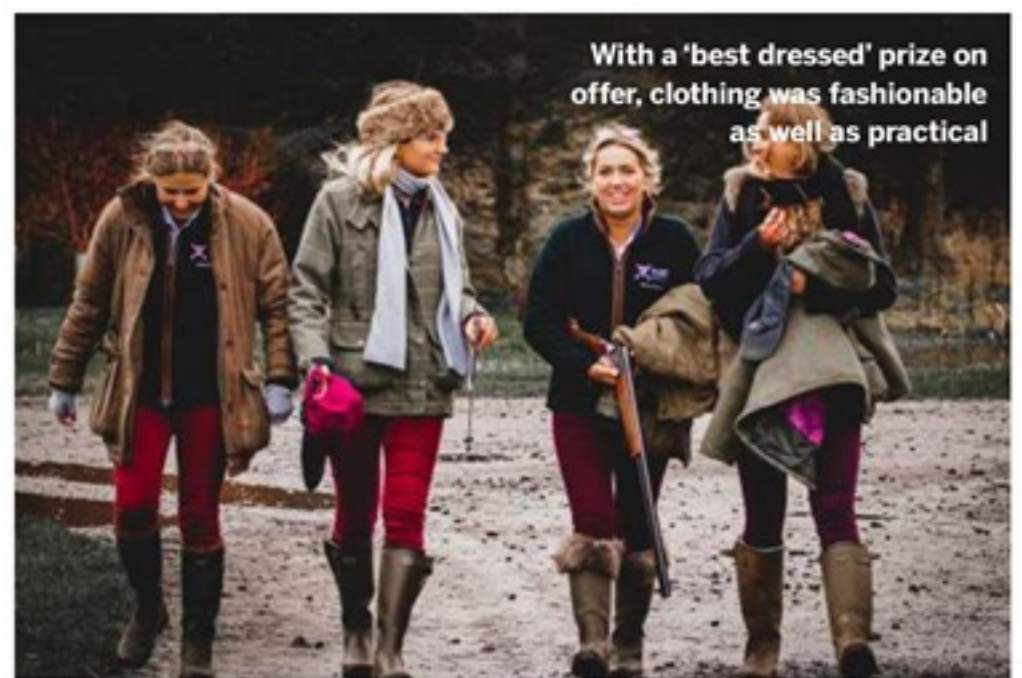




An outstanding performance saw Oxford Brookes president Lorna Hall take the Ladies title



Squads flowed through the Bisley at Braidwood course with few hold-ups



With a 'best dressed' prize on offer, clothing was fashionable as well as practical



The mens team from Oxford Brookes celebrate their victory

Ladies title, but in the end she was placed third behind second placed Lightbody, who was pipped to the post by an outstanding performance from Oxford Brookes club president Lorna Hall.

The Braidwood staff logged each incoming score card with ruthless efficiency through the day. With the last squad out at 3pm, the team scores were all counted up by 4.30. Oxford Brookes had secured the Men's and Ladies team event overall winners, with the mixed team trophy going to Edinburgh. Newcastle University won both the Mens and Ladies flush events, while Durham University won the mixed flush.

The event was, of course, blessed with people firmly in touch with fashion, and there was an award at the ball for 'Best Dressed' – which was awarded without hesitation to Octavia Charlesworth of Edinburgh University.

Emily Wilford, events secretary for The University of Edinburgh, said: "This event is the highlight of the Edinburgh University Clay Pigeon Shooting Club's calendar. We welcomed seven different universities across the country to participate, with 164 shooters competing in Ladies, Mens and mixed teams. For the second year running, the evening ball and raffle was supporting the wonderful charity of The Calvert Trust in the Lake District. This year we exceeded our previous efforts, raising £1,733.33 for a cause that is close to our hearts.

"The prizegiving was held after a well-earned meal, with teams from Oxford and Newcastle dominating the field, followed by a ceilidh that certainly got everyone up dancing, and brought the teams from different universities together. The whole day was a great success."

Lorna Hall, club president of Oxford Brookes and Ladies High Gun, said: "This

year has been by far the most successful of the three years since I have been involved with the Oxford Brookes club. We have grown exponentially in numbers and wins – with particular improvement from our lady shooters. I am very proud to be able to say the Ladies team has been undefeated this academic year. A mention must go to our Mens second team who outshot the first team in the flush, although the Mens first team retained their form and took the overall team title. We regularly travel the country with up to 40 students, and the Edinburgh Challenge has always been one of our favourites for both the shoot and the ball. The standard of both are second to none."

She adds: "Bisley at Braidwood has a stunning setting and set an enjoyable variety of targets to test all levels of shooters. Ideally we'd like to take the ground, staff and the lovely referees back to Oxford with us! For me personally, this has been a very successful season, made all the sweeter as this is my final year at Brookes. As club president I have enjoyed being instrumental in creating such a united and good-spirited team. I have achieved some success myself this year, being able to follow up my win at BUCS with a first at the Edinburgh Challenge. Maybe some of this could be attributed to the excellent adjustments carried out on my gun by Greenwood Gunsmiths."

Lorna continues: "This is a wonderful result for OBSC, and it could not have happened without the support of Oxford Brookes Centre for Sport, to whom we are very grateful. Last, but definitely not least, a huge thank you and congratulations to every member of the Brookes Shooting Club!" 📸



The organising committee were delighted to raise over £1,700 for their chosen charity



The home Edinburgh team won the mixed team trophy



Ladies flush winners Newcastle proudly display their rosettes

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Richard Atkins tests two new loads that offer good performance with less recoil, and at an affordable price

UNDERSTANDING THE TEST RESULTS

Velocity is measured at 2.5 metres from the muzzle.

Pressure is the mean breech figure in Bar (as per CIP).

SD is Standard Deviation (consistency).

CD is the Central Density rating. This records the percentage of the total pellets landing in the 30-inch circle that were also within the inner 20-inch circle

Shot size is derived from actual pellet count per ounce and is listed to the nearest UK size, with < and > symbols where shot is slightly larger or smaller than the nearest size. UK No.7 = 340 pellets/oz; UK No.7.5 = 400 pellets/oz; UK No.8 = 450/oz; UK No. 9 = 580/oz.

Shot weight is the average actual shot load, measured in grains. 1 grain = 0.065 grams = 0.0023 oz. CV is Crush Value. This is the amount by which the shot is reduced in size when subjected to the standard crush test. A smaller value means harder lead, so a CV figure of 20% is harder than 30%, for pellets of similar size. Smaller shot crushes proportionately more than larger size.

Choke boring Nominal pattern percentages at 40 yards are: Half Choke 60%; Imp/ Mod (three quarter) choke 65%; Full choke 70%.



lever is a brand many club shooters might be unfamiliar with. However, it's well known among the world's elite clay shooters, because

Clever has concentrated on producing absolute top grade cartridges ever since the Chiampan brothers started making their own competition cartridges in 1952. Now, 50 years later, Clever has an unmatched record of world and Olympic success. The name is often mispronounced by us Brits who see it as an English word meaning intelligent, but the correct way to say it is "Clay-ver".

Clever's dedication to ultimate performance has meant they are known as a premium shell – but the more modestly priced T1 Mirage Clever deserves to become better known among clay shooters generally. It includes a fibre wad option directed at the growing UK fibre wad market. I was fortunate to visit the Clever factory in the past, thanks to the previous importer, and I've seen the dedication of Clever employees, so I was pleased to have the opportunity to review these T1s.

Smart presentation

The bright, sturdy cardboard cartons of 25 are crisply printed in red, white and black with basic cartridge details on the top flap. The 24 gram shot weight is printed large (there's a 28 gram option) and the (Italian) shot size 7½ (2.4mm). The fibre wad version has 'FIBRE' printed large while the plastic wad option doesn't state 'plastic'.

Clever built their reputation and impressive record of success by selecting the components they use in each cartridge type, for every discipline, from leading component makers. This gives them the widest choice of components.

T1 cartridges are loaded into 70mm long, red, parallel plastic tube Reifenhauser construction cases. The ribbing on the case suggests these are of Maxam origin, with the primers being the excellent Martignoni 688.



Richard Atkins has decades of experience testing guns, cartridges and accessories, and is our expert on all aspects of ballistics, shotgun performance and technical analysis

CLEVER MIRAGE T1 24 GRAM 7.5 PLASTIC

Shot load	373 grains
Pellet (count per oz)	331
UK shot (size / CV)	>7 / 28%
Pellets in 30in dia (Av)	193
Pellets in 20-30in	85
Pattern	68%
CD	56%
Velocity	370 m/s (1,214 fps)
Recoil (M) (unit= Ns)	8.8
Pressure (unit = bar)	528



CLEVER MIRAGE T1 24 GRAM 7.5 FIBRE

Shot load	368 grains
Pellet (count per oz)	363
UK shot (size / CV)	<7 / 33%
Pellets in 30in dia (Av)	178
Pellets in 20-30in	75
Pattern	58%
CD	58%
Velocity	386 m/s (1,266 fps)
Recoil (M) (unit= Ns)	9.3
Pressure (unit = bar)	570



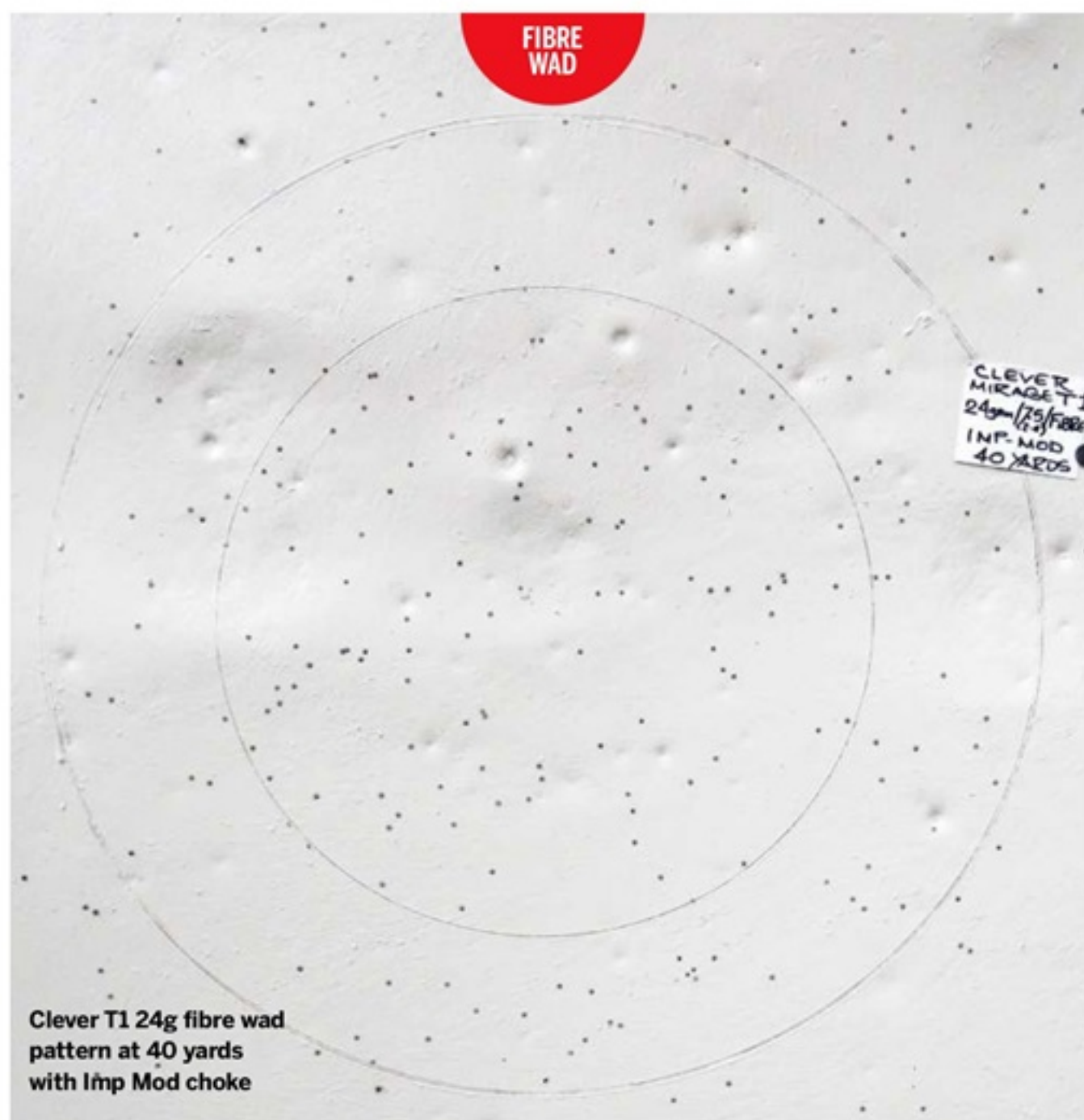
The 10mm tall brass plated steel heads are typical of T1 type cartridges where, especially with Italian cartridge makers, case head height is an indicator of price and performance categories. Cases proved strong, as can be detected from the firm, crisp, way the six-point crimp closure folds remain evident after firing.

The fibre wad option has special appeal in the UK where their use is increasingly dictated. The main driving fibre wad is a quality product from Diana. Loaded in conjunction with a 4mm thick over powder 'nitro' card, the 70mm case allows a 20mm long wad to be used and ensuring a more efficient gas seal in gun bores than shorter wads might, especially in long forcing cone guns.

The plastic wad is Clever's Flexi Max patented design. This has an efficient gas seal base with a honeycomb form centre section to absorb set-back forces and soften recoil. A key feature is the shot cup; this is made as a full cup with no moulded in 'slits' to form petals. Clever prefer to cut the slits into the shot cups on loading each wad into

“Clever has a unique record of Olympic and world success.”





the case. Although more time consuming, hence more expensive, this ensures the shot cups open up evenly upon exiting the muzzle and wad remains intact with each fired wad behaving identically. It's this sort of attention to detail that has helped Clever achieve their enviable record of success.

Propellant powders

The propellant in the plastic wad cartridge is Maxam CSB5, which is a light greenish grey, single based, disc cut powder with a very economical average charge weight of just 17.8 grains. The fibre wad type uses a square cut powder with a charge weight averaging 20.6 grains. Both types left minimal barrel residues with a light, fine, easily removed 'dust' in the bore.

Both propellants produced moderately quick velocities; ideal for cartridges which, as cartons state, are promoted for their low recoil. Shot loads proved excellent quality; well graded for size and roundness and polished with graphite to a glossy black finish. As with all lower priced cartridges the lead mix contains less antimony than in the premium range, as the higher crush percentages CV results show. These indicate at least 2% antimony and Clever claim to use 2.5% antimony shot in the T1 Mirage, so that sounds about right and it's more than some budget loads.

Both T1 samples are marked 7.5 shot size. Being Italian, this equates to closer to UK No.7. Conducting my usual shot count across several loads showed sizes were a little different. The plastic wad shot count averaged 330 per ounce, fractionally larger than UK No.7 (340 per ounce). The fibre wad shot load averaged 363 pellets per ounce, slightly smaller than UK No.7.

Fibre wads tend to pattern slightly more open than plastic wads so slightly smaller shot makes sense, giving the opportunity to get more pellets into the pattern. I'd generally choose Italian No.8 (UK 7.5) or even UK No.8 for most of my 24 gram cartridge use, reserving 7.5 for the longer shots with more choke. T1 are made in 7.5, 8 and 9.5 (Italian) shot sizes.

Performance

Both these cartridges were submitted to the Birmingham CIP Proof Laboratory for pressure, velocity and momentum testing. Pattern tests were conducted at 40 yards from a 30in long, standard bore size barrel with 2¾in (70mm) chamber with standard length (short) forcing cone and bored Imp Mod (UK ¾) choke.

It's intriguing to note that Clever, who as their record shows, know all about the requirements for a high performance cartridge, have kept velocity for both T1

types down a modest amount from their faster premium competition loads. This makes sense. These are intended to be a low recoil load for training and for the less demanding disciplines and target types.

A 400 mps 28 gram load typically results in a momentum result (indicating recoil) of around 11.1 Ns – whereas the fibre T1 load gave just 9.3 Ns, indicating around 16% less recoil. The plastic wad T1 was even smoother with 20% less! These may not sound like massive reductions, but are very significant in producing smooth shooting characteristics. As is usually the case, consistency was better with the plastic wad load than the fibre wad, which is shown in the SD figures.

Moderate velocities also help with pattern quality, especially in lower antimony shot cartridges. Softer shot propelled very fast tends to open patterns more quickly. Pattern results at 40 yards, using the same Imp Mod test barrel, showed that the plastic wad T1 exceeded the nominal Imp Mod ($\frac{3}{4}$) pellet count in the 30in circle by an average of 3% to record 68% density.

The 5% faster fibre wad load put an average of 58% of its shot load in the 30in circle at 40 yards. This equates to just 2% under $\frac{1}{2}$ choke from the same barrel.

These results might assist those who sometimes ponder the differences between plastic wad loads – you need to remember that it's not all about the wads!

Breaking clays

As I often remark, it is pellets that break clays, not percentages. The slightly smaller pellets in the fibre wad load helped ensure

“I found the T1s very smooth to shoot with good pattern potential.”

that, despite the lower percentage, there were only on average five pellets less in the inner 20in pattern circle than the plastic wad load. The outer 20-30in segment was an average 10 pellets down for an overall 15 fewer pellets in the 30in patterns.

The important thing is, how did they perform on the clays? I would say surprisingly well – except it wasn't really

a surprise! Many shooters will have tried lighter shot loads at some time, even down to 21 grams, and been pleasantly surprised at how well they break clays.

Before I had pattern tested them, I used the fibre T1 load on a variety of Sporting clay targets and achieved pleasing results, even when testing a gun I wasn't familiar with. I put in a $\frac{3}{4}$ choke for a particularly long crosser and broke most of them. That told me these shells were fine for the large majority of club and standard targets.

I used the plastic wad version for DTL where they broke first and second barrel shots well, even with $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ chokes. I also tried these at another Sporting shoot with no fibre ban. They tackled surprising long targets and gave good breaks on closer ones using more open chokes.

I'm sure the T1 loads will meet the requirements of plenty of Sporting and Trap shooters. For the demanding targets, carry a box of premium types – I used Clever Grand Italia.

All in all I found the Clever T1 very smooth to shoot with good pattern potential, for less money than Clever's premium cartridges. It could well prove a very happy introduction to this world class cartridge brand for many clay shooters. Try some and let us now how you got on. 📷

BELOW The slits are cut into the cup at loading, ensuring they open evenly on firing



DELIGHTFUL DARTFORD

Jasper Fellows finds a warm welcome at this clay club with a difference beside the River Thames



here is no doubt about it – the South East of England is a clay shooter's paradise, from the beautiful grounds at EJ Churchill to the

phenomenal shooting school at The A1. But, if you really want to feel at home, like you're part of the family, then look no further than Dartford Clay Shooting Ground.

Founded in the 1970s by two brothers, Dartford CSC started life with just one ABT and one DTL layout. Then, in 1998, Peter Duffield realised the potential of this little ground on the side of the Thames and began to turn it into what you see today.

"Peter worked hard to make this corner of Dartford into something special for the Kent shooting community," explains Kelly, Dartford's General Manager. "He added four Skeet layouts along with 13 Sporting stands and covered ABT, Sportrap and practice stands for all-weather shooting."

"We've been continuing to improve every aspect of the ground since then too," continues Kelly. "We've even added floodlighting on a number of the Sportrap layouts so that we can offer late night shooting to our clients. We've also renovated our Sporting and Skeet layouts so that we can continue to provide a top quality shooting experience."

Thanks to Dartford's automated key system, it couldn't be easier for the experienced shooter to make the most of

The ground offers four Skeet layouts as well as Sporting, Sportrap, DTL and ABT

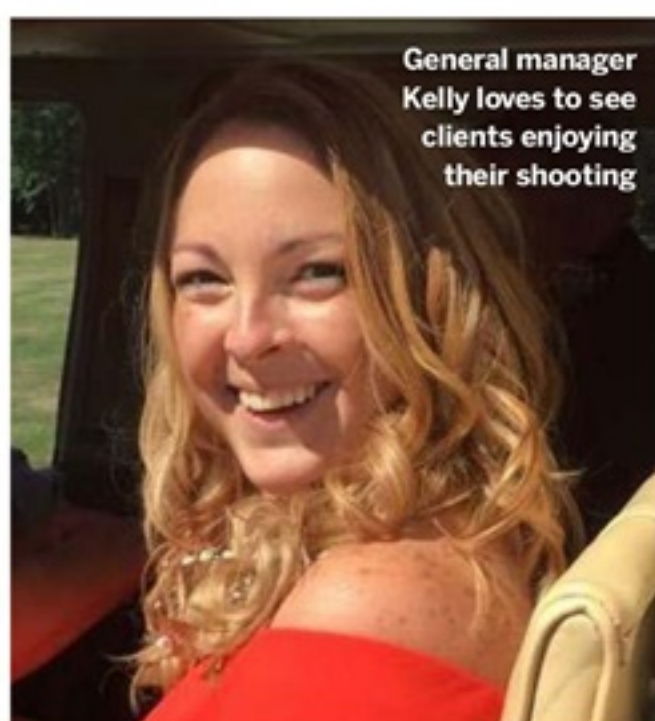


Dartford is known for its friendly, welcoming atmosphere where you quickly feel at home





The ground offers floodlit shooting during the winter months



General manager Kelly loves to see clients enjoying their shooting

everything on offer – even when shooting solo. “Our long-range key system is simple to use,” explains Kelly, “and it allows shooters to set a time delay to suit them, ensuring that the clays start flying exactly when you want them to.”

For those wanting instruction, look no further than CPSA Coach Steve Williams and his team. “Whether you are a novice looking for a full course of instruction, or a pro looking for someone to point out any bad habits, Steve and his team of fully qualified instructors are here to guide you in the right direction,” says Kelly.

Observant readers may recognise Kelly as the mother of Colt sensation Tristan Hockey. “Tristan helps a lot with the youngsters and first timers that come along to our have-a-go sessions,” says Kelly. “He explains to them how young he was when

he first started shooting here and helps them to understand how, with a bit of hard work and dedication, they can progress through the sport just as he has.”

One thing that any visitor to Dartford Clay Shooting Club immediately notices is the sense of community here – the family spirit that seems to encompass every aspect of the business. Even during one of the many competitions that are held here, one can still feel at home in the presence of such passionate and caring staff.

“We take our competitions seriously though,” adds Kelly, “we believe everyone can compete to the highest levels, but that all competing can be done with a smile. We love the atmosphere that builds up when we host any competition, whether it’s one of our weekly CPSA registered Skeet shoots or one of our monthly CPSA registered English Sporting shoots, we love to see our clients shooting their best and having a great time.”

If you really want to start your day at Dartford off right, why not tuck into their brilliant range of full breakfasts, snacks and drinks served by Kelly’s own mother, Gillian, from their onsite kitchen. “If you’re lucky, she might even be serving up her famous bubble and squeak,” says Kelly, “it’s worth a visit just to try it!”

With a warm welcome guaranteed, late night shooting and plenty of testing targets to keep you guessing regardless of preferred discipline, Dartford Clay Shooting Club is well worth the visit for a fun and fulfilling day out. ☺

LESSONS

Tuition with a fully qualified instructor starts from £65 per hour exclusive of clays and cartridges. Have-a-go sessions are available for first timers and start at £40 for 25 clays, cartridges and a full English breakfast. Discounts are available for large group bookings.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is available from £50 per year. Members benefit from reduced clay prices across all disciplines, and a gift of 100 clays during your birthday month.

WHO'S WHO

Kelly Hockey is the general manager and can be found on the front desk welcoming shooters to the grounds. Gillian, Kelly’s mother, lends a hand welcoming clients while also serving her famous recipes in the café. Out on the grounds, Dave Nicholson is the grounds manager, while Scott Batchelor sets the targets. CPSA registered coach Steve Williams and his team are on hand for any shooters looking to boost their scores.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

English Sporting, Sportrap, ABT, DTL, Double Rise, English Skeet, NSSA Skeet, Olympic Skeet and a new air rifle range coming this summer.

WHEN IS IT OPEN?

MAY TO OCTOBER
Wednesday 10am-4pm
Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday-Sunday 10am-5pm
LATE OCTOBER TO MAY
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WHERE IS IT?

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The Guide

This section is packed with facts and advice to help you select the right gun, cartridges and gear – and find somewhere to shoot, whether that's an introductory lesson, a practice round, or a session with a top-level coach. Here's what we've got for you this month.

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*Public vote - Time Inc Shooting awards in association with the British Shooting Show.



GERMAN LESSONS

Andy Powell looks at the influence of German gunmakers on clay gun design

Shooting out on the clay circuits and working in one of the busiest gun rooms and shooting grounds in the UK, I can't help noticing the massive German presence around the clay world. It started a few years ago when Blaser, a highly accomplished rifle maker, entered the increasingly competitive shotgun market for the first time. They had more than a little help designing the flagship model F3 from none other than ten-times FITASC Sporting, World, European & British Champion John Bidwell.

The F3 hit the UK market in 2004, and it's fair to say that like any new gun they had a few teething issues. To their credit, Blaser got to work immediately and sorted the problems with very little fuss, and the brand started to gain momentum. Even today, both Blaser and Mulliners provide a fantastic level of service.

It wasn't long before the F3 MkII came along in November 2010 with its

simple plain black action and the F3 logo tastefully tucked into the corner on each side of the low-profile action. On first look from the outside, nothing much had changed apart from the colour of the action from matt silver-grey to matt black. The big change, however, was that the problems with trigger pulls and a few other niggling issues were all sorted in true German engineering fashion.

The gun was very different to anything else on the market at the time, with its weight balancing system as well as a completely modular design, including fully interchangeable stocks, barrels and fore-ends with no need for a gunsmith. Many have tried to copy this modular system since, with varying degrees of success, but in my opinion none have made it work like Blaser. Between them, John and Blaser came up with a low action profile, well balanced competition gun for a very reasonable price, that is still loved and used by many today.

Since that first model we have seen plenty more from Blaser. The entry

The F16 has been another success story for the German gun maker

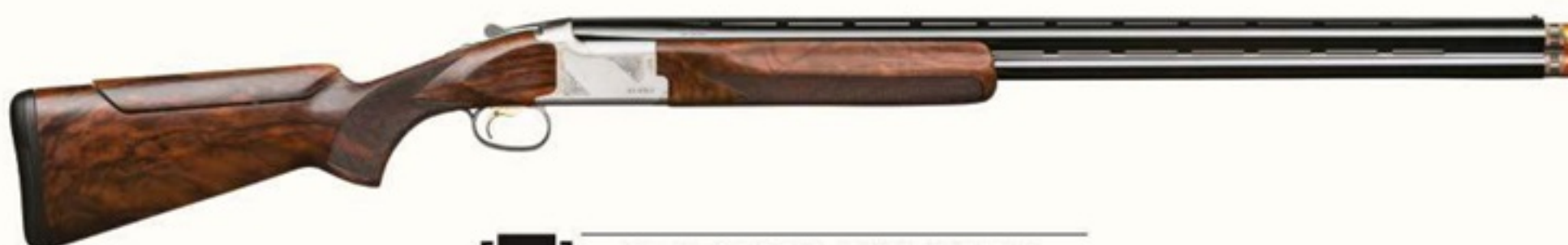


Blaser's F3 has a fully modular design, with interchangeable stocks, barrels and fore-ends



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Like Blaser, Krieghoff were known as makers of fine hunting rifles before entering the shotgun market

level F16 has been another success for them, and they have added more variants to the well-established F3 range. If you have never shot one, then I recommend you give it a try; I think you will be more than impressed.

Krieghoff K80

The other very popular German brand is of course the Krieghoff. Like Blaser, Krieghoff were makers of fine hunting guns until they decided to enter the competition shotgun world in the 1960s. The brand has grown hugely since the early days and I have to say with total justification. The K80 range is rapidly becoming the number one choice for a lot of shooters on the circuit.

The company is family owned, and Dieter and Phil Krieghoff are the fourth and fifth generation respectively of the family to keep the 130-year-old brand going, along with a worldwide staff. The gun itself can trace its history back to the Remington 32, the long-lost American cousin. After the Remington 32 ceased production, a couple of Americans took the action to Krieghoff in Germany and the rest is history.

The gun has some unique features and the first that anyone notices is the shroud that retracts when the top lever is used, allowing the gun to open. The reason why is still a mystery, but my theory is that most guns are locked shut by using the bottom of the action. This is perfectly fine and adequate, but the clever Germans thought that this would be enhanced even more by holding the top of the action firm, as when any gun



This K-80 with its eye-catching Abraham Lincoln engraving was Krieghoff's 2019 Gun of the Year

“Both these brands should be at the top of any serious shooter’s list of guns to try.”

fires the top barrel, what is actually happening is the gun is trying to open itself as the pressure is all at the top and the locking mechanism is below the bottom barrel. This could be why the K80 range have such reduced muzzle flip compared with a lot of guns in the market place today. The floating barrels also really help with the cooling of the gun.

Another benefit is the unique way the triggers work and the crispness of clean trigger pulls that are second to none. Things like tapered ribs and adjustable combs are all personal to different shooters, but it's safe to say that most things are possible with the “K gun” – the only limiting factor will be your wallet.

The K80 Parcours is the entry level into the range and a very capable gun. It is somewhat lighter than the K80 Sporter, something that is liked by some but not all. My personal view is the heavier guns tend to be more popular amongst the world elite. The K gun is certainly a gun to try if you have never done so. Try as many different examples as you can before you

take the plunge but, trust me, you won't be disappointed.

Legendary engineering

The rise in popularity of both of these brands is no coincidence. The Germans are world renowned for their engineering prowess in whatever they do, so why not in competition guns? The sheer quality of materials and the hours spent on design and testing, coupled with the highest level of customer service and warranty cover, must make both of these brands top of any serious shooter's try list.

There is always a period of pain for anyone to go through as they get used to any new gun. It varies from one person to the next, but once you have got to grips with either of these guns you won't want to change any day soon.

My advice is you must try any gun of any brand you are looking to buy, so make sure you do your homework and try before you buy. But these two brands are used by a lot of the world elite – and they can't all be wrong! 🎯



The Krieghoff K80 is noted for its low muzzle flip

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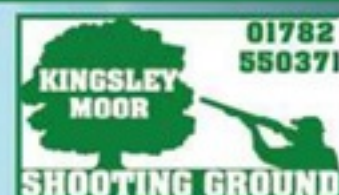


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Sat 11th	100 Skeet Reg. Open Practice. 10 - 4.30
Sun 12th	100 Straight Club Skeet Shoot Reg. Tel. entries. 60 Sporting. Open Practice. 10 - 4.30
Thur 16th	60 Sporting re. Open Practice. 1 - dusk
Sat 18th	100 Skeet Reg. 100 A/Round Reg. Black Powder. Open Practice. 10 - 4.30
Sun 19th	100 Sporting Reg. £100HG. Tel entries pref. Open Practice. 9 - 4.30
Thur 23rd	50 DTL re. Open Practice. 1 - dusk
Sat 25th	100 Skeet Reg. 100 DTL Reg (Northants C/Champs & Open) Open Practice. 10 - 4.30
Sun 26th	100 DTL Reg (Northants, Beds & Oxon C/Champs & Open) 100 Skeet Reg. 60 Sporting. Open Practice. 10 - 4.30
Thur 30th	50 Skeet re. Open Practice. 1 - dusk

Every Thursday - Open Practice Sporting, Skeet, DTL, ABT - 1pm-Dusk

FAVOURITE CARTRIDGES AT ATKIN GRANT & LANG

Rachel Draper looks at the loads that bust the most clays at the AGL ground

A

Atkin Grant & Lang is a clay ground, shooting school and gun shop, and we get through roughly 20,000 cartridges a week, with a wide range of different loads coming through the door. That's because we have to stock cartridges that are suitable for shooters of all abilities, experiences and ages, from the first time shot to the regular competitor.

Our instructors typically use 21 gram loads for adult lessons, which offer more than enough power to hit the average clay and produce minimal recoil, making them ideal for beginners. Those coming to the ground to practise for their next registered shoot prefer a 28 gram shell packing more of a punch, and of course we

can cater for them too. We've even found a happy middle ground, with cartridges that offer the best of both worlds, with the likes of Power Red in 27 grams, and Gamebore Evos at 24 grams.

Here we've picked out some of our customers' favourites to share with you. From our own experience as well as customer feedback, it's safe to say that all of these are good options. However, finding the right cartridge is a very personal endeavour, and it is always advisable to try a variety of makes and loads to see which one works best for you and your gun. The prices quoted here are correct at time of going to press, but remember that cartridge prices do fluctuate.



LYALVALE EXPRESS POWER RED

One of our best sellers, Power Red are consistently accurate and quick cartridges, with less recoil than their powerful relatives, the Power Blue and Power Gold. They are ideal for our 'pay & play' shooter, looking to enjoy a round of clays with friends but also keen to keep their scores up. They are reasonably priced too, starting at just £52.50 a slab for AGL members.

Load: 27 gram, 7.5, fibre
Case Length: 70mm
Muzzle Velocity: 1,500 fps
Price: £185 / 1,000 Plastic; £64.00 for 250 (£52.50 for members)

LYALVALE EXPRESS POWER BLUE

An extra gram of lead but packing a whole lot more punch, another popular cartridge in our shop is Power Blue, offering 28 grams of clay breaking power. They are good value as an entry level competition load, and offer consistent shot patterns over long distances.

Load: 28 gram, 7.5, 8 and 9, fibre
Case Length: 70mm
Muzzle Velocity: 1,375 fps
Price: £67.00 for 250 (£52.40 for members)

LYALVALE EXPRESS XXI

Our bespoke house cartridges are made by Lyalvale Express and have similar qualities to the Super Lite. They are our instructors' choice for lessons and 'have a go' sessions, as their smoothness and low recoil ensure that every shooter has an enjoyable day, with no sore shoulders. The fast burning powder makes them not only super light but also super quick. The shorter chamber length is ideal for older English guns which we see a lot of, being a gunmakers with nearly 200 years of heritage.

Load: 21 grams, 8, fibre
Case Length: 65mm
Muzzle Velocity: 1,395 fps, also available in 20 bore
Price: £70.00 for 250 in 12 bore (£56.00 for members)

LYALVALE EXPRESS SUPREME COMPETITION

We host regular CPSA registered shoots and major events throughout the summer, so we sell a range of competition cartridges – and among those Supreme Competition is a best seller. Boasting uniform patterns at long range, these cartridges have a reputation for quality, performance and consistency, and are renowned as Richard Faulds' personal choice. They are slightly more expensive than some, but arguably worth the money.

Load: 28 grams, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 9, plastic
Case Length: 70mm
Muzzle Velocity: 1,475 fps
Price: £92.50 for 250 (£84.00 for members)

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This is ideal for competition shots who don't want to break the bank, or club shooters aiming for high performance practice rounds. It's available in 21, 24 and 28 gram, so there's something for everyone, whether enjoying a shoot with friends, training at the clay ground or competing. The 24 gram is a popular middle ground.

Load: 24 gram, shot size 7.5, 8, 9, plastic or fibre

Case Length: 65mm fibre, 70mm plastic,

Muzzle Velocity: 1,420 fps

Price: Fibre – £70.00 for 250 (£62.50 for members)

Plastic – £65.00 (£58.50 for members)



HULL SUPERFAST

Fast by name, fast by nature, with a muzzle velocity of 1,500 fps. These cartridges fly off the shelves at our shooting ground. You lose one gram of load for a superb saving on the cost. The 27 grams don't feel any less powerful, maintaining hard hitting power and packing a slightly stronger recoil than other varieties.

Load: 27 grams, 7.5, fibre or plastic

Case Length: 70mm

Muzzle Velocity: 1,500 fps

Price: £65.00 for 250 (£59.50 for members)



ELEY SUPERB

The Eley Superb's clay breaking power over long distances is thanks to the evenly distributed patterns and 5% antimony extra hard shot. The 28 gram load comes in a fibre wad. Eley claim that it is "the best all round cartridge we produce".

Load: 28 grams (also in 24 gram), 7, 7.5, 8, 9, plastic or fibre

Case Length: 70mm

Muzzle Velocity: 1,350 fps

Price: Fibre – £75.00 for 250 (£70.00 for members)

Plastic – £73.50 for 250 (£68.50 for members)



HULL SPORTING 100

Voted clay cartridge of the year 2019, the Sporting 100 is a tried and tested popular purchase amongst our competition shooters. It is an ideal mid-range cartridge, good value for money with low recoil but enough oomph. Developed with the help of Ed Solomons, this cartridge is smooth in the shoulder yet hard on your target.

Load: 28 gram, 7.5, 8, plastic or fibre

Case Length: 70mm

Muzzle Velocity: 1,400 fps

Price: £70.00 for 250 (£65.00 for members)



HULL PRO ONE

Smooth but powerful, these cartridges offer a dense pattern and consistent performance over distance, with restrained recoil. Another popular purchase amongst our customers, they are often seen on the competition circuit as they are quick and reliable with high grade shot and serious stopping power.

Load: 28 gram (also available in 24 gram), 7, 7.5, 8, 9, plastic

Case Length: 70mm

Muzzle Velocity: 1,500 fps

Price: £75.00 for 250 (£71.50 for members)



ELEY SELECT

The Select are another of our favourites for practice rounds. Eley give the option of 21, 24 and 28 grams, covering a range of requirements for the everyday shot. These cartridges are good all-rounders that get the job done, consistent and understated.

Load: 28 gram, 7.5, 8, 9, plastic or fibre

Case Length: 67mm

Muzzle Velocity: 1,275 fps

Price: Fibre – £60.00 for 250

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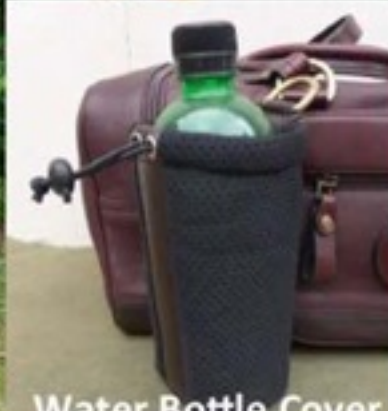


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Maulden Gun Club

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Disciplines: ESP
 Competition alternate Sundays. Practice and coaching for members only. Fibre wad only
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Web: www.mauldengunclub.com

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Telephone: 01234 708893
Email: reception@sportingtargets.co.uk
Web: www.sportingtargets.co.uk

Tythe Farm Gun Club

Disciplines: ESK, OSK
 Some OSK competitions & practice. Coaching available by arrangement.
Telephone: 07719 329094
Email: philipcolson@hotmail.co.uk

BERKSHIRE

Four Counties Clay Target Club

Newbury, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR
 Open first, third and fourth Sundays. See web for competition details. Practice and coaching available. Cash or cheque only
Telephone: 07909 864027
Email: fourcountiesctc@outlook.com
Web: www.fourcountiesctc.co.uk

Hinds Head Shooting Club

Waltham St Lawrence (nr Maidenhead), CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Open the third Sunday of every month, except July and August. Practice available
Telephone: 01628 626081
Email: andy@hindsheadsc.co.uk
Web: www.hindsheadsc.co.uk

Royal Berkshire Shooting School

Pangbourne, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
 Open summer 8.00am-5.30pm, winter 9.00am-dusk. Regular competition. Caddied practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01491 672900
Email: info@rbss.co.uk
Web: www.rbss.co.uk

BRISTOL

Avon Smooth Bore Club

Tog Hill, Bristol, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Practice available – solo only, no coaching. Open Sunday mornings, competitions roughly every fortnight
Telephone: 07753 635934
Email: dannyharford8@btinternet.com
Web: www.avonsmoothboregunclub.co.uk

Monument Sporting Gun Club

Chipping Sodbury, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Open the first Sundays from 9.30am, inter-club competitions as they occur. Shooting available on a squadded basis
Telephone: 07787 570279
Email: dan1967@hotmail.co.uk

Yate & District Gun Club

Lower Morton, Thornbury, CPSA Affiliated
Telephone: 01179 697152
Email: c.davy@outlook.com

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Drayton Parslow Sporting Clays

Drayton Parslow
Disciplines: ESP
 Open alternate Sundays from 9.30am, last entry 12 noon. See web for fixtures. Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07710 448609
Email: basccoach@yahoo.co.uk
Web: draytonclays.co.uk

Dunstable & District Gun Club

Stewkley, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
 Open the second and fourth Sundays, see web for competition details. Practice available. Fibre wads only. See web for competition details
Telephone: 07745 204141
Email: chrisrodgers29@btinternet.com
Web: www.dunstableanddistrictgunclub.org
E.J.Churchill
 High Wycombe, CPSA Premier Plus Ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, OSK, FSP, CSP, DR, SB, STR
 Open Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5.30pm. Competitions Mondays, plus selected dates. Caddied practice and coaching available. Fibre wad only
Telephone: 01494 883227
Email: reception@ejchurchill.com

Web: www.ejchurchill.com

Hornet Shooting Ground

Aylesbury, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, FITASC
Telephone: 01494 883715
Email: kevin@go-clayshooting.co.uk
Web: www.hornetsg.co.uk/

Kingswood Gun Club

Aylesbury, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 First and third Sundays at three different grounds. Sunday Sporting league on the second Sunday. Practice available. Structured practice on first Sundays
Telephone: 01296 770401
Email: jgoss1969@googlemail.com
Web: www.kingswoodgunclub.com/

Nags Head Gun Club

Winslow, Milton Keynes, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Open Sundays, although days some may be away matches – see Facebook for details of competitions. Practice available
Telephone: 01296 712037
Email: nags_head@hotmail.co.uk
Web: m.me/NagsHeadGunClub

The Oxford Gun Co

Jericho Farm, Oxford Rd, Oakley CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
 Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-4pm Saturday, closed Wed, Sun and Bank Holiday. See web for competition details. Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01844 238308
Email: www.oxfordguncompany.co.uk/contact.php
Web: www.oxfordguncompany.co.uk

Valley View Sporting Gun Club

Great Missenden
Disciplines: ESP, Compak, FITASC
 Competitions on second Sundays. Practice and coaching available, fibre wad only
Telephone: 07903568740
Email: www.facebook.com/valleyviewclub
Web: valleyviewclub.co.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Black Swan Shooting Ground

Thorney, Peterborough, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Open alternate Sundays, see web for competitions. Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07757 287 757
Email: Sales@blackswanshootingground.co.uk
Web: www.blackswanshootingground.co.uk

Cambridge Gun Club Ltd

Cottenham, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, FSP, CSP, DR, SB, SKD, STR

Open every other Sunday. Competition most weekends, see web for details. Practice and coaching available.

Telephone: 01353 648004

Email: karen@cambridgegunclub.co.uk

Web: www.cambridgegunclub.co.uk

Fenlands Gun Club

Doddington, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
 Open every second Sunday
 Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01945 475854
Email: geoff.fenlands@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook.com/FenlandsGunClub/

High Harthay

Brampton, Huntingdon, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
 Open Fridays and alternate Saturdays and Sundays. Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07793 148726
Email: info@highharthay.co.uk
Web: www.highharthay.co.uk
Waresley & District Gun Club
 Eynesbury, St Neots, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, ESK
 Open weekly, either Saturday or Sunday (see web for details)
Telephone: 07778 685132
Email: keith.armer@tesco.net
Web: www.wdgc.info

CHESHIRE

Catton Hall Shooting Ground

Frodsham, CPSA Registered
 Open Wednesdays 10.30am-4pm, competition days or by appointment. Competitions once per month
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, OSK
Telephone: 01928 788295
Email: info@cattonhall.co.uk
Web: www.cattonhall.co.uk

Cloudside Shooting Club

Congleton
Disciplines: CSP, DTL, ABT, ESK, OTR
 Open winter Wednesday 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm summer Wednesday-Thursday 11am-4pm and 5-8pm, Friday 11am-3pm and 4-6pm, Saturday 11am-3pm
Telephone: 01260 226392
Email: info@cloudside.co.uk

Update your details!

Contact us at fieldsports@futurenet.com with any updates to your ground's opening times or schedule

Web: www.cloudside.co.uk
Holmes Chapel Shooting Ground
Holmes Chapel, Crewe, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, HD, SB
Open Wednesday 10am–5pm,
Competition Every Sunday, largely DTL.
Practice and coaching available, no need
to book practice
Telephone: 01477 518444
Email: info@holmeschapelsg.com
Web: www.holmeschapelsg.com

Mickley Hall
Broomhall, Nantwich, CPSA registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, CSP, STR,
Open Tuesday–Saturday. 100-bird ESP
competitions on last Sundays, 75 Fitasc
and 25 Compak on second Wednesdays,
plus other events as listed on the web
Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07766 252438
Email: admin@mickleyhall.com
Web: www.mickleyhall.com

Owl's Hoot Target Club
Warrington, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am–
2pm
Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07969 232422
Email: leedurney@live.co.uk
Web: www.owlshoottargetclub.co.uk

CORNWALL
Lower Lake Shooting Ground
Upton Cross, Liskeard, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,
OSK, SKD, STR
Open Wednesdays and some weekends.
Other days are available for tuition. See
web for competition details. Practice and
coaching available
Telephone: 01579 363301
Email: Bill@shootingincornwall.co.uk
Web: www.shootingincornwall.co.uk

High View Clay Shoot
Boyton, Launceston, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Open from 9am every other Sunday.
Competition Every other Sunday.
Practice and coaching available. Max
load is 28g, no cartridges available to
buy on site
Telephone: 01566 785433
Email: clays@highviewclayshoot.co.uk
Web: www.highviewclayshoot.co.uk

Landare Farm Clay Shoot
Duloe, Liskeard, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, ABT, OSK, FSP,
SKD, STR
Telephone: 07983 399414
Email: davemitch7740@hotmail.com

North Cornwall Shooting Ground
Launceston, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, DR, SB, UTR, STR
Open Thursday 12–5.45pm, Saturday
9.30am–6pm. See Facebook for
competition details. Practice and
coaching available. Non-licence holders
shoot under supervision
Telephone: 01409 211458
Email: northcornwallsg@live.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/
North-Cornwall-Shooting-
Ground-146962575380745/

CUMBRIA
Penrith District Gun Club
Bowscar, Penrith, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, ABT, DR, SB
Competitions every other Sunday
Telephone: 01697 361024
Email: penrithanddistrictgunclub1964@

outlook.com

DERBYSHIRE
Darley Dale Clay Pigeon Club
Near Brassington, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Practice and informal coaching available.
Competition on second and fourth
Sundays
Telephone: 07989 172 870
Email: n.davison@ntlworld.com
Web: ddcpsc.org.uk

Doveridge Clay Sports Centre
Doveridge, Ashbourne, CPSA Premier
Plus ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,
OTR, OSK, DT, FSP, CSP, SKD, STR
Open Wednesday–Sunday 10am–5pm.
Practice and coaching available. See web
for competition details
Telephone: 01889 565 986
Email: info@doveridgeclaysports.co.uk
Web: doveridgeclaysports.co.uk

Ockbrook Gun Club
Eggington, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Non member visits by appointment only.
Competitions every second and fourth
Sundays. Fibre wads only
Telephone: 07909 920722
Email: ockbrookgunclub@virginmedia.
com
Web: www.ockbrookgunclub.co.uk

Old Glossop Clay Shooting Ground
Old Glossop, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Clay shooting experience sessions
available. 100-bird ESP competitions on
first and third Sundays
Telephone: 07508 363918
Email: contact@oldglossopclaysg.co.uk
Web: oldglossopclaysg.co.uk

Yeaveley Estate
Yeaveley, Ashbourne, CPSA affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, ABT, DTL
50-bird open competitions twice a month,
see web for details. Fibre wad only
Telephone: 01335 330247
Email: contactus@yeaveley-estate.co.uk
Web: yeaveley-estate.co.uk

DEVON
Ashcombe Adventure Centre
nr Dawlish
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, DR, Compak
Practice and lessons available, with
Claymate system. Fibre wads only.
Open Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 10am–
1pm, Thursday evenings in Summer
Telephone: 01626 866766
Email: info@ashcombeadventure.co.uk
Web: www.ashcombeadventure.co.uk/
clay-shooting-grounds

Ashley Clay Shoot
Tiverton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, STR
Competition fortnightly on Sundays,
10am–1pm see Facebook for details
Telephone: 01884 243476
Email: ashleyclayshoot@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/
AshleyClayShoot/

Axminster Gun Club
Axminster, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, DR, SB
DTL competitions every first and third
Saturdays
Telephone: 01404 881588
Email: trenchardf@aol.com

Bradford Shooting Ground
Bradford, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ESP, ABT, FSP, CSP,
SB, STR
Open for practice Tuesdays 2pm–dusk,
February to October. Competition on
many Saturdays, see web for details
Telephone: 01409 281341
Email: bradfordctsg@aol.com
Web: www.clayshootingdevon.co.uk/

North Devon Shooting Ground
Ilfracombe, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open Monday to Saturday 10am–4pm.
Practice and coaching available, booking
advisable
Telephone number: 01271 863959 or
phone Clive 07773 811440
Email: ndsg@hotmail.co.uk
Web: northdevonshootingground.co.uk

Sid Vale Gun Club
Sidbury, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK, Compak, DTL, ABT,
ESP
Open fortnightly, March–September,
2pm–6pm
Telephone: 01395 579659
Email: tony.parsons54@btinternet.com

South West Shooting School
Ilfracombe, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ESP
Practice and coaching available 365
days a year, telephone for details of
competition
Telephone: 01271 864784
Email: info@southwestshooting.co.uk
Web: www.southwestshooting.co.uk/
Tavistock Clay Pigeon Club
Tavistock, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open alternate Sundays 10–1, Fibre wad
only, max load 28g
Telephone: 01822 855 511
Email: info@tavistockshooting.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/
TavistockClayPigeonClub

DORSET
Christchurch Gun Club
Christchurch, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL
Practice and coaching available twice per
week, contact the club for details. Fibre
wad only
Telephone: 01202 855 540
Email: philharris46@live.com
Web: www.christchurchgunclub.com

Purbeck Shooting School
Wareham, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, Fitasc
Open Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm.
Practice and coaching available. Fitasc
competitions on second Wednesdays,
50-bird ESP on last Saturdays
Telephone: 01929 405101
Web: www.purbeckshootingschool.com

DURHAM
Hardwick Park House Gun Club
Trimdon, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
Practice and coaching available
Sundays 10am, Wednesdays 6–7.30pm.
Competition for members only
Telephone: 0191 586 3114
Email: humphriese@btoopenworld.com
Web: www.hardwickclays.co.uk/

Oak Lodge Shooting Ground
Hartlepool, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, FSP, STR
Practice and coaching available. Open
Wednesday 6–8.30pm, Saturday 10am–
3pm (bookings only), Sunday 10–3. See
web for competition details

Telephone: 07786 868691
Email:
info@oaklodgeshootingground.co.uk
Web:
www.oaklodgeshootingground.co.uk/

Spennymoor & District Clay Pigeon Club
Bishop Middleham, Ferryham, CPSA
Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,
DR, SB
Open Wednesdays 6:30–8:45pm
Sundays 09:30am–12:00. Practice and
coaching available. Competition on
Sundays, see web
Telephone: 0191 377 2412
Email: clare.jones1975@btinternet.com
Web: spennycpc.com/fixtures/

Locomotion One Clay Target Club
Darlington, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Practice and coaching available Every
other week on a Sunday. 10am–12.30
Telephone: 07760 283151
Email: theteesvalleyjazzmen@hotmail.
co.uk
Web: www.loco-oneclaytargetshooting.
com

Times Inn Gun Club
Seaham, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open Sunday mornings 9.15–12. No entry
to ground after 9.15
Telephone: 0191 581 9420
Email: stuart.york@virgin.net
Web: thetimesinngunclub.co.uk

ESSEX
Bush Spring Shooting Club
Boxted, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP
Practice available Saturdays 10–1. 100-
bird shoot first Saturdays. Fibre wad only
Telephone: 01799 524 888
Email: webmaster@bushspring.com
Web: www.bushspring.uk6.net/

Clacton Gun Club
Clacton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, DT,
FSP, HEL, SKD, STR
Telephone: 07576 828303
Email: gramcave@outlook.com

Fenlands Gun Club
Bulphan
Telephone: 01375 851986
Email: fenlands.gc@gmail.com
Fennes Shooting School
Bocking, Braintree, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP
Open Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm,
Saturday 9am–1pm. Practice and
coaching available. Contact ground for
competition details
Telephone: 01376 324599
Email: info@fennesclays.co.uk
Web: fennesclays.co.uk

Hepworth Hall Shooting Ground
Halstead, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Telephone: 01842 810121
Email: johndyson400@googlemail.com

Mayland Gun Club
Latchingdon, Chelmsford, CPSA
Registered
Disciplines: DTL, DR, SB
Practice available, competition at least
two Sundays per month, see web for
details
Telephone: 07572 878348
Email:



maylandgunclubessex@gmail.com

Orion Gun Club

Brentwood, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK, DTL, ESP
Open every Sunday, 10am-1pm. Practice and coaching available – informal only
Telephone: 01268 776542
Email: stuart@gunclub.info
Web: gunclub.uk

Southend Gun Club

Rochford, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, OSK, FSP, STR
Open second and fourth Sundays.
Practice available. Have a Go coaching by appointment. See web for competition details
Telephone: 0777 1801796
Email: barrydobbs1@sky.com
Web: www.southendgunclub.co.uk

Thurrock Clay Pigeon Club

Horndon-on-the-Hill, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK
Practice on alternate Sundays, call first
Telephone: 01268 533658
Email: rebel.uk@hotmail.com

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Corinium Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Cirencester, CPSA Affiliated
Every other Sunday, book in at 10am
Disciplines: ESK
Telephone: 01453 884268
Email: admin@eliotwalker.net
Web: www.ccpssc.co.uk/

Gloucester Clay Shooting Club

Norton, near Gloucester, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESK, OSK, SKD
Practice Wednesdays from 4pm and select Sundays. Group tuition arranged separately. Phone for competition details
Telephone: 07827 812796
Email: paultudge@yahoo.com
Web: www.gloucesterclayshooting.com

Ian Coley Shooting School

Andoversford, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm.
Coaching available. Unsupervised practice for certificate holders only. Caddy available for non-licence holders. Regular competitions, see web for details
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
Telephone: 01242 870391
Email: info@iancoley.co.uk
Web: www.iancoley.co.uk

Longridge Shooting Ground

Ledbury, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Telephone: 07971 447138
Email: stephen_nutbeam@hotmail.com
Web: www.longridgeclayshooting.co.uk

Westfield Shooting Ground

Bourton on the Water, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, CSP
Competition Every other Sunday
Telephone: 07971 475916
Email: info@theclayshootingcompany.com

HAMPSHIRE

Camberley Clay Club

Hartley Wintney, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
Fortnightly Sunday shoots. Members only – contact secretary to attend
Telephone: 01628 788957
Email: www.camberleyclayclub.com

Fareham Clay Target Club

Fareham, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, DR, SB, STR
Competition fortnightly on Sundays. Practice and have a go stand available
Telephone: 01329 315185
Email: d_s_rowe@yahoo.co.uk
Web: www.farehamctc.org.uk/

Lains Shooting School



We operate two shooting grounds in Hampshire, Chalky Hill at Medstead and Three Counties near Basingstoke. We shoot alternate Sundays at each ground, please be sure to check that you have the correct venue for the day.
A 50 bird round costs £15.00, second round £12.00. Payment is by cheque or cash at the shooting ground.
We offer lessons for complete novices as well as for experienced guns who want to work on a particular target or their overall technique.

Telephone: 07909 786272
Email: admin@chalkyhill.co.uk

Thurxton, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: ESP
Open Summer: Monday-Friday 9am-2pm, Saturday 9am-1pm.
Winter: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Solo practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01264 889467
Email: howard@lainsshootingschool.co.uk
Web: www.lainsshootingschool.co.uk

Owls Lodge Shooting School

Barton Stacey, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Practice days Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 6pm
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, AR, OTR, OSK, DT, FSP, DR, SB, UTR, STR
Practice and coaching available. Regular competitions, see web for details. No card payments
Telephone: 07734 200280
Email: Richard.faulds@btinternet.com
Web:



Spitfire Shoot is one of the only purpose-landscaped shoots in the South of England. Set in the beautiful Hampshire countryside it can accommodate all levels of gun from the first timer to the experienced shot looking for pre-season practice. The shooting ground offers a wide choice of stands and can simulate all the popular varieties of game and competition shooting. We also offer group shoots and corporate days.

Whether you are interested in just giving clay pigeon shooting a go or are an experienced gun, please do not hesitate to get in touch – we offer a range of shoots, practice, instruction, groups and corporate entertainment.

Telephone: 01264 810 312
Email: info@spitfireshoot.co.uk

www.owlslodgeshootingschool.co.uk

The Spitfire Shoot

Stockbridge, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open Wednesday-Saturday 9am-4.30pm. Practice and solo coaching available
Telephone: 01264 810312
Email: info@spitfireshoot.co.uk
Web: spitfireshoot.co.uk

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

Hereford & Worcester Shooting Ground

Redditch, CPSA Affiliated
Wednesday 10am-12.45pm (plus

5.30-7.30pm in summer), Saturday 10am-12.45 and every other Sunday, 10am-12.30pm. Coaching available. Competition as per Schedule
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, CSP, DTL
Telephone: 01527 65496
Email: info@hwsg.co.uk
Web: www.hwsg.co.uk

Kidderminster Gun Club
 Bewdley, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT
 Open Wednesdays 6-9pm. Contact club for competition details
Telephone: 01562 632405
Email: admin@kgc.me.uk
Web: www.kgc.me.uk

Park Farm Shooting Ground
 Ombersley, Droitwich, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, OSK, FSP, CSP, SB, SKD
 Open Winter: Sundays 10am-3pm, Thursdays 12-5pm Summer: Thursdays 3pm - 8pm. Practice for licence holders only. Coaching available
Telephone: 01905 620237
Email: philipsanders@farming.co.uk
Web: www.parkfarmshoot.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE
A1 Shooting Ground
 Barnet Bypass, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, ABT, OTR, DT, HEL
 Open Wednesday-Saturday 10-4 (winter) or 10-6 (summer). Sundays 10-1. Practice for licence holders and coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 0208 4419986
Email: claudio@a1sg.co.uk
Web: www.a1sg.co.uk

Atkin Grant & Lang
 St Albans, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
 Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-1.30pm Solo practice and coaching available. Regular competitions - see web for details
Telephone: 01582 849382
Email: charlie@agl-uk.com
Web: www.agl-uk.com

Essex & Herts Shooting School
 Bishops Stortford
Disciplines: ESP
 Coaching for novices and intermediate
Telephone: 07889 597588
Email: info@clayshootinglessons.co.uk
Web: www.clayshootinglessons.co.uk

Lea Valley Shooting Association
 Hertford, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, ABT, FSP, CSP, STR
 Practice available, competition first and third Sundays. See web for details
Telephone: 01992 552011
Email: alex.mitchell@lvs.org.uk
Web: www.lvs.org.uk/home.html

Codicote Bottom Clay Target Club
 Hitchin, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, DTL, ABT
 Practice available alternate Sundays
Telephone: 07768 714774
Email: alan@afculley.co.uk
Web: www.codicotebottomctc.co.uk

Moreton Massey Gun Club
 Hunsdon, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT
 Open Sundays 9.30am - 1pm. Practice and group coaching available
Telephone: 07855 403902
Email: brewer691@btinternet.com
Web: www.facebook.com/Moreton-Massey-Gun-Club-1009446929210888/

Nuthampstead Shooting Ground
 Royston, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, OTR, OSK, DT, HEL, UTR
 Practice and coaching available. Call for details of competition
Telephone: 01763 848172
Email: nicky@clayshoot.biz
Web: nuthampsteadshootingground.co.uk

Park Street and District Gun Club
 St Albans
Disciplines: ESK, DTL, ESP
 Non-members must call first. Every other Sunday, disciplines rotate.
Telephone: 01923 677294
Email: info@psdgc.co.uk

Web: psdgc.co.uk

KENT
Dartford Clay Shooting Club
 Dartford, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, OTR, OSK, FSP, CSP, DR, SB, UTR, SKD, STR
 Open Summer: Wed 10am-4pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Winter: Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm Solo practice and coaching available. ESK competitions every Sunday. NNSA every fortnight. Regular DTL.
Telephone: 01322 311001
Email: kellyhockey@icloud.com
Web: www.dartfordclayshootingclub.com

Dover Clay Pigeon Club
 Whitfield, Dover, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Competition Sundays 8.30am (last entry 9am)
Telephone: 01303 894644
Email: j.bridges@bopenworld.com
Web: doverclaypigeonclub.wordpress.com

Greenfields Shooting Grounds
 Sturry, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP
 Open Tuesday-Saturday 8.30am-3.30pm (2.30 winter) Sunday 9.30am - 12pm. Solo practice and coaching available. Competition every Sunday
Telephone: 01227 713222
Email: sales@greenfieldsshooting.co.uk
Web: www.greenfieldsshooting.co.uk

Invicta ZZ
 Tonbridge, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: HEL
 Practice and coaching available. See web for shoot and have a go dates
Telephone: 01892 522 208
Email: dee@gun.co.uk
Web: invictahelice.co.uk
JBD Sporting
 Canterbury, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: FSP, ESP, STP
 Open various Saturdays, Sundays.

Wednesdays, Fridays - see web for details of competitions and pre-booking (required). Coaching available
Telephone: 07845 599573
Email: jamesbradleydayz@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.jbdsporting.co.uk

JJs Clay Shooting Club
 Bean, Dartford, CPSA Affiliated
 Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10.30am-3.15 (2.45 winter) for practice. Coaching available. Sunday competitions 10am-2pm
Disciplines: ESP
Telephone: 01634 317769
Email: mark@jjscsc.co.uk
Web: jjscsc.co.uk

Martin Gorse Wood
 Dover, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
 Open alternate Sundays, 9am - 2pm (last entry 12.30). Supervised have a go practice available for novices
Telephone: 01233 713 341
Email: c.read@hotmail.co.uk
Web: martingorse.co.uk

Redricks Sporting Clays
 Sawbridgeworth CM21 0RL, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR, Compak
Telephone: 07836 676654
Email: philipmoss463@hotmail.co.uk

West Kent Shooting School
 Paddock Wood, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: ESK, ESP
 Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (4pm Winter) Solo practice and coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 01892 834 306
Email: info@westkentshooting.co.uk
Web: westkentshooting.co.uk

Willow Farm Shooting Ground
 Tenterden, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, ABT, AR
 Open Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm (4pm winter). Saturday 9am-4pm (3pm winter). Sunday 10am-2pm. Practice and coaching available competition





West Kent Shooting School

This ground, set in the beautiful tranquility of rural Kent. It's partially wooded, and carefully laid out to provide a totally natural setting for extensive clay shooting for both novice and expert.

Open for general practice in English Sporting and Skeet, plus the use of a 100ft tower, West Kent also provides lessons for all abilities and holds regular Young Shots and Ladies only events. It's an ideal setting for corporate entertainment, and although it may not be a well-known ground, positive feedback shows why it enjoys so much repeat business. A place to learn, practise, improve and enjoy a day out with friends, colleagues or clients.

Open Monday to Friday – 10am to 5pm.

Address: West Kent Shooting School, Old Hay, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 7DG

Telephone: 01892 834306

Web: www.westkentshooting.co.uk

Sundays are competition only.

Telephone: 01233 758703

Email: trevorfrith@hotmail.co.uk

Web: www.willowfarmshootingground.co.uk

LANCASHIRE

Manchester Clay Shooting Club

Eccles, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: ESP, FSP

Open Wednesdays 12pm-8pm and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 12pm-4pm. Solo practice for licence holders only. Coaching available. Contact ground for details of competitions and events

Telephone: 07761 409427

Email: info@manchesterclayshooting.com

Web: manchesterclayshooting.com

Rixton & Astley Shooting Club

Astley, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Open for competition alternate Sundays from 10am. Last entry 1pm

Telephone: 07785 995526

Email: john@astleygunclub.co.uk

Web:

www.rixtonandastleyshootingclub.co.uk

Running Hill Clay Pigeon Club

Uppermill, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Competition alternate Sundays, booking in 10am-12pm. Novices can have a go under supervision

Telephone: 01457 832501

Email: paulm@rhpcpc.co.uk

Web: rhpcpc.co.uk

South Pennine Shooting School

Todmorden, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Coaching available. Advance booking only Contact ground for competition details

Telephone: 07983 611878

Email: info@pennineshooting.co.uk

Web: pennineshooting.co.uk

LEICESTERSHIRE

Grange Farm Sporting Clays

Desford, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

OSK, FSP, CSP, STR

100-bird ESP on second and fourth Sundays

Telephone: 01455 822208

Web: www.grangefarmsportingclays.co.uk

Hoton Clay Pigeon Club

Wymeswold, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Open alternate Sundays 10am – 12.30pm

Telephone: 07795 032506

Email: maxdirts@googlemail.com

Web: www.hoton-clay-club.co.uk

Kegworth Clay Shoot

Kegworth, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR

Competition Saturdays and Sundays, see web for details. Practice available following competition stands

Telephone: 07973 11650

Email: john@kegworth.co.uk

Web: kegworthclayshoot.co.uk

Kibworth Shooting Ground

Leicestershire, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, AR, FSP

Open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-5pm,

Sunday 10am-3pm. Solo practice and coaching available

Telephone: 0116 279 6001

Email: clubhouse@

kibworthshootingground.co.uk

Web:

www.kibworthshootingground.co.uk

Normanton Shooting Ground

Thurlaston, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ESP, ABT, OSK, DT,

DR, HD, SB

Open Tuesday – Thursday 10.30am – dusk

(7pm in summer), Friday 10.30-dusk

(6pm in summer) Alternate Saturdays

10am – 6pm Solo ESP practice and

coaching available. Contact ground for

competition details

Telephone: 01455 888353

Email: mamalow@btinternet.com

Web: www.normantonshootingground.co.uk

Quorn Gun Club

Barrow-upon-Soar, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Practice available alternate Sundays,

10am – 12.30 (last entry 11.15). Annual competitions.

Telephone: 07850 176620

Email: adzfearn@gmail.com

Web: www.quorngunclub.co.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE

Crowland Gun Club

Crowland, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESK, DTL, ESP

Competition alternate Sundays, entries 11-3

Telephone: 01733 222031

Email: leo.fragale@gmail.com

Web: crowlandgunclub.co.uk

East of England Shooting Ground

Holbeach, CPSA Premier ground

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

OSK, DT, CSP, SKD, STR

Solo practice and coaching available

Thursday – Sunday 10am – 4.30pm

Telephone: 01406 540362

Email: office@eesg.co.uk

Web:

www.eastofenglandshootingground.co.uk

Grimsthorpe Shooting Ground

Bourne, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR

Solo practice and coaching available

Wed – Sun, 9.30am-5pm. Competition at

weekends – telephone for details

Telephone: 01778 591128

Email:

info@grimsthorpeshootingground.co.uk

Web:

www.grimsthorpeshootingground.co.uk

Pinewood Shooting Ground

nr Laughton, Gainsborough

Disciplines: ESP, ESK

Practice, corporate and have-a-go.

Disabled friendly

Open Wed-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm

Telephone: 01427 628900

Email: enquiries@pinewoodsg.co.uk

Web: www.pinewoodsg.co.uk

The Priory Clay Target Centre

Sutton Bridge, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ABT, ESK, OSK, ESP

Practice and coaching available

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

and Bank Holidays 10am-4pm. DTL &

double rise competitions every Saturday,

ESK every Sunday

Telephone: 01406 351451

Email: mail@theprioryctc.co.uk

Web: theprioryctc.co.uk/theground.html

Welland Valley Gun Club

Helpston, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Coaching available alternate Sundays

Telephone: 01780 757173

Email: edwardsmith@talktalk.net

Web: wellandvalleygunclub.weebly.com

LONDON

AC Sporting Targets

Disciplines: ESK, OSK, FSP, ABT, CSP,

STR

Northolt

Practice and coaching available

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

10am-5pm

Telephone: 07783 518 718

Email: sportingtargets@hotmail.co.uk

Web: www.acsportingtargets.com

Holland & Holland

Ruislip, CPSA Premier Plus ground

Disciplines: ESP

Caddied practice and coaching available

Monday – Saturday 8.30am – 5.30pm

Telephone: 01923 825349

Email: shooting.grounds@

hollandandholland.com

Web: www.hollandandholland.com/

shooting-grounds

West London Shooting School

Northolt, CPSA Status Premier Plus

Disciplines: ESP

Open weekdays 8am – 6pm, Saturdays

8am – 4.30pm Caddied practice and

coaching available

Telephone: 020 8845 1377

Email: info@shootingschool.co.uk

Web: www.shootingschool.co.uk

NORFOLK

Chalk Farm Clay Ground

King's Lynn, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: ESK, ESP, FSP, SKD, STR

Solo practice and coaching available

Tuesday 2pm-9pm, Sunday 10am-3pm.

See web for competition details

Telephone: 01760 338760

Email: info@chalkfarmclayground.com

Web: www.chalkfarmclayground.com

Mid Norfolk Shooting Ground

Norwich, CPSA Registered

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

OTR, OSK, FSP, DR, SB, SKD

Solo practice and coaching available

Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-4pm,

Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-

1pm and 5pm – 7.30pm, and alternate

Saturdays 10am-2pm. See web for

competition events.

Telephone: 01603 860436

Email: steve@norfolkshooting.co.uk

Web: www.norfolkshooting.co.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Northampton Shooting Ground

Kettering Road, nr Holcot, Northampton,

CPSA Premier ground

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

OSK, DR, SB, SKD, STR

Open Thursday 3pm-Dusk, Saturdays

and Sundays from 10am. Practice and

coaching available. Competition Every

day of opening: see web for disciplines on

particular days

Telephone: 01604 642252

Email:

info@northamptonshootingground.co.uk

Web:

www.northamptonshootingground.co.uk

Yardley Gobion Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Milton Keynes, CPSA Affiliated

Telephone: 07840 803498

Email: richardflower00@gmail.com

NORTHUMBERLAND

Bywell Shooting Ground

Felton, CPSA Premier Plus ground

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

FSP, DR, SB, SKD, STR

Open practice and coaching available

Wednesday 12.30pm-5pm, Saturday

10am-5pm. Fixtures only on Sundays

see web for details

Telephone: 01670 787827

Email: info@bywellshootingground.co.uk

Web: bywellshootingground.co.uk

Steve Smith Shooting Ground

Dinnington, CPSA Premier ground

Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR,

OTR, DT

Solo practice and coaching available

Tuesday, Wednesday (open until 7.30pm

May-Aug), Friday, Saturday, 10am – 4.30,

Sunday 10am – 3.30

Telephone: 01661 822444

Email: shoot@stevesmiths.co.uk

Web: www.stevesmiths.co.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Borders Wood

Owthorpe, CPSA Affiliated

Disciplines: ESP

Open alternate Sundays from 10am, last

entry 1pm

Telephone: 019

Open Wednesday-Thursday, 10am–dusk, Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 9am–4pm. Practice and coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 01623 883798
Web: www.nottsgunclub.co.uk

Orston Shooting Ground

Orston, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, OSK, DT, FSP, CSP, HD, SB, SKD, STR
Solo practice and coaching available Wednesday–Sunday 9am–5pm. Competition Sundays, telephone for details
Telephone: 01949 851181
Email: emily@orston.com
Web: www.orston.com

OXFORDSHIRE

Brize Norton Gun Club

Minster Lovell, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Practice available Sundays 10am–1pm (February–December), Wednesdays 6–8.30pm (mid April–mid Sept)
Telephone: 01993 868989
Email: secretary@bngc.org.uk
Web: www.bngc.org.uk

Greenfield Entertainment

Kidlington, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open shoots on some Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays (10.30am–2pm). Coaching available. Licence and gun needed to shoot unsupervised
Telephone: 01869 354949
Email: sally@greenfieldentertainment.co.uk
Web: greenfieldentertainment.co.uk

Oxfordshire Shooting School

Chipping Norton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, CSP, STR
Solo practice and coaching available Tuesday–Saturday 9am–5pm. 50 bird ESP competitions on the fourth Sunday of the month, open from 9am
Telephone: 07876 033665
Email: info@theoxfordshireshootingschool.co.uk
Web: www.theoxfordshireshootingschool.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE

West Midlands Shooting Ground

Hodnet, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, ABT, FSP, STR
Practice available Tuesdays for certificate holders, open by appointment on Monday–Saturday 9am–5pm. Coaching available. Occasional competitions; see web for details
Telephone: 01939 200644
Email: deb@wmsg.co.uk
Web: www.wmsg.co.uk

SOMERSET

Blagdon Valley Gun Club

Blagdon, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open every other Sunday. Last entries 10.15
Telephone: 07802 703779
Email: rtmpratt@aol.com
Web: bvgc.org.uk/

Braces Shooting School

Maes Knoll Farm, Norton Malreward, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Practice and coaching available, group classes for those without licences. Open Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings

Telephone: 01173 009956
Email: info@bracesofbristol.com
Web: shooting.bracesofbristol.com

Brook Bank

Cheddar, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, OTR, OSK
Open Thursday–Saturday 11am–4pm, Sundays from 10.30. Solo practice and coaching available. Competition on Sundays, see calendar for discipline rota
Telephone: 01749 871055
Email: info@brookbankshooting.co.uk
Web: www.brookbankshooting.co.uk

Coombe Farm Sporting

Crewkerne, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, FSP
Telephone: 01460 279595
Email: lyn@cfsporting.co.uk

Meadowcroft Shoot

Marksbury, Bath, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: Fitasc
Competitions on third Sundays
Telephone: 07802 467384
Email: info@meadowcroftshoot.com
Web: www.meadowcroftshoot.com/

Podimore Shooting School

Podimore, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR
Solo practice and coaching available Wednesdays 10am–4pm. 100-bird ESP on the first Sunday of each month, 50-bird ESP re-entry on the third Sunday
Telephone: 07888 697401
Email: donbrunt@hotmail.com
Web: www.podimore-shooting-school.co.uk

Weston Lodge Shooting Ground

Portishead, Somerset, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–4:30pm. Caddied practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01275 842225
Email: info@westonlodgeshootingground.co.uk
Web: westonlodgeshootingground.co.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

Garlands Shooting Ground

Tamworth, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, OTR, DT, FSP
Open Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm, by appointment only. Open shoots: Thursday 5–8pm, Saturday 10am–4pm
Telephone: 01827 383300
Email: steve@theclayshootingcompany.com
Web: www.garlandsshootingground.co.uk

Kingsley Moor Shooting Ground

Stoke on Trent, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP
Telephone: 01782 550371
Email: carolinea@broadoakproperties.com
Web: www.kingsleymoorsg.com/

Leek & District Gun Club

Leek, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Competition First Sunday of every month, 70 ESP starting 10am. Last entries 11.30am
Telephone: 01538 371516
Email: fiona_daniels@hotmail.co.uk
Web: leekgunclub.com/

Ranton Clay Target Club

Ranton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, DR, SB
Open Sunday 10am–12pm

Telephone: 01785 223621
Email: k80andrew@googlemail.com

Shenstone Gun Club

Lichfield, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Shoots on alternate Sunday mornings 9.15am–12.30pm. 60-bird sporting and pool shoot every open day
Telephone: 07802 793087
Email: john@twbggroup.com
Web: www.facebook.com/pages/Shenstone-Gun-Club/100775996663537

Tamworth Shooting Ground

Tamworth, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Competition Every Sunday
Telephone: 01827 260751
Email: tamworthshootingground@hotmail.co.uk
Web: en-gb.facebook.com/Tamworth-Shooting-Ground-435529923231158/

Wergs Gun Club

Wolverhampton, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Competition alternate Sundays 9.30am, last entry 11am. Practice available.
Telephone: 07845 686424
Email: stuart@ukfirearms.com
Web: wergsgunclub.co.uk/

SUFFOLK

Badwell Ash Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Bury St Edmunds, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK
Open March–October, alternate Saturdays 2pm. Last entry 4pm. Practice available
Telephone: 01359 259547
Email: badwell.clays@tiscali.co.uk

Barrow Sporting Clays

Risby, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR, CSP
Competition first and third Sundays (check Facebook for details) Clubhouse open from 8.30am
Telephone: 07912 497000
Email: thorroldsltd@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook.com/BarrowSportingTargets/

Eriswell Lodge

Brandon, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, FSP, DR, HD, SB, SKD, STR

ERISWELL LODGE

CLAY SHOOTING | CORPORATE EVENTS | FUNCTIONS | RETAIL | COMPETITION

Eriswell Lodge continues to grow and expand, with investment constantly being put into the shooting areas to ensure the best possible experience. Our designated trap and skeet ranges have had a dramatic facelift, and the sporting layout is changed as often as possible to ensure variation even for those who visit us weekly. Our Promatic traps are the perfect trap for us, as they are easily managed to ensure minimal no birds and break downs. On site we now have the facilities for the shooting of: English sporting, Skeet, DTL, ABT, Sportrap and all the variations of these.

Address: Eriswell Lodge, Brandon Road, Eriswell, Brandon, Suffolk
Telephone: 01638 534045
Email: info@eriswell-lodge.com



A favourite Suffolk Premier Plus Clay Shooting venue offers a variety of disciplines including 20-plus Sporting Stands, Skeet, DTL & ABT ranges, some challenging towers alongside four new fully automated & voice activated Compak/Sportrap layouts.

We're open for practice clays six days a week and some Sundays with instruction available most days, and on-site luxury accommodation for that shooting break makes us the ideal choice for shooters of all abilities.

Take a look at our website to see what else we offer.

Address: High Lodge Leisure Ltd, Haw Wood, Hinton, Nr Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3QT
Tel: 01986 784647
Email: info@highlodge.co.uk
Web: www.highlodge.co.uk

Open Wednesday 9am–8.15pm, Thursday–Sunday 9am–3.30pm. Solo practice and coaching available. Skeet competition on Wednesday evening and regular ESP – see web for details.
Telephone: 01638 534045
Email: info@eriswell-lodge.com
Web: www.eriswell-lodge.com

High Lodge

Hinton, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, OSK, FSP, CSP, STR
Solo practice and coaching available Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 9am–12.30pm (Winter) Competitions on various Saturdays and Sundays, see web for details
Telephone: 01986 784347
Email: jane@highlodge.co.uk
Web: www.highlodge.co.uk

Highwayman's Shooting Ground

Risby, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Open February–September, various Sundays from 9am. Coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 07836 643436
Email: info@suffolkshootingschool.co.uk
Web: highwaymansshootingground.co.uk

SURREY

Bisley Gun Club

Bisley, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL
Competition Saturdays and Sundays, see web for details
Telephone: 07713 762928
Email: secretary@thebisleygunclub.com
Web: www.thebisleygunclub.com

Bisley Shooting Ground

Bisley, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Open every day, 9am–4pm. Solo practice and coaching available. 100-bird ESP club shoot one Sunday morning per month – see web for details
Telephone: 01483 797017
Email: office@bisleyshooting.co.uk
Web: www.bisleyshooting.co.uk

BT Shawlands CPSC

Lingfield, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Coaching available for beginners.



Competition Second and last Saturdays of every month (except August and December), shooting starts at 10.30am – contact club for further details
Telephone: 01342 833032
Email: ceath@btinternet.com
Web: www.btschawlandscpsc.co.uk

Cobham Sporting Gun
Ripley, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
72-bird ESP competitions on first and third Sunday mornings, registration 9.30am – contact club before attending
Telephone: 01372 378039
Email: john@the-hickeys.co.uk
Web: www.cobhamsportinggun.co.uk

Dunsfold Clay Pigeon Club
Alford, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open first and third Sundays
Telephone: 0208 393 9732
Email: dunsfoldcpc@gmail.com
Web: en-gb.facebook.com/pg/DunsfoldClayPigeonClub

Gatwick Clay Shooting School
Charlwood, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT
Competition first and third Sundays, 10am. Last entry 1pm. DTL on fifth Sundays. Coaching available
Telephone: 07769 701842
Email: manager@gatwickclayshootingschool.com
Web: www.gatwickclayshootingschool.com

Headley Clay Pigeon Shooting Club
Headley, Epsom, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
Open alternate Saturdays. First shot is at 10am sharp. Last Sporting card 2pm. Last Compak and DTL cards at 2.30pm. Last shot at 3pm sharp. Practice and coaching available
Telephone: 07831 879200

Email: info@headleyclaypigeon.com
Web: www.headleyclaypigeon.com/

Horne Clay Pigeon Club
Court Farm and Gatton Bottom, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP
Competition every Sunday at one of the two grounds – see web for details. Coaching available
Telephone: 07711 332097
Email: horne-cpc@tinyworld.co.uk
Web: www.clayandcountry.com/

Kent Gun Club
Tandridge, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL
See web for competition details
Telephone: 01883 330110
Email: bob@kentgunclub.co.uk
Web: kentgunclub.co.uk

National Clay Shooting Centre
Bisley, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ABT, OTR, OSK, DT, UTR, SKD
Open Tuesday–Sunday 9am–4.30pm. Solo practice and coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 01483 797666
Email: info@nsc-clays.co.uk
Web: nsc-clays.co.uk

Star Gun Club
Malden Rushett, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open alternate Sundays 9.30am–12.30pm
Telephone: 0208 979 2687
Email: admin@stargunclub.org
Web: www.stargunclub.org/index.html

SUSSEX
Kingscote Shooting Ground
East Grinstead, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open the first or second Saturday of each month, 10am–1pm, last entry

12pm.
Telephone: 01903 340657
Email: dave.p28@outlook.com
Web: en-gb.facebook.com/kingscotesg/

Mill Farm Pevensey
Westham, Pevensey, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, Compak
Open Alternate Sundays, 10am–2pm
Telephone: 07790 498435
Email: sue.focus@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook.com/millfarmclaypigeonclub

Mill Farm Petworth
Petworth
Disciplines: ESP
Open the first Sunday of every month, 10am. Last entries 12.30pm
Telephone: 01798 861218
Email: info@millfarm-lurgashall.com
Web: www.millfarm-lurgashall.com/sporting

Northall Clay Pigeon Club
Fletching, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and alternate Fridays 10am–5pm. Practice and coaching available. Competition bi-weekly on Saturdays. See web for details
Telephone: 01825 791783
Email: jan@northallcpc.co.uk
Web: www.northallcpc.co.uk

Polowood Clay Shooting Ground
Falmer, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, Compak
Open alternate Sundays, 9am–2.30pm, Tuesdays from April to September, 12pm–7.30pm.
Telephone: 07818 203871
Email: gary@claypigeonshootingbrighton.co.uk
Web: www.claypigeonshootingbrighton.co.uk
Southdown Gun Club

Worthing, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, FSP, CSP, HEL, DR, SB, STR
Open Wednesdays–Saturdays 10am–4.30pm. Solo practice and Coaching available. Competition on Sundays – see web for details
Telephone: 01903 877555
Email: info@southdowngunclub.co.uk
Web: www.southdowngunclub.co.uk

WARWICKSHIRE
Cosford Shooting Ground
Cosford, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, OSK, FSP, CSP, SKD, STR
Open Thursdays and Saturdays 10am–3pm. Sundays 10am–1.30pm solo practice and coaching available. Contact ground for competition details
Telephone: 07563 518090
Email: david.reith1@btinternet.com
Web: www.cosfordsg.co.uk

Forhill Shooting Club
Hollywood, Birmingham, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, SB
Open every other Sunday, 10am–2pm
Telephone: 07836 225580
Email: johnbtimmmins@outlook.com
Web: forhillsg.co.uk

Honesberie Shooting
Southam, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Open Monday–Saturday 9am–6pm. Solo practice and coaching available. Call ahead to book. Competitions take place at Hill Farm – see web for details
Telephone: 01327 262922
Email: nick@honesberieshooting.co.uk
Web: www.honesberieshooting.co.uk

Lea Marston Shooting Club
Lea Marston, Sutton Coldfield, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, AR, OSK, FSP, CSP, HD, SB, SKD, STR

See web for opening times. Practice and coaching available. Check with ground regarding membership restrictions
Telephone: 01676 540070
Email: guy@learnarstonshootingclub.com
Web: www.learnarstonshootingclub.com

Rugby & District Trap Club
Crick, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ABT, DT, HEL, UTR
Open most Sundays from 10am - see web for fixtures. Practice available
Telephone: 07770 551491
Email: john@ngales.com
Web: www.rdtc.info

Wedgnock Shooting Ground
Warwick, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK, ESP
Monday–Friday 10am–5.30pm, Sundays 10am–1pm, some Saturdays. Practice available and coaching available; enquire for details
Telephone: 01926 491948
Email: steve@adventuresport.co.uk
Web: www.adventuresport.co.uk/clay-pigeon-shooting

WILTSHIRE

Barbury Shooting School
Wroughton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, CSP, STR
Open Mon–Fri 9am–5pm (till 7pm on summer Weds) Sat 9am–3pm, Suns and bank hols 9am–12pm. Practice and coaching available. Competition details on web
Telephone: 01793 940420
Email: enquiries@barburyschool.com
Web: www.barburyschool.com

Gunsite Sporting Clays
Marlborough, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP
Monthly 100-bird registered shoot as per schedule. Coaching available
Telephone: 07979 874887
Email: seanponting66@yahoo.co.uk
Web: gunsitesportingclays.co.uk/

Ham Cross Shooting Ground
Dinton, Salisbury, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, STR
Competitions alternate Saturdays, 10am–3pm – book in advance.
Telephone: 07711 242749
Email: willthatcher@btconnect.com

White Horse Clay Pigeon Club
Yatesbury, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESK, OSK, DTL
Open Wednesday 6.30 – 9.30pm, Sunday 9am–2pm. Practice available. 40-bird Sporting last Sunday of the month
Telephone: 01249 81567
Email: paul-sally@aol.co.uk
Web: www.whitehorseccpc.btck.co.uk

Wood Farm Clay Shooting Club
Mere, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP, FSP
Closed in summer. Winter: Wednesday 10am – 4pm, Sunday 10am – 1pm. Solo practice Wednesday and Sundays. Coaching available Fridays and Saturdays
Telephone: 01747 860471
Email: richardpaulcoward@gmail.com
Web: www.woodfarmclays.co.uk/

Urchfront Clay Pigeon Club
Urchfront, near Devizes, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESP, SB
Practice available. Competition every

Sunday from 10am. See web for details of **disciplines** and dates
Telephone: 01380 721218
Email: chas.davis@virgin.net
Web: www.urchfontclaypigeonclub.co.uk

YORKSHIRE

Allerton Bywater Colliery CPC
Allerton Bywater, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Practice available at least two Sundays per month, 10am–1pm
Telephone: 0113 287 0820
Email: brianmumblingsa12@aol.co.uk
Web: www.allertonbywatercpc.com

Batley & District Gun Club
Howden Clough, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open alternate Sundays 9.30am–11am. Practice available. See web for competitions
Telephone: 01274 877367
Email: bdgc@live.co.uk
Web: www.batleygunclub.co.uk

Coniston Shooting Ground
Coniston Cold, Skipton, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, FSP, SKD
Tues–Fri, 9.30am–5pm, Sat–Sun 9.30am–1.30pm. Solo practice and coaching available. Competition details on web
Telephone: 01756 748586
Email: info@conistonshootingground.co.uk
Web: www.conistonshootingground.co.uk

Cottendale Shooting Ground
Staxton Wold, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, FSP,
Tuesday–Saturday, 9am–5pm
(booking only) Sunday 10am–1pm
(open practice). Practice and coaching available most days
Telephone: 01944 710313
Email: alan.cdsg@gmail.com
Web: www.cottendaleshootingground.co.uk

East Yorkshire Clay Shooting Ground
(formerly Beverley CTC) Bygot Wood, Beverley HU17 7RB
CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, OSK, OT, ABT, UT, ESK, STR
Open Wednesday–Sunday 10am–5pm (8pm Thursdays Summer months only)
Telephone: 01964 204190
Email: info@eastyorkshireclayshootingground.co.uk
Web: www.eastyorkshireclayshootingground.co.uk

Greystone Wood Shooting Ground
Moor Lane, Askwith, Otley LS21 2LZ
Disciplines: ESP
Open to shooters of all abilities. Set in natural woods.
Open 2nd & 4th Saturdays, March to September.
Telephone: 07960 352123
Email: gwsgotley@yahoo.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/greystonewoodotley

Hambleton Shooting School
Easingwold, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Coaching available
Telephone: 01347 888312
Email: malcolm.plant@clayshot.org.uk
Hazelbank Shooting Ground
Knaresborough
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
Solo practice and coaching available.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment, Wednesday 5.30pm–8pm, Saturday 1pm–4pm and Sunday 10.30am–1pm. See Facebook page for competition details
Telephone: 07852 785 590
Email: info@hazelbankshooting.co.uk
Web: www.hazelbankshooting.co.uk

Humberside Shooting Ground
Brandesburton
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, DTL
Open 9am–5pm every day except Monday. Open till 9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May to September. Coaching available
Telephone: 01964 544 357
Email: paul@pthorn.co.uk
Web: humbersideshootingground.co.uk

Low Barugh Clay Shoot
Barugh Green, Barnsley, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Shooting every other Sunday, registration from 10.15, shooting from 11am
Telephone: 07521 780762
Email: lowbarughclayshoot@gmail.com
Web: www.lowbarughclayshoot.co.uk

Mount Farm Sporting Clays
Woolley, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: FSP
Open only four times a year for a winter series. Contact for details
Telephone: 07887 751517
Email: jane.rowbottom@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook.com/mountfarmsportingclays

North of England CTC
Rufforth, CPSA Premier ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, OSK, FSP, HEL, DR, SB, SKD, STR
Practice available Wednesday and Saturday afternoons – book ahead and bring a buttoner. Coaching available. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Competition every weekend, see web for details
Telephone: : 01904 738120
Email: phil@noeac.co.uk
Web: www.noeac.co.uk

Park Lodge Shooting School
North Humberside, CPSA Premier Plus ground
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, FSP, STR
Open Wednesday–Saturday 9am–5pm, Sunday 9am–4pm and Bank Holiday Mondays 9am–3pm. Practice and coaching available. See web for competition details
Telephone: 07931 554986
Email: info@parklodgeshootingschool.co.uk
Web: www.parklodgeshootingschool.co.uk

Thimbleby Shooting Ground
Northallerton, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, FSP, CSP, STR
See web for opening times. Solo practice and coaching available
Telephone: 01609 883401
Email: adrian@thimblebyshoot.com
Web: www.thimblebyshoot.com

WALES

Anglesey Clay Target Shooting Club
Mona, Anglesey
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, DTL, ABT
Summertime only, Tuesday evenings from 6pm. See Facebook for details.
Telephone: 07790 481544
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/Anglesey-clay-target-shooting-club-665612553575072

Anglesey Shooting School
Bodedern, Anglesey
Disciplines: ESP, ESK
March–September, Saturdays 11am–1pm (25-bird ESK) and 1–6pm (100-bird ESP). April–September, Wednesdays 4.30pm–dusk (50 bird ESP)
Telephone: 07891 669965
Email: timgarner2002@yahoo.com
Web: www.angleseyshootingsschool.com

Bob Valentine Shooting School
Wern Newydd, Llanbedrog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd
Disciplines: ESP, Fitasc
Open by appointment only, Monday to Saturday 10am–4.30pm. Open 50-bird ESP shoots one Saturday a month, 1pm. Tuition available for individuals and groups. Non-members welcome. Fibre wads only.
Telephone: 01758 740810
Email: bv@theshootingschool.com
Web: www.theshootingschool.com

Caerwys & District CTC
Trelogan, CPSA Associated
Disciplines: ESP
Open first and third Sundays for friendly competitions. Offers a variety of competitions between 50 and 100 birds. Non-members welcome.
Telephone: 01352 720349
Email: info@caerwys-districtclaytargetclub.co.uk
Web: www.caerwys-districtclaytargetclub.co.uk

Carmarthen Clay Target Club
Nantyci, Carmarthen
Disciplines: ESP, DTL
Open alternate Saturdays 1–6.30pm, see Facebook for details.
Telephone: 01269 860295
Web: www.facebook.com/Carmarthen-Clay-Target-Shooting-Club-605676743208640/

Cefn Tilla Clays
Llandenny
Disciplines: ESP
Open some Wednesdays and Saturdays for practice and competitions. Offers tuition to groups looking to experience clay shooting for the first time.
Telephone: 01291 672595
Email: rob@cefnrilla.com
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/cefnrillaclays

Crynant Shooting Ground
Port Talbot
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, ABT, DTL
Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10am–3pm. Practice and tuition available, grounds can also be opened at other times by prior arrangement.
Telephone: 07855 828167
Email: firstcorporate2003@yahoo.co.uk
Web: www.crynant-shooting-ground.co.uk

Dovey Valley Shooting Ground
Machynlleth, Powys.
Disciplines: ESP, ABT, ESK, DTL.
Open 9.30am–4pm Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat; 10am–4pm Sun.
Offers coaching, have-a-go, caddied rounds, sim game and corporate events.
Telephone: 01650 511252 or 07889 225488
Email: Info@doveyvalley.com
Web: www.doveyvalley.com
Fauxdegla
Llandegla, Wrexham, CPSA Premier Plus Ground

Disciplines: ESP, ESK, DTL, STR, ABT, OT
Open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am-5pm – closing times subject to seasonal variations. Lessons, practice and competitions offered – see web
Telephone: 01978 790198
Email: info@fauxdegla.co.uk
Web: www.fauxdegla.co.uk

Ferndale Shooting Clays
Y Ffaldau, CPSA Affiliated
Disciplines: ESP
Open Thursdays 12pm-7pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm. Practice available for non-members, no licence necessary. For competition and up-to-date info check www.facebook.com/ferndalshootingclub/
Telephone: 07771 603989
Email: lyn@ferndalshooting.club
Web: www.ferndalshooting.club

Flint Clay Target Club
Flint, CPSA Associated
Disciplines: ESP
Open second and fourth Sundays, 10am-12pm.
Telephone: 07917 855020
Email: harryrossington@yahoo.com

Griffin Lloyd Shooting Ground
Knighton, Powys, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: ESP, DTL, ABT, OTR, DT
Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9.30am-4pm. Solo practice is available. Tuition must be booked in advance. For competition details see website.
Telephone: 01547 550634
Email: enquiries@griffinlloyd.co.uk
Web: www.griffinlloyd.co.uk

Leadbrook Hall Shooting Ground
Flint, CPSA Associated
Disciplines: ESP
Open competition clay shoots held on second and fifth Sundays.
Telephone: 07977 624358
Email: info@leadbrookclays.co.uk
Web: leadbrookclays.com/

Mid Wales Shooting Ground
Knighton, Powys, CPSA Premier Plus
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT, AR, OSK, FSP, DR, SB
Open 9am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday, with shooting 10am-4pm, plus second and fourth Sundays. Practice and tuition available. Regular registered shoots – see web for details.
Telephone: 01686 430654
Email: enquiries@midwalesshootingcentre.com
Web: www.midwalesshootingcentre.com

North Wales Shooting School
Sealand, CPSA Registered
Disciplines: DTL, ESK, ESP, OT, DT
Open Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm. Solo practice and tuition available.
Telephone: 01686 430654
Email: enquiries@midwalesshootingcentre.com
Web: www.midwalesshootingcentre.com

South Wales 2000 Shooting Ground
Gwent, CPSA Premier Plus
Disciplines: DTL, UTR, OT, DT, ABT, FITASC, CSP
Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closes at 7pm on Thursdays in summer. Practice and tuition available. Competitions on weekends – see web for details.
Telephone: 01495 201182
Email: enquiries@southwales2000.com
Web: www.clayshooting2000.co.uk/

St Dials Shooting Ground (Hart

Events)
Monmouth
Disciplines: ESP, FITASC, STR, Compak
Open competition days and tuition by appointment, see web for details.
Telephone: 07850854016
Email: hartevents@hotmail.com
Web: www.hartevents.org

Woodland Park Shooting Ground
Battle, Brecon
Disciplines: ESP
Open Fridays 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm. Solo practice on 100-clay layout for certificate holders. Tuition available. Shooters must only use the ground's own cartridges.
Telephone: 07811189413
Email: wparkshoot@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.wpsshoot.co.uk

SCOTLAND



Aucherhouse Country Sports is one of the top clay targets shooting grounds in the country & recently voted Scotland's Favourite for 2018. They offer: Skeet, Olympic Skeet, DTL, OT, Sporting, Compact, High Tower. They also have The Clays Shop for all your shooting clothes and accessories and The Pear Tree Restaurant where you can get anything from a bacon roll to a fillet steak. A lovely clubhouse and warm welcome awaits you at Auchterhouse.
Address: Auchterhouse Country Sports, Burnhead Farm, Auchterhouse By Dundee, DD3 0QN
Telephone: 01382 320476
Email: info@aucherhousecountrysports.co.uk
Web: www.aucherhousecountrysports.co.uk

Achnasheen & Strathvaich Gun Club
Achnasheen, Wester Ross
Disciplines: DTL
Open 3rd Saturday in April, June, August and November, with a local shoot on Boxing Day
Email: a.s.gunclub@hotmail.co.uk
Web: https://www.facebook.com/Achnasheen-Strathvaich-Gun-Club-453480038127048/

Aucherhouse Country Sports
Aucherhouse, Dundee
Disciplines: SKD, OSK, NSP, NSK, FITASC, DTL, ABT, A/R, DTR, D/R, OTR
Open Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday, 10am – 6pm, Wednesday 10am – 8.30pm
Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01382 320476
Email: info@aucherhousecountrysports.co.uk
Web: www.aucherhousecountrysports.co.uk

Auldgrith Shooting Ground
Auldgrith, Dumfries & Galloway
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, ESK, ESP
Open Saturdays and Sundays, practice available. See website for competitions
Tel: 07376 411919
Email: dcollins49mot@gmail.com
Web: www.auldgrithshootingground.co.uk

Bisley at Braidwood
Braidwood, Midlothian
Disciplines: ESK, ESP
Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. 100 ESP one Sunday per month. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01835 870280
Email: braidwood@bisleyshooting.co.uk/
Web: www.bisleyshooting.co.uk/our-grounds/bisley-at-braidwood

Bute Clay Target Club
Kingarth
Disciplines: ESP
See Facebook for opening times
Tel: 01700 500274
Web: www.facebook.com/Bute-Clay-Target-Club-960396150714304/

Cairndow Clay Target Club
Cairndow, Argyll
Disciplines: DTL
Open some Saturdays, see web for details
Tel: 07769 636339
Email: morvencs@hotmail.co.uk
Web: http://www.cairndowclaytarget.com

Cawdor Clay Pigeon Club
Glengoulie
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, STR, DTL
Open September-April Saturdays 9.30-1; May-August Mondays from 6pm. Practice available. Fibre wads only
Tel: 07445 044513
Email: cawdorclays@gmail.com
Web: http://www.cawdorclaypigeonclub.co.uk/

Clay Target Shooting School
Houston, Glasgow
Disciplines: ESP, DTL, ABT
Open Saturday & Sunday 10-3.30; closed February and March. Practice available Saturdays
Tel: 01505 873547
Email: enquiries@claytargetshootingschool.co.uk
Web: www.claytargetshootingschool.co.uk

Cluny Activities
Kirkcaldy, Fife
Disciplines: ESP, ESK, OSK, DTL
Open Monday-Saturday 10.30-5.30, Sunday 11-4. Practice and coaching available, monthly competitions for members
Tel: 01592 720374
Email: enquiries@clunyactivities.co.uk
Web: www.clunyactivities.co.uk

County Clays
Dunkeld House Hotel, Perthshire
Disciplines: ESP
Open Monday-Saturday 9.30-5, Sunday 12.3-5. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01350 727 667
Email: countyclays@gmail.com
Web: www.countyclays.co.uk

Dunoon & District CTC
Sanbank, Dunoon, Argyll
Disciplines: DTL
Open Saturday afternoons in winter and Tuesday evenings in summer. Practice and coaching available. For competitions see Facebook page
Tel: 01369 706227
Web: www.facebook.com/dandctc/

Fasnacloch Gun Club
Loch Creran, near Appin, Argyll
Disciplines: DTL, DR

Open selected summer evenings for non-members, see web for details. Practice available
Email: info@fasnaclochgunclub.com
Web: www.fasnaclochgunclub.com

Glendaruel & Colintrave Gun Club
Auchtagen, Glendaruel, Argyll
Disciplines: DTL and sporting pool trap
Open 3rd Sunday of every month from noon. Five open shoots per year, see Facebook for details
Practice and coaching available
Email: alexandannette@tiscali.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/glendaruelgunclub

Gleneagles Shooting School
Auchterarder, Perthshire
Disciplines: ESP
Open by appointment, practice and coaching available
Tel: 01764 662231
Web: www.gleneagles.com/pursuits/shooting

Glenmoriston Shooting Ground
Glenmoriston, Inverness
Disciplines: ABT, DTL, UBT, DT, STR, OSK, UT
Open Wednesdays for practice, Saturdays for competitions – see web for details
Tel: 01320 351354
Web: www.glenmoristonshootingground.com

Harris Gun Club
Aline Forest, Isle of Harris
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, UT, DT, NSK, OSK
Open Saturdays, see website for details. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 07876 725302
Email: admin@harrisgunclub.co.uk
Web: www.harrisgunclub.co.uk

Highland Deephaven Clay Pigeon Club
Evanton
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, SKT, CSP
Steel shot only. See Facebook for opening times. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 07920 068 826
Email: secretary@hdcpc.co.uk
Web: www.facebook.com/Highland-Deephaven-Clay-Pigeon-Club-101529303220241/

Highland Shooting Centre
Altass, by Lairg
Disciplines: ESP, DTL, FITASC
Open 9-5 daily, pre-booking essential. Coaching available
Tel: 01549 441763
Email: info@highlandshootingcentre.com
Web: www.highlandshootingcentre.com

Inverinate Gun Club
Kintail, Kyle
Disciplines: DTL, OTR
Open some Saturdays, see Facebook for details
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/InverinateGunClub

Isle of Skye Clay Target Club
Portree
Disciplines: ESP, ABT, ESK, DTL
Open from 1pm on Sundays and Wednesdays
Email: skyeshoot@semmler.co.uk
Web: www.geoff996.wixsite.com/skyeshoot/

Kaithness Clays
Forss, Thurso
Disciplines: ESK, Compak, DTL



Open weekends, practice and coaching available
Email: kaithnessclays@aol.com
Web: www.facebook.com/Kaithness-Clays-541061062611248/

Lorn Clay Target Club

North Connel
Disciplines: DTL
 Open fortnightly on Thursdays and competition days. Practice available
Tel: 07826 890908
Email: info@lornclaytarget.com
Web: www.lornclaytarget.com

Moidart & District Clay Target Club

Archardale, Argyll
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
 See Facebook for opening times
Tel: 07825 684 634
Email: moidartanddistrictctc@outlook.com
Web: www.facebook.com/pg/moidartanddistrictclaytargetclub

Morton Clay Targets

Livingston, West Lothian
Disciplines: ABT, DTL, ESK, Compact
 Open Tuesday-Saturday 10-6.00 and selected Sundays. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01506 884 500
Email: contact@mortonclaytargets.co.uk
Web: www.mortonclaytargets.co.uk

Mull Gun Club

Tobermory, Isle of Mull
Disciplines: DTL
 Open selected Sundays, 11.30
Tel: 01688 302 521

Email: rolycrichon@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook.com/Mull-Gun-club-224048234595934/

Nairn Gun Club

Gollanfield, Inverness
Disciplines: ESK, DTL, ABT
 See Facebook for opening times
Tel: 07939 486666
Web: www.facebook.com/Nairn-Gun-Club-1611947319033722/
North Ayrshire Shooting Ground
 Dalry
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, OT, SKEET, OSK, SPORTING
 Open Wed-Mon 9.30-5, plus Wednesday nights 6.30-9. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01294 833297
Email: tom@continentalshooting.co.uk
Web: www.continentalshooting.co.uk

Orkney Clay Pigeon Club

Ramsdale
Disciplines: ABT, DTL, OSK, ESK, ESP
 See Facebook for opening times
Tel: 01856 811321
Email: victorsmith16@btinternet.com
Web: www.facebook.com/orkneyclaypigeonclub/

Rothiemurchus Shooting Ground

Aviemore, Inverness-shire
Disciplines: ESP
 Open daily 9-5, booking essential. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01479 812345
Email: hello@rothie.net
Web: rothiemurchus.net

Roxburgh Shooting School

Kelso
Disciplines: ESP
 Pre-booking required. Coaching available
Tel: 07798 884643
Web: roxburghshootingsschool.co.uk

Scottish Clay Shooting Centre

Leuchars, by St. Andrews
Disciplines: FITASC, ESK, ESP, DTL
 Open every Saturday. Practice and coaching available
Tel: 01334 839218
Email: rosaling@craigiefarm.co.uk
Web: www.scottishclayshootingcentre.co.uk

Scottish National Shooting Centre

Wester Jawcraig, Slamannan, Falkirk
Disciplines: STR, SKD, OTR, OSK, NSP, NSK, FITASC, DTL, ABT
 Open Tuesday-Sunday 10-5, late opening until 8pm on summer Thursdays. Coaching available
Tel: 01324 851 672
Email: enquiries@nsc92.com
Web: www.nsc92.com

Seafeld Shooting Ground

Portsoy, Aberdeenshire
Disciplines: ESK, ESP, DTL
 See Facebook for opening times
Tel: 07866 344729
Web: www.facebook.com/SeafeldShooting/

Seal's Cove Shooting Ground

Portlethen, Aberdeen
Disciplines: DTL, ABT, DTR, ESP, Compact
 For opening times see web. Coaching available
Tel: 01224 783 920
Email: sealscove@xlnmail.com
Web: www.sealscoveshootingground.co.uk

co.uk

Shetland Clay Target Club

Bigton, Shetland Islands
Disciplines: ABT, DTL, OSK, ESK, UT, ESP, DT, OT
 Open Sundays from 10am, Thursday evenings April-Sept from 5.15pm.
Tel: 07836 686090
Email: blackgaet@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.shetland-communities.org.uk/subsites/sctc

Strathyre Gun Club

Comrie, Perthshire
Disciplines: DTL, ABT
 Open 1-2x per month, see Facebook for more details
Tel: 01764 670013
Email: anndvdrbrtsn@aol.com
Web: www.facebook.com/StrathyreClays/

Stratherrick Clay Target Club

Torness by Dores, Invernesshire
Disciplines: DTL
 Open fortnightly, practice evenings on Thursdays in summer
Tel: 01456 486372
Web: www.stratherrick.net/target-club/

Tarbert Gun Club

Argyll
Disciplines: DTL, ESP
 Open selected Sundays, check website for details. Coaching available
Tel: 01880 820 482
Email: bobmccoll@aol.com
Web: www.barmoreshootingground.yolasite.com

THE SHOOTING SHOW



www.theshootingshow.tv

@ShootingShowTV | www.youtube.com/theshootingshow | facebook.com/TheShootingShow

SHOW AND TELL

A successful British Shooting Show speaks volumes for the health of the sport, but **James Marchington** feels we need to look ahead

Did you visit the British Shooting Show at the NEC in Birmingham last month? I was there on two of the three days, and loved every minute. It was great to see old friends and make new ones, talk to readers and contributors, and meet face to face people who I've only known in the virtual world – including fellow YouTubers such as Mr Fermanaghman and Jonny from TGS Outdoors.

It's always encouraging to see the sheer size of these events, and the thousands of people attending – notably this year including many families going round the show together. So often shooters gather in small groups and keep to a relatively small circle of like-minded friends. At a show like this we realise that we are part of something much bigger, a vast community of enthusiasts spanning every type of shooting including clay, game, wildfowling, stalking, airguns, target rifle shooting and more, much of it intertwined with countryside and wildlife management.

The stands and displays told their own story of a healthy, thriving sector too. There were hundreds of companies showing countless products and services, from guns and ammunition to clothing, eye and ear protection, scopes and binoculars, night vision equipment, dog beds, pick-up trucks... you name it, it was there.

From my perspective as a shooting journalist, I was interested to see the proliferation of 'new media' at the show. More than ever before, there were YouTubers videoing everything that moved, some of them livestreaming from the show. Fieldsports Channel had live podcasts throughout the three days, FRL Media were pumping out short interview clips with standholders, RussDouglas 222 uploaded airgun news items, and our own Shooting Show channel had The Shooting Show Sofa where I had the pleasure of chatting to Rob Collins about his young shots programme, and Becky McKenzie about clay shooting, coaching and ferrets!

Exhibitors and visitors alike were constantly posting from and about the show on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It's surprising perhaps for an activity that's often viewed as being behind the times and stick-in-the-mud, but there's no denying that the shooting world has embraced digital technology with the same enthusiasm as any other. Not just the youngsters, of which there were many at the show, but even us oldies too.

All in all I was feeling pretty positive about the health of shooting... You can tell there's a 'but' coming though, can't you? Scratch the surface and people are worried. Chatting with everyone from ordinary shooters to industry leaders, there's a sense that we're under attack from all sides; 'they' are out to get us, whether that's driven game, so-called 'trophy hunting', lead ammunition or just a public distrust of guns and gun owners.



Playing devil's advocate, I asked a few people where they saw shooting in ten years' time. There was much sucking of teeth and shaking of heads. Would we even be shooting in 2030? No-one was prepared to say confidently that we would. More worryingly, there was no vision of how shooting might change and evolve to retain, never mind

strengthen, its place in a changing world. The talk was all defensive – how we might hold back the tide for a while, putting off the inevitable for a year or two.

Frankly, that's not good enough. Maybe the organisations and leading figures in the industry have a long-term plan. But if they do, they haven't communicated it to the ordinary shooter. Shooting will not survive if we simply react to each new attack as it comes. We need to start talking about where shooting is going, and how it can not merely be tolerated by society but actively contribute to and be part of society. That won't be an easy conversation to have. It requires a degree of soul-searching and questioning of some of our deeply-held beliefs. But it's a conversation we must have if shooting is going to thrive into the next decade and beyond. 📺

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