

‘SPORTING’ MANAGER’S REPORT – 2014

NR Team Selection Shoots

There were five NR Team Selection Shoots again this year; Park Lodge, Oak Lodge, North Wolds, Beverley CTC – the North Region England Team Selection shoot - and Spennymoor. Coniston cancelled at short notice. Once again, a minimum of 3 selection shoots had to be shot to qualify for consideration.

Beverley would not have ordinarily have hosted the ETSS – but circumstances dictated that the next ground on the rota was not available, so Beverley took it on board for the 2nd year in succession .

Overall, entries for 3 shoots were up on last year, & 2 were ‘down’; Oak Lodge was slightly below what Coniston had the year previously & Beverley was ‘light’ by 100+ entries. There may be several factors for this – one of which was the only free weekend Beverley had clashed with the Beretta World Sporting. This demonstrates the problem that the Region has on a regular basis; there are a too many shoots to fit into too few weekends, and grounds in the North seem reluctant to host registered events in the colder months, which has a knock-on effect.

For the record, there were over 700 entries to the five selection shoots, (nearly 75 less than last year). The inference to be drawn is that the date & venue for the England Team selection shoot in the North is of crucial importance, and dependent on what position on HQ’s ‘rota’ we have each year.

The Regional team (19 plus reserves) featured some of our regular ‘top shots’, but also new members in each category – namely Scott Greenwood and Charlie Schofield in Seniors,

Jonty Wightman in Juniors, Holly Pennington in Ladies and Eric Bowe in Veterans. As in previous years, anyone representing the team who shoots the British Open receives a cloth 'patch' and payment towards their entry fee. North Region is the only one of the Regions who support their teams financially in this manner – just one of the reasons why a 'levy' is charged at our selection shoots.

British Open

The British Open is not solely about individual glory – there are also several other events running alongside, in particular the Inter-Regional competition – fought out between teams from each of the CPSA Regions - and the Coronation Cup (there are others).

Despite the injection of 'new blood', the North Region team were runners up (again) in every category to East Midlands Region – this is becoming a regular occurrence in the last few years!

The high spot of the British Open was undoubtedly the success of Brett Winstanley. A winning score of 116 (ex 120) left many scratching their heads. Brett brought the winner's trophy to the North for the first time since Kevin Mayor did two 'on the bounce' in 2004 and 2005.

Although success was thin on the ground for the NR team and North Region's sporting shooters in general this year, we did have another winner at the 'British'. Phil Rowbottom took the Grandparent Category.

Graham Stirzaker won Veteran's Category and Mike Burnand (Snr) took bronze medal place in the 'Disabled – Standing' Category at the British Open Sportrap.

Before leaving the 'British', I would also like to mention Holly Pennington, who took 2nd place in Lady Colts & John Hall for his 3rd place in the Coronation Cup.

North Region Sportrap

Dave Carrie won the North Region title at Rufforth on 17th August, with 12 full squads battling it out. Category winners were Vicky Bowering (Lady), Tony Booth (Veteran) and Jess Wright (Junior). There were no Colt entries.

North Region Sporting

The North Region Sporting Championships were also held at Park Lodge at the end of August. 130 entrants enjoyed warm and sunny conditions with Kevin Jobling a worthy winner, fending off last year's NR Champion (and 2014 World FITASC Champion) Dave Carrie by 2 clays. Category winners were Linda Grayson (Lady), 'Big' Dave Naylor (Veteran), Jess Wright (Junior) and Liam Rollinson (Colt).

National Inter-Counties Sporting

Held over 2 days at Barrow Heath at the beginning of October, Yorkshire and Lancashire both fielded teams – once again Yorkshire doing so in every Category (15 plus reserves). Those of us who shot on the Saturday are in no doubt that the day's wet & wind conditions severely affected the overall Team scores – but Yorkshire still came away with Runners-Up position in the Senior Team, and Yorkshire Ladies (Linda Grayson, Vicky Bowering & Lyn James) managed a remarkable third Team title at this Championship in four years! Tim Webster had a joint High Gun score, but was unable to stay behind for the shoot-off. Shame – he would have nailed it!

County Sporting/Sportrap

County Champions are:

Cumbria	JONTY WIGHTMAN, (STR – Eric Bowe)
Durham	ANDY CALVERT, (STR – Jon Garside)
Lancashire	KEVIN CLARKE, (STR – Mick Snape)
Merseyside	MICK SHELTON, (STR – not contested)
Northumberland	IAN MULLARKEY (STR – Ian Mullarkey)
Yorkshire	GLEN HUNT, (STR – Paul Foster)

Each of this year's County Champions (E/Sporting only) are eligible to enter the Champion of Champions event at the 2015 CLA Game Fair at Harewood House, Yorkshire, 31st July to 2nd August. Details will be finalised in due course.

2015 Events

Plans for the 2015 selection shoots, England Team selection shoot and various Regional & County Championships are at an early stage. Blackpool Sporting Clays are now holding Registered sporting competitions, and Bywell have recently invested in hydraulic towers and 'sporting' traps, so both will be considered as venues for NR team selection shoots, along with our usual grounds.

The North Region's England Team Selection Shoot is *provisionally* listed for Park Lodge late May.

Any Ground Owners wishing to be considered for holding a Sporting selection shoot or Regional/County Championship, please contact me in the usual manner. Thank you, and good shooting in 2015. **Terry Deakin**

WORLD ENGLISH SPORTING & SPORTRAP

Held over 4 days at the West Wycombe ground of E.J. Churchill in early May – the ‘Worlds’ attract the best shotgun shooters in Great Britain and Europe as well as the United States. North Region shooters enjoyed quite a bit of success over all four days, as follows:

World FITASC 30th April

Dave Carrie was World High Gun (as well as World Veteran High Gun), finishing with a perfect 25/25 on his last layout. Josh Bridges was World Colt High Gun – as well as taking runners-up spot in ‘D’ Class.

World Sportrap 1st May

Graham Stirzaker was Veteran Runner-Up, Josh Bridges was 3rd (bronze medal) in Colts, and Mike Burnand was bronze medal winner in ‘Disabled Standing’. Keeping success in the family, son Mikey Burnand won ‘AA’ Class outright, and ‘honorary Northerner’ Mark Winser was third in the same Class.

Preliminary Sporting 2nd May

Jack Garside was Junior High Gun, (and also 2nd in ‘A’ Class), with Dave Hughes poaching 1st in ‘B’ Class.

World English Sporting 4th May

Mikey Burnand capped a glorious week for ‘Clan Burnand’ by winning ‘AA’ Class in the World Sporting as well – believed to be the first time that anyone has ever accomplished both feats at the ‘Worlds’ – gold medals and big cups galore! Josh Bridges was Runner-up in Colts Category, and Jess Wright managed 2nd in ‘B’ Class.

And finally, Kevin Jobling was part of the winning England Seniors Team.