

## North of England DTL 2014 Review – Debbie Bellamy

As North of England DTL Team Manager I would just like to take a few minutes of your time to say a few words to recognise and congratulate our regions shooters on some remarkable results over the 2014 season.

As we all remember the 2014 DTL season started a little earlier this year with the World DTL Championships being held in New Zealand. Our region's shooters made a large percentage of the England Team. Huge congratulations go to Austin Coxhead for his amazing shooting to finish overall runner up of the event and also to John Adams who was part of the gold medal winning Veteran's Team.

North of England DTL selection shoots:

This year saw good entries and kind weather throughout the five selection shoots and more importantly, some new junior faces appearing on our regions' DTL circuit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the following grounds for hosting and supporting these events: Spennymoor GC, North of England CTC, Bywell SG, Coniston SG and Beverley CTC.

Our region was able to submit teams to all events at the Inter Regional DTL event.

Rob Hall added his name to the Kevin Weatherald Memorial Trophy – this is awarded annually to the highest qualifying score from the North of England selection shoots.

With a busy calendar both at regional and national level, the English and British Double Rise Championships took place at Bywell Shooting Ground.

My first mention here goes to a quiet and unassuming shooter who needs little introduction – Paul Chaplow, who took Overall High Gun at both events. More about Paul later! Not to be outdone by double celebrations another quiet and unassuming young man took the Colts' H/G and runner up at the same events – Owen Vining.

Beverley CTC hosted the first of the England DTL selection shoots, again putting our regions superb grounds and facilities on the map. The England Senior Team this year had yet again over half of the team from our region. Jack Thompson – Captain, New caps included Dave Priestman and Nick Adam. A special mention also goes to Andrea Swatts who earned herself a place in the Senior Team.

Ian Mullarkey now receives a mention for being the first shooter to date that has won the Kreighoff DTL Championship twice at a very wet Mid Wales SG held over the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Bank Holiday Weekend.

English Open DTL Weekend:

The sponsored event saw a North Region Senior 1.2.3. Austin Coxhead, Nick Adam and Paul Chaplow. Andrea Swatts was ladies H/G

James Tate took Colts H/G in the Dougal Memorial and there was another Senior 1.2.3 in the English Open – Paul Chaplow, Austin Coxhead and Ian Shaw. Geoff Crossland collected the Veterans' H/G and Owen Vining was the winning Colt.

Charlotte Kitchen collected a haul of silverware from the Handicap by Distance Championships – Overall H/G at the English and Ladies and Junior H/G at the British. I also believe Charlotte has achieved some other wins at other Minor Championships – Well done.

Bywell has been extremely busy hosting Major events this year, with the DTL Home International, British Open and European Championships. Our regions shooters were part of the Winning teams at both the Home International and British Open. Congratulations also again to Paul for his outstanding achievements over this weekend along with Allan Henry – Veteran H/G at the European DTL event.

My report wouldn't be complete without returning our attention to that quiet and unassuming shooter I mentioned earlier – Paul Chaplow.

What an amazing season 2014 has been for Paul and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on all his achievements, there are far too many to mention and time is short. One of the most significant must be Paul's 100 100/300's. This achievement gets me thinking about watching Sports Personality of the Year a couple of years ago and hearing an interview with that famous jockey – AP McCoy who had achieved some formidable milestone in his horse racing career. Although there are few similarities in the physical shape and build I have a feeling Paul has the same grit, determination and ability to see how close he can get to reaching further heights in his shooting career. Well done Paul and as they say, behind every good man is an even better woman...a special mention goes to Pat who we all see out and about whatever the weather supporting Paul.

I bring my little review to a close... I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one both present tonight and absent from this meeting who takes part in a sport which is very close to my heart. I apologise to anyone who I may have failed to mention on an individual basis but once again may I say congratulations on your achievements this season whether this is at a Major, Minor, Regional, County or even club level. Even to those who may be new to the sport shooting their first 25 straight.... Well done, make sure you get a badge!!!!

Lastly, I turn my attention to the future of our sport... Our juniors, including the successes we have celebrated tonight.. Owen, Charlotte, James and all the other young people I have met around the ground's this year. Go and tell your friends what a great sport Clay Target shooting is and what a great atmosphere there is around the grounds. In years' to come there will be some extremely big footsteps to fill.... IT COULD BE YOU!!!

Thank you for your time and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and give you my very best wishes for the 2015 season.