

19th December 2009

Christmas Cliffhanger

The freezing cold, a dusting of snow and a frighteningly realistic Santa Claus impersonator brought a very seasonal feel to this years Christmas Trophy shoot.

The shooting was full of excitement too, with John Barnett starting proceedings with a 24/72 on his first card - just the one bird getting away. One or two people came close to matching John's score but nobody quite got there. Until on his very last card, who else but Gary Crofts shot a blistering 25/73 and walked off with the trophy. So, it was first place to Gary, second to John and third place went to Rob Law with a very respectable 71 points. Well done to all three of them.

Photographic evidence of the days goings on can be seen on the Photo Album pages.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

28th November 2009

Honours Shared After 3-Way Shoot-off

Recent heavy rain had turned our ground into a bit of a mud bath, but that didn't prevent the 15 shooters that turned up from having a particularly enjoyable and exciting afternoon's shooting. No less than 9 shooters carded scores in excess of 40/45 points but nobody quite managed the full 45.

In the end, Rob Law, Gary Crofts and John Barnett were each tied for the lead having registered scores of 15/44 each. Unfortunately for Rob, he narrowly missed out on the first shoot off and a second one was needed to try and separate Gary and John. That produced a truly epic battle between the two "big guns" and both ended up tying on 15/45 full houses! At that point they agreed to shake hands and share the honours equally, with Rob being awarded a very creditable third place.

So, the Winter Series now looks very interesting. The 2.5 points awarded today puts Gary in the lead with 3.5 points in total. Rob's 1 point for today's 3rd place puts him in joint second place with 3 points total and John's 2.5 points means that with three shoots in the series to go, you wouldn't bet against him!

All scores and Winter Series rankings can be downloaded from the "Downloads" page.

Next shoot is the Christmas Trophy shoot, so don't forget to bring your prize and feel free to wear a silly hat too!

31st October 2009

Early start, AGM, Perfect Weather and some excellent shooting.

Today marked the first of our 10:00am winter starts, which we have introduced so that we stand at least some chance of getting home in daylight during the winter months - and today's shoot was preceded by our AGM. Minutes for the AGM will be available on the Downloads page in due course.

It's a measure of how much shooting at the club has improved over the last couple of years that, to stand a realistic chance of winning these days, you really have to notch up a "full house" score. And, we now have about a dozen shooters who are capable of doing that quite regularly. Today it was the turn of long-time club stalwart Russell Pierpoint to produce the 15/45 score that won the day, and 3 points for the Winter Series, for him. Well done Russell!

Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that 2nd and 3rd places were shared between no less than 3 shooters (Gary Crofts, Mark Jarvis, and Tom Crowther), each scoring 15/44. They are awarded 1 point each towards the Winter Series.

26th September 2009

So, clay pigeon shooting CAN be a cruel sport!!

Anyone who thinks clay shooting is entirely without cruelty should consider what happened to Rob Law today. Having missed a couple of shoots, one might have expected him to be a bit rusty, but Rob walked straight onto his first line and threw down the gauntlet for everybody by scoring a 15/45 full-house. He then spent the rest of a beautiful, sunny, but very long afternoon watching 23 other shooters try to match his feat. Many came close, some very close, but nobody quite got there. Until - Russel Jones, on his very last line, about four hours later, managed to do it.

And so a shoot-off was required between Rob and Russell. And what a cliff-hanger, with fortunes swinging one way then the other. In the end, Russell just clinched it by one point - and so was the winner on the day and he takes an early lead in the Winter Series (3 points). Rob's second place earns him 2 points and Daryl Worman and Mark Jarvis each share the 1 point for joint third place.

This was our best attended shoot for some time (24 shooters), the conditions were just perfect with wall-to-wall autumn sunshine and our new traphouse stood up well to it's first test!

13th September 2009

New Traphouse To Make Our Shoots Easier & Safer

We have just taken delivery of a new custom-designed traphouse which will make life a little easier for us on shoot days and safer, particularly when we shoot double-rise.



The new traphouse, pictured here, was designed by Keith Williams and manufactured by John Howard at his engineering firm in Wrexham.

It is constructed out of heavy duty alloy sheeting, fixed to a steel box section frame, with easily operated ground pegs to prevent movement in heavy winds. The sides and top are hinged and easily removable so that the whole construction can be easily carried and assembled on-site in minutes.

Anyone requiring more information, or having a need for similar kinds of work should contact John at:

John Howard Handyman Services
Clifton House
New Broughton
Wrexham LL11 6YE
Telephone: 01978 750032 Mobile: 07709 698424

29th August 2009

Two Shoot-Offs Needed To Settle The Rob Ankers Trophy

On another perfect afternoon for shooting, with just enough breeze to make things interesting, the Rob Ankers Trophy was hotly contested by a field of 16 shooters. This is now our only double-rise competition of the year and everybody struggled with that fast and tricky second bird.

In the end, three shooters, Mike Dunning, Colin Tudor and Tom Crowther tied for first place with scores of 14/20. The first shoot-off was incredibly close with Mike and Tom hitting 13/20 each and Colin narrowly missing out with 11/20. So a second shoot-off between Mike and Tom was required and that resulted in a win for Tom. Well done to all three!

25th July 2009

Tom Crowther Hangs On To Win The Albert Nixon Trophy

The shooting conditions were perfect. It was an exceptionally well attended shoot. And Tom Crowther survived a very nervous afternoon to run out winner in the Albert Nixon memorial trophy shoot.



Tom shot a 15/45 "full house" on his second line, and although many came very close indeed, nobody else quite equalled that for the rest of the afternoon.

Runners up were Russell Pierpoint with 42 points and Gary Crofts with 41.

27th June 2009

The Phil Morgan Trophy is won in fine style by Gary Crofts

It seems a long time since those cold wet shoots in the winter! Today the conditions were bordering on the tropical with high temperatures and humidity - perfect for one of our most exciting shoots so far this year.

Two shooters, John Tennison and Rob Law, spent most of the afternoon tying for the lead, on 43 points each. And despite some very good scores from a number of others, it looked like we were heading for a shoot off. Until, right at the end, Gary Crofts did what he had been threatening to do all afternoon and shot a brilliant 15/45 full house. Just to put Gary's achievement in context, out of the six shoots so far this year, that was Gary's fourth 100% score! Excellent shooting and well done Gary.



Well done also to the runners up, John and Rob.

Our summer trophy season continues on 25th June when we will be shooting for the Albert Nixon Trophy.

30th May 2009

Dave Tudor Takes The Ken Dodd Trophy

In perfect conditions and against a field of 19 other shooters, Dave Tudor was the deserving winner of the Ken Dodd Trophy shoot today. Dave scored 71/75 points on his first card - an excellent score which remained unbeaten all afternoon. Runners up were Colin Tudor and Gary Crofts, each with 69/75 points.



Congratulations and well done Dave!

At the next shoot (27th June) we will be shooting for the Albert Nixon memorial trophy.

25th April 2009

Summer At Last

At last, summer has returned and 21 shooters enjoyed a fabulous afternoons shooting in the beautiful South Cheshire countryside. Ample compensation for the long cold winter we've endured.

The shooting this afternoon was very hot too - with three people (Steve Harding, Gary Crofts and Dave Tudor) scoring 10/30 full houses. That's three shoots in a row that both Steve and Gary have performed that feat. Well done to both of them.

We were pleased to welcome two new members to the club - so all-in-all, a very good day.

The next shoot (25th May) marks the start of the summer's trophy season, the first one being the Ken Dodd Trophy.

28th March 2009

Gary Crofts Retains The Winter Series Trophy

The finale of the Winter Series proved to be a very enjoyable shoot, with some really excellent shooting. The weather was cold and windy, but thankfully dry.

No less than four shooters, John Tennison, Gary Crofts, Steve Harding and Colin Tudor scored 10/30 "full houses". In the four-way shoot-off Colin Tudor came out eventual winner for the day, with Steve Harding finishing in second place.

Gary Crofts didn't even need the one point he gained by finishing third in the shoot off to retain his hold on the Winter Series Trophy for a second year. In the end, he won the series by a margin of some 4 points from his nearest rival, Russell Pierpoint. (If you want to see the full results for the series, the table is available from the [Downloads](#) page.)



Congratulations and well done Gary!

28th February 2009

Winter Coming To An End?

The last day of winter brought far more agreeable weather than we have been used to for the last few shoots. It didn't rain, wasn't too cold, we could actually see the clays and there was hardly even a breeze. Our only problem this time was the Highways Agency who, for some reason seem to have closed off every road in South Cheshire making it almost impossible to get to Tilston - our apologies for those who tried but didn't make it to the ground.

Despite that problem, this was a very well attended shoot with a nail-biting finale! Three people, Gary Crofts, John Barnet and Steve Harding turned in "full house" scores of 10/30. Following an exciting 3-way shoot off, Gary emerged as winner, with John the runner up and Steve coming in third. Excellent shooting by all three of them.

This win gives Gary an almost (but not quite) unassailable position in the Winter Series, with a 3 point lead over second-placed Russell Pierpoint. So, mathematically, the series could end up going to a shoot-off, but my money is on Gary to wrap it up at the next shoot.

17th January 2009

Rob Law - Most Improved Shooter



Every January we award our trophy for the shooter who has shown the greatest year-on-year improvement over the last 12 months. In most years this trophy will go to a relative newcomer, for the simple mathematical reason that as your averages get higher it becomes far more difficult to maintain a large percentage improvement.

So it is surprising that this year's winner, Rob Law, is not only a long-standing club member but also one of our better shots - which makes his achievement all the more impressive. Between 2007 and 2008 Rob managed to increase his average score by some 20% - leaving him well clear of the field in this particular competition and well and truly "raising the bar" for the rest of us.

17th January 2009

High Winds and a Mud Bath - Another Great Shoot

The elements are definitely out to get us this year. Not only did we have the customary mud-bath to contend with this afternoon - but gale-force winds made for some very difficult shooting. Despite all that, this was a very enjoyable and well attended shoot - and we were delighted to welcome several new members too.

Honours for the day were taken by Russell Pierpoint with an amazing 29/30 points - you had to see what the wind was doing to those birds to appreciate what a great score that was! Second place was taken by Gary Crofts with 27/30 and third by Rob Law with 26/30.

This was the 4th shoot of the Winter series and so Russell, Gary and Rob earn 3,2 & 1 point respectively, leaving the table for the series looking like this:

Russell Pierpoint	5 points
Gary Crofts	5 points
Jim Symms	4 points
Dave Tudor	3 points
Rob Law	3 points
Tom Crowther	2.5 points
Colin Tudor	1.5 points
