

Richard Brickell - Olympic Skeet
Olympic Skeet Commonwealth Games Champion - India 2010
2012 Quota place winner at Sydney ISSF World Cup on 22nd March – 2nd April 2011

Berkshire CPSA Committee is very proud of a true shooting hero in its midst. Richard Brickell has had a fantastic 2010 when he won the Gold medal in Olympic Skeet at the Commonwealth Games in India To end the year with the title of ‘Commonwealth Games Champion’ was an achievement in itself and put him in good stead for the very important international shoots during 2011 ‘The Quota Year’.

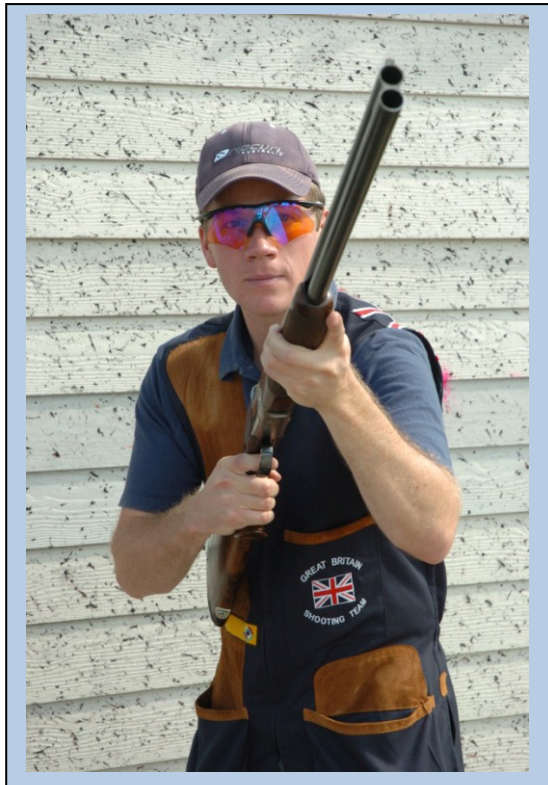


For those reading who may not understand what Quotas are I will try to explain. Anyone wanting to compete at the 2012 London Olympics has to win what is called ‘a Quota place’ on the international circuit. This means that you have to be successful in either a World or European Championship or any World Cup event where Quota places are on offer. These are very limited and hence 2011 is a very important year. Shooters from all over the World will be chasing these Quota places.

The added complication is that in order to compete in one of these events you first have to qualify for the Great Britain Shooting Team. It is a long hard road involving many hours of practice and sacrifice for both the shooters and their devoted families.



This hard work has paid off and Richard again represented GBR, but this time at the Sydney World Cup in this very important 2011 Quota year. I am delighted to say that he achieved his goal of winning a Quota place. Here is a small insight into this Berkshire Hero.



Preparation at home had gone very well, I had spent some time with my coaches Joe Neville and Andrew Austin prior to departing and had also been working at home on my range with my wife Kate and of course young Oliver, he's great at button pushing!

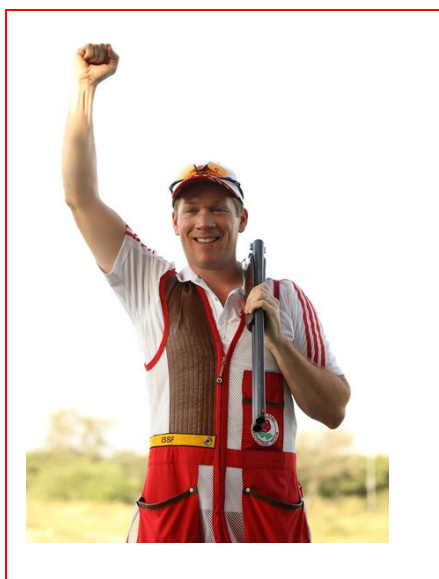
The ranges in Sydney were great, the same used for the 2000 Olympic Games. The weather was variable and generally quite windy for the whole trip. The skeet team arrived 5 days ahead of competition and I personally needed all 5 days to adjust to the time zone. Due to the other competitions that were running, we were only able to have two practice rounds prior to the start of the skeet comp, so we had to hit the ground running.

Because of the large number of entries, the comp was spread over three days instead of the usual two, (50, 25, 50) this meant that on the second day we had to prepare to shoot just one round. This is something that we don't have to contend with at home and together with many other aspects, makes international competition that much more challenging.



I like to prepare well for each event in the weeks/days leading up to it and then break that down to a pre round and pre shot routine. I like to keep my approach as simple as I can and in my opinion, the only way to shoot consistently well is to have a clear mind and shoot naturally. **“Trust your eyes”**

My gun is an off the shelf multi choke Beretta 682 with 28 inch barrels and a customised stock. It is quite an old gun but very trustworthy and I wouldn't swap it for the world! I've shot some big scores with it now and it holds great sentimental value to me. I shoot 24 gram Hull Pro One size 9 cartridges



I would like to thank my coaches, Joe Neville and Andrew Austin, without whom this would have been a very lonely journey. I would also like to thank the very kind people who have sponsored me and been with me on this journey, they are Certikin International Swimming Pool Products, Hull Cartridge Company and GMK/Beretta. Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated. The final and biggest thanks goes to my wife Kate and my family.