



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

For Year Ended 30 November 2023, by **Dr John Martin**, CPSA Chairman.

**L**ast year, I began my chairman's report by remarking, that it didn't seem like a year since I'd written the previous one. I start 2024, with a severe case of déjà vu as the same holds true once again. 2023 wasn't exactly plain sailing but, to paraphrase Samuel Johnson, it did concentrate the mind wonderfully. Although still down from pre-Covid numbers, our membership is stable and the number of registered shoots continues to increase year on year. Our auditors, WR Partners, have given us a clean bill of health and the company remains strong and financially secure and will continue to provide the membership with professional support and development throughout 2024. But, just in case the year sped past as quickly for you as it did for me I'll, briefly, remind us all of what went on and give a taster of what we have planned in 2024.

## ENGLISH OPEN SPORTING

Kicking of the year and, following their successful hosting of the English Open Sportrap in 2022, Eriswell Lodge were awarded the English Open Sporting and Stuart Smith and his team certainly did not disappoint. Richard Faulds took the first of three championship titles for the year by winning High Gun on 115, two points ahead of James Attwood, and Nick Portlock, who both entered a shoot off for second and third place with James ultimately taking the Runner-up position. Ladies High Gun was Charlotte Kerwood, wresting the title from Emma Stacey after a shoot off with Amy Easeman taking third place in the category. Junior High Gun went to Jacob O'Loughlin, two points ahead of Will Page, who took second place, two points ahead of Robert Kingston who was third Junior overall. Lucy Earl won

the first of what would turn out to be a string of championship successes in 2023 taking Lady Junior High Gun while Nick Portlock secured the Veterans trophy from Philip Thorrold after a shoot off, with Andy Moore coming third. Super Veteran was Steve Brightwell, Colt High Gun was John Porter, Ladies Colt High Gun, Emily Chumbley, and Disabled Standing was Lee Clements with Paul Bailey winning the first of many 2023 titles in the Disabled Sitting category.

## ENGLISH OPEN SPORTRAP

The English Open Sportrap, was hosted by Barbury Shooting School who, having proved their worth running the British Open Sporting the previous year, took the event easily in their stride, providing an exemplary course shot over four days of competition. Martin Myers secured the High Gun trophy on a score of 144 with Nathan Skinner taking Runner-up position from Sean Stacey after a shoot off. Catherine Smalley, a shooter from my own county of Nottingham, took her first major championship title with a score of 142, eight points ahead of Runner-up Nadine Gilder with Hannah Gibson, taking third place in the Ladies championship. Will Page won the first of his five Junior High Gun trophies in 2023, holding Daniel King to Runner-up by one point with Kallum Burrell taking third place. Veterans High Gun was won by Sean Stacey with last year's winner, Steve Brightwell, moving over successfully, into our newly introduced Super Veterans category to win that title by a margin of five Clays over Jeffrey Dix, who took Runner-up position ahead of John Bidwell's third place.

## BRITISH OPEN SKEET

The British Open Skeet was held at East Yorkshire Shooting Ground over the last

weekend in July. Given the time of year, the weather was far from kind with many overcoats in evidence and more than a few umbrellas. Richard Faulds, fresh from his victory at the English Open Sporting the previous month, obviously deciding that Skeet was only Sporting without the trees, took the British Open title after a shoot off with Peter Chester, Henry and John Dyson. All four competitors went through to sudden death, but after the first round of pairs, Richard was the only shooter clear and so the British Open Champion. Peter Chester came second, overall to Henry, bales with John Dyson, taking last place in the shoot off. However, John came back with a vengeance to take the winner's trophy, in the Super Veteran's category. The Ladies title went to Megan Jones for the second year in succession with Becky King taking the runners up position and Scots Shooter Becky Kibble, third place. Junior High Gun was awarded to Archie Stannard, returning to the competition after missing it the previous year, due to injury. Henry Lungley was a Runner-up with Ben Cummings taking third place. Veterans High Gun went to Paul Stokes and Colts High Gun to Charlie Faulds who, together with Richard, was awarded the Parent and Child trophy.

## WORLD SPORTING

It was a bumper year for Sporting in 2023, with the addition of the Worlds Sporting, which we share year and year about with NSCA in America. Demand was so high that we had to extend the competition to 6 days. The Americans took all of the main category team prizes with only England's Veterans, fending them off to take that trophy. Some honer was restored when Sam Green took the overall High Gun trophy after an intense shoot off with the US's Brendan Powell, ▶

who ultimately took Runner-up position with Mark Winser taking third place overall.

England shooters fared far better in the Worlds Sportrap with Richard Faulds winning his third title of the year. Cheryl Hall was Ladies High Gun, William Page, Juniors, John Porter, Colts, George Digweed, Veterans and Graham Stirzaker, Super Veterans. Paul Bailey, took the Disabled Sitting trophy as he had previously done at the English open Sporting and would go onto to repeat at the British Open Sporting and Sportrap later in the year. Michael Neat took the Disabled Standing trophy.

### BRITISH OPEN SPORTING

Bringing the Sporting year to a close the British Open was held in the first week of September at Garlands in the West Midlands. As ever, we had to re-jig it to incorporate extra days due to an overwhelming response and a positive avalanche of applications. Sam Green took his second major title of the year by winning High Gun, three clays ahead of Stuart Clark, who ultimately became Runner-up after a shoot off with Philip Thorrold. Georgia Moule won the Ladies trophy with Lucy Earl awarded the Runner-up Trophy and Hannah Gibson securing third place. Lucy however, was not to be outdone and took the Lady Junior High Gun trophy with Lucy Christie, taking second place and Chloe Applin, third. Will Page added to his list of successes by gaining the Junior High Gun trophy for the second year in succession, with John Porter adding to his list of 2023 titles by receiving Colts High Gun. Lady Colts High Gun was awarded to Fern Lancaster with Philip Thorrold achieving Veterans High Gun and Mike Harding, Super Veterans. Paul Bailey added to his string of successes by winning the Disabled Sitting trophy with Jason Thorn, doing the same in the Disabled Standing category.

### BRITISH OPEN SPORTRAP

British Open Sportrap Championship was run alongside the British Open Sporting and was won by Mark Winser after a shoot off with Guy Franklin, who took the Runner-up trophy with Tom Young taking third place overall. Following her success in the Sporting, Georgia Mole also secured the Ladies High Gun in the Sportrap with Hannah Gibson, taking the Runner-up trophy after a shoot off with Sharon Niven. Junior High Gun went to Kallum Burrell after a shoot off with Rhys Harrison who ultimately took the Runner-

up trophy with Joshua Poyser securing third Junior place overall. Lucy Earl repeated her previous year's success, and concluded 2023 with her fourth title for Lady Junior High Gun, with Lucy Christie taking second place in the category. The Super Veterans title went to Robert Palmer with the Runner-up trophy going to Stephen Williams, not the redoubtable referee Steve Williams, I might add, while Paul Hoyland, securing third place overall. Veterans High Gun went to Nigel Hart with Mark Bowes becoming the Runner-up Veteran with Sean Stacey being awarded third place overall in the category. The Colts High Gun was decided by a three way shoot off with John Porter ultimately securing High Gun with Aaron Christie taking the runner position and Archie Alexander achieving third place colts overall. Paul Bailey, once again, won the Disabled Sitting trophy with the Disabled Standing title going to Nigel Smith.

### THE YEAR AHEAD

Some may say that, given all that the world's gone through in the last three years, planning ahead is a pointless task but, the CPSA have managed to provide the members with every planned championship throughout these years of turmoil. Not always exactly on the dates intended, but invariably to an ever improving standard, which has been rewarded with record numbers of entries at just about all our championships. Yes, we've achieved this by planning ahead, but by also staying pragmatic, and bending with the tides and the winds which have, unsuccessfully, conspired against us. And so, we have planned a 2024 calendar which will be more dynamic, more impressive and more rewarding than any year so far.

We will be running all our usual major championships up and down the country and expect, as is generally the case, these will all be fully subscribed, usually within 48 hours of booking opening. For the first time in many years, the English Open Sporting will be hosted by Doveridge Shooting Ground in the East Midlands and the British Open Sporting and Sportrap will take place at EJ Churchill Swinton Estate in Yorkshire. NCSC will be looking after the English Open Skeet for us while Carl Smith will be organising the British Open Skeet at Nottingham and District Gun Club in early August. The English Open DTL, as always, will be run as part of the Bywell Weekend, alongside the Dougal Memorial and the Sponsors Day.

Just for a bit of variety, we'll be

hosting the Home International DTL Championship at Bywell in July. As a package, this will also incorporate the British Open DTL, along with the Europeans Championship. 2024 is also England's turn to host the ICTSC World DTL Championship, which will tuck in immediately after the Home international and the British, making for a very demanding week of shooting up at Bywell. Super Sporting, as a discipline, is rapidly growing in popularity, especially considering that we only introduced it a year or so ago. To reflect this popularity we'll be holding our first ever English Open Super Sporting alongside the English Open Sportrap in June, which we have placed in the very capable hands of Josh Brown and his team at Barbury Shooting School.

Our training courses are rapidly filling up across the year and are promising to fully recover from the uncertainties which Covid inflicted on them. We are also putting the finishing touches to the awards evening which will take place on the 9th of March. We will also be returning to the Game Fair, National Shooting Show and the British Shooting Show. Finely, our national AGM will be held at the NRA's Bisley Shooting Ground in the Council Club Dining room in their main pavilion.

As always, I need to recognise the exceptional efforts and dedication shown throw-out the year by Iain Parker and his staff and thank them, for myself and on your behalf, for all they have achieved in 2023. With the ever draining effects of the cost of living crises, the guys at HQ have really worked miracles to keep the company financially robust while meeting, or exceeding, the services and events we set out to deliver. I would also like to thank my fellow Directors for the voluntary time they put into the company and the help and assistance they provide behind the scenes.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all out and about at our Championships, Training Courses, Game Fair or the Shooting Shows. If you spot me, please come over and have a chat or a rant, or both. It's what I'm there for and the only way I can get a genuine feel for how we are doing and how you would like us to develop and progress.

It's March and the season is just beginning. Go forth and break some clays. It's the ultimate therapy and, besides, you know it makes sense. See you on the ranges.

**Dr John Martin, CPSA Chairman** 