



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024



by **Dr John Martin**, CPSA Chairman.

**A**t 8.45am on 11 January, I was in Northampton's car park, debating with Bob Meadows whether it was -6 or -3 degrees. Shortly after, in an even colder clubhouse, Northampton's committee began the first county AGM of 2025. Glancing over at Bob as he tackled his McMuffin, I smiled to myself as it sunk in that it was the start of another year of championships.

2025, it is going to be our most successful year so far. Membership is stable, finances are sound, and our auditors have once again given us a clean bill of health, so we will move forward into 2025 on our mission of providing you, our members, with premium opportunities to compete in all our disciplines, whilst making each Championship an event to remember.

But before pushing ahead into this coming year, let's glance back to 2024 and some of the highlights which made that a year to remember too.

All our major championships in 2024 were sold out within minutes – and in many cases we had to add additional days. Our Sponsorship base was even stronger than ever, allowing us to provide more prizes and more payouts for everyone taking part. And, of course, 2024 was an Olympic year with Nathan Hales and Amber Rutter bringing home gold and silver respectively, but not forgetting Lucy Hall who came 14th in her first ever Olympics.

## ENGLISH OPEN SPORTING

It all kicked off with five days of the English Open Sporting at Doveridge (as it then was). The weather was excellent, despite the torrential rain in the week running up to the event. It's been many years since we held a Sporting championship at Doveridge and Clive and his team did not disappoint, opening a completely new range of stands especially for the competition.

Mark Winser took the English Open title on a score of 119, with Billy Baughan coming second on 118, and James Bradley-Day third on 117. With just 120 being the possible top score, none of the three finalists left much margin for error.

Ceyla Ismet and Lucy Earl tied on 108 in the Ladies championship, with Ceyla holding Lucy to second place by one clay following a shoot-off. Emma Stacey took third place Overall after a shoot-off with Amy Easeman.

Charlie Faulds took the Junior High Gun on 108, whilst Tristan Hockey and Kallum Burrell shot off for second and third place on scores of 107, with Tristan holding Kallum to third place Overall. John Porter was awarded the Colts trophy on an impressive 114, with Connor Davis and Fern Lancaster coming second and third respectively.

Paul Foster took the Veterans High Gun on 112 with Kevin Jobling coming second and Matt Hance coming third on 110, whilst the Super Veterans trophy went to Steve Brightwell on 108, with Peter Jarvis taking second place, and Patrick Dickman third.

Special thanks to Clive and his team for organising and running an exceptional English Open. And many of you will be pleased to know that Clive is staying on at, what is now Eaton Hall, so we can expect his exceptional input to our 2025 calendar.

## ENGLISH OPEN SKEET

NCSC hosted the English Open Skeet with Joe Clark and Tristan Hockey battling it out for the title in a shoot-off, having both shot 100-Straight in the competition itself. In the event Joe scored 24 in the full round and Tristan 23, giving Joe the title and Tristan the Runner-up trophy, with Bill Moussalli coming third on 99.

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Isabel Russell came back into form to take the Ladies title on a score of 98 from Alison Coupe, who was Runner-up on 97 and Hannah Gibson was third, also on 97, but was unavailable for a shoot-off. Junior High Gun unsurprisingly, went to Tristan Hockey on that 100-Straight, with Ethan Lord having to settle for second place on 99, whilst Sonny Bowman came a close third on 98.

Matthew Huxtable shot an impressive 94 to take the Colts High Gun, six clays ahead of Cameron Burr who came second, with Arthur Cutter third on 78. Veterans High Gun was awarded to the Skeet Doctor himself, Alan Warren on 99, after a shoot-off with John Dunn, in which Alan held 24 points on the full round to John's 23. Brian Gibson came third on 98. Alan also picked up the AA Class trophy and John the A Class. To make up for the whippersnappers edging him out of the overall title by one clay, Bill Moussalli took Super Veteran after holding Martin Brister to second place following a shoot-off, with Douglas Moore coming third on 98.

## HOME INTERNATIONAL DTL

The 2024 DTL Home International was hosted by Bywell Shooting Ground during a six-day marathon, incorporating the Home International, the Europeans the ICTSF Worlds, and the British Open. The weather was glorious for the Home International and somewhat less so for the rest of the week. I don't think I've ever worn thermals continuously for a full week during July ▶

but, I may of course be mistaken. To list the results of all these competitions would take more space than I have for this report. Suffice to say the England teams and individuals fully returned the trust placed in them as representatives of our nation and of our sport.

### BRITISH OPEN SKEET

August saw the British Open Skeet at Nottingham and District. James Attwood, Rob Denoon, and Lee Downing all shot 100-Straight to go through to a shoot-off for the three main places. Lee sadly succumbed to the pressure of the additional full round and took third place on a shoot-off score of 21. James and Rob both went through to sudden-death which was, as it turns out, quite sudden, only lasting two pairs with James taking the British Open title by two clays in the shoot-off, and Rob Denoon taking Runner-up of the match.

Ladies High Gun went to Scottish shooter Becky King, on 99, with Hannah Gibson taking second place on 97, and Samantha Rhodes third on 95 after a shoot-off. Junior High Gun went to Charlie Faulds on 97 after holding Kian Maher to second place in a shoot-off, by one clay. Sonny Bowman was third on 96. Richard Faulds was rewarded for getting up at the crack of dawn to take Charlie to Nottingham with the AA trophy on 99, after a gruelling shoot-off, of one full round and 31 sudden-death. Connor Davis took a commanding lead in the Colts championship to win the title on 99, with Matthew Huxtable having to settle for Runner-up for the second year in succession. Kate Peerless took the third place Colts award after a shoot-off. Lincolnshire shooter Andrew Harvy, held off David Billington by a single clay to take the Veterans title on 99, with Paul Stokes taking third place on 97. Paul Fallon was awarded the Super Veterans trophy on a score of 97, leaving Doug Moore and Bob Tucker to shoot-off for second and third place on 96. Doug held Bob to a single clay lead, straightening the full round and securing the runner-up position.

### BRITISH OPEN SPORTING

E.J. Churchill's Swinton Estate was the venue for the 2024 British Open in August. Five solid days of shooting in fantastic weather with 937 Shooters taking part. As ever, E.J.'s organised an exemplary competition. Sadly, I missed the final day as I was being ferried home on a low loader, courtesy of the RAC.

Ritchard Faulds, Martin Myers, and Mark Winsler lead the field on the final day with

Richard going on to win the Super Final and the High Gun trophy on 69+19. Mark Winsler, winner of the English Open earlier in the year, pulled back one clay to level up with Martin and force a shoot-off for second and third place. Martin held Mark to third place by one clay to become the Runner-up of the championship, with Mark coming third Overall.

Scottish shooter Rebecca McKenzie took the Ladies High Gun on a score of 62 with Hannah Gibson, one week after shooting Skeet for England in the Home International, taking the Runner-up Ladies prize on 58, with Charlotte Kerwood coming third on 57.

The Junior High Gun went to Josh Poyser on 64, with Anthony Clark taking Runner-up on 62, and Todd Hitch taking third place on 61. Colt High Gun went to John Porter on 62, with Brad Taylor securing second place on 58 and Connor Davis just missing out by one point to take third place on 57. George Digweed MBE, was Veteran High Gun on 64 after a shoot-off with Andy Moon, leaving Mark Marshall to take third place on 63. Super Veterans High Gun went to Nottingham shooter Martin Doughty on an impressive 68, with Glen Hunt Runner-up on 64 and Peter Jarvis third on 62.

### THE YEAR AHEAD

The success of all our major Championships as well as our England teams in 2024, gives me the confidence to predict the coming season will be the best one yet. Our sponsor pool is stronger than ever with Eley Hawk and SWATCOM both signing up for an additional three years. New for 2025 we will be adding Teague and Starkey Outdoors/Pilla as Championship sponsor and Winchester will be joining us for the World Sporting at Churchill's in July.

In April, Steve Lovatt will host the English Open Super Sporting at Garlands, with Eaton Hall organising the English and British Open All Round the following week. For the first time since I can't remember, Ian Coley will be hosting a major championship by organising the English Open Sportrap for us down in Cheltenham. The following week will see the English Open Skeet move from its 2024 venue at NCSC to Eaton Hall and if you're planning to shoot it, I look forward to seeing you there. Also in May, High Lodge will be organising the five days of the English Open Sporting so you can spend your time shooting Clays amongst the trees although, I'm sure if John Bidwell gets his way, there'll be a few stands on the golf course too.

2025 is our turn to again host the Worlds Sporting, at E.J. Churchill. Eight days of Shooting over a stunning variety of courses. We will also be introducing our first British Open Super Sporting at the Worlds, just to keep you interested. This year will also see the 100th British Open Sporting which, following their success at hosting the English open last year, Eaton Hall will be doing us the honour of staging and supporting this significant event. To do justice to the Centenary we have many things planned and, to see what they are you'll need to make sure you're part of the experience. You won't be disappointed, trust me, I'm a Doctor.

In addition to our major championships, we will also be attending the Game Fair at Ragley Hall in July, as well as the British Shooting show at the NEC in February. On 27 March the NRA will be providing us with a venue to host our 2025 AGM. It will take place at the NRA Bisley Shooting Ground. There will be Zoom options to take part remotely and I look forward to as many of you joining us to take part in the important process of governance of the CPSA.

Once again it's important that I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and endurance during the last few years. At the same time, I know that without question we wouldn't be as fortunately placed as we are today if it wasn't for the dedication, commitment and downright determination to succeed, which everyone at HQ has shown over the last few years. I have been a director for over nine years now and I can truthfully say that we have the best team in place at HQ that we have ever had. They are already ahead of the curve and have everything in place to guarantee this year will knock your socks off.

And finally, I ought to thank my fellow Directors for all the voluntary work they do on the Board and behind the scenes. I could commiserate with them for much of the hassle they receive as representative of the CPSA but, we all know what we signed up for, so suck it up guys and I look forward to working with you in 2025.

So that's it from me for another year. I hope to meet very many of you during the season. Keep an eye out for me and the Hound at the grounds and come and have a chat. Much of 2025 is still in the future. I have seen our plans for that future and, to mirror a slogan from the 1990s, The Future's Bright, the Future's Orange!

**Dr John Martin, CPSA Chairman** 

TO READ THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [CPSA.CO.UK](https://cpsa.co.uk)