



# CPSA

Clay Target Shooting... a sport for everyone



the future of our sport...

A man with short brown hair, wearing orange safety glasses and a green polo shirt, is holding a double-barrel shotgun. The shotgun is black with yellow text on the barrel that reads "AMBERLEY GUN". He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a dark blue grid pattern.

The Clay Pigeon Shooting Association is the National Governing Body for clay shooting in England and as such represents and 'champions' all aspects of the sport on behalf of its members.

The CPSA is committed to the development of the sport at grass roots level, encouraging everyone to take part in and enjoy the sport responsibly, whatever their level of ability age or gender. As an Association we are proud to promote the highest standards of excellence in every aspect of our sport.

Our sport is open to all who want to learn, develop or use their skills to the best of their ability, to compete at every level and above all enjoy the sport of clay shooting as a safe and sociable activity.

With over 80 years' experience as the National Governing Body, the CPSA has the vision, resources and commitment to develop the sport, to represent the best interests of our members and build the image and perception of clay shooting to a wider audience.

Through our in-depth knowledge and understanding of clay shooting we are uniquely placed to guard, nurture and shape its future.

*Join us and be part of the future of our sport...*



the future of our sport...



# Clay target shooting – a sport for everyone

## Introduction



Clay Pigeon Shooting is an exciting sport that provides something for everyone, a sport that people of all abilities can participate in from complete beginner to Olympic champion. The gold medal won by Peter Wilson at the London Olympic Games 2012 was the epitome of achievement, but clay shooting is accessible to all at a local level too and interest is growing all the time.

The CPSA is proud to be at the forefront of promoting and developing the sport, to be raising awareness but also standards. Safety, training and education, as well as performance, are all essential features of our role as the National Governing Body.

We train Safety Officers, Coaches and Officials and provide support to clubs to ensure that our sport is enjoyed in a safe and supportive environment where all are welcomed and feel comfortable. We provide a competition structure that caters for club members through to international representation and our championships are open to all members, one of the few sports where club shooters can compete in the same event as top shots.

As well as this, the CPSA is a body that looks after the interests of all clay shooters, a members' Association that offers advice, support and information and represents our joint interests at the highest levels. I hope you will enjoy our sport for many years to come and wish you every success at whatever level - and in whichever discipline you decide take part.

*Join us... and start to enjoy the full benefits of CPSA membership!*

**Nick Fellows**  
Chief Executive



*the future of our sport...*



## Join us, join our passion...

**Clay target shooting is as much a social leisure activity as it is a highly skilled sport. It requires skill, self-discipline and encourages respect for others by instilling the need for safety procedures and controls, while having great fun in the company of like-minded people.**

Clay shooting is a fast growing and exhilarating sport, bringing people of all ages and abilities together – regardless of age, sex, race or religion – to enjoy their shared passion for shooting in a safe, friendly and healthy environment. This is truly a sport for everyone and perhaps best of all, it's a sport that allows you to achieve and excel at your own pace.

So whether you have ambitions to compete at the highest levels as so many of our members do, or simply to improve gradually, you'll find us with you every step of the way. We're proud of our track record right up to the level of Olympic 2012 gold medal achievement.... What a great time to be clay shooting..!

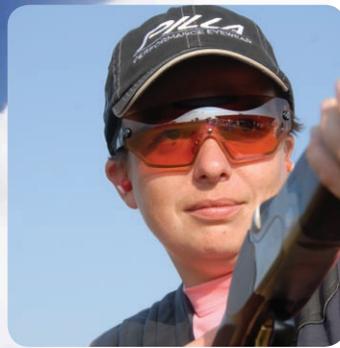
Unlike many outdoor sports, Clay Target Shooting isn't restricted to season. You can shoot the whole year round. As a CPSA member you'll benefit from an Association whose people are 100% focused on our sport. We're here to help whenever you might need in-depth expert advice and support on any aspect of Clay Shooting. From current shooting events, to legislation

and best practice, we're here to help keep you updated and informed so that you get the most out of our sport.

We are uniquely placed to understand the current and future needs of our sport, our sports men and women and what the future holds for Clay Shooting.

Join us and share our passion... *you'll be in good company!*





# Let's look at the basics

## Equipment – What to Wear

It's said that there is no such thing as bad weather – just wearing the wrong clothes. Well, as a Clay Target Shooter you'll find a wide range of specially designed garments that are light and comfortable and designed to suit all seasons. When you start out, you'll need just a few indispensable items.

The 'Shooting Vest' is a must. It's worth investing in a good one as it protects your clothing, has no restricting collar, with plenty of pockets to carry your cartridges, scorecards and other essential items.

It's vital to protect your hearing when shooting. External ear muffs and internal ear plugs have been developed specifically to cope with this. Of course protecting your eyesight with suitable eyewear is also essential. Headgear such as a baseball-style cap protects the head and reduces weather interference.

If you're in doubt about an item, just ask your CPSA Safety Officer / Instructor, or call us for further information.

## What to shoot with...

Your CPSA qualified Instructor or Coach will provide you with a suitable gun and cartridges for your first shooting experience with us.

As you progress, we may suggest that that you try different types and brands of equipment to improve your skills.



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# Let's look at the basics

## Shotguns and the Law

In England you are legally allowed under certain age restrictions, to own a shotgun, providing you fulfil all of the application requirements for a shotgun certificate. You can apply for one from your local Police Station or County Firearms Licensing Office. They will guide you through the form, take your payment and if necessary arrange a visit to your home.

By law any shotgun in your possession must be listed on your certificate and the Licensing Officer informed in writing about any shotgun loan, transfer, purchase or sale. You will also need to show your certificate when you purchase ammunition. If you're shooting within the EEC, a European Firearms Pass will be issued free of charge to run concurrently with your shotgun certificate. Take a look at a shotgun application form on our website and familiarise yourself with what's required.

## Safety, etiquette and handling

While gun safety rests in the hands of every individual shooter, all CPSA affiliated clubs have officially trained Club Safety Officers. They, together with our CPSA Instructors and Coaches will teach you all you need to know about safe gun handling, ground safety and shooting etiquette.

Safety is our first priority – we'll help you make sure it becomes second nature!

The only way to store your shotgun(s) at home is in a lockable steel cabinet fixed securely to a wall with your cartridges kept safely in a separate place. If you leave your shotgun unattended when travelling we suggest that you separate the main components of the gun, thus disabling it.

In the event that things go wrong, as they may from time to time, a major CPSA membership benefit provides Civil Liability Insurance which is one of the most comprehensive available in the sport, together with a Personal Accident policy. There are also specialist policy providers available to cover your equipment.

We believe that peace of mind makes for a better shooting experience.



# Guns. Take your time and take advice...

## Choose your gun wisely

Precise shooting calls for precision equipment. The development of different clay shooting disciplines has led to the evolution of the types of shotguns you can use today. These are predominantly the over and under and semi-automatic models. Your choice of discipline will influence the gun you choose. These are some of the disciplines you will come across:

'SPORTING' disciplines require versatile guns of medium weight. The barrels are often fitted with a selection of interchangeable chokes to cope with the wide range of targets presented to you. More about chokes later...



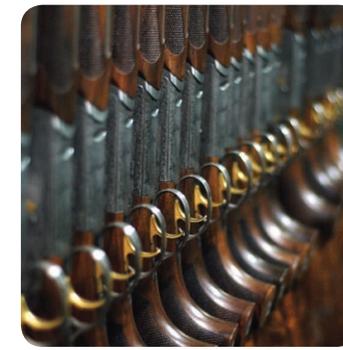
'TRAP' disciplines require smoothness and control from the shooter. These guns are the heaviest and generally have the longest barrels. An added benefit of extra weight is to absorb more recoil when you fire two shots in quick succession at targets.



'SKEET' disciplines call for a gun that allows you to make fast movements and quick changes of direction. A gun of medium weight with shorter barrels is often the choice.



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# Guns. Take your time and take advice...

## Ask an expert...

Guns are like shoes.. the better they fit the more comfortable they are, and the more enjoyment we get out of them! Time spent with an expert will be returned many times over with the accuracy, comfort and enjoyment you'll get from shooting with a properly fitted gun.

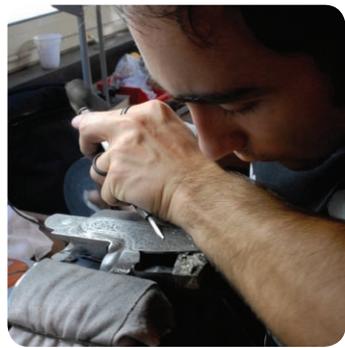
A gun's looks might catch your eye, but if it doesn't 'fit' you properly it will do you no favours. Before you commit, take the opportunity to try out the different disciplines and their appropriate guns under the experienced eye of a qualified CPSA Instructor or Coach. Our members know how they can trust us to help them make the right choice.

## Enjoy the craftsmanship

Every shotgun is a harmonised blend of its components. Though much of the craftsmanship and the intricacies of its working parts are hidden from view, the range of beautiful woodwork and the artistry of the engraver's work on the metal parts are endless – from the more affordable factory made models to the valuable hand built works of art that are commissioned from specialist workshops. The choice and range is vast, with something to suit every budget.

*We believe that peace of mind makes for a better shooting experience.*





# Protecting your investment – cleaning and maintenance

If you compare your shotgun to your car, it is said that each shot fired is the equivalent of one mile travelled. So after 10,000 shots or every 12 months, a full service by a gunsmith who knows the make and model of your gun will ensure that it continues to give you hours of safe and rewarding shooting.

When buying your shotgun it is essential to get a selection of cleaning materials. These, together with a little elbow-grease every time you use the gun are all you will need to protect your investment and keep it in pristine condition.



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# Targets, traps and trajectories. It doesn't need to be rocket science...

**STANDARD:** The most widely used clays and suitable for all disciplines.

**MIDI:** Has a similar profile to the Standard but is smaller and is used for Sporting disciplines.

**MINI:** Fast and deceptive, the smallest target of all.

**RABBIT:** This clay rolls and bounces along the ground.

**BATTUE:** Its flat profile causes it to fly fast for distance and then roll and drop rapidly.

**FLASH:** Based on the Standard, the flash clay contains fluorescent powder which is highly visible when the target is hit.

## Targets, clays and traps

**What we call a target is defined as a clay that is in motion. The type of target is then further defined by the clay and trap used for its launch. There are many different styles of clays.**

The most popular is called the Standard and is in the shape of an inverted saucer. It's made from a mixture of pitch and chalk, or bio-degradable material. Although clays come in many colours, the most commonly used are black or orange.

Today's traps, or target-throwing machines, have developed from simple hand held manually operated models to sophisticated electronically-controlled automatic versions. These traps hold several hundred clays at a time and are activated manually or acoustically. They can throw targets at different heights, angles and speeds.





## Cartridges and chokes

The humble cartridge is perhaps the most underrated piece of equipment you will use. Each one is a combination of high quality components and skilled engineering. Millions are produced each year and the consistent performance they give us is a manufacturing triumph. A good shooter never takes them for granted. Choose appropriate cartridges for your discipline and keep them safe.

Lead is the most common material used to make pellets, or 'shot' for cartridges, although steel is also available. Shot comes in a variety of sizes so that you can select the appropriate cartridge for a specific target. The number of pellets in a cartridge depends on the diameter of the shot for a given weight of cartridge.

The word 'choke' refers to a constriction towards the muzzle end of a gun barrel. The greater the amount of choke, the denser or tighter the shot pattern will be over a greater distance.

So, open or wide chokes with smaller shot are more suitable for close range targets, whilst narrower chokes with larger shot are suitable for longer range targets



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# A sport as unique as you are...

## A choice of clay disciplines

In Clay Target Shooting the disciplines can be broadly split into three categories – Trap, Skeet and Sporting.

*Here's a brief outline of each discipline:*

In the Trap disciplines of Down-The-Line, Automatic Ball Trap, Olympic Trap, Double Trap and Universal Trench, the targets are thrown away from you by a trap positioned in front of you at varying speeds, heights and angles.

In English and Olympic Skeet, the targets are released from two trap houses, one positioned on each side of a semi-circular layout, at fixed speeds, heights and angles.

In English and FITASC Sporting, the targets are designed to simulate those found in nature. This means that they can come from all directions, including rolling along the ground!

The CPSA have an unmatched understanding of each of the disciplines. We're the best people to talk to when you want to know more about them. Our range of literature is as comprehensive as our knowledge and we're happy to share this with you. It's an advantage our members appreciate.





# Regulatory Bodies

As the National Governing Body, domestic clay disciplines in England are regulated and controlled by us.

Olympic Trap, Olympic Skeet and Double Trap are governed by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) which reports directly into the International Olympics Committee (IOC). Many other disciplines exist and are regulated by bodies including FITASC and NSSA.

## 01483 485400

As the guardians of our sport we're only a phone call away if you're interested in any aspect of clay shooting. Or if you would like to visit an affiliated shooting ground near you and talk to any of our thousands of members.



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## So where do I go from here?

### Join us and enjoy all these member benefits...!

**There are several different CPSA membership classes available to you as a new member. We welcome all ages and abilities and actively encourage youth and disability shooting, with appropriate competition categories and membership fees.**

If you would like to enter registered competitions and have your scores entered in the National Averages, then you should join as a full CPSA member to enjoy all the benefits on offer. If you are more interested in recreational shooting then we also have a class of membership to suit you. All classes of membership include excellent insurance cover.

Our friendly staff, based at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, Surrey, will offer you every support possible in becoming a member and welcoming you to the world of Clay Target Shooting. You can join if you telephone membership services on: **01483 485400**, or by completing one of our membership application forms.

You can also join us online through our award winning website: **[www.cpsa.co.uk](http://www.cpsa.co.uk)** where you will also find a wealth of information about our sport and the services and benefits available to you as a member of the CPSA. As a full competition member you can also enter all our Championships on-line, find clubs in your area and locate coaches to help with your shooting development.

The CPSA website is updated on a daily basis and allows you to find forthcoming events and competitions in your area, including the annual championships schedule and results as they happen.

PULL! magazine is a major benefit of membership and is sent to all members of the Association ten times a year. Full of news, reviews, instructional tips, gun tests, championship results and regional events, a great read and the best way to keep up with the latest developments in the sport.

Take note of our Shotgun Academy Courses where you can develop and become a qualified Instructor, Coach or Safety Officer. Enjoy our special 'member only' promotional offers and check your scores and classifications



Join us now for a lifetime of  
enjoyment, friendship and the  
thrill of Clay Target Shooting!  
We are the unique force behind  
you and the future of our sport...

Call **01483 485400**

Or join online at **[www.cpsa.co.uk](http://www.cpsa.co.uk)**



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A special thank you to all contributors.

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