

Clay target shooting...



The future of our sport

...a sport for
everyone

W W W . C P S A . C O . U K



The future of our sport

The CPSA is the National Governing Body of our sport, supporting clay target shooting enthusiasts across the UK.

As an Association we promote the highest standards of excellence in every aspect our sport.

Open to all who want to learn, develop or use their skills to compete at every level; our members are backed by over 140 years of unrivalled understanding and expertise.

They know we share their passion. They know we act in their best interests. They know we are dedicated to protecting and enhancing their sport.

As the National Governing Body, we have the vision, resources and commitment to develop the sport. Through our understanding of today's clay shooting needs we are uniquely placed to guard, nurture and shape its future.

We want you to be a part of us, and be part of the future of our sport.

Welcome to a sport as unique as you are.

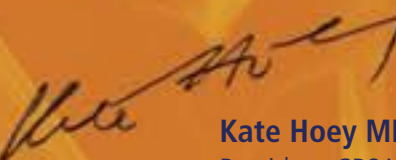


As Honorary President of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, I am proud to work with an Association that encompasses complete and authentic knowledge of clay shooting for the benefit of participants and also for the wider community of all Clay Target Shooting enthusiasts in this country.

For over 140 years the CPSA has raised standards of professionalism; nurtured new talent; and graded ability. They have raised awareness and broadened public understanding of this compelling sport through good governance, transparent procedures, inclusiveness and specialist advice. They are the respected source of accurate information, education and continuous support of its members.

Interest in Clay Target Shooting is growing and participation is increasing. The prospect of achieving success in the 2012 Olympic Games is a prime opportunity to develop new, enthusiastic and emerging British Athletes.

I therefore urge you to start, and continue participation of, clay shooting and in so doing secure the future of our sport.


Kate Hoey MP
President CPSA

Join us, join our passion.

You'll have a great day's shooting

Clay Target Shooting is as much a social leisure activity as it is a highly skilled sport. This fast-growing and exhilarating sport brings 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. It's truly a sport for everyone. Perhaps best of all, it's a sport that really allows you to excel at *your* pace.



Whether you have ambitions to compete at the highest levels or simply to improve gradually, you'll find us with you all the way. We're proud of our track record, right up to Olympic recognition.

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% focussed on our sport. We're here to help whenever you might need in-depth expert advice and support on any aspects of our sport. From current shooting events, legislation and best practice, we're here to keep you updated and informed to help you get the most out of our sport.

We began in 1865 so we are uniquely placed to understand the needs of our sport, our sports men and women, and what the future holds for this growing and exciting sport.

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. Our member's magazine, **PULL!**, features some of the best brands to choose from. 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 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. Head gear such as a baseball-style cap protects the head and reduces weather interference.

If you're in any doubt about an item, just ask us. As shooters ourselves, we'll steer you in the right direction

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 you try different types and brands to improve your skills.

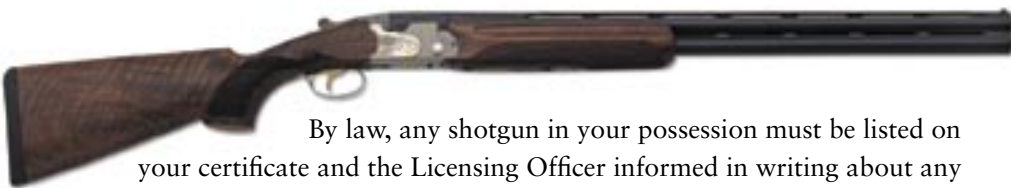


Let's look at the basics.



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 your hands, 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 to make sure that it becomes second nature.

The best 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 widest available for the sport, together with a Personal Accident policy. There are also specialist insurance policies 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.



'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.



'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 a target.



'Sporting' disciplines require versatile guns of medium weight, for example the semi-automatic. The barrel(s) are often fitted with a selection of interchangeable chokes to cope with the wide range of targets presented to you. More about chokes later.

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 CPSA qualified shotgun Instructor or Coach. Our members know they can trust us to help them make the right choice.

Enjoy the craftsmanship

Every shotgun is a harmonious 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 affordable factory models to the valuable hand-built works of art that are commissioned from specialist workshops.



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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 clay, 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. A challenging sporting target.



Flash

Based on the Standard, it contains fluorescent powder which is highly visible when the target is hit.

Targets, clays and traps

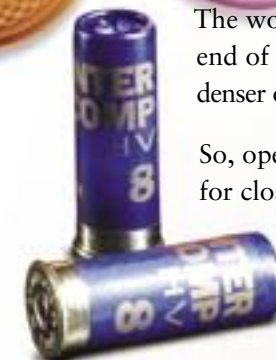
What we call a target is defined as a clay that is in motion. The type of target is then further defined by the clay and trap used for its launch. There are many different styles of clays.

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



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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 the cartridges, although other materials such as steel is 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 the 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 on the ground!

The CPSA have 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 Sport Federation (ISSF) which reports directly to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Many other disciplines exist and are regulated by bodies including FITASC and NSSA.

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

So where do I go from here?

Join us!

There are several different CPSA membership schemes available to you as a new member. We welcome all ages with tailored membership rates.

Our friendly staff, based at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley Camp in Surrey, will offer you every support possible in becoming a member and welcoming you to the world of Clay Target shooting.

You can join us online through our website – www.cpsa.co.uk. The site is updated on a daily basis and allows you to identify forthcoming events and competitions; take note of our Shotgun Academy courses; enjoy our special promotional offers – and once you start competition shooting, check your scores and classifications.

JOIN US ONLINE
WWW.CPSA.CO.UK

Remember, our website is also the place to go to find downloadable information on all aspects of our sport.

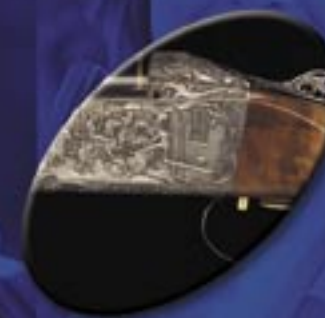
You can also apply for CPSA membership by telephoning Membership Services. Or simply return one of our membership forms that you will find in all the major shooting magazines.

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



The future of our sport

**Join us and the future
of our sport
call 01483 485400
or register online at
www.cpsa.co.uk**





The future of our sport

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