

2006 .410 World Championships Report

On a mercifully bright and sunny day, the 3rd annual battle of the .410's took place at DJ Litts Treetops shooting grounds in South Wales on Thursday 1st of June.

Due to the increased popularity and ever-higher standards of shooting of this (virtually recoilless) form of the sport, this year's targets were somewhat harder. Still that said, they were all ultimately hittable, but had been laid out in a cunning fashion so as to test the shooter to the available limits of gun and cartridge.

The course of fifty targets were arranged in five stands, comprised of five on report or simultaneous pairs, set throughout the excellent woodland grounds.

In the junior class Paul Tudge took the title for the third time in a row with a score of 33/50. He had been particularly capable on stand #1, which had generally outfoxed most of the 'oldies'.

After a battle that raged on for most of the day, Andy Pearce (Krieghoff/Fiocchi) finally wrested the 'World title' with a score of 41/50.

Australian Kim Abbot (Fair/ Fiocchi) took second place with a score of 38/50, with Tim Woodhouse (Remington 1100/Spitfire) making third with a score of 36/50.



Stand #1, where the combination of a pair of edge on standards and a very short window of opportunity meant that lightning fast reactions were at a premium. The biggest problem here was the wide variation of these targets due to the windy conditions.

Sometimes a pair would cross close together and another time they would be far apart. There were some reports that the trap had moved since the morning session and was causing the targets to be further out, making things rather harder, and for most people downright impossible.

The best option for this stand seemed to be to concentrate on hitting just one of the targets, as there simply wasn't enough time to get on the second one before it disappeared behind the tree.

Left: Where did you say they were again?



Stand #2 also had its moments with the fast low loop-er, this caused consternation among many shooters, as it was travelling rather faster than it appeared with virtually all misses being either behind or above and behind.

Although loopers aren't everyone's cup of tea, it has to be said that this was a very well laid out stand, provided that the target's trajectory was read properly, it was eminently hittable.



It started out at low left, traversed the shooter just in front of the tree line at about 10 feet from the ground, and then curled back down out of shot to the right.

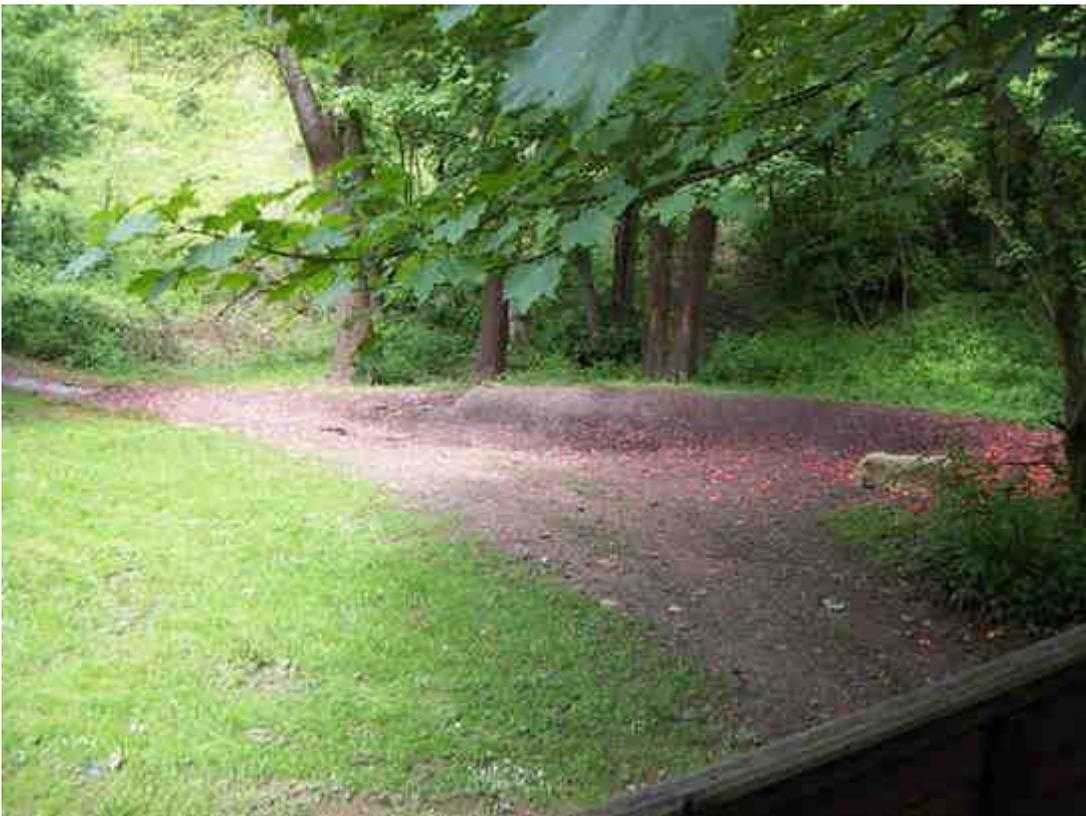
The on report incomer from deep left to just in front of the shooter's right side was almost on the end of your barrels, so proved rather easier to hit unless there was a momentary lapse of concentration.

Picture top and above: stand #2



Stand #3's long incoming dropping target also proved to be the undoing of many a card, with the on report rabbit occasionally displaying intermittent fits of acrobatic prowess, making things rather more interesting.

The incomer was first dropping sharply through the gap in the trees to the left of the wide view picture. This proved to be another tricky target that had a very deceptive flight path, being misread by a lot of people, if missed it landed virtually right on the start of the rabbit track, which was rather disconcerting to say the least.

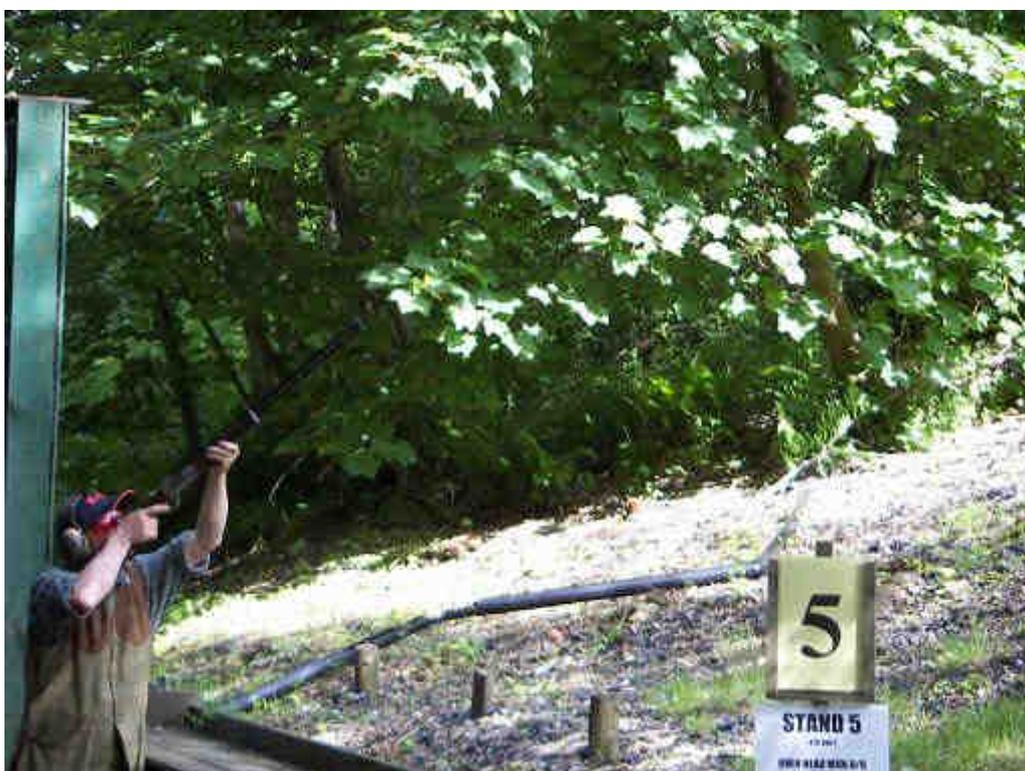


The rabbit was bizarrely intermittent as every few shots it would catch a part of the rug on its run and jump up

virtually vertically, presenting the shooter with a very unusual but fun target to shoot.

Stand #4 was perhaps rather more manageable than most with the simo fast going away and distant crosser at least allowing more time to connect.

The first target shot away from the shooters left side as a fairly straightforward standard target drifting slightly to the left. The second left to right target was of medium pace and left plenty of time to connect after tackling the first one.



Stand #5, comprised of a high speed midi planing down from behind and to the right, followed by an on report medium crosser going from left to right. The midi was a tricky customer as it was fast but also diving at a relatively steep occluded angle. It needed fairly fast shooting to catch it before it managed to get out of shot, disappearing through the gap in the tress at the top left of the picture The

right to left crosser was of medium pace and fairly straightforward.

Top: main shot of stand 5: looking for empty shells. Below: Andy Pearce and his Krieghoff/Fiocchi combination on their way to victory.



Left:
TW trying out Ron Goodge's Charles Lancaster converted S/S hammer .380 rook rifle.

Below Left:
The man himself!
Ron Goodge with his magnificent Charles Lancaster .410 double neé .380 rook rifle, 125 years young and made in 1881. (There will be a full investigation of the shooting potential of this gun and available ammunition in due course).

Ron's description:

'Originally made as a .380 rifle in 1881 for a Mr Barclay, it's a rotary under lever non- ejector with back action locks and rebounding hammers. The strikers are floating and the lower rims of the extractors are notched to avoid the strikers binding. Barrel length is the original 27 inches, steel with a plain rib bearing mounting blocks for a telescopic sight. The sights comprise a three leaf folding rear sight with fine platinum lining and engraved 50,100 and 150, and the foresight is a slim blade with a white metal bead. The left barrels is engraved: CHARLES LANCASTER 151 NEW BOND STREET LONDON and in the corresponding place on the right barrel are the words PATENTED SMOOTH BORE RIFLE.



Both undecorated lock plates bear the words CHARLES LANCASTER LONDON. The serial number is 05031 and this can be found on both barrels, fore end wood and iron, inside of the locks, trigger guard and on the long leg of the extractor. I suppose it shows how many people may have worked on the item before all correctly numbered pieces came together as a whole. The fore end is fixed to the loop on the barrels with a side nail, the butt has a plain steel plate and there is a nicely cast steel pistol grip cap. The broad trigger guard strap

is nicely chequered and runs down the pistol grip to finish flush with the grip cap. It has a very attractive 'tiger stripe' walnut stock with carved cheek piece and steel sling eyes, one permanently brazed to the lower rib the second close behind the pistol grip. The original proof marks show pre 1904 London stamps and in 1950 the gun was bored out to .410 chambered for the 2.5 inch shell in Birmingham.'



That intrepid ambassador of the .410 Remington 1100 Michael Carr, (with the gun) getting to grips with the 12 gauge layout with, of course, one of his Remington 1100 .410's. As ever, never one to baulk at a challenge, the breaks that he achieved on some of the longer targets were quite remarkable; using Michael's sworn combination of Modified choke and Fiocchi 11/16oz 7.5's.

There were a good smattering of 1100's this year, indeed it seemed to be the most popular gun at the shoot. My choice of gun and ammo for this year was the 1100 Special Sporting using the Skeet choke and SPITFIRE test loads with 3/4oz of 2.3mm UK 7.5 (US#8) containing 3% antimony. The plan was to get away from overly tight patterns with 5-6% antimony (Magnum) shot.





The World
.410 Champi-
ons 2006:

On the left
Paul Tudge
junior cham-
pion for the
third year in a
row!

On the right
Andy Pearce,
the .410
World Cham-
pion 2006.

Well shot and well done!

Oh well we'll all have to wait until next year now, but before that, I have been asked to organise a .410 shoot in a similar vein to the ones held at West London Sporting Targets last year. I will do so if there are sufficient numbers. To this end please confirm your interest by emailing nicolasmedia@btopenworld.com

The date location and precise nature of the shoot to be decided, probably either in July or early August.



Left:

Well it was a long day after all!

You just can't beat those short power naps!

They really do perk you up, enabling you to pick up the baton and run like the wind again.

Well that's it for another year folks,
A lovely ground with super targets, and you just couldn't hope to meet a friendlier, more enthusiastic bunch of people if you tried.

It just remains to thank LITTS for the use of their splendid TreeTops shooting ground and BASC Wales for organising the event.

NB: Fiocchi .410 magnums are imported by the Hull Cartridge Company: available from their dealers.

Look forward to seeing you all next year!

TW