



FT.REVIEW #40

THE INDEPENDENT FIELD TARGET NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTED BY THE MFTA

GP SERIES. 2011. 1-3 HARRIERS. TAUD VALE & NEWBURY.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME...

Well, it's been a long time coming, and after a break the FT Review is back – to keep you up-to-date on the latest local, national and international events on the FT circuit.

A lot has happened over the past 18 months, the game has moved on, the courses have continued to get better and better and the level of shooting has to be at the highest it's ever been.

So, on behalf of the FT Review I would like to say many, many thanks for all your support and let's get going...

The first BFTA GP kicked off on 24 April at Harriers. To say that this event was popular was an understatement. After the regional winter leagues and then the BFTA Inter Regionals and Championships, the FT scene was chomping at the bit to get stuck in to the Grand Prix Series, with its testing

courses and for 2011 some interesting new additions to the rules. One of those rules is the addition of a set number of 15mm kills on each course. Now we can all hit these puppies all day long on the club course, but put them out on a GP course where every shot is crucial and they become a totally different animal.

There's no doubt that the introduction of these little kills is not to everyone's

IN THIS ISSUE. BFTA GP REPORTS. NEFTA CLASSIC. SHOOTER PROFILE. FORTHCOMING EVENTS. THE SPANISH FT INTERNATIONAL OPEN OF EUSKADI. REGIONAL NEWS.

FT COURSES THAT LEAD THE WAY IN COMPETITIVE SHOOTING

liking, but in general they seem to be going down pretty well. So far, the course builders generally appear to be using their common sense when placing them, using the position and elevation of the target to maximise it's tension rather than simply placing it at the maximum allowed distance. Some may see these as easy targets, but combine them with either a little wind or a massive amount of nerves when

its the last target for a clearance and I think they might just change their mind. Personally I think they are a great addition to the 2011 Series, we have to understand that as competitors we owe a lot to the volunteer course builders, who need to try different approaches in order to push the sport to its maximum potential. All that said, if they don't work, or become repetitive then I'm

sure the governing body and the vote of the shooters will make further changes to keep the sport a thrilling one.

Harriers was a fantastic shoot, pulling in a part of the ground that is very rarely used. It was this section that seemed to catch many people off guard, as it was blustery and unpredictable - a sharp contrast to the

rest of the course that was surprisingly calm for this legendary west midlands club. The course followed the line of new trees that are now really taking shape, changing the lay of the ground year on year. Some big scores came in from the morning squad, setting the scene and pace for the whole season. Yet again Marc Fisher from Castle appears to be super consistent, and rolled home with a very respectable

46, equalled only by James Woodhead and Andy Calpin. It was great to see some of the names we know have it in them starting to show some form, Simon Evans and Dave Semmens were only 1 behind and there were a handful of 44's scored by Simon Higgins, Berty, Dave Schofield to name a few. However, the star of Gp1 was a young lad that has the potential for a great reputation in FT, and with

the support of his Welsh team mates he will certainly get there. Jack Harris of Nelson FTC held on to a clear lead all day, missing just 1 target to not only take the GP1 title in style, but he also received the Tim Williams No Surrender Shield. It was great to see the pride on Jack's face as he lifted that trophy, and was a fitting end to an extremely tough and challenging start to the Grand Prix season.

THE GP SERIES CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| GP1 | HARRIERS | | 24 APR |
| GP2 | TAWD VALE | SPONSORED BY HAWKE OPTICS | 15 MAY |
| GP3 | NEWBURY | SPONSORED BY HAMMERLI | 29 MAY |
| GP4 | WENDOVER | SPONSORED BY BFTA | 12 JUNE |
| GP5 | NELSON | SPONSORED BY HIGHLAND OUTDOORS | 26 JUNE |
| GP6 | ICINI | SPONSORED BY AIR ARMS | 10 JULY |
| GP7 | REDFEARNS | SPONSORED BY RWS & DIANA | 24 JULY |
| GP8 | EAST DEVON | SPONSORED BY HAMMERLI | 07 AUG |
| GP9 | SYWELL | SPONSORED BY NAPIER | 21 AUG |

A WELCOME RETURN OF GRAND PRIX SPONSORSHIP IS HELPING TO MOVE OUR SPORT ON

Another major and very welcome return this year is the massive input from our industry sponsors. The BFTA's Trade Liaison Officer, Mark Bassett, has work extremely hard to bring a major sponsor on board for each round of the GP Series, and the commitment and generosity that has been shown is fantastic.

Harping back to the early days of FT, each round is backed by industry, with sponsorship prizes handed out

through a free raffle so that every competitor has the opportunity to benefit, no matter what their level of shooting. This revived support is a huge step forward for our sport and one that we hope can be built upon in future years.

Even if you are not lucky enough to go home with a sponsorship prize, all of us will benefit from the extra input and dedication that is now being injected into UK field target.

On the back of this, there is also a very strong Constructors Championship running alongside the individual placings, again adding extra interest and raising the profile - not only for the competitors but also for the industry and spectators alike. I also understand the days scores are also added to an automatic club competition, so that will be very interesting to see who comes out on top at the end of the season.

So, in short, what more could you ask for on a Sunday morning; great courses, great people, sponsorship, a superbly branded Constructors Championship, individual placings, club series and a decent cup of tea!

GP2 TAWD VALE

The well respected Tawd Vale ground in the North West has plenty to offer. An unrivalled setting provides the backdrop for a very memorable shoot, and although the weather was very

wet, it didn't dampen too many spirits. Although there were a few delays, it was still an awesome shoot, with the targets set in a variety of settings from dense woodland to more open field like shots.

The rain and wind didn't back off at all throughout the day and Marc Fisher, Robbie Black, Neil Hague and Berty all put in strong 46's early on, leaving many of us wondering what we have to do to win these shoots. Then, after

a very impressive 47 from Kent Woodsmen's Cameron Casey it was over to Rob Farnworth to show us exactly how it's done.

A stunning 48 was in the bank, giving him the maximum 100 points a nice little jump up the leader board.

GP3 NEWBURY

Mention Newbury on the FT circuit and everyone thinks of the home of FT. For many it represents both the



The ground at Tawd Vale is spectacular to say the least.

STB'S TOP BLOGGER HAS PUT IN SOME CONSISTENT RESULTS SO FAR...

start and the end of the BFTA season, with a few cracking shoots inbetween.

GP3 was staged on 29 May, and it was a glorious day. The course at this first class ground can take any number of routes, either looping round, running along a winding path or running parallel to the car park on a course that suits both left and right handed shooters. This time it did just that, and I think it's fair to say it was a

shoot of two halves. The first half of the course offered a good amount of long, dark targets with a breeze that was decidedly deceptive and at times very difficult to read. As the line of fire reached its peak in the middle few lanes, the course became a little more open and the wind changed direction again before you were taken down into a lush green landscape of hot, muggy ferns. As we approached the latter 3rd of the course it was very

apparent that, as I stated earlier on the 15mm kills were not proving to be as much of a walk in the park as people thought. The little 15mm kill squirrel on target 40 was surrounded by very sorry looking bits of lead when I reached it - not the best sight when you need every shot you can grasp!

No matter what the scores, one person went home very happy from this shoot - Will Baskeyfield from Far



Scott Robinson played a blinder at Newbury with a 40 ex 50 to take the GP3 title.

Coley was the lucky winner of the raffle, and walked away with a stunning Hammerli FT rig and scope - so that made his score of 41 look a little brighter on the way home! There were some cracking scores from this GP, Ozzy and Mike Williams tied on 48 and finished it with a tense shoot off and a whole host of other top names pulled a 47 out of the bag. However, the big man from the midlands, Neil Daniels did it again with what seemed

like an unstoppable 49 - until that was he was also equalled by NEFTA's Scott Robinson. By the end of the day both shooters had left so the position was taken on count back and it was Scott who came out on top to take his first GP win - well done mate.

So, that's three GP's down already, with 21 qualifiers for the 25th anniversary BFTA Showdown already in the bag. The courses and the

results have been excellent, a true testament to the dedication and hard work put in by the course builders, BFTA officials, marshalls, the stats and of course the competitors themselves.

With the next three shoots throughout June and July set to be just as demanding, we are certainly all in for a treat. Wendover is up next, a totally new ground for many of us so lets see where that takes us. Happy days!



Simon Evans is showing good form this season.

THE GP QUALIFIERS AFTER 3 ROUNDS

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| JACK HARRIS | ROB FARNWORTH | SCOTT ROBINSON |
| JAMES OSBORNE | CAMERON CASEY | NEIL DANIELS |
| ANDY CALPIN | ROBBIE BLACK | MIKE WILLIAMS |
| JAMES WOODHEAD | NEIL HAGUE | MARK BREWITT |
| SIMON EVANS | DAVID HOLLINGDALE | ANDRAS FEKETE-MORO |
| DAVE SEMMENS | JOHN LEE | MARK SHEPHERD |
| MARK BASSETT | DAVE SCOFIELD | IAN TAYLOR |

2011 is the 25 Anniversary of the BFTA Showdown. To commemorate this I will be doing a special report on this in the next issue.

SHOOTER PROFILE

NELSON'S LITTLE JACK

Over the years the Welsh have given FT some truly outstanding shooters, and this season looks set to be no different.

Dressed in their club colours of bright red, the lads from Nelson FTC certainly have a real presence on the 2011 circuit - and one of them in particular is making his mark very early on.

He may be Little Jack to his club mates, but Jack Harris certainly stood tall at GP1 to take the opening round of the Series in real style. He is really starting to show his true form as a top class competitor. I don't know if its plenty of practice or plenty of ribbing from his mates, but something is making into a tough cookie to take on.

Jack made his stand by taking the title of GP1 Champion with a superb 49 ex 50, an excellent result on a course that had very tricky conditions and the inevitable pressure of the first shoot of the season. It was also very moving to see a young person with bags of enthusiasm lift the Tim Williams No Surrender Shield, a trophy that is given out annually at the Midland Grand Prix in memory of one of the MFTA's all time greats.

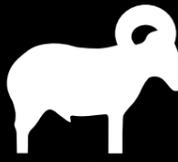
I'm sure you'll want to see Jack go from strength to strength, he is certainly one to watch from the sidelines, but certainly one to avoid in a shoot-off!

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Name | Jack Harris |
| Club | Nelson FTC |
| Kit | AA EV2 & Big Nikko |
| Current GP standing | 14 |



CONOR MCFLYNN TAKES ONE OF THE CIRCUITS MOST SOUGHT AFTER TITLES.

THE NEFTA CLASSIC



Report by James Osborne

2011 saw the 21st anniversary of this famed competition and with it a new venue, which seems more than able to host the competition for many more years to come.

Plenty of hard work had to be put in at the Emley Moor ground to do justice to this competition, with the new construction of a suitable silhouette range and set up of two 40 shot FT courses.

A blustery wind made its presence felt throughout the Emley woodland all weekend, pinning down scores from the FT ranges - luckily the silhouette range offered us a little more shelter although the wind played its part there too.

Current World Champion Jose Redondo had made the trip over from Spain for his first Classic and made an immediate impression by heading the leader board after day one. He was

Conor with his Silhouette card, just one miss from that session! We look forward to catching up with Conor at the Euro's in September where I will find out and report back just how it feels for him to be a NEFTA Classic Champion.



going to take some catching but a superb score, especially considering the conditions, of 39 ex 40 on the silhouettes from Conor McFlynn tied him for first place with Jose.

A tense shoot off in front of the large crowd that had gathered saw both shooters make some serious and costly mistakes. Conor eventually took top spot as misses on the silhouettes from Jose cost him the title.



2011 SHOOT CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | SPONSOR |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 24 Apr | GP1 | Harriers | |
| 15 May | GP2 | Tawd Vale | Hawke Optics |
| 29 May | GP3 | Newbury | Hammerli |
| 12 June | GP4 | Wendover | BFTA |
| 26 June | GP5 | Nelson | Highland Outdoors |
| 03 July | Warwickshire Open | Purley Chase | |
| 10 July | GP6 | Icini | Air Arms |
| 16 & 17 July | Int Open of Euskadi | Spain | |
| 24 July | GP7 | Redfearns | RWS & Diana |
| 31 July | Far Coley 50 | Far Coley | |
| 31 July | Kent Open | Kent Woodsmen | |
| 07 Aug | GP8 | East Devon | Hammerli |
| 21 Aug | GP9 | Sywell | Napier |
| 28 Aug | Boink! | MVAC's Hen Wood | |
| 11 Sept | Portcullis 80 Open | Castle | |
| 17 & 18 Sept | Euros | Midland Game Fair | |
| 01 Oct | BFTA Masters | Newbury | |
| 02 Oct | BFTA Showdown | Newbury | |
| 18 Dec | NEFTA Turkey Shoot | Redfearns | |

farcoley.fifty®

Sunday 31 July 2011

2 SUPERB FT COURSES

30 TARGET FT
20 TARGET INCLUDING MINI KILLS

Recognised as one of the best FT courses in the midlands, the Far Coley 50 offers a great days shooting in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

for more info visit these websites:
farcoleyftc.co.uk or shooting-the-breeze.com



Far Coley FTC
Coley Lane
Little Haywood, Staffordshire
ST18 0XB

ftmonki



Designs © Chris Large.

The FT Monki has had a slight rebrand and to celebrate this, we hope to bring you a new set of quality clothing that will look as good both on and off the FT circuit. I hope to be working with the fantastic chaps at Rangesports to provide a range of polos, t-shirts and fleeces to suit everyone, so watch this space.

FT.REVIEW
BRINGING YOU THE BEST OF FT

GET YOUR INFO IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE
IF YOU HAVE A SHOOT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE, AN EVENT REVIEW, CLUB NEWS, GREAT PICS OR YOU WISH TO BE ON THE FT REVIEW MAILING LIST PLEASE LET ME KNOW. EMAIL ME YOUR INFO TO christopher@fsgdesign.co.uk

Thanks for all your continued support.
Chris Large, Dowry Hill FT.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the editor or contributors, not necessarily those of any regional or governing bodies.