

Victorious!



The new Victory 480.

A new load and a string of successes for Victory cartridges.

When FITASC shooter Barry Phethean was, at the beginning of the year, appointed distributor of Victory cartridges, he decided to put a Victory 'team' together.

He chose competition shooters who were already regular users of his ammunition, but he could never have dreamed that they would have had such a successful season. Edith Barnes won the World and European FITASC Championships, along with the World English Sporting Championship, Paddy Howe won the World FITASC Veterans title, and European silver, Brian Clegg won the White Gold Cup. Gavin Heath won a host of shoots as a junior, and international trap shooter Aaron Meggison, who is still only 17, won the Home International outright, as well as the British OT and Double Trap junior titles.

Added to which Brian Clegg, Phil Smith and Jeremy Welham all made the England Sporting Team, while John Dunne missed out on the GB FITASC team by one target. Not forgetting GB FITASC junior team member Ben Husthwaite.

How has Barry, a keen Shot, found his first year in the cartridge business then? "Obviously it has been great to have seen the sponsored shooters do so well, and my aim really was to achieve a good level of availability with a network of regular stockists, and generally put Victory back on the map this year." To that end he has re-introduced the Victory 480, a load which fell by the wayside with the switch to 28 gram four years ago. However, the load has

been revamped with PSB 5 powder, primarily for the American market. "It is a good low recoil shell which I have now re-introduced into the UK where initial response has been very good."

Our tests showed it to be a nice easy-on-the-shoulder load with 1047fps at 425 bars. It fared well on the pattern plate with a good even spread of pellets, and this was later confirmed on a selection of sporting targets

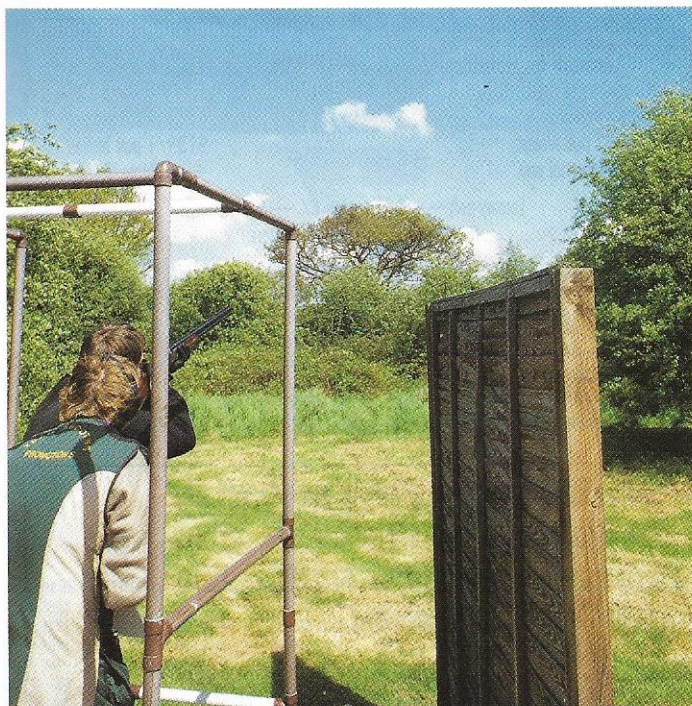


Victory's Barry Phethean (left) with World FITASC Veteran Champion Paddy Howe and England Sporting Team Manager Tony Heeks.

where again we were reminded that modest speeds can give very impressive kills.

FITASC shooters will note that there is also a 32gram version, which again is very soft shooting, particularly for the size of the load (1.35gr as compared to 1.15gr on the 28gram).

Prices of the Victory 480 Trap & Skeet are expected to be in the region of £95 per thousand, while the 32gram version will be around £108. For details of local stockists phone 01457 877170, fax 01457 877030 ■



Low incomers

Another example of self-management concerns a sporting shooter who explained that whilst high incomers gave him few problems, the low ones regularly did - and if he did shoot them, it was usually late, which made simultaneous pairs a big problem.

His fault or difficulty was due to preparing himself for the different situation. He consistently held his barrels pointing high (or steep) which was well suited to the high targets, but unfortunately the low targets approached below his barrels making it almost impossible to mount the gun and get onto the targets in time.

"In fact," I said, "you would have been better off shooting gun pre-mounted as you would have naturally pointed the gun lower."

"Funny you should say that," he replied, "because my friend shoots gun up and always beats me on the low ones, but I always beat him on the high ones." Now he knows why.

Anyway, he has now promised to study the height of the targets and hold his gun accordingly - some more self-management ■

Being ready, and making sure that those who matter are ready as well, is bound to make sense.

Further to this last point; in America it is common practice on sporting courses where manual traps are used, for the shooter to call "Trapper ready?" And for the trapper to reply "Trapper ready!" Sometimes the shooter does not call but the trapper will usually indicate his readiness. Whilst this may take a moment or two it makes a lot of sense to me and ensures that everyone is ready.

The subject of self-management is extremely

broad and whilst on this page I have confined myself to practical examples of preparation and observation, we can just as easily apply it to our mental state, confidence, and composure. Sounds like a good subject for next time.

Oh, and the best quotation heard recently... "I shoot better than him and yet he always beats me!" ■

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