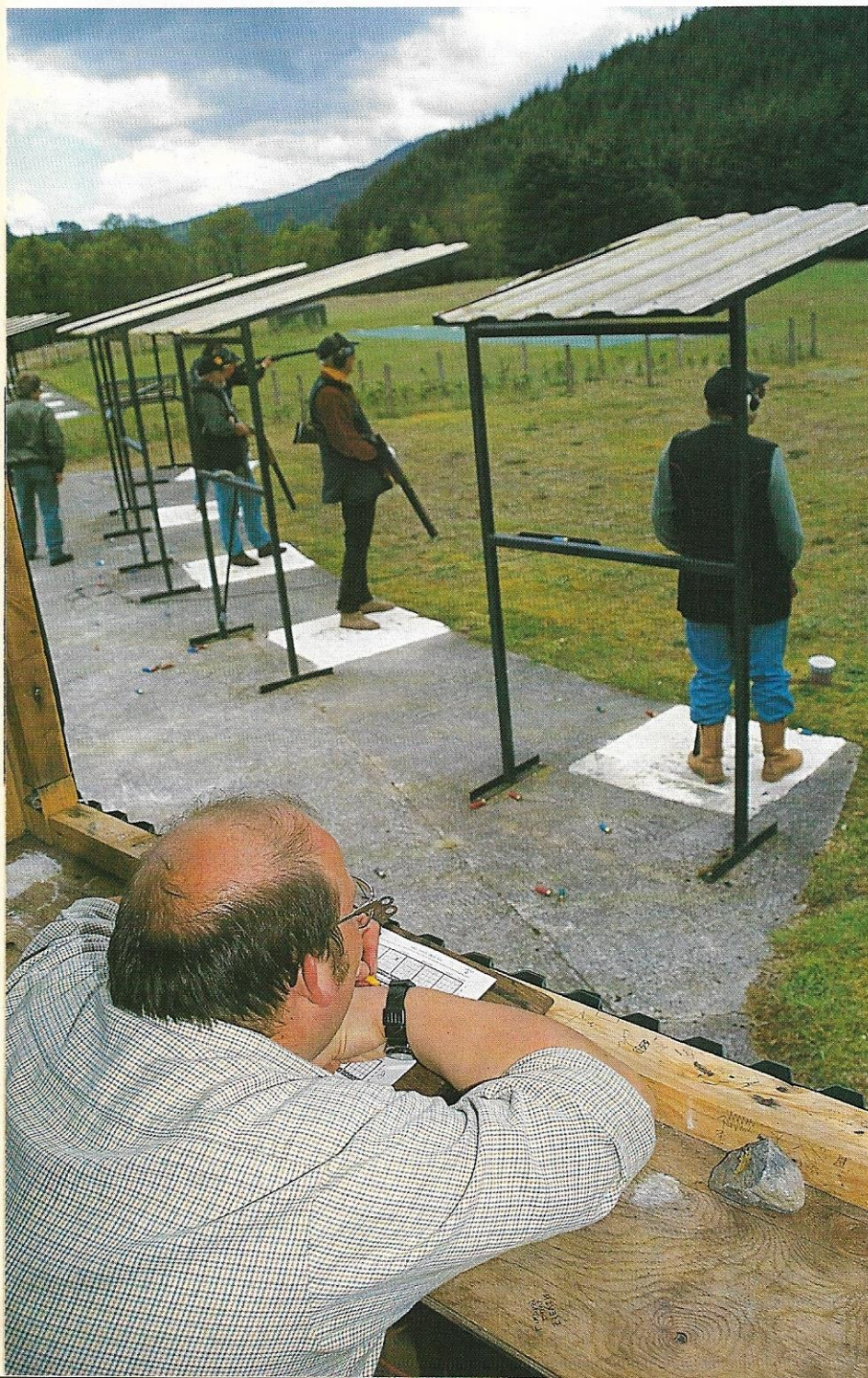
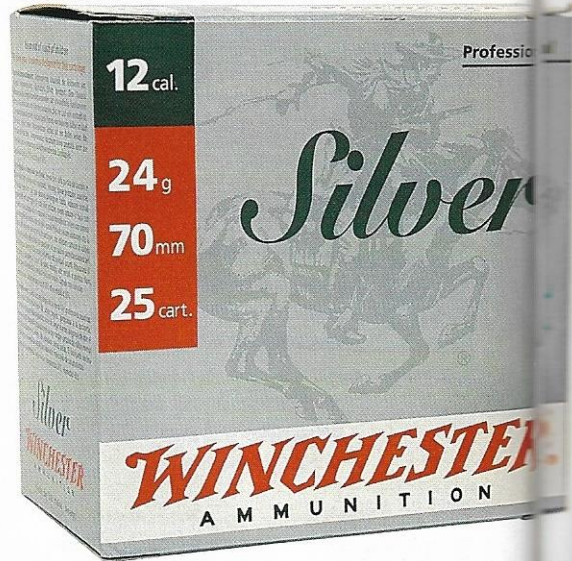


THE LIGHT FANTASTIC



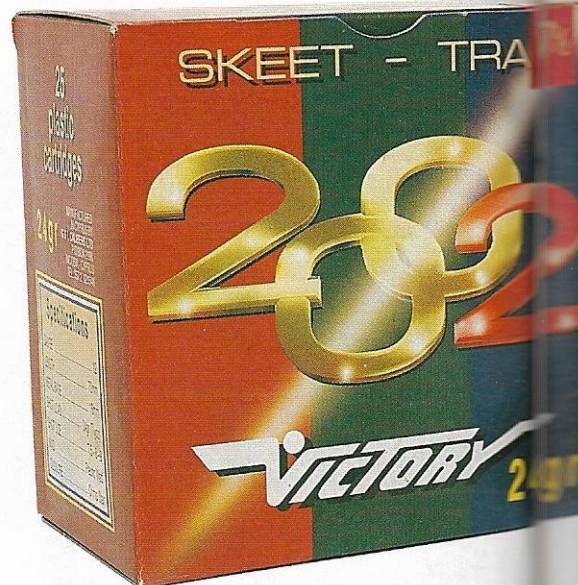
WINCHESTER SILVER



SAGA EUROTAP



VICTORY 2002



There's no reason why anybody should need to use 24g cartridges unless they shoot Olympic Trap and Skeet. The sport's international governing body brought in the light load ruling as a concession to the 'greens' in Europe. The interesting thing is that scores haven't been affected by the reduction in shot charge. The other thing is that a lot of people outside these two disciplines also enjoy shooting the lighter load. Which is why the Winchester Silver is so popular.

It isn't the cheapest around, but the compression-formed case, double-based ball powder and Winchester 209 primer and AAwad make this a hugely consistent performer.

The four per cent antimony shot produces stunning patterns. Pressure is 620 bar, and recoil is will within comfortable limits.



**SPORTING
Gun
VERDICT**

Not cheap, but one you can rely on.

Ratings: 0 3 5 7 10

SPECIFICATION

LOAD: 24 gram
SHOT (size): English 7½
SHOT (crush): 29%
POWDER: Double based ball
WAD: Winchester AA
MIN. CHAMBER: 2¾
CASE (size): 70mm
CLOSURE: 6 star crimp heat sealed
PRESSURE: 620 bars
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1371 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1190ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £118 per 1,000

Lighter shot loads give manufacturers scope to increase the velocity of the charge without pushing pressures too far, or generating excessive recoil. Spanish-makers, Saga, have settled on a nice compromise: with an observed velocity of 1210 ft/sec this has got to be one of the fastest shells in its class, but it's not uncomfortable to shoot - probably because the shot is up and away before the bang has even registered. Powder, primer and wad have been made by UEE and loaded into a case of Italian make. The shot was true size 8, round and well polished which worked a treat on Sporting targets, and as a first barrel load at ball trap and Down-the-Line.



**SPORTING
Gun
VERDICT**

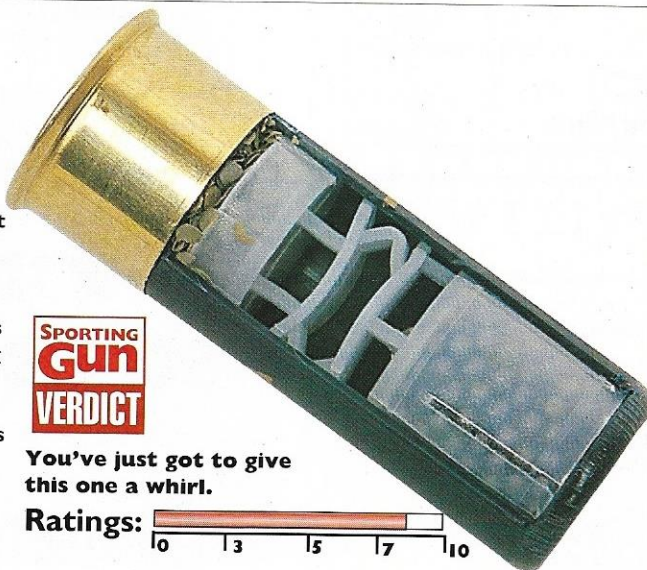
At this price it's got to be worth a look!

Ratings: 0 3 5 7 10

SPECIFICATION

LOAD: 24 gram
SHOT (size): English 8
SHOT (crush): 30%
POWDER: CBS
WAD: UEE
MIN. CHAMBER: 2¾
CASE (size): 70mm
CLOSURE: 6 star crimp
PRESSURE: 689 bars
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,512 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1,210 ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £83 per 1,000

If you've tried 24gr competition cartridges in the past and felt they were a little too 'hot' for your liking, then you really must give this one from Cyprus and airing. If it doesn't restore your faith in light loads, nothing will! It's not exactly hanging around with a velocity of 1143 ft/sec at 20 metres from the muzzle, but, my word, recoil is virtually negligible...all because the pressure is a meagre 300 bars. With a good set of ear defenders on, you're in serious danger of missing out on the bang! Don't, however, run away with the idea that this load - because of the pressures generated - is some sort of whim. It isn't. It's 'into the target' in a trice, and the kills are, to put it mildly, extremely satisfying.



**SPORTING
Gun
VERDICT**

You've just got to give this one a whirl.

Ratings: 0 3 5 7 10

SPECIFICATION

LOAD: 24 gram
SHOT (size): English 7½
SHOT (crush): 28%
POWDER: Single base flake
WAD: Victory Power Piston
MIN. CHAMBER: 2¾
CASE (size): 70mm
CLOSURE: 8 star crimp
PRESSURE: 300 bars
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1413 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1,143 ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £98 per 1,000

