

# The best all around shotgunner in the world is...

**THE DEBATE SURROUNDING "WHO'S THE BEST ALL AROUND SHOTGUNNER IN THE WORLD" CONTINUES – BUT NOT FOR LONG. IN MAY THIS YEAR, THE WORLD ALL AROUND CHAMPIONSHIP, TO BE HELD AT DALLAS GUN CLUB AND PRAIRIE CREEK, SHOULD PROVIDE THE ANSWER.**

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Though some may say "it's too many classifications," the seven classes from E to Master class and five concurrents is an honest and fair attempt by the NSCA to cope with the widely differing abilities of its membership in competitive registered events. Progress from one class to another is a reflection of improvement, until you reach Master class. As you progress up through this classification you eventually hit a brick wall – because the top 15 or 20 shooters

in this class are the very best, often thought of as 'professionals' and certainly benefiting from serious sponsorship.

Not surprisingly, there are regular (often self-centered) calls from the lower echelons of Master class to rid the class of the top shots by forming a 'professionals' classification. Conversely, the top shots feel equally aggrieved that they are unable to 'earn a living' from competition shooting. More needs to be done by the sport for the best shots, they believe, particularly those that are recognized as being at the top of their game and often represent the country.

The hard facts are that any such 'professional' class, seeking rich rewards from competition, would have to rely on sponsored competitions – just as in golf, motor racing or any other high profile sport. Sadly, as a sport, clay target shooting offers sponsors very little in return for their cash. There is virtually no national press coverage, it's a sport that is not easy to televise and unless you are a shooter or hunter, the general public has little interest in, or respect for, the degree of difficulty required to play the game. Big bucks sponsorship from outside the sport for a select few 'professionals' is, and will likely remain, an uphill battle.

So, hats off to those shooters, led by Scott Robertson, that have



launched their own big bucks shoot – The World All Around Championship (fully reviewed elsewhere in this issue). Each stumping up a \$5,000 entry fee, competitors are invited to shoot 900 targets across six disciplines over 4 days in May to establish the best all around shotgunner in the world. \$4,000 of each entry fee is returned to the purse with payouts (HOA and RU) in each discipline with the overall Championship HOA picking up \$40,000 (based on 30 entries).

So will it be a success? At the time of going to press, the declared entries were on target (30), but more than several notable topshots have still not entered. Is it the 900 targets, the entry fee or the embarrassment of not winning that's intimidating so many well known names. Is it the element of trap and skeet that is putting off entries from the top sporting

shooters? Perhaps it's the Helice and Flyers?

Whatever the reason, the self anointed 'professionals' now have their own big bucks championship and a chance to claim bragging rights to the world's best All Around shooter. Let's hope that those top names not yet registered have the stomach to do so – in which case it will be a showcase for the sport that may well attract new sponsorship and TV coverage for the future.

For the rest of us mortals that have no claim to being the 'best in the world', this issue contains our usual wide selection of interesting features from instructional articles, ballistic comment, a visit to the Caesar Guerini factory in Italy, Club Call, regular columns from Lanny Bassham and Technoid and reports from the first Big Blast's from down Florida way. Enjoy! ■