

REFLECTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS

THE NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE 31ST WORLD FITASC CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE NOW IN THE RECORD BOOK. WITH CHRISTMAS BEHIND US, IT'S TIME TO LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SEASON, SAYS **MICHAEL BRUNTON**

Though the number of registered targets shot in 2009 may be down on 2008, the recent National Sporting Clays Championship in San Antonio attracted another record entry – over 300 of the 1300 plus competitors were first time attendees.

As usual, the event ran like clockwork, and for that the NSCA and its staff should be congratulated.

The small gauge events were particularly well supported – reflecting a trend seen throughout the country in the last couple of years. The K-Kup offered some of the best of all championship targets while the Main Event, particularly the Green course and windy Thursday, will be talked about for months to come.

Our congratulations go to Gebben Miles, 2009 National Champion and all class and concurrent winners of the Main and each of the supporting side event competitions.

Not surprisingly, this issue includes an extensive report on the Nationals, together with 'Behind the Scenes' comment and interviews with Gebben Miles and Ashleigh Hafley – the 2009 National Ladies Champion.

US Team Support

Always an avid supporter of shooting sports, Krieghoff International took the opportunity at the Nationals Friday evening party to announce a sponsorship package for the NSCA TeamUSA along with the NSSA Skeet and NSCA Sporting Clay All-American Teams. "Recognizing the importance of perpetuating the sport, we are proud to be a part of the efforts of those shooters who represent the United States and their game with pride and sportsmanship indicative of a champion," said Dieter Krieghoff.

To assist these athletes in their endeavors, Krieghoff International has put up a K-80 Pro Sporter competition shotgun for raffle with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the teams. A limited offering of only 375 tickets (\$100 each) offers good odds that the ticket you purchase to support the teams just might be the winner. The drawing will be held at the 2010 NSCA Sporting Clays National Championship in San Antonio. For more information call 610 847 5173.

World FITASC

It was a long way to travel for those that entered the 31st World

FITASC Championship in Australia in late November. Of the 650 entries, more than 400 competitors were Australian, with the balance made up of entries from 23 countries. Some 30 competitors made the trip from America.

Though the US was only one of four countries that fielded full teams, the medal haul was disappointing. Like so many other countries, team selection was not straightforward – some initial selections could not take the time off work or were unable to afford the trip. For those that did attend, there was disappointment that the organizers had opted for only four Parcours, each with 5 pegs, with a layout change after the first 100 targets – and those changes were mainly hoop positions only. Hardly the eight world class Parcours that one anticipates at a World Championship. But it was the same for everyone – and the record books will show Damien Birgan of Australia as the 2009 Champion. Congratulations also to Joe Cantey on the only US individual Gold medal and to the

Super Veterans for their Team Gold. A full report and scores kicks off this busy issue. And if FITASC is a discipline you're thinking of trying out this season, then in this issue Chris Batha gives you some great tips on getting to grips with this challenging game.

Elsewhere in this issue there's plenty for those of our readers that are ballistic junkies. Tim Woodhouse looks at the feasibility of a truly chamberless 12g sporting shotgun, Tom Ceretto reviews replacement wads for sporting loads and Nick Sisley visits RST with light loads in mind.

Gun tests this month cover the Teknys Gold Target shotgun and a review of the Beretta A400 Explor Unico together with thoughts on the likely sporting version to come. There are plenty of instructional articles too – including the first of a new series of articles from Don Currie. Lanny Bassham looks at 'How to Evaluate Your Last Season's Performance' and Steve Fischer previews the upcoming Big Blasts that open the new season – we'll see you in Florida. ■

