

Nestled in deep woods just outside the historic town of Camden, South Carolina, lies Hermitage Farm Shooting Sports – venue for the Zone 4 Championship that was held in early May.

Those well acquainted with the scenic woodland surroundings, the open tracts of land, ponds and hillside that provides the opportunity for challenging targets – perfect for Sporting, FITASC and 5 Stand – were no doubt keenly anticipating a spectacular weekend. “But as Friday dawned the heavens opened,” explained Joe Cantey. “It was a real wet weekend but it didn’t stop Will Fennell from taking the spoils in the Sporting with a well earned 188 ex-200.”

shoot two separate rounds of 50 and came back to the clubhouse with 94 ex-100 (25, 24, 20 and 25). Wesley Elliott (92) and Wendell Cherry (90) were the only other competitors to break 90 on what was a demanding course.

The 200 bird main event was shot over ‘Cypress’ and ‘Loblolly’. Cypress was predominantly among woodland and though dark and wet come Saturday morning, the targets were considered to be somewhat easier than the more open Loblolly course. “A 50 yard teal on Loblolly did plenty of scorecard damage,” said Joe Cantey. “And on reflection I guess this course shot some 7-9 targets harder than Cypress.”

THOSE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE SCENIC WOODLAND SURROUNDINGS, THE OPEN TRACTS OF LAND, PONDS AND HILLSIDE THAT PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHALLENGING TARGETS EAGERLY AWAITED THE VISIT TO HERMITAGE FARM

End of day one, Bill McGuire was leading the pack on Cypress with 95 ex-100. But he still had Loblolly to shoot and an uncharacteristic 82 ex 100 dropped him out of contention to finish in 5th place, (177 ex-200). Will Fennell on the other hand

FINE FORM

FENNELL

WINNING THE 200 BIRD SPORTING AND SECOND PLACE IN THE 100 BIRD

FITASC SAW WILL FENNELL MAINTAINING HIS RICH VEIN OF FORM AT HERMITAGE FARM’S ZONE 4 CHAMPIONSHIP. LATER IN THE MONTH HE TOOK HOA IN THE MAIN EVENT OF THE HOMESTEAD CUP AND TOPPED IT OFF WITH A WIN IN THE FITASC SIDE EVENT.

The three day event included a 100 bird Prelim (won by Wesley Elliott 96 ex-100), a 50 bird 5 stand competition that could be shot on any of the three days, a 100 bird ‘old system’ FITASC that could be shot straight through in one day or split into two days of 50 birds and the 200 bird Sporting main event.

Rick Hemingway won the 5 Stand (45 ex-50), two clear of Mike Nudd, while out on the FITASC course Greg Hicks had set the pace by late Friday having opted to shoot straight through. His 96 ex 100 (23, 25, 24, 24) was just too good for Will Fennell who had opted to



followed up his 96 ex-100 on Loblolly – six targets clear of anyone else on this course – with an outstanding 92 ex-100 on Cypress to take the Championship (188 ex-200).

Mike O'Brien took Juniors (180 ex-200) with Duke Riggs winning Sub-Juniors (137 ex-200). Casey Atkinson shot a consistent 80, 81 to win the Ladies while Mike Bittman (164 ex-200) was the hero of the Veterans and Larry McIntire won the Super Veterans (149 ex-200).

The Sunday FITASC competitors were last back to the clubhouse at about 5 o'clock and following shoot-offs and prize giving the weekend was all wrapped up by 6.30pm. Until next time – it was another successful weekend for Will Fennell.

5 STAND – 50 BIRDS

Rick Hemingway (M)	45
Steve Graham (AA)	40
Mike Sherman (A)	39
Gary Sturgill (B)	38
Matt Tatum (C)	34
Trey Williams (D)	34
Sherry McGuire (E)	20
Mike O'Brien (J)	38
Matt Tatum (SJ)	34
Melita Bittman (L)	34
Mike Bittman (V)	38

FITASC – 100 BIRDS

Greg Hicks (M)	96
Larry McIntire (AA)	88
Scotty Powell (AA)	88
Gary Blackwell (A)	85
Keith Hubbard (B)	80
Jeff Sessions (C)	79
Sean O'Meara (D)	76
Wayne Watson (E)	65
Kevin Bland (J)	85
Matt Tatum (SJ)	71
Linda Joy (L)	85
Mike Bittman (V)	83
Larry McIntire (SV)	88

SPORTING 200 BIRDS

Will Fennell (M)	188
John Mitchell (AA)	168
Jeff Boyken (A)	174
Phillip Millican (B)	162
Jeff Sessions (C)	154
Chris Caviness (D)	142
Wayne Watson (E)	136
Mike O'Brien (J)	180
Duke Riggs (SJ)	137
Casey Atkinson (L)	161
Mike Bittman (V)	164
Larry McIntire (SV)	149

HOMESTEAD CUP

The exquisite venue of Homestead Shooting Ground, in the mountains of Virginia, was the venue for Fennell's next big win – in the Homestead Cup main event and FITASC side event. The targets for the 100 bird (old system) FITASC were set by Ben Husthwaite. "Parcours 4 shot the harder of the layouts," confirms Ben "A long curling rabbit got progressively harder from each peg. Fennell's 23 on this layout was the best of the day."

Combined with a further 24, 24 and 23, Fennell headed the leaderboard with 94, just one target ahead of Jon Kruger (24, 23, 24, 22) with Michael Nudd taking first in Master class.

The main event saw Blue course shooting six to eight targets harder than Red course. Short shooting 'windows' and steeper angles of targets, hugging the terrain, saw many come to grief. Though Fennell's 86 on the harder Blue course was only sixth best, his 97 and four target lead on Red course gave him HOA with a combined score of 183. Runner-up was James McGowan on 182 (93/89). Looking down the results a special mention is worthy of John Miller's performance in the

main event. His win in C class with a 171 ex-200 was 14 targets ahead of his nearest rival (Chris Stiltner – 157) and would have been good enough to tie ninth in Master class with Tal Goldsby!

General consensus was that David Judah had again found the formula for a first rate shoot – and plans are well in hand for next year's event on the same Memorial weekend.

MAIN EVENT – 200 BIRDS

HOA Will Fennell	183
R/U James McGowan	182
M1 Jon Kruger	180
M2 Brad Wiley	179
M3 Joseph P Zeitler	178
AA1 Jay Delpher	169
AA2 William Walton	164
AA3 David Skewes	160
A1 Lewis A McMurrin III	160
A2 Tammy Copland	159
A3 James Slaughter	158
B1 Glen Mullins	148
B2 Lewis Watson	148
B3 Ron Blosser	147
C1 John Miller	171
C2 Chris Stiltner	157
C3 Philip Smith	155
D1 Jack Cassidy	147
D2 Paul Sickles	147
D3 Rick Gump	145
E1 John Dellagnese	140
E2 Rhonda Dudley	137
E3 Vic Dandridge	134

FITASC – 100 BIRDS

HOA Will Fennell	94
R/U Jon Kruger	93
M1 Michael Nudd	89
AA1 Gerry McGrath	79
A1 Archie Davis	80
B1 Rob Blosser	73
C1 Matthew Peterson	71
D1 Jack Cassidy	73
E1 Dave Perazzo	55