



THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE KEY WORD IN THE SHOTSHELL MARKET RIGHT NOW – IT'S EUROPE. WHILE THE BIG THREE DOMESTIC MANUFACTURERS STILL DOMINATE VOLUME SALES, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHERS TRYING TO CHIP AWAY AT THE MARGINS, WITH SOME OF THE BIG PLAYERS FROM ACROSS THE WATER PITCHING IN. STATIC OR DECLINING VOLUMES IN THEIR HOME MARKETS AND MORE FAVOURABLE EXCHANGE RATES ARE THE DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE MOVES. THE RESULT IS GREATER CHOICE AND SOME KEEN PRICING – GOOD NEWS FOR THE SHOOTER IF NOT THE TRADE.

Starting at home, **WINCHESTER'S** main thrust for the new season comes in the smaller gauges, with an addition to the high velocity Super-Sport AA range introduced last year. The company see plenty of growth ahead in sub-gauge sporting events and the 20-gauge Super-Sport is designed to capitalise on that. At 1275 fps muzzle velocity this 7/8 ounce load is appreciably quicker than a standard target load and is formulated for tight patterns, with hardened shot in sizes 7 1/2 or 8. A new high strength tube construction is said to increase reloadability. Winchester's old faithful, the AA range that has been a favourite for 40 years, gets an extra line in the shape of a 28-gauge load in size 8 shot. This one delivers its 3/4 ounce payload at around 1200 fps. More information on all the Winchester range at www.winchester.com

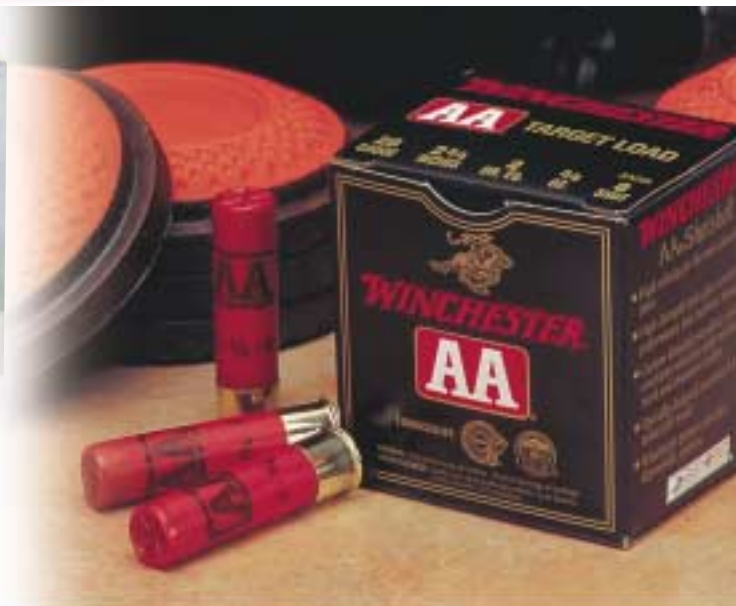
RIO is one of Europe's biggest names, the brand name of the giant UEE company in Spain. As well as selling finished products throughout Europe, the company is also one of the largest suppliers of

THE KEEN SPORTING CLAYS COMPETITOR IS SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN

SHOTSHELL



RIO IS FROM ONE OF EUROPE'S GIANTS



components to other loaders. It is one of the few makers to produce all the components in-house. Their PSB and CSB series powders are particularly highly regarded. Rioammunition Inc. of Houston is the new American company founded to build domestic sales. The main offerings of interest to Sporting Clays shooters are the 3% antimony Target Load and the high velocity 5% Top Sporting. Both can be had in either one ounce or 1 1/8 (28 and 32 gram) with a choice of 7 1/2 or 8 shot. Rio also have a wide range of small gauge loads suitable for sporting down to .410 and with a useful spread of shot sizes. Details at www.rioammo.com

Having been brainwashed for the last 40 years on the superiority of plastic cases over old fashioned paper, it came as something of a shock when we received the latest introduction from **GAMEBORE**. Looking every inch as though it should be slipping elegantly into the breach of a best London sidelock, the company's new Whit Gold Royal Paper is aimed firmly at the discerning sporting shooter. Gamebore claim the case gives very smooth and progressive powder burning, delivering high levels of both performance and

comfort. We have had the chance to try out the 1 1/8 ounce load and the performance is impressive. The new line slots in alongside the standard White Gold range, also featuring the company's exclusive hardened 'Diamond Shot' and the choice of eleven times World Champion George Digweed. More details www.gamebore.com

Following on, Focchi Ammunition have introduced **FIOCCHI PAPERS** for 2002. Complementing their already extensive line of competitive target shells, they have incorporated modern technology into the traditional paper hull. Available in shot sizes of 7 1/2 and 8 these 1 1/8 ounce loads are attracting significant market interest. More details: fiocchiusa.com

Another new shell on the market, of Spanish origin, is the **ARMUSA** range exclusive to E&E Supply of Houston. From a small private company, the Armusa range has some interesting specialty products as well as



FIOCCHI PAPERS - CREATING A STIR

IT COMES TO PICKING THE RIGHT AMMUNITION FOR THE JOB. WE LOOK AT SOME OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

REVIEW

PAPER HULLS ARE ALSO A NEW FEATURE FOR WHITE GOLD



A FULL RANGE FROM ARMUSA



DEVELOPED PRIMARILY FOR DEMANDING EUROPEAN TRAP DISCIPLINES (IT ALSO COMES IN 24 GRAM FOR BUNKER TRAP), THIS ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH JUST ABOUT ANYTHING SPORTING COURSE DESIGNERS CAN THROW, BUT DON'T EXPECT FEATHER LIGHT RECOIL – THE LAWS OF PHYSICS CANNOT BE BROKEN!

economically priced mainstream lines. Anyone using light guns or the recoil sensitive might want to check out the 12 and 20 Lite lines, listed as an ideal practise load or for women and youngsters. The 12 Lite is a 7/8 ounce, 2 1/2 dram equivalent load that still delivers 1230 fps muzzle velocity. It is joined by the Lite 32 a versatile all rounder of modest velocity (1150 fps) but low pressure and smooth shooting. In 7 1/2, 8 and 9 shot it should cover most situations. With one ounce loads becoming much more popular (the lighter payload does not seem to hinder shooters too much) the 3 dram equivalent Pro Sporting is a strong contender. It delivers a healthy 1350fps velocity. Speed freaks should head for the Gold Serial 28, an ultra high velocity (1410fps) one ounce load that is at the complete opposite end of the scale to the Lite offerings. Developed primarily for demanding European trap disciplines (it also comes in 24 gram for bunker trap), this one should deal with just about anything sporting course designers can throw, but don't expect feather light recoil – the laws of physics cannot be broken! Contact them on the e-mail: armusa@hotmail.com

One of Britain's most famous names, **HULL CARTRIDGE COMPANY** are making big efforts to break into the US market in 2002. Hull is a family company established for over 50 years and this is a brand favoured by many top British shooters. The flagship line is the Sovereign range, the choice of several big name FITASC shooters including current European Champion Mickey Rouse and former champion Kevin Mayor, plus GB international Sean Bramley. Sovereign shooters have notched up a string of big wins in England this spring. The Sovereign line up covers all the main sporting needs up to the maximum 36 gram allowed under FITASC rules, with color coding for the different shot sizes. For extreme presentations the range also comes in English shot size 6, conforming exactly to the maximum allowable size (2.62mm) under FITASC rules – a useful aid when all else fails! All feature top quality 5% antimony shot and all the sporting loads are formulated to deliver a consistent 1450 fps muzzle velocity, whether you choose the 28 gram (one ounce) load or the full 36 gram. Alongside the Sovereign line are two one ounce loads, Storm Extra, looking to provide match-winning performance at an affordable price and Pro One. The latter is much favored by British trap shooters for its dense and consistent patterns at more modest velocity and also has a firm following among sporting shooters looking for a lower recoil shell. E-mail: sales@hullcartridge.co.uk

A more recent company to come to market is the **ORION** Cartridge Company, a joint venture between UEE of Spain and Joe Canteley. The concept behind the brand is for Joe to provide the know-how in terms of specifications to suit the American shooter, while UEE deliver the consistent product using their vast production



HULL CARTRIDGES ARE POPULAR WITH MANY TOP BRITISH SHOOTERS. AT RIGHT THE NEW ORION BRAND USES UEE COMPONENTS



BIG ON VALUE — THE WOLF RANGE

resources. The result is two basic product lines – the Competition and Premium Loads. Both are available as 28 or 32g variants in shot sizes 7 1/2 and 8. The Competition Load will also be offered in 20 and 28-gauge. The Competition Load delivers a stated 1200-1220 fps at one metre. The high brass Premium Load costs around \$6 per flat more and has velocities of 1280(28g) and 1330 (32g) – again both at one metre. **More information from (803) 432-0210 or www.orioncartridge.com**

Premium loads are not to everyone's taste or budget and for the cost conscious **WOLF AMMUNITION** of Anaheim CA has a comprehensive line of shotshells and solid ammunition. Sporting clays shooters will head for the Target Sport loads in 2 3/4 and 3 dram equivalent loads (both 1 1/8 ounce only). Not the quickest perhaps at 1145 and 1200 fps, but the race does not always go to the fastest. Details at www.wolfammo.com

Domestic giant **REMINGTON** is not taking the challenge from Europe lying down and the latest offering from Remington country is sure to be much in evidence around the shooting grounds this year. The distinctive gold hulls of the Premier Nitro 27 load – highly rated for their reloading capabilities - have already become a familiar sight on trap and sporting fields. Now the Premier Nitro Gold Sporting Clays has been added, a shell formulated especially for the tough long-range shots that are becoming a feature of major championships. In 12-gauge, 1 1/8 ounce only, this new load has increased velocity over the standard STS target loads (1300 fps at three feet) and can be ordered in 7 1/2 or 8 shot. Comprehensive information can be found on the excellent web site www.remington.com

THE DISTINCTIVE GOLD HULLS OF THE PREMIER NITRO 27 LOAD, HIGHLY RATED FOR THEIR RELOADING CAPABILITIES, HAVE ALREADY BECOME A FAMILIAR SIGHT ON TRAP AND SPORTING FIELDS.

The third member of the 'big three', **FEDERAL**, is relying on the same line up as 2001 as far as target shooting is concerned. This means the familiar Gold Medal range with something to suit just about everyone from low recoil Extra Lights to the high velocity Handicap loads. Find out more at www.federalcartridge.com

BASCHIERI & PELLAGRI is one of the giants of the Italian trade, where the demands of Olympic Trap and Skeet shooters soon sort out the weak products. The company's products have won nine medals at the Olympics, including six gold. Like UEE in Spain, B&P are also major suppliers of components to other loaders in Europe, notably the famous F2 powder, wads and the patented Gordon System hulls. This unique design, with its special conical base wad, is particularly suited to high performance loads.

They don't come much higher than the F2 Ultra Velocity, which delivers its 28 gram load of polished shot at 1409 fps (measured at one metre). It sits at the top of the range that also includes the F2 Sporting loads in 28 and 32 gram, both delivering 1330fps at the same one metre. All the shells feature the company's photodegradable plastic wad. For the full story visit www.bandpamerica.com

Strong rivals for patronage are **CLEVER MIRAGE**, and we learn at press time that they plan to introduce, through Shotgun Shells USA Inc, a range of sporting shells to the US in the near future – including Grand Italia and T2 Competition. From a compact factory on the outskirts of the historic city of Verona, Clever send cartridges all across the globe, with distributors in over 80 countries. We'll keep you posted on news as it develops.



REMINGTON IS RISING TO THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE FROM THE LIKES OF CLEVER AND BASCHIERI & PELLAGRI (FAR RIGHT)

F2 SPORTING LOADS ARE AVAILABLE IN 28 AND 32 GRAM. AT LEFT, A PREMIER SPORTING SHELL FROM CLEVER MIRAGE THAT WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE IN THE U.S.