

For several months prior, there had been considerable discussion about a 'new game' coming to San Antonio in May. Called Compak Sporting, it was a World Championship – and there was little else known about it other than the fact that it was coming and Team USA FITASC was going to shoot it!

"How the heck are we going to compete in a World Championship at a game we have never before seen or shot?" was the question heard over and over – along with *"It's kind of like 5-stand but with different rules."* Well, we found out – literally as we stepped into the cages. An explanation here will hopefully serve to clarify how the game is played. I think you're gonna like it. We did!

HOW IT BEGAN

FITASC, the governing body for Parcour de Chasse, is also the governing body for the World Compak Sporting Championship. Mike Hampton was a principal 'mover and shaker' to get this game off the ground at World level and to get it introduced to the American shooters. Rules were stabilized and set and the format agreed so that it could be set up and run fair and equally anywhere in the World. It isn't exactly a brand new game – it has existed for some time now, enjoying popularity in Central and Eastern Europe and the U.K.

HOW IT WORKS

The rules and concept of the game are quite simple. Much like 5-stand, there are a total of 25 targets to be shot from five positions. The number of machines that can be used is left to the discretion of the management, but six to eight machines is great fun!

Instead of having five shooters in a squad, Compak has six. The sixth man's position is right behind the shooter in the first cage. After each shooter in the five cages has completed five targets listed on the menu in front of them, all shooters move to the next cage. The number 6 shooter now moves into cage one and is the lead off shooter for that series of targets. The shooter in cage 5 moves to a spot directly behind the shooter in cage one. All other shooters move to the right and to the next cage (#1

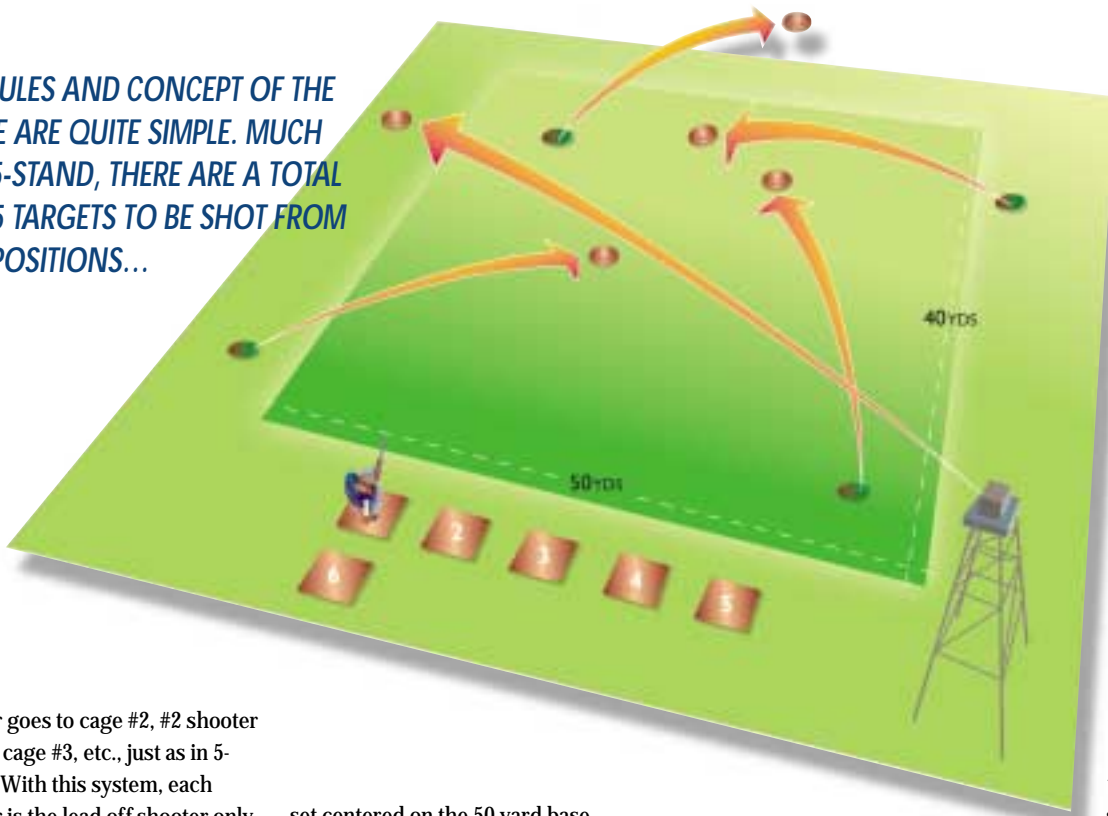
WORLD COMPAK

A BRAND NEW GAME FOR U.S. SHOOTERS!
SAYS **STEVE FISHER**

**A 45 TARGET INTERNATIONAL TEAM
'SHOOT OUT' IN THE STADIUM
REFLECTED THINGS TO COME, AS
TEAM USA JUNIORS ONLY MISSED
ONE TARGET!**



THE RULES AND CONCEPT OF THE GAME ARE QUITE SIMPLE. MUCH LIKE 5-STAND, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 25 TARGETS TO BE SHOT FROM FIVE POSITIONS...



shooter goes to cage #2, #2 shooter goes to cage #3, etc., just as in 5-stand). With this system, each shooter is the lead off shooter only once because the lead off position is always the first cage – and does not travel with the first shooter as in 5-stand.

When the shooter who was initially in the first cage finishes the fifth cage he is done, and can sit down and relax while the other five shooters finish their last cage. As in FITASC, the shooters are drawn at random and squadded – a feature that I find attractive since you get a chance to meet and shoot with other competitors from all corners of the World. Also like FITASC, the shells used in 12 gauge are limited to 28 gram, or 1 ounce maximum with no shot larger than 2.5 mm or 7½ size U.S.

THE LAYOUT OF THE FIELD

Herein lies the major difference between 5-stand and Compak. Unlike 5-stand the gaming field has boundary lines that are in the form of a rectangle 40 yards deep by 50 yards wide and marked by a small flag located on each of the four corners. The shooting cages are

set centered on the 50 yard base line about 5 yards back and about 5 yards apart.

Now here's the kicker. All targets must either originate from, or at some point in their flight, pass through the rectangle. In other words, no matter how the target flies, or where it comes from, it must start from or pass through the 40 by 50 yard rectangle. This somewhat limits the distances that can be set on any layout, but not the speed or angles which I promise you can be pretty fast and wild! Add in a target selection from up to eight machines and a 10 second time limit to take each shot and the old 'pucker factor' begins to be a reality.

One small saving grace is that the shooter next to you has one of your first targets in his last pair, which gives you a little preview on the origination and trajectory of your target. Each bank of 25 targets can be set as all singles, a single with report pairs and/or true pairs – and we experienced all of the possibilities over the eight layouts!

AND NOW, TO THE GAMES!

As it is now recorded forever more in history, the very first World Compak Sporting Championship was held on U.S. soil at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas. Just shy of 200 competitors from all over the World came to test their mettle and brought their country's colors in the form of teams that competed for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals – the traditional awards as in the Olympic Games for many hundreds of years now. Opening and closing ceremonies were conducted and the National Anthems of the competing countries was played for each

represented country – again, much like the ceremonies conducted at other FITASC World Championships.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

As in Parours de Chasse, the participating countries often enter teams as well as individual shooters. There are no classes per se, only

Concurrents such as Lady, Veteran, Super Veteran, Junior and Senior. Besides the USA teams, other countries attending and fielding teams came from Portugal, France, Mexico, Russia and Italy. I am proud to record that all of the U.S. teams won gold medals in the team events. That, my friends, is quite an accomplishment considering the fact that all the U.S. shooters were new to the game!

On day one of the competition, two banks of 25 targets each were to be shot. Much like FITASC, there was a small time interval between each bank of targets. Each bank of targets took approximately 12 minutes to shoot

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the entire squad. This is a point that needs to be addressed for the future, as many competitors complained that shooting only two banks per day resulted in a much longer stay and higher travel expenses. It would certainly be more cost effective to the traveling shooter to be able to do at least four layouts per day. However, there were games, practice, Hélice, FITASC and a 100 target sporting event – the Krieghoff Klassic – in between the Compak events to help fill the considerable free time each day.

With eight layouts to shoot, it is near impossible to get an indication as to which team or individual will probably end up a winner – and that too made the excitement build over the four days. By day three though, the indications were that team Portugal was a tough contender and France was also knocking on the door – Team USA needed to take it up a notch.

As the dust settled on the last round, the Gold medals went to team USA Seniors (Wendell Cherry, Andy Duffy and Will Fennell) who had put up a fine collective score of 550, just seven targets ahead of Team Portugal (Pedro Sabido, Antonio Moreira, and Joaquim Luis) and 13 ahead of Team France (Jean-Paul Mordefroid, Charles Bardou and Didier Carlier). In the Concurrents, the Veteran Team USA also took Gold with Mike Bittmann, Joe Cantey and Steve Fischer's combined score of 509. The Silver went to Team France and the Bronze to Team Portugal.

The Ladies Team USA (Casey Atkinson, Jessica Kent and Debbie Wall) also won Gold with a fine score of 485. The Silver went to Russia and France took home the Bronze. The Junior Team USA won the Gold with 531 (Anthony

Matarese Jr., Cory Kruse and Gregg Wolf) while France took Silver with 504 and Portugal the Bronze. Last, but certainly not least, the Super-Veteran Team USA finished off a clean sweep of all gold (W. Ray Newman, Dick Phillips and Bill Wall) shooting an uncontested 460.

In the open division Seniors for individual performance the only representative from Great Britain, Ben Brunton, was the HOA Champion winning Gold with an excellent score of 191 followed by Wendell Cherry (188) and Scott Robertson (187). Gold in the Lady Concurrent went to Celine Rodde from France (168) followed by Veronique Girardet Allard, also from France, one back at 167 and Inna Kotova from Russia (166). The Juniors individual is a tough place to be as some of the best in the world dominate this Concurrent. Brandon Powell won the Gold with a superb 188 followed by Cory Kruse (186) and Gregg Wolf (178).

The Veterans Concurrent Gold medal was won by Steve Fischer (180) with team mate Vance Barnes taking Silver



OVERALL PLACEMENT WINNERS, (L TO R) WENDELL CHERRY 3RD, (BRONZE), BEN BRUNTON HOA (GOLD) AND BRANDON POWELL 2ND, (SILVER).



USA LADIES TEAM – GOLD! (CENTER LEFT TO RIGHT) JESSICA KENT, CASEY ATKINSON AND DEBBIE WALL. LEFT SIDE, RUSSIAN LADIES TEAM, AND RIGHT SIDE, LADIES FRENCH TEAM.

THE FUTURE FOR WORLD COMPAK SPORTING LOOKS BRIGHT. WITHOUT QUESTION IT IS TRULY A FUN, FAST, GAME. I WOULD BET A BAG OF OREO COOKIES THAT THIS GAME MAY JUST BE THE VEHICLE TO GET US INTO THE OLYMPICS SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

OUR OWN BEN BRUNTON – HOA CHAMPION.

(176) and Mike Bittmann (174) Bronze. Super Veteran Bill Wall took Gold on 168 followed by Dick Floeck (167) and W. Ray Newman (162).

THE KRIEGHOFF KLASSIC

A nice change of pace was presented in between the Compak Sporting layouts down on the Krieghoff Klassic grounds in the form of 100 sporting targets – and was won by Jon Kruger with an outstanding 94. Runner up was Tony Rivera (92) and third went to Scott Robertson (91). Master first went to Andy Duffy (91). Veteran Champion was Steve Fischer (89) and the Lady Champion was Casey Atkinson (87). Juniors was won by Leon Tan (87) and Super Veteran honors went to Bill Ray (80). The steady 78 shot by Miles Miller gave him the Sub-Juniors.



USA JUNIOR TEAM – GOLD!
(CENTER). **RIGHT SIDE:**
FRENCH TEAM, LEFT SIDE
PORTUGAL'S JUNIORS.



USA SUPER VETERAN TEAM
– GOLD!



USA VETERANS TEAM – GOLD!
LEFT SIDE: PORTUGAL, RIGHT SIDE:
FRANCE.



BELOW LEFT: USA SENIOR TEAM –
GOLD! LEFT SIDE: FRANCE,
RIGHT SIDE: PORTUGAL.

AS MY FRIEND AND TEAM MATE MIKE BITTMANN SAID AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP, “HELL, STEVIE, WE WERE THERE WHEN THEY LIT THE FUSE!” ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS TO SEE WHETHER IT WILL FLY OR FIZZLE...

THE FITASC EVENT

The FITASC targets were set by Mo Parsons – and in this writer's opinion, probably the best ever seen on the National Shooting Complex. These presentations were challenging and entertaining. They were testy to be sure, but isn't that just what FITASC is all about? It is that very essence that is the separator between true FITASC style targets and sporting shots presented in a FITASC format.

Andy Duffy took HOA honors on these superb targets with a fine score of 86 with Ben Brunton Runner-up (also at 86) and Wendell Cherry third at 85. Master first was Scott Robertson (85) and Veteran Champion was Mike Bittman (83). Super-Veteran top honors went to Bill Wall (77) and the Lady Champion was Jessica Kent (69). Junior Champion was Cory Kruse (84).

THE FUTURE...

The future for World Compak Sporting looks bright. Without question it is truly a fun, fast, game. I would bet a bag of Oreo Cookies that this game may just be the vehicle to get us into the Olympics some time in the future. It is simple to set up and does not require the terrain, distance or loads of space needed by sporting or FITASC. By the time the 2005 NSCA rule book comes out, the rules will be in print, and although 5-stand will head the page, Compak Sporting will be right beside it in parentheses. By 2006 it will stand alone on the heading, so get ready to learn some new tricks.

The future of this game most certainly will rest upon its acceptance by the shooters, but I think most will find it more fun than 5-stand and easy to convert from a 5-stand format. As my friend and team mate Mike Bittmann said at the Championship, “Hell, Stevie, we were there when they lit the fuse!” All that remains now is to see whether it will fly or fizzle. ■