

TRIPLE CLASSIC
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TRIPLE CLASSIC

THE FIRST LEG OF THE TRIPLE CLASSIC WORLD SERIES TOOK PLACE AT HIGHCLERE CASTLE IN ENGLAND ON 13-18TH JUNE. RICHARD FAULDS TOOK HOA IN THE MAIN EVENT AND GEORGE DIGWEED WON THE KRIEGHOFF PARCOURS DE CHASSE CLASSIC. WHAT A WEEK!

MICHAEL BRUNTON REPORTS FROM HIGHCLERE CASTLE, ENGLAND





The Triple Classic World Series is based on three events held in the UK, Russia and USA – though each event is independent of the others. The first leg was held in mid-June at Highclere Castle in England and is to be followed by Classics at Fox Lodge in Russia in early October and The Meadows in Georgia in March 2006.

On the menu at Highclere Castle was a 200 target Main Event over two courses, a six layout 150 target Parcours de Chasse shot to international FITASC rules, a daily 5-stand competition and Clay Snooker – the European version of Make-A-Break. The Main Event attracted 1100 entries while the Parcours de Chasse entry was full at 386 (66 squads). Competitors from the USA, Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Belgium, Holland, France, Portugal, Spain and the UK ensured that this was truly an international event.



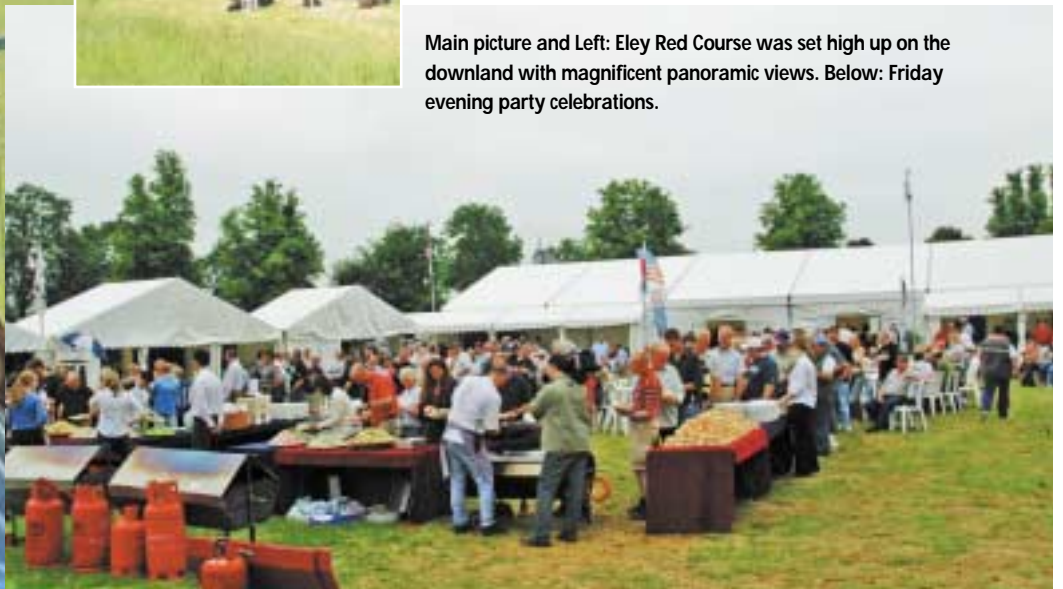
MAIN EVENT

Graham Brown of Purbeck Shooting School and Ben Brunton – together with their hard working crews – turned this greenfield site into a world-class sporting venue in just three weeks. Eley Red course

Competitors from 10 nations attended, including some 30 shooters from USA.



Main picture and Left: Eley Red Course was set high up on the downland with magnificent panoramic views. Below: Friday evening party celebrations.





Above and Below: On the open downland, judging target distances – with few reference points – was difficult for most competitors.

was set on high ground overlooking Highclere Castle. Stations one through six were in woodland and seven through fifteen were overlooking miles and miles of open downland. With such a spectacular panoramic view, the distances of battues, teal and standard crossers were difficult to judge, for most, with no reference points. Rain, drizzle and dull conditions on the third and fourth day of this six day competition made it even more difficult to build good scores on this exposed part of the course. As a result, Eley Red shot some 7-8 targets tougher than Eley Blue. Richard Faulds, who shot in perfect conditions on the first day, recorded the highest Red course score of 88. It was tough – very tough!

Eley Blue was far less exposed, offering a wide variety of targets including tower shots, high hanging crows over the tree line, driven targets, battues, chandelles and a tricky combination under the shooting position from a raised platform. Eley Blue mirrored Eley Red in that most of the straightforward targets were never straightforward! There



STATIONS ONE THROUGH SIX WERE IN WOODLAND AND SEVEN THROUGH FIFTEEN WERE OVERLOOKING MILES AND MILES OF OPEN DOWNLAND...



L to R: HOA Richard Faulds and RU Ben Husthwaite.



were plenty of angles, curves and speed variations – set to ensure the shooter had to stay focused and alert to the tricks of the target setter. Faulds had posted a 90 on Eley Blue on day one, but in perfect weather on the sixth day Phil Smith (UK) recorded a superb 93 – sadly his 74 on Eley Red saw him drop to 4th= overall with 167/200.

After six days, Faulds had still not been toppled from his leading position – over a hundred top names in Master class such as George Digweed, Arnie Palmer, John Dunne, Will Fennell, Steve Nutbeam, Kevin Mayor, Doug Vine, Carl Bloxham, AJ Smith, Gary Phillips and Cory Kruse came and left making no impression on the first day score of Faulds. Only

SPORTING CLASSIC

HOA	RICHARD FAULDS	178
RU	BEN HUSTHWAITE	175
M1	SHAUN STACEY	174
M2	ARNIE PALMER	169
M3	PAUL SIMPSON	169
AA1	CHRIS BROOMFIELD	164
AA2	PETER JARVIS	162
AA3	MARKUS LARSSON	161
A1	HANNES KUUSMIK	165
A2	DAVID IZZARD	163
A3	OWEN JONES	157
B1	PAUL WILSON	144
B2	BRIAN JONES	142
B3	ANDY BENNETT	141
C1	JASON ALLAWAY	143
C2	LEE MARSHALL	139
C3	IRWIN ADAIR	135
D1	GARETH BUTLER	117
D2	CHRISTOPHER GEAL	111
D3	MALCOLM WOODS	110
L1	KATE BROWN	153
L2	CHERYL HALL	134
L3	GEORGIE JONES	133
J1	MICHAEL SIMPSON	156
J2	ED SOLOMONS	152
J3	MARK WINSER	150
SJ1	BRETT WINSTANLEY	142
SJ2	SAM GREEN	136
SJ3	CHRIS PAPWORTH	132
V1	COLIN SAICH	160
V2	JOHN DYSON	158
V3	RAY EFFAMY	154
SV1	BRIAN HODGES	147
SV2	PATRICK HOWE	143
SV3	MICHAEL EVANS	128



Ben Husthwaite put up a strong challenge, coming up three targets light at 175/200. Full results are shown in the results panel.

SIX LAYOUTS

The Krieghoff Parcours de Chasse Classic was shot on Friday and Saturday over six layouts – Hull, K80, Fox Lodge, The Meadows, Promatic and Clay Shooting. The variety of the layouts was spectacular – in woodland, open fields and across parkland. Several of the layouts had a unique peg. K80 and The Meadows had 30ft high shooting position platforms, Fox Lodge peg 3 was in a chalk pit that featured a gravity rabbit, while other shooting positions were right under the Castle or high up on the downland with the Castle as the backdrop.

Difficult, tough, unrelenting, tricky, fast and awkward pairs were comments often used to describe the layouts. And when Richard

FOX LODGE PEG 3 WAS IN A CHALK PIT THAT FEATURED A GRAVITY RABBIT, WHILE OTHER SHOOTING POSITIONS WERE RIGHT UNDER THE CASTLE...



Krieghoff Classic layouts were each very different – using woodland, open pasture and parkland.

Left: A tricky gravity rabbit along the bank on Fox Lodge layout raised a smile or two. Below: Other layouts were shot just under the castle.



Faulds came back with 18/25 off his first layout, many an eyebrow was raised – especially as he was in such good form having shot 100 straight on his first four layouts at the recent European FITASC Championship in Cyprus. “Not concentrating” was his comment. He followed up with 24 and 20 to finish day one on 62, three targets behind George Digweed.

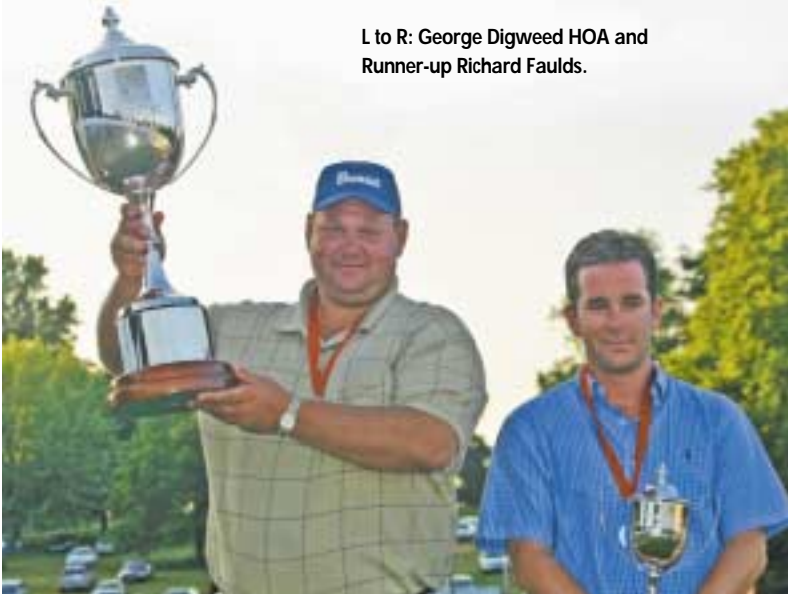
Expecting that his Main Event score would not be beaten while he was shooting the Krieghoff Classic, Faulds set about ripping up his last three Parcours de Chasse layouts in an attempt to clinch the double – 23, 23, 25 put him right up there with 133/150.

FITASC

HOA	GEORGE DIGWEED	130+19=149
RU	RICHARD FAULDS	133+13=146
A1	BEN HUSTHWAITE	124+21=145
A2	MARK MARSHALL	123+16=139
A3	MARTIN MYERS	125+12=137
B1	DAVE POWELL	122
B2	KEVIN MAYOR	120
B3	PHILIP THORROLD	118
C1	BRETT WINSTANLEY	114
C2	STEVE CLARK	112
C3	ROSS STRAKER	111
D1	BILL TATNALL	104
D2	ALEXANDER LEBEDEV	98
D3	KEVIN LOCKTON	97
L1	KATE BROWN	106
L2	INNA ALEKSANDROV	96
L3	GEORGIE JONES	95
J1	BASTIEN HAVART	116
J2	MICHAEL SIMPSON	111
J3	SAM MEPHAM	110
SJ1	BRETT WINSTANLEY	114
SJ2	PHIL GRAY	96
SJ3	CHRIS PAPWORTH	94
V1	DAVE POWELL	122
V2	BARRY SIMPSON	116
V3	JOHN BIDWELL	115
SV1	PATRICK HOWE	108
SV2	TONY BALL	97
SV3	DAVID PAYNE	96



Highclere Castle and its parkland was the most fabulous backdrop to the Parcours de Chasse layouts.



L to R: George Digweed HOA and Runner-up Richard Faulds.

(16/25), Richard Faulds (13/25) and Martin Myers (12/25). Faulds had come under heavy pressure to do the double and Digweed saw his advantage – no one is more competitive than GD when he comes from behind with an audience! To gain six targets over Faulds in the Super Final was a truly magnificent performance. Faulds took Runner-up, followed home by Husthwaite. (Full results in the results panel).

PARTY NIGHT

With over 300 competitors shooting the Main Event on Friday, and 386 competitors having completed their first day of Parours de Chasse, now was the time to party – and over 600 stayed to celebrate this Festival of Shooting.

A marching military band kicked off the proceedings at about 5.30pm culminating in ‘Sunset’ and the lowering of the national flags. Then it was over to the Clay Snooker for a Pro/Celeb event that raised \$12,000 for a children’s charity in just 30 minutes. The Pros included George Digweed, John Bidwell,

After two days of tough competition, Faulds headed the scoreboard followed by Digweed (130), Martin Myers (125), Ben Husthwaite (124), Mark Marshall (123) and Steve Brightwell (122).

Now it was time for the 25

target old system Super Final. Watched by hundreds, this was a shooting display of the highest order. Ben Husthwaite shot a superb 21/25 moving up the leader board. Digweed finished on 19/25 followed by Mark Marshall



Below: The Parours de Chasse Super Final was shot over 25 targets old system, with the second peg shot from this elevated platform.



Friday evening included a marching band, Pro-Celeb shoot and Pig Roast dinner for 600.



Kate Brown, Eric Manshoven, Ben Husthwaite and Will Fenell. Shooting with TV celebrities, actors and sports personalities it was the high spot of the evening – Digweed and Bernard Cribbins (the voice of the Wombles) took top spot.



Topline sponsor Vladimir Lisin.

Then it was party time – a two course pig roast dinner and bar saw the last competitors leaving the ground at about 10.30pm. Not too late – especially as the final day of competition was looming!

TRUE FESTIVAL

The first leg of the Triple Classic was spectacular! From the luxurious shoot headquarters and tentage for 40 vendors through to the logistics and transport to the various layouts, the administration was faultless. For six days shooting started promptly at

9am and was finished by 5.15 pm with scores on the internet that evening. Catering – provided by the Castle catering staff – was top draw, the venue was unique and the atmosphere was a true reflection of a Festival.

The credit for such an event lies heavily with the sponsors. Promatic, Krieghoff, Eley, Beechwood Equipment, Essex Gun, Green Leopard and Hull were particularly generous – though the top line sponsorship of Mr Vladimir

Lisin of Fox Lodge, Russia, guaranteed that no expense was spared to ensure this was the first of many high profile international sporting clays events. Without that support, it just would not have happened.

Attention now turns to the second leg at Fox Lodge in Russia (October 2005) and the third leg at The Meadows (March 2006). Full details and results for the first leg of the Triple Classic are on the internet at www.tripleclassicsporting.com. ■

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