

# Collect No Punches

In our last issue I announced our 'Classic 2003' – a \$50,000 prize fund Sporting Championship, organized and promoted by ClayShootingUSA, to be held at Westside Sporting Grounds, near Houston, Texas on Saturday 6th September through to Monday 8th September. The event includes a 100 target FITASC, 50 target 5-Stand and a 200 target Main Event.

*Why bother?* Quite simply, as 'new kids on the block' it will be our way, each year, of 'putting something back' into the sport – a chance to meet our readers and customers, support the growth of the sport and celebrate all that is good about Sporting Clays.

*What do we as publishers know about organizing Championship events?* Over the last eight years, our 'Clay Shooting' magazine in Europe has organized and sponsored 'Classics' in Norway, Belgium, Australia and the UK. Far and away the most successful is our UK 'Classic' series that over five days each year regularly attracts some 1,500 competitors. Having launched ClayShootingUSA last year, it is a natural development that the 'team of shooters' that now produce your 'favorite' Sporting title should now bring you an annual Championship with one of the largest sponsored cash prize funds on the circuit. The 'Classic 2003' will be a no-frills top Championship event with the emphasis on world class targets (we're bringing in three target setters from England) and an all-cash prize fund paying down to 10th place in each Class and 5th in Concurrents.



*So what's on the menu?* Work and planning at Westside has already started. Our target setters from the UK have already flown in to study the facilities and are confident of creating a challenging but enjoyable series of events. The 5-Stand will be over two 25 target layouts and the four layout FITASC (old system) will be over terrain not regularly shot at Westside. New stations and elevated shooting positions are being created for the Main Event that will see a strong mix of standard, mini, midi, battue and rabbit targets blended with distance, speed and angles to produce two quite different 100 target courses.

*Why no registered targets?* In planning the Classic 2003 we specifically chose the weekend prior to the Nationals and located it at Westside that is just a few hours drive from San Antonio. As a result, many will use the 'Classic'

as a warm-up event prior to moving on to the Nationals that start three days later. For this reason, and this reason alone, we opted to make the Classic 2003 an 'Open' event – so that no-one collects any punches prior to the Nationals!

The combination of ClayShootingUSA and now the 'Classic 2003' is our commitment to our readers. Whether you plan to be in San Antonio for the Nationals, or you're a Club shooter that has not yet attended a major Championship, I hope that you'll take the time to add your support to the Classic 2003 and make it the 'must-attend' event of the year. The Classic 2003 entry form can be found on page 107 of this issue or downloaded from our website [www.clayshootingusa.com](http://www.clayshootingusa.com)

The team here at ClayShootingUSA – and myself – very much look forward to welcoming you to Westside in September!

**WHY, YOU MIGHT ASK,  
WOULD A PUBLISHER WANT  
TO ADD TO AN ALREADY  
BUSY SHOOT CALENDAR BY  
LAUNCHING A NEW  
SPORTING CLAYS  
CHAMPIONSHIP?**

**MICHAEL BRUNTON  
PUBLISHER**