

Every now and then a big tournament comes along that really knocks my socks off. The Rose Hill events, the Caribbean Cup and now the 2004 Browning Briley World Open! In fact, it was so well run and the targets so good that it might be easier to tell you what may have been wrong with the shoot rather than list all that was right with it – but I'll try!

Let's start at the beginning. Just driving in through the front gate of American Shooting Centers' huge grounds was made easy by the many large signs directing the visitor to the varied areas and events. We followed the signs pointing to registration and were delighted to see how efficiently things were set up and ready for all comers. Our 'Shooters Package' contained a map of the grounds, dinner ticket and cart ticket, some discount coupons for a couple of the local restaurants and a beautiful clam shell metal case containing a silver metal pen, a matching small silver metal flashlight and a silver metal tire gauge. Very nice!

After collecting our gear, we were off to shoot the Pre-lim, and again, the signs were everywhere – pointing to our proper course and station number sequence. Right off the bat the Pre-lim targets were pure David Peckham – and we



LEFT: DAVID PECKHAM, SUPPLIER OF THE 'CHEERS AND TEARS' WITH HIS TARGET PRESENTATIONS. ABOVE: BROWNING BRILEY WORLD OPEN CHAMPION BOBBY FOWLER JR.

ABOUT AS GOOD AS IT GETS!

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM THE

BROWNING BRILEY WORLD OPEN



found out early on that you'd better have brought your game with you because you were definitely gonna need it! The Pre-lim gave everyone fair warning that the targets would be of 'World Class' championship type, and those who were weak of wrist and faint of heart would find no sympathy. Although a couple of birds easier than the Main Event, they were certainly entertaining and well thought out and previewed what was in store for us.

The Main Event targets were such that when you completed a station, you looked forward to the next – to see just what devious mischief Mr. Peckham had in store for you. The two courses were color coordinated Blue and Red and were well marked with the stands painted blue or red with big numbers about a foot tall on the top of each station. All but the color-blind could easily find their starting place.

Now I'm sure there will be some who thought that the targets were a bit too tough, but I'll be darned if I could find someone at the shoot that complained! Just about everyone I spoke to said they truly enjoyed the challenging array of targets, and even though some said they did not do well, they still enjoyed shooting them. They were typical Peckham targets with a good mix of fast and slow crossers, long battues and rabbits, crows (those long hanging incomers) and all sorts of angles to further confound and confuse! However, they were all clearly visible without excessively short windows and gave the shooter more than enough time to make the shot. Yes, there were some very long shots – some pushing 55 and 60 yards and beyond! This is definitely long in comparison to much of what is shot on most American sporting courses today – there seem to be few grounds willing to throw

targets much outside 35 or 40 yards.

Very few problems were experienced over the entire event that included a side-by-side event, a 5-stand competition, a sub-gauge course, FITASC and Main Event. If there were any complaints, it was limited to just a couple. One would be the price of the practice 5-stand targets. Many shooters thought the \$10 price tag for 20 true pair targets was a bit over the top and demonstrated so by not using the opportunity to practice. The other would have to be the B and C target on Parcour 3 of the FITASC and the chandelle rabbit target on Parcour 4. The B target was a screaming trap shot from a machine set 56 yards away, (measured by someone with a range finder) that threw a fast going away standard that angled right slightly on its flight to the next zip code! You could probably count the number of times that target was hit on both hands. The C target on the same layout was a long incoming battue that never flew or landed in the same place twice. It often never opened to give you a shot and flew edge on straight into the ground just in front of, or often just behind, a tree. The chandelle rabbit on Parcour 4 was said to measure 74 yards from the peg! Some never hit it and others never missed – go figure. These, my friends, were the extent of the problems of the entire event! When compared against all the good things we experienced, they were hardly noticeable.

Usually, about half the entries at a shoot like this don't bother with the Saturday night banquet. More's the pity if you missed this dinner! Giant shrimp, some about six inches long (and thick as two fingers) complimented the large portion of Alaskan King Crab served with drawn butter, potatoes, corn on the cob and salad, with cheese cake for dessert. And if that wasn't

enough, free drinks! It was truly a delicious treat and one not seen anywhere else but at the Browning Briley World Open.

AND NOW, THE SCORES

I'll start with the Pre-lim and continue through the FITASC and the Main Event. The other events standings such as the 5-stand, side-by-side and sub-gauge are available on line at Lois Lessing's web site, www.wyshotgun.com. This year's awards were beautiful silver loving cups and plates which anyone would be proud to display in their trophy case. A full custom stock job was given away in a drawing by Bob's Custom Stocks and the beautiful and very lucky Cindy Barton, host of the www.shooterspagetx.com web site won this prize worth \$2500!

Our own Ben Brunton produced a fine winning score of 95 on the Pre-lim for HOA, with Dan Carlisle and Anthony Matarese, both at 94, for Master one and two followed by Bobby Fowler Jr. in third spot at 93 (tied up with Brandon Powell and Cory Kruse). AA winner Gary Weitzel (88) was followed in second place by Dave Wolf (81) and Arnie Little (79) was in third spot. A class first was David Golder (80) with Michael Taylor second (77) and Marvin Mire third (76). Don Johnson topped B class (75) and Willy Cherry took second (73), one up on Albert Lew (72). Eric Blankenship topped C class with 73, followed in second by Robert Gereety (72). Third place went to Brent Courrege (69). D class Champion tied at 72 was Ricky McGuffie, with Bruce Winder second and Don Stallings third (66). E class winner was David Radulovich (61). Second place went to Graham Perry (55) and third spot was filled by Jim Maxey (51).

In the Concurrents, Texas Veteran Curtis Anderson took HOA Vet with (89) followed by



LEFT: BEN BRUNTON, PRE-LIM HOA, MAIN EVENT M2 AND FITASC M1.

Vance Barnes (87) and Ron Honefenger (86). In the Junior Concurrent, (affectionately known as the Monster Talent Class!) Brandon Powell took the Champion's spot with a fine 93, with Connor Oman second (86) one up on Anthony Graham (85). Sub Junior was won by Hunter Epperson with a fine 76, with William Henderson second (73) and Joseph Rogers third (72). Super Veteran Champion and a legend in shotgunning was Bob Brister, in at 78, with Marvin Mire second (76) in a tie with Cesar Athie in third place. Last, but not least, the Ladies winner was Janet Tausch with a fine 78, followed by a tie at 72 with Anna Maria Collins second and Cindy Barton third.

FITASC THRILLER

The FITASC event, set by the staff at ASC was good, with some interesting presentations. Parcour 3 was the most difficult layout and judging by the scores, Parcour 2, the easiest – there were four 25 straights. The four Parcours were in the old style format with many targets 'out there'. They were all very visible, in the sky over the trees, removing the problem of seeing them at different times of the day. Without doubt, one of the hardest FITASC events I've shot in a long time!

The HOA award in FITASC went to Scott Robertson with an outstanding score of 87. Master

one through three (85-85-83) went to Ben Brunton, Tom Mack and Jamie McGehee respectively. AA first through third at 73-68-66 went to Nolan Williamson, Sean McLelland and Mark Faggard. A class Champion at 69 was Paul Shepardson, followed by the tie at 67 of Harry Wiley and Jere Kingsbury, second and third. B class winner was Lynn Miller (70), with Bryan Bracht second (67) and John Freud third (65). C class one through three (59-59-57) went to Mike Grand Jean, Randy Wright and Lamar Ward. D class winner was John Walters at 62 with Joseph Reiser second (54) and in third, Ben Noble (52). E class winner was Graham Perry (57), followed by Danny Meyers (50) and Robert Higgins (46).

Brandon Powell, another 'power shooter', took Juniors HOA with a fine score of 82. Connor Oman was Runner-up at 78 followed by Cory Kruse (76). Veteran Champion Mark Kiddie was in with 74, with Runner-up going to Ron Honefenger at 71 and Brian Brewton third (71). Super Veteran top honors went to Gus McFaddin (70) followed by W. Ray Newman (68) and Bill Ray third (63). Linda Joy was Lady Champion with a fine 74. Anna Maria Collins was second (65) and Paula Moore took third place (57).



BRANDON POWELL, JUNIOR CHAMPION BOTH MAIN EVENT AND FITASC.



FITASC CHAMPION SCOTT ROBERTSON.



SUPER VETERAN FITASC WINNER, MARK KIDDIE.

THE MAIN EVENT!

Bobby Fowler Jr. is the 2004 Browning Briley Champion. His brilliant performance of 91 on the Red course and 90 on the Blue for a 181 total was truly outstanding and we offer our congratulations on a fine performance. Bobby was the only shooter to score in the 90s on both courses, the only shooter to shoot 90 on the Blue course, and was one of only four scores above ninety on the Red course! Rick Camuglia took Runner-up honors with a combined 89-87=176 – another excellent performance.

Master one through three were tied at 173 by Nadim Nasir, Ben Brunton and Craig Hill. Master fourth went to Jon Kruger, tied at 172 with fifth place Cory Kruse. In AA class, Gary Weitzel took first spot (166) with Aaron Daab second (159), David Bragg third (156), Foster Blair fourth (154) while fifth place went to John Digiglia (149). A class first was David Whiley (156) followed by Troy Behrens (149), with third place going to Lalen Parks (148). Jordan Reach

(145) was fourth and Jere Kingsbury fifth (141). B class top gun was Jim Rowell (146) followed by Lynn Miller (144). Third place went to Guy Fish (141), with fourth to Donny Lee (139) and fifth to Jennifer Walton (136). C class was tough with Eric Blankenship taking home first place (143) followed by Robert Gereety (141) and Brent Courrege (140). Heath May was fourth (133) and Dan Fox fifth (124). D class found Don Stallings in first place (124) with Bruce Winder second (123). Roger Kolas was third (118) with Debbie Stafford fourth (116) and J.P. Connolly fifth (116). E class was topped by Rusty Bivin (117) with Dwight Lumpkins (116) in second place. Third spot was taken by Danny Meyers (112) with Graham Perry fourth (108) and David Radulovich (106) fifth.

Concurrent winners were as follows: Brandon Powell was on top again in the Juniors with a fine 171. Connor Oman was the Runner-up (160), Aaron Daab third (159), Matt Treece fourth (158) and Brian Murray fifth (156).

Sub Junior Champion at 149 was Joey Bolton. Runner-up was Hunter Epperson (140), William Henderson (124) took third with Dustin Butler (124) fourth and Trey Breaux fifth (123).

Veterans was topped by Gonzalo 'Doc' Vargas (156), Steve Fischer second (156), John Johnson (155) third with Vance Barnes at 155 for fourth and John Meitzen fifth at 152.

Local Super Veteran Bob Brister won his Concurrent class with 149. Runner-up was John



LINDA JOY – LADIES MAIN EVENT AND FITASC WINNER.



BOB BRISTER (L) AND JOHN DIGIGLIA, MAIN EVENT SUPER VETERAN WINNER AND RU.



JOEY BOLTON, MAIN EVENT SUB-JUNIOR CHAMPION.

Digiglia (149), third Cesar Athie (144), fourth W. Ray Newman (143) and Bill Ray fifth (141). Finally, the Ladies Concurrent. On top form again was Linda Joy at 142, Janet Tausch was the Runner-up (142), with DeeAnn Massey third (140). Fourth went to Jennifer Watton (136) and Cathy Wright was fifth (135).

Now, as I write the report almost a week later, I can still see some of Peckham's targets flying (mostly unscathed) in my mind's eye – and hope that I picked up a few lessons on his 'trickery and deception' – particularly as I will again be facing his targets later this year at the World English! For those who missed the Browning Briley World Open this year, I would suggest you give it a try next year as it has truly developed into one of the best events on the sporting circuit. If you do attend next year, expect championship targets, excellent scoring and smooth operation – and all the Texas hospitality you can stand! ■