

# Gun set-up is critical to maximizing your potential

*THE 3RD LEG OF THE 2005/6 TRIPLE CLASSIC WAS HELD AT THE MEADOWS NATIONAL GUN CLUB IN MARCH. I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE 810 COMPETITORS THAT SHOT THE MAIN EVENT LATER QUESTIONED IF THEY HAD THE RIGHT GUN SET-UP FOR THE JOB!*

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The Main Event at The Meadows was shot over two 100 target courses. Dogwood was among the pines and woodland either side of the entrance to the ground and had a distinct American feel. Azalea covered open ground and woodland with targets high in the air, below the shooting position and over water – and as a result shot 6-7 targets harder than Dogwood.

For those in the lower classes that would have liked to have shot better scores, here's an interesting question. Is your current level of performance achieved because of your gun or in spite of your gun?

I ask because having watched so many competitors on the more difficult Azalea course, it became clear that most of the lower and mid classes had reached a proficient level but found it hard to move up to top championship level. When targets are set outside your comfort zone, flaws in technique quickly become apparent. Top target setters will always punish poor technique because instinctive hand-eye co-ordination can only get you out of trouble so often. Such faults in technique are easily rectified by coaching – but how many of us are truly committed to wanting to improve?

Perhaps of more concern was the number of competitors, again, particularly in the lower classes, that had sound fundamentals but were being held back by their choice of gun set-up.

Everyone knows that a good gun fit is essential to maximize performance. A significant number of competitors that struggled, particularly on Azalea, would do well to seek minor alteration to their stock to unlock their full potential. The most common problem I saw was shooters with guns that were too low in the comb, forcing them to lift their head for targets high in the air or below their feet.



Even a gun that fits perfectly may not be the right choice for an individual. A light and fast handling gun in the hands of someone with an aggressive style is a nightmare – a 'heavier' gun would be more appropriate. Conversely a 'lighter' gun will suit a more deliberate style.

With the ever-growing choice of guns available for sporting clays there is every opportunity to ensure you have the right gun to take you to the next level of proficiency. Weight, balance, barrel length, grip, trigger pulls and choice of bead all have a part to play in the correct choice of a sporter that specifically suits you.

If improving your game is a top

priority, then elsewhere in this issue you will find plenty of help. Steve Fischer completes the second part of his article 'Sporting's Toughest Targets' by giving tips on shooting chandelles and crossers. There's plenty of technical reading when it comes to ballistics, with Tim Woodhouse discussing why some 1 ounce loads pattern more tightly than others with the same degree of choke. Richard Rawlingson has been to Germany to visit Blaser and see the production facilities for the F3 and Tom Ceretto reviews the Caesar Guerini Maxum. Add in to the mix a selection of reports from Big Blasts and it's another great issue. Enjoy. ■