

Model of Consistency

NO NATION LOVES A HERO MORE THAN AMERICA. AND NO HERO COMES BIGGER THAN LANCE ARMSTRONG – THE CYCLIST WHO RECENTLY SECURED A RECORD-BREAKING SEVENTH SUCCESSIVE VICTORY IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE, THE MOST GRUELLING OF HUMAN ENDURANCE TESTS.

In such a sports-fixated nation, cycling has only ever been a marginal sport – a little like clay target sports. Even so, it would take the heart of a cynic not to be moved or impressed by Armstrong's latest victory. Nine years ago he was diagnosed with cancer that had spread to his lungs, abdomen and brain – with doctors giving him a 40 per cent chance of survival.

For those readers not familiar with the Tour de France, it is a race, over a period of ten days, covering 2,150 miles around France. It's stages can vary from a seven hour sprint to a brutal 125 mile mountain climb. To win such an event is testament to Armstrong's determination – to

have won it the last seven consecutive years he has overcome insurmountable odds!

So what has Armstrong's achievements got to do with sporting clays? Nothing – other than a 'masterclass' in determination, focus and consistency.

Elsewhere in this issue we report on the recent World FITASC Championship and yet again the familiar names of previous champions top the leaderboard. As in the case of Armstrong, determination and total focus keep these same names at the top of our sport year in and year out – they are models of consistency.

Perhaps it is no coincidence then that Lanny Bassham's column this month emphasises the need for consistency. "Shooting is simple" he says. "It's a two step process. Step one is to learn the best way to break a particular target. Step two is to duplicate step one!" In other words, consistency – if only it were that easy, but for winners it is!

SHOOT REPORTS

It's been a busy summer with Big Blasts, Zone and State shoots and our team of correspondents have been out and about covering the action – sporting, FITASC and Hélice – much of which is reported in this issue. In addition, there's plenty of technical reading to catch



up on – including a gun test on the new 12g Condor, a discussion on one ounce shot strings and ways to optimize patterns – all should be helpful for those seeking consistency.

ENTER NOW

For many, the 'Nationals' this month is the culmination of the shooting year – and for some it marks the end of the competition year and thoughts now turn to 2006. The publication of this issue signals the start of the marketing campaign for the 3rd leg of the Triple Classic World Series that is to be held at The Meadows

National Gun Club March 9-12th next year.

This four day 'Festival of Shooting' includes the Peter Crabtree Memorial 200 Main Event and the 150 target Krieghoff Parcours de Chasse Classic, in addition to side events and games. Both are registered events and are open to all – including those competitors that have not shot the events in the UK and Russia. With perhaps the biggest purse on offer in 2006, we anticipate that the Triple Classic will be heavily subscribed – including the very best competitors from Europe – so don't delay, book in today (www.tripleclassicsporting.com).