

All about gunfit



Tim Greenwood has almost 30 years' gunsmithing experience and is relied on by many of the top names in clay shooting

Tim Greenwood shares his latest gunsmithing exploits and more

As well as my usual repairs and renovations, two things happened this month that I would never have dreamt of six months ago!

First of all I volunteered to become Chairman of the Kent CPSA, and was then duly elected by the Kent members. I still can't work out who is more mad; me for volunteering or the members for electing me, although I was the only one who did volunteer. You may ask, "what led a seemingly sane gunsmith to stick his hand up that evening to volunteer for a thankless position without pay and making himself the target for dissatisfied Kent members to moan at if there is a problem?"

Well three reasons have come to the surface from my poor addled brain: One, the others also elected to the committee, otherwise known as "targets in the shooting gallery", are an amazing bunch of people. In the few weeks we have been together as a team, they have organised and run county team selection shoots, completely updated the Kent CPSA website, and pretty well organised this year's events.

Secondly, like most of us, I have been guilty of moaning about this and that

with regards to the CPSA. I do forget, especially when things go wrong, that all CPSA committee members up to and including the regional boards are volunteers giving their time for free in an effort to promote our sport. At least now I feel that I may have more right to moan in the future!

Finally, as chairman, I get an opportunity to question certain policies of the main CPSA board which I and other members of the Kent committee may have issue with. It will be interesting to see if a lowly county committee can influence the whole of our ruling body to the benefit of the grass root shooter.

The second thing that occurred this month was a trip down memory lane to the Kingsferry Gun Club on the Isle of Sheppey. Many years ago, I first pulled the trigger of a shotgun at that ground with my first boss in the gun trade, Don Gray, and from then on was completely hooked on clay shooting. Working for Don was the start of my career as a gunsmith some 33 years ago.

I hadn't visited Kingsferry for nearly 26 years so it was quite a surprise when Alan, Dave and Norman from the ground all remembered me. What I re-discovered in that day was how much fun shooting can be when you are with the right people. The weather was warm, the targets were spot on and the company was superb (to say nothing of a great bacon and egg sandwich). I enjoyed the whole day so much that I am even putting myself together a gun to shoot Skeet with again (see next month for this project), and I hope that Alan, Dave and Norman will put up with me becoming a regular shooter at their ground.

While at the ground that day it became so apparent how differently everyone stands and addresses their targets. Everyone seems to stand completely different to each other, yet every one of these shooters are top notch competitors. Skeet can be quite forgiving to extreme styles, as you know where the target is coming from and to, its speed and where it will be in the centre, but extreme styles cannot always be repeated from target to target, especially by the novice. Whatever discipline you shoot, keep it simple. Stand in a way you can repeat without effort over and over again; a consistent style leads to consistently high scores! All of the shooter's I saw have the ability to repeat their stance for every target. That is why they are all very competent and have achieved their 100 straight. ▶

Despite having different styles, everyone I saw at Kingsferry are competent 100-straight shooters

The Gunsmith



Adjustment that can be achieved by fitting an adjustable comb and a Jones Adjuster heal plate



The grip shaped for a R/H shooter, custom grade re-chequered then enhanced and re-finished

What can Tim Greenwood do for you and your gun?

Tim offers a full gunfitting service and free help and advice. He can do anything required to your stock, barrels or action. He specialises in wooden stock extensions matched to your existing stock.

Tim will also make any specialist parts as required and offers full servicing and maintenance services. Visit the website: www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk or ask Tim's advice by emailing asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk

This month I have been working on an old customer's Perazzi MX8.

Mark, a Universal Trench shooter from "up north", had invested his hard earned wages in his gun, but had a problem with gaining consistent scores –sometimes he shot well, but on other days, for no reason he could surmise, not so well.

Mark is a relative newcomer to the sport, quite tall with a long neck and high cheekbones; unfortunately his shooting style has been hindered by a poorly-fitting stock and his right hand being forced into the wrong position by a badly-fitting grip.

Most of you who regularly read my column know that I first approach this fitting problem by using my "Blue Peter" method – lowering the pad and then taping it in place and raising the comb by adding bits of leather or PVC. The customer then goes away to try these alterations.

Once I am sure the changes are beneficial, more permanent alterations can be made, either by adding wood or, in Mark's case, fitting both an adjustable comb and a Jones Adjuster system, complete with a Kick-Eez pad.

The grip was altered to fit the size and

shape of Mark's hand – enabling him to grip it correctly. As you can see re-shaping the grip, re-chequering, and then oiling changes the whole look, and more importantly the feel and controllability of the gun. Having an adjustable comb and butt-plate fitted means that as Mark's style develops, the gun can be easily changed without expensive gunsmithing costs.

Mark's stance has already improved with these adjustments, with his head in line with his body and his cheek firmly on the gun. Because of this a good, upright, relaxed style may now be achieved consistently.

Mark can now achieve a good "head up" shooting position with minimum effort. Notice how his head is in line with the upper body.



Next month

Next month: it's time to practice what I preach and start putting together my skeet gun.