



GETTING TECHNICAL

By Tim Greenwood

GREENWOOD PROVES HIS STUFF

RESIDENT GUNSMITH TIM GREENWOOD TELLS US WHY HE'S FIT TO BE ON THE *CLAY SHOOTING* ASK THE EXPERTS PANEL

Clay Shooting magazine recently asked me to join its panel of experts as resident gunsmith in its Ask the Experts section.

I felt it was a great honour to be asked to join such a select band of individuals, most of whom are well known on the clay shooting circuit. Although I am quite well known locally for my work, most of you probably only know me as the author of my recent articles and, therefore, may be interested to know a little more about my life as a gunsmith to give you the confidence to trust me with your questions as an Expert.

Firstly, let me say I think I have one of the best jobs in the world! I work from home six days a week and then spend one day a week, usually Sundays, using the excellent facilities at Dartford Clay shooting ground; meeting people, helping with their gun fit and offering advice to help them

improve their shooting. I am the main gunsmith for both Chris Potter Country Sports Ltd and West Kent Shooting School, both of which are near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. I undertake restoration work for PD Malloch in Perth, Scotland and I am a consultant gunsmith/fitter for a number of coaches around the U.K.

As any of you who have seen my website will know, I undertake all gunsmithing work with the help of a local expert barrel maker and a superb local engraver. In picture one you can see the action of an F1 Browning Trap



PICTURE 1: 18CT GOLD BEING LAID INTO THE UNDERCUT ENGRAVING OF THIS BROWNING F1

gun having had its original amalgam filled engraving, which always falls out, undercut and re-set with 18ct gold. Picture two shows the action after polishing and re-blackening and picture three shows the finished gun in the hands of its proud owner Micky Winters. Re-blackening the barrels caused a major headache for the barrel maker as they had to be finished matt, not the high glossy shine he is used to producing, but being the clever chap he is, he managed to imitate the original finish to near perfection. I was responsible for the stock dimensions and finishing the woodwork, re-building and blackening the action and setting up the trigger. Between the three of us, there are not many jobs we can't do.

Sundays at Dartford are really good fun, especially when the England Skeet Club are holding a registered shoot, which is usually twice a month, led by

PICTURE 2: THE ACTION POLISHED AND RE-BLACKED, NOTICE THE SHARP LINES OF THE GOLD. THE HARDEST JOB FOR AN ENGRAVER IS GOOD, CRISP STRAIGHT LINES: A MISTAKE WOULD REALLY SHOW!





PICTURE 3: A PLEASED MICKY WINTERS WITH HIS GUN

Although working with top shooters, hopefully helping them stay at the top of their game, is rewarding work, working with the novice shooter is just as satisfying. Most novice shooters when they first come to me are really struggling with poor gun fit leading to an awkward style and/or stance.

Picture six shows Diana with her new Beretta 686 12b. She started shooting only a few months ago with an old Miroku Skeet gun, which was too light for her and was so low in the comb she could not see over the top lever if her head was properly mounted on the stock. Although her old gun could have been altered to fit, I suggested that this may be the time to change to a new gun with an adjustable comb which would be more reliable for competitions and require little gunsmithing to give a good basic



PICTURE 5: THE MARMITE GUN: LOVE IT OR HATE IT?

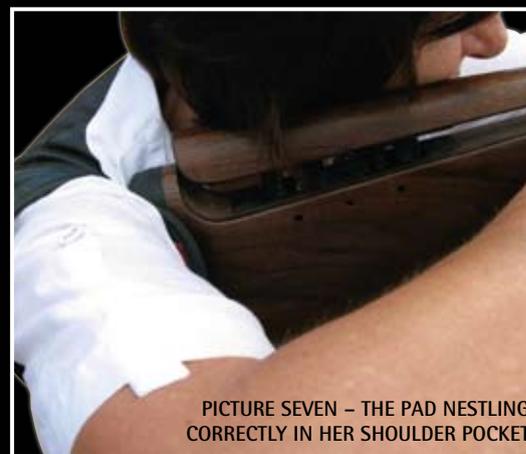
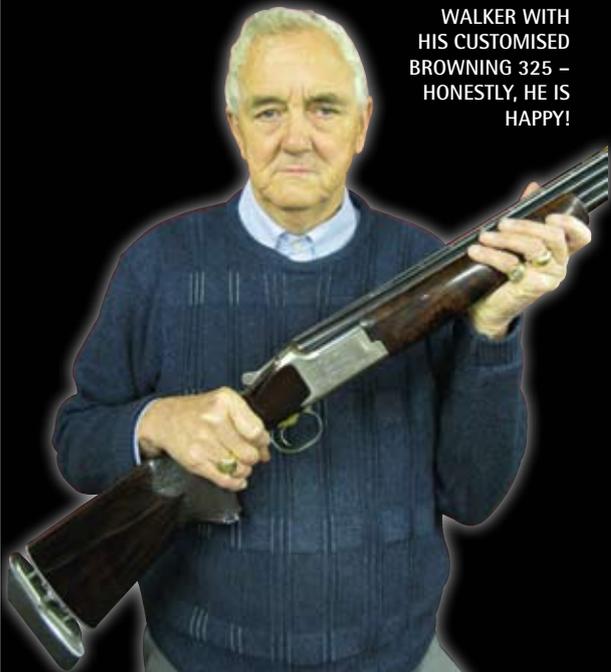
the indomitable Johnny Walker and his indispensable helpers. Johnny shoots a gun I helped put together many years ago and recently re-built and re-finished. As you can see in picture four, it takes a lot to put a smile on Johnny's face – not even holding his custom-grade Browning succeeded!

One of John's shooting partners, Steve Roberts, offered me the opportunity of custom grading his Krieghoff K80 with the words: "go ahead, do what you like and make it different!" To this day it is known as The Marmite Gun, as you can see in picture five you either love it or hate it.



PICTURE 6: DIANA WITH HER NEW BERETTA 686: A GOOD GUN FIT LEADING TO A GREAT STANCE

PICTURE 4: JOHNNY WALKER WITH HIS CUSTOMISED BROWNING 325 – HONESTLY, HE IS HAPPY!



PICTURE SEVEN – THE PAD NESTLING CORRECTLY IN HER SHOULDER POCKET



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fit. (Please note, I do not retail guns or accessories, I only gunsmith and advise.) All I had to do was shorten the stock and fit one of my customised Kickeeze pads to the correct pitch and as you can see it makes a great fit. Picture seven shows the pad just below the top of her shoulder nestling properly into the shoulder pocket.

Helen and her husband came to see me as she was struggling with the fit of her standard Beretta 686. Helen

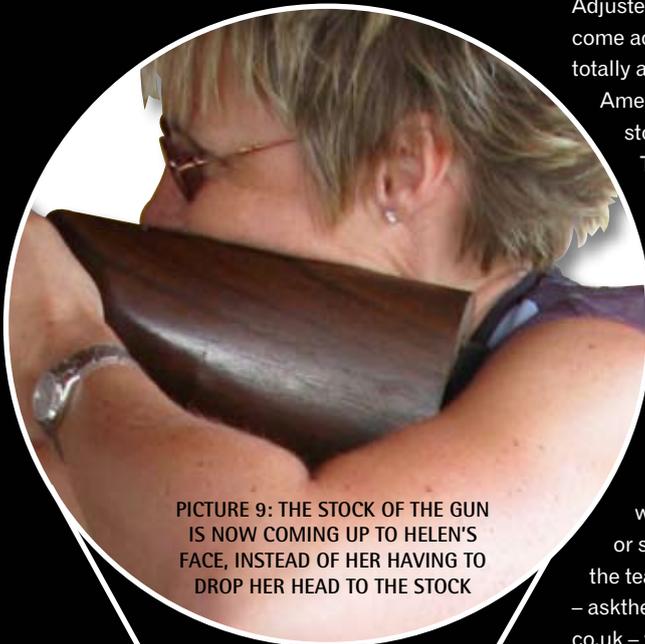
has quite a long neck so to make the gun fit properly it would require the use of a Jones adjuster system to bring the gun up to her face. In picture eight, to show them how far out the gun was, I took the pad off and stuck it temporarily back on with superglue to prove the point. In picture nine with this alteration, notice how good her head position is in relation to her body? It has totally transformed her stance. After shooting the gun for a while, I am currently fitting it with a Jones Adjuster. For those of you who have not come across these before, they are a totally adjustable plate imported from America, fitted to the butt of the stock, as shown in picture ten.

The beauty of this system is that it's a quality item and can be adjusted without removing the pad – very useful for setting it up for both summer and winter clothing and as the novice shooter's style develops.

Over the next few months, if you would like to email me via my website at www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk or send your questions directly to the team at *Clay Shooting Magazine* – asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk – with any problems or questions, I will do my best to help and advise you either as part of an article or, of course, in the Ask the Experts pages. We all look forward to hearing from you.



PICTURE 8: A QUICK FIX AT THE GUN CLUB TO SHOW HOW FAR OUT THE ORIGINAL FIT WAS



PICTURE 9: THE STOCK OF THE GUN IS NOW COMING UP TO HELEN'S FACE, INSTEAD OF HER HAVING TO DROP HER HEAD TO THE STOCK



PICTURE 10: A JONES ADJUSTER FITTED TO A BROWNING ULTRA, SET FOR A TALL, LEFT HAND SHOOTER

Tim Greenwood offers the following services:

- Full gun fitting service, free help and advice gained from working with some of the best shooters in the world.
- All stock work, including cast, bend, lengthening, shortening, repairs to broken and cracked stocks, re-finishing, re-chequering, re-heading.
- Specialises in wooden stock extensions matched to your existing stock.
- All barrel work, including choke alterations, re-black, re-brown, re-lay ribs, dent and bulge repairs, lapping to remove internal pits and marks.
- All action work, including servicing to O/U, box locks, side locks. Replacing of firing pins, mainsprings, top lever springs, tightening, full rejoining, and all ejector work.
- Specialist part making available if required.

Visit Tim's website at www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk

