

# TRIGGER HAPPY

**Tim Greenwood** explains why your gunsmith should be your first port of call for trigger pull issues

I have known for some time how widely *Clay Shooting* magazine is read as we frequently receive messages via our website ([www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk](http://www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk)) and Facebook (Greenwood Gunsmiths) from all over the world asking for advice and help with different problems regarding guns and gun fit. Along with a visit from an Australian reader (more on that later), I also received several emails from down under this month, one on the subject of trigger freeze.

Gary, the author of the email, suggested that trigger freeze can be caused by poor trigger pulls as well as poor hand positioning. He is quite correct, but I would always eliminate the hand grip problems first. A poor hand grip with too much finger around the trigger and the hand riding the top of the grip – as in **picture (1)** – instead of the hand correctly set back in the grip along the axis of the gun with only the tip of the trigger finger on the trigger, as in **picture (2)**, is cheaper to correct than having the trigger pull corrected, unless of course the hand position is caused by too large hands and a small grip.

You may remember Steve Williams, who came to visit us early in 2016. After shooting various guns he had decided to go back to his old faithful Miroku, which he had only abandoned due to trigger pull problems. His issues were twofold: a poor trigger pull and his hand in the wrong position on the grip owing to the grip being small.

We made some rather drastic alterations to the gun, as you can see in **picture (3)**, extending and deepening the grip, allowing his hand to naturally grip the gun while pointing along the axis, ensuring the best position for a consistent trigger pull, as seen in **picture (4)**. We also built a Monte Carlo into the stock to create a more head up, consistent mount. Easing the poundage of the pulls and removing a considerable amount of take up also helped (Gary, our Australian emailer, is definitely right).

Steve went on to make the British FITASC team last year. He finally brought the Miroku





back to us a few weeks ago for finishing as he had decided he wanted to play with another make of gun. Not surprisingly, after only a short period of time he was chasing us to get his old Miroku back as the new gun was not "cutting the mustard". You should have seen his face when he arrived and was presented with his old gun finally finished, **picture (5)**. I think you will agree it looks much better without the packing and insulation tape.

Adjusting trigger pulls is not a job for the amateur gunsmith – even professionals can get it wrong – and replacing badly adjusted parts can get expensive. Perazzi MX8

shotguns have the finest factory-finished trigger pulls. As you can see in this SCO trigger unit, **picture (6)**, they are simple but very robust and can be set down to as little as a 2lb first pull and 3lb second pull with literally no take-up. The Beretta DT10, **picture (7)**, is just as good, with only one caveat: the mainsprings are an absolute pain to replace, so you really do need to carry a spare unit with you if you are a serious competition shooter.

Many of us, like Steve, shoot a model of Browning or Miroku from Japan – **picture (8)** – one of the most reliable actions made.

Unfortunately, their simplicity can make it a bit of a nightmare to improve the pulls and the long take-ups that these triggers are renowned for. However, with a bit of work they can be improved with little or no play and pulls of 3lb-3.5lb, which most of us can cope with without any untoward problems.

Older Beretta 682, 686 and 687 models also have excellent pulls, although they are sometimes a trifle heavy. However, this is usually caused by a lack of maintenance by the owner. As you can see in **picture (9)**, you cannot expect this venerable 682 to perform at its best when the inside is as





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dry as a bone and filled with dirt and rust. If your breech is full of dirt or your breech face and ejectors look like **picture (10)**, it may be time to drop your gun in for a full service by a reputable gunsmith and get back the best trigger pulls your gun can offer.

Gary mentioned in his email that he has just bought a gun that has a hex-head adjuster to help take up free play in the trigger, but this will not adjust the poundage of the pulls, and if it is adjusted too tight it can affect the ability of the gun to reset for the second barrel.

My thanks to everyone who takes the time to email us from all over the world (and of course from all over the UK) and for continuing to read *Clay Shooting* magazine. ●



**A VISIT FROM OZ**

> As I mentioned earlier, not only did I get several emails from Australia, but also a visitor from down under by the name of Ron (**above, second from right**).

Ron has read our articles in *Clay Shooting* magazine for many years thanks to his standing order at his local retailer. He decided to treat himself to a trip to the UK and experience shooting over here, together with visiting us in person and passing on his thanks for all the advice we've offered over the years.

A keen clay shooter in Australia for over 40 years, Ron runs his own clay ground in Newcastle, just outside Sydney. After spending a few hours with us, we sent him down to have a look at West Midlands shooting ground.

Only 10 minutes away from us, West Midlands is a top clay ground, with some of the best presented targets available. We then arranged to meet him at the ground that we try to get to as frequently as possible on a Sunday - Millride, just off Junction 1 on the M54.

Ron got to meet Joe Kitson and his sons and grandson, and was subjected to the usual p\*\*s taking. Ron informed us at the end of the afternoon that so far "this has been the highlight of the trip - to have the mickey taken by the legendary Joe Kitson."

We all wish you a safe journey back home, Ron. We are looking forward to hopefully meeting more of your countrymen in the future.

