

The ESC Blue Ribbon Event The 2012 Grand Eastern Northampton - Sunday 15th April

A fantastic day was had by all the shooters that made the effort to attend this shoot. The ESC Grand Eastern with its added £ 1,000 prize money and exciting shoot-off format is one of a kind on the UK Skeet circuit.

The weather was half kind with a brisk breeze at the start that did affect the targets and with sunshine and blue skies as the day went on. The weather seemed never to know what it wanted to do and gave us sunshine, a light drizzle and even a quick burst of hail stones. This made shooting high scores a real challenge but all shooters did their best under the circumstances and shooting progressed without any complaints.

The shoot ran like a Swiss clock and never missed a beat and this was thanks to the hard work of the Ground Staff and Martine and Peter. Even the girls in the Kitchen did a great job keeping everyone supplied with tea and coffee. Many thanks to Northampton from ESC.

The shoot filled up quickly with 55 shooters and sadly had been planned for only one day – we the demand from shooters and could have comfortably filled two days. Hopefully next year we can revert to the two day format. The demand and the turnout was very positive and despite everything that has gone on within the ESC over the last few months, this proved that Skeet shooters want ESC to carry on putting bigger and better shoots and these will be supported.

As the scores started to come in from the ranges it was apparent to everyone how difficult it was out there. Some shooters mastered the difficult conditions and the best scores from the Skeet were 98's – excellent shooting in the conditions. So everyone eyes then turned to the hard part - the Skeet Doubles to see who could hold their nerve and get into the shoot offs to have that chance of winning the class prize monies and the overall ESC Grand Eastern Championship for 2012.

6 shooters from AA, 4 shooters from A, 3 shooters from B and only 2 shooters from C made the shoot-offs. So at the end of all the shooting and with all scores now in we had from (AA) . Class. M.Dore - A. Warren – N. Marsden – P. Tudge – C. Morris – S. Baughan - (A) Class J. Hirons – L.Buckland – A. Garcia – M. Pegg. (B) Class S. Burrow – R. Nutchy – K. Poulson (C) K. Marsden – L. Green and after a very well fought shoot off the winners of the sponsorship money in each Class were (AA) M. Dore 1st with P. Tudge 2nd & S. Baughan 3rd. and in (A) Class the winner was 1st J. Hirons and 2nd was L. Buckland with 3rd going to A. Garcia and (B) winners were R. Nutchy 1st with S. Burrow 2nd & K. Poulson 3rd and in (C) Class the winner was K. Marsden with L. Green coming 2nd shooting her first Grand Eastern. So all the Ladies held their own.

This year's overall winner, Joy Hirons was rather unexpected but a very popular one. Shooting her very first Grand Eastern, trained by our own Mickey Dore (the ton machine), Joy's name will now be added to a list of some very good top shooters from past years such as Martin Elworthy – John Bidwell – Sue Bramley and the winner of the last two years - Nick. Marsden.

A very BIG THANK YOU from the ESC Founder and Officers to all participants for the support you have shown the ESC. We will be carrying on with BIGGER & BETTER shoots this year and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.