

The A-Z

Sportrap

We turn this month to the newest of the official CPSA disciplines — Sportrap, a variation on the Sporting theme designed to pack the excitement of Sporting Clays into a limited space. Sportrap is essentially the same concept as other similar forms such as America's 5-Stand and FITASC's Compak Sporting. You will also come across the term Compact Sporting from time to time. The reason for so many different names for essentially the same idea is commercial — the organisations involved have attempted to protect their property with trademarks.

THE STARS



MARTIN PAPWORTH

Martin is the reigning British Open Champion having won the title at Somerley in May. The Hertfordshire based shooter has made something of a speciality of this type of 'short course' sporting event, having been the first ever winner of the White Gold Cup as far back as 1994. He won his title this year by coming through to edge out Richard Faulds and Richard King by one target with a score of 89.



RICHARD EFFAMY

The Sportrap discipline seems to suit those with FITASC experience and as an established GB Junior International, young Richard Effamy from Sussex falls neatly into that category. He took the British Open title this year with a score of 78, but only having survived a tense shoot off with Devon's Darren Moon.

BACKGROUND

For British shooters Sportrap is the only one that matters as far as registered shoots are concerned, with separate averages being produced each year. In the past few seasons numbers shooting the discipline have been boosted by the decision to run Sportrap championships alongside other major Sporting events.

Like all Sporting disciplines, Sportrap is very much what the course builder makes it. Although there are limitations imposed by the layout plan, it is still possible to make any course a challenge to stretch the very best. It could be considered to be a halfway stage between English and FITASC Sporting, with the use of single targets and simultaneous pairs. It places a premium on strategy and the ability to read targets, with no pair ever repeated.

As many grounds have found, particularly those primarily offering trap and skeet disciplines, Sportrap can be a useful addition to the menu, providing members with more variety and a new challenge. Time will tell if it is to have a long term future in the sport.

THE LAYOUT

Five cages are placed in a line, set at 3 metre centres, numbered 1-5 when looking at them from the rear. The cages measure 1200x1200 mm plus or minus 200mm. They must be designed so that they can only be entered from the rear, with a restraining bar at the front at a maximum height of 600mm. A board placed in front of the cage gives the shooter the menu of targets to be shot from that position.

Each layout must use at least four traps and a maximum of five. These can be placed in any position provided the location of the traps and the trajectory of the targets is safe for both competitors and spectators.

Designers may use the full range of standard and speciality clays (rabbits, battue, midi, etc) of any colour. The proportion of non-standard clays used should not exceed 30% of the total targets.

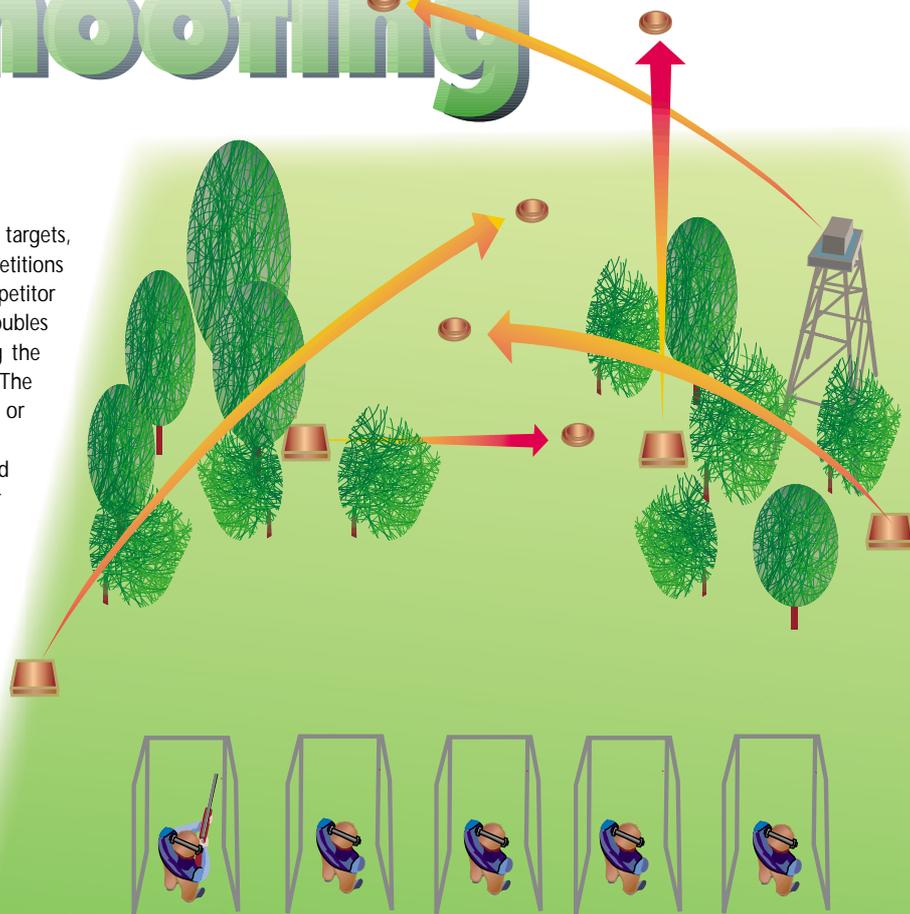
of shooting

SHOOTING PROCEDURE

Each round of Sportrap consists of 25 targets, shot in squads of five shooters. Competitions can only be multiples of 25. Each competitor shoots one single target and two doubles from each cage before moving along the line until all 25 have been shot. The doubles may be shown as on report or simultaneous pairs.

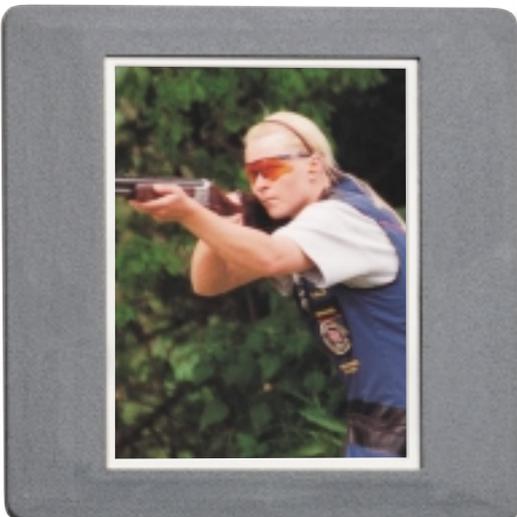
At the start of the round the squad is shown all the targets. Shooter number 1 then starts the round by shooting his single target as shown on his menu board, followed in turn by shooters 2-5. Full use of the gun (two shots) is allowed on single targets, all kills to count.

When all five have shot their single, number 1 shoots his first double and so on in turn until all have completed their five targets. They then move to the next cage (with guns open and empty) to repeat the process. Shooter number 1 always begins the sequence.



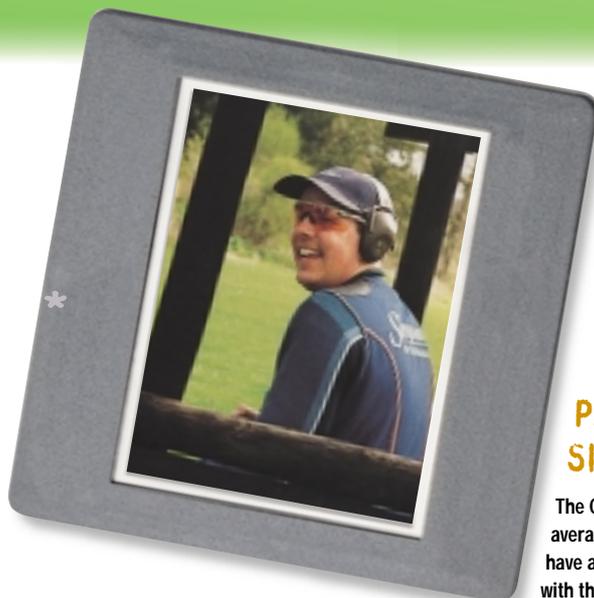
EQUIPMENT

STANDARD RULES APPLY ON GUNS AND CARTRIDGES, WITH 28 GRAM (ONE OUNCE) THE MAXIMUM SHOT LOAD. NORMAL SPORTING GUNS ARE USED.



JO MARSH

FITASC expertise scored again in the Ladies competition at the 2003 British Open when Somerset's Jo Marsh added another trophy to her groaning sideboard. Jo proved once again that she is able to move between the different sporting disciplines with ease, after a year that has seen her take a string of major victories. She shot a commanding 83 to give her a nine shot advantage over old rival Kate Brown.



PAUL SIMPSON

The CPSA annual averages for Sportrap have a unfamiliar look, with the requirement to have shot 500 targets

keeping many well known names off the listings. No one can quibble however with Paul Simpson's place at the head of the rankings, the Cambridgeshire star having shot 500 targets for an average of 89.4% during the 2002 season. It left him over two percentage points ahead of nearest rival Ian Mullarkey.