

## The A-Z

Olympic Trap is the next stop on our trip through the shooting alphabet and for many this is the 'Formula One' of clay target shooting. One of the three disciplines to offer the chance of a coveted Olympic gold medal, this is the ultimate challenge for trap shooting enthusiasts.

Arguably the discipline has never been stronger in Britain, buoyed by Ian Peel's success in the Sydney Games and with more grounds capable of showing international standard targets than at any time in our history. Can this lead to more success in Athens 2004?

## THE STARS

### Ian Peel

Britain's first Olympic medallist since Bob Braithwaite won gold in 1968, Ian Peel has been our most consistent competitor for many seasons now, with a wealth of top level competition behind him. He currently lies third in the World Rankings. With his quota place for Athens now secure, he can tailor his preparation over the next year, with the goal of adding to his silver medal from 2000. Peel now shoots a Beretta DT10 with Eley VIP cartridges.



### BACKGROUND

Like last month's featured discipline, Olympic Skeet, OT is controlled by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) who organise an annual programme of World and European Championships and World Cup events. They also administer the system of quota places by which nations win the right to send representatives to compete at the Olympics.

Great Britain enters national teams for these events through the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation (BICTSF), the teams being selected by a rolling system of major championships and designated selection shoots. Shooters also have the lure of national honours through the Home International tournament held each year and the Commonwealth Games.

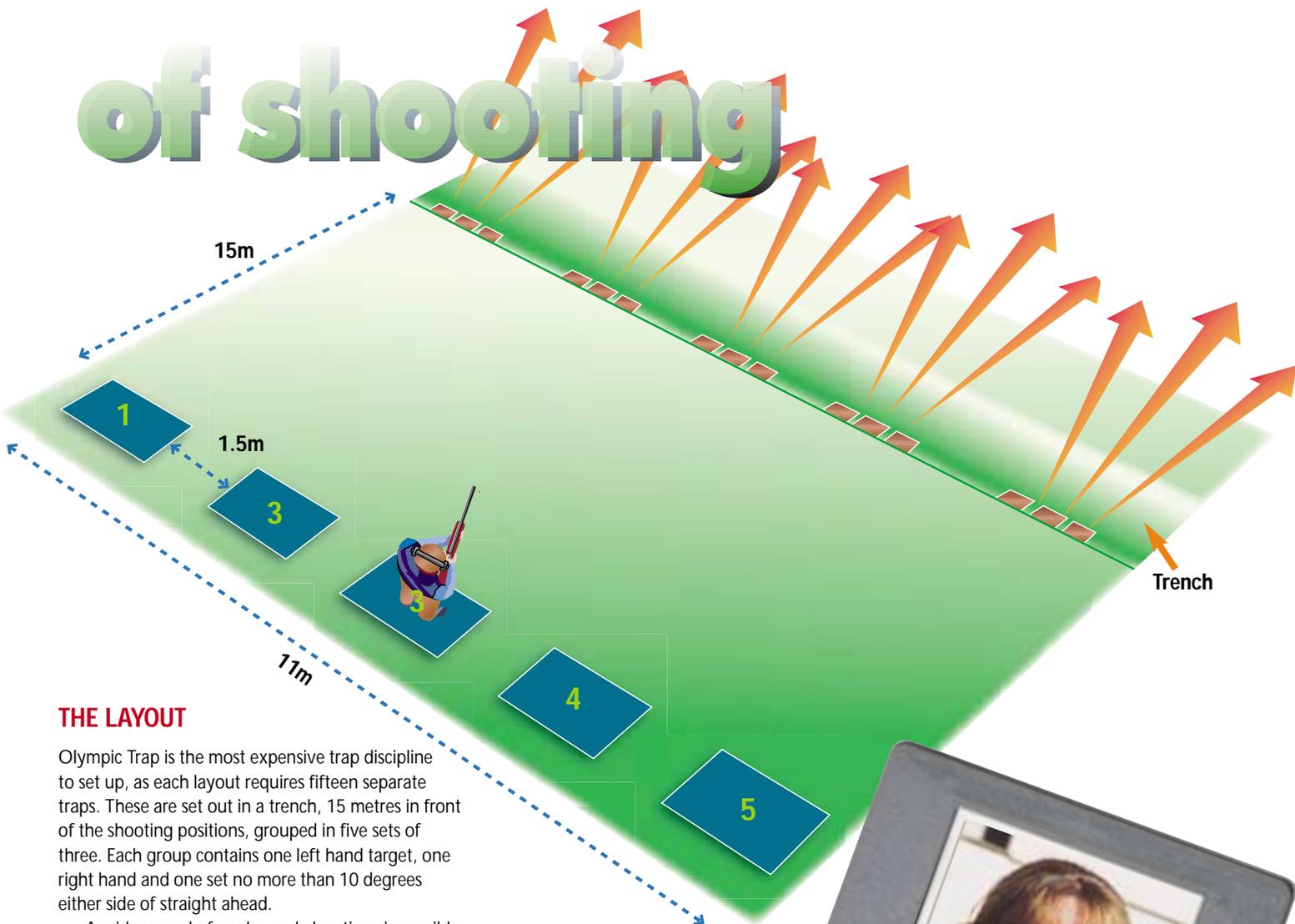
Because Olympic Trap is a truly worldwide discipline, those reaching the top in international competition can have the satisfaction of knowing they have beaten the best from five continents.

### Peter Boden

A top class competitor for over 30 years, Peter has won the coveted British Grand Prix no fewer than five times. He has also represented Great Britain at four Olympic Games and is a former Commonwealth Games gold medallist. He shoots Perazzi guns and Express cartridges.



# of shooting



## THE LAYOUT

Olympic Trap is the most expensive trap discipline to set up, as each layout requires fifteen separate traps. These are set out in a trench, 15 metres in front of the shooting positions, grouped in five sets of three. Each group contains one left hand target, one right hand and one set no more than 10 degrees either side of straight ahead.

A wide spread of angles and elevations is possible, with a maximum angle to either side of 45 degrees and elevation at 10 metres from the trap of 1.5 to 3.5 metres, the targets being set according to published



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## Ed Ling

The new generation, 20 year old Ed and father Steve from Somerset have become fixtures in GB teams in recent times. Ed has a marvellous record as a Junior, winning many national titles across all the international trap disciplines. The pinnacle of his Junior career came with his win at last year's World Championships in Finland to add to the European title he won in 2000.

Significantly he has looked ready to step up in class over the past year and take on the senior shooters on equal terms, if not in Athens then surely in 2008 and he is already ranked in the top 20 in the world. Ed shoots a Gamba and Express cartridges.



## Sarah Gibbins

Since taking the decision to concentrate on OT a couple of years ago, 33 year old teacher Sarah has moved steadily up the rankings, featuring regularly in the shake up at selection shoots and making her GB debut at the European Championships last year. That steady progress was capped in style at the ISSF World Cup event in Perth in March this year when she secured the coveted quota place to shoot at Athens 2004 and move to third place in the ISSF World Rankings. Now part of the World Class Performance Programme, she will be Britain's only female representative at the next games. Sarah shoots a Perazzi MX8 and Express cartridges.

# The A-Z of shooting

tables. All must fly between 70 and 75 metres and as a result speeds vary — it obviously requires more force to throw a target over a set distance with a flat trajectory than with a higher one.

The shooting line is 11 metres long, with 1.5 metres between each shooting position.

### SHOOTING PROCEDURE

Each round consists of 25 targets, shot in squads of six. Numbers 1-5 stand on the shooting points with number 6 behind number 1 peg. Shooters move along the line after each shot, so that each peg is always occupied, with the sixth member of the squad in transit from 5 to 1. The shooter whose turn it is to fire must do so within ten seconds of the previous shot.

Competitions in international events are held over 125 targets (75 for Ladies) with the top six going forward to a 25 target final. Normal registered shoots are 100 targets, with major domestic Championships, such as the

# Olympic trap ...continued

British Grand Prix, being traditionally 200 target events.

### EQUIPMENT

As with all ISSF disciplines, cartridge loads are limited to 24 grams of shot, maximum pellet diameter 2.5 mm.

Specialist trap guns, tightly choked and with

barrel lengths of 30-32", are used by all serious competitors and the manufacturers view success at the top level as vital for their brand image. Italy is one of the major centres of trap shooting and Italian makers such as Perazzi, Beretta and Gamba are heavily represented among the top names, along with Browning and the Spanish Kemen to name just a few.

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