

Our journey through clay shooting's alphabet concludes this month as we reach U for Universal Trench. Also known colloquially as 'Five Trap', a reference to the five traps used per layout, UT is the alternative international trap discipline to Olympic Trap. Although it lacks some of the glamour associated with its Olympic rival, UT still offers shooters the opportunity to gain selection for the Great Britain teams at World and European Championships and typically shooters will switch between the two disciplines with ease. Unlike Olympic Trap, the major championships are normally open to individuals as well as official teams unless oversubscribed, providing the adventurous shooter the chance to experience the big shoot atmosphere in far-flung places.

## THE STARS



### Steve Ling

Son Ed may be making all the headlines in Olympic Trap right now, but father Steve is the man to beat at UT this year. He opened up his season with a win at the Welsh Grand Prix/GB selection and confirmed his position at the head of the rankings with back to back scores of 98 to win the British Grand Prix — the highlight of the domestic season. He made his debut in the GB team this season and joined forces with Nigel Caves and John Grice to take Great Britain to the team Silver medal at the European Championships and with Grice again and Kevin Borley to win Gold at the World Championships in Spain.

# The A-Z

# Universal Trench

## BACKGROUND

Universal Trench is controlled by the Paris-based FITASC organisation which also administers FITASC and Compak Sporting and Helice. British shooters are affiliated via the national organisations with team selection and representation the responsibility of the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation (BICTSF).

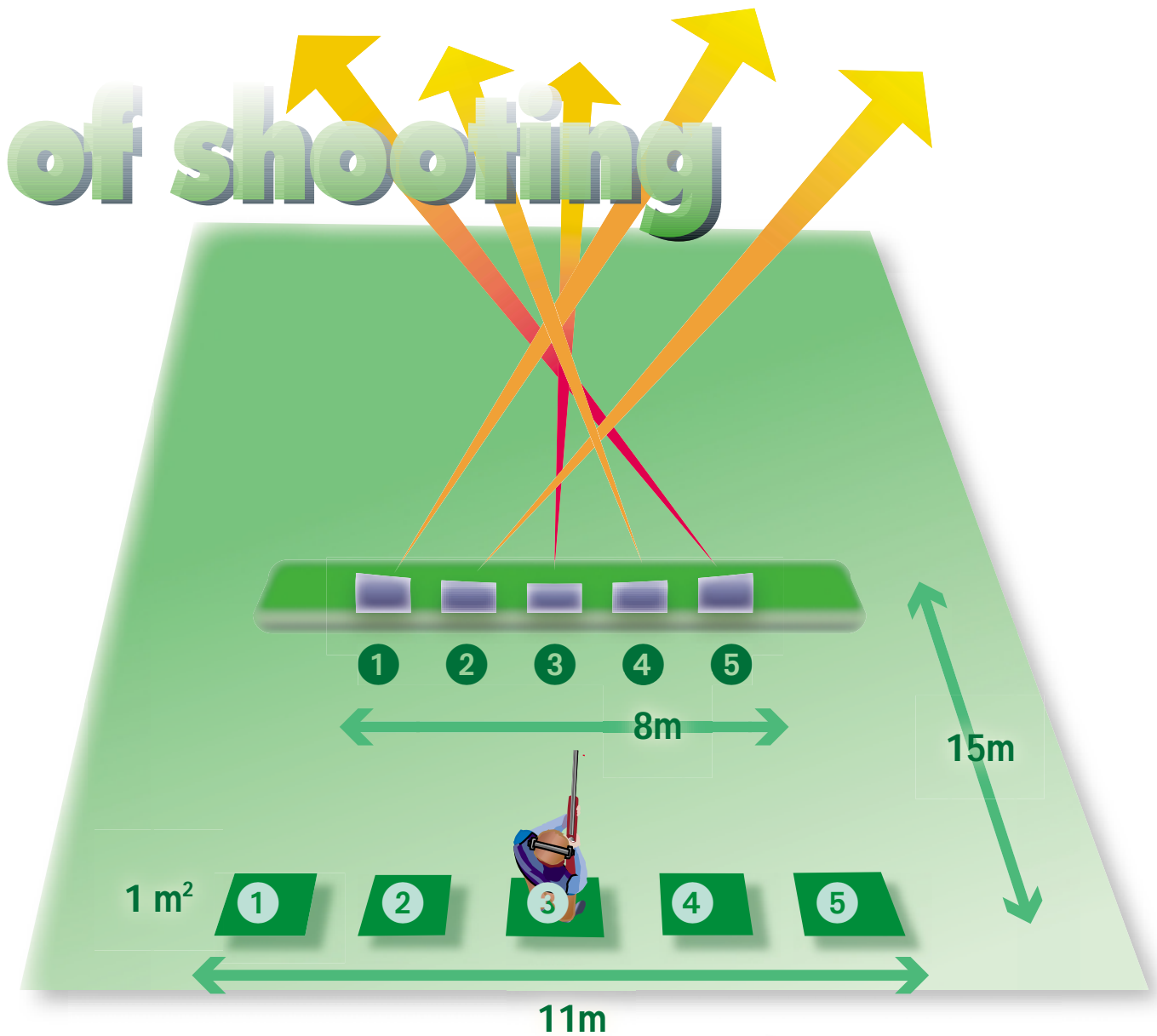
In addition to the international competitions there are regular domestic registered shoots and competition at county, regional and national levels. Check out the fixture listings for details of grounds holding competitions in your area.



### Lesley Goddard

Lincolnshire's Lesley is a regular international who switches between the Olympic and UT versions with ease. Currently the highest

ranked British woman, she finished the season in style, winning the last two selection shoots of the season and with it the British Grand Prix title. Overseas she won the individual Bronze medal and team Gold with Mary Rowley and Anne Phillips at this year's European Championship, then finished just outside the individual medals at the World Championships but contributed to the team Silver to complete a fine season.



## Kevin Borley

Most shooters dream of getting to the top once but Kevin Borley has done it twice, reaching the heights of European UT Champion and twice winner of the British OT Grand Prix before dropping out of the shooting scene in the early 1990s. He returned to competitive shooting in 1996, complete with trusty Nikko trap gun and immediately made his mark again becoming a regular in the GB team once more and returning to

consistent medal winning form in the following seasons. He added individual Bronze to that team Gold in Spain and currently stands just behind Ling in the GB rankings.



## Adam Gutteridge

With Ed Ling to beat, young British trap shooters have faced a stiff challenge in recent years and one to rise to it has been

Staffordshire's Adam Gutteridge who has made a significant step up over the 2003 season. At the end of the selection round he stood in fifth place overall in the GB rankings and just behind Ling in the Junior listings having also shone against senior opposition on a number of occasions. As part of the GB Junior team he added to a fabulous haul of medals at the major championships, winning Gold at both the European and World events.



# A-Z OF SHOOTING

## THE LAYOUT

Universal Trench uses five traps per layout set in a trench 8 metres long. The front of the trench is 15 metres from the front of the shooting positions. Looking from the shooting points the traps are numbered 1-5 from the left, with number 3 aligned with the centre (no 3) station. The traps must be spaced 1-1.25 metres apart. Five shooting positions, 1 metre square, are arranged in a straight line, with 1.5 metre spaces between them.

The targets are set to different angles and trajectories according to official 'schemes' laid down by the governing body. The maximum height (measured 10 metres from the trap) is 3.5 metres, minimum 1.5 metres. In still air the targets should fly a distance of 60-75 metres. Traps 1 and 2 will always be set to throw targets angled to the right, while 4 and 5 throw to the left. The centre trap 3 throws a straight ahead bird, plus or minus up to 10 degrees according to the scheme in use. The targets are thrown in random order but programmed so that in a round of 25 each shooter will have shot at all five traps from each shooting position, making it fair to all.

Squads of six shoot each line, with shooter number six taking up a position behind number one at the start. The squad fires in turn, moving along the line after each shot, until all 25 targets have been completed. Two shots are allowed at each targets, all kills to count whether first or second barrel.

...IN ADDITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS THERE ARE REGULAR DOMESTIC REGISTERED SHOTS AND COMPETITION AT COUNTY, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. CHECK OUT THE FIXTURE LISTINGS FOR DETAILS OF GROUNDS HOLDING COMPETITIONS IN YOUR AREA...

## EQUIPMENT

Standard clays are used of a colour appropriate to the background. Any gun of 12 gauge or smaller may be used. All serious competitors will opt for a specialist trap model with tight chokes.

Unlike Olympic Trap, which has a 24 gram maximum load, cartridges of up to 28 gram may be used, maximum shot size 2.5mm (English no 6). Sizes 7 or 7½ are the most popular choice.



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20g Browning 325 Gd3 28" M/C .....EXCELLENT £975

Browning Ultra Plus Sport 30" .....UNFIRED £895

Browning XS 32" M/C .....EXCELLENT £1,150

Browning 325 Gd1 28" M/C .....EXCELLENT £650

Browning XS 28" Adj. stock .....EXCELLENT £795

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