

### **Hopkins Farmers FITASC 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Ham Cross**

April's shoot was very much enjoyed by another superb entry for our first visit to Ham Cross. As always targets were superbly designed to test and not beat the very best, but also challenging enough to be enjoyed by everyone at every level.

Martin Reynolds again showed why at his best he can shoot a terrific score by winning the shoot comfortably with 91. Some excellent shooting by Chris Pearce 85 and Mark Hanson 84 saw them win Classes A & B respectively. Class C was won by Steve Hewlett on 79, who continues his impressive rise this year. Some outstanding shooting by Frank Hodges with not only 72 but + 14 gave him most improved and winner of class D.

#### **Class Results**

High gun - Martin Reynolds 91

Winner Class A - Chris Pearce 85, Andy Herbert-smith 83, Colin Hanson & John Pool 82

Winner Class B - Mark Hansford 84, Jeff Waters 82, Stuart Holland & Mike Hillyer 80

Winner Class C - Steve Hewlett 79, John Mascal & Sam Sawyer 70, Bob Maidment 69

Winner Class D - Frank Hodges 72, Rodney Steer 60, William McNeil 58

Most improved + 14 Frank Hodges. Draw prize winner Andy Herbert-Smith. Both win 250 cartridges kindly donated by our sponsors Hopkins Concrete.

Unfortunately, it is with great sadness that I have to pass on the sad news of the passing of Malc Bullen. Both Malc and his son Nick have been great supporters of our shoot, Malc in recent years had been battling with illness and very recently lost his fight. Malc will be remembered by many of us as a guy who was brilliant at whatever he did, a renowned keeper at the Stourhead Estate, a man who could make, build and mend just about anything and of course a wonderful family man. I'm sure that when we all think of Malc we will just smile, as for me I will also remember him with many a new gun under his arm and the words "this one's for keeps son".

#### **A note from Trevor Burt, General Manager, Hopkins Concrete**

As you may already be aware, Bill has sold the Hopkins Concrete business to a major national company called Tarmac who are part of a global heavy building materials group called CRH based in Dublin.

Tarmac are a well-established producer of aggregates and ready mixed concrete throughout the UK with strong core values of safety, employee/customer engagement, sustainability and innovation. With a limited concrete footprint in the South West, the Hopkins business will strengthen their market position and allow them to offer an improved customer service.

From humble beginnings when Bill opened his first plant in May 1986, the business has grown significantly, particularly over the last 5 years achieving record turnover year on year. It is a compliment to both Bill, Nathan and the Hopkins team that a major player such as Tarmac have purchased the business. Bill and Nathan will continue with their development and farming interests and have significant plans for 2018/19.

I remain in place as General Manager reporting into Tarmac and I would like to assure you that it's business as usual with the Hopkins brand name remaining and no change to our staff. Our core values of best customer service, employing local people and a strong focus on local markets will

remain and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, particularly in the agricultural sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill, Nathan and Rob for their strong support of Farmers FITASC and I'm pleased to say that Hopkins Concrete will continue supporting this enjoyable and rewarding pass time.

Trevor Burt 07584 500316

Next month we return to Ham Cross on Wednesday 16th May. Details will follow shortly, as usual at Ham Cross we will shoot with two start times.

Finally, many thanks to Will Thatcher and his team for a superb day, targets and catering. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Bill & Nathan Hopkins for their very generous support over the last few years, without them we would not be in the great place we now are with the popularity of our shoot.