

Hopkins Farmers FITASC report June 2018 - Barrow Farm

This months shoot saw a return to Barrow Farm. As you approach Barrow Farm and if you didn't know, the first thing you notice is how tidy the farm is. Many would not appreciate that this is one of the South's leading game farms and game shoot.

The second thing that you notice is the view leading back to the Blackmore Vale, which was highlighted by the lovely weather for our shoot. The FITASC circuit is different than most being that it is made up with 6 layouts, which of course means that everyone is constantly moving with little or no hold-ups. With clever use of the slopes and constructed towers, plus the generous area available - Barrow Farm has a special FITASC layout. Roger Wheeler now sets the targets, maintains the traps and keeps the ground in tip top condition and so it is difficult to believe the fact that a hugely successful game farm & shoot is going on all around.

Andy Herbert-Smith returned to form with an impressive 91, a score in the 90's perhaps is more impressive considering that the six layouts require the extra stamina as apposed to the usual 4. Equally impressive however was Stuart Hollands 88 who blew all the other 'B' class shooters to one side with an exceptional score. Stuart also won the most improved award with + 10. Winner of 'A' Class was John Pool 87 who continues his excellent form and has over the weekend won the gold medal in the super vets FITASC at Churchills' World festival of shooting. Class 'C' was won by Keith Emery 71 in a rare appearance to our shoot - how good could he be with some regular shooting? Class 'D' was won by newcomer and Hopkins guest Russle Crate on 56. Congratulations to all mentioned.

Class results

High gun - Andy Herbert-Smith 91

Class A - John Pool 87, Jeff Waters 86, Billy Davis 84.

Class B - Stuart Holland 88, Ray Hillyer 84, Simon Norris & Richard Pike 81.

Class C - Keith Emery 71, Bob Maidment 69, Ian Gillespie 67.

Most improved - Stuart Holland + 10. Draw prize winner ...STEVE VICKERY

Stuart & STEVE..... Win 250 cartridges kindly sponsored by Hopkins concrete Ltd.

A Word from the winner - Andy Herbert-Smith

I'd just like to start by saying a big thanks to all of the Nicholls family for their hospitality and fantastic targets that we were allowed to shoot on the farmers fitasc. I started shooting registered shoots 15/16 years ago, back in the days of Newnum Park and Wyley Shooting Ground. I packed up boxing 3 years previously where I'd boxed for 7 years. Shooting is a far cry from the boxing ring but it still has similarities such as discipline, attention to detail and a hunger to win! I was lucky enough to start shooting with Ray Hillyer, Andy Moon, John Pool and Robert Arthur Hopkins, who I still shoot with today. I've met some great friends through shooting and shot for the County many times. Big thanks to Richard and Wendy for organising all the shoots that they do and all the hard work. Many thanks A H Smith.

Next month we head for Roundwood and our summer shoot with bbq, spaces may be limited so if you are planning to shoot - please book as soon as the request is given.

Finally many thanks to the Nicholls family for a wonderful shoot and exceptional hospitality and as ever many thanks to Trevor and the new Hopkins team for the support and sponsorship.

With kind regards

Richard.