



# BACK WITH GUSTO

## FINAL WL RESULTS



### INSIDE

#### CASTLE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOOT

Castle's Christmas Shoot & BBQ was extremely enjoyable and a chance to remember a well loved member.

#### BACK WITH GUSTO

The MFTA Winter League started back in full swing, and ended with what was a thrilling finale.

#### SHOOT DATES

New shoot dates for the Summer in the MFTA.

#### TRI-REGIONS CUP

Details on this exciting new team event, and help raise money for charity at the same time.





# KING of the Castle

**JOHN AMOS WAS KING OF THE CASTLE AT THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOOT MISSING JUST TWO ON THE FT COURSE, PLUS WE FOUND OUT HE'S PRETTY GOOD ON THE BBQ TOO!**

At the tail end of last year after a very busy season of FT, on Sunday 17 December Castle hosted it's annual Christmas Shoot and club shoot prize giving ceremony which is always great fun.

Even though there was a bitter chill in the air, this year the sun was shining for once, and the event was made even more special as it was held in memory of a fond and much missed Castle member. Malcolm Reeve sadly passed away in

more from the kill than was expected. There was a decent turnout for the event, with some top shooters gracing the firing line – so nice to see on a crisp winters day. I had the pleasure of accompanying Ozzy and Johnno and in our own way we all struggled to understand just how much wind some shots needed. We all started off pretty well, but now and then the wheels fell off, or at least got a bit wobbly, with James managing to hang on to a 32 in the end to put him fairly high up the rankings.

**CASTLE HAS EVERYTHING; FANTASTIC WOODLANDS, GREAT COURSES FOR BOTH FIELD TARGET, OPEN SIGHTS AND PISTOL, AN UNDERCOVER PRACTICE RANGE AND A GREAT BUNCH OF PEOPLE.**

2023 so the event, with it's perpetual aluminium trophy, will enable his memory to live on at the club.

The day consisted of a standard 40 shot FT course that ran in a loop through the stunning woodland, with the last half a dozen or so lanes running close to the edge of the boundary where the wind was getting stronger and more difficult to predict by the minute. Saying that, lanes 1 to 5 were not much better! In fact it panned out to be a very difficult day to get to grips with at all - the brisk wind taking almost every shot far

This year to add an extra edge to the competition, there was also a three-person team lucky dip that ran alongside the main event, meaning you weren't only shooting for your own glory, but for your other two team-mates as well. I felt this was a great addition and made the day far more interesting than just a standard shoot-for-yourself event, that extra little bit of pressure (or fun depending on how you look at it) made it very enjoyable indeed. The teams were drawn from a hat so it was pot luck who you got paired up with, but as it happened the teams were fairly well balanced. ›



John was clearly moved with winning the Malcolm Reeve trophy.



Jeff was clearly pleased with his end of season Open Sights trophy! Thanks to Johnno of AJP for all the Castle trophies this year.



Along with many, James struggled on a few lanes but held it together superbly to finish on a hard earned 32/40.



John and Andy did a sterling job keeping the BBQ well stocked, cheers chaps.





THE CASTLE WOODLAND WAS GLORIOUS, WITH BRIGHT SKIES, PUDDLES OF SUNLIGHT BUT A WICKED WIND RAN THROUGH THE TOP HALF OF THE COURSE

Respect has to go out to John Amos, who somehow (and I am still at a loss as to quite how) managed to finish the course missing just two shots. Admittedly he was using his pre-charged for a change, but his 38/40 still put him way ahead of the pack, and gave him the title of Castle Christmas Shoot Champion, and it was quite clear to see John was choked and very proud to be the first to win this special inaugural memorial trophy.

Not only did John take the top spot, his team consisting of Chris Large and Anne Smith also came top, so that was the icing on the cake!

There were plenty of other prizes to hand out too, as the Castle Club Season had come to an end. There were prizes for the main FT competition, as well as the club pistol course and the club open sights course - now that's a challenge! To say this Midland's club has it all is an understatement, it's a great asset to the region and of course to all its members too.

The day was rounded off with a fantastic BBQ, which it seems Mr Amos is pretty good at too! Helped by Andy, Jeff and others the hot dogs were spot on and were certainly a welcome addition to the day.

Many thanks to all who made the event possible, and of course to the Castle Crew and all who have put in the time and effort over the past year to shoot the courses, maintain the ground and facilities and keep this as one of the best FT grounds in the country. ■



Richard Groucher has had an exceptionally consistent season and took the AA Grade title.



Dean Broughton just pipped Terry to the final post in A Grade.



Nigel Cresswell had a good season, first in C Grade and second to Jeff in the Open Sights.



Some of the Castle Crew.



Anne was very happy with her lucky dip team win!



# BACK WITH GUSTO

THE MFTA WINTER LEAGUE RESUMED ON 7 JAN AT THROCKMORTON, AND WHAT A SUPERB VENUE IT IS TOO.

**The new year got right back into the FT swing with a guest visit to Throckmorton on 07 January, a great club in North Worcestershire with a lot of potential.**

Massive thanks has to go out to the Throckmorton team for helping the MFTA out and a big thanks must also go to Simon Francis who worked extremely hard to bring the event to fruition. It was a pleasure to shoot at the ground, and after a successful day for all parties, it's hoped they will be keen to join the MFTA and become a regular fixture on both our Summer and Winter calendar.

After a few weeks off over the Christmas break, it was clear we were all extremely keen to get back into the season, and with the scores at the top of the grades getting closer by the week, there was everything to shoot for.

## THROCKMORTON ROUND 7

Despite the recent bad weather and severe local flooding, by the time the stats had closed and the briefing was about to start at 9:45am, 56 competitors had booked in meaning almost every lane had three people. It's been a long time since we saw those kind of numbers at a regional event, and I have to say although the thought



With an impressive string of top results, Nicole Stoddart is looking good to take the A Grade title this season.



Fighting for a top three position, MFTA Chairman Shaun Shore nailed target 40 on the Throckmorton course. At 55yds in an open area of grassland we witnessed many miss it before us!

of over subscription did creep into our minds, it was wonderful to see the firing line so full. Not only did we have the regular faces, we also saw a good number of local 'Stick' Shooters take part plus a decent handful of shooters from over the border in Wales graced us with their presence, I guess South Worcestershire is not that far and it was great to see them take part in our event.

This was the first FT event the club had hosted, and even with the lanes full it ran smoothly, with only a few whistles and no real issues other than a target that decided it didn't want to play ball. Once >



that was sorted everything was good, and the day flowed well. The Winter League course was set up at the top of the ground, amongst well spaced trees with a flat and comfortable line of fire, ideal for the Sticks and those just getting used to shooting in a competition setting.

Elsewhere within the club, the ground has so much opportunity, and would be an ideal venue not only for future MFTA shoots, but for large scale national shoots as well. There is ample car parking, a club house, toilets and a good café - so what more could we want!

With a manageable breeze it turned out to be a fairly high scoring day, with both Reggy (AA) and Simon Evans (AA) taking the top spot with 39/40, but it was Simon who took a coveted FT Monki Badge back home to Wales after winning on countback.

In A Grade Nicole Stoddart showed her father how an FT course should be shot, winning her Grade and even further strengthening her overall season's lead with an impressive 37. After a slight hic-up at the last round, Rod Howes came back with force to claim the top B Grade slot finishing on a solid 35, whilst in C Bob Selvey gave himself more work to do in his down time with yet another badge to polish!

I think generally, in all grades, the standard of shooting is getting better every year, which is great to see and will hopefully put the MFTA in a decent position when it comes to the BFTA Inter Regional Championships in the Spring.

Throckmorton really is a great club, and after speaking to the owners it is looking very likely that the club will become affiliated to the MFTA, meaning lots more regional shoots

for us all, plus the option for it to host national FT shoots as well - brilliant.

#### **BROOK VALLEY ROUND 8**

Brook Valley Targets Sports was the next venue for round 8 of the Winter League, and the weather was starting to take a turn for the worst, with rain and cold forecast in the run up to the weekend of 21 Jan. However, although it was bitterly cold, the rain did hold for the day and we managed to see a decent turnout, although I do have to say I would like to see more of our members attend this club for our competitions.

The wind was persistent all day, and was very difficult to read on every part of the course. I had the pleasure of shooting alongside Steve Mason, who got off to a great start on Lane 1, and managed to hold his nerve for another ten or so lanes before the conditions just slightly got the better of him. Saying that, the scores overall were quite low, with everyone struggling at some point or another, so thankfully for Steve finishing on a 23 was actually a pretty decent score at the end of the day.

There is however, always a few that come out on top - Castle's Pete Rowley had a great result with 29, closely followed by Reggy on 28 and Nicole on a solid 27. But, it was Millride's Ian Stoddart who once again shot his socks off to finish on a 30. Now you may think that isn't that great a result, but given the conditions believe me it was. His result though was more than just a good score on the day, it meant that if Ian could achieve a winning score at the next round at Millride, it would mean he would have won the MFTA Winter League with the maximum possible 600 points, taking a total of six straight wins - >



Ben Christie has only just started competing in the MFTA, but he certainly knows how to put a spring gun to good use.



**RND 7 THROCKMORTON  
FT MONKI BADGE WINNERS**

AA	SIMON EVANS (WAFTA)	C	BOB SELVEY
A	NICOLE STODDART	O	BUCK CHARLTON
B	ROD HOWES	P	BEN CHRISTIE

**RND 8 BROOK VALLEY  
FT MONKI BADGE WINNERS**

AA	IAN STODDART	C	BOB SELVEY
A	PETE ROWLEY	O	STEVE CASH
B	ROD HOWES	P	NEIL THORNEYCROFT

**AS THE DAY PROGRESSED, THE WIND GOT STRONGER AND CAUSED REAL PROBLEMS, EVEN FOR SOME OF THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS**

no easy feat when you look at the competition, but believe me he was up for it, and was going to do everything in his powers to achieve such an amazing accolade.

To round off at Brook Valley, there must be a mention to Neil Thorneycroft who also finished the day on a hard fought 30/40, but with his spring gun. This guy really knows how to make the most of his Air Arms and despite some stiff competition from Nick Gibney and Ben Christie this year is managing to hold onto his overall lead in Piston Class this season.



Rod finished on 25 at Brook Valley, which turned out to be a great score and gave him the top result in B Grade!



As always, Reggy was fighting for a top spot all day. The AA XT*i* seems to suit him very well.

**MILLRIDE ROUND 9 - THE FINAL**

So, all too quickly the final round was on us, and the end of the Winter League was in sight.

Over the past six months we have seen some superb shooting from our members, visited some new grounds, seen some new faces and had some very enjoyable competitions. It always humbles me when I think of all the effort so many people put in to give everyone the best possible day, so for the record I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone that makes the Midlands League happen.

Round 9 saw a great turnout, with every lane full and a feed-on lane too which was good to see, clearly those last eight qualifying places for the MFTA Masters were very important!

By this time it was common knowledge that Ian had taken the WL 2024 title, but as mentioned earlier he still had a job to do to finish it off in style.

Meanwhile there was everything to play for in A and B Grade. Nicole was leading going into the final round but Des Edwards, a man who is never far off the mark, was hot on her heels and eager to try

and take the A Grade position. B Grade was even closer, with fellow Millride members Anne Smith and Rodney Howes so close after eight rounds, and which way it would go quite frankly was anyone's guess. Disaster struck mid morning, and Rodney had to declare a DNF after his kit malfunctioned, leaving the door open for Anne. Sadly, despite every effort Anne's final result of 25 just wasn't enough and she finished an unbelievable 0.3 of a point behind, giving Rodders the overall B Grade win - it doesn't get much closer than that!

It's been great to see a couple more C Grade people this season





**RND 9 MILLRIDE  
FT MONKI BADGE WINNERS**

AA	IAN STODDART	C	BOB SELVEY
A	NICOLE STODDART	O	BUCK CHARLTON
B	ANNE SMITH	P	NICK MURPHY

**MFTA WINTER LEAGUE REVIEW**

**MFTA WINTER LEAGUE  
FINAL POSITIONS**

AA	IAN STODDART
	JAMES OSBORNE
	REGGY VAN JAARSVELD
A	NICOLE STODDART
	DES EDWARDS
	PETE ROWLEY
B	ROD HOWES
	ANNE SMITH
	SHAUN SHORE
C	BOB SELVEY
	SIMON CRITCHLOW
	STEVE BOOTH
P	NEIL THORNEYCROFT
	BEN CHRISTIE
	NICK GIBNEY
O	BUCK CHARLTON
	STEVE CASH
	DEAN LANE

**CLICK  
HERE TO SEE  
THE FINAL  
MFTA  
RESULTS**

**MFTA WINTER LEAGUE  
SILHOUETTES**

JAMES OSBORNE
REGGY VAN JAARSVELD
ANTHONY JOHNSON

(we need more!) and I think if both Simon and Steve had managed to complete just a few more events it may have been a much closer call.

So, how did it all end? Well, the final standings are opposite, and I am thrilled to say Ian, with another impressive 37/40 did manage to take the win at Millride and give him a superb straight maximum run of 600% over the whole season - awesome.

What was equally nice to see was Nicole taking A Grade, meaning the MFTA saw their first father/daughter WL win, well done both.

**MASTERS AND CLUBS CUP**  
Although the WL has now finished, the season isn't quite over yet, as we have the MFTA Masters and the

**BUCK (ABOVE)  
HAS HAD A VERY  
SUCCESSFUL OPEN  
SEASON WITH A  
STRING OF TOP  
POSITIONS**

Clubs Cup to end on. These will take place at Harriers on 18 Feb, where we will also be awarding the



Lee Hadlington made a return to Millride after some 14 years, and showed he hadn't lost it. Nice bobble!

trophies for the Winter League and Silhouettes. So, make sure if you managed to qualify for the Masters you're at Harriers bright and early, if past years are anything to go by, it will be a cracking shoot, and could well have any number of surprises in store! Can Phil Gee hold onto the title for a consecutive year?

Plus, Club Reps, if you haven't done it already, get your team names submitted for the Clubs Cup, and I look forward to seeing you all next week. ■



In contrast to the first few lanes, the top end of the Millride wood was a different animal altogether, and took a lot of targets of many a seasoned shooter.





# MFTA SUMMER LEAGUE 2024

DATE	EVENT/ROUND	VENUE
14 APR	SUMMER LEAGUE 1	HARRIERS
12 MAY	SUMMER LEAGUE 2	MILLRIDE
19 MAY	LEE BLISSETT/TRI-REGIONS CUP	SYWELL
16 JUNE	SUMMER LEAGUE 3	PURLEY CHASE
30 JUNE	SUMMER LEAGUE 4	BROOK VALLEY
14 JULY	SUMMER LEAGUE 5	CASTLE
25 AUG	SUMMER LEAGUE 6	THROCKMORTON

## MFTA SUMMER LEAGUE

Standard 40 shot ft course shot to BFTA rules.  
Shotgun start at 10:00am. Briefing 9:45am.

Graded AA, A, B, C, O & P. Best four of six to count.  
Results submitted for average grading.



## WE WANT YOU

### NEW TRI-REGIONS CUP 19 MAY 2024

#### MFTA v FFTA v SEFTA

#### Calling all MFTA shooters

Please show your support for this fantastic new competition, that will be held alongside the Lee Blissett Shoot at Sywell. We need as many of our MFTA shooters as possible to make it work (and of course bring home the new silver cup!!). Team scores will

be made up of the top three from AA and A and the top two from B and C. The region with the highest combined team score will take home the new Tri-Regions Cup. Plus, each successful team member will receive a commemorative team cloth patch (that money cannot buy!).



The new season BFTA Calendar is now available, which **can be found here**. It's looking to be a great 2024, with a new look to the GP Series and new formats to some of the other BFTA National shoots. Make sure you take a look and get yourself booked in for anything that takes your fancy. Also, the MFTA is proud to have Castle FTARC represent the region, hosting the BFTA GP2 on 26 May.

The 'original' Inside Edge magazine is an independent publication, aimed at promoting the sport of Field Target in the Midland's and the UK, and supports the objectives and work of the MFTA. Any comments or views are entirely those of the author unless specified.

