



News Shots

ICSI News – 1st August 2022

This week in News Shots: Coach and Instructor Development Workshop Report, Blind Shooter, Free Clinics in America, Game Fair Report, Courses and Workshops.

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Report on Coach and Instructor (Intermediate) Workshop at Oakedge Shooting Ground 25th July 2022



The latest Intermediate C&IDW took place at Oakedge Shooting Ground in Staffordshire on Monday 25th July. Participants arrived early and after a catch up and coffee they turned their attention to coaching. Reflecting on their initial workshop, they all described how the previous workshop had influenced their approach to coaching clients and the structure and confidence it had given them. A mixture of classroom and on range sessions mixed theory with practical application and participants were pushed to observe and diagnose the faults exhibited by their Continued

colleagues. A range of challenging targets were provided, and participants looked for subtle faults in the shooting. With application of the theory looked at in the classroom, correction of the faults followed.

Andy Plant, who has now attended two initial workshops and this intermediate workshop makes the following comments:

It was great to see you and the other members at Oakedge yesterday.

Although I felt a little out of my depth at times, the course content and delivery was great. It is this sort of experience that keeps me going in the world of shooting instruction. It answered many questions I had particularly with reference to more challenging targets, and I will be able to move on with more confidence, and hopefully give the client better value. A great day!



After the workshop finished John Robinson, Chairman and Workshop facilitator, presented Sue from Oakedge with a certificate in appreciation of the support the ground gives to the Institute. They opened on their day off and provided excellent refreshments and hospitality.

The next C&I Development Workshop is an Initial Workshop, designed for those who have not attended a C&IDW before.

It will be held at Kibworth Shooting Ground, Leicestershire on Monday 5th September 2022.

Places are still available for this workshop; you can book via the Institute web site.

Dr. Nicol Murray – Blind Shooter! Dr Nicol Murray sent this interesting story....

Greetings Friends,

A few days ago, I was approached by a person who asked if I Would be prepared to give his brother, approx. 40 yrs. of age, a lesson in how to use a shotgun. I was pleased to do so and a date & time was fixed when we might meet at a local ground or this purpose.

My enthusiasm was somewhat diminished when we met, and I quickly realised that the “student” was completely blind.

As you will imagine, a “conversation took place” and it was made clear to me that while he had no intention of shooting at a target, he was seriously interested in how it felt to hold and to pull the trigger.

Suffice it to say that the information and guidance was provided, and the series of shots (at nothing) took place, to the obvious delight of the gentleman concerned.

His thanks were effusive, as were those of his family. My own delight at being able to assist in this endeavour was equal in all respects as the joy this person displayed was infectious.

Amazing what we encounter in the shooting world, isn't it?

Again, thanks to Dr. Nicol for sharing this interesting encounter.

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Roger Gascoigne Shares his views on Free Shotgun Clinics in the USA

Lessons from Free Shotgun Clinics



So, I started introducing people to shotgun shooting way before I was certified, I taught relatives, friends, and colleagues from work in UK, France and now USA. This included my daughters and my second wife who became the Alpes Maritime first lady champion at Parours de Chasse and then when we moved to America, she became the Lady Champion in Illinois in 1993.

My American wife explained to me that women may not object to being taught something by their husbands, although some do, but certainly women do not like learning a new skill in front of other men. She suggested I start giving a free clinic just for women, and we did. At an early clinic I got the first learning, women who wanted to come had a problem of 'who looks after the kids', so we made it the Women and Kids clinic.

I have introduced many thousands of people to the shotgun sport

since 1993.

The first problem was cost, to encourage people to try, I wanted to make them free, and I was prepared to donate my time and use of my guns, but I needed a club owner to donate shells and clays. Not easy. However, the prospect of family memberships at the club was a spur but then I found that many partners said "Yes, I enjoyed it, but no it is not for me. I see how he enjoys this, so I am happy he shoots" was the true value to the male shooter and the club. The American phrase is 'a kitchen pass' but I don't know why.

At first, I relied on a few guns I had and rental guns from the club but then I built up a collection of guns in all gauges although most were 12 and 20 and came in a variety of weights and sizes.

I added to the stable with a fixed but high comb over and under and then a movable comb gun for people who needed it.

Most were over and under with a semi-auto, and a side by side which I discouraged people from using, the most popular guns were two 12s and a 20 I had fitted with a hydraulic recoil absorber and they became the most used guns. To begin with I asked people to register with the club with a view to keeping the numbers manageable, but it seemed that we almost always got about 13-15 people, with the majority being adults. We specified a weight for the 'kids' and it is amazing how few parents know their child!

Many of the people who came, became private students, and eventually friends I still shoot with and keep in touch with today. We picked Sunday at 1 pm as it meant wives and kids were out of the house when American Football was on.

Apart from female partners of shooters many were women who were 'volunteered' to shoot in a charity shoot and I got many delighted texts and emails after their shoot telling me how well they had done. Later I got another need. I had a mother who was the single parent of a boy and she had problems in taking him to events that were traditionally driven by men. His school catered for sports, but the clinic was a great help. Eventually she became proficient, and it was a sport they shared. I had this comment many times

I start with about 45 minutes on Safety then Safety and finally Safety and I would say this up front to stress the importance. I would ask for their experience of guns, for some it was minimal and others non-existent, so I had to start further back than someone who came asking for a lesson and hence knew a little.

I explained how a gun club is set out so that fall of shot is not a problem, I explained different shells and I kept dangerous ones, in pellet size and physical failures. I stress the gun safety rules and demonstrate how to carry a gun. But I must admit I do not recommend the method I was taught as I recommend, they carry the gun open, over their shoulder with the short part at the back.

I demonstrate why you never mix 12 and 20-gauge shells in your pouch or pocket. I started doing this after a coach sent me a photo of a DT11 destroyed by loading a 20 then a 12 and firing it! The shooter lost his thumb and two fingers.

I also show why you use one hand to load a semi-auto and the same hand to close the bolt. I had a friend trap his trigger finger in an 1100 while shooting with me in January in Wisconsin. He used his left hand to close the bolt. He was cold and did not feel it until 3 stands later when the action was covered in blood.

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Then I cover the shooter's safety with eye and ear protection and the good and bad points of each and then in Florida I talk about sun screen a hat and water.

After the safety sessions I would check eye dominance and then fit a gun not in the sense of checking the key measurements but finding one from the rack that was 'close enough'

When I handed his wife a short 12 with a hydraulic recoil reducer it confused a husband who said the wife should use a 20! I explained why a 20 can kick more than a 12 and most men get it, but this one argued with me. So got him to come out and shoot the 12 and then a 20 and he admitted the 20 kicked more. After this guy I discouraged partners staying for the class as Cathy mentioned women do not like being in front of unknown men.

Then on to shooting, I used the Five stand and we set a high incomer straight at the cage, like a High House from station 7 but even higher and slower. The first few times I asked for volunteers, but I stopped doing that as they were all shy. Instead, I memorized when they arrived, and I called them up in that order. I would give them an empty gun to get the feel of the trigger, and for me to see if they executed my commands. Some did and some did not, so I repeated what I meant. About 10 years ago I found kids did not comprehend '6 o'clock' as they were the digital generation that was a learning for me.

After the first shot I checked they were ok and wanted to go again, some did not, and I said OK that's fine this not for everybody. So, after everyone has try, I say anyone who has to leave just go when you are ready but we will go on as long as people are happy. Taking the pressure off people had a visible effect both as relief and as determination to keep going.

Some people only managed the easiest of targets, but others were smashing them and a principle of the CPSA was to move students on to harder targets and some got to do crossers and even report pairs. One 16-year-old student, who had never shot before, hit everything – about 20 different targets and at the end finished with a true pair! I took him under my wing and eventually he won a shooting scholarship and went to university – the first in his family.

When a new club opened south of Tampa, I offered to do a clinic once a month and they gave me a free membership in return. At the first clinic, and I did not know this, a journalist from a local newspaper put her son into the class and he thoroughly enjoyed it, so she interviewed me, and others and bingo out came an article in the local paper. The next month I had a panic call from the gun club, they had over 250 people asking to come to the clinic after reading the article! So, for the next year and half I ran two clinics a month to clear the waiting list. I learned that advertising pays, especially when it is not paid.

Then I got an interesting request from the gun club. Some male customers were complaining that women were getting preferential treatment that they were not! So, we concocted a Beginner clinic. The women's clinic was very light on shooting most would do 3 to 5 shots, but we saw a need for people who had started shooting so we changed the rules and it meant we had to charge.

So, we had a fee for 25 shells and clays, and we were in business. I reduced the class size to account for more shooting and started at 9 am. I still went through 45 minutes of safety even though they had more experience. Some brought guns and some used mine. Often the guns they brought were not the best of fit and I had a better one in the rack. Since I started these clinics, I have seen many others begin like SCTP and 4H for youth shooters and Florida Honeybellies for lady shooters. I regarded the clinics as creating interest and understanding of shotgun shooting for anyone and I am pleased that others have taken to providing competition shooting aspects, for those who want it, further.

If anything is not clear here, I'd be happy to answer any questions my email is rogergascoigne@tampabay.rr.com

Thanks to Roger for sharing this experience.

The Game Fair, Record Crowds, and fine Weather



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It was great to attend the Game Fair and Ragley Hall in Warwickshire on Friday 29th July 2022. Opened by HRH The Princess Royal the crowds swept in and soon the buzz of excitement was detectable.

I visited many stands and exhibitions and saw many shooting friends and members of the Institute. Visiting the clay line, we came across the CPSA have a go stand, manned by many of our members including, Simon Arbuckle, Derek Wetter, Lee Wilcoxson, Neil Cawood, Peter Tinkler among other CPSA coaches. They were

very busy introducing the public to the joys and challenges of clay shooting.

One piece of unfortunate news was the theft of a lemon cocker spaniel from its climate-controlled vehicle. The unfortunate dog was part of the GB team and was there to provide a demonstration for the public.

WORKSHOPS AND CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A full list of Workshops and Courses are featured on the Institute Website.

Coach and Instructor Development Workshops Course Calendar

**MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022 INTRODUCTION C&IDW AT KIBWORTH SG
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022 INTRODUCTION C&IDW AT SOUTHDOWN SG
SUSSEX**

NEW VENUE – SOUTHDOWN SHOOTING GROUND IN SUSSEX

Please support the courses, it is only with your support that the Institute can actually provide these opportunities for continual professional development.

To book a place on a workshop or course please do so on the web site.

Something to watch.....

The process of having a gun made to your specifications is one most of us can only dream about but here is a video of the Perazzi process.

<https://youtu.be/TkdRji7BTo0>

ICSI ONLINE SHOP

The online shop is now up and running.

Items may be purchased and paid via our Institute PayPal account, normal debit and credit cards may be used and goods will be despatched as soon as possible

Please visit the website to view merchandise and prices.

There is a new, low profile, baseball cap available and soon we hope to have Institute gilets available.

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FINALLY.....

I am sure you have a tale or two related to your coaching experiences or information you have heard which would be of interest to other members or a photograph which would be good to share. Please send them to me for inclusion in News Shots on icsimembership@gmail.com

If there are seminars which you would find useful and know of a provider, please let Simon Arbuckle know and we shall investigate if it is possible to provide a zoom seminar.

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