



# INSIDE EDGE

REGIONAL NEWS + REVIEWS

ISSUE #3



THE  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
ISSUE



ENGLAND 2019  
WFTF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**JOHN  
COSTELLO**  
“MAKE MINE  
A DOUBLE”

John puts in a tremendous performance to take the 2019 World Championship title

Photo: FT Moriaki

**FT CAME HOME...  
AND WHAT A  
WEEK!**

I think all of us reading this newsletter will have an enormous amount of pride to say that 2019 saw England host the World Field Target Championships.

*continued overleaf* ➤



  
**ENGLAND 2019**  
 WFTF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

RED'S STUNNING CLEARANCE ON DAY 1 AND A GREAT DAY 2 PUT HIM IN REAL CONTENTION FOR THE TITLE.

OVER 450 COMPETITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD GRACED THE STUNNING HEART OF ENGLAND VENUE

Photos: Martin Calpin

It has to be said that the whole management team and associated work parties worked so hard for many months and did a tremendous job, resulting in a first class, well ran event. I know just how much work went in from so many people and the success is testament to the dedication and camaraderie of people from all over the UK. Being held in the central midlands, it was extra special for many of us and something we will remember for many years to come.

Despite the changing weather conditions, the level of shooting was exceptional. As you would expect, all the big names were there at the top of the tree, plus a bunch of fairly well known names from overseas, but what a pleasure it was to see Castle's own Red



*The courses were long and challenging, set in beautiful (if not a little muddy) surroundings.*

Gallagher leading the pack into day 3. Red is a young shooter who has been on the circuit for a while now, and has had a very satisfying regional and Grand Prix season, but he is growing up quickly and fast becoming a big name in FT.

**WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE OUR REGION GRACED BY SUCH TALENTED SHOOTERS, FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

It was also a welcome sight to see my good friend James Osborne back on form, lying joint second after two days of intense competition. In this short article it's difficult to



*Once again Steve Privett took the World Piston title.*



ENGLAND 2019  
WFTF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A BIG SHOUT MUST GO TO THE ORGANISING TEAM AND MARSHALS WHO MADE THE EVENT SUCH A SUCCESS.

FIELD TARGET IS GETTING MORE AND MORE POPULAR ABROAD AND COMPETITIVE SCORES ARE COMING IN THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

Photos: Martin Calpin

praise or mention every shooter that deserves a mention or put in a fantastic score, but I hope that everyone who took part, especially the visitors from overseas enjoyed themselves and can look back on the event with very fond memories.

There can only be one overall Champion, and after three days of sunshine, rain and strong winds there could be no nicer chap to take the title than John Costello. I've known John a long time and as well as being a true gentleman, in my opinion he has to be one of the most naturally talented FT shooters we have seen in a long time. He really can put himself up there with the great names of Field Target; Nick Jenkinson, Tim Finley, Andy Calpin, Ian Taylor, Stuart



Hancox, James Osborne – the list goes on and John is firmly on it. The only saving grace for the rest of us is that John doesn't shoot as much as he used to, otherwise we would probably see a whitewash a lot more than we do now!

This was John's second World title and along with his trusty Steyr, he certainly took it with style missing just 5 targets overall in weather conditions that were far from perfect. Whether he will make it to South Africa for the 2020 Championships is yet to be decided, but for now mate, sit back and bask in the glory – you deserve it. ■



# MIDLAND'S SUMMER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

HE'S BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE, BUT DAVE OAKES IS ONE OF THE GENTS OF FT, AND IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO CATCH UP WITH HIM AT A SHOOT.

Photo: FT Monkki

The British summer hasn't really brought us anything spectacular in terms of glorious weather, but one thing that has been truly superb is the level of marksmanship demonstrated throughout the Midland's Summer League.

Back in August Harriers FTC brought the proceedings to a close, where right up to the final whistle we saw a number of people still in contention for a top 3 position.

Over the whole Series I think we have witnessed some of the most consistent and thrilling shooting this League has seen – not since the days of Neil Daniels have I had the pleasure of seeing almost perfect scores roll in time after time.



Castle's Andy Purseglove is hitting some big scores.

It's not only the competition that has been top class this season, but the courses put on by our clubs have been thrilling and engaging, demonstrating just how talented our region is in FT. The consideration given by the course setters to accommodate and encourage all levels of competitors is excellent, providing courses that are fair but offer a challenge to the best there is.

Thanks must go to Ian Stoddart and the team who have helped him take on the role of Competition Secretary – and given that Andrew Gillott was an extremely hard act to follow I think he deserves a pat on the back. I can't mention everyone who deserves it here, but there are always the people behind the scenes, the unsung

heroes that also deserve our thanks; the likes of Keith Hassle, Dave Oakes, Shaun Shore etc who are always

*The sport needs new blood, so why not give it a go. Great scenery, great courses and great people, what could be better?*

willing to help check courses, and of course the Stats, who without their hard work none of this could happen. Finally, in the well done category, I think we should also say well done to all the clubs and the members who, after a bit of a wake up call, have stepped up to the mark to ensure each shoot runs well, with no major issues – so thank you all.



OPPOSITE: NEIL THORNEYCROFT TOOK THE 2019 PISTON CLASS TITLE. ABOVE: NICK PUT ON A TRUE MASTERCLASS THIS SEASON WITH A STRAIGHT RUN OF 100% RESULTS.

Photo: FT Monki

Each of the Grades have seen some great results this summer, however the overriding success has to be Nick Murphy taking the overall title with no less than a full house of 100% scores. It's been a real pleasure to watch, although I suspect a little frustrating for those trying to catch him!!

In A Grade Ian Stoddart has at last found his form and has lodged some fantastic scores enabling him to take the title home for 2019. However, hot on his heels from the outset was Andy Purseglove and Andy Finnigan who chased him all the way and will certainly be two names to be wary of in the coming winter season.

B Grade was also a close call this year, with Terry Southern putting in consistently steady results to hold the top slot. Castle's Richard Groucher must be very pleased with his second place whilst Terry's clubmate Keith Jinks managed to take a well earned 3rd.

C Grade is always a pleasure to watch, especially when newcomers take to the circuit, and this year was no different. I think a name to watch coming up the ranks this winter may be Blackbrooks's Frank Deakin who finished the Summer Season in a comfortable first place, with another Purley Chase member, Terry Norris, putting in good results to finish just behind him. Bringing up the rear to finish 3rd overall in C was my mate Bob Selvey – nice to see you up there pal.

The Piston Class was a little thin on the ground this year, but Neil Thorneycroft and spring gun master John Amos battled it out for the title. In the end it was Neil who came out on top with 453 points to John's 450, so it could have gone either way, as they both put in results that often sat happily amongst the PCP Class! Just how they put the scores in week after week is beyond me.

So, after a thrilling few months what can we expect from the region from now on? Well, the good news is that I feel we are on the way to putting things right, but I have to say I do feel we need to look at the running of the region as a whole and, at a base level, look how we can move it forwards and ideally inject some extra funds into it. I

genuinely feel without some potential major changes we may find ourselves going backwards again in a few years time. That said, if we can continue to work with clubs such as Blackbrook, who have provided fantastic courses at a great venue and if we can keep the renewed enthusiasm I can see coming through our members I know we can see our region and it's competitions go from strength to strength.

The Winter League is not too far away and with the new format and a little extra competitive incentive thrown in (see the back page) I really hope we can build on the success of the summer and continue to welcome additional shooters to the sport. ■



NEFTA'S DYLAN VARNEY (ABOVE) HAS PUT SOME TOP SCORES IN THIS SEASON

THE BAKING HEAT OF GP9 TOOK IT'S TOLL ON MANY OF THE SHOOTERS

# 2019 GP SERIES

Every year the BFTA Series sees the cream of the crop in FT rise to the challenge to take the GP title. But it's also a place where we see a bunch of newcomers make their way up the ranks and start to experience a level of competitive outdoor shooting that is second to none.

However, as you will know if you have taken part, the GP Series is also a lot of fun, and isn't always the hard-line competition it's sometimes made out to be. In fact, for all its 'officialness' it's a pretty good opportunity to put the experience gained in a regional season to the test. The courses are longer, 50 shots to be precise, so can be demanding but they're fair and cater for all grades. Plus, quite often

being paired up with a competitor a grade or two above you can really help and is a great way to gain confidence and learn the ropes. I certainly remember in my early GP years being paired with the likes of Dan Eley, Nick Murphy or the late, great Dave Baines and I can honestly say it's down to shooting with and becoming good friends with these sorts of people that has kept my 25+ years enthusiasm in the sport – and 100% made me a better shooter for it.

This years GP season has been a cracker with big scores coming in at the majority of the Rounds, with Red Gallagher successfully joining the BFTA 50 Club with his awesome clearance at GP7 in York.

## GP9: THE HEAT IS ON

The final round where most of the overall positions were decided was held a couple of weeks ago at Blackbrook FTC, Staffs. It was extremely hot, and

*The midland's had some excellent results in the BFTA GP Series, over all the Grades, with some of our members really starting to make big waves in FT.*

even with a gentle breeze many suffered a little in the unrelenting heat of the day. The long, winding and well considered course started off with a little shade but

meandered through the open woodland, eventually ending up in an un-sheltered clearing where the sun bore down on the last half a dozen lanes. As well as the temperature, the scores on the day were red hot too. Berty Bassett and Andrew Gillott finished just two down on 48 with a handful of others rolling home with 47's. It was also great to see young Dylan Varney put in a great score of 46 to finish off his very successful 2019 GP Season.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter we have seen some new names on the FT circuit this season. C Grade saw SEFTA's Steve Martin 60 points clear of the pack to take first place, with Jo Phipps in 2nd and the North West's James Meekin lying 3rd on 367 points.



JOHN AMOS IS SIMPLY STUNNING WITH A SPRING GUN – AND NOT TOO BAD WITH A PCP EITHER!

ANDREW GILLOTT SHOWED HIS TRUE POTENTIAL AT GP9, BLACKBROOK, FINISHING JOINT FIRST WITH A 48/50.

Photo: FT Monki

B Grade was a tight group, with 13 points separating the top 3 places. These were filled by Steve Chubb (3rd), Andy Barnes (2nd) and our roving reporter Martin Calpin finished top to add a GP trophy to his collection.

As ever A Grade is a tough one to crack, with a lot of names in there that quite frankly you wouldn't want to go up against in a shoot off. Paul Mangham of Castle kept up his recent good form to place 3rd overall, whilst Blackbrook's Darron Hillier just pipped him to the post for 2nd. But at long last the big man from down south came up trumps, and it was fantastic to see Dave Croucher lift the trophy this year.

Finally AA could have gone a number of ways this year with just a handful of points between the top 5 or 6 positions. Nathan Reeve is showing great form this year (something his grandad would have been very proud of) and just missed out on a top 5 place, handing it over to FT stalwart Ian Taylor instead. 4th place was taken with 578 points by Dan Eley and Red managed to hang on to take 3rd in the Championship.

But this year, the top two places went over the border – Jack Harris finished 2nd without even having to attend the last shoot (I understand he was in the USA competing in a competition) but it was the natural talent of Welshman Mark 'Berty' Basset that gave him the edge to finish not only with a win on the day but the overall title of BFTA GP Champion 2019. It's great to see Mark take this title. He has of course had his fair share of success over the years, but there's always room for one more major title in the bag.



Mark 'Berty' Basset took the overall 2019 GP title.

At the time of writing this we are in the throws of the big BFTA Masters and BFTA Showdown, and the BFTA European Championships are not too far behind that, so the reports on those will have to wait until the next issue, but rest assured there will be plenty to say, so watch this space... ■



# CLUB FOCUS



Photo: FT Monki

JOHN CALLAGHAN IS A LONG STANDING MEMBER OF CASTLE, AND IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SHOOT ALONGSIDE HIM.

LOCATION: NOTTINGHAM  
 TIME AT CURRENT GROUND: 25 YEARS  
 NUMBER OF MEMBERS: +90  
 FACILITIES: CLUBHOUSE, MULTIPLE COURSES, SILHOUETTE RANGE, UNDERCOVER ZERO RANGE  
 CLAIM TO FAME: GREAT CAKES ON CLUB DAYS!



The UK in general, and the midland's in particular has some great clubs, many steeped in FT history. One of these that has stood the test of time is Castle FTARC, near Nottingham.

The club has a long and successful history, and gets its name from it's original location near Lea & Holloway,

Derbyshire, where the 19th-century Grade II listed Riber Castle was visible from the grounds. After a spell at Hazlewood near Belper, Castle has now settled into a stunning woodland on the outskirts of Nottingham, where it has been resident for the past 25 years. It's a cracking club and one that I am certainly very proud to be a member. It has gained a large membership base with a good mix of plinkers, pistol shooters, general airgun enthusiasts and dedicated Field Target competitors and over the years the club has witnessed plenty of success in the MFTA Clubs Cup. In addition, it also has it's fair share of characters, from the people who gave so much to our sport, such as the sadly missed Neil Brown, to a healthy and growing mix of regional, national, European and world title holders.

The grounds themselves are simply stunning at any time of year, with a mix of broadleaf woodland with a dense carpet of ferns, blackberry bushes and wild. Practically they are large enough to accommodate a number of field

*Beginner or dedicated FT shooter, come rain or shine Castle is a great place to spend a Sunday morning.*

target courses, an open sight rifle range, plus a pistol range, silhouette range and a great undercover zero area.

A firm favourite on the MFTA calendar, Castle usually hosts at least one round of the MFTA Winter League, plus a Summer League and also stages a number of

independent shoots throughout the year. The *Cyril Julian Memorial* is a poignant and ever popular event, whilst the *Castle Portcullis*, usually held around mid September is proving more and more popular as the years go on.

If you're looking for a club that has fantastic facilities with a lively and friendly atmosphere then you will be hard pushed to find a better place. The club is open all year round to members, and welcomes guest shooters who are looking to get involved in the sport.

To find out more about the club visit the website [castlefieldtarget.co.uk](http://castlefieldtarget.co.uk) or find their latest news on Facebook. ■



**AND FINALLY...**

It's only a few weeks now until the Winter League kicks off at Castle – and with the new format it's hoped all will run smoothly and the region can continue to make improvements to our shoots.

This season a small incentive will be in place to both encourage and reward those who put in a top score at each Round. The FT Monki metal badges will be awarded to those who attain the top score in each Grade. It's anticipated this will encourage a healthy competitive spirit whilst giving a little back to those who may not otherwise be in the running for an overall season title. So, get some practise in and see how many you can win!

**YOU'VE GOT TO  
BE ON IT TO  
WIN IT!**



**2019/20 CALENDAR**

**MFTA WINTER LEAGUE**

WL 01	Castle	13 Oct
WL 02	Purley Chase	27 Oct
WL 03	Blackbrook	10 Nov
WL 04	Harriers	24 Nov
WL 05	Far Coley	08 Dec
WL 06	Millride	05 Jan 2020
WL 07	Dowry Hill	19 Jan 2020
WL 08	TBC	02 Feb 2020
WL 09	Far Coley	16 Feb 2020
WL 10	TBC	01 Mar 2020
Masters/C Cup	Blackbrook	15 Mar 2020

The last few limited edition commemorative World Championship neck scarves are available. Ideal for the coming winter, they look cool but will keep you toasty when it's less than perfect weather. See either Chris Large or James Osborne.



**BFTA CARDS**

Please remember, for insurance purposes in order to shoot any BFTA national or MFTA competition you must hold a current, valid BFTA card, which has your unique BFTA number. These cards are only issued via the BFTA (subject to a £3.50 charge) through your regional affiliated club. Please ensure you are a member of a qualifying club and you have been issued with your card prior to the coming season.



Please do let us know if you have any news about what's happening in your MFTA Club. **Want to get a pdf copy of *Inside Edge* direct to your inbox?** Just email [christopher@fsgdesign.co.uk](mailto:christopher@fsgdesign.co.uk) with '*Inside Edge Please*' in the Subject box.



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The views expressed in this publication are those of the editor or the contributors, and not necessarily those of any national or regional governing body. Thanks to James Osborne and Martin Calpin for some of the photos. Produced by FT Monki.