

Craig Owen – Northamptonshire.



The 2014 major BSSA championships were for the most part (first three) very much a tale of “new shooters” and Craig Owen was very involved in that as early on in his skeet shooting he has been a challenger at the big shoots.

Craig began registered shooting in October 2012. His early CPSA career was a mix of multiple disciplines and this resulted in him winning the Northamptonshire CPSA shooter of the year award in 2013. It was not until late 2013 / early 2014 began to focus on CPSA skeet. Not long after that he shot his first 100 straight in CPSA skeet on the 23/03/2014 and has since shot 7 x 100 straights. These include (correct as of Jan 2015) three English Skeet straights, then two each with the 12 and 20 gauges in NSSA skeet. One of those hundreds in 2014 was to win the Northamptonshire Country Champion title for ESK.

Craig uses a Blaser F3 and Briley Tubes and joined NSSA in March 2013 and in his first season shot 2950 registered targets including travelling to his first “World Skeet” in San Antonio, Texas. It did not take long to hit his stride in 4 gun shooting as by his second one Craig was already winning his classes in some of the gauges and ended up 4th overall at the European Open 2013 held at Nottingham SG. It was very shortly after Craig got on a plane to Texas. On the Thursday prior to the Mini World Doubles they hold a 4 x 50 shoot for those interested and Craig was one of 45 people who entered. He managed to run the 12 gauge 50 straight and after shoot offs take A1.



The 20 gauge saw a 49 x 50 and that was good enough for second in class (A). These results helped him to a 192 x 200 and that was good enough for B3 in the HOA event.

In the Mini World on the Saturday morning the 12 gauge event is shot and a score of 99 saw a class placing on B8 from 123 entries in the class. The next time a class placing happened was in the Main World .410 event, Craig broke a 97 X 100 to take C1 after a 3 way shoot off. There were 88 entries in that 410 class so to win through at the World shoot is a great performance especially at your first world shoot.

After a good performance at his first world skeet the next season (2014) saw 3650 registered nssa targets over the year. Also a focus on 4 gun championships is clearly obvious when you look at his shooting record for the season. Craig shot six 4 gun championships in 2014 and this included his first HOA Championship at the BSSA Open held in July at Northampton Shooting Ground.

Craig broke 386 x 400 over the four gauges to win by one from Peter Bloomfield. This win was in only Craig's tenth 4 gun shoot in total. Craig returned to the Mini and Main World Skeet championships in 2014 and the first breakthrough was running 100 straight in the 20 Gauge Mini World. This after shoot offs resulted in a class placing of A3 from a total of 152 entries. He repeated the 20 gauge 100 straight in the Main event and again after shoots off's managed a class placing of A6 but this time there were 175 entries.

With the 2014 season records annual due out soon i would expect to see Craig Owen place well in the "Top 5" BSSA averages and certainly look forward to seeing his performances keep improving over the 2015 season and beyond.

