

JOSH IS TOP OF THE YOUNG SHOTS

Bennion takes High Gun while Bloxham dominate the team events at the top young shots competition



THE FABULOUS PRIZES!

RED COURSE HIGH GUN	Webley 900X and extended prize package
BLUE COURSE HIGH GUN	Webley 900X Silver Action 20-bore shotgun
BASC COURSE HIGH GUN	Armsan 612S semi-auto
LADIES HIGH GUN	Webley 900X Junior Combo shotgun
RED COURSE TEAM	Armsan 612S semi-auto
BLUE COURSE TEAM	Armsan 612S semi-auto
BASC COURSE TEAM	Armsan 612S semi-auto and £500 from BASC
LADIES TEAM	Armsan 612S semi-auto
SCOUT HIGH GUN	Armsan 612S semi-auto
CADET HIGH GUN	Armsan 612S semi-auto

and Armsan's UK distributor, Highland Outdoors, said "We're really pleased to support the British Schools & Young Shots competition and are very impressed by the enthusiasm and skill of these young people. The future of British shooting looks very positive." There were some also some fabulous category prizes, including a massive £500 for the winning under-14 team, donated by BASC.

Josh collected a terrific haul of sponsored prizes, including a Webley 900X 20-bore over-and-under, a year's BASC membership, a year's membership at Atkin Grant & Lang, a Seeland clothing voucher and a year's subscription to *Clay Shooting*. He was delighted with his win, which follows a tremendous start to the clay season for the 18-year-old from Stoke-on-Trent, who is coached by Nick Hendrick. He also won the English Open Fitasc Sporting Junior title at the end of March and the UK Junior title at Garlands in April. That placed him top of the GB Junior rankings, winning him his first international Fitasc cap – and »

Josh Bennion shot a perfect 50-straight to lift the trophy at *Clay Shooting's* prestigious British Schools & Young Shots Championship at the Atkin Grant & Lang Shooting Ground in Hertfordshire on 4 May – beating some of the UK's best young shots including last year's High Gun, Alfie Tibbles.

The BSYS is widely regarded as 'the big one' for under-18s, and this year it attracted

more than 200 young shots with teams travelling from far and wide, including the stalwarts from Strathallan in Scotland. It's the highlight of the school shooting year, with teams and individuals from all over the country competing. This year the event received a major boost with Webley & Scott and Armsan lending prize sponsorship with their O/U and semi-automatic shotguns, on top of sponsorship from BASC, Seeland, Atkin Grant & Lang and *Clay Shooting* magazine. John Bright, CEO of Webley



RED COURSE

Bloxham's A team were victorious on the Red course, winning an Armsan 6125 semi-auto with a decisive total score of 212, ahead of Millfield A2 on 195 in 2nd and Warwick A 3rd with 185. Warwick took the Old Pupils category. Charlie Soanes, second placed overall, won the Parent & Child category shooting with his father Philip. Their score of 93 was three targets ahead of Will and Tim Fenner's 90.



RED COURSE

HIGH GUN

- 1 Josh Bennion 50
- 2 Charlie Soanes 49
- 3 Brody Woollard 48

TEAM

- 1 Bloxham A 212
- 2 Millfield A2 195
- 3 Warwick A 185

OLD PUPILS TEAM

- 1 Warwick 129
- 2 Kimbolton 120
- 3 Kings High 90

PARENT & CHILD TEAM

- 1 Charlie & Philip Soanes 93
- 2 Will & Tim Fenner 90
- 3 Sam & Derek Beales 88



he was looking forward to travelling to Hungary to compete in the European Fitasc Championship in mid-May.

As in previous years, the 2019 championships consisted of three separate courses of varying difficulty: Red, Blue and the BASC course – the latter renamed from previous years' Black course.

The Red and Blue courses each consisted of 50 targets shot over seven stands, and the BASC course for under-14s was 32 targets shot over four stands. Ten guns were available to be won across the individual and team categories on the three courses, which included Ladies, Cadets, Parent & Child and Old Pupils competitions.

Josh shot his 50-straight on the testing Red course, set by Charlie Stewart-Wood and his team. The day was bright and sunny, broken by sudden sharp hail showers and a stiff breeze that added to the challenge.

Will Fenner took an early lead with 47 ex-50, only to be overtaken by Brody Woollard with 48. Brody's 48 topped the board for

some time until Josh posted his 50. It was an unbeatable score, but with some excellent young shots still out there it could still be equalled.

In the end Charlie Soanes came closest – but he had blown his chances right at the start, missing his very first target. He hit everything else for a score of 49, taking second place ahead of Brody who finished a creditable third.

Charlie Stewart-Wood was delighted with this year's event. "With the staggered start times the courses have been busy all day, and everything has run smoothly," he said, adding "we've been really impressed with the young shots' attention to safety as well as the standard of shooting. Their gun handling and general behaviour has been exemplary." He was particularly impressed with Josh's winning 50-straight. "We try to strike the right balance with the targets on each course – we have to separate the top shots, but we don't want to discourage people by beating them up," he explains. "But it's always an achievement to





BLUE COURSE

Bloxham School dominated the Blue course, with the top three individual places going to Bloxham shooters. High gun was Tom Owen with an impressive 46 ex-50, which won him a 20-bore 900X over-and-under from sponsors Webley. Close behind was his Bloxham team-mate Ed Ellis on 44, and third place went to another Bloxham pupil, George Sawbridge. Not surprisingly with scores like that, Bloxham's B1 and B2 teams took first and second place in the teams category by a considerable margin, pushing Cheltenham's B team into third place.

Ami Hedgecock took High Gun in the Ladies category, while Cokethorpe took the Ladies team prize ahead of Kings High first and second teams, who took second and third place respectively.

BLUE COURSE

● HIGH GUN

- 1 Tom Owen 46
- 2 Ed Ellis 44
- 3 George Sawbridge 43

● LADIES

- 1 Ami Hedgecock 40
- 2 Freja Ostland 39
- 3= Ellen Macdonald 38
- Holly Bryant 38

● CADETS

- 1 L Gidding 38
- 2 H Lazell 34
- 3 O Baker 32

● TEAM

- 1 Bloxham B1 204
- 2 Bloxham B2 183
- 3 Cheltenham B 169

● LADIES TEAM

- 1 Cokethorpe 105
- 2 Kings High 1 100
- 3 Kings High 2 99

● PARENT & CHILD TEAM

- 1 Sophie & Jeremy Herrman 79
- 2 Tom & E Oliver 78
- 3 H & MR Craig 58





straight any course, just with the mental pressure. They're all easy to miss!"

He also commented that Atkin Grant & Lang was firing on all cylinders this season, having already held a CPSA Premier League shoot and the Lyalvale Express Masters, with 450 entries, ahead of the BSYS Championship. The venue provided a lovely setting, with stands set along woodland paths flanked by bluebells.

Back in the clubhouse, the team entered the scores on the CPSA computer system, providing a constantly updated leader board on a TV screen that was followed avidly throughout the day. The organisation was

slick and efficient, with everything running to time and teams getting away by 5pm after the prizegiving was finished.

Clay Shooting editor James Marchington, who presented the prizes, commented "I enjoyed the day immensely. It's heartening to see the standard of young people entering our sport, some of who will undoubtedly become the big names in years to come. Atkin Grant & Lang did the event proud, setting up and running a superb shoot, and I am grateful to the sponsors who put their money where their mouth is and supported the next generation with some great prizes. Roll on next year!"

BASC COURSE

Rhys Powell took High Gun with an excellent score of 31 on the 32-target BASC course for under-14s. Hot on his heels was John Porter with 30, and third place went to Bethany Norton on 27. Bloxham's Under-14 team won the team category with 58, completing a clean sweep of the team events. John and Shane Porter won the Parent & Child category with a combined score of 59.

BASC COURSE

- **HIGH GUN**
 - 1 Rhys Powell 31
 - 2 John Porter 30
 - 3 Bethany Norton 27

- **UNDER-14 TEAM**
 - 1 Bloxham 58
 - 2 Maidwell Hall 1 55
 - 3 Maidwell Hall 2 40

- **PARENT & CHILD TEAM**
 - 1 John & Shane Porter 59
 - 2 Nigel & Cameron Bryan 56
 - 3= Mark & Lain Blamey 53
George & Paul Bailey 53

