



NEW GAME

There are several new shooting disciplines coming to the UK in 2016 following the development of FEDECAT-UK – we caught up with one of the people behind it, **Nicola Heron**

CS: Why did you set up FEDECAT-UK?

NH: FEDECAT-UK was set up by shooters for shooters, who enjoyed the new disciplines being developed by CM FEDECAT (Spain) and wanted to compete internationally. At the time we did not have any UK member body affiliated to CM FEDECAT so in order to compete in the international competitions we needed to set up a UK Federation.

FEDECAT-UK is an independent federation and has the sole right to select and enter its own British teams. It is not connected in any way to either BICTSF or British Shooting.

Though the federation was set up with international shooters in mind, I also wanted to try to encourage more shooters from the UK to try the sport of international competition. This can be daunting to some who have never shot abroad before, yet it is one of the more pleasurable aspects of our sport and you make great friends for life among shooters from all nations.

CS: Will any of these disciplines be shot in the UK?

NH: We are delighted to have just signed licence agreements with Fauxdegla Shooting Ground and Beverley Clay Target Centre to run Trap 5 and Trap 3 in the UK this year. FEDECAT-UK members get a discounted member's-only entry fee when they enter any of our UK competitions but you can still enter as a non-member. It is great to have these two grounds on board after so many requests from shooters in the UK to try these disciplines.

Mike Faux of Fauxdegla Shooting Ground has agreed to come on the FEDECAT committee to deal with the Trap disciplines. Mike came with me to Portugal in 2015 to try out Trap 3 at the European Championship. He said: "My wife and I felt like royalty as the Portuguese were exceptionally friendly and hospitable. We were even invited out to dinner by the Portuguese federation. We are returning



FEDECAT-UK is promoting international shooting opportunities

this year to shoot the FEDECAT Trap 5 European Championship in Granada and the World Championship in the Algarve. We are holding an open day for Trap 5 on 28 March so feel free to come and try it. Also keep an eye of the Fauxdegla calendar for our Trap 5 competitions this year.”

Ian Patterson said “FEDECAT Trap 5 and Trap 3 are great alternatives to the disciplines we already have at Beverley CTC and we are looking forward to running them in the near future.”

CS: Can anyone join FEDECAT-UK?

NH: Yes, you will become part of the FEDECAT-UK family and be encouraged to try the international competitions. All shooters who want to compete in CM FEDECAT European or World Championships, or any Grand Prix events will need to be a member of FEDECAT-UK.

CS: How does a ground owner affiliate to FEDECAT-UK in order to run the new FEDECAT disciplines in the UK?

NH: FEDECAT-UK wants to encourage

as many shooters as possible to enjoy these new disciplines and any ground who wants to put the disciplines on will be welcomed. There will be no charge for shooting grounds to join the FEDECAT-UK family but they will need to complete the Shooting Ground Application Form and also the Licence Agreement where they agree to abide by the Regulations and Rules set out for the various disciplines. All members of FEDECAT-UK are equal so if any ground owner wants to compete abroad they would have to become an individual member like everyone else.

CS: Is there any birds-only option in the FEDECAT-UK competitions?

NH: No, we want shooters to develop the mindset of the international competition. However, in the UK, though there will not be a class system, we will operate a prize-fund system (similar to Lewis system) that spreads the prize fund for a competition in equal sections. This way all levels of shooters wanting to start in these disciplines will have a chance to win in a section.

CS: Why do Ladies and Juniors have a discounted membership?

NH: Our world governing body wishes to encourage more Ladies and Juniors into the sport, so special rates and conditions are applied to all international competitions. FEDECAT-UK also wants to encourage more Ladies and Juniors to take up these disciplines and make the most of a reduced membership fee. Plus Colts get free membership on receipt of a completed membership form (parents to sign).

CS: Does being a member of FEDECAT-UK prevent me from being a member of any other UK or world shooting organisations?

NH: No, we are a federation that wants you to enjoy your sport openly and freely wherever you choose to play it and with whomever you choose to play.

CS: Is Trap 5 like Universal Trench?

NH: Trap 5 is similar to UT in so far as it uses 5 traps and 10 schemes. It is not reinventing the wheel.

“ We are holding an open day for Trap 5 on 28 March so feel free to come and try it. Also keep an eye on Fauxdegla’s calendar for competitions this year ”



Mike Faux has signed up Fauxdegla Shooting Ground for Trap 5 events



FEDECAT-UK encourages shooters to take part in international disciplines

The differences are that Trap 5 is thrown to 65m and each trap throws to that same distance, and shooters use a 24-gram cartridges. This discipline can be seen as a preparation for Olympic Trap. Internationally it is an open discipline, so you do not have to qualify as a member of the British team member to shoot the World Championship, European Championship or World Cups. This allows young shooters to cut their teeth on the international stage and get used to the feeling of the big events. If they decide to move to OT at a later date, they will already be seasoned competitors and fearless.

CS: Is FAN32 like Hélice?

NH: FAN32 is going back to the original game: It still uses a propeller target and rotating machines that throws these special targets. The main differences are in the rules of how this game is played. Internationally it is played for a large prize fund, it has elimination and it uses a maximum of 32-gram cartridges. The targets are different colours and made of a material that breaks well. It is much more of a mental concentration game than Hélice because of the elimination aspect, but it is an open competition internationally and anyone can go.

CS: Is Trap 3 like DTL?

NH: Trap 3 is a totally new game. It is a bridge between the slow-speed discipline of DTL and the fast-speed disciplines of UT and OT. You shoot with 28-gram cartridges and it uses the middle three traps from a bunker layout. Each trap throws the target to 60

metres. This again is an open competition when shot internationally, so it is a great discipline to help people gain confidence of competing on the big stage. The interesting thing about this discipline is that it scores two points for a first barrel kill and one point for a second barrel kill. It is a numbers game that builds good strong shooters who are confident in their ability to achieve first-barrel kills, which is an asset if they move on to OT.

CS: What is Sport FEDECAT?

NH: Again we are not reinventing the wheel. Sport FEDECAT uses all types of traps and all types of targets and can be shot with any gun ready position. It throws singles, doubles on report and simultaneous doubles, on a system of pegs. It can be played on Trap shooting grounds or in the countryside. These competitions are open events internationally and any FEDECAT-UK member can enter.

CS: If I am ready to try a competition abroad but nervous of travelling with the gun for the first time alone. Can you help?

NH: Yes that is not a problem. We can provide all the information needed to get you out there and back. We are a friendly federation and can help walk you through what happens when you arrive. By the end of the competition I am sure that you will have made new friends from several countries for future competitions here in the UK and abroad.

CS: Can I shoot for a GBR team?

NH: Yes, if you qualify. We look at selection

in a different way. You do not have to travel all over the UK to compete in expensive selection shoots as we want strong committed teams. We want on-form shooters who are committed enough to travel to the international events because their first thought is that they are there to compete for an individual title. We run our selection shoot at the international event (be it a world or European championship) and we use the prelim competitions like the President Cup (for FAN32) or the official practice days (for Trap 5 and Trap 3). By selecting teams at the event and in the climate at that time, we hope to get strong, focused shooters who are hungry for individual success, which in turn then makes a team successful. 🍀

If you have any questions of your own, then please send them to nicola@FEDECAT-UK.com



FAN32 targets are made of material that breaks well