

Shooting Tips

While out ranging we often observe some pretty bad shooting. In fact just this last year I observed some hunters miss what would have been their limit over about 10 minutes of shooting.

Looking through old hunter diaries I see some hunters consistently shoot more than others. One of those hunters is Graham Geater. Graham is a top New Zealand clay and skeet shooter who has represented New Zealand on many occasions. He gives Josh, a new hunter, some tips on how to shoot.

Before you start make sure your gun fits you says Graham. Getting the right fit is very important. If you are not sure get advice from your local gun shop or check the internet, there are some good articles available.



Figure 1. First determine what is your dominant eye. The dominant eye is the eye you sight down the shotgun - if you shoot right handed you want your right eye to be dominant and vice versa. Point at an object in the distance with both eyes open, then close the left and then the right. With the dominant eye open your finger will remain pointing at the object. When the non-dominant eye is open your finger will no longer be pointing at the object. If you start missing targets check that your dominant eye hasn't changed - it happened to me. I got around this by keeping my right eye closed (I shoot left handed) for a while and it eventually swapped back.

Figure 2. Get your stance right. Graham describes this as your feet at 1.00 o'clock - 2.30 o'clock stance (or for left handers 11.0 o'clock, 9.30 position) when the shotgun pointing straight ahead is at 12.0 o'clock. Weight slightly forward on the front foot.

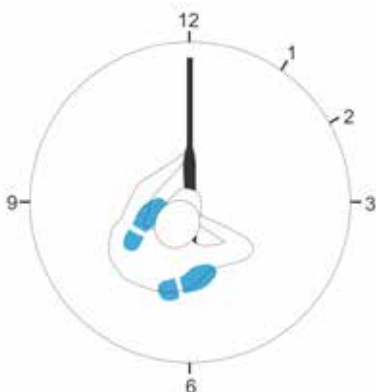


Figure 3. Head level. Keep your eyes level.



Figure 5. Correct - eyes level.



Figure 6. Wrong - eyes are not level



Figure 4. Tuck into the gun. With the combination of putting your weight slightly forward and keeping your eyes level your head will move forward slightly.



Figure 7. Hold the fore stock like holding an egg - not too hard. Some hunters like to point towards the target with their index finger.



Figure 8. Swing from knees and hips. If you swing from the arms you stop swinging. Make sure you follow through.