



LESLEY ON TARGET

Lesley Goddard, clay shooting champion says “I am a country girl at heart.”

My family have been Lincolnshire farmers for generations, and I love the outdoor life of horse riding, tractor driving, clay and game shooting, riding a quad bike around the farm, and the dog running alongside, (It’s an idle way of dog walking really, as well as an excuse to go and enjoy myself!).

I first started shooting in 1989, with Joe Wheeler, who had recently sold his gun shop and bought a farm, where he opened a shooting school.

My hobby at that time was horse riding and novice one day eventing. Unfortunately my event mare became long term lame and I decided to breed from her, but lost her foaling.

After that, I started clay target shooting and attended the local gun club at Kirton Lindsey. In May 1990 an England team member spotted me and suggested I shoot for England Ladies. I didn’t have much experience then and took no action at that time, not believing I had any talent at the sport. In October, it was again suggested I tried for the

England, Down the Line (DTL) team, so I shot a registered score (to get an average ranking), and started 1991 with this intention. After shooting the selection shoots, and finishing second at my first English Open championship, I was approached by an experienced lady shooter, who said, “We haven’t seen you shooting before this year?” I said “No, I’ve only just started” With that she got up and walked off, with a sour look on her face! It seems I had taken her place in the team. That was the start of my shooting career!

I changed discipline in 1993, and qualified for the Great Britain Olympic trap team, beginning in 1994 with a trip to Cyprus for a World Cup. That was exciting, as I had only flown once, and that was on a small plane from Humberside to Aberdeen, and now here I was, jet-setting across Europe on large planes. Awesome! Since that initial trip, I have been in the GB team every year since, visiting countries all over the world.



There have been some good results, winning medals at the following:

- 2001 Commonwealth Federation Games (UK) - Gold
- 2002 Manchester Commonwealth games - Team Silver and Individual Silver (badge match)
- World Cup, Italy 2007 - Silver
- European Championships, Czech republic - Team Gold
- World Championships 2006 Croatia, Olympic Quota place, individual 4th, Team Silver
- Commonwealth Federation Games 2005 (Australia) Team Gold, Individual Silver
- 2006 Commonwealth Games (Australia) - Bronze (badge match)
- English Open, UK Champion, British Open. (On a number of occasions).

I am now a qualified Sport psychologist and hypnotherapist, and using this knowledge, combined with my experience of top level competition and sport hypnosis, most certainly enhanced my own performance, and keeping me at the top of the rankings for fifteen years. I am now using these skills to assist other competitors in a variety of different sports. (Golf, tennis, football, swimming, motor sports, equestrian, snooker, darts, and of course shooting, to name a few.)

In November last year I completed an international Coaching Qualification with the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) and am now the only Lady (Trap) coach with this qualification. I was the trainer, coach and co-ordinator to the junior team for ten years, the Lincolnshire Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and three of the Juniors that I coached, have and still do shoot in the GB team.

Where to for the future, I ask myself? As there is still more in the old dog yet.

The 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi in India is my next goal, with the World and European Championships en route. Unfortunately, as a result of the non-medal winning performance of the selected shooting team in Beijing Olympics (they should have sent me!) there is hardly any funding available for the next four years, and that means all trips will be self funded. As a result, I am in search of sponsorship and funding to assist with costs to allow me to attend these shoots and win some more medals.

Lesley Goddard



LESLEY WITH HER SILVER MEDAL WINNING TEAM (L CHARLOTTE KERWOOD) AND (R ANITA WORT) AT THE WORLD CUP IN BELGRADE, 2000

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Are you a gamekeeper...

with a story to tell, or an industry that relies on shooting to survive? Maybe you're putting on an event and you want to tell the county... contact us on gunroom@lincolnshirelife.co.uk

