

Trapshooters Devise Methods to Maintain Interest of Beginners and Mediocre in Game

CLASSIFICATION EVENT FEATURE THIS YEAR IN TRAPSHOOTING CLASSIC

Stoney McLinn, Association Secretary, Encouraging Plan to Give Beginners and Mediocre Shots Chances for Titles and Medals at Grand American

THE Grand American trapshooting tournament will be held in Atlantic City in September this year and something new will be tried out. The stunt is not exactly an experiment, as it has been tried in many tournaments, but this will be the first time it has been applied to a big national event. The shooters will be classified.

For many years all trapshooting events were conducted on what is known as the "high-gun system." The only man or men rewarded and honored were those who were at the top of the heap. This meant that in a 100-target event invariably it required 97 or better to win a trophy or a cash prize. It was possible to go to a large tournament and select one of perhaps a dozen men, one or several of whom would walk away with the honors.

It is apparent that there was very little incentive for the man who averaged below 90 per cent to attend trapshooting competitions. He became very tired of finding his name among the "also rans." True, there was some distance handicap shooting when an effort was made to equalize the contestants by yardage handicaps. This placed the top-notchers on the 22 or 23 yard mark, where their scores were pretty certain to be reduced from five to ten targets.

Started Classifications in 1914
IN 1914 George S. McCarty, the Eastern zone champion of the American Trapshooting Association, evolved the idea of classing the shooters. He provided four or five trophies for the Philadelphia Trapshooters' League, with the understanding that the contestants were to be placed in classes in accordance with their ability. This meant that the chaps of the varying degrees of ability could compete among themselves on a virtually an equal basis. To indicate just how this works out, look at the present rules regarding the classification of shooters. When there are 100 or more contestants at a tournament they are classified as follows:

- Class 1—94 per cent and over.
- Class 2—90 per cent and under 94 per cent.
- Class 3—86 per cent and under 90 per cent.
- Class 4—82 per cent and under 86 per cent.
- Class 5—Below 82 per cent.

When there are twenty contestants and fewer than forty contestants, then there are three classes arranged as follows:
Class 1—93 per cent and over.
Class 2—88 per cent and under 93 per cent.
Class 3—85 per cent and under 88 per cent.
Class 4—Below 85 per cent.

When there are fewer than twenty contestants then there are two classes, arranged as follows:
Class 1—90 per cent and over.
Class 2—Less than 90 per cent.

The American Trapshooting Association, by keeping a careful record of a man's regular target shooting, and giving him an official average of rating, has made it possible to classify shooters in strict accord with their ability as evidenced by their shooting at sanctioned targets. And this has been the means of encouraging the mediocre shooters and the beginners.

Today men win trophies at tournaments who never would have had a thing to show for their shooting under the high-gun system of reward. The American Trapshooting Association does not believe in rewarding inefficiency, and it does believe that championship events should be high gun. A man who leads a large field in a tournament, with perhaps a 99 out of a 100, or a 100 straight, is entitled to all the rewards and successes to which his ability and nerve entitle him.

High-Gun Men Finally Give In
THE classification of shooters did not immediately become popular following its introduction. The high-gun men were likely to say, "I had to spend years in learning to break clay targets and become a high gun. Let the beginner travel the same hard road to success, and they will be more appreciative of the success when they do win." But finally, the high-gun men appreciated that the beginners and mediocre shooters would not continue to go to tournaments and take part in a competition in which they had not the slightest chance to win.

The championship race at the 1922 Grand American in Atlantic City will be at 200 targets, sixteen yards rise. This is a real test, and it will be the men who can stand up under pressure who will become the class champions of North America for 1922. It is predicted that Mr. McCarty's class championships this year will prove so popular and successful that they will remain feature events at all the national and sectional trapshooting tournaments held in future years.

THE classification championship has the hearty support of the American Trapshooting Association, and Stoney McLinn, the efficient secretary of the body, is giving all his energy toward making it a success in its first big trial. He is seeing that correct official averages are being kept on the various shooters throughout the country.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER TO PLAY FLEISHER NINE
Yarners and Store Boys Will Clash in West Philly Tonight
The Fleisher nine baseball team will invade West Philadelphia this evening and meet the Strawbridge & Clothier team for the first time this season.

SUSPEND CHARLEY LEONARD
Punished by Boxing Commission for Jumping into Ring
New York, June 28.—The New York State Boxing Commission, at its meeting here, took no action in regard to the sudden termination of the bout between Henry Leonard and Jack Britton, which was severely criticized. Boxing Commission officials announced that they were contemplating no inquiry into the match, which ended in the thirteenth round with a decision for Britton on a foul delivered by Leonard.

Whiskaway, winner of the \$30,000 Kentucky Special, has been shipped from Latonia to the Harry Payne Whitney farm in New Jersey. Trainer Howe has left Atchamps and Brommer to wait in the Latonia Derby. Morech also has been sent East and will not be a starter in the Derby.

Owen to Lead Harvard Nine
Cambridge, Mass., June 28.—George Owen, of Newton, star football and hockey player, has been elected captain of the Harvard 1922 baseball team.

Trainer Garth has reported that J. S. Godwin's Stook II is back in training and doing well. He is being pointed for the Dwyer Stakes.

NO REASON FOR FRAME-UP IN N. Y.

Britton Went Tired After Fast Gait—Leonard Lost His Head

REFEREE MADE MISTAKE
18,851 Pay \$130,265.30
To See Leonard-Britton

Twenty-one thousand fans saw Benny Leonard foul Jack Britton in the thirteenth round of their scheduled fifteen-round bout at the Velodrome, New York City, Monday night. Of this number 18,851 spectators were cash customers and the gate receipts totaled \$130,265.30. The net receipts were \$112,502 from which Leonard drew 35 per cent, or \$39,375.70, while Britton's share was 20 per cent, netting him \$22,500.50. The Government tax of 10 per cent amounted to \$11,250.25, while the State received \$5921.15. Tickets sold were:

By LOUIS H. JAFFE
NEW YORK fans are all excited over accusations made by several newspaper writers here that the Britton-Leonard bout on Monday was an "out-and-out frame-up," that the contest was a repetition of the "fixed game" which had been all pre-arranged for Britton to lose on a foul by striking Gans while he was on the floor.

One New York expert, Jules Kelly, said that the two managers expect too much credit from the customers. They ask them to believe that Benny Leonard, the coolest fighter in the ring, lost his head. This is strictly improbable. If you will recall how cool Leonard has been under fire, you will realize how he acted when he was suddenly dropped by Richie Mitchell in the Garden? It is hard to believe that such a consummate thoughtful young business man would lose his head.

Britton Tired
Personally, the writer can hardly understand what benefit could be derived by such a frame-up of which Leonard and Britton are being accused. To us it appears as if Britton, the grand old man of boxing, had given his all, had gone completely fatigued, hastened on by the left punch to the body by Leonard, and Jack went down at a clip.

There is doubt that Britton would have regained his equilibrium at the count of "nine" and would have remained on his feet. Referee Pate, Halper made the first one by hesitating too long in starting the count over the fallen boxer, and when Leonard lost his head by hitting after the count had begun, he robbed himself of what looked like a sure shot clinching of the welterweight crown.

Leonard, for his age—despite the record books, Jack is closer to forty than he is to thirty-five—gave a wonderful exhibition. He fouled almost every one of the 20,000 there by putting on an exhibition of aggression. He fouled Jack often has been painted as the most remarkable of defensive boxers, but against Leonard he showed even a better one. Continually he caused Leonard to retreat back up against the ropes and sometimes hold—and hold on tight.

Apparently Britton, severely punished only in the first round, was unable to go any further. Before the start of the thirteenth he had been foundering on his feet for two previous sessions, and it looked as if Britton's knees and legs gave way under him.

Outclassed Leonard
While he was able to keep going, there were times when Britton virtually outclassed his eleven-year younger opponent. This night seemed somewhat exaggerated, because Leonard is supposed to be one of the cleverest fighters in the world. But Jack actually made Benny miss time and again, while the older man was by far more successful in connecting with his punches.

Duncan and Mitchell Sail
London, June 28.—George Duncan and Al Mitchell, leading British golfers, left for Southampton today to begin their tour. They plan to spend three months in visiting over various courses in the United States.

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By PAUL PREP
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Challenger of John L. Dies
Belmont, Conn., June 28.—Fred R. Bell, who is said to have given John L. Sullivan a battle with bare fists in the rear of a hotel here, died Sunday. He was a pugilist, but worked as a telegraph line man. Following a quarrel with John L. Sullivan, he was said to have interfered with the fight, at a time when the big lineman seemed to be winning. It was said that Bell once tried to arrange a match with John L., but did not succeed.

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Weissmuller to Compete at Brighton
New York, June 28.—John Weissmuller, the greatest swimmer the world has ever seen, has cabled from Honolulu his acceptance of an invitation to compete in the open air pool at Brighton Beach on Saturday, July 22. This will mark Weissmuller's first appearance in the States after his triumphant and record-breaking tour.

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