



## **Pontivy Gun Club - M. Gautier**

Voiceover by Rob Millar

- Ian We're here at the Ball trap Club Pontivien where we are talking to Monsieur Gautier who is the President of the club. First of all when did the club start?
- M. Gautier The club has existed since 1974, it is a very old club. Next year we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Ian And how many members do you have in the club?
- M. Gautier This club has 133 licensed members in 2013, we are the largest in Brittany, we have a lot of young members and several English people about 13 or 15. There are 25 members who work for the club. We have a calendar and everyone works a minimum of 6 half days. We also have people who are not members who just shoot occasionally. Members get a reduced tariff. Every Saturday we need 5 people to run the club. To take the money and for the security of the field.
- Ian Do you have any lady members in the club
- M. Gautier Yes we have 3,4,5, yes 5, I haven't got the list. It is not a lot, but it is more difficult for them because of the recoil.
- Ian You obviously have a well attended club here. Err, what would I have to do to join the club? How would I go about getting my licence?
- M. Gautier Firstly, we can give you a licence, the cost for one year is 50 euros, afterwards, to shoot, you have to buy tickets 6€50 for 25 shots. It is best to have you licence validated by your doctor, to confirm that you don't have any mental problems. It is not obligatory, it is only obligatory if you want to do competitions. We only have 20 people here who do competitions, the rest, is just for pleasure.
- Ian So, I have a gun and I'm full of enthusiasm and I want to join the club, do you have instructors in the club who can teach me how to be safe with a gun and how to shoot with the gun?
- M. Gautier Yes, of course , I am a Federation Instructor, I can instruct all levels from beginners, those who have never shot or those who want to

improve, or those at a higher level. First of all you learn about security, then the different disciplines and then within each discipline the positions and then afterwards, of course, you improve your shooting.

Ian Do you have sporting here which, in fact, mimics a rabbit running or a pigeon or pheasants.....

M.Gautier Yes the 'parcourt de chase' or the 'sporting' is very popular. We have 10 machines and can do a lot of different trajectories... The up-and-under, the rabbit, the mini, the 110mm clay, the 80mm clay, different speeds and different trajectories

Ian If I was to start shooting, what kind of a gun would you recommend that I use for clay pigeon shooting as opposed to shooting game in the field?

M. Gautier There are lots of people who are giving up hunting and come with a gun with a barrel of 71cms a normal hunting gun, and this is good to start with. If you come with a more elaborate gun, with a 76cm barrel and a multi-choke, it's heavy, there is a lot of recoil. It is better to have a personal gun that is fitted to you - the length, the position of your hand, the position of your trigger finger - if you have somebody else's gun, you can shoot a few targets but after a while you will have a problem in you back.

Ian Well shooting is not everyone's interest, but if you have an overwhelming desire to give it a go, why not come down and meet Monsieur Gautier and have a little bit of instruction and enjoy yourself at the club. Thank you very much Monsieur Gautier for your time and for the very interesting way you've described your club.

