

They came to CONQUER...

As the most prestigious event in its shooting calendar, the HFT World Championships attracted airgunners from far and wide. *Airgun Shooter* found out a little of what makes HFT shooters tick outside of the UK...

April's Kelmash Country Fair in Northamptonshire played host to the World Hunter Field Target Championships, and with generous sponsorships from the likes of Air Arms, Countryman Fairs and AIM, the gloss was certainly there. And the most prestigious event in the HFT calendar naturally attracted the cream of the world's HFTers. So we've turned the spotlight onto some of the international airgun shooting stars who ventured to Britain to find out why HFT is so popular beyond our sceptred isle! ●

WORLD HFT FACTS

No fewer than 17 brands of air rifle were used at the 2013 World HFT Championships. The most popular six manufacturers were Air Arms (99 competitors), Daystate (59), Weihrauch (55), Steyr (52), Walther (32) and BSA (15). The highest-scoring rifle brand was the Walther (104.2 points on average), with Steyr and Weihrauch averaging 101.7 and 92.9 points respectively. The highest-scoring British rifles were BSA (92.3), Daystate (92.2) and Air Arms (92.0).

BLAZEJ LUKJANOWICZ

AGE: 25

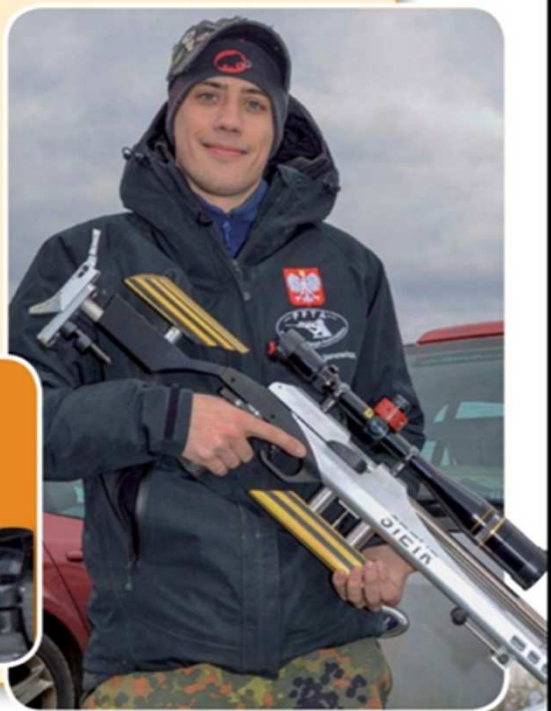
COUNTRY: Poland

RIFLE: Steyr LG110 Field Target

SCOPE: Leupold Vari-X III 6.5-20x40 Custom

PELLET: JSB Exact .177

Blazej found airguns after looking for a new hobby to spend his spare cash on back in 2010. He started with an Air Arms S400, buying a Walther two months later. He tops his current Steyr with a Leupold scope that sports a Premier reticle, and has a handy way of storing pellets around its elevation turret! He's very active in his country's national HFT league but describes his visit to England for the Worlds as: "Very exciting. Some of your tiny kills are a real challenge!"



ADAM KONOJACKI

AGE: 41

COUNTRY: Poland

RIFLE: Walther Dominator

SCOPE: Delta Optical 4-16x42AO

PELLET: JSB Exact .177

Adam got into airguns back in 2004, when a friend gave him a go with a basic rifle he'd just bought. It prompted him to invest in a Hatsan break-barrel, and soon after a Weihrauch HW97 underlever. But because Adam sensed everyone was shooting PCPs, he swapped systems, initially to an Air Arms S400 and then his current Walther. "Features like its adjustable butt help me," he says, "and though unusual, my scope works well for me."



JAKUB VICHER

AGE: 38

COUNTRY: Czech Republic

RIFLE: Steyr LG110 Field Target (long spec)

SCOPE: Burreis Timberline 4.5-14x32

PELLET: JSB Exact .177 (4.52)

Jakub started shooting with his dad and granddad when he was just eight, beginning with a Slavia 630 break-barrel. Five years ago, he then bought a Weihrauch HW97K, followed by an HW100 – and two years ago invested in his Steyr, choosing the long-action version because he likes the balance of it. "My nickname is 'Fishing Rod' because the barrel is so long," he jokes. He got into competitions from the moment they began in his country, around four years ago, although as he mainly shoots in forests, he found the wind at Kelmarsh tricky. He loves the 'community' of HFT, and was the founder member of www.fieldtarget.cz website.

**HFT: INTERNATIONAL PROFILES****RENE GEORGE ONDERDELINDEN**

AGE: 48

COUNTRY: Netherlands

RIFLE: Daystate Huntsman

SCOPE: MTC Mamba Lite 3-12x44

PELLET: JSB Exact .177

Mentored by dad, Rene's first gun was a Weihrauch HW30S – and he now own 12 airguns, including Air Arms, BSA, FX and Weihrauch! He's even got a 50ft/lb BSA R10 that can stick in 15mm groups at 100 metres! As for competitions, he spends more time organising them than shooting back home – though he recently achieved top five positions at his local shoot. "Adding a hamster to my Daystate's sporter stock has made a big difference to my competitive shooting," he says.

**LUKASZ RADAJ**

AGE: 31

COUNTRY: Czech Republic

RIFLE: Steyr LG110 Field Target

SCOPE: Meopta 4-16x44

PELLET: JSB Exact .177

A gift of a crudely-made Chinese sidelever air rifle at work five years ago proved the spark to get Lukasz into airgunning. He then acquired a Weihrauch HWS7 underlever, and soon afterwards bought his Steyr PCP. Lukasz claims to be the person who introduced HFT into the Czech Republic. "I'm quite proud about that fact," he says, "as well as about the Czech team, which came second in the Polish Europeans." The Worlds are his third time in the UK. And his verdict? "It's always exciting to shoot here. It's a great wooded course and the event is very well organised."

