

## What is TBT?

The NTSA will be holding their first National TBT Championship event in early August at Recoil Scotland's ranges. So, what is TBT and how did it come about?



First TBT stands for The Blue Team, one of the founding clubs of the NTSA. TBT is practical shooting without or with minimum movement. To understand how it came about you need to learn about the origins of Target Shotgun and its introduction at Bisley.

In 2006 the first IPSC European Practical shotgun Championships were being held in Italy. There was a significant use of slug ammunition in the course of fire. Those attending had a steep learning curve to understand and practice to achieve accuracy and learn how it worked through the shotguns being used at that time.

This led to an idea to combine slug shooting with courses of fire such as Timed and Precision and Multi Target. With the help of the NRA, Target Shotgun was introduced into the Action Weekend Competitions held four times a year. The term 'Target Shotgun' was chosen to distinguish the discipline from Practical. The competitions were proving very popular and attracted many competitors.

At the time the NRA had a number of restrictions at Bisley. This included not allowing movement with a loaded shotgun and a prohibition on engaging metal target at a distance less than 22 metres. To enable a practical competition at Bisley we had to find a way around these restrictions. TBT was introduced and eventually became part of the Shotgun Festivals, TBT was shot alongside other Target Shotgun competitions, and the event is still held twice a year. It was challenging to engage metal plates at 22 meters or more. Stages using Slug and Buckshot were used on paper targets which could be set up at closer range. It was challenging to come up with enough different stages without movement. TBT competitions grew in popularity. Eventually through testing of both metal plates and poppers the distant restriction was removed. This opened up more interesting courses of fire with birdshot.

Today, the NTSA are promoting the discipline again, allowing clubs to shoot practical without the hassle of setting long complicated stages. The basic rules of IPSC shotgun are adopted but allow both Fixed Time and Virginia Count scoring to be used. There is the additional benefit of shooting from various boxes, removing the need to set up screens. This restricts shooters who may only shoot certain target arrays from each box. Although they are moving and may reload as they move, all shooting must take place from designated shooting boxes from a static position.

TBT will be come part of the NTSA Remote Championships, the Winter Postal Leagues we run. A dedicated NTSA Approved TBT Course of Fire Booklet is being created and will soon be available to download from the NTSA website.

The first NTSA Championships is being held in Scotland, it is hoped to use different locations around the country in subsequent years. Any one or club wanting to learn about TBT should contact the NTSA's Competition Secretary via [competitions@ntsa.co.uk](mailto:competitions@ntsa.co.uk)

To register for the first NTSA TBT Championships on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August go to [SSI NTSA National TBT Championships 2024 \(shootnscoreit.com\)](https://shootnscoreit.com)