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100 BEST SHOTS EVER

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100 BEST SHOTS

Compiled by Alexandra Henton How do you pick the 100 best guns through the haze of smoking barrels stretching back to the era of tall hats and 'fowling pieces'? It is an unavoidably hit-and-miss affair. There must be thousands who deserve their name on this list who are now tramping the coverts of Arcadia unrecorded.

However, the 100 chosen were either identified by their contemporaries as outstanding or today's knowledgeable observers have heaped that plaudit upon them. We will have missed others, of course, and to them we give our apologies and appeal to their friends to set the record straight and write to *The Field*.

1

Major Arthur Acland-Hood

In the front rank of Edwardian shots. With Payne-Gallwey and Rimington-Wilson he was on Broomhead Moor in August 1913 when 2,843 grouse were bagged. A low partridge or pheasant on the left was his Achilles heel.

3

Lord Ashburton

Astonished the shooting world in October 1887 by killing 4,109 wild partridges (with six other guns) over four days at The Grange, near Alresford, Hampshire. Remarkably, on one day a particularly luckless gun shot only five.

2

Jim Albone

Expert pigeon guide with a brace of "how to" videos under his belt. Lethal at long range.

4

Tony Ball

Though lofty pheasants are his chosen quarry, he is equally ruthless on most game.



5

Phil Beasley

A precise pigeon-potter – very few are out of his range. Provides top-notch sport in his role as a guide.

6

Duchess of Bedford

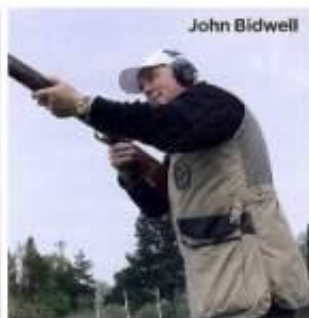
A delightfully glamorous inter-war shot, she once bagged 84 pheasants for 94 cartridges (89.4%) on her home ground at Woburn.



7

John Bidwell

Amazes audiences with his trick shooting, shooting five airborne clays from the hip. With so many medals, we think he could found his own mint.



John Bidwell

10

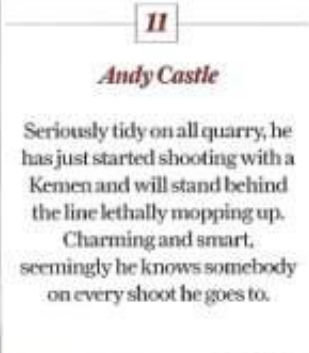
Lord Carnarvon

He hosted a record three-day bag at Highclere in November 1895, taking a staggering 10,807 head of game with five other Victorian heavy hitters, including the Dhuleep Singh brothers.

14

Ian Coley

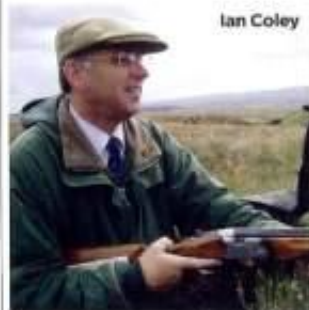
Awesome all-rounder: neither clays nor game stands a chance in his vicinity so just stand back and admire. His knowledge of shooting and top shots is encyclopaedic.



11

Andy Castle

Seriously tidy on all quarry, he has just started shooting with a Keman and will stand behind the line lethally mopping up. Charming and smart, seemingly he knows somebody on every shoot he goes to.



Ian Coley

8

Carl Bloxham

Has captained the England team and is a top-class coach, too. Will have you shooting like a dream with indecent haste.

12

Vickie Chadwick



Only a foolhardy bird would make a beeline for her. Known to shoot two drives without a miss and wipe many an overconfident male eye.

15

Mr H Cornish

Over a century ago this snipe sharp-shooter chalked up 96 for 100 cartridges while Superintendent of Police in Orissa, Bengal. The first 50 snipe were shot without a miss.

9

Phil Burt

Burt's laid-back charm conceals his lethal skill with driven grouse and demanding pheasants. Based in Lincolnshire, he is also a dedicated pigeon man.

13

Nicolas Cobbold

Ian Coley loaded for him and he always shot with a pair of Westley Richards side-by-side Gold Name detachable-lock 12-bores. From the Sixties to 1990 indisputably one of the best on high pheasants.

16

Stuart Crane

Gun-trade stalwart who relishes a challenge and is rarely worsted.



17

Noel Cunningham-Reid

Owned and ran the fabulous Six Mile Bottom partridge-shoot. Presented stunning birds with a flair matched only by his gun-handling.

18

Neil Curtis

A mole tells us he is the finest shot he has ever stood next to; unassuming and not greedy. This "deadly farrier" from Newmarket shoots sublimely and manages to make the process appear effortless.

19

Sir Edward Daswood

We suspect that the idea of missing warrants merely a fleeting thought - largely because he doesn't. He brings off some stunning shots.



20

Mabaraja Dhuleep Singh of Labore

Was awarded vast sums for the occupation of his territory by the British and found spending it on shooting admirable consolation. In 1863 he bought Elveden in Suffolk, where he shot with two loaders.

21

Prince Victor Dhuleep Singh

This prince shot 846 partridges before lunch alongside brother Freddy on 23 September 1895 at his father's Elveden estate. A fabulous *fin de siècle* finale.

“ Lord Randolph Churchill (father of Winston) once had the bad luck to shoot a dachshund belonging to a lady of distinction. As recompense he had the dog stuffed and presented to her at Christmas ”



Prince Victor Dhuleep Singh