ABT (Automatic Ball Trap)

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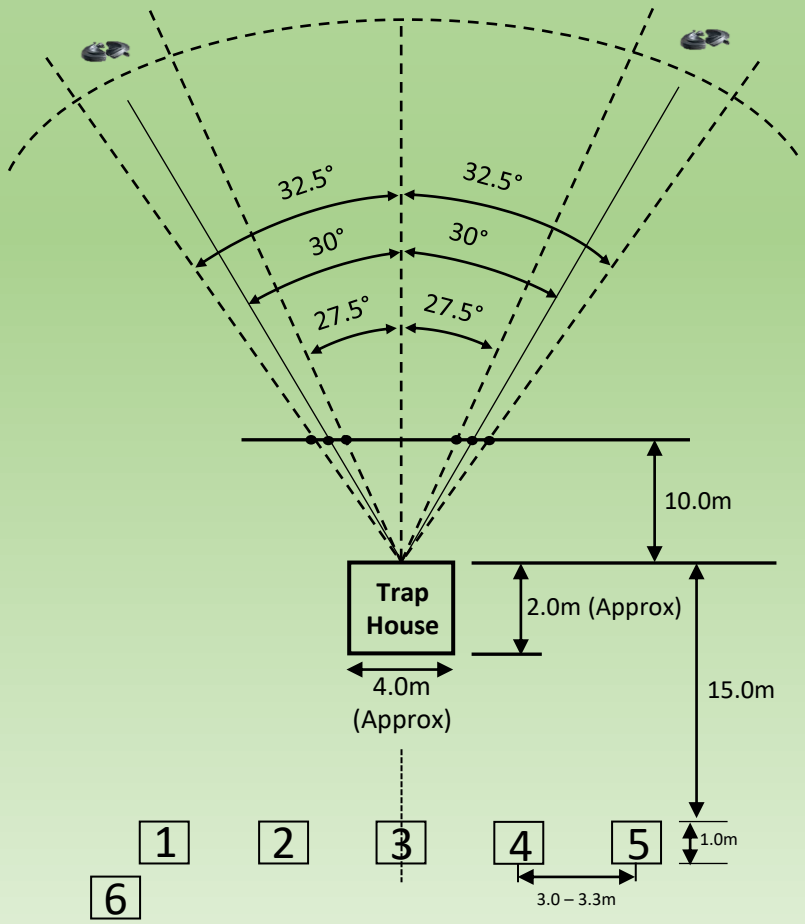
ABT is a relative newcomer and is a product of modern trap technology. It is also widely known as just 'Ball Trap' and to the Americans 'Wobble Trap'. It was devised to provide much of the challenge of Olympic Trap without the associated high fixed costs of installing a trench with fifteen permanent traps. It uses just one automatic trap that is constantly varying both the angle and elevation of the target. This gives an enormous variety of targets for the shooters, unlike Olympic Trap where all shooters will have faced the same mix of targets these are constantly changing with no pattern or sequence. In theory one shooter could be unlucky enough to receive 100 hard right handers in succession. It is this unfairness that perhaps prevents the discipline from becoming more popular. The low cost and availability of ABT at many grounds has made it an important stepping stone into the international trap scene for many shooters. With national championships and home international team places at stake, the discipline supports a busy competition programme. There is little international competition outside of the UK. Major championships and selection shoots are usually shot over two days with 100 targets each day.

A squad normally consists of 6 competitors. At the beginning of each series, the first five competitors in each squad will take positions on stations 1 to 5, the sixth shooter will remain behind No. 1 peg, ready to move onto it as soon as the competitor on No. 2 peg has fired, and so on. When the competitor on No. 5 peg has fired, they must immediately move around the rear of the firing line and return to peg No. 1, continuing the rotation until each competitor has fired at 25 targets. No member of a squad, having shot on one peg, shall proceed toward the next peg station in such a way as to interfere with another Competitor or the match personnel. Targets will be thrown on a completely random basis with each competitor required to fire at every regular target that is released on their call.

Once shooting has been started it shall continue without interruption, except for mechanical breakdown or other emergencies determined by the Referee and the Jury. In the event of bad weather the Referee, with the Jury's agreement, may halt the shooting temporarily



The trap shall be adjusted so that, in calm weather, and with a throwing elevation of 2m (2.18yd) at 10m (10.93yd) forward of the pit, a regular target will carry 70m (76.55yd) (+ / – 1m (1.09yd)) if measured over level ground.

The height of the target's path above the level of the trap house roof and 10m (10.93yd) forward of the trap shall be at least 1.5m (1.64yd) and not exceed 3.5m (3.83yd).

The targets shall be thrown within an area bounded by angles of 30.0° (+/- 2.5°) right and left of the imaginary centre-line drawn through the centre of the trap house and station 3. The horizontal angles will be measured from the front edge of the trap house.

The traps must be adjusted and examined by the Jury each day before the shooting begins. One trial target shall be thrown on each separate layout for every squad before the first competitor begins.