

benefit the participants, but also the associated organisations – in this case, the Lincolnshire Smallbore Rifle Association. It's equally important that these local partnerships generate real influence, that in turn, helps to seed great business around the brands we manage, and the brand-loyal gun shops that we serve nationally.'

Wise words from Lisa, and it really is in all of our interests for local initiatives to thrive and encourage new blood into the sport, which in turn, obviously supports the industry! As Dave Carter, from the LSRA, told me, 'Without the kit, nothing can happen, so our sponsors can make all the difference. As for young Imogen, her help given at the Countryside Sports Days has been remarkable. Ever since enjoying that first events day, she has helped for the last four years. She returned as a leader, helping to set up early, spending the day taking the youngsters round each event, making sure they had fun, and then helping to pack everything away.'

### LOCAL GEM

Imogen's story is indeed heartening, and proves that many youngsters are willing to help, given the opportunity. It's also testament to that local umbrella association, that we are seeing an all-important shooting legacy created, for

Imogen enjoying the hawking event



Imogen's experience of the Countryside Sports Day, was a fantastic opportunity that left her really wanting to do more airgun shooting; so much so, that she joined Yarborough Target Shooting Club, that just happens to be a short distance away from where she lives. With her enthusiasm tangible, it was inevitable that she would take things a stage further, and not only turn up, but really get properly involved.

Turning up early to help set up the mobile range components, assisting the club treasurer, collecting the subs, and helping to organise attendance numbers and shoot details, has all become part and parcel of her time spent at the club, but perhaps the most impressive aspect has been her keenness to help others, especially the younger shooters, who all continue to benefit from her mature, caring approach.

### IMOGEN LEAHY

We caught up with Imogen on club night at Yarborough, North Lincoln, and here's what she had to say:

**AG:** First of all, congratulations on winning the award. So what's your situation at the moment?

**IL:** I'm currently studying Equine Management Level 3, at Riseholme College up the road here. I've been riding horses for 10 years, gymkhanas, that sort of thing.

I'm even involved with a dressage event at college. It's just a passion.

**AG:** So how is the shooting progressing?

**IL:** Well, it all happened since that Countryside Sports Day, just under four years ago. I tried shotgun, but didn't like the kick much. I just loved the airgun from the start, and they told me I was a really good shot. Now I love it and practise every Friday.

**AG:** What about your rifle?

**IL:** It's a BSA Ultra XL, with an adjustable stock. I'm just borrowing it for now, but will buy it when I'm 18 because it shoots really well. The scope is a Hawke Vantage 3-9 x44, I think. I had a cheap gas-type gun (CO2), but it kept breaking down. The BSA is great.

**AG:** Looks like you've found a great hobby. So, any advice for newcomers?

**IL:** Definitely – just give it a go. I've even met my boyfriend through it! Now we both shoot, and I can't wait for club night.

### FOOTNOTE

For more information about the great promotion work carried out by Lincolnshire Smallbore Rifle Association, see their website at [www.lsraco.uk](http://www.lsraco.uk) ■

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Imogen shoots at her club every Friday



Imogen receiving her award on the big night

