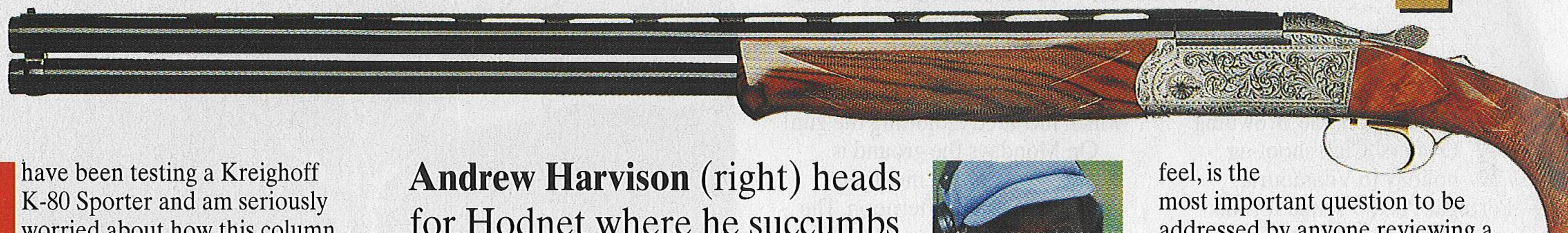


# The K-80 expo



I have been testing a Krieghoff K-80 Sporter and am seriously worried about how this column might turn out. You know how a born-again Christian wants to bombard anyone he meets with the joy of his enlightenment? Well I have found Krieghoff and am currently in danger of boring people to death about it.

But I will endeavour not to go overboard. The fact is that though I have been aware of Krieghoff for years, like the old Guinness advert, I didn't like them because I had never tried them. Like a good many who have been on the scene as long as I have, I was weaned on guns of a certain appearance. A sporter should be a competition version of a sleek game gun.

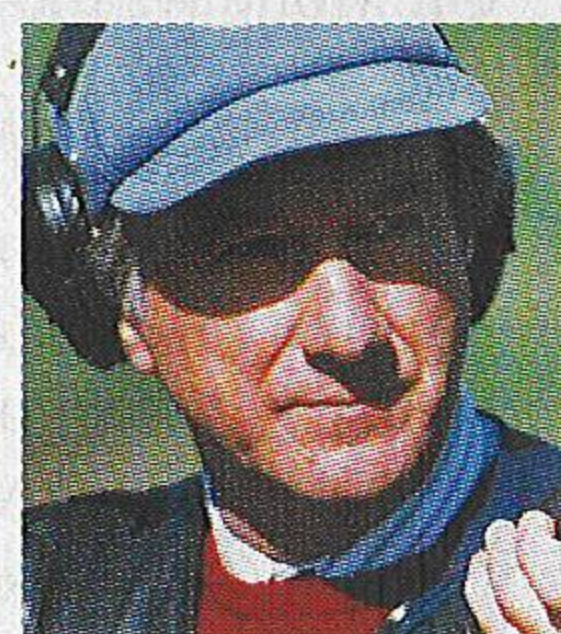
I have now been shaken out of this preconception. I should have known better years ago when Lol Barr used one of these guns to shoot probably more 100 straights at Skeet than anyone I know.

However my interest was aroused by the success of local young shot Ben Husthwaite and his girlfriend Kate Brown, before I ran into Stuart Clarke at Braintree Shooting Ground who is now not only shooting one, but travelling the world with the German gunmakers. He figures heavily in their promotional material. Other current well known users include Phil Smith and John Bellamy.

If I had any doubt about the validity of a review it was soon dispelled when I rang Alan Rhone about arranging a gun for the test. Alan was not only extremely helpful, I was very intrigued by the quality of information coming through. I was instantly impressed by the way in which he was able to talk about matters such as stock profiles and grip configuration, not simply the aesthetic and general details of a gun.

We consequently arranged to meet at West Midland Shooting Ground, the venue of the World Sporting Championship two years

**Andrew Harvison (right) heads for Hodnet where he succumbs to German expertise, and falls in a big way for the charms of the Krieghoff K-80.**



ago, and I have to admit there was a flutter in the heart as I entered into the hallowed grounds of Hodnet, which looked as magnificent as ever.

After normal pre-ambls we got down to the nitty gritty. Alan had brought three guns with him - 28" Skeet, 30" Trap and 30" Sporter. He had also brought a selection of factory chokes and Brileys, plus additional 30" and 32" barrels, all had a 12-8mm tapered rib, which was very slightly stepped.

Alan was both friendly and very

professional. He is also clearly a clay target fanatic like the rest of us, and Krieghoff are fortunate to have him as a UK distributor for he very much imbues their philosophy of 'making guns for shooters'. Added to which he is a very skilled gunsmith. Krieghoff are clearly builders of the highest quality, as could be seen when we started to assemble the guns - the inter-changeability of barrels (indeed practically all parts) was hugely impressive.

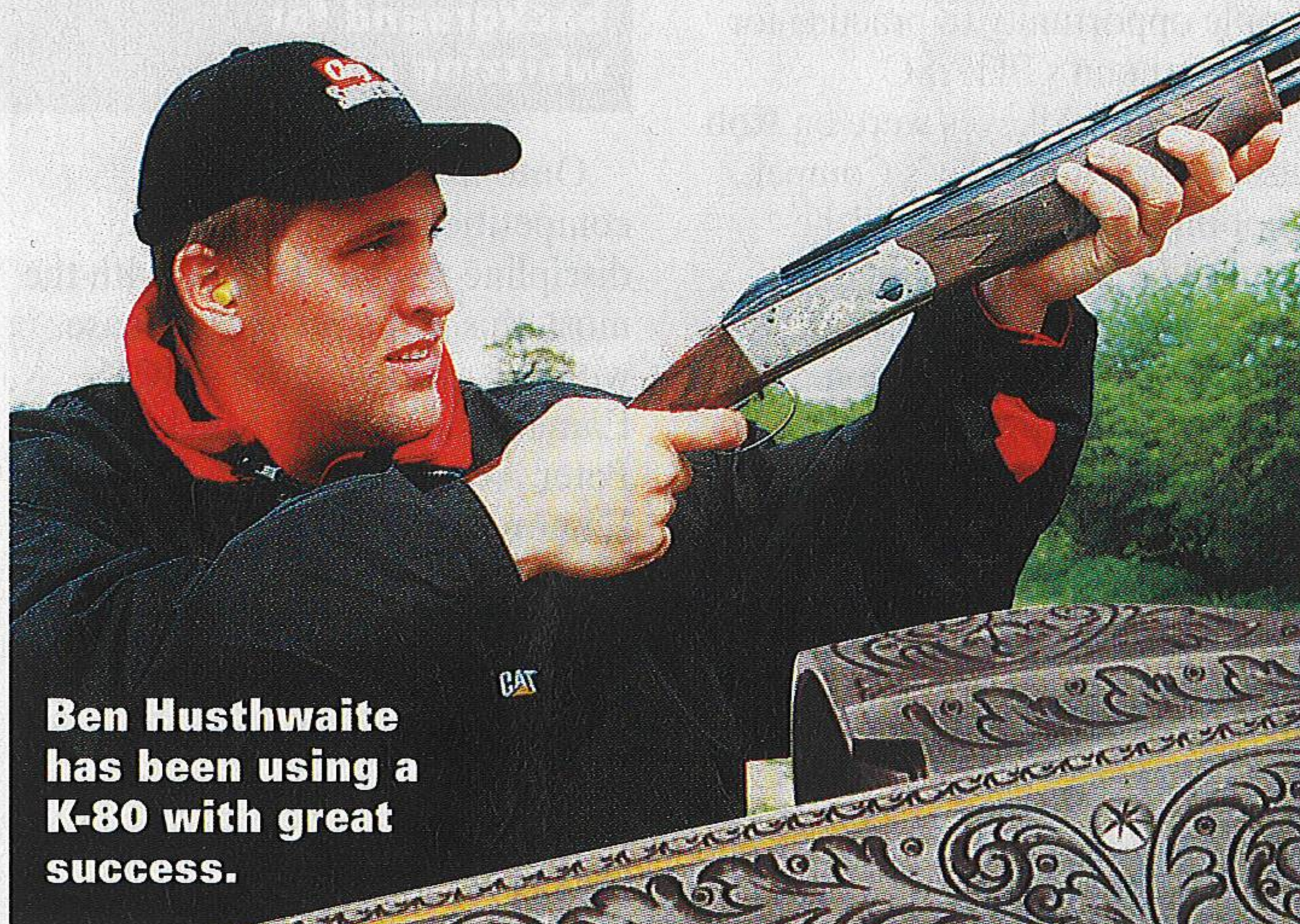
But how do they shoot? This, I

feel, is the most important question to be addressed by anyone reviewing a gun and I concern myself much less with the working parts rather than the way a gun handles and performs.

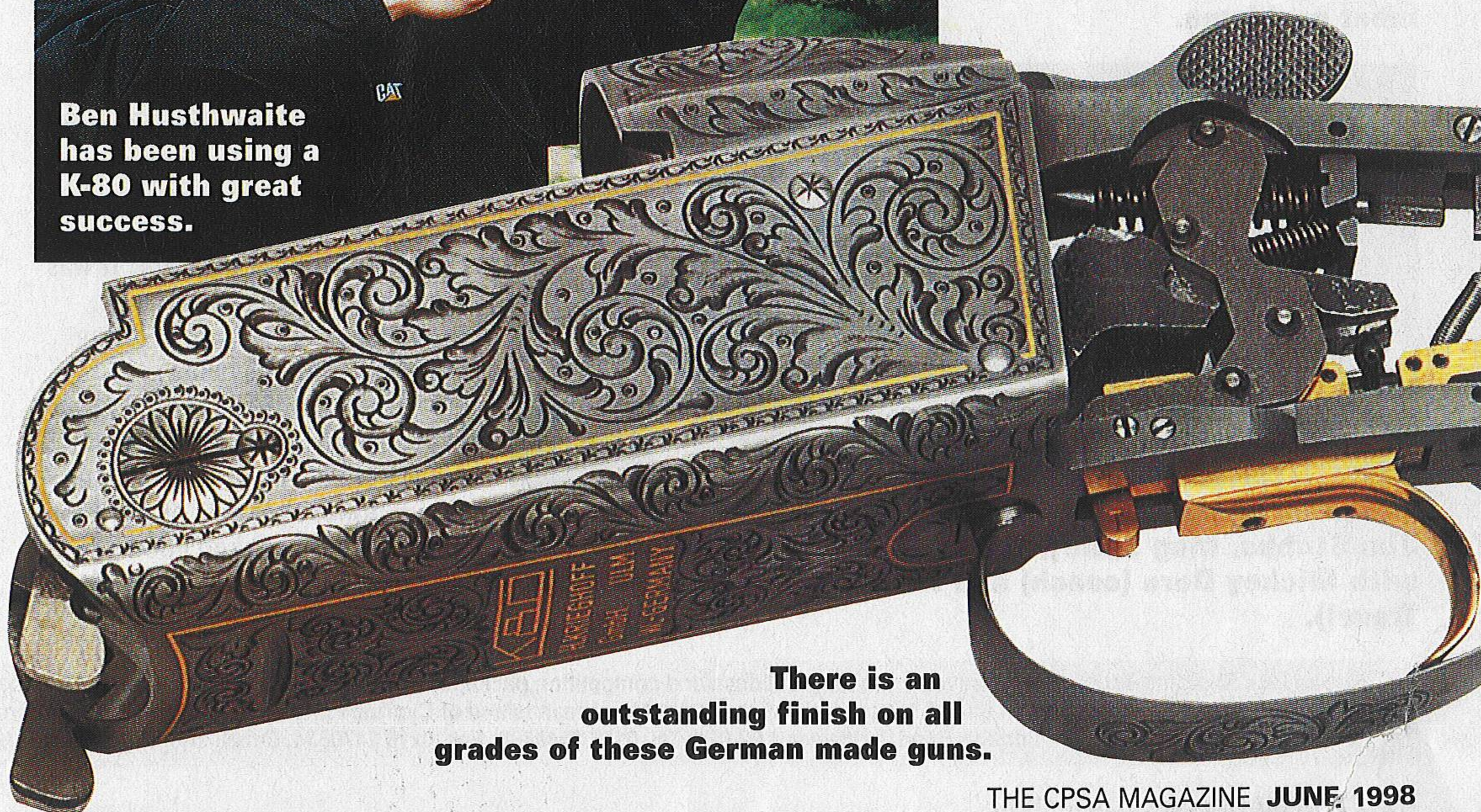
It has to be said that on sight the Krieghoff borrows little from conventional sporter designs. It appears big and weighs the best part of 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>lb! But I picked it up and felt exactly the same about it as I did when I looked at Stuart Clarke's K-80 at Braintree. I thought to myself "I could shoot with this."

It was very finely balanced with the weight slightly forward of the hingepin, yet on mounting, with lightweight barrels, it seemed as though quick location of the target would not be a problem. We were shown to an area of the ground where there were two long crossing targets. One was a very fast high right to left midi, and the other a left to right bird which was much slower, and dying at the end of its flight across a 100 yard clearing. There was also a ball trap target in front.

I put the gun through its paces first with the 32" barrels, Briley and factory chokes (mod. & <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>).



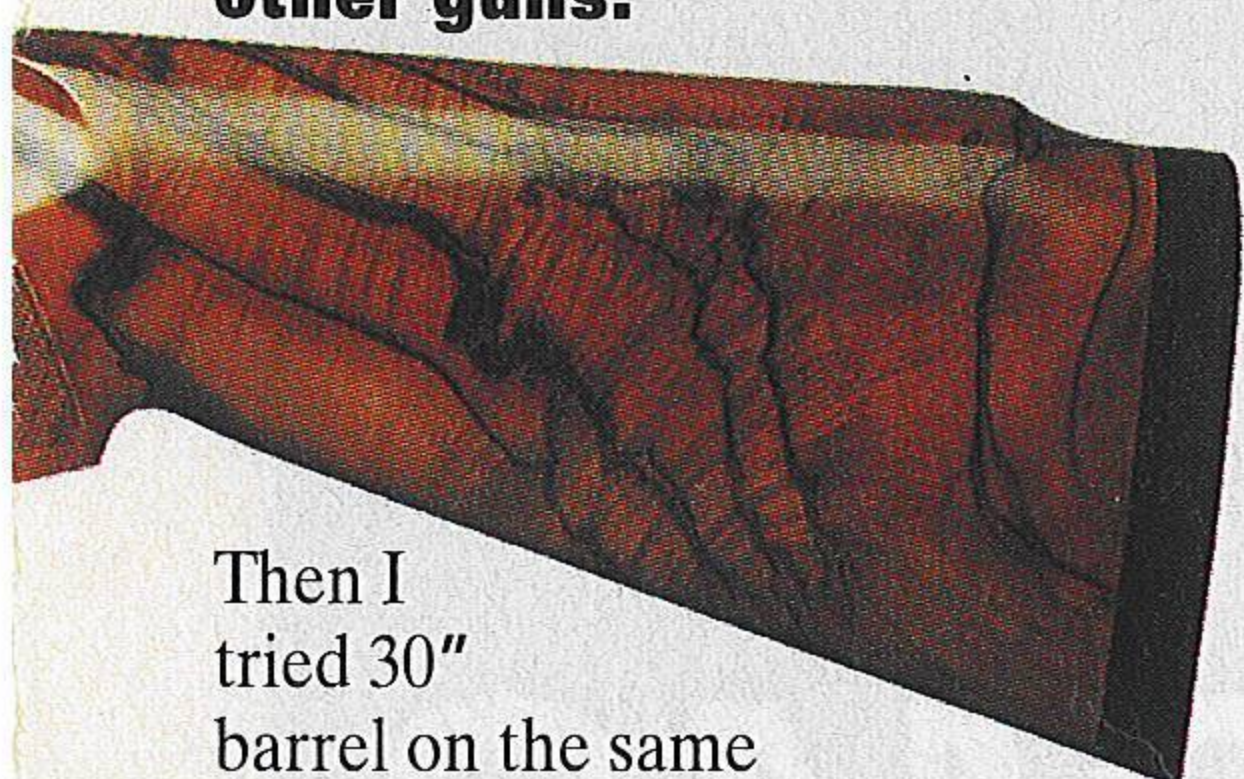
**Ben Husthwaite has been using a K-80 with great success.**



**There is an outstanding finish on all grades of these German made guns.**

# Experience

**In all respects the Krieghoff is quite distinctive from other guns.**



Then I tried 30" barrel on the same thing. On certain targets I felt the 32" performed better.

I tried a mixture of ammunition - Express Pro Comp 8's, Remington 8 star crimp 7 1/2s and Gamebore F2 7s. All performed very well. On the basis of this small test (though we got through a fair number of shells) I would say that the best all round combination was the factory choke and 30" barrels.

The whole thing was an astonishing experience. I shot exceptionally well with it - I say that not in a boastful way, but in comparative terms. The rate at which the gun got onto the target was very impressive - and once there, it was incredibly responsive. I shot a lot of different methods of barrel control - coming onto the clay, swing through and chopping it off. It was at ease with all of them. There is a ventilated top rib and no side ribs - I also found the balance point ideal. And with so much weight in the gun, it is incredibly smooth to shoot.

Talking to Alan I also discovered that there are so many technical options available with the Krieghoff, many of which are standard, such as the front hangers, which enable the owner to adjust the point of impact of the bottom barrel.

The build of the gun is exceptional with a well

proven design that will comfortably stand a lifetime's hard use. There is a single selective trigger mechanism offering superb crisp pulls. I also liked the trigger itself and was surprised by the palm swell on the stock of the



**Also available are 2" and 4" barrel extending choke tubes.**

model we were testing. It was egg shaped and moulded perfectly into the hand. This again is optional, as is just about every aspect of the gun. There is also a unique fully adjustable stock for the sporter, so this really can be the gun for all disciplines.

The makers have certainly come from a different direction to make the K-80. It has not evolved from anything other than a pure competition gun - it is built for breaking clay targets, and I would think that the market has never been more ready for it.

I had been out of the competition circuit for a couple of years, and now during the last year or so since getting back into coaching in a much bigger way, I have noticed a lot of new faces about. There is a willingness to embrace the new technology that has come into the sport from Briley chokes to ported barrels, as well as the importance of the build of a gun, stock dimensions and gunfit.

At prices from £4,482, the Krieghoff is not cheap -but in terms of what they offer they represent exceptional value. ■

● For details of Krieghoff Guns write to: Alan Rhone Krieghoff Service, PO Box K-80, Wrexham LL13 0ZH. Tel. 01978 780390. Fax. 01978 780490. Web site: <http://www.krieghoff.co.uk>.