



Pigeon Shooting

To be shot for at the White Hart Inn, Holt, on Tuesday, January 26th, 1858. 2 fat sheep. Shooting to commence at 12 precisely. Rules will be strictly enforced. In order to provide against the inclemency of the weather, tents will be pitched on the ground, and every convenience made for the comfort of visitors. Dinner at the table at 5 o'clock. John Trueman begs respectfully to announce to his numerous friends and supporters, that he has made arrangements for a plentiful supply of first-rate birds, and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part, to render a capital day's sport on this occasion.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 23 January 1858

The annual gathering for this sport was held at the White Hart Inn, on Tuesday last, when some well contested matches took place, two fat sheep and several sweepstakes were shot for, a large assemblage met and the shooting was first rate, tents were pitched on the ground and every convenience made for the comfort of visitors. A good substantial dinner was provided by the worthy host in his usual style of liberality, to which about 40 sat down and did ample justice; great credit is due to Mr. Trueman for the very excellent arrangements made for the convenience of all parties present on this occasion.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 30 January 1858

To be shot for at the Three Lions Inn, Holt, on Tuesday, March 2, 1858, a very superior bred heifer and a sow and ten pigs. The weight of the shot will be limited, and the usual rules will be strictly applied. Shooting to commence at twelve. Dinner on the table at five o'clock. Tents will be pitched on the ground. Charles Beak in announcing his annual shooting match, takes the present opportunity of thanking his numerous friends and supporters for past favours, and to inform them that in order to render this match worthy the patronage of those who will honour him with their presence, no trouble or expense will be spared to ensure a good day's sport on this occasion.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 27 February 1858

The annual pigeon shooting match, one of the most important in the county, took place at the White Hart Inn, on Tuesday last. The weather, being most unfavourable, many were prevented from being present, who would otherwise have attended. Two fat sheep, and several sweepstakes were shot for.

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Both of the sheep were won by Mr. Matthews, of Keevil. The shooting, on the whole, was very indifferent, and much below the average scale, occasioned no doubt in a great measure by the state of the weather. At the conclusion of the sport, between forty and fifty sat down to a capital dinner served up in host Trueman's good style. The evening was spent in the most pleasant manner, toast and song succeeding each other, and the company separated highly gratified with the conviviality of the evening.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 18 January 1862

Our readers are already aware that there are a few active spirits in this village, ready at all times to exert themselves for the good of the place. In what way and manner they do this need not be repeated here; it is known to observers of men and manners at Holt. In addition to the seasonable recreations the favoured inhabitants of this village have the opportunity of enjoying, indoor and out all the year round, is the annual pigeon shooting match, open to all comers within a circuit of twelve miles. Tuesday last was the day on which this event came off, and it brought with it bad weather for the sport and crack shots for the prizes. The principal prize was a sheep, value £3 and the sport took place, in a field, near the White Hart Inn, belonging to Mr. Trueman, a zealous promoter of the sport, who, by the way, with Mr. Law (who officiated as scorer), have been indefatigable, in keeping this annual event in a vigorous condition. The shooting was remarkably good, a proof which is to be seen in the result. Mr. White, of Bromham, proved himself the champion, having killed 17 out of 18 birds, 7 of them in succession, and thus winning the sheep. It was, however, a close shave for Mr. George Blanchard, jun., of Steeple Ashton, tied him, but Mr. White, in shooting off the tie was victorious by one, so that Steeple Ashton has no cause to be ashamed of their representative. For a sweepstake of £2, Mr. White was again successful. Mr. Hayward, of Boyd's Farm, Corsham, also won a sweepstake of £2, having killed 5 birds against Mr. White's 4. A third sweepstake of £2 was also carried off by Mr. White. Several minor matches were contested with much spirit, and some capital sportsmanship was displayed. A hail storm terminated the sport rather abruptly, but it was only to drive the company to the snug hostelry of the White Hart, where host Trueman had a first rate dinner provided. About fifty fringed the festive board, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Richard Parker, of Trowbridge, the vice chair being well filled by Mr. Carter, of Bath. Neither the sport nor the storm had impeded the appetites of the company, so that it is needless to add that the excellent provision was justly appreciated. On the removal of the cloth, the loyal and patriotic toasts, which take the precedence at every similar gathering of "true-born Englishmen" having been honoured, the principal conservators of this annual sport, Messrs. Trueman and Law, were enthusiastically toasted. The healths of the worthy chairman, and vice-chairman, and others having been drank, the aid of Apollo was invoked, and then followed some good singing. Before the party broke up, a private match, for £5 a side, was fixed to come off between some of the crack shots, in the course of a week or two.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 14 February 1863