

GEAR GUIDE

This month, Mary takes a look at what's in a gunshop near you and talks to our trusty team of testers to see how they got on with their products



STONE CREEK STILLWATER JACKET £282.90

Hot-footing it from New Zealand is this Wapiti range jacket in Realtree Xtra green fabric. One hundred percent wind and waterproof, the jacket is seam-sealed for maximum weather protection. The outer layer repels blood, water and stains. Comes with a two-year guarantee. For more information, visit www.stoneycreek.co.nz

TEMPEST WELLINGTONS £99.95

New this year, an adjustable neoprene-lined wellie from Barbour, with a classic look. Available in sizes 6-12. For more information, visit www.barbour.com or call 0800 009988 for your nearest stockists.



LONG-TERM TEST

THE HAMMOND QUADPOD £157; JON SNOWDON

There are sticks of all kinds on the market to aid shooting accuracy, they are a useful addition to the stalker's equipment to help ensure a clean and humane dispatch.

I have tried most models on the market and used the wooden quadpod for years, reviewing it in *Sporting Gun* longer ago than I would care to mention. In their time they were the best shooting sticks on the market, way beyond the standard bipod or tripod sticks.

The Hammond Quadpod was new to the UK in January and I have been using one ever since. It has had several major and innovative improvements made to it.

Rather than being wood this is made from strong, light aluminium, powder-coated in black. The quads are firmly secured with an easy and quiet release clip. Both fore-end and butt saddles have a rubber lining to protect the rifle and give a firm hold.

The QuadPod is fully adjustable, from standing height down to a low kneeling position. The spring ball fastenings are reliable and strong unlike the plastic screw-type fittings seen on most other sticks. These fastenings do not unexpectedly slide down as you frantically try to hold your zero on the target. Once sprung into place, the ball fastenings stay put until you want to adjust them. It is easy once you get used to the system.

The third improvement is that when in position the rifle can be moved laterally without losing stability or having to move the legs. No quadpods that I have tried successfully managed to do this before. Indeed, most had very little sideways movement at all.

OUTFOX MOUNTAIN POLO SHIRT £20

Made by Schoffel, this shirt has long sleeves to protect from the wee beasties and branches. Fully breathable, the shirt removes moisture. Machine washable and quick drying. For more information, visit www.outfox-wear.com/en



The Hammond Quadpod is light, strong, easy to erect, very stable and well made. If you are in the market for excellent quality shooting sticks these are by far the best. I use mine daily. How did I manage without it?

Contact the sole distributor, John Hammond, proprietor of Hammond Sporting, tel 07765 465174.

