

June 2005

I was surprised to read your comments in an English Shooting Magazine about a particular brand of shotgun being “disposable” simply because it was not made in Italy. Were you serious or do you really believe that if it is not Italian made then it will not last?

Peter Sutherland, Ballarat Vic

Unfortunately no matter what I say at times I am often misquoted or taken out of context. I did make that comment, but it was very much tongue in cheek. I certainly will defend my opinion though that the best competition shotguns in the world are Italian made. The Athens Olympics once again proved this with all eighteen medals being won by only two brands of shotgun. This is a trend that is repeated time and time again at Olympic level. However I do acknowledge that there are plenty of shotguns that are made elsewhere in the world that are dependable and are used with success in other forms of competition outside of the Olympic games. When making a choice in purchasing a competition firearm I would always consider what form of after sale service will this particular brand of shotgun have. All shotguns will need a service at some time and if there is none available for the type of gun you are looking at purchasing then steer away from it no matter what the price.

I live in Box Hill in Victoria and have a son who is eleven who is starting Secondary College this year. Can he start to shoot competition at Gun Clubs, as I want him to shoot in the State Schoolboys Title?

Geoff Kenyon, Box Hill Vic

Unfortunately Geoff you will have to wait until he is twelve before he can legally shoot in a competition in Victoria. I am assuming he will turn twelve in the second half of the year so he will get his chance to participate in the Victorian Schoolboys/girls Championships which are generally held in August. Good luck to him.

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