

SHOTGUN MUM'S COMEBACK

A shotgun-toting mum from Leeds has her sights set on qualifying for the Scottish National Skeet Shooting Team after making a determined comeback.

Scots-born Wendy Taylor, 59, a deputy theatre manager at Spire Leeds Hospital, is currently at the top of the ladies' league table, achieving the consistently high scores needed to qualify her for the elite shooting team once again.

Wendy was forced to stop clay pigeon shooting after she injured her shoulder in a fall in 2012. The pain became so bad she struggled to sleep at night and even normal day-to-day activities were a challenge. She found it difficult to lift her gun and once had to stop halfway through a competition.

Wendy underwent surgery and began the slow and steady build-up for a return to competitive shooting under the watchful eye of her coach. Today she is in the running to realise her dream.

Qualifying for the national team is important to Wendy as she competed at National level representing Scotland three years ago. She was also on the Yorkshire Ladies Skeet Shooting Team which won the British Championship in 2011.

"I think I'm in with a good chance," said Wendy. "I've been submitting my scores to the league table and am currently at the top. I'm working really hard towards it. However, some of the ladies I'm competing against are of a very high standard."

Wendy, who has two grown children and two stepchildren and is married to the British singer/songwriter Allan Taylor, first had her interest sparked in skeet

shooting when she watched a television programme about the sport in 2005. Her husband bought her a shooting lesson for her birthday and she found she had a natural talent for it.

She started competing nine years ago and practices twice a week in Coniston, York and Nottingham.

"It's a very difficult discipline and very precise so it focuses the mind," Wendy said.

"You need a bit of strength to shoot 100 targets so I try to keep fit with regular visits to the gym."

"I hope I will carry on and still be shooting in my 70s if I keep my fitness levels up and my eyesight remains sharp."

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