



Pigeon Shooting at Bishopstone 1858

Pigeon Shooting

On Friday the 3rd instant the quiet little village of Bishopstone, was aroused by the announcement that a fat pig was to be shot for, at the True Heart Inn. One o'clock was the hour fixed for the first bird to fly, but before that hour came, vehicles began to arrive from north, south, east and west, with the sportsmen and their friends.

The preliminaries being arranged off they went to a meadow near the village to try their skill. Among the competitors we noticed – Mr. Harding, of Eastcott Farm, Wanborough, so well known for his science in shooting; next followed the celebrated shot, Mr. Doomer, from Fernhill House, Brighton, who was beaten in a match for £20 by Mr. Harding, at the same place the week before. Two to one was freely offered that one of these gentlemen would win. It was arranged for eleven persons to shoot at five birds each, 21 yards rise, 100 yards boundary. The birds flew exceedingly well, and the shooting was good; but the above mentioned professional gentlemen was obliged to yield to an amateur. Mr. Ralph, of Hinton so well known in the racing circle, who was proclaimed the winner, by killing all his birds, although he shot with a blunderbuss. Next followed a sweepstakes, which was won by M. Kent, of Hinton. Then came a match for a purse of sovereigns, between Mr. Doomer and Mr. Harding, which was won by the latter. The shooting being over, the competitors and their friends adjourned to the True Heart Inn, where they partook of the old English fare – roast beef and plum pudding. And this the song went merrily round, and a pleasant evening was spent.

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