

user to appreciate the beauty of their design and engineering and the process of loading, aiming and firing them manually is definitely a more "ballistic" experience.

The first thing one notices about the MkVI is the weight. It is a massive handful. Loading is as with any conventional break-top and the bullets are massive too. Shooting single action required effort and double action even more so. Groups size depended on the ammunition with carefully developed handloads producing excellent 2.5 inch groups at 25 yards while surplus military ammunition produced much more erratic accuracy. At the end of World War I, the British military decided that the .455 calibre gun and cartridge was too large for modern military use, and decided (after numerous tests and extensive trials) that a pistol in .38 calibre, firing a 200-grain (13 g) bullet, would be just as effective as the .455 for stopping an enemy.

Webley & Scott immediately tendered the .38/200 calibre Webley Mk IV revolver, which as well as being nearly identical in appearance to the .455 calibre Mk VI revolver (albeit scaled down for the smaller cartridge) was based on their .38 calibre Webley Mk III pistol, designed for the police and civilian markets. Much to their surprise, the British Government took the design to the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock, which came up with a revolver that was externally very similar looking to the .38/200 calibre Webley Mk IV which was quickly accepted. Webley & Scott sued the British Government over the incident, claiming £2250 as "costs involved in the research and design" of the revolver. This was contested by RSAF Enfield and their claim was denied. By way of compensation, the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors eventually awarded Webley & Scott £1250 for their work. Today the Webley Mk VI is most often seen in Police and Classic Pistol competition.

Steinert Chronograph - A Product of Excellence

Over the last sixteen years the *Irish Shooter's Digest* has reviewed many excellent



The Steinert SuperChrono has sensors that detect shockwaves and thereby calculates bullet velocity making it independent of light conditions and usable indoors. Inset the Steinert lightweight Neopod which we hope to review next month.

products. CZ rifles and pistols come to mind; Zeiss optics, Minox optics, Leatherman cutlery, Mauser rifles, Lapua ammunition, Clulite lamps and WileyX safety wear to mention but a few. I used these products personally and can attest to their excellence and durability. One product that has given excellent service and has not received its due measure of credit is the Steinert Sonic SuperChrono. It is a chronograph; not the most exciting piece of equipment in my gunroom but one I use constantly for developing rifle and pistol loads and when test firing factory ammunition. It is like the Mitutoyo micrometer, the Britcraft compressor or the Leno laptop – a tool without which essential tasks cannot be done. If it lacks anything it is glamour; everyone likes to show off the new CZ pistol or the Zeiss scope but the chronograph spends most of its working life in the box awaiting use.

I am developing cast lead bullet loads for several rifles at the moment. It is a laborious task or a labour of love depending on whether one likes that kind of thing and I do. Velocity data is essential for load development and I have thousands of readings which I store in spreadsheets. When developing a load or answering a reader's question I can usually draw on this body of data and back up my answer with solid information. I own two chronographs. One is the laser type and operates

outdoors and can read velocities from air pistols to varminting rifles. It is sensitive to low light and moisture, can only be used on dry days, preferably at midday when the sun is at its highest point. It is a useful tool but setting it up takes time and the antennae are vulnerable to bullet strikes and I have damaged them several times. I previously did all my outdoor chronographing on one or two bright days in Summer. If I needed a velocity for a bullet on a wet, dark December day I had a problem because setting up for a single reading is wasteful of time and having set it up there is no guarantee of success. Then a couple of years back, Lakeland Shooting Grounds started selling the Steinert SuperChrono and I acquired one.

It was a brilliant success. I could now chronograph my air rifle in any weather or light conditions because the SuperChrono detects the shockwave of a supersonic bullet. Ultrasound microphones detect the bullet's shockwaves and its microprocessor calculates and displays the velocity of the bullet. It can be used indoors by those fortunate enough to have access to an indoor range. For more serious work it can be set up at the shooting range to read rifle velocities and doesn't have to be placed outside the awning on the firing point as it doesn't care what the light conditions are and so can be used safely in wet conditions. Its single

limitation is its inability to calculate subsonic velocities but even then it can be used to discover if a bullet is under or over 1,000 feet per second as a "no reading" result indicates a speed of less than 1,000 fps. Since most 9mm loads are just under or over this velocity it can be useful when developing pistol loads. Unfortunately air rifles and pistols of less than 12 foot pounds require a laser chronograph. Steinert also produce a lightweight rifle bipod and adapter which we hope to review next month. Steinert products are distributed in Ireland by Lakeland Shooting Centre; Mobile: 087 274 6226 - 087 259 8288 Email: info@lakelandshootingcentre.ie.

Hunting in South Donegal

The South Donegal, West Leitrim, West Fermanagh, North Sligo coastal area is best known as a beauty spot and tourist area and Benbulbin its most iconic geographical feature. It is also famous for its salmon fishing. Until recent times the sand dunes around Donegal Bay contained some of the country's best rabbit shooting although this has changed with the arrival of Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. There have always been a few Fallow deer and the varied topography suited them nicely with a mixture of woodland, bog, crag and pasture. We don't associate pasture with Leitrim and Donegal but there is lots of it from a deer's perspective since fencing is no obstacle. The same