

Whicker's World

Part 1

Jules Whicker rounds up some of the top firearms, air rifles and shotguns at this year's IWA show

FIREARMS



US barrel manufacturer **Benchmark Barrels** have 50 world records to their credit and their premium-quality products are now available via **March Scopes UK**

Anschutz have taken a second look at their 1780 full-bore rifle – now called the 1781 and made some improvements, adding a new recoil stop to the aluminium bedding block and a steel bushing in the alloy receiver for greater durability; a new firing pin block safety, a smoother cocking action; and an improved match trigger with selective single and two-stage operation that's fully adjustable too. The 1781 hasn't gained much of a following in the UK, it's true – not least because it is only available in 30-06, nevertheless, mechanical finesse has long been an Anschutz selling point, and so more of it can't be a bad thing.

Obtaining quality barrels can be a frustrating business, but now that Gary Costello (March Scopes UK) has taken on distribution of Benchmark Barrels in the USA, it promises to be a whole lot easier. They use only top-quality 416R and 4140R carbon steel, double hand-lap each bore for a true consistency and double stress relieve the

metal. Chambering is done via industry-leading CNC and featuring techniques that give supremely straight and uniform results. Blanks are available in all standard contours, a choice of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 land/groove configurations and a variety of twists in most calibres. There are even carbon-fibre wrapped models!

BLASER

Blaser continues to expand the range of options for their R8 straight-pull. New is a Long Range in .338 Lapua Magnum, accommodating this calibre requires dedicated magazine/trigger housing. To this they have added a 27" barrel in a choice of profiles, with an optional Dual Brake muzzle brake, and fluting. It can be specified in the fully-adjustable GRS laminate stock, or the Professional Success thumbhole version.

Fans of the Professional Success stock can also enjoy a wider range of options, as it's now available in a choice of black, maroon, terracotta, teak or sand coloured



The **CZ455 Jaguar** is everyone's favourite bolt-action rimfire but with a long barrel, open sights and stylised claw-mark chequering. Hands up who wants any of that?

leather grip and comb inserts, also carbon fibre. Even smarter is a deluxe version that comprises an alloy chassis housed in a shell of high-grade Caucasian walnut complete with an ebony forend tip and grip cap!

CHIAPPA

Chiappa's standout item is the Model 1886 Ridge Runner, a take-down lever gun in .45/70. It has a big loop lever, semi-octagonal 18.5" barrel with a removable muzzle brake and thread protector, a 4-shot magazine, a hardwood stock with a rubberised finish and a choice of matte black or chrome metalwork. There's a scout-style Picatinny optics rail fitted with a Skinner rear aperture sight that is complemented by a fibre-optic bead at the muzzle. Here, piggy, piggy!

HERA ARMS

First seen at the BSS, German AR specialists Hera Arms now offer their entire range, except for their 9mm models as manually-



Chiappa's Ridge Runner is a take-down, weather-proof, lever-action thug in .45-70 Government



The Long Range is the first ever R8 to be chambered in 338 Lapua Magnum cartridge and is available with a GRS laminate or Professional Success polymer stock