

Ode To The Lighter Load



*Upon the field our sportsman strode, all keen to try his lighter load,
A lighter gun and lesser shot, were few who knew what zeal he'd got,*

*And all about looked in distain, they'd never see his like again,
"He cann'a do it", another claimed, "twill surely end in tears my friend",*

*But unbeknown to all about, what wondrous charge was soon to rout,
This dogged mass of disbelief, it would'na change their patent brief,*

Drawings by Richard Oldfield & Text by Tim Woodhouse

The lighter 7/8oz (25gm) 'Covert load' concept was suggested by Purdey's in the 1880's as a more suitable load for Covert shooting

*When flying swiftly t'wards the birds, as driven by the beating hordes,
This shot that lay there in his bore, did manifest a brilliant score,*



*Larger guns and much more shot, Did'na bring the birds to pot,
But 'tis in the pattern stakes, that downs a bird to bag it makes.*

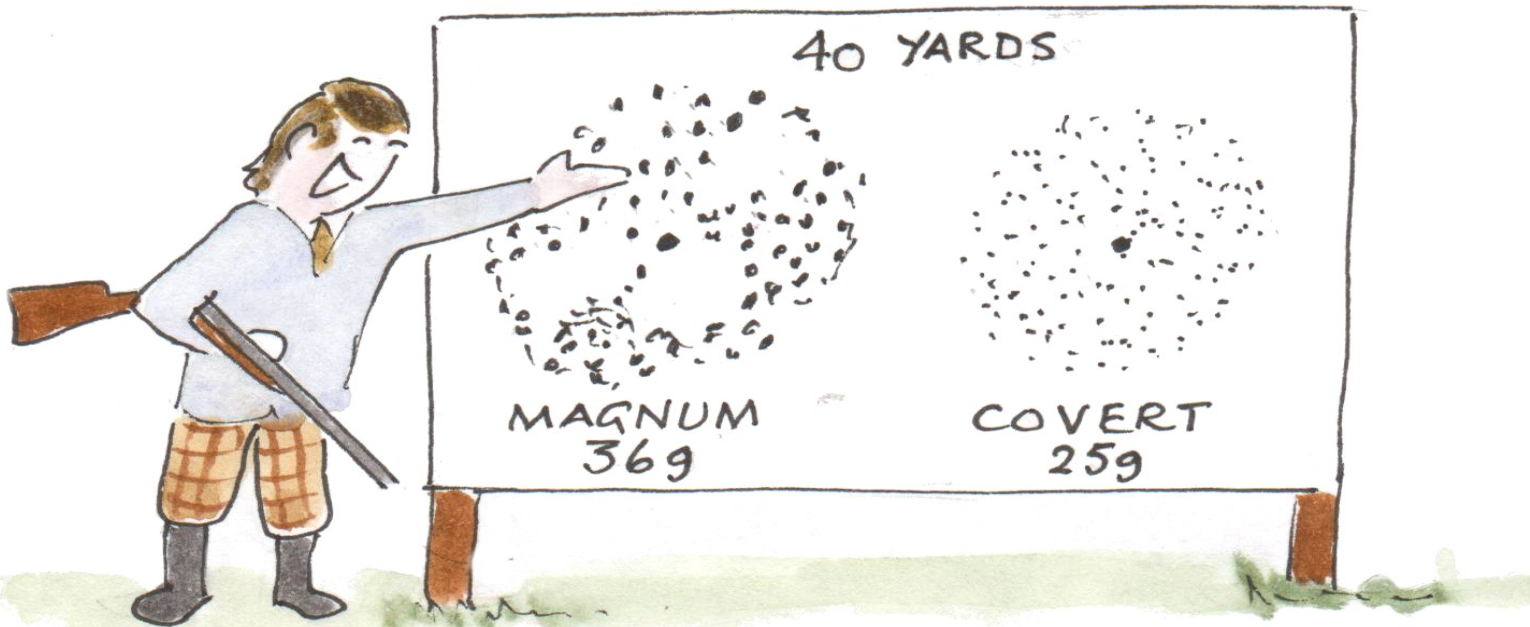
*One and all partook their lunch, with moaning from the fairly hunched,
The subtle heckling truly over, our sportsman now was deep in clover,*





*'Tis not what weight is in the breech, as better loads will have the reach,
He did this not from weight of shot, but rather did what they did not,*

*Just because 'twas done this way, does'na mean it's good today,
Heavy loads of larger shot: is this the route? I do think not,*



*When going out into the field, 'twill never be a weight I wield,
For if the truth be truly told, the lighter load wins in the Wolds!*