MOHAWK DARTS

Charlie McFee relives some old-fashioned fun with some new darts

When I was a kid we all wanted to have airgun darts, however they were in short supply and tended to get lost somehow, most probably because we shot at daft targets, like apples. Don't ask me why. I guess we hoped that something spectacular would happen, but of course, it didn't. There was also the claim that if you shot their steel bodies through a rifled barrel, it would cause damage, but while introducing their new Black Mohawk Airgun Darts, Milbro claim that's not true. They asked me to produce evidence of such damage which I couldn't, so I'll have to take their word for it.

Not So Simple

Although darts appear to be simple things, they are apparently difficult to make. In fact, only one German manufacturer is able to do it, so Milbro sourced the South American mohair and brought it to the UK for colouring. It's then shipped to Germany where it's applied to the steel dart by a special technique that ensures that it's strongly attached. Milbro chose a range of colours to allow each shooter to see where their shot landed, especially important if you're playing darts.

To have some fun, I bought a £20 cheapo dartboard that has a concentric target painted on the back, which appealed to me more than the front. To shoot them, I chose a Crosman pump-up because it would allow me to adjust the power level. I didn't know how much power I'd need to stabilise the darts and this way I could choose. I also liked the recoilless nature of the pistol.

It loads via a small bolt action which makes a challenge of getting the dart seated deeply enough, but a poke with a matchstick soon overcame that one. With the dart board at six yards, we began shooting and were surprised at the accuracy.

We soon worked out that three pumps were enough and were getting decent accuracy, but there was a temptation to move back to see how we could do at longer range. Unsurprisingly, accuracy fell away quickly and the occasional dart failed to stick in and bounced off onto the floor. Perhaps that distance was too much for a low-power pistol to manage.

Back at exactly 7' 9¼" (the official darts distance from the oche) we found much more fun because we were able to hit with reasonable consistency. Hitting is motivating, missing too much isn't, and more than anything this game needs to be fun. The darts stuck in deeply, needing pliers to get them out sometimes, which served as a warning to any idiot who might think it funny to shoot at a friend with them. They'll do every bit as much damage as a pellet, so don't think they won't. They're great fun, though, and many a cold winter night could be brightened up with a good game of indoor airgun darts. ■

Above: Accuracy was good enough to be a real test of the shooter's skill

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Below: Our Art Director did a Robin Hood and shot one into another





Left: The simple Crosman pump-up proved ideal for a game of darts