

# Give us a CLUE

**Howard Heywood** always has nocturnal 'pests' to deal with so at our request checks out a selection of the relatively new Cluson LED Lamping kits into his 'nightly' rounds...

I'm not going to bore you with 'when I was a lad we used motorbike batteries, headlights and made lamping kits of our own,' even though we did. Even back then, I was always looking to lighten my load, kit that is! But sacrificing battery size usually resulted in a lower power, shorter run time lamp.

Then I discovered true lamping kit, or I should say began to afford it, and proceeded to head out with leads trailing and falling out of connectors.

## MOVING FORWARD

The diehards will know what I mean; we used countless rolls of black insulation tape to 'gaff' connectors together and keep filters in place. We even began snipping



at our 'off-the-shelf' kits, adapting them to suit us. Then after countless years I discovered the lightweight Lithium battery packs that Deben launched. Soon after, I was amazed at the reviews I read of the battery and pouch from one of the other major brands of lighting kit, Cluson Engineering. I've a soft spot for this brand as I've owned various models of theirs over the years, and not having too many problems with them. I soon found one in my gun room and tried their lightweight PP18 battery with it. My aching back and creaking knees thanked them immediately.

I made a point of discovering the new, much talked of products, included the Club 1 handheld, a traditional GL16 Lazerlite but powered with the new Li-ion battery, and the Pro-Spotter. It was while visiting a shooting acquaintance's house, who said 'shut your eyes, got a few surprises.' Good job I trust him or I'd have been worried, but after some rummaging and doors opening and closing, I got the 'Ok, open your eyes,' to see all the new lamping kit from Cluson Engineering.

## I'M A CONVERT

Hardly had he finished saying; 'Why not try a...' I already had the kits on rifles in my imagination. Believe it or not, that really was my introduction to these superb hi-performance units. So after much use where they've proved they are at a pinnacle of lamping kit development.

The Editor heard I'd been using them and immediately said 'give me an overview on the one's you're

using.' I'll briefly detail each model, what you get, what it claims to do - and then my views on performance.

## CLULITE RE-CHARGEABLE CLU-BRITER CREE LED (CLUB-1) HANDHELD SPOTLIGHT

Optional Extras: Filters of red, amber or yellow

Kit includes: Main handlamp unit (CLUB-1), Mains Charger, Vehicle Charger, Smart Charger, and a ready installed NiMH battery in the 'easy-access' battery compartment at the rear.



My fully rigged Tikka .223REM - how neat is that for a lamping set-up for foxes if shooting alone



Howard used the Club 1 for spotting - note the self-fitted lanyard Howard used to spot quarry, then lowering it to hang to his side. Then over to the rifle mounted light to take the shot

Manufacturers rating: On brightest setting the 200 Lumen, LED bulb gives a 'focused' white beam capable of illuminating out to 250m.

**HOWARDS SAYS:**

- Small but very powerful, light in weight so not strenuous to use
- Fits comfortable in the hand with the pistol grip giving a very sure hold
- Lanyard point making it easy to carry around the neck – you'll see why I say that later
- The mode control lever is set a little too far forward for one handed use. Also the filters are awkward to fit and can easily fall out to be lost or broken.
- Has a very tight white spot and I don't dispute the range stated
- The true 'strobe' function

**CLULITE GL LAZERLITE WITH PP18 BATTERY AND POUCH**

Kit Includes: Lamp head, Filter, Scope bracket, Handle, integral in-line on/off switch and Li-ion battery pack in pouch including mains charger  
Optional Extras: Filters of red, amber or yellow

Manufacturers rating: PP18 battery powers a 12V 100watt Xenon bulb for 1hr continuous. I used two in a leather-look, black 'bum bag' style carrier. There's a PP16 for 50W lamps. Both come in the superior carrying pouch with its adjustable waistband capable of storing a spare battery with one already inside. Built in battery maintenance system



In my opinion, the Cluson scope mount is the best on the market



Nice bag of rabbits taken with utmost efficiency thanks to the kit used and Howard's skill as a shot and pest controller

(BMS) helps avoid damage or misuse and optimise power output. It has a floating lead with either a jack or cigar socket connection.

**HOWARDS SAYS:**

**CLULITE GL LAZERLITE**

- Smaller than most lamps of same power and has a relatively tight white beam out to 300+yds
- I favour 'jackplug' connectors as they give a positive secure connection
- The lamp-heads retractable coiled lead is just the right length
- A generously sized rocker switch to attach to the rifle
- The lamp can be changed from hand held to gun mounted within seconds with the unique scope mount adaptor

**LI-ION BATTERY AND POUCH**

- At long last a really lightweight high power battery in a normal size bumbag.
- The pouch's two zipped compartments allow you to carry a backup battery with you.
- Best on the market I've experience of

**THE CLULITE PRO-SPOTTER GUN-LITE (PRO-1)**

Kit includes Pro-1 Lamp with CREE LED, B21 Li-ion Battery, their unique Dual Gun Mounting Kit for (25/30mm scope tubes), CH28 Mains Charger, CH29 Vehicle Charger, battery charging cradle, Tactical 'Tail' Switch with Wrist Strap and the so termed 'S20' 2 mode Pressure Switch with double-sided Velcro Strips for attachment. Optional Extra: Filter Kits  
Manufacturers rating: The high quality CREE LED gives a piercing bright white light out to 250m and has a life span of 50,000hrs which when combined with the precision reflector assembly gives outstanding performance for such a relatively small torch. The 45mm front lens is held in 55mm front lens housing.

**HOWARDS SAYS:**

- The Pro Spotter gun light is a true dual purpose torch or gun lamp
- Small compact lamp head, light and well balanced when mounted on rifle
- Being 'self contained' (battery held in torch) there are far fewer wires to inadvertently cause a bad connection – no connectors to come adrift or the old school external battery fuse to blow.
- The Velcro-backed remote switch is sealed to be completely waterproof and can easily be fitted wherever you



Here we see Howard using The Pro-Spotter with flip up lens fitted

want on the rifle allowing total control from the gun.

- Good tight beam out to over 250-yds un-filtered
- Well designed, built 'flip up' style filters available, the filters on the Pro-Spotter are like the CLUB 1 in that they tend to 'soften' the light rather than cut it down drastically which many 'standard 'Perspex' made ones do

**HOWARDS VERDICT**

The Li-ion battery and pouch I can't fault and even if I try to with the lamp, I'm only nit-picking. The Pro-Spotter was very impressive for .22LR rimfire for rabbits and impressed so much I'll soon try it on my .223REM for foxes; I'll let you know how I get on.

I fitted the long para-cord lanyard to the CLUB 1 because I spot quarry using it's piercing beam, switch off, slowly lower it to hang to my side, and then I'm up on target with the gun! 'Going it alone' lamping has never been easier... There are more units to try and I certainly intend to.

Contact: Cluson Engineering, 01730 264672 [www.clulite.cluson.co.uk](http://www.clulite.cluson.co.uk)



Use them as they should be, remember fieldcraft and Charlie doesn't stand a chance against these new lamping kits, thinking out loud - could they dent sales of NV?