



Skeet Success in the U.S.

In late September to early October 2018, the Australian skeet team competed at the 83rd World Skeet Championships held by the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) in San Antonio, Texas. There were 630 shooters in the mini championship and 754 who participated in the main event in hot and humid conditions with heavy downpours.

The Australian team of Michael Buttigieg, David O'Sullivan, Jack Stockdale, Adrian Cousens and Salvatore (Sam) Agostino won the five-man 12 Gauge Zone Championship (742/750) – the second time the team has won the event since 2012 – as well as the five-man 12 Gauge World Division Championship. For the 12 Gauge main event, the team members scores were: Michael Buttigieg 150/150, David O'Sullivan 150/150, Adrian Cousens 148/150, Sam Agostino 148/150 and Jack Stockdale 146/150.



Their commendable shooting continued through the main event, with the team winning the High Overall (HOA) five-man World Division Championship with a total of 2183/2250 across all gauges. Each member of the team also experienced significant individual successes. Most notably, two shooters stood on the podium, with Jack Stockdale winning 3rd overall in the 12 Gauge event of the Mini World championship and Michael Buttigieg also finishing 3rd overall in the Main World 12 Gauge event.



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Michael, along with Harry Bader, set the yearly 20 Gauge long run record with perfect scores of 225/225, meaning neither shooter missed a single 20 Gauge target through the duration of the World Championships. Furthermore, Michael and fellow Australians David O'Sullivan and Glenn Clarke shot 150/150s in the Krieghoff 12 Gauge event – three of just 28 perfect scores for the day.



In the main Doubles event, there were only eleven possibles (100/100) shot, which included David O'Sullivan who finished AAA 5th. David set the Australian yearly long run in Doubles with 145 straight. Sam Agostino also started off the world championships well with a 99/100 in the Mini World Doubles event, claiming AAA 3rd. He and fellow Australian Matthew De Paoli won the two-man triple sub team in both the 12 Gauge and 20 Gauge in the main event.

Adrian Cousens was warmly welcomed back to the World Shoot nearly two decades after his last attendance. Members of the Australian team attended the NSSA's Hall of Fame, where Adrian's previous successes on the world stage were recognised by the NSSA. He surpassed 90,000 registered NSSA targets at this World Shoot and had stand out performances in shooting 148/150 in the 12 Gauge event and an extremely respectable 99/100 in the 410 Bore. After a successful Doubles shoot off in the 410, he won the seniors section and finished AAA 8th.

In total, there were 29 Australian shooters who competed at the World Championships, many of whom had considerable achievements in grades and personal bests. Four shooters in particular stood out, each winning the overall in small gauge events in their grades and taking home new shotguns – Michael Buttigieg 20G AA1 100/100, Matthew De Paoli 20G A1 100/100, Richard Ball 28G B1 98/100 and 410 Bore B1 98/100,

and Tahnee Davenport 20G C1 99/100. Other shooters had victories in their concurrent individual and team divisions, including Nigel and Lorraine Hughes who won the HOA husband and wife team (860/900), and Mal Briggs and Paul Johnston who won the HOA two-man senior team (851/900). Other placements for individual Australian attendees include:

Mini World Championship

HOA Michael Buttigieg AA5 395/400, Tim Stockdale C6 374/400, Tiphonie Berthomiere D2 360/400 Doubles Salvatore Agostino AAA3 99/100, Jack Stockdale AA5 99/100, Michael Buttigieg AA6 99/100, Shane Bennett A6 97/100, Tahnee Davenport C5 91/100 12 Gauge Jack Stockdale 3rd O/A 100/100, Tiphonie Berthomiere D7 94/100 20 GAUGE Michael Buttigieg AA4 100/100, Matthew De Paoli A2 100/100, Tracey Ashton C3 96/100, Tiphonie Berthomiere D1 97/100 28 Gauge Daniel Hemming A8 99/100, Tim Stockdale C3 96/100, Tiphonie Berthomiere D2 93/100 410 Bore Michael Buttigieg AA5 98/100, Paul Johnston B9 95/100, Sarah Bennett C4 93/100

Main World Championship

HOA Michael Buttigieg AA5 445/450, Richard Ball B4 433/450, Sarah Bennett B10 430/450, Tahnee Davenport C6 421/450, Tim Stockdale C7 420/450, Tiphonie Berthomiere D5 391/450, Leonie Johnston D6 391/450 HAA Michael Buttigieg AA4 541/550, Sarah Bennett B7 523/550, Tahnee Davenport C1 516/550, Tim Stockdale C4 513/550, Tiphonie Berthomiere D2 479/550, Leonie Johnston D4 477/550 Wayne Mayes Event Malcolm Briggs AA8 99/100, Jack Stockdale AA10 99/100, Lorraine Hughes A7 98/100, Richard Ball B7 97/100, Tiphonie Berthomiere D1 90/100, Leonie Johnston D10 79/100 Doubles David O'Sullivan AAA5 100/100, Wayne Peterson A4 99/100, Tahnee Davenport C3 95/100, Leonie Johnston D4 86/100 12 Gauge Michael Buttigieg 3rd O/A 150/150, Glenn Clarke AAA5 150/150, Tiphonie Berthomiere D3 143/150 12 Gauge East Michael Buttigieg AA1 75/75, Malcolm Briggs AA2 75/75, Ray Mahony C7 73/75, Tiphonie Berthomiere D3 71/75 12 Gauge West Michael Buttigieg 3rd O/A 75/75, David O'Sullivan AAA3 75/75, Tiphonie Berthomiere D4 72/75, Leonie Johnston D9, 69/75 20 Gauge Michael Buttigieg AA1 100/100, Jack Stockdale AA5 100/100, Matthew De Paoli A1 100/100, Richard Ball B5 99/100, Tahnee Davenport C1 99/100, Tiphonie Berthomiere D2 96/100 28 Gauge Nigel Hughes A5 99/100, Richard Ball B1 98/100, Leonie Johnston D9 90/100 410 Bore Adrian Cousens AAA8 99/100, Michael Buttigieg AA10 98/100, Richard Ball B1 98/100

