

2014 World Skeet Championships

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Paul Johnston presenting Mike Dowling (Skeet Director USA) with a plaque for appreciation on behalf of the ACTA

Monday – 100 Target doubles;
 Tuesday – 150 target 12g (shot 75 in the morning and 75 in the afternoon);
 Wednesday – 100 20g;
 Thursday – 100 28g; and
 Friday – 100 .410.
 The HOA = 450 targets and the HAA=550 targets.

What a successful trip it was for the Aussie Five Man Zone team of Paul Johnston, Barry Moss, Shane O'Brien, David O'Sullivan and Glenn Walker. After we tied with the Americans on 742/750, the Aussie team went on to win the shoot-off and the Championship. What a satisfying win it was! (A video of the shoot-off can be seen on the ASSA website).

All team members arrived, safe and sound in San Antonio Texas, some days before the start of the Mini World events which, these days is the second biggest shoot in the USA. (Our equivalent back here would be the pre-nationals event).

The Mini World is a five gun event shot over three days as follows:

Friday – 100 target doubles;

Saturday – 100 target 12g in the morning followed by 100 target 28g in the afternoon; and

Sunday – 100 target 20g in the morning followed by 100 target .410 in the afternoon.

The High Over All (HOA) result is decided over the four standard gun events. The 12g, 20g, 28g and the .410 events giving a possible of 400 targets. While the High All Around (HAA) result adds the doubles for a possible of 500.

After getting over the jet lag, we quickly settled down and knuckled down to get a few targets under our belt. Apart from some heavy rain for the 12g event on Saturday morning of the Mini the weather remained quite good for the remainder of the Championships.

The individual Mini World scores for our successful Zone team members were as follows:

	Doubles	12g	20g	28g	.410	HOA	HAA
Paul	93	98	99	99	99	395	488
Barry	–	–	98	–	82	–	–
Shane	93	99	98	99	94	390	483
David	93	98	100	98	94	390	483
Glenn	92	96	95	97	93	381	473

Because of the large number of participants, the Main World Championships are based on one event per day as follows:

The individual Main World scores for our successful Zone team members were as follows:

	Doubles	12g	20g	28g	.410	HOA	HAA
Paul	97	150	98	98	93	439	536
Barry	97	147	95	96	94	432	529
Shane	97	147	96	98	93	434	531
David	99	149	100	96	98	443	542
Glenn	96	149	96	98	91	434	530

With some good performances achieved in the Mini and a great 99 by David O'Sullivan in the Main doubles, we were motivated to strive for a good performance in the Zone Team event the following day. And we succeeded!

Each team member performed at his best and we came up with a score of 742 which tied with an American Zone team. Our team won the shoot-off and became the 2014 Zone Team Champions.

The smile on everyone's face after our shoot-off spoke volumes for the significance of our win. The knowledge and experience gained by each team member will filter through to our Australian skeet shooters who will now be encouraged by our success.

Paul Johnston, the Team Manager, is extremely proud of the team who, together with all the Australian shooters, conducted themselves as great ambassadors of our sport and Country. The Australian contingent was over twenty with about ten from New Zealand. During the Championships it was gratifying to see the Australian flag flying over the stadium together the flags of so many other nations.

The friendliness and hospitality of everyone we met was sensational. We were welcomed by the new skeet Director, Mike Dowling, who kindly accepted and acknowledged the plaque presented on behalf of the Australian Clay Target Association.

This is truly the best skeet shoot in the World. Anyone who loves skeet shooting and/or wants to represent our country at the World Shoot should have a go at making the team for 2016. The selections start after the 2015 Skeet Nationals. Otherwise just plan to go – you will not regret it!

Paul Johnston, Team Manager