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2011 SKEET Hall of Fame

On the Friday night of the 2011 Skeet Nationals, 79 enthusiasts attended the Hall of Fame dinner. The social night provided shooters and supporters with numerous laughs over a three-course meal while this year's awards were presented. It was great to see a diverse mix of shooters attend, with a particularly strong contingent from New Zealand. Thanks to all those who attended, presented and helped organise this fabulous evening.

AWARDS

2010 Long Runs

Three commemorative plaques are awarded each year to shooters who achieve the longest break in the 12 gauge, 20 gauge and doubles events. This year, the awards were presented to Paul Johnston from Melbourne Gun Club who shot 213 in the 12 gauge at the 2010 National Titles. In 20 gauge, Shane O'Brien from the Eastern Goldfields Gun Club shot 150 straight at the World Skeet Shooting Championships in San Antonio, Texas. Also at the World Shoot, Peter Vella from Bathurst shot a commendable 103 in the doubles. Congratulations to each of the shooters for these fantastic results.



2011 Long Runs:

Left Paul Johnston, Centre Shane O'Brien, Right Peter Vella



Grand Slam

The Grand Slam is a formidable challenge for any Skeet shooter. It is awarded when a shooter obtains a 200 break in 12 gauge, 100 break in 20 gauge and 100 break in doubles during the course of his or her career. At the 2010 Skeet Nationals, Leigh Roberts shot 100 straight in doubles to meet his final criteria and was presented with a plaque

Left: Grand Slam winner, Leigh Roberts & Dave DiSilva, NZ Clay Target Council Member



Paul Johnston celebrates his induction into the Hall of Fame with family

at this year's Hall of Fame dinner. Leigh, as a highly skilled and experienced shooter, is only the fifth person to achieve the grand slam.

Adrian Cousens Medal

The Adrian Cousens Medal is awarded annually to the shooter who obtained the most Hall of Fame points from World, National and State Skeet events in the previous calendar year. Nominees for the 2010 medal were Leigh Roberts, Julian Lucchitti, David O'Sullivan, Paul Johnston and Brendan Pearson. While each of these shooters has achieved considerable wins both during 2010 and throughout their careers, it was Leigh Roberts from Bendigo Clay Target Club who was victorious on this occasion. This is the second time Leigh has won the medal in its four year history, indicating the exceptional quality of his shooting.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

The 2011 dinner also saw Paul 'Johnno' Johnston receive the highest honour bestowed upon a Skeet shooter – induction into the Skeet Hall of Fame. Paul is the fourth shooter to be inducted and follows in the footsteps of NSW shooting great Reg Clarke and fellow Victorians Ken Lowry and Adrian Cousens.

To be considered for inclusion in the Hall of Fame, a shooter must have a minimum of 200 qualification points and have won at least three National Titles. Paul has had a long and distinguished shooting career, with highlights including four Australian National Titles (including the 1987 High Gun), four National Runners-Up, eight State Titles, and receiving the Grand Slam in 2010.

Paul has played a pivotal role in promoting Skeet throughout Australia. He helped to resurrect the Australian Skeet Shooters Association, of which he is the current President, is on the committee of the Melbourne Gun Club and assists with Victorian State Skeet events. Paul's achievements also transcend our borders, with one of his fondest Skeet memories coming from making the Australian team that travelled to the World Skeet Shooting Championships in the USA in 1990. Catching the international competition bug, Paul has participated at the World Shoot consecutively for nearly the past decade, and frequently travels across the Tasman to compete at the New Zealand Skeet Nationals where he has had great success winning three silver ferns.

Paul gave a heartfelt speech, thanking his wife Leonie and daughter Tayla for their continual support, and reminiscing through his Skeet career. At times, however, Paul's modesty took the better of him and it was left to Glenn Clarke, acting as host for the induction, to intervene. Glenn, much to the amusement of all in attendance,

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Attwood-Law Skeet Championship

Each year the Wangaratta Clay Target Club holds the Attwood - Law skeet Championship event in recognition of two gentlemen that have contributed so much to the sport of skeet shooting. Bill Attwood has sponsored many prize cups over the years for not only Wangaratta, but other clubs as well. Bill's particular focus is on promoting and recognition of this discipline for younger shooters. His generosity in this regard is well recognised amongst shooters across Australia. The late Kevin Law was a secretary and very keen skeet shooter at the club and worked tirelessly, not only for the Wangaratta Clay Target club, but also for the promotion of the sport more widely.

On Sunday 29 May, it was great to have Bill Attwood make the trip from Melbourne to present the trophies for his event here at Wangaratta. Bill is considered a legend in the skeet shooting fraternity and to have him here in Wangaratta was very special for our local club.

The 50 Target Bill Attwood Championship event was won by B grade shooter Peter Finn on 57/58 and 2nd by Fred Guyatt with 56/58. Local skeet enthusiast David Jackel took out AA grade on 45/50. C grade was well won by Graham Hall with a score of 47/50 and 2nd by John Sutherland on 45/50.



L to R: Back Reg Phefley, John Sutherland, Bill Attwood. Front Phil Smith, Fred Guyatt, Travis Tait, Peter Finn, Graham Hall, David Jackel

The next event 50 Target Kevin Law Memorial Championship was expertly won by David Jackel, shooting 49/50. David has recently had some bad back problems, but appears to be recovering well after a break in shooting for some months. Local enthusiast Phil Smith shot a perfect 50/50 to win B grade, an excellent display of skill. Fred Guyatt took out 2nd in B again on 49/50. Reg Phefley from Mt Beauty shot well to win C grade on 55/58 and 2nd by Graham Hall 58/62. Graham has only shot skeet twice before, so an excellent result from him.

The O/All Attwood - Law High Gun was won by Fred Guyatt 98/100. Best Junior was Travis Tait 88/100 and Veteran champ went to John Sutherland on 90/100.

Thanks to Margot and Kelly Robinson for doing such a wonderful job in the kitchen.



Adrian Cousens Medal finalists - Paul Johnston, Leigh Roberts, David O'Sullivan and Brendan Pearson. Julian Lucchitti was absent. Leigh Roberts was the recipient of this award

demanding Paul re-count more detail about those infamous moments that have contributed so richly to the sport - those red leather pants, that unwieldy hair cut and, yes, even that 'apricot' jacket. For it is truly moments like these that not only add colour to the sport, but that help to build the familial spirit of Skeet.

In all, a combination of past achievements, continual promotion and support for Skeet, and impending future success mean that Paul takes a worthy place in the ACTA Skeet Hall of Fame as one of the caretakers of Skeet Shooting in Australia.