



# 89th WORLD SKEET SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

## *SAN ANTONIO TEXAS*

It was great to be back in San Antonio, Texas, for the Mini World and World Skeet Championships, catching up with some old friends and making new friends as well as the food and shopping. The 5 Man Team all met up at the National Shooting Complex on Thursday 26th of September for registration and to enter the ACTA Skeet 5 Man Team, also to pick up our pre-ordered ammo ready for 10 days of Skeet shooting.

We had a total a 17 Australians attend the World Skeet shoot with 6 of them being first time attendees and I'm sure that they will be back at some stage.

Friday the 27th was the start of the Mini World Doubles, 443 shooters, 33 degrees and sunny. After all the qualifying scores were in the Aussies headed down to field 5 to watch team member Austin Gibbes shoot off for Junior 3rd place against seven other juniors. He qualified with a 94 and after 16 targets in the shoot-off young Austin emerged a winner, finishing 3rd overall in the junior class.

Then we all headed next door to field 4 where Michael Buttigieg was shooting off for his age group with the other 98's, where he finished 3rd as well. Then we had first time attendee Aussie, Jimmy Wilberforce, shooting off in class with 91.

Saturday 28th was Mini 12g, 501 shooters, and Mini 20g, 488 shooters 34 deg and sunny. This was a big day with the first event starting at 9am (12g) and all the shoot-offs not finishing until about 9pm.

Again, it was Michael Buttigieg shooting off with a 100 for overall against 40 others and



*Shane Bennett, Austin Gibbes, Benn Baker, Michael Buttigieg, Matthew DePaoli*



*Austin Gibbes*

one being Aussie shooter John Rodden as he had also shot the 100 in the 12g. Austin was shooting off for juniors with a 99. There were 2 x 100's scores in for the juniors and eight 99's. Also, we had Ryan Miller shooting off in Class (99).

20g saw 43x 100 straights come in and again Buttigieg and John Rodden were the two Aussies shooting off. Rodden dropped out early with Buttigieg finishing the first box in the shoot-off and heading up to the stadium field to determine the final 3. After 4 stations Buttigieg dropped a high 4, however this wasn't all bad news as he finished runner-up out of 488 shooters. Other Aussies shooting off for age groups and classes were Benn Baker (99), Nigel Hughes (99) and Ryan Miller (99).

Sunday 29th was the Mini World 28g and .410 bore events, 34 degrees and sunny with 493 shooters for the 28g and 484 shooters for the .410.

28g was the first event with only 1 Aussie, John Rodden, shooting the 100. We also had Paul Johnston shooting off for first in class with the other 99's finishing runner-up.

Next was the small gun (.410) and the top scoring Aussie was again John Rodden with a 96 making Rodden just 4 targets down for the HOA 396/400. It was again a long day with all the 28g and .410 shoot-offs as well as all the

HOA shoot-offs and then presentation.

Monday 30th was the start of the Main World Championships with the Wayne Mayes event in the morning and Doubles after lunch (34 deg and sunny with 345 shooters for the Wayne Mayes and 547 for the Doubles). With sixteen 100-straight's our two top scoring Aussie's in the Wayne Mayes were Lorraine Hughes and Shane Bennett both with 99. After all the class and concurrent shoot-off's (.410 doubles) Lorraine finished ladies world runner-up.

We had 7x 100 straight's come in for the Doubles with our top scoring Aussies Michael Buttigieg, Benn Baker and Austin Gibbes all shooting 99, however the shoot-off's for the Doubles wouldn't be until tomorrow afternoon.

Tuesday the 1st was day one of the 12g event with 100 targets today (East) and 100 targets tomorrow (West) (35 degrees and sunny with 603 shooters for the 12g). The top scoring Aussies in the 12g East were Michael Buttigieg, Shane Bennett, Nigel Hughes and Lorraine Hughes all with 99. Before any of the shoot-off's the NSSA had an opening ceremony where all the countries in attendance would march out on the stadium field holding their country's flag. We nominated young team member Austin Gibbes to take our flag out.

Wednesday the 2nd was the second part of the

12g, with 12x 200 straight's. (33 deg and sunny with 603 shooters.) The 12g West top scoring Aussies were Benn Baker and Buttigieg with 100. Now that all the 12g scores were in we could see how the ACTA 5-man Skeet Team scored – Michael Buttigieg 199, Austin Gibbes 191, Shane Bennett 197, Benn Baker 198, Matthew De Paoli 194 and with a total score of 979/1000 making the Australian ACTA 5-man Skeet Team the champions for 2024.

Thursday 3rd was the 20g event with 31x 100 straight's – 32 deg and cloudy with 581 shooters. The top scoring Aussies for the day were Michael Buttigieg, Shane Bennett and Matt De Paoli all with 99. There were a few class and concurrent shoot-off's with Sarah Caldwell winning her class shoot-off, finishing 4th in her class, however the highlight shoot-off for the day was Sarah Bennett and Lorraine Hughes having to shoot-off against two American ladies to determine the Two Lady Team champions, and after 16 targets the Aussie girls did us proud and finished as champions. Up to this point Sarah and Lorraine had won the 2 Lady Team in Doubles, 12g and now 20g so what would the next day bring.

Friday 4th was the 28g event with 35x straight's



*Sarah Bennett & Lorraine Hughes*



Mark Vaillancourt, Lauren Burge & Michael Buttigieg



Austin Gibbes

(33 degrees, sunny and windy with 576 shooters), with top scoring Aussie Buttigieg shooting a perfect 100.



Joshua Guess, Jason Ward & Matthew De Paoli

Jimmy Wilberforce had a shoot-off on field 7 for D Class Champion with 2 other 96's so we all headed down to watch. After a few stations Jimmy dropped a target finishing him as D Class runner-up.

Saturday 5th was the last day, the .410 Bore event with 8x 100 Straights. It was 33 degrees and cloudy with 565 shooters, with our very own Matthew De Paoli shooting a perfect 100.

The shoot-off was called and the 8 shooters entered the shoot-off stadium and the Aussies were in the grandstand waiting to see who would be crowned



*Australia – 5 Man Open Team winners,  
Shane Bennett, Benn Baker, Matthew De Paoli,  
Michael Buttigieg & Austin Gibbes*

the 2024 World Skeet .410 champion. After the first station we were down to 6 and Matty was still hanging in there. After 2 more stations we were down to 3 shooters, so at worst, Matty would be 3rd overall. The 3 shooters then stepped up to station 4 where Matty was the first shooter to drop a target, the next shooter hit both his targets, and the 3rd shooter also dropped a target so at this point we had a champion, but no runner-up or 3rd place. After a few more stations Matty was victorious finishing the 2024 World Skeet .410 as runner-up – this was truly incredible.

After all the dust had settled there had been about 640,000 targets shot over the 10 days, not including practice or shoot-off targets.

And the ACTA Australian 5 Man Team had won the 5 Man Country/Zone 12g, 20g, 28g, .410, Doubles and the HOA, (clean sweep).

We also entered the 5 Man Open Team which we had won the 20g and Doubles and was runner-up in the .410.

On behalf of all the skeet shooters we would like to thank the ACTA for their continued support in funding this world skeet team.

## Mini Worlds

	<i>Mini D</i>	<i>Mini 12g</i>	<i>Mini 20g</i>	<i>Mini 28g</i>	<i>Mini .410</i>	<i>Mini HOA</i>
Shane Bennett	95	97	98	97	90	382
Michael Buttigieg	98	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	98	95	393
Austin Gibbes	94	99	97	97	90	383
Benn Baker	91	97	99	93	94	383
Matt De Paoli	98	98	99	98	95	390
Sarah Bennett	96	95	96	96	91	378
Brian Clarke	76	91	92	83	84	350
John Rodden	90	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	96	396
Jimmy Wilberforce	91	96	95	90	75	356
Ryan Miller	94	99	99	97	94	389
Paul Johnston	89	94	90	99	89	372
Leonie Johnston	79	NA	85	70	NA	155
Nigel Hughes	92	95	99	92	95	381
Lorraine Hughes	96	94	96	97	93	380
Rodney Gibbes	76	97	94	96	84	371
Chelsea Beechey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarah Caldwell	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



### Main Worlds

	<i>Main</i>	<i>Main</i>	<i>12g</i>	<i>12g</i>	<i>Main</i>	<i>Main</i>	<i>Main</i>	<i>Main</i>	<i>Main</i>
	<i>WM</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>20g</i>	<i>28g</i>	<i>.410</i>	<i>HOA</i>	<i>HAA</i>
Shane Bennett	99	96	99	98	99	98	94	488	584
Michael Buttigieg	97	99	99	<b>100</b>	99	<b>100</b>	95	493	592
Austin Gibbes	98	99	98	93	96	95	92	474	573
Benn Baker	94	99	98	<b>100</b>	98	93	89	478	577
Matt De Paoli	97	94	95	99	99	96	<b>100</b>	489	583
Sarah Bennett	95	96	97	99	95	93	92	476	572
Brian Clarke	89	75	83	75	91	82	NA	331	406
John Rodden	93	94	97	99	94	94	94	478	572
Jimmy Wilberforce	93	79	93	97	95	96	83	464	543
Ryan Miller	98	96	97	98	98	98	98	489	585
Paul Johnston	92	90	95	92	93	98	91	469	559
Leonie Johnston	NA	78	NA	79	79	78	68	304	382
Nigel Hughes	96	95	99	97	97	97	95	485	580
Lorraine Hughes	99	95	99	94	98	97	94	482	577
Rodney Gibbes	87	86	93	95	93	94	75	450	536
Chelsea Beechey	NA	87	91	88	81	79	85	424	511
Sarah Caldwell	92	85	93	95	91	86	88	453	538