

A FIESTA IN SAN ANTONIO!

THE CHAMPION MICK HOWELLS (CENTER) WITH
RUNNER-UP WILLY GORDON (RIGHT) AND
SECOND RUNNER-UP BEN BRUNTON (LEFT).

A REPORT BY STEVE FISCHER



2003 WORLD SPORTING





THE ENGLAND TEAM.

It was definitely a hot time in the old town during the last weekend of April as six hundred plus came to Texas to compete in one of the year's most prestigious competitions – the World English Sporting Championships.

And, it was warm! Temperatures reached the high 80s by mid-afternoon, and Friday's Prelim was down-right hot by the two pm rotation. A solid breeze out of the North East kept it from getting too uncomfortable, especially for

our friends just in from the cooler climates – but there was a trade off, with the targets getting a little bouncy as the wind gusts came along.

Nevertheless, the top spot in the Pre-lim was awarded to Doug Fuller with a solid 96, a great score on a better than average set of targets. Jamie McGhee took the Runner-Up position tied with Bobby Fowler on 95. Master one, two and three were filled by a five way tie on 94 leaving Frederico Del Toro, Ben Hustwaite



TEAM USA.

CHAMPIONSHIP



GEORGE DIGWEED
RELAXING IN THE SHADE, BETWEEN STANDS.





ENGLAND'S JO MARSH SHOOTING OFF WITH DIANE NELSON.

KATE DIGWEED AND BOB CARTER ENJOYING THE SUN AND THE SHOOT.

and Scott Robertson in those spots. A quick run down of the Concurrents found DeeAnn Massey Lady first at 89, Vance Barnes took top Veteran with 91,

while Mike O'Brien's fine 89 capped the Juniors with Brett Winstanley in first place with an 82 in the Sub-Juniors. In Super-Veterans, Gary McStay came out on

top with 87. The only blemish on this otherwise great course was caused by cranky machines, a dead battery or two and broken targets – creating at least a couple of big back-ups as the repairs were rendered. This problem would unfortunately find its way into the Main Event courses, with the afternoon Main on the Winchester-LaPort layout taking over three and one half hours to shoot 100 targets. I don't mean to harp, but this problem with targets and machines breaking has been around in San Antonio for a while.

There was a questionnaire handed to each shooter at registration regarding several topics and which topic the shooter thought was the most important. Replacing the old machines and getting new was one of the topics and I hope enough

shooters selected that as a major item to be dealt with in the very near future – such as before the 2003 National Championships in September!

FITASC AND 5-STAND

The FITASC event was taken up a notch as well, with testier presentations than usual. Parcour two was considered by most to be the toughest, with some long crossers and fast targets – tighter chokes were definitely an aid on several of the presentations. Gregg Wolf found the targets to his liking and posted a combined score of 22-25-21-22 (90) for the Champion honors, with England's John Hargrave Runner-up for his efforts of 20-22-24-24 (90). Third place went to Jon Kruger, posting a 23-18-24-23 (88).

The Veteran's found Gene Sherrod in the Champion spot at 79, with Steve Fischer Runner-up with a 78 and Mike Bittman in third spot with a 77. The Lady Champion was England's own Jo Marsh, posting a 73, followed by Diane Nelson's 65 with third place going to Debbie Wall, also on 65. The Super-Vet's one, two, three, was Bill Wall, Bob Brister and W. Ray Newman putting up scores of 74, 74 and 71. The Juniors, led by Corey Kruse's 85, was followed by Brandon Powell's 80 and Gebben Miles on 79.

The 5-Stand was as competitive as ever, with Anthony Matarese topping the leaderboard with a scorching 98/100, two targets ahead of Jon Kruger and David Gaffee. Class winners included Rick

Camuglia (M1-96), Ron Reiber (AA1-94), Michael Simpson (A1-90), Carlos Valdez (B1-85), Darin Fields (C1-85), Bryan Bracht (D1-88) and Roque Hines (E1-84). Dr Paula Benbow won Ladies, while

HANDSHAKES ALL ROUND AFTER THE SHOOT-OFF FOR THE 2003 CHAMPION, MICK HOWELLS (RIGHT).



WORLD SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2003

HOA	MICK HOWELLS	207
R/U	WILLIAM GORDON	207
3RD	BEN BRUNTON	203
M1	MIKE RIVEST	202
M2	BEN HUSTHWAITE	202
M3	BOBBY FOWLER	198
AA1	STEPHEN LEONARD	171
AA2	HENRY DEVALL	171
AA3	BRENDON FROST	168
A1	GRAND HUSSEY	173
A2	MATHEW NORRIS	168
A3	BRIAN HODGES	166
B1	A M LE SECH	151
B2	MARK HAYDEN	149
B3	JACK LEWRIGHT	149
C1	MARCO RAYON	152
C2	DOUG HARVEY	149
C3	SCOTT GRANGE	144
D1	DOUGLAS L PYLE	142
D2	MIKE BARNELL	140
D3	MARCUS TURNER	136
E1	JIM BRAKE	136
E2	BOB DEMCHUK	133
E3	JENNIFER WALTON	128
LADIES1	DIANE SORANTINO	174
LADIES2	JO MARSH	165
LADIES3	DIANE NELSON	165
JUNIORS1	BRETT DORAK	173
JUNIORS2	SHELDON BENGE	173
JUNIORS3	MIKE O'BRIEN	168
SUB-JUNIOR1	BRETT WINSTANLEY	146
SUB-JUNIOR2	JOEY BOLTON	142
SUB-JUNIOR3	LEON TAN	142
VETERANS1	BRUCE NEY	172
VETERANS2	CURTIS ANDERSON	170
VETERANS3	MIKE BITTMANN	167
SUPER-VET1	LARRY MCINTIRE	162
SUPER-VET2	RAY NEWMAN	159
SUPER-VET3	GARY MCSTAY	157

5 MAIN NATIONAL TEAM

USA	877
ENGLAND	876
MEXICO	623

3 JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM

USA	486
ENGLAND	460

3 LADY NATIONAL TEAM

USA	496
ENGLAND	419

3 VET NATIONAL TEAM

USA	484
ENGLAND	460

3 SUPER-VETERAN NATIONAL TEAM

USA	469
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other Concurrent winners included Leon Tan (SJ), Mason Giddens (J), John Meitzen (V) and Gus McFadden (SV).

MAIN EVENT

Day one of the Main Event found the shooters eager and filled with anticipation, with just a hint of friendly rivalry between the Americans and the British shooters



There were two courses laid out for this event. One was called the Beretta/LaPort and was on the grounds of the Krieghoff Kup, while the other, the Browning/Winchester was on the grounds of the National's Red course.

I must say that the targets presented were some of the best I have ever shot on these grounds. They were well thought out and tested the shooters skills beyond the average difficulty level usually found here each year for the National Championships.

The courses were well balanced, with the Beretta/LaPort



STUART CLARKE PLAYING THE "SNOOKER" GAME.

JUNIOR CHAMPION BRETT DORAK, WITH RUNNER-UP SHELDON BENGE (L) AND THIRD PLACE WINNER MIKE O'BRIEN (R).



203 gave him third spot.

The 5 Man, 3 Junior, 3 Ladies, 3 Veteran and 3 Super Veteran team events, which are always popular, producing much National pride, all went to Team USA.

The joint efforts of Dan Carlisle, Anthony Matarese, Jon Kruger, Wendell Cherry and Andy Duffy squeaked by the UK's Shaun Stacey, Stuart Clarke, John Hargrave, Paul Simpson and John Smith by one target (877 to 876)! Mexico took the third place honors with Casar Athie, Armando Perez, Alfredo Ga Hidalgo, Marco Rayon, and Frederico Del Toro scoring 623.

Without doubt, the 2003 World Sporting Championship was excellent! The weather was cooperative, with no rain or excessive heat, and the shoot gave everyone the opportunity to renew friendships from across the pond, and around the world.

Next in line, also in the U.S., will be the World FITASC Championship. We offer our congratulations to all the winners and competitors. Well done!

Mick Howells continued his incredible streak as of late, by becoming the 2003 World Champion. He posted a fantastic score of 96-93 plus 18 in the shoot off for 207 and the win. Scotland's Willy Gordon was runner-up at 93-92 plus 22 (207) and our own Ben Brunton's 92-92 plus 19 for a final

USA LADIES TEAM DIANE NELSON, DEEANN MASSEY AND DIANE SORRENTINO.



ENGLAND SILVER MEDALISTS.



GOLD MEDAL WINNERS, TEAM USA.



ENGLAND VETERAN SILVER MEDALISTS AND GOLD MEDAL VETERAN TEAM USA.



ENGLAND JUNIOR SILVER MEDALISTS AND GOLD MEDAL JUNIOR TEAM USA.



TEAM MEXICO BRONZE MEDALISTS.

