

# Double World Champion

**THE 2008 WORLD SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIP IS LIKELY TO BE THE LAST IN ITS CURRENT FORMAT. THE UK BASED CPSA AND THE NSCA ARE LOOKING TO MAKE CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE. WHAT'S THE OUTCOME LIKELY TO BE?**

**ASKS MICHAEL BRUNTON PUBLISHER**

Each year, the venue for the World Sporting Championship is rotated between NSCA headquarters in San Antonio and a CPSA Premier facility in the UK. This summer the event was held at Lakenheath Clay Target Center in England – a full report is featured in this issue.

But there are now changes afoot that are sure to result in the kudos of the 'World Champion' title being watered down. As with the Skeet and Trap World Championship, the UK based CPSA plans to take the World Sporting Championships on tour – rather than just being staged in the US and UK.

Phil Boakes of the CPSA tells me that he'd like to see the Championship hosted by other countries that are keen to further promote sporting clays, such as Sweden, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand – and perhaps even Canada, France and Russia.

The NSCA, who will hold the 2009 World Championship at San Antonio, are not keen on this idea – and that's putting it mildly. The proposed change has been in discussion for some time now and with no agreement to date, it looks mighty likely that the NSCA will continue to run their 'own' World Championship and the CPSA will move to promote a CPSA World Championship.

Boakes explained further that the touring CPSA World Championship will be 'all-inclusive' not exclusive. In other words, US shooters (or teams) will be welcome to compete – and no doubt the NSCA World Championship will also be inclusive.

So, the likely outcome in the future could be two World Championship titles up for grabs (a similar situation exists in boxing).

There will undoubtedly be a handful of shooters that will fancy their chances of a double World Champion, class or concurrent title – but for most of us there will be an ongoing debate as to which title (NSCA or CPSA) is respected more.

No doubt the CPSA will claim that as a more inclusive event (supported by shooters from many more countries) their title is a true 'World' title. While this point may have some validity, an event held in South Africa, Australia or



Scandinavia will surely see entries fall as most A, B, C, D and E class US and Brit shooters (the main exponents of sporting clays) will opt not to travel. In which case, is the host nation likely to attract enough domestic shooters to take up the slack – I doubt it. The result is most likely to be a more inclusive event but with perhaps only 4-500 entries.

As to the NSCA World Championship, I have no doubt that the event will continue to have massive appeal for domestic shooters – as it always has. It will surely continue to attract the top overseas competitors from other nations (including the UK) but will always be dominated by US shooter entries rather than those

from overseas – so how World inclusive is it likely to be?

So, what's the choice – a World title or class win at one of the biggest sporting clays events of the season, or a World title or class win at a smaller event but that is more international in its entries?

Whichever Championship you support, the chances are that the Champion and class winners will forever wonder what the outcome would have been if competitors from the 'other' World Championship had been in attendance. Perhaps the real kudos will now only come from becoming a double World Champion – and that's a challenge that no doubt Wendell Cherry or George Digweed will relish! ■

At the time of going to press we learned that 26 year old Glenn Eller of Katy, Texas – previously a sporting shooter – had won the Double Trap Gold medal at the Olympics in Beijing. I'm sure all our readers will join with me to say 'Great job!'