

We stay with skeet shooting this month but move to the international arena to feature Olympic Skeet. Controlled by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) this, as the name suggests, is one of the three Olympic clay target disciplines. Despite the lure of a gold medal and a place in history, Olympic Skeet remains very much a minority discipline in Britain, with perhaps no more than a couple of hundred serious competitors. We have never produced an Olympic champion but currently a talented crop of young shooters have realistic hopes of making the journey to Athens in 2004. This is one of the most technically challenging of all the shooting sports and standards are incredibly high — the men's World Record perfect score of 125 has been achieved ten times. One small mistake can be the difference between glory and a place among the also-rans.

The A-Z

olympic skeet

STANCE AND EQUIPMENT

The ready position for Olympic Skeet is unique to this discipline and adds considerably to the difficulty. The rules state that the toe of the stock must be on or below a line 25-30cm long marked on the shooter's outer garment to indicate the top of the hip bone. This low starting position places a premium on a smooth and consistent gun mount.



As in all ISSF events, guns must be smooth bored to a maximum of 12-gauge. No compensators or similar devices are allowed. Gun choice is a personal thing, but historically shorter barreled guns with open chokes have been favoured.

Cartridges are limited to 24 grams, maximum pellet size 2.5mm in a case no longer than 70mm when fired.

THE READY POSITION FOR OLYMPIC SKEET IS UNIQUE TO THIS DISCIPLINE AND ADDS CONSIDERABLY TO THE DIFFICULTY.

THE STARS

P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P



Drew Harvey

Currently Britain's highest ranked skeet shooter at number 12 in the world rankings at the end of June 2003. The Cambridgeshire star enjoyed a marvellous career as a junior, taking European bronze and World gold medals in his last year before entering the senior ranks in 1998. Now an experienced international competitor, he has twice represented England at the Commonwealth Games and he also qualified to represent Great Britain at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. He shoots a Perazzi MX8 and Express cartridges

John Davison

Another Olympian from the Sydney Games, John is currently ranked 20th in the world. He gave up a promising career in the sporting disciplines to concentrate on Olympic Skeet in the mid 1980s and he has featured regularly in GB teams since 1990. Another Perazzi MX8 user (with RC cartridges). He faces stiff competition for a place in the GB team for this season's international competitions and the chance to secure another Olympic spot.

P P P P P P P P P P



of shooting

High house

THE LAYOUT

The familiar semicircular skeet field is used, with Station 8 at the centre of the base chord as in NSSA Skeet. There are however significant differences over domestic skeet disciplines in terms of target speed and presentation and the shooting sequence.

Olympic Skeet targets are faster, flying 65-67 metres in still air. In addition there is a variable delay of 0-3 seconds between the shooter's call and the target appearing

SHOOTING PROCEDURE

ISSF competitions are shot over 125 targets (men) and 75 targets (women) plus a final of 25 targets for the top six.

Rounds of 25 are shot in squads (max 6 shooters) in the following sequence:

- STATION 1 - SINGLE HIGH, DOUBLE
- STATION 2 - SINGLE HIGH, DOUBLE
- STATION 3 - 2 SINGLES, DOUBLE
- STATION 4 - 2 SINGLES, DOUBLE
- STATION 5 - 2 SINGLES, DOUBLE
- STATION 6 - SINGLE LOW, DOUBLE
- STATION 7 - DOUBLE
- STATION 8 - TWO SINGLES

Crossing Point

Low House

Richard Brickell

P P P P P P P P P P

Although ranked behind Harvey and Davison at number 22 in the world rankings, Berkshire's Brickell is currently clear at the top of the GB listings and in pole position to push for that elusive Olympic quota place. A close rival to Harvey since junior days, the pair teamed up at last year's Commonwealth Games, losing out on the pairs silver medal on countback. He is British record holder and the current UK Champion. Richard shoots a Beretta 682 and Hull cartridges.

Elena Little

P P P P P P P P P P

Britain's top ranked lady at no. 8 in the world rankings, Moscow-born Elena has skeet shooting in her genes — her mother was Russian champion. Since marrying GB international Chris Little and moving to England, Elena has made steady progress, making her GB team debut in 1998. In 2002 she began to feature regularly in the top six finals at major events, culminating in a World Championship bronze medal in Finland. Her goal now is to convert one of these good performances into a quota place for Athens 2004. Elena shoots a Perazzi MX8 and Clever Mirage cartridges.

