



WORLD CHAMPS

Chris Aston's got the results from Avon, and the 15th World Crossbow Championships



Avon 2010 attracted a hot field of the world's best crossbow archers, including former world champions and marksmen and -women from the Olympic shooting disciplines.

The 15th IAU World Crossbow Championship took place in Avon, Northern France on 31 August to 4 September. Three international crossbow archery disciplines were staged on a single site at the Vulaines-sur-Seine sports complex in superb late summer sunshine. Crossbow archers from 15 countries contested the team and individual events, which were scheduled over five days of shooting; and 11 out of the 15 participating countries won medals during the World Championship.

The 2010 Individual IAU World Crossbow Champions are Simon Beyeler SUI

(Open 30 meter Match-crossbow), Claude-Alain Delley SUI (U21 30 meter Match-crossbow), Sergey Kamenski RUS (Men 10 meter Match-crossbow), Sandra Tauber GER (Women 10 meter Match-crossbow), Mickael D'Hallum FRA (U21 Men 10 meter Match-crossbow), Auréile Chevance FRA (U21 Women Match-crossbow), Domagoj Pereglin CRO (Men Field-crossbow), Ina Schmidt GER (Women Field-crossbow), Jacques Mangematin FRA (U21 Junior Field-crossbow), Valentina Pereglin CRO (U18 Cadet Field-crossbow) and Vladimir Kuts RUS (Senior Field-crossbow).

In the Teams World Championship there were

wins for Switzerland (30 meter Open Class and 10 meter Women), Germany (10 meter Men, 10 meter U21 Men and Field Men), France (10 meter U21 Women, Field U21 Junior and Field Senior) and Croatia (Field Women and Field U18 Cadet).

Men's champ, Domagoj Pereglin with IAU president Gerard Boutteville



Photography: Chris Aston



Photography: Jerome Trouillet

You can find all of the Avon World Championship results and a photo gallery link on the IAU website www.iau-crossbow.org

MOBILE SHOOTING RANGE

The Netherlands Crossbow Federation's new mobile match-crossbow shooting range had its international competition debut in at the World Championships in Avon. Developed with support from the Dutch National Sports Committee, the new system packs 30 sets of electrically driven 30-meter match-crossbow target changers into a specially fitted-out 40-foot shipping container. The main advantages of the Dutch system are that the equipment is lightweight and can be quickly erected and dismantled by a small team of people.

Significantly, the new Dutch system needs no special ground preparation work – just a flat, firm area of ground. This contrasts with traditional match-crossbow ranges that need expensive foundation work to install the targets, which is one of the main factors limiting the growth of the sport beyond a few western European countries. Using less powerful electric motors than were needed previously, the Dutch design team have come up with a greener solution for the planet. The Dutch mobile range installation ran faultlessly in Avon, and the kit is now available for hire from the Netherlands Crossbow Federation. This is great news for the IAU, because it means that 30-meter Match-crossbow shooting facilities can now reach new countries in a more practical and affordable way.



Photography: Gilles Dumery

CELEBRATING THE CROSSBOW'S HISTORY

Members of five of France's historic crossbow Guilds provided a colourful link with the past in Avon when they lead the parade of nations during the world championships opening ceremony on 31 August. A few hours before the opening ceremony, the Guilds had demonstrated their medieval crossbows at the World Championship site. Visiting national teams and members of the public were also able to test their skills with traditional Balance Crossbows on a specially constructed shooting range. The Guilds taking part were Charleville, Saint Armand, St. Georges Bousbeque, The Brotherhood of Archers Paris and The Company of Dragon Hunters. The activities in Avon were managed by the coordinator of the French Guilds Jacques Collot.



Photography: Gilles Dumery

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

IAU Crossbow shooting is set to enter Africa and India in the near future. Observers from the national shooting sports federations of Algeria, Cameroon, India and Kazakhstan were in Avon as invited guests of the IAU. Plans were announced during the IAU General Assembly on 1 September regarding the preparation of an IAU Technical Assistance Programme to assist countries in starting to develop a national programme that will eventually lead to IAU membership and participation at IAU World and Continental Championships. French National Crossbow Coach Yves Lejard will be involved with the IAU's Development Programme, visiting new countries to

introduce the IAU's crossbow disciplines to prospective IAU member federations. His first visit for the IAU will be to Algeria this autumn.

Visitors to the World Championship were able to inspect the latest offerings from the crossbow archery trade. The French manufacturer LBG displayed their new range of field-crossbows and accessories (left). The firm, which is based in Richelieu, is run by brothers Bruno and Garry Liaigre and specialises in the production of prototypes and components for the precision engineering sector. They started making products for the crossbow archery market in 2007 and have quickly established a reputation for excellence (www.arbalete-lbg.com).



Photography: Gerard Boutteville