

SSAA - IHMSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SSAA BRISBANE

30th September – 6th October 2017

The 38 competitors arrived in Brisbane in dribs and drabs – 1 from WA, 4 from SA, 3 from VIC, 2 from ACT, 3 from NSW and 25 from QLD from as far north as Mackay. Friday 29th September was the practice day for Small Bore and Field Pistol and at 35° the weather really made it hard for some of the shooters not used to the heat and humidity of south east Queensland.

Small Bore and Field Pistol

Saturday - Day 1 A slightly cooler day – only 32°! Unfortunately the wind came up at around 10.30 and the Rimfire rams at 100m had to be clamped to stop them blowing over. Just after lunch Kirsten J (Qld) shot the first perfect score of 40 in Unlimited and then quite late in the afternoon Barry W (SA) posted a 40 in Unlimited Any Sights and Judy H (Qld) shot a 30 in Field Pistol Production.

Sunday - Day 2 The weather had certainly changed overnight – today was overcast and cool and once again the wind arrived and the rams had to be clamped again. As the afternoon wore on it got darker and the wind increased, requiring the turkeys at 75m to be clamped as well. There was a minor interruption during the afternoon when the “duck” family, mum / dad and 6 ducklings, who had been happily swimming in the water in the drain that ran across the range, decided to forage further afield and wandered across in front of the 50m target rail. A few volunteers headed out to do the wildlife removal, aka, duck wrangling and the family were persuaded to go back into the gully. It began to rain at approximately 4pm just as the last relay went to the line. Jumpers and jackets appeared from nowhere as it got quite cool. The light conditions made it very difficult to see the black targets, especially those under the new bunkers. Top scores for the day were Cheyne F (ACT) with a 39 in Production, John H (Qld) with a 39 in Unlimited and Kim E (NSW) with a 31 in Field Pistol Any Sights. Gary J (WA) managed a 40 in Unlimited Any Sights in the difficult conditions of late afternoon.



Wildlife removal / Duck wrangling

Monday - Day 3 The shooting day began in the rain and was quite cool. The rain did ease but it stayed heavily overcast all day. The only good thing was that we did not have to clamp any targets as the wind was not as strong as the previous two days. Despite the dark conditions, Cheyne F (ACT) shot a 40 in Unlimited, Brian M (NSW) a 32 in FP Production Any Sights and Wayne C (ACT) shot an excellent 28 in Standing with a borrowed firearm. As the final scores were entered into the computer and the shoot off targets were being set up at 100m, our good luck ran out and it began to rain in earnest. First up was Kirsten and Cheyne in Unlimited – Kirsten cleared the rail of all 5 shoot off targets in the first run through to win Unlimited. Barry W and John H then shot off for third place in grade as both had missed a ram for a score of 39. After the first 5 targets the scores were still equal and it wasn't till after a second go that Barry took third place in INT grade. Last shoot off for the day was Gary J and Barry W in Unlimited Any Sights. The shoot off targets were changed to all chickens and the tussle began. Once again it took two rounds with Barry taking the honours and Gary runner up. As the rain eased, all the rimfire and field pistol targets were packed away and the range set up with the 200m Big Bore targets ready for practice day on the Tuesday.

Fortunately the day had finished early enough to allow everyone to go back to their accommodation to briefly relax, shower and change ready for the presentation evening. Some were hard to recognize when not in their "shooting clobber" including caps, glasses and ear muffs. After filling all the hungry tumms it was down to the nitty gritty part of the evening, presenting all the trophies for the 100m Small Bore and Field Pistol matches.

Small Bore National Champions:

Production	Cheyne F (ACT)	39
Revolver	Barry W (SA)	39
Standing	Wayne C (ACT)	28
Unlimited	Kirsten J (QLD)	40
Unl Any Sights	Barry W (SA)	40

Field Pistol National Champions

Production	Judy H (QLD)	30
Prod Any Sights	Brian M (NSW)	32

Open 2 Match Aggregate	Kim E (NSW)	60
Ladies 2 Match Aggregate	Judy H (QLD)	57
Junior 2 Match Aggregate	Jessica D (QLD)	8

Open 4 Match Aggregate	Russell M (QLD)	136
Ladies 4 Match Aggregate	Judy H (QLD)	126
Junior 4 Match Aggregate	Jessica D (QLD)	46



Small Bore & Field Pistol National Champions

There was only one Junior in attendance this year, 14 year old Jessica D from Mackay in QLD. This was Jessica's first National Championships and in many of the matches she scored more than both her father and grandfather who were also competing.



SB & FP Aggregate Winners – Jessica (Jnr), Russell (Open) Judy (Ladies), Kim absent

Tuesday - Day off - Washing done, food supplies replenished and time for a very brief reeee - lax. Others did some practice ready for Big Bore, while some went to the local gun shops and a few went sight-seeing. All in all, a nice quiet day.

Big Bore

Wednesday - Day 1 The day began under cloudy skies and a few keen workers had to do some work on the mound at 200m as the last ram on D range was very hard to see. By the time shooting started, the clouds broke and out came the sun making things very glary again. Mick A (VIC) shot an excellent 40 in Revolver quite early in the day. In the afternoon, Cheyne F (ACT) scored a 40 in Unlimited and Gary J shot a personal best of 39 in Revolver. By late afternoon, shadows from the trees growing on the side mound and the shadows from the new bunkering made the 200m rams very hard to see.



200m Big Bore Range

Thursday - Day 2 Brilliant sunshine for a change, but this put the targets in an odd light under the cover of the bunkers. Still, the 40's flowed – Wayne C (ACT) 40 in Revolver, Cheyne F (ACT) 40 in Production and not to be outdone by her son, Judy H (QLD) also shot 40 in Production. That was just the first half of the day. In the afternoon, Barry W (SA) shot an excellent 40 in Unlimited Any Sights Half Scale, no easy task at the best of times. Russell M (QLD) followed with a 40 in Unlimited, having to shoot his last 5 rams on an adjacent range as you could not see the ones on his range in the shadows. Gary J (WA) also finished the day with a 40 in Unlimited.

Friday - Day 3 Very bright and sunny, hot and humid – great QLD weather! The 40's began early – Gary J (WA) 40 in Unlimited Any Sights, Judy H (QLD) 40 in Unlimited then Barry W (SA) with a 40 in Unlimited. The Standing scores for the Big Bore part of the shoot had been “ordinary” till Mick A (VIC) came along and posted an excellent 30. Brian M (NSW) also put in a good Unlimited Standing of 25. I must make mention of another up and coming young shooter, Lachlan B from Maryborough in QLD who over the course of the shoot shot some excellent scores, particularly in the standing matches. Lachlan had already scored a 27 and 28 in Field Pistol Production and Production Any Sights in the first part of the Nationals and he kept this up in Big Bore with a 23 in Unlimited Standing.

The shoot offs for Big Bore began just before 14:00 with Mick and Wayne being first on the line after both shooting a 40 in Revolver. Mick was the victor here. Mother (Judy) and son (Cheyne) then towed the line for the Production shoot off with Mum being the winner with her trusty Thompson Center Contender. This was followed by the 4 x 40's in Unlimited – Barry W, Gary J, Cheyne F and Judy H. Barry W was the winner after the first round and Gary J took second place after the second round which left Cheyne and Judy to fight it out for 3rd and 4th place. Cheyne finally won the 3rd place. All the shooting was now completed and everything that needed to be packed away was. It was now up to the scorer to finalise the scores for the 8 matches in Big Bore before the presentation that evening.

All done and dusted for another year, the only thing left, the presentation dinner for Big Bore. With a couple of hours to spare before that started, many took the opportunity to pack and tidy up ready for the journey home, which for one shooter was over 4000kms away. After a very nice roast dinner and dessert the final presentation for 2017 took place.

Big Bore National Champions:

Production	Judy H (QLD)	40	Unl Half Scale	Barry W (SA)	37
Revolver	Mick A (VIC)	40	Unl Standing	Brian M (NSW)	25
Standing	Mick A (VIC)	30	Unl Any Sights	Gary J (WA)	40
Unlimited	Barry W (SA)	40	Unl ASHS	Barry W (SA)	40

Open 4 Match Aggregate	Mick A (VIC)	148
Ladies 4 Match Aggregate	Judy H (QLD)	136
Junior 4 Match Aggregate	Jessica D (QLD)	33

Ten Match Aggregate	Barry W (SA)	321
	Judy H (QLD)	319
	Gary J (WA)	316

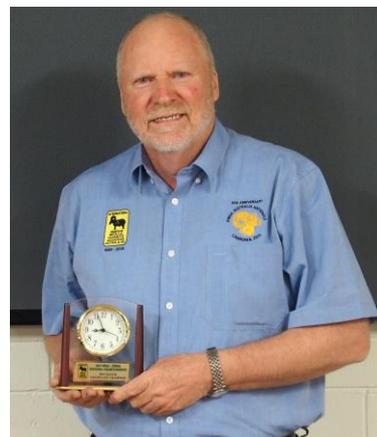


Big Bore National Champions

Thanks to Johanna M and her husband Brian for their dedication to the scoring over the 6 days of competition. It is a thankless task and Johanna always puts her hand up for it – thank you, you are very much appreciated. Thanks also to those competitors who helped put out, stand and paint targets ready for each practice day and to all those people who helped in the running of the competition by doing range and line officer duties. It was good to see some new, younger faces this year and it is to be hoped they keep up the good work and come again. The rest of us get a little older each year and by the last afternoon we all looked very tired. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again next year at Virginia, South Australia where we will do it all again.



BB Aggregate Winners – Judy (Ladies), Mick (Open), Jessica (Junior)



Ten Match Aggregate – Barry, SA