



The
Clay Target Shooting
Association
of South Africa



2021 : A Skeet Odyssey

THE CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

NSSA SKEET & SKEET DOUBLES : SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL TEAM 2021

For the 2021 South African Protea Team travelling to the NSSA Skeet World Championships in San Antonio, Texas, the story began a long time before the first competition target was broken, and ultimately, it's a story as much about overcoming the challenges brought about by a global pandemic as it is about shooting. Luckily our story had a happy ending!

Having overcome all the additional hurdles thrown at us, two frantic weeks of planning, and still not being 100% certain of what would be waiting for us at passport control in the USA, Faan and Amelda Greyling, Karel Mestdag Senior and Karel Mestdag Junior, and I boarded a Boeing 777-300ER headed for... Cyprus!



L to R : Faan Greyling, Pieter Greyling Amelda Greyling, Karel Mestdag, Sergio Nunes



As luck would have it – luck being a scarce resource these days – The FITASC World Compak Championship was to be held in Cyprus at the same time as our mandatory 14-day quarantine period in a “low covid

risk” country – a requirement for us to enter the United States - and so Cyprus was to be our home and practice ground for the two weeks leading up to San Antonio.

With the sun, sea and many challenging Compak targets behind us we all arrived at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport buzzing with a strange mixture of excitement, relief and disbelief that we had reached our destination.

En-route to San Antonio from Dallas, we managed to stop over at the Fort Worth Trap and Skeet Club – the home range of Olympic Superstar Vincent Hancock – for some practice, and some Hancock inspired Skeet Mojo.

A wonderful drive filled with memorable stops through the

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Join the NSSA Skeet Trials!

Closing date to enter National Trials:

Skeet (24th Feb 2022)

Skeet Doubles (7th April 2022),

Junior Worlds (20th January 2022)

full rules here :

<https://www.ctsasa.co.za/national-trials/national-trial-regulations/>

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back country of Texas took us through Stephenville, Fredericksburg and Kerrville (home of Schreiner University and our very own Skeet Junior World Champion Pieter Greyling) and brought us to San Antonio in high spirits.

With Karel Junior and I being first timers and having no recorded scores for the sub-gauges (20-gauge, 28-gauge and .410) the two of us entered a "Pre-Mini-Worlds" competition called the "Clay Target Nation 4 x 50" comprising of 50 targets in each gauge.

With our classifications now recorded, and having had an opportunity to shoot the sub-gauges for the first time we were all ready for things to get a bit more serious with the "Mini-Worlds".

With Pieter joining us, we managed to field a full squad of South Africans, and with our flag proudly hung from a prominent tree on our first range at the National Shooting Complex, the shooting began.



Karel Mestdag Jnr Shoots 100 Straight!

Everyone tells you how hot it gets on the range in Texas, and it really is very hot, but the only thing hotter than the weather during the Mini Worlds was Karel. He shot an excellent 100 straight in the 12-gauge event. For the duration of our trip Karel impressed all of us with a level of composure far beyond his years.

Pieter Greyling also Shoots 100 Straight!

Faan and Karel finished off the Mini Worlds at the top of the South Africans' score sheet, and lead the way into the Main Worlds, where Pieter found his stride with an impressive 100 straight in the 20-gauge event, and a very respectable 149 x 150 in the 12-gauge event.

Shoot-offs Under the Spotlights

In both the Mini as well as the Main Worlds, most of us found ourselves in a shoot-off in the early evening either at last-light or under the spotlights. The thrill of shooting doubles on stations 3, 4, and 5 is surpassed only by the thrill of trying to get your tubes, gun and ammo ready and find your way to the correct range in the 5 minutes between the shoot-offs being announced and their commencement!



It's true that everything is BIG in Texas, including the welcome and hospitality of the people there. Even with the added complications brought about by covid, being able to compete at the NSSA Skeet World Championships is an experience of a lifetime and should be on every Skeet Shooter's bucket list.

Thank you for a memorable experience

In closing, I would like to congratulate and thank Faan, Amelda, Pieter, Karel Senior and Karel Junior for a successful shoot in all respects. I could not have asked for better travel, and teammates. Y'all made this one of the most memorable experiences I could have asked for. I'm proud of all of us for keeping our heads down, and following through, not only on the range, but also during the trying times we all endured to get there.

Sergio Nunes
South African National Protea Team Member

