



## Hannover 2009

Six top English pistol shooters: Men; Nick Baxter, Mickey Gault, Iqbal Ubhi and Ladies; Julia Lydall, Georgina (Gorgs) Giekie and Hannah Polak, traveled to Lower Saxony, Germany to represent England at ISCH 2009 (International Shooting Championship of Hannover). Over 500 shooters from 45 different groups and Nations produced high-level competition. It is pleasing to report that the England team had considerable success, winning more than their fair share of medals at this large International Shooting event.

**50m free pistol:** Mickey Gault won the Individual Gold Medal with an overall score of 655,8 and the team also took the gold with a score of 1635.



Mickey went into the final in second place, five points behind his Commonwealth Games rival Samaresh Jung. It was almost a mirror image of the breathtaking drama we experienced during the Manchester 2002 Games at Bisley. Shot by remorseless shot, Mickey clawed back Jung's lead. Shooting a remarkable Free Pistol finals score of 99.8, he beat Jung by 0,6 to snatch victory on the last shot. Deja vu and a demonstration of 'true grit' if ever I saw it!

**Men's 10m Air Pistol:** The team won Silver with a score 1712.

With an average of over 570 per shooter England pushed India into third place. Iqbal Ubhi, who is a 'rookie', when it comes to competing at this level, showed his potential by being top English shooter with a score of 573.



**Woman's 25m Pistol:** 'Gorgs' won bronze with a score of  $578+195,3 = 773,3$ . 'Gorgs' Geikie started in fourth place and, in a nerve racking 20 shot 'rapid' final, climbed to third place outscoring Diethelm of Switzerland in the process.



**Junior Women's 25m Pistol:** Hannah won gold with a score of  $557+193,9 = 750,9$ . Hannah Polak beat off strong competition to win her gold. Starting in first place she showed remarkable coolness for her age (17), shooting a controlled final despite great pressure from Sweden's Carlsson



**Junior Women's 10m Pistol:** Hannah won silver with a score of  $557+193,9 = 750,9$ . Hannah Polak went into the final in fourth place determined to win a medal and she did in it style, climbing to second ahead of strong competition from two Germans. This young lady is definitely someone to watch out for in the future.



With three gold, two silver and one bronze, from a team of only six shooters, they did England proud and deserve our congratulations. Their 'esprit de corps' was terrific and it was a true pleasure to be their coach, they were a 'dream team'.  
Tom Redhead.