



Photography by Branko Pereglin

CROSSBOWS IN CROATIA

Chris Aston reports on the IAU European Indoor Crossbow Championships, which saw a nail-biting Men's final and a high Junior turnout

Teams from 12 countries took part in the third IAU European Indoor 18m Championships in Malinska, Croatia on March 24-29. Despite the economic downturn a strong entry list included all the major crossbow-shooting nations, apart from Germany. The DSB had opted to send its teams to the IAU's European 10 and 30m Championships which will take place in France in September.

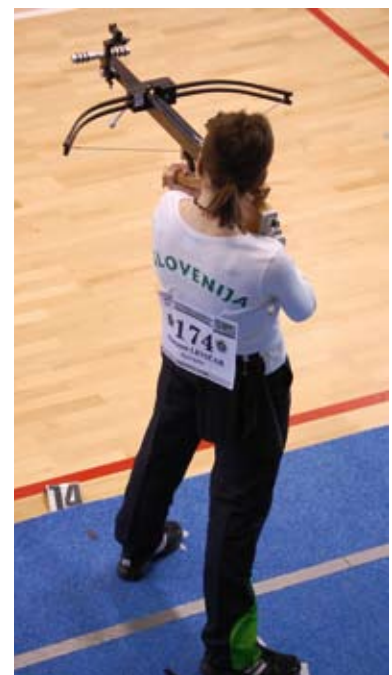
Malinska is a popular holiday resort on the Adriatic island of Krk which lies just off the western coast of Croatia. Organised by the local DUB shooting club as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations, the IAU Championship was the first major event to take place in Malinska's Bogovi sports hall, which opened on January 21 this year.

IAU crossbow shooting is a high-profile sport in Croatia; the guest list at the Malinska event included representatives of the Croatian Olympic Committee, the International Shooting

Sports Federation ISSF, the European Shooting Confederation ESU and the Croatian Shooting Federation. The new IAU President Gérard Boutteville and Secretary General Charles Méchin attended their first major IAU championships since being elected last July.

The standard of shooting in Malinska was top draw, with several perfect 300s in the qualifying rounds. In the Ladies' event Croatia's Branka Pereglin raised the outright European record for the IAU 18m Championships round to 1297 points – which included a perfect 600 score in Q2. The IAU specifies triple 25cm target faces at its 18m Indoor Championships, the design being similar to the five-colour FITA target face. The most exciting finish came during the Men's finals when France's Christoffel Pascal overcame a three-point deficit going into the final against Russian Andrey Tertychny. Tied on 1289 points after 10 shots, the pair went into a shoot-off which resulted in a win for Christoffel with 10, 10 to Andrey's 10, 9.

Above: Croatia's European Crossbow champions



Split limbs from a compound bow gave medal-winning results for this member of the Slovenian women's team

Malinska 2009 was notable for the numbers of young athletes taking part. Twenty-four of the 81 competitors were under 21 – which is great news for the IAU. The standard of shooting in the Junior categories was very high. In the Under-21 Championships Domagoj Peregljin of Croatia shot a new European record points tally –1296 (599 + 598 + 99) – on his way to winning the IAU gold medal. The silver medal went to Florent Guillaume, France with Maja Bosanac taking bronze for Croatia. Both

Florent and Marja shot perfect 100s during the final. In Cadets Valentina Peregljin placed first with another European record for Croatia. Artiom Naumenko, Russia took silver and Valentina Kozumplik shot a perfect 100 final round to take the bronze medal for Croatia.

The Senior category was, for the first time in Malinska, an IAU title event. Russia's Vladimir Kuts won the event to become the first official IAU Senior European champion. He was joined on the winner's podium by

Istvan Matrai, Hungary and Anton Marijnissen of the Netherlands.

Croatia and Russia shared the honours in the team events with Russia winning the Men's and Senior Team Championships with Croatia victorious in the Ladies' and Cadets' events. The French Junior team, which included the current World Champion Florent Guillaume, were winners in the Under-21 Junior category.

An unusual feature of this sport is that there are no volume manufacturers of IAU-style field-crossbow equipment. Most of the national federations involved have among their membership archer-engineers who construct equipment based on detailed specs which are published in the IAU's competition rule book. Many of the winners in Malinska were using Croatian-made crossbows – and there is a UK link to their success. The crossbow limbs (prods) used by many of the Croatian team members were made by Border Archery and were supplied by Bow Sports in Wolverhampton.

In his closing speech, IAU President Gérard Boutteville congratulated the athletes and the Croatian organisers on a superbly competitive and well-managed European Championships. The event, which was covered by Croatian Television, was overall a great advert for the sport of crossbow shooting.



Left: European champions and record-holders: Branka Peregljin CRO (right) with her son Domagoj and daughter Valentina – the IAU's most successful crossbow-shooting family



Left: Juniors podium (from left): Florent Guillaume FRA (silver), Domagoj Peregljin CRO (gold), Maja Bosanac CRO (bronze)



Left: Top Ladies (from left): Nikolina Krivanek CRO (silver), Branka Peregljin CRO (gold), and Melanie Regniz FRA (bronze)





Men's category winners (from left): Andrey Tertychny RUS (silver), Christoffel Pascal FRA (gold), Zoran Špoler CRO (bronze)



European Cadets champion Valentina Pereglin (pictured) and several other members of the Croatian team shot with bow limbs made in the UK by Border Archery

Croatian Junior Team member Adriano Pavletić



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Men: individuals

1st	Christoffel Pascal	FRA	1289 (10,10)
2nd	Andrey Tertychny	RUS	1289 (10,9)
3rd	Zoran Špoler	CRO	1287

Men: teams

1st	Tertychny/Shchedrin/Liber	RUS	1777
2nd	Tijan/Krstinić/Špoler	CRO	1768
3rd	Pascal/Coussot/Bonneau	FRA	1763

Ladies: individuals

1st	Branka Pereglin	CRO	1297 RECORD
2nd	Nikolina Krivanek	CRO	1289
3rd	Melanie Regniez	FRA	1287

Ladies: teams

1st	Krivanek/Komar/Pereglin	CRO	1788
2nd	Deborre/Guillaume/Regniez	FRA	1760
3rd	Majstorović/Oražem-Vršič/Levičar	SLO	1741

Juniors: individuals

1st	Domagoj Pereglin	CRO	1296 RECORD
2nd	Florent Guillaume	FRA	1293
3rd	Maja Bosanac	CRO	1285

Juniors: teams

1st	Guillaume/Mangema/Rousseau	FRA	1779
2nd	Pereglin/Pavletić/Bosanac	CRO	1771
3rd	Smirnova/Tatarchuk/Nikolaeva	RUS	1760

Cadets: individuals

1st	Valentina Pereglin	CRO	1280 RECORD
2nd	Artiom Naumenko	RUS	1268
3rd	Valentina Kozumplik	CRO	1265

Cadets: teams

1st	Pereglin/Kozumplik/Fičković	CRO	1766 RECORD
2nd	Naumenko/Tuzlukov/Edinosiak	RUS	1717
3rd	Nedělníková/Košinova/Grošaft	CZE	1625

Seniors: individuals

1st	Vladimir Kuts	RUS	1266 RECORD
2nd	István Mátrai	HUN	1249
3rd	Anton Marijnissen	NED	1234

Seniors: teams

1st	Kuts/Timofeev/Budishevsky	RUS	1674 RECORD
2nd	Keller/Louis/Hemeleers	BEL	1442
3rd	-	-	

Malinska 2009 was notable for the numbers of young athletes taking part. For the complete result lists please visit www.iau-crossbow.org