

International Shooting Sport Federation Internationaler Schiess-Sportverband e.V. Fédération Internationale de Tir Sportif Federación Internacional de Tiro Deportivo

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Siggiewi (MLT), 13 June 2018

ISSF Press Release N. 34/2018 Aaron Heading pockets Great Britain's second gold in Malta

Siggiewi (MLT), 13 June 2018 - Great Britain's 31-year-old shooter Aaron Heading won the men's Trap final at the Malta National Shooting Ranges, where the fifth stage of the 2018 ISSF World Cup Series is currently taking place.

Heading, who previously won one World Cup gold in Al Ain (UAE) in 2013, climbed back on top of the podium at the end of a troubled day, as the strong wind conditioned many rounds of the qualification phase and brought to the delay of the final.

Started 90 minutes after the expected time, the match had two clear protagonists since the very beginning: Aaron Heading and People's Republic of China's first-time finalist Du Yu. Indeed, with 20 clays left to shoot, the two shooters had already distanced all of their rivals, and they entered the final 10 targets with the same score: 34 hits.

There, Du missed three of his first five clays, allowing Heading to take the lead and claim the gold medal with 42 targets hits out 50. The Chinese 31-year-old, instead, concluded with 38, pocketing silver.

"I feel amazing!" said Heading. "But firstly I want to say thank you to the Maltese Federation for building a great facility, they've done an amazing work and everybody here has been fantastic."

The gold won by Heading is the second in this competition for Great Britain, as it adds up to the one collected by Amber Hill in the women's Skeet event.

The podium was then completed by Slovakia's Marian Kovacocy. The 33-year-old shooter, who won the ISSF World Championship back in 2009 in Maribor (SLO), collected the first World Cup medal of his career, signing off with eight consecutive hits and closing with the score of 30 out of 40 targets.

Just outside of the medal positions, Cyprus' 26-year-old Andreas Makri — ranked 96th in the world before this match — placed 4th in his first final appearance, hitting 24 of his 35 targets and barely missing the podium. Another first-time final participant — Lebanon's 34-year-old Alain

Moussa concluded with 20 crushed clays out of 30, missing his last three targets and sliding down in 5th place at the time of the elimination.

43-year-old David Kostelecky of the Czech Republic was the first shooter eliminated from the contest: the eight-time World Cup medalist, in fact, missed five of his first ten target, compromizing his match and closing in 8th place with 17 hits out of 25.

The final event of the ISSF World Cup Stage 5 in Siggiewi (MLT) will be the Trap Mixed Team, whose final will take place tomorrow at 4:15 pm (UTC+2:00).

The match will be streamed live on the <u>ISSF website</u>, on the Federation's <u>Livestream channel</u> and on its official Facebook page.

Live results of the competitions, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org and on all ISSF social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Weibo and YouKu.

For the Trap Men complete results click here.

For the provisional medal standings click here.

For editorial photos click here.

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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