



CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTO REPORT / 20-23 AUGUST 2026

South Africa takes on the world

22nd FITASC Compak Sporting World Championship

TAV San Martino | Rio Salso di Tavullia, Italy

22 South African competitors | 200 targets | Eight layouts

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The world championship

South Africa Takes on the World at the 2026 FITASC Compak Sporting World Championship

South African clay target shooting was proudly represented at the 22nd FITASC Compak Sporting World Championship, held at TAV San Martino in Rio Salso di Tavullia, Italy, from 20 to 23 August 2026.

The championship also served as the final of the 2026 Beretta World Cup and brought together more than 800 competitors for 200 targets shot across eight demanding Compak layouts.

With 22 South African shooters competing across the various categories, the event provided an opportunity to test ourselves against many of the best Compak shooters in the world.

Cicognani leads the South African challenge

Michele Cicognani produced South Africa's leading performance, finishing on a 188/200, or 94%.

His rounds were broken down 23, 25, 25, 23, 24, 23, 22 and 23 consistent across the four-day championship. But not enough as he finished tied for 65th overall in a field of more than 800 competitors and was nine targets behind the winning score.

Brett Padoa was South Africa's second-highest finisher with 179/200, followed by Samuel Charles Winters on 173/200. Corne Grimmbacher delivered the leading South African ladies' performance, finishing on 172/200.

Other notable South African scores included Richard Louw's 168, Quintus de Flamingh and David Damen both on 165, Martin Potgieter on 160 and junior shooter Fabiano Lendia on 159. The scores were recorded over eight rounds of 25 targets. Among the individual highlights were Cicognani's two consecutive perfect rounds of 25, Grimmbacher's 25 on the fifth layout and Murray's perfect 25 on the fifth range as well.

The world championship continued

A championship of exceptional quality

The standard at the top of the championship was extraordinary. Estonia's Veikko Tihvan and France's Charles Bardou both completed the 200 targets on 197, with Tihvan winning the world title following an 18-17 shoot-off.

Spain's Gonzalo Garcia Barrio took bronze after recording 196 and winning a further shoot-off against Great Britain's Brett Winstanley and Italy's Daniele Valeri.

Only five targets separated third place from a score of 191, demonstrating how little margin for error existed at this level. Against that standard, South Africa's leading score of 188 was a creditable international performance.

The targets at San Martino demanded complete concentration, confident decision-making and the ability to adapt quickly. Over four days and 200 targets, even a single difficult round could make a major difference to a shooter's final position.

Proud South African

The championship was about more than the final scores. Travelling internationally with firearms, arranging permits, ammunition and accommodation, and then performing under world-championship pressure requires significant commitment from every competitor and supporter. South Africa may still have work to do before it can consistently challenge the strongest European nations across every category, but the 2026 championship demonstrated that our leading shooters are capable of competing at an extremely high level.

Every South African who stood on the range at San Martino contributed to the country's representation. From experienced international competitors to shooters attending their first Compak World Championship, the event provided invaluable experience that can be brought back into South African shooting.

Special thanks must go to team managers Brett Padoa and Richard Louw for their work and leadership throughout the championship, as well as to the families, friends and supporters who travelled to Italy and stood behind the team.

South Africa left Italy with valuable international experience, strong memories and a clearer understanding of the level required to succeed on the world stage. The challenge now is to build on that experience, strengthen our domestic competitions and return even better prepared for the next World Championship. Congratulations to every member of the South African contingent for representing the country with pride.

Together on the world stage

South African clay target shooting was proudly represented at the 2026 FITASC Compak Sporting World Championship. More than 800 competitors gathered in Italy for four days of competition, which also formed the final of the 2026 Beretta World Cup.

The 22 South African shooters brought different levels of international experience, but shared the same challenge: 200 targets across eight varied layouts against a world-class field.



The contingent at San Martino, on and off the range.

South African results

Championship scores over eight rounds of 25 targets. Overall positions are from the supplied results.

SHOOTER	CATEGORY	SCORE	OVERALL
Michele Cicognani	Man	188/200	65
Brett Padoa	Man	179/200	226
Samuel Charles Winters	Man	173/200	333
Corne Grimmbacher	Lady	172/200	360
Richard Louw	Man	168/200	440
Quintus de Flamingh	Master	165/200	487
David Damen	Man	165/200	487
Martin Potgieter	Senior	160/200	566
Fabiano Lendia	Junior	159/200	582
Brownrygg Woolls	Veteran	158/200	596
Bruce Zunckel	Man	157/200	609
Fernando Lendia	Man	156/200	622
Haralambos Katrakilis	Senior	153/200	650
Malcolm Dods	Veteran	152/200	662
Jean Pierre Pienaar	Senior	150/200	681
Kevin Murray	Senior	144/200	727
Douglas Vining	Veteran	142/200	745
Hardus van Pletsen	Senior	140/200	752
Daniel Hoffmann	Veteran	132/200	778
Christopher Damen	Man	128/200	788
Paridon Winters	Senior	118/200	801
Costa Halkias	Master	98/200	816

Focus at every stand

The championship moved across eight layouts. These photographs show the scale of the range and competitors preparing at their stands.



Precision under pressure

Over 200 targets, visual focus, timing and fast adaptation to each presentation shaped the final scores.

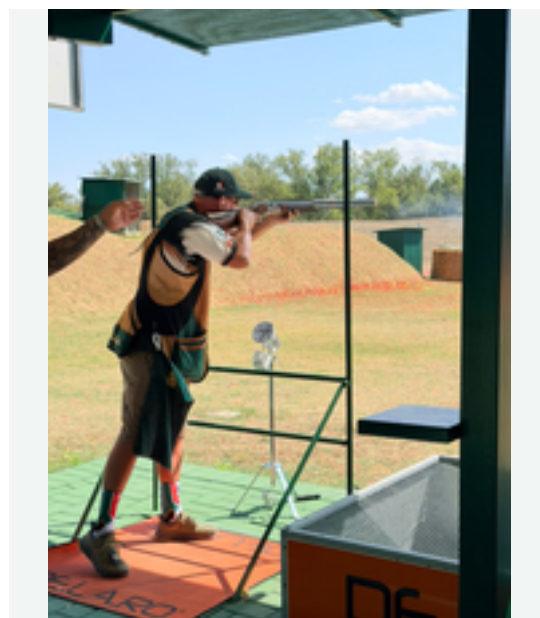
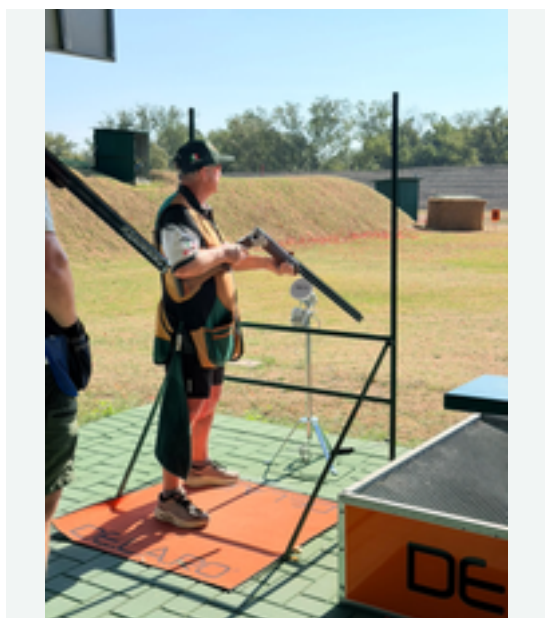
South Africans on the range



South African shooters in action at TAV San Martino.

Michele Cicognani led the South African challenge with 188/200, tied for 65th overall. His rounds included two consecutive perfect 25s. Brett Padoa followed on 179 and Samuel Charles Winters on 173.

The challenge across eight layouts



Competition action and preparation at TAV San Martino.

Athletes at work



INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Clean rounds on demanding layouts

Corne Grimmbacher led the South African ladies with 172/200 and recorded a perfect 25 on the fifth layout. Kevin Murray also cleared all 25 targets on that layout.

Those clean rounds stood out in a field where a few targets could make a considerable difference to the final standings.

Moments from San Martino



Five more moments from the championship: preparation, concentration and competition.

At the top of the field, Estonia's Veikko Tihvan and France's Charles Bardou both scored 197/200. Tihvan won the title in an 18-17 shoot-off. Spain's Gonzalo Garcia Barrio took bronze on 196.

A shared championship experience



THE ROAD AHEAD

Experience to bring home

International travel, firearms logistics and competition under World Championship pressure demanded commitment from every shooter and supporter. The lessons in preparation and adaptability can strengthen South African Compak Sporting at club, provincial and national level.

Special thanks to team managers Brett Padoa and Richard Louw, and to the families, friends and supporters who stood behind the team in Italy.