

Dec 4, 2007



SHOOTING

Debutant Chiew keeps nerve to grab bronze

By Terrence Voon

BANGKOK
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BEST RETURNS: Eugene Chiew (left) and Lee Yee excelled in the skeet events. -- ST PHOTO: EDWIN KOO

Singaporean was up against some of the best skeet shooters in the region.

But South-east Asia Games debutant Eugene Chiew showed no fear, landing a creditable bronze in the men's individual skeet event on the final day of the shooting competition yesterday.

Earlier in the day, the 27-year-old Chiew, along with David Chan, 34, and Lee Yee, 28, collected another bronze in the men's skeet team event.

It was a good return for Singapore's skeet shooters, who left Manila empty-handed two years ago.

Over two days, the Singapore trio shot down a total of 328 birds out of a possible 375 to take third place.

Hosts Thailand (342) won the gold, edging out defending champions the Philippines (334).

The Thais continued their good form in the individual final.

Jiranunt Hathaichukiat took the gold with a two-day total of 138 birds, while compatriot Krisada Varadharmapinich (136) won the silver.

Chiew was third with 134 birds.

He held his nerve to reach the six-man final via a shootout during the qualifying rounds.

The Singaporean, along with Chan and Thai Phasee Pitipoom, survived the shootout. Filipino Patricio Bernardo fell short.

All four had finished level on 111 birds during the qualifying rounds.