

## 2012 Biathlon World Championship Report

The 2012 Biathlon World Championships were held in Ruhpolding, Germany. Australia had its largest number of athletes attend for many years including a female for the first time in over 10years.



The Crowd

At Ruhpolding, Australia was represented by 2010 Olympian and World Cup athlete Alex Almoukov, and IBU Cup competitors – Dyllan Harmer and Lucy Glanville. The 2012 World Championships along with the 2013 World Championships are of major importance to Australia as these races earn 2014 Olympic qualification points.

All 3 athletes performed well at these Championships and for Lucy and Dyllan competing at this event was very valuable experience. The conditions in Ruhpolding were difficult as temperatures were very warm and the IBU invoked their new rule which allowed only athletes ranked in the top 50 at World Cup to start in Groups 1, 2 and 3. This meant for Alex, Dyllan and Lucy, they were given the most difficult start groups of 4 & 5, when the snow conditions were chopped up and very similar to warm spring skiing in Australia - otherwise known as “Bondi” sand!



Alex Almoukov



Dyllan Harmer

Results were as follows:

	Sprint			Individual		
	Place	%	Shooting	Place	%	Shooting
Alex	87	15.4	(2,0)	82	15.4	(0,0,1,1)
Dyllan	130	33.5	(0,0)	137	37.7	(1,1,0,2)
Lucy	112	32.6	(0,1)	108	36.8	(0,1,1,4)



Lucy Glanville

The results for our Australian athletes at these Championships showed a pleasing level of consistent shooting and for Alex – his results in Ruhpolding also achieved qualification to the 2013 World Championships. For Dyllan and Lucy being closet to the youngest at the Championships (and for Lucy actually being the youngest) their results are consistent with where they are in their development stage and with increased training and support they will continue to move up the ranks. There were many supportive and positive comments at these Championships about Australia, our increased performance levels and the professional conduct of our coaches and athletes.

Many thanks go to Nick Almoukov who supported our athletes not only as coach, but also wax technician, team manger and chauffer. Without Nick and his continued support for Australian biathletes at this level of competition, it would simply not be possible to send an Australian Team to World Championships and many of the other IBU high level competitions.

From my perspective, as administration support and assistant Team Manager for the 2012 World Championships Team, these championships represent a real achievement for Australian Biathlon, but one that must be built upon with financial and sponsorship support for our elite level athletes. Development funding at the Club and State level via funds paid to Australia from the IBU is only possible because of the results and performance of our IBU elite level athletes. Without these athletes and those developing athletes who are achieving YJWCH qualification and keeping AUS and it rising achievements before the IBU, there would be little funding allocation to Australia from the IBU as the International Federation managing Biathlon worldwide. Biathlon is developing and moving ahead very fast and the standard is continually improving. 45 countries competed at the 2012 World Championships (compared to only 22 countries three years ago) and 9 countries were successful in gaining medals.

So, in closing, I congratulate Nick, Alex, Dyllan and Lucy on their achievements in firstly qualifying for the 2012 World Championships, secondly for their professional conduct during these championships and for their on-going desire to progress Australian Biathlon. I encourage all those who have an interest in the future of Australian Biathlon to get behind these 4 members of Australian Biathlon, financially, with sponsorship or in any other way possible, as they seek to build on Australia's 2011/12 achievements for the benefit of all biathletes in Australia.



**Dyllan Harmer**



**Alex Almoukov**

Toni Hulme  
For the 2012 Australian World Championships Team