

# BPSU SERVICE RECORD FOR JOHN AUSTIN

1981 – 2016

1. My membership spans 35 years from 1981 to present. Started Black Powder shooting as a member of the Fieldsports centre, a BPSU affiliated club situated at Knoppieslaagte north of Sandton, Johannesburg. Since then, I have participated in most annual BPSU National and Provincial short and long range championships.
2. In 1985 Initiated the development of the black powder range with Wouter de Vos at the Durban Deep mine near Roodepoort and to provide a shooting venue for the BPSU affiliated Durban Deep Historical Rifle Shooting Association in 1984, after the Fieldsports club was closed due to a shooting accident.
3. Awarded Springbok colours in 1987 for Free and Military ML rifle shooting as a member of the team which competed against a MLAGB team in Johannesburg on the Durban Deep range in Johannesburg and on the Mapstone range in Richmond in Natal. After the Mapstone RSA/GB match a British team member, Bill Curtiss, showed us how he could knock down Metallic ram silhouette targets on the range at 475yards with his Parker Hale .577 two band ML Enfield rifle. This decided us to start long range BP shooting.
4. Later in 1987 on a hunting trip to Reddersburg I discovered the 600m Commando range got permission to use it for LR BP shooting. Then in 1988 initiated with Paul Poulsen (300 – 600m) competitive long range black powder shooting in all disciplines (FR, MR, SSBL, FBL, Snider) under the auspices of the BPSU at Reddersburg, in the Free State and maintained annual 3 day matches at this venue until 1994 when the Reddersburg Commando was disbanded and their range was closed. The Reddersburg matches were the precursor of the annual long range BPSU black powder championship events which have since been held at the Grootvlei and Gnl. De Wet ranges in the Free State thereafter at Good Hope , Heidelberg and other military ranges.
5. In 1990 represented RSA as a member of the BPSU selected short range ML team which competed against GB at Bisley, England. The team also took part in the MLAGB Schutzenfest and shot ML and FR on the Century range and FR at 1000yds on the Stickledown range
6. 1990 Moved to live in Cape Town and became a member of the BPSU affiliated Cape Town ML Association.

7. Elected as chairperson of the BPSU at the AGM at Reddersburg in 1994 and served the BPSU in this capacity until for six years. (Succeeded by Eddy Stern, Willie de Beer and Merwe van Rensburg as BPSU chairpersons).
8. 1995 member and captain of the Springbok ML team to shoot in the MLAIC Pacific Zone championships held in 1995 on the Durban Deep range near Roodepoort. Member teams from the USA, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand participated in this event which has now become a postal match.
9. 1995 organised under the auspices of the BPSU a triangular long range black powder international match between RSA, USA and Canada at the Grootvlei prison range near Bloemfontein. ML and BL rifles were shot in this event as a single class. This event led to the inauguration of the World Long Range Historical Rifle Association (WLRHRSA) with membership of the USA, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain and the RSA. Drafted the Constitution and rules for shooting for the WLRHRSA.
10. 1996 captained the RSA's ML team to participate in the MLAIC short range championships held at Wedgenock, Warwick, in England.
11. Initiated first World Long Range black powder Championships, organised under the auspices of the BPSU for the WLRHRSA was held on the Grootvlei range in 1997 and captained the RSA team. This event pre-dated the inauguration of long rang MLAIC shooting under the auspices of the MLAIC by three years and played an important role in this discipline being revived after more than a century.
12. During 1999 captained the RSA team to participate in the WLRHRSA's second international match held in Quantico in Virginia in the USA.
13. 2001 wrote the draft of the BPSU's current Constitution and rules for competitive shooting and engaged in consultations with all the BPSU clubs in preparation for the adoption of the constitution in 2002 .
13. 2002 organised the 3rd MLAIC World Long Range Championships under the auspices of the of the BPSU and had (jointly with the WP Bisley Association the 900m firing point constructed at the Good Hope military Range to enable the long range programme including the 900m distance (the 1000 yard equivalent) to be held.
14. 2002 Prepared the motivations with Syd Goslin of the WP Bisley Assn. for the BPSU to become affiliated to the SA Bisley Union in anticipation of the needs for the BPSU to operate under the umbrella of an accredited shooting association in terms of the new Firearms Control Act and to create a platform for the BPSU to negotiate for the official awarding of National Colours for BP shooting through the SABU channel.
15. 2005 member of the Protea ML team for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Long Range Championships held in Cape Town.

16. 2005 awarded Honorary Membership for services to black powder shooting by BPSU chairman, Willie de Beer, at the SA leg of the MLAIC Pacific Zone held at Prince Albert in which I participated as a RSA team member.
17. 2007 Member of Protea team participating in the MLAIC World long range ML championships in Cape Town.

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