

THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958



Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADERS' ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
MUZZLE LOADERS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
WORLD LONG RANGE HISTORICAL RIFLE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

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NEWSFLASH 13 OF 2008

Dear BPSU Members,

As you all know by now, and as previously published on our web-page (www.bpsu.co.za) we selected a senior and junior Protea team to represent South Africa at the 23rd MLAIC World short range championships in Adelaide, Australia. Work pressure unfortunately forced me to withdraw from the team at a very late stage and our Secretary; Dr. Corena De Beer had to take over my role as captain of the team as well as my responsibilities at the delegates meeting in Adelaide.

This was a first for black powder shooting in this country; the first female captain of an attending world championship team – congratulations Corena and many thanks for all the hard work done during the championships. My apologies for dropping you into the deep end of things; I know too well the effect that has on an individual also participating in the actual shooting events. Luckily we had Paul Vimercati at her side assisting her where possible – again thanks Paul for all your support and making available your knowledge during the delegates meeting; especially relevant to the shotgun events.

When I addressed the visiting countries during the opening ceremony at the 6th MLAIC mid- and long range world championships in 2007 I made a carefully selected statement prewarning the rest of the world by saying: "For history to live on, we should at all time expose as many, as possible, newcomers to the art of muzzle loading precision shooting. The young ones will catch up with us in the future, improve on or marksmanship skills and will one day be challenged by new "youngsters" again. In that way history goes on". These words were selected because back in Bordeaux during 2006 already between Japie Maritz, Willie de Beer and me we had a vision to send a junior team to Australia. The rest of the world, or at least then those attending that opening ceremony did not take note of the warning being, "at the next world championships South Africa will have a junior team".

The team returned to South Africa on Monday 18 August 2008. They did well at this championship representing our country.

Following the long range world championships in 2007 Willie de Beer and Kobus de Villiers started with a much focussed training program with a selected team of juniors that in the end had to prove their abilities beyond doubt by shooting qualifying scores. This worked and the two seniors even hosted a training camp doing fine tuning on our selected junior team – thanks for that Willie and Kobus. At the world championships all their efforts together with the hard work from the juniors paid off and the junior team secured 14 medals and two certificates in total:

Individual achievements

Chairman: Merwe van Rensburg (+ 27 82 894 5284); **Vice Chairman:** Japie Maritz (+ 27 83 227 9301);

Treasurer: Johann Theron (+ 27 82 557 3283); **Secretary:** Corena de Beer (+ 27 82 826 0453)

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- Gold (1st place) 2
- Silver (2nd place) 2
- Bronze (3rd place) 2
- 4th place 2

Team events

- Gold (1st place) 2 (4 medals)
- Silver (2nd place) 2 (4 medals)

Well done to our juniors being Frederick Jacobs, Clint Slabbert, Michael-John Dippenaar and Wim Steyn – true world champions. A second round during 2010 is not farfetched. I hope that their achievements will encourage other parents to expose their children to black powder shooting as well. We also need juniors in the single shot pistol and shotgun events to start preparations for 2010 at this early stage already.

Our senior shooters also secured fair positions in the senior events with our best a fourth place in the Rigby team competition missing the bronze medal by a mere three points.

We will however focus on that for 2010 and work hard towards securing a medal in that event. As for the individual senior events we need to secure all our positions between the top 12 in the world to ensure that we end up in the medals. (Just showing that the Manco were spot on when at first raising the senior qualifying score to an average of 95/100 – but were outvoted at the Executive meeting by keeping it at 92/100)

Our shot gun shooters also did us proud by producing good scores during the first round, but had to deal with bad wind and even rain during the second round. Robert Crawford-Brunt secured an overall 14th position – well done. My plea to our shot gunners is to start their preparation for 2010 already know and work to an average of at least 23/25 for each possible team member.

The South African results will be posted on our web page (www.bpsu.co.za) under the heading 23rd MLI AC World Championships.

We as a shooting discipline have lots to be proud of – thank you to each of our team members representing us in Australia – we salute you.

The final round of the team selection for the mid- and long range team to the 7th World Long Range Championships will take place from 4 – 6 September 2008 at Merrivale, KZN. Good luck to all the shooters that qualified (at least two scores per distance during Bisley or other events – inclusive but not compulsory, of the scores secured at the Nationals) to participate in the final trials. The long range team will be announced the evening of the 6th September 2008. This will enable the selected team members to train as a team for exactly one year together to ensure that South Africa are well prepared to secure both world cups.

Good shooting

MERWE VAN RENSBURG
CHAIRMAN: BPSU of SA