

THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958



www.bpsu.co.za

Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADERS' ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

16 January 2013

NEWSFLASH NO 1 OF 2013

Dear BPSU members

A warm welcome back to the shooting ranges in our country. My hope is that all members will achieve their goals for this year. I especially wish those preparing for the World Long Range Match a success in their preparation and for those starting the qualification path for the 2014 short range world championship – focus.

2013 started with a shock to all of us when we learned of the reasonably extreme increase in black sporting powder prices. The e-mails and the cell phones of the Manco members were flooded with calls of concern and a lot of members saying that if the prices remain the same they will have to scale down or even stop shooting. **Swiss increased to R2 550.00 p/kg ex vat and WANO to R1 446 p/kg ex vat.**

This prompted the Manco to arrange for an urgent meeting with AEL at Managing Director level. This meeting took place on Monday 14 January 2012 at the AEL head office and the BPSU was represented by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

We were very well received by the Managing Director for Quarry and Construction, as well as the AEL Product Manager, who himself is a keen muzzle loader shooter. From the onset AEL played absolute open cards with us and went as far as presenting all the relevant invoices from purchase to landing and storing of the sporting powder at their depots. It was no rocket science to understand the reason for the current costing of the product. (Purchase, container hire in terms of the different countries explosives acts, customs and import duties, local transport from Cape Town harbour to the main depot, redistribution to decentralised depots).

Furthermore it must be understood that AEL is a business, and no business sell a product at a loss.

We carefully explained our position, our sport, the history around our sport, our current status in world shooting, the value of our weapons and the "Africana" involved with that.

We requested the representatives of AEL to support us in some way in ensuring that our sport live on, that we are not forced to stop shooting our weapons, and further to assist us

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to remain amongst the top players in the world. We requested them to consider special reduced prices for members who can produce a BPSU membership card during purchase and entered into price negotiations.

In short, the outcome of our meeting resulted in a special price set for members who can produce a BPSU membership card at each purchase, to the following prices PER KILOGRAM ex vat:

	GAUTENG	W-CAPE
WANO FFg	R988.42	R995.42
WANO FFFg	R984.85	R991.85
Swiss No.2	R1 759.51	R1 771.18
Swiss No.3	R1 706.57	R1 718.24
Swiss No.4	R1 796.04	R1 807.71

In effect being a member of the BPSU now save you R451.00 p/kg on WANO and R743.00 p/kg on SWISS. Ever ask again what value your membership to BPSU gives you – I hope this answer the question. Purchase one kg of powder and your yearly subscription are covered.

We further negotiated the future of sporting black powder availability at better prices in South Africa and I can announce that AEL is currently doing the necessary research to ensure the existence of our sport. The origin of future powder may however be different – but we will first finalise that process before we communicate further on that topic.

My request to all members is **NOT** to hassle AEL employees with “ad-hoc negotiations”. Please allow us to tend to that function on behalf of the BPSU. Previous member involvement on an ad-hoc basis and uncalled for e-mails to AEL really frustrated our efforts and are today costing as dearly.

Kind regards

MERWE VAN RENSBURG

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