

THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958



www.bpsu.co.za

Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADER ASSOCIATIONS' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

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Dear BPSU members

As you all know we just hosted the 2013 Short Range National Championships at the Hippo Creek Shooting Academy, Vaal Triangle on 27 and 28 July 2013. We are indeed privileged to say that this event had the largest number of members participating in many years. The pre-championship arrangements were excellently executed by the Transvaal Muzzle Loaders Executive team. The range was properly marked with clear metal numbers at both ends of the shooting range. One could immediately see that the TML Executive took pride in what they were doing. Thanks a lot.

Our Treasurer / Secretary, Corena de Beer made sure that all the other administrative arrangements were in place as always and all our medals were produced in time for the championships. I am sure she did receive some assistance from Johan de Beer (Durbanville). Thanks a lot to both of you. We had clubs attending from the Gauteng, Free State and Western Province. Come on KZN, we missed you presence.

We had the honour to have two shooters breaking national records. Well done to Pieter Truter (Durbanville) with the new record in the 50m Hawken Traditional event and Allan McDonald (Mariette) with his record in the Donald Malson (50m revolver) event.

The matches were shot over two days and our range officers made absolutely sure that all went according to the rules. Not a single A.D. was reported, well done to Johan de Beer, Trever Slabbert and Wayne Coetzee.

We had very good attendance from our shotgun division with good scores shot. For the first time in many years we had a shotgun shooter from the Western Province (Jacobus van Niekerk) attending those matches. Hopefully he will return to the Western Province with the message to potential shotguns to prepare and attend the next nationals.

Five of our shooters participated in the Pacific Zone Championship (postal event) and indeed did us proud. The scores shots in those events were forwarded to the MLAIC and we are now eagerly awaiting the USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia to submit their scores.

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Again we concluded the event with proudly announcing our top-gun positions for the next year. Well done to Eugene Kuisis (276), Edward Knowles (272), Andre Stander (264), Tertius Smit (264), Clint Slabbert (259) en Corena De Beer (255).

We also held our Annual General Meeting with a lot of issues to discuss. The meeting went well and new qualifying scores for the shotgun and military events were voted on. It became clear that members do not always receive the required feedback from their representative Executives. Once a year, usually late January or early February, we have the annual Executive meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to plan around the activities for the year following, as well as to discuss matter of importance tabled by the different clubs. It is of utmost importance that clubs gather before the Exco meeting to discuss issues they want tabled with their Executives and to assist them to prepare proper presentations. The members form the BPSU, not the Management Committee. The Management Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are simply administrators that must ensure that the decisions made during the Exco- and AGM meetings are enforced and that proper communication with the international body (MLAIC), SABU, SASSF and SASCOC are maintained in the best possible way. We will as promised timeously advertise the date of the 2014 Exco meeting on our website. Members must please take note of that date and ensure that the clubs have a meeting preceding the Exco meeting to prepare presentations and to table proposals. A good time for such a meeting would normally be during their year-end functions where most of the members would be present, allowing sufficient time for their Chairmen to prepare.

The Friday (26 July 2013) preceding the national short range championship the top six shooters and the Coach of the selected Protea Long Range Team met at the 900 meter shooting point at the Heidelberg shooting range. The purpose was to spend some valuable shooting time together and for the Coach to again make sure he is familiar with sight setting of the rifles to be used at the World Long Range Championships. I am not going to divulge any more information on that gathering, apart from saying "Boy oh Boy, I am glad I am part of that group, and not shooting against those guys / girl".

The table is set - in exactly one month (9 September 2013) we will be gathering at the Atlantis Military range in the Western Cape for the MLAIC World Long Range match. This will be the third time that South Africa will be hosting this event (2001, 2007 and now 2013). The BPSU Protea Long Range team has won the past three world Championships (2007 South Africa, 2009 USA and 2011 UK) and became the first country that could do so in three consecutive events (round robin). I know that the 2013 team and their Captain / Coach have worked extremely hard over the past two years in preparation. The shooters who qualified really had to perform well to be selected. The Coach at all times strictly adhered to the selection criteria, and each shooter selected really deserve to be in the team and to wear the Protea colours. Well done and all the best to the Coach and his team. We know you all will do just your best. We also know that any country who thinks they will simply come and take the title from South Africa will be in for a big surprise – only very, very good shooting will achieve that.

All the BPSU members, and especially those residing in and around Cape Town, should attempt to attend the world championship in support of the Protea Team. We need all the support possible.

Shooting greetings

MERWE VAN RENSBURG

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