

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)

1 October 2013

NEWSFLASH NO 12 OF 2013

Dear BPSU members

The long range team from 2007 has been around the world participating in every world long range match. We had a number of representatives in the Replica class and one representative in the Original class.

In 2007 we hosted the event in Cape Town and won the mid range team event, the long range team event and became the first country that could exceed 900 points in the overall team aggregate. In the Original class Kobus De Villiers became the world champion. Several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world.

In 2009 we participated in Camp Butner North Carolina where we have won the long range team event, won the overall team aggregate again with over 900 points and Eugene Kuisis became the Replica class world champion and Kobus de Villiers again the Original class world champion. Tertius Smit shot a new world record at the 900 yards event. Again several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and again 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world.

During 2011 we participated in Bisley, Surrey, UK and again won the long range team event and the overall team aggregate event with over 900 points. Kobus De Villiers again secured the Original class world title and Merwe van Rensburg was counted out with 2 V-Bulls by Dave Gullo of the USA for the Replica class world title. Corena de Beer won the 300 yards event in the Replica class. Tertius Smit shot a world record at the 1 000 yards event ensuring that the long range world records on yards ranges belonged to South Africa. Again several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and again 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world. By then the participating South Africans believed that they have shown the world that we are a force to be reckoned with, winning a round robin event of three world championships.

From 9-14 September 2013 South Africa hosted the world long range championships on the Atlantis shooting range in Cape Town. Visiting countries like especially the UK, USA and Germany were well prepared and we could sense the absolute motivation between them to take the Protea team on and to rewrite the history books by beating the Protea team on South African soil. Countries new to the long range sport like the Netherlands and Australia were clearly also well prepared and well motivated to make their mark in the long range sport.

Chairman: Merwé van Rensburg (+ 27 82 894 5284); **Vice Chairman:** Eugene Kuisis (+ 27 82 875 5420);
Secretary / Treasurer: Corena de Beer (+ 27 82 826 0453), **Fax:** +27 86 621 3268, **Email:** corena@mweb.co.za
Postal Address: The Chairman, PO Box 22993, Helderkruijn, 1733, South Africa,
OR The Secretary, P O Box 19065, Tygerberg, 7505, South Africa
www.bpsu.co.za

Our arrangements were well planned and the organisers had an extremely well equipped support team, from Match Director, Chief Range Officer, Range officers and butts officers. All of them being BPSU members! A special thanks also to Corena and Johan de Beer who had done all the planning and really ensured that this would be an event that would go down in the history books as the best hosted one.

The weather played along and apart from extreme wind conditions, the match could start and end without any rain. At some stages the competitors had to deal with headwinds of up to 28 miles an hour fishtailing and sudden changes of wind cross-range at speeds of 30 miles an hour. Real testing conditions with poor light at some stages.

Apart for the 500 meter Original class event and the 800 meter Replica class event, the Protea team succeeded to win all the individual gold medals and secure a further total of 3 silver and 6 bronze medals. Kobus de Villiers again secured the Original class world title and Marnus Steyn who for the first time received Protea colours, secured the individual world title in the Replica class. WELL DONE to both of you.

For the Protea team the world long range championship goes about the team events. We had a wonderful Protea Team Manager who really set the benchmark to all future managers. Thanks Pieter for a stunning job done!! Without you assistance pre-, during- and post the team matches we would have gone nowhere. Wonderful personal achievements in the individual events are extremely important and appreciated, but the team events (efforts) are what it is about. In these events each country fields four shooters and a wind coach. This however does not exclude any of the other shooters. They remain just as involved at all times during the team events with several other responsibilities apart from pulling the trigger on instruction of the wind coach. The importance of the team events so being to establish which country is the best in the mid range and in the long range events. Accumulative then, who would be the world leading country in the overall team aggregate and therefore in world long range muzzle loading shooting, keeping in mind that our sport is the grandfather of the sport of Bisley shooting as known today.

Wonderful teamwork ensured that the Protea team again won the world mid range trophy, the world long range trophy and again the overall team aggregate with way more than 900 points. All three of these matches in new world record scores in the meters events. It is further of great importance to note that the Protea team is the only team that could ever exceed the 900 point mark in the history of our sport and did so in four consecutive world matches – on its own an achievement that demoralise all the other participating countries.

During this world championship the South Africans secured 25 out of the possible 28 Gold Medals (team events included). I do not think for one moment that there can be any doubt in any person's mind about who the leading nation in long range muzzle loading shooting is.

Achievements of this nature however do not come cheap. Each member of the selected Protea team worked very, very hard over the past two years to maintain their leadership in the sport and even just to qualify for the selected Protea team. Qualification for this elite team of shooters did not go down easy and the shooters really had to work hard and maintain their dedication. Many kilometres were travelled and lots and lots of money were spent on lead and black powder. Thanks a lot, guys and girl, I salute you all for your dedication to the BPSU, SABU, SASCOC and South Africa. A big thank you to our team Captain and wind coach Johan de Beer, although he has qualified for the team himself, he has withdrawn from selection for the team events to enable him to coach the other shooters.

Chairman: Merwé van Rensburg (+ 27 82 894 5284); **Vice Chairman:** Eugene Kuisis (+ 27 82 875 5420);
Secretary / Treasurer: Corena de Beer (+ 27 82 826 0453), **Fax:** +27 86 621 3268, **Email:** corena@mweb.co.za
Postal Address: The Chairman, PO Box 22993, Helderkruijn, 1733, South Africa,
OR The Secretary, P O Box 19065, Tygerberg, 7505, South Africa
www.bpsu.co.za

The dedicated long range shooters will shortly restart the qualification process for the event in the USA in 2015. I wish them all well. I also request other short range shooters who have suitable rifles to attend the qualifications round. Let us attempt to field 16 shooters in the USA.

We are awaiting the Captain's Report and will then consolidate an article that we could publish in the relevant printed media.

Enough said about the long range.

How about the next world short range event in Granada, Spain during September / October 2014?

I call on all short range shooters, rifle-, pistol-, revolver- and shotgun to consult with your respective Executives and to seriously start the qualification process for the Protea Team for this event. We really need to now focus on the short range qualifications that need to be finalised by **31 March 2014**.

I know that we have the shooters to make us proud at the Spain world championship. Now is the time to prepare and focus on that event. Now is the time to make sure that you all are on the shooting range at every possible opportunity and to practise as hard as possible. Success is only coming with the correct equipment, the correct attitude and practise, practise and more practise!

We need teams for at least the 50m and 100m Free Rifle events, the 50m and 100m Military Rifle events, the 25m and 50m revolver events, the 25m pistol events and the shotguns events.

In Portugal we have shown the world that we can dominate in the team events. This we have done with a junior team in the senior class. We should now repeat this in Granada and show the world that we can dominate in more events.

The long range team could each shoot out between 10 and 20 kilograms of powder in their preparation. The short range shooters, shooting with lighter loads, should at least make use of 10 kilograms of powder to prepare them adequately. There are still more than enough powder left to achieve this.

The club Executive members should please provide me with a detailed summary of names and events their club members are busy preparing for, for qualification for Granada. The qualifying targets (pictures) as well as the scores must please be forwarded to the Secretary with a copy to me every Monday.

Come on short range shooters!! Let see an attempt from your side that will assist the BPSU Manco to convince the importers of black powder and percussion caps to continue to do so. Strengthen our hand and our ability to negotiate other options on your behalf. Let us keep our sport healthy and alive by showing positive participation and attitude.

Well done again to all the long range shooters and all members who assisted with the long range world championships. The BPSU Manco is indeed extremely proud of all of you.

Kind regards

MERWE VAN RENSBURG

CHAIRMAN: BPSU of SA

merwe.vanrensburg@postoffice.co.za

Chairman: Merwé van Rensburg (+ 27 82 894 5284); **Vice Chairman:** Eugene Kuisis (+ 27 82 875 5420);
Secretary / Treasurer: Corena de Beer (+ 27 82 826 0453), **Fax:** +27 86 621 3268, **Email:** corena@mweb.co.za
Postal Address: The Chairman, PO Box 22993, Helderkruijn, 1733, South Africa,
OR The Secretary, P O Box 19065, Tygerberg, 7505, South Africa
www.bpsu.co.za