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

This is a long overdue report back on the BPSU National Championships that took place on the Atlantis shooting ranges from 4-6 April 2014. We had the long range nationals on Thursday and Friday and started with the 200m events on Friday afternoon already. These were all shot on the Good Hope Military Range, followed by the rest of the short range events on the Western Cape Shooting Union Range on Saturday, 6 April 2014.

There were a number of Gauteng members that were brave enough to cross the Vaal River and enter the Republic of the Western Cape ☺ and we were able to field interprovincial teams for all the events that we usually do.

The shotgun nationals also took place on Saturday, 6 April 2014, on their own range in Gauteng. They had 7 competitors and Paul Vimercati who kept a watchful eye on the shooting and scoring as always. Well done to Robbie Crawford-Brunt, Rodney Kretzschmar and Jacques Wallis taking the top 3 positions with 40, 39 and 35 out of 50 respectively!

We introduced a new way of shooting the 200m events, because it is at best a guess as to where most of the bullet holes on the targets are if you try to find it with a spotting scope 200m away. So, we had markers in the shooting butts and they marked the targets after each shot. The scores for the 200m events will therefore be all recognised as new BPSU records.

Marnus Steyn shot a magnificent new national record at 900m with 69.4/75. To put this in perspective, the World Record for 900m is 59.1/75 and is currently held by Ray Hopkins of the USA, and the World Record for 1000 yards (almost equal to 900m) is 64.3/75, which is currently held by our own Tertius Smit! Excellent shooting there, Marnus!

Eugene Kuisis was in top form again and besides winning Top Gun (50-200m FR) and National Champion (100-900m FR), he also equalled Basil MacDougall's 1984 record for the Whitworth event (100m FR) by shooting a possible 100/100! Well done Eugene! Tertius Smit was also firing on all cylinders and won the Wistow match (300-900m FR).

Other new national records were Johan van Wyk with a score of 88/100 on the 100m Hawken Modern event. The new records for the 200m events are Eugene Kuisis and Merwé

van Rensburg both with 94/100 for Free Rifle, Eugene Kuisis with 84/200 for Military Rifle, Dave Oosthuizen with 82/100 for Free Breech Loader and Corena de Beer with 95/100 for Bolt Action Military Service Rifle. Classic Handgun was also introduced as a new event and Shaun Kennedy shot a 94/100, which will be recognised as a new record. Well done to all of you!

A few other achievements need to be mentioned. We could only fit in 8 short range details on Saturday, but that does not deter some of our members from getting the best possible value out of their entry fees. Pieter Truter completed 9 details in the allotted time after cramming two events (50m and 100m, and had to move between ranges as well) into the same detail, his father Johan Truter shot in all 8 details (despite being 68 years of age), followed by Tertius Smit and Johan van Wyk in 7. That's dedication and enthusiasm second to none!

We also wish to thank Johan van Wyk who acted as range officer for the long range shoot, as well as Johan Truter and Grant Davies for manning the shooting butts and managing the markers. Without guys like you, things will definitely not go as smooth as it did!

We had the AGM after the shoot and the Manco was unanimously re-elected for another 2 years. Thank you for the support and trust that you have in us, we will do our utmost to continue to serve the members of the BPSU.

The Protea team that will be participating in the MLAIC Short Range World Championships in October 2014 in Spain was also announced. They are:

Johan van Wyk
Jacques Jansen van Vuuren (first cap)
Clint Slabbert (first cap as a senior shooter, obtained colours as Junior in 2008)
Pieter Truter (first cap as a shooter, obtained colours as Team Manager in 2013)
Corena de Beer (Team Captain)

We want to wish this team all the best in their preparation and participation in the World Championships.

Kind regards

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