# THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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*Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958*
Affiliated to:
MUZZLE LOADERS ASSOCIATIONS' INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION (MLAIC)
SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)


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# BPSU NEWSLASH 3 OF 2018

## National Championships

Dear BPSU members

It has become custom over the past few years to alternate the hosting of the Short Range National Championships between the Western Cape (the year when the Pacific Zone is hosted) and Gauteng. Due to limited access to shooting ranges with 900m firing points in Gauteng, the Long Range National Championships are usually hosted in Cape Town.

This year was no exception and the Long-Range Championships took place on 6 and 7 April in Cape Town and the Short-Range Championships on 28 and 29 April at the Hippo Creek Shooting Complex in Vereeniging. A special word of thank you to Johan de Beer in Cape Town and Chris van Gaalen and Jacques Jansen van Vuuren in Gauteng for organising the respective events.

Most of the regular long-range shooters and potential members of the team for the next MLAIC Long Range World Championships in England next year competed. Special permission had to be obtained from the SANDF to use the Good Hope Shooting range, since the management of all facilities by the Army Support Base Western Cape is currently under revision and ranges are not accessible to non-military organisations for the time being and until all the renewal applications to use the facilities again are finalised.

For the first time again in a number of years we were also joined by the shotgun competitors on the same range. A count-back had to determine the winner, as Grant Gammon and Vinci Vimercati both finished on 38/50 and Grant won the gold medal, with Vinci 2nd, Kevin Ireland 3rd and Eddie Knödl 4th. A special thank you for also staying for the AGM.

The rifle and handgun turn-out from Gauteng members was, to say the least, disappointing. Only 4 members from TML and one from Mariette entered, while the Western Province drove about 2 700 km to arrive with a group of 13 shooters. Needless to say, the WP won all, but one of the team matches.

It is not fair that some people must sacrifice time and money and others are not prepared to travel when the events are not hosted on their home ranges. If you, the members, do not attend and support these events, it makes it extremely difficult for the organisers to stay within the budget, as there are set expenses, e.g. medals, range fees, etc., whether we have 20 or 50 entries. And all of these expenses have to be incurred before the event takes place. If this trend continues, we will have no other option than to increase the entry fees dramatically to cover the cost. Next year's short-range nationals will be held in Cape Town again and ***I want to challenge all the Gauteng members to match the WP's effort and attend in bigger numbers than the usual Chris and Simon van Gaalen and Jacques Jansen van Vuuren!***

It is also now time to start qualifying for the Pacific Zone Championships – remember, we award Federation (BPSU) colours to everyone that compete if you do not have Protea colours already. The


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qualification process is nicely explained in the Rules document on the BPSU website. Remember, South Africa is the official host of this event and we need to have as many competitors as possible.

Now to this year's National Championships – all the results are posted on the BPSU website, but I would like to highlight a few achievements (http://www.bpsu.co.za/BPSU_Results/2018/Nationals/index.html).

**Three national records were broken**

1. Greg van Schaik shot a brilliant 96/100 in the Mariette, breaking André Malan's 1983 record
2. Marx Meyer broke Simon van Gaalen's 2017 record in the Jun event with a score of 85/100
3. Corena de Beer broke Eugene Kuisis's 2011 record at 800m with a score of 67.2/75.

Other individual Aggregate scores:

**a) Top Gun (50-200m Free Rifle):**

1. Simon van Gaalen – 272/300 (with a brilliant 93/100 at 200m!)
2. Pieter Truter – 269/300
3. Chris van Gaalen – 268/300

**b) Wistow (300-900m Free Rifle):**

1. Corena de Beer – 241.6/300
2. Pieter Truter – 211.5/300
3. Johan de Beer – 211.3/300

**c) National Champion (100-900m Free Rifle):**

1. Corena de Beer – 415.6/500
2. Pieter Truter – 390.5/500
3. Chris van Gaalen – 382.4/500

**d) Team Matches:**

Forsyth – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
Peterlongo – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
Pforzheim – Gauteng 1st, Western Province 2nd
Enfield – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
50m Hawken Match – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
Rigby – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
Magenta – Western Province 1st, Gauteng 2nd
100m Hawken Match – not awarded, not enough entries

Congratulations to all!

Final thanks you to our range officers that sacrificed their time to ensure our safety – Johan Truter (at Good Hope Range on 6&7 April), Trever & Clint Slabbert and Merwé van Rensburg (at Hippo Creek Range).

**A few highlights from the AGM.**

✓ The BPSU currently has 67 paid-up members for 2018 – 21 were present in person and 10 more represented by proxy votes.

- ✓ Changes to the Constitution and Rules were adopted – both documents are available on the BPSU website (http://www.bpsu.co.za/BPSU_Documents.htm).
- ✓ Honorary Life Membership of the BPSU (BPSU.006.2018) was awarded to Johan de Beer for his longstanding involvement in the sport in general, the long-range Protea team, development of juniors, etc.
- ✓ The Protea team that will represent South Africa in the 28th MLAIC Short Range World Championships in Eisenstaedt, Austria, from 19-25 August 2018, was announced:
  - Corena de Beer (senior shooter, captain, manager)
  - Pieter Truter (senior shooter)
  - Jacques Jansen van Vuuren (senior shooter)
  - Chris van Gaalen (senior shooter)
  - Marx Meyer (junior shooter, new cap)
  - Simon van Gaalen (junior shooter, new cap)
  - Corné Meyer (junior shooter, new cap)

  Congratulations to all, especially the new juniors! We wish this team all the best for the final preparation and participation at the World Championships.
- ✓ Finally, the management committee was re-elected unanimously, with Merwé van Rensburg (chairman), Johan de Beer (Vice-chairman) and Corena de Beer (Secretary / Treasurer). Thank you for the confidence you have in us, but we do need your support to enable us to serve the sport to the best of our abilities.

Wishing you all a good shooting year ahead.

Kind regards

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