



Western Province Bisley Association

Newsletter January 2008

January 2008 sees us starting a new shooting year with a very full program ahead of us. Leading up to the SA Open Championships at the end of March, we have events scheduled on the first and third Saturday of each month. There is a weekend's respite over Easter on 21st to 24th March and then it is off to Bloemfontein on or about 28th March for the SA Open.

The first league shoot took place on Saturday 19th January. We had a great turnout with 53 people attending. If we can keep that type of attendance going we will have a great year. In fact if some of the notable absentees also attended we could do even better.

Since this is the beginning of a new year I think it is appropriate to give some background to the League and a bit of its history as well. The exact beginnings of the League are difficult to pin down as most of the people who were around at the time have passed on. There are few if any records available so we have to rely on what the few remaining people who were around can remember. From what I have been able to establish the league was already in existence when the first modern WP Bisley was shot in 1954. It also seems from what can be put together that the league was already running in 1950. So it appears as if the league has been in existence for around about 58 years or maybe a year or two longer. In those days and certainly up to the mid 1980's there were three leagues in the Western Cape. These were the North Boland League, the West Boland League and the Peninsula League. The Peninsula Rifle League or Skiereiland Skiet Liga (to give it its official names) is the only remaining league. The other two having dwindled away and ceased to exist. I think that we should consider giving the league an official starting date, which will allow us to say which year we are in and so maintain a bit of the League's heritage.

The League is in two parts. At the beginning of the year is an Individual Championship which is shot over three stages normally in January, February and March. The second part is an Interclub Championship which normally starts in May and runs through to November. In June a League Pairs Competition has been introduced in recent years and in July it has been traditional for many years for a League Spoon Shoot to be held.

The League Individual Championship starts in January with the 1st stage shot over 300, 500 and 600 metres with 7 counting shots at each distance. The 2nd stage of the championship is shot in February, also over 300, 500 and 600 metres with ten counting shots at each distance. This stage tends to be difficult as it is normally hot and windy with difficult conditions. The third and final stage normally takes place in March. It is shot over 800 and 900 metres with 10 and 11 counting shots at each distance respectively. This stage has a long history of producing some interesting results as many a championship has been won or lost here. This is because the years in which the weather, in the form of the wind, is not difficult are few and far between. The Championship is decided on the aggregate of the three stages. It is my opinion that

anyone who wins the league individual championship has won one of the more difficult matches in the World.

Going Back to Saturday 19th January. We started shooting just after 09h30 after making some last minute adjustments to the targets and squadding. Although the markers were a bit rusty after the Holidays and despite some folk being a bit irritated by this things, went reasonably for most of the competitors.

We eventually finished the shoot and got back to the Clubhouse just after 2 o'clock.

The top scores for the day were:

.303

Corena de Beer	92.2 - An excellent score for a .303 rifle.
John Moore	82.3

F Class

Frans Snyman	101.7
Werner Brits	100.8
Carel Taljaard	100.8

B Class

Meinhardt Cronje	99.5
Lambert Brand	98.6

A Class

Gary Willemse	102.9
Gert van Zyl	102.4

Well done! All of you.

My thanks to everyone who helped organise the shoot and take the flags down afterwards. A special word of thanks to those of you who did the Range Officer duties. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Western Province Bisley Association Annual General Meeting is also held after the first league shoot of the year and duly took place. Things proceeded more or less straightforwardly.

The Chairman tabled a lengthy review which the Secretary has on record, the Auditor informed the meeting that the finances were sound and the following people were elected as conveners of the various WP Selection Committees.

.303	- Corena de Beer
F Class	- Frans Snyman
Target Rifle	- Eddie Stigant

Congratulations to the three of you.

A long discussion concerning markers and marking took place. After a vote it was decided that we would continue with our present arrangement of hiring markers. A decision to have shooters in the Butt supervising was taken which will be implemented at the next league shoot.

At the Committee meeting following the AGM the following office bearers were elected.

Chairman - Syd Goslin
Secretary - Corena de Beer
Statistician - Graeme Leon
Facilities - Gary Willemse
Auditor - Eddie Stigant

The committee also appointed these persons as the Association's Executive Committee.

Finally some general matters. Please remember the rule recently introduced where rifles for all competitors must be loaded with the muzzle pointed at the stop butt. This rule seems to be catching on rather slowly.

As I said last month, I would advise those of you who have to renew your licences by the end of March 2008 to start thinking about it. There is a lot to do and if you still have to do your training you could run out of time very quickly. So do not leave it until the last minute.

Also remember the 2008 SABU affiliation fees are due. Remember to pay Corena not SABU direct and she will give you your 2008 membership card. The fees for 2008 are R300-00 for everyone, as the limited member category has been done away with.

Remember everybody, that the 2nd February is the day when we let the markers shoot. We need about 7 or 8 rifles as well as people to help out with running the shoot and marking. All the help we can get will be appreciated.

The next league shoot is on 16th February. Distances are 300, 500 and 600 metres with 2 convertible sighters and 10 counting shots at each distance. A compulsory nonconvertible first sighter is also included at 300 metres.

A point to ponder. One does not appreciate the value of an "outer two" until one shoots a miss.

Good Shooting

Syd Goslin