



CLI .303 CLUB OF CAPE TOWN

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NEWSLETTER

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Normally a long weekend and dodgy weather would mean a poor turn out but evidently not so with the CLI club. We had a good turn out of 56 competitors plus 3 F Class and one Target rifle shooter who used the event for practice. The conditions were good, but the light kept changing and the wind was a little tricky, changing direction completely during the last details which caught some out.

The shoot was opened in the time honoured way with a prayer by John Austin. Thank you to John. We again had an incident free shoot from what I saw and commend all the competitors for taking range safety so seriously. I do however have one issue to raise about safety. I have noticed that some tend to load immediately after shooting and then lie with a loaded and cocked rifle waiting for the target to reappear. This is not good practice and downright dangerous. The bolt should only be closed just before you shoulder the rifle to shoot. It is also not good to let a round lie in the chamber when the target is being marked as the round will heat up and it will affect the accuracy.

The scores recorded were good but no record-breaking stuff was achieved. The results were as follows:

A Class			B Class		
1.	John Austin	45.2	1.	Jaron Pratt	41.0
2.	Bruce Mizen	44.3	2.	Colin Edge	40.1
3.	Vissy Botha	44.3	3.	Henri Laurie	39.1
4.	Colin Twine	44.2	4.	Malcolm Russell	38.0
5.	Koos Brink	42.3	5.	Rafael Arellano	37.1
6.	Brent Bennett	42.2	6.	Ralph Bazier	36.1
7.	Darryl Carver	42.1			
8.	Bas Barkhuysen	42.0			
J Class			Veterans		
1.	Marc Jordan	39.0	1.	John Austin	45.2
2.	Chris Geyer	34.0	2.	Hannes Willers	41.2
			3.	Dennis Sherwood	41.1

In the A Class the top 8 scores are shown not just because my name is there but to show how close it was. After shooting in the BP international John Austin still managed to make the top score of 45.2. He is definitely stronger than the rest of them as they came nowhere. Proving that he can still shoot was Bruce in second place followed by Vissy with the same score in third. One V bull short was Colin in fourth place with his new hip. Koos was fifth with 42.3 followed by Brent, myself and Bas one V bull down on each other in the 42's. At least the Bloemfontein bunch made the list, unlike the rest of the international shooters.

The B Class had some interesting results. First place went to Jaron Pratt with one of his best scores ever of 41. Second place went to the man who vowed never to come last again, Colin



Edge also with one of his best scores of 40.1. Henri again made the list with a good third place. In fourth was Malcolm Russell also with a good score for a long time of 38. Rafael was again on the list with 37.1 and in sixth place was Ralph who managed to hit other things as well as the target on that day with 36.1. Well done to all you.

The J Class was won again by Marc Jordan with a good score of 39. In the Veterans John was also top scorer with his 45.2 followed by Hannes and Dennis Sherwood with 41.2 and 41.1 respectively. Good shooting from all of you.

Mike, Francois and Riaan Muller showed us that their cooking ability certainly outweighed their shooting ability on the day. The curry pots were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks guys for another excellent meal.

Thanks must go to the range officers Riaan Coetzee, Bas, Jason and Bare and to the butts officers Arnold Beneke, Wayne, Jaron and myself. It was a job well done.

Now, some news about Bloemfontein; Jermaine and Brent were stunned by the conditions on this range. It was just so difficult to read. Brent also had his rifle go crazy and started shooting all over the place. It took a few nights of intensive gunsmithing to get it right. I struggled on through the competition never getting on the pace, while Bas shot magnificently and clinched the State Presidents Cup and won the overall individual competition. Corena shot with us in the last two club team events and despite her excellent scores we were a very close second. We were so far behind after the first team event that we lost the overall as well.

Corena was unable to help us in the inter-provincial as she had been chosen for the WP target rifle team. Despite some good shooting from Jermaine and Brent and the fact that Brian had to leave the Gauteng team and was replaced by Gert Erasmus, we lost that match as well. Gauteng North has been warned that this is the last time it will happen. Next year there will be two teams and we will beat them twice!

Despite our losses we all had a truly great time. I must thank Brent and Jermaine for coming along as without them we would not have had a team. They tell me that they learned more in those nine hectic days than in a few years of shooting. The shooting is great but the camping on the range really makes it unforgettable. I am sure that they will be back next year. It's an experience every one needs to live through.

Before you read anything derogatory about our tent from the Chairman, Bas and I need to set the record straight. We go to Bloemfontein to shoot and not to do housework. Our personal hygiene is of the highest order and we only eat food that, as Bas puts it "is goed vir jou maag". The finest meal that Bas made after a breakfast of four boiled eggs each was an onion soup made from half a bag of onions and some mixed vegetables. Truly memorable and something we should do for a club lunch one day. The fact that no-one wants to share our 32'x 16' tent with us is beyond me, as we behaved like perfect gentlemen, we never even heard each other's snoring. The stories about alcohol abuse are without any documented evidence and are based entirely on hearsay and spiteful rumours. Don't believe them. Thanks to Bas I enjoyed every minute of our Bloemfontein trip. The down side is that the speeding fines are starting to arrive.

Our next event is

Distance: 600m
Date: 27th May 2006
Time: 08:00
Venue: Good Hope Range
Ammo: 5 Sighters (only 3 convertible) + 10 to count

Keep Safe
Darryl



Message from the Chairman:

Unfortunately there are two niggling things that need to be addressed. Most of us are members of more than one club and would love to shoot at all the club shoots, but when there are clashes, one is forced to make a choice of which event to participate in. This club has always been one of give and take and you cannot expect only to shoot and never to do your duties for the rest of the people. It is becoming a serious problem in that people insist on being squadded in the 1st detail, only to disappear to go and shoot at other club shoots without doing butt duties at our club shoot. This leads to serious shortages of markers when the 3rd and 4th details shoot, and it is definitely not fair. The same applies to people arriving extremely late when the 3rd and 4th detail are already in the butts, or even worse, arriving halfway through the 1st detail. A decision was taken last year already, that if you arrive after 08:30 without prior arrangement with the chairman or secretary, you will not be allowed to shoot and do not even have to come and insist on being squadded. I accept that personal or unforeseen circumstances may arise, and only those will be accepted, but please take note that no further exceptions will be made for the regular excuses.

Secondly, I have received various complaints about people using illegal ammunition. The rules state that the committee can at any stage confiscate some of your ammo for inspection and this will be resorted to if people keep on breaking the rules. The only ammunition that is allowed at our club shoots is 174gr Mk IV ball ammunition, as issued by the SANDF. Seeing that this is not readily available any longer, it was decided that the hand-loaded equivalent would be accepted. That means only 174gr FMJBT PMP bullets used for reloading are allowed. No Sierra, Berger, Hornady or any other bullets, are allowed. This is simply trying to level the playing fields as much as possible. If you are caught with any other ammunition, you will be asked to leave the range, and in all probability lose your membership. We really don't want to watch you like toddlers, but the rules are there to be obeyed and by breaking the rules, you make it unpleasant for your fellow club members and jeopardise the integrity of the entire club! So, let's stick to the rules, enjoy our shooting and keep this the best club around.

On a lighter note, I see Darryl realised (or was tipped off?) that the situation in Bloemfontein had to be addressed. For some reason all the parties involved refused to divulge any information and I wonder which mechanisms were used to buy or enforce their silence! The 7th and 8th places in A Class are not there because they were so close, but because it tells another story. Unfortunately Jermaine was not at the shoot, but if Brent, Bas (and specifically) Darryl, can shoot those scores in Cape Town, something must have been going on in Bloemfontein! We can just wonder, because Gary Willemse survived one night in Bas and Darryl's tent, and Rompies only two before they both moved into Brent's much more civilised tent!!! (Everybody who knows Rompies will understand the significance of this statement!).

Congratulations to Bas who was crowned the 303 SA Champion in Bloemfontein. To be able to shoot so well despite all that was going on in that infamous tent, surely showed character! Well done Bas!

Thank you to Joe Koen, Rafael and Hannes who sacrificed their entire week to help out at the Black Powder World shoot. Everybody agreed that you did an excellent job as range and butts officers and you kept our Club's flag flying high!

Congratulations to John Austin for coming 16th in the Individual Grand Aggregate and to Mike Di Bona for breaking two SA records in the team shoot - 71.8/75 on the 700m and 62.6/75 on the 900m. He could not have done that without the help of his coach, Jason! He also achieved the highest individual aggregate from all the competitors during the team shoot. The RSA team won the silver medal, a 1st for a South African Black Powder team.

Johan de Beer



From the Secretary's Desk:

Bas had a brilliant individual SA Open championship and he truly deserved all the medals he received. At the final prize-giving, he reminded me somewhat of a Christmas tree with all the ribbons and gold around his neck. Brent had his 1st shoot-off for a gold medal, but a bad case of "bok kooors" saw him beaten into 2nd place. Darryl also managed one gold medal. I must add that Darryl coached me when I shot for the 303 team and he did a pretty good job of coaching both Bas and me into high 40s on all distances! Congratulations to Brent and Jermaine who obtained their WP colours. Don't feel too bad about coming 2nd in the Club and Interprovincial team matches, we need to encourage those guys to come back for more - if we keep on beating them, they might just want to stop shooting against us. Just for the record, I preferred to stay in town and was not responsible for any rumours about the camp or tents that reached the chairman's ears!

Next year, the SA Open Championships will be just before Easter Weekend and we really want to take more 303 shooters along. Start saving so long (for the entry fee, not the speeding fines) and start taking Prohep or Essentiale, because your liver might need it!

On that note, we will be start shooting WP Bisley League on the 20th May at 11:00. Anyone who is interested in joining (and eventually progress to competing in the SA Open or Louis le Grange competitions in Bloemfontein), this is the place to start. We shoot team shoots and all that is required of you is to pitch up with your own equipment and concentrate to pull off a good shot. The coach will do the rest. Nice thing is, when you loose shots on the waterline, it is completely acceptable to blame the coach! However, elevation shots are usually the fault of the nutt behind the butt! We have 5 team shoots left for the year and I would like to encourage you to join us. Please let Darryl or me know by 15th May so that we can enter enough teams and arrange enough 303 targets for the league.

Also congratulations to our club members who shot in the International World Long Range Historical Rifle event - Mike, Jason, Ronnie, John Austin and Johan, and to Mike, Jason, John and Johan for making it into the final 8-man team.

Congratulations to the following members on their birthdays in April:

10th: Jason Di Bona, Floris Jonker
11th: Tiaan Bester
16th: Colin Twine
17th: Stoney Steenkamp
19th: Pierre Nothard

24th: Steve Kiggen
25th: Riaan Coetzee
27th: Chris Williams
28th: Wayne Pratt
30th: Conny Arellano



BPSU Team - Mike Di Bona, Merwe van Rensburg, Kobus de Villiers, Johan de Beer, Jason Di Bona, Willie de Beer, John Austin (Absent - Robert Mann)



Jermaine, Brent and Bas keeping a close eye on Bloemfontein's 'elevation, wind and ever-changing mirage conditions' (as Jermaine described it)



The leader of the pack, Darryl, with his younger brother, Brian. What can we do to make Brian move permanently to Cape Town and start shooting for the WP?

Until the next shoot, keep well.

Corena de Beer (082 826 0453)

