

A lot of water has passed under the bridge during Richard van Lingen's 55 years on shooting ranges around the world. From time to time, he will relate some of his experiences - both serious and amusing.

S. African shoots to world title

PHOENIX (Arizona). — South Africa's Manfred Fieess shot a world record-matching 398 here yesterday to win the English match-rifle event in the 40th world shooting championships. South Africa were fourth in the team placings for this event, won by Italy from Rumania and Yugoslavia. On Sunday, Kornel Marosvari, of Hungary, won the men's air pistol event, scoring 383 points out of a possible 400. Sally Carroll, a major in the United States Army, won the women's air pistol title, and the Soviet Union took both the men's and women's team titles in this competition.

1970 was a long time ago. Several of the SA Team members have since died. Bill Grant and I are the only two still actively involved in the sport, together with Johan Sauer, who was in Phoenix as a team supporter. No comprehensive report was written at the time, so this is then probably the last opportunity for some details to be revealed and mixed memories saved. For South Africa, the highlight was Manfred Fieess' Gold Medal and World Record in the English Match. Then, Ann de Vos (Toerien) came within a "squeaker" of making it a double, winning silver in the Ladies' Prone Match. She also finished fourth in the Ladies' Air Rifle, after an exciting and very close tie-shoot for second, third and fourth places.

For the team members, despite some wonderful moments, it was not a happy tour. "Management" friction ultimately filtered down and relationships between some team members suffered.

SA Team Selection:

Prior to the 1970 South African Small Bore Championships, the SASBRA (now SATRA) Council appointed Basie Human as Team Captain and Gen. Willem Lombard as Manager. I was most surprised that Lombard was chosen again. It had been obvious to team members that he and Basie had not really hit it off during our tour of Europe two years earlier.

The Council decided that shooter selection would be based strictly on performances in that year's SA Championships. They then set the selection priorities. Our best chance of a medal was in the 4-man prone English Match Team event, so these four would be selected first. Ann de Vos (Toerien) had for some time been shooting world-class scores and had been unbeaten in the SA Ladies' Championship over the previous four years. The Council was confident that she would win again. If she did, she would be next choice. Rather than appoint a chaperone, they decided to also select the next-best lady shooter, if her performance was up to world standards. Next would be any individual three-positional shooter whose scores reached world class and, assuming some duplication, possibly sufficient additional 3-positional shooters for the four-man 3-P and Standard Rifle Team events - the latter dependent upon available funds.

The first four in the SA Prone Championship were, in order, Mike Victor, Richard van Lingen, Mike's protégé, Manfred Fieess, (a young toolmaker who had arrived in



SPRINGBOK SMALL BORE TEAM: PHOENIX, ARIZONA 1970

Front row: Miss A.S. Liebenberg, W.A. Lombard (Manager), J.W. Human (Captain), Miss A. de Vos

Back row: J.H. du Plessis, M. Victor, M. Fieess, W.W. Arant, A.I. du Plessis

Insert: R. van Lingen

SA as a political refugee from East Germany) and Bill Grant. Ann duly won the Ladies' Championship for the fifth year in succession. Second to her was Anna Liebenberg, who shot an outstanding 393 in one match, beating most of the top men and proving that she had the class for the task ahead. Bill Grant won the three-positional championship, from Mike Victor and Ari du Plessis. Manfred counted out Ari's brother, "Pompies" for 4th place amongst the men. (In fact, Ann de Vos was second overall, but not eligible for the team). The order in the Standard Rifle was Bill, Ari, Mike, Ann (ineligible) and Pompies. Manfred was next best. This made the task of the selectors easy. All those named were chosen, which ensured that we had a good reserve for each of the men's

and, less than eighteen months later, shot his way into the team. The applause in the hall was deafening when his name was read out!

Digressing, after 29 years, my blood still boils (and so, I would imagine, does Bill's), when I think about the selection of the following World Championship team in 1974. I served on the Council that set the identical selection criteria, during our October 1973 meeting. Six months later the selectors went directly contrary to this, when selecting the team for the 41st Championship in Thun, Switzerland. I shan't go into details, but nepotism and "jobs for pals / clubmates" was obvious.

Mike Victor, Bill Grant, Louis de Jager and I had all qualified, per the agreed parameters,

made no effort to understand them as individuals. As an army man, he was very regimented in his thinking. He also tended to be dogmatic and dictatorial.

(At Phoenix, Basie had to eventually put his foot down about Lombard's interference in decisions and procedures on the shooting range, which were the Captain's preserve. Lombard's attitude and the friction between him and Basie, was to cause considerable unhappiness amongst the team members, some of whom then started to squabble amongst themselves).

Basie clashed with Willem on several initial issues. Needing an ally, he roped me in as the unofficial third member of the tour committee. The SASU (now SASSF) Council

Richard's Reminiscences

The 1970 World Championship in Phoenix, Arizona

by Richard van Lingen

The Rifle Events

team events.

Pompies' selection was a very emotional one for everyone. When we returned from the tour of Europe, two years earlier, Ari told him of the Range Officer in Austria who didn't issue a single verbal command throughout the match. The match was started with a bang from a miniature canon and finished with another. We described the canon to Pompies and, over the next few months, he lovingly crafted a brass replica.

He test fired it and then decided to do it again. There must still have been a smouldering residue because, as he tamped down the new charge, it went off, blowing off part of the palm of his left hand and three fingers, including his trigger finger. After surgery and a six-month healing period, he reappeared on the shooting range. He had been left handed in everything, but was now forced to shoot right. At first, the sensitivity and pain in what was left of his left hand was so intense that he could only manage to hold up the rifle for a few shots in an afternoon. He persevered

but were left out. The SA 3-Positional Champion, who did not even take part in the Prone Championship, was selected as one of the Prone Team. In protest, Mike and Louis immediately gave up Small Bore. Bill continued for another two years, won the SA Championship again, put two fingers in the air and moved exclusively to Full Bore. I carried on but, progressively, over the next few years, gave priority to Full Bore.

Preparation:

From my comments above, readers will probably gather that I did not like Willem Lombard. He and I had clashed on several occasions during the 1968 tour of Europe, primarily over his inability, or unwillingness to accept the principle of "When in Rome, do as the Romans do". Putting my personal feelings aside, I still felt that he was the wrong person for the job. His shooting background was in Full Bore and he lacked knowledge of the finer points of Small Bore. More importantly, he did not really know the team members and had

had earlier appointed me as one of the official South African delegates to the UIT Congress, to be held during the Championships.

The first friction point was over the team uniforms. Obviously there had to be the traditional springbok blazer and flannels. The windbreakers we had used in 1968 had proven versatile, as they could be worn with a collar and tie on semi-formal occasions, or casually, with a sportshirt. On these, and the tracksuits for use on the range, we agreed. Lombard dug in his heels over the other items and, as he had found a sponsor, we had to capitulate. The first was a long-pants safari-suit, with a short-sleeve top and large metal buttons, to be worn with a cravat. Frankly, it would have been more appropriate to a group of bus conductors. Then there was a formal lounge suit, in a drab olive-green, with a five centimetre gilt springbok on the breast pocket.

Ann was then asked to design matching garments for Anna and herself. Her stylish

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version of the blazer and windbreaker, with matching mini-skirts, looked stunning, but no amount of imagination could make their equivalent of the safari-suit look like anything other than a prison uniform. Both girls hated them! For their formal wear, Lombard forced them to use the same material as the men's suits. A less-feminine colour would be hard to find. Black shoes were to be worn throughout, except for the opening ceremony march-past. For this, Lombard insisted on impractical white shoes and white hats.

Readers may be curious as to why I have described the uniforms in such detail. Believe me, it was to have a profound effect on the team.

Basie had wisely arranged that we travel via Europe and break our journey for a few days practice at the Shooting School at Wiesbaden in Germany. We were accustomed to shooting on multi-diagram targets on an open range. The shooting school range was cut into a mountainside forest and was well protected from the wind. The target system incorporated the same Gehmann boxes that we would encounter in Phoenix. The situation was ideal for rifle and ammunition testing and some serious practice. I still carry, in my ammo box, a target centre from that session, with the tightest 50-metre 10-shot group that I have ever shot. Manfred succeeded in achieving his personal best score - an excellent 595, which was a great morale booster.

The road to Phoenix:

Our flight to New York was most unusual, as there were more cabin crew than passengers, on a Lufthansa Boeing 747! We were thus given the run of the aircraft and Manfred and I spent most of the flight on the upper first-class lounge deck, drinking free Chivas Regal whisky. Being German, Manfred was able to chat up the stewardesses (he was still single) and made a dinner date with a very pretty brunette. That evening, he got cold feet and persuaded me to tag along. We arrived at the hotel she had named, only to find that she had stood him up. Whether this experience influenced him, I don't know, but Manfred hated everything about New York City. He became a real pain in the butt, nagging Basie to cut short our stay and go straight to Phoenix. Basie would not be deterred from his planned itinerary and, after three days sightseeing in New York, we flew to Nashville, Tennessee.

The highlight there was a pre-booked night at the Grande Ol' Opry (spelling?). Even for those who didn't particularly like Country and Western music it was a magical evening. Our seats were in the very front row and the interaction between the performers and audience was wonderful.

Phoenix, the Westward Ho and the Rainbow Team:

Phoenix is an artificial oasis in the Arizona desert. The city is incredibly green, with sprinkler systems everywhere. Our hotel was the Westward Ho. The other teams based there were the Americans and the Virgin Islanders. The latter booked in at the same time as we did. Colours of our new Rainbow Nation are muted by comparison. They ranged from a beautiful peaches-and-cream complexioned blonde to a man as black as the ace of spades. The rest being of every shade in-between. Their Captain, of mid-skin-pigmentation, came across to me, without a greeting, and grabbed the front of my springbok windbreaker. "I want your jacket", he said, "I'll give you mine in exchange" - his being an army fatigue type jacket in plain khaki. I explained that mine was part of our team uniform and that I couldn't swap. I offered to exchange badges or pins instead. He shook his head and wandered off. That evening, a bus arrived to take us to the opening ceremony. He plonked himself down, in the seat beside me and said: "I tell you what, I'll throw in a bottle of Virgin Island Rum. Our rum is the best in the world, far superior to that Jamaican stuff". I then told him that our Manager was an army general, with a military dress code. For each day, depending on the functions we were to attend, he told us which of our outfits to wear and we were forced to oblige, under pain of death. I thought that I was laying it on thick but it was prophetic. Lombard's insistence that we dress alike, even on "off-days" and his ban on shorts, for both the men and girls, ended up having a devastating effect on team morale. In many ways, he treated us like a platoon of "troopies". He strongly resisted any activity that did not include the whole team. One "free" evening, Basie, Ann and I were invited to join some German friends at a nightclub. We arrived back at the hotel just after midnight. Lombard was waiting in the lobby and tore a strip off us.

The Opening Ceremony and Richard's Friends:

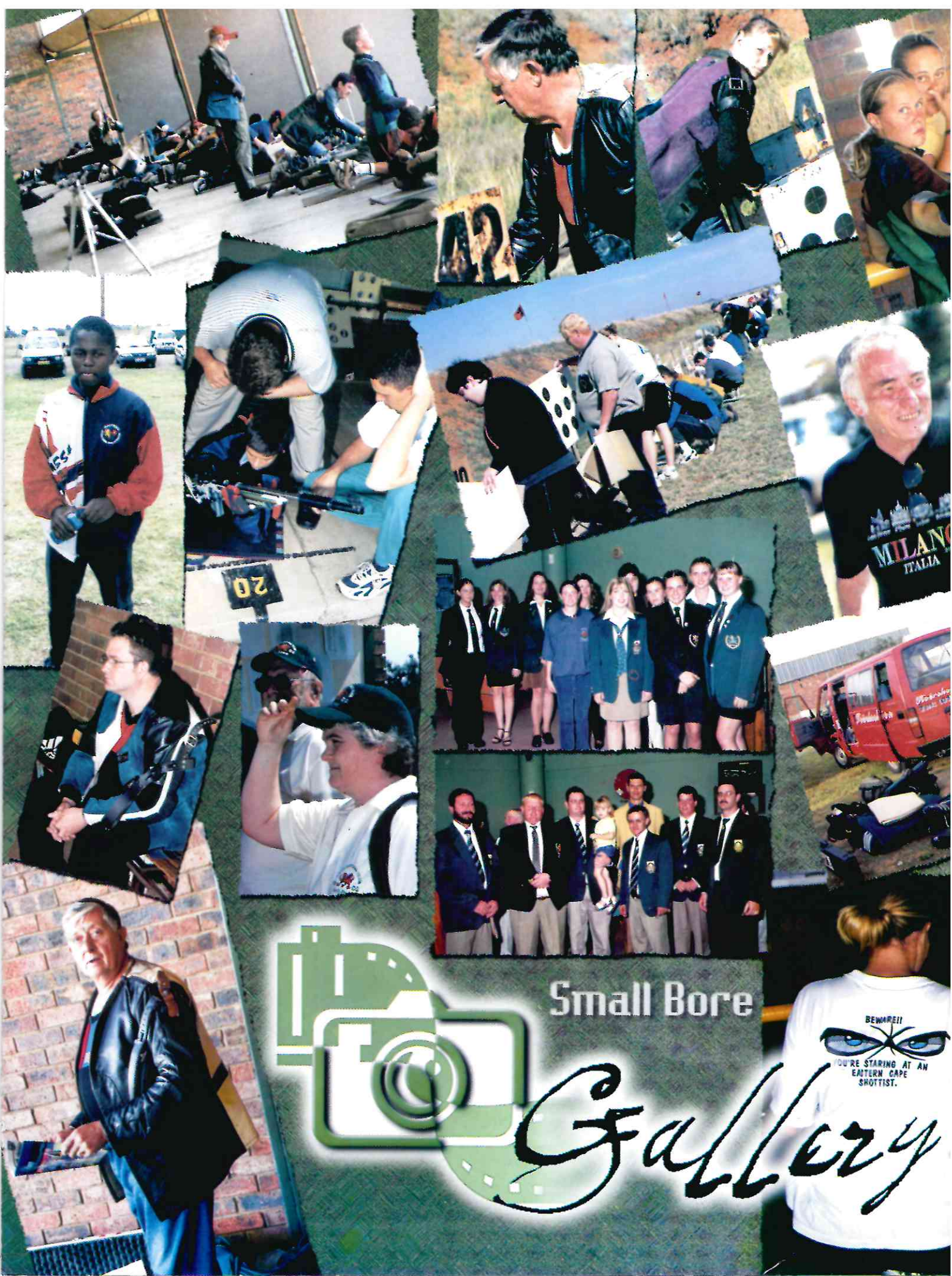
The opening ceremony started at a sports stadium then moved to a natural amphitheatre, with a tall cliff-face on one side. The entertainment was a miscellany of American music, ranging from Negro spirituals, through Jazz, Country and Pop, to Classical, with a full symphony orchestra. Appropriately, the latter's main offering was Grofé's "Grand Canyon Suite". The climax was a magnificent firework display, with the pieces set high up on the cliff face. We then broke for the Western version of a braai - a Chuckwagon meal. My Virgin Island friend grabbed me and insisted that I join their group, to taste their rum. They were a jolly lot, determined to enjoy themselves at their first World Championship. We had a good time and I managed to resist the offers for my windbreaker, with ever-increasing numbers of bottles of their rum, which was indeed excellent. Sadly, our team manager was later heard to comment about "Richard en sy K.....booties".

Other Organised Entertainment:

The Championship Committee had arranged several outings for participants. These were organised by a very pretty young lady, Kathy Gigax, who worked for Arizona Highways Magazine and became everybody's sweetheart. She kindly gave me a year's free subscription to the publication.

One fascinating outing was to a genuine Red-Indian village, where we were able to see the inhabitants busy with their various handicrafts. This included needlework, leather garments, beads, pottery and silver and semi-precious stone jewellery. The silver they mined themselves and we were shown how it was smelted. We were then taken to a nearby stream, where they were panning for gold. Each of us was given a turn, after being shown how to swirl away the water and sand. There was genuine gold in the mud and at the end each was given a little glass bottle, holding his few souvenir specks. They were quite amazed when all the South Africans handed theirs







Juniors

Gallery



back, explaining that one could go to jail in SA for having unwrought gold.

On another day, we were taken to a mock-up of an 1880's Western town, complete with a swing-door pub, bank, hotel, stables, sheriff's office and jail, etc. Many "skop, skiet & donder" Western movies have been filmed there. Several dozen actors and stuntmen put on a show for us - a bank robbery and posse chase. Some of the falls from galloping horses and building rooftops were spectacular. It was amazing that no necks were broken. Naturally, the standard of shooting was far higher than would be seen over the following two weeks at the Black Canyon Ranges!

The Westward Ho had a large swimming pool, which we used regularly. One night Anna dived in and lost her dentures. Fortunately the pool had underwater lighting and we spotted them quite easily on the bottom. Someone jokingly said: "Anna, for heaven's sake don't do that when we get into the sea at Miami or Rio".

We drove up one day to see the awesome Grand Canyon. Pictures do no justice to its size and grandeur. On the way, we stopped at Prescott, to visit the works of Bill Atkinson, the famous barrelmaker. Basie, Mike and Willem, between them bought about a dozen unchambered .30-calibre match barrels. I wonder what happened to them as I never saw one on the range.

These Boots weren't made for Walking:

1970 was before the day of the specialised shooting boot. Most of us then wore ski-boots for 3-Positional shooting.

Our American friends from the USAAMTU at Fort Benning told us that the US Team Members had switched to a US Airforce flying boot, which gave better ankle support in the standing and kneeling positions. US Coach, Bill Krilling, offered to take our 3-P shooters to the PX at the local airforce base, where they were available. As I had previously driven in the States and Europe, on the "wrong side of the road", I was one of the two designated team drivers. These boots gave me a real run around. If I remember correctly, I was the only male team member not to buy a pair. (I inherited Bill Grant's ski boots, which I still wear to this day). Back at the hotel, they were tried out, but some of our shooters found them uncomfortable in the kneeling position as the soles extended too far at the heel and dug into their bottoms. They also needed to be squared off at the toe end. I was sent out to find a shoemaker to fix them.

The guy I found said "Sure, I can do the job, come back to collect them next week". As we were starting the official practice sessions the following day, this was no good. Eventually, I persuaded him to let me use his beltsander. He refused to charge me, as I was his "first-ever do-it-himself customer".

Mike Victor was well known for his eccentricities. Amongst other things, he had, at one stage, munched raw potatoes on the range, because he considered them good for something or other. When he bought his USAF boots, he had a bright idea. The UIT (ISSF) rules specified that the height of a boot could be no greater than two-thirds of the length. Mike rationalised that the higher the boot, the better the ankle support, so he bought boots two sizes larger than normal, maintaining that they would work fine, if he wore four pairs of socks. They didn't. My sanding work went for nought and Mike's boots were dumped!

Johan Sauer, our Supporter and Helper:

Johan had been unlucky to miss selection for the team, finishing 5th, just behind Bill, in the SA Prone Championship. He had then returned to Canada, to further his medical specialisation studies. He flew down to Phoenix, to lend his support to the team. To get around, he hired a Ford Mustang. This was a godsend to the team as the official transport between the hotel and range was rather infrequent. Several times, Johan had to dash back to the Westward Ho to retrieve some missing bit of gear. On most occasions the culprit was Pompies, who was the most forgetful shooter I have ever known. Why Johan hired a fast sports car I do not know, as the general speed limit on the highways was only 65 mph. He, Bill and I were copped for speeding one day, on the road to the range. Fortunately, our national colours and explanation that we were late for a practice session, got us off with a warning. On another occasion Johan stopped in front of the city post office, dashed up the steps to post a letter, turned around and saw that the car was missing. He went to the police station to report the theft, to be told that it was they, the police, who had towed it away, for illegal parking. It cost Johan \$100, to retrieve the car from the pound.

The Practice Sessions:

The first 3-Positional practice sessions revealed that our shooters were well below the world's best. There had been a fairly dramatic

improvement in scores since the previous world championships in Germany, where Mike Victor had won the bronze medal in the kneeling position. Our shooters practised diligently, but we all knew that we really had no hope for either a team or individual medal.

On the prone side, Mike, Bill and I were able to maintain our form, but Basie was concerned about Manfred, who was struggling to shoot the groups he had done at Bloemfontein and Wiesbaden. Against this, Ari, who was the chosen reserve, was putting in the level of scores that had made him the top shooter on our tour of Europe, two years earlier.

Our two girls gained a lot of media attention with their smart appearance and excellent shooting. Ann was tipped as a potential winner of the prone gold medal.

The Russian Ammunition:

I repeat here a posting that I submitted to the internet "Full Bore List", which readers should find both interesting and amusing:

David Paetkau wrote:

"The Russian wins at International events came not from having superior equipment but from shooters who had a better shooting position and who were highly skilled."

I replied:

This was certainly true of the 1950's, but very much less so after Pullum and then Krilling took charge of the US International squad. If I recall correctly, all the Russian shooters at the Phoenix World Championships, in 1970, used Anschutz rifles.

Let me repeat a story I told on the List, a couple of years ago:

"The Russian Rifle Team Manager at Phoenix was a very friendly chap. They had a large mobile workshop and, for the first time ever, allowed other competitors entry to it. One of our SA Team members had trigger problems with his Anschutz and the Russian armourer sorted it out. We even drank vodka with them. During the practice sessions, the Russian prone shooters performed like world-beaters. They were shooting some of the smallest groups we had ever seen. The ammunition they were using was in red cartons with Russian writing on it - a brand that none of us had ever seen before. Every time a competitor from another country came close, the ammo boxes were tucked away in shooting bags. Spent cases were carefully gathered immediately

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after a shooter finished and also shoved into the bags. It became an international game to get our hands on a round to examine it. Eventually the US Team proved to be the better thieves and one of their shooters managed to snaffle a box. You can guess the rest. The cartridges were repackaged Eley Tenex. After this, there was strict security around the Russian workshop and the friendly mood disappeared."

The Trial:

On the night before our final training session, Basie announced that he had decided that Manfred and Ari would, the following morning, shoot off for the fourth place in the Prone Team. Manfred was livid, claiming that he had been selected to shoot in the team and that Basie had no authority to go against the selectors. In no uncertain terms, Basie told him that, as team captain, he was responsible for the results and that he would field the team most likely to win a medal.

The following morning, Manfred was still seething when the two of them got down to shoot off over the English Match course of 60 shots (=600 points). I can't remember the scores, but Manfred doddled it, by a big margin. This was when we discovered that "Freddy the Fox" was at his absolute best when angry and under extreme pressure. So the team was set, as originally chosen. Basie had a quandary, though. Because of the number of entrants, the match was to be shot in two details, with two of each team in each detail. The first was at 8.00 am and the second at 11.00 am. As the Black Canyon Range was in the desert, with very high temperatures and a wind that had increased during the day, for each of the training sessions, it was clear to all that the weather conditions would be considerably more difficult for those shooters squadded in the second detail. Basie's plan had been that Mike and I, as the two top qualifiers, would shoot in the first detail, which would probably give the team its best start and give us each the best opportunity in the individual medal chase. However, Manfred, who was the least experienced of the four, had been struggling to read the mid-morning wind. So Basie came to me and asked whether I would object if he switched the two of us, in the interest of the team. I readily agreed, as I believed that the team event undoubtedly gave us our best chance for a medal.

The English Match:

Basie decided that he did not want Bill and I to watch the other two shooting, so it was arranged that we would only get to the range at 9:30. We fiddled around at the hotel and checked and rechecked our equipment. We had both gone to bed late, but did not sleep in. This was in line with the Russian and American finding that, for a single match, prone shooters were at their best after less sleep than normal. We later found out that the Russians and other Eastern Block competitors, had walked the streets of Phoenix, window shopping, until after 2.00 am!

When we arrived, there was a large group of spectators behind each of our shooters, who were going well. This included several Russians, jabbering away at the top of their voices. Apparently, they had done the same to

through a telescope). Basie had shooed Bill and I away, to do our mental preparations, so we were unable to witness the excitement of Manfred's last two strings (both 100s!). He finished with a 598, which was a new world record! There was another 598, from Kervinen of Finland, but Manfred's was the better on count-back.

It was then our turn and Bill and I each finished with 587, two points above "Worldmaster" standard. These were good scores under the conditions, which had developed into a vicious fishtail. Later examination of the scores showed that the best in the second detail was a 592, whereas there had been nine scores of 595 or better, in the first. Recognising the unfairness of this, the UIT subsequently changed the rules, to a system of eliminations, giving every competitor an equal chance of qualifying for a shoulder-to-shoulder final.

From the estimated scores on the boards, we knew that the team result would be close and that we were in with a chance. We were on tenterhooks whilst the targets were marked. Ultimately the scores were posted. Gold was confirmed for Manfred in the individual but, sadly, we had just missed out in the team event. Surprisingly, the unheralded Italians (better known for their prowess with shotguns) had won. Romania and Yugoslavia were second and third and we were fourth. Had Mike not been penalised, we would have counted out Yugoslavia for the bronze medals. West Germany finished with the same score as SA but were placed fifth on count-back. The fancied USA Team was sixth. Surprisingly, the strong USSR Team only finished in tenth place. Three of the GB Team members (including the famous Andrew Tucker) shot well, but their fourth man had a disastrous 570. He was none other than Malcolm Cooper, destined to become the most successful UIT rifle shooter ever, with two Olympic Golds and several World Championship titles. If I remember correctly, more than thirty countries took part.

The Other Rifle Events:

In the Ladies Prone Match, shot on another day, Ann had a magnificent 591 to take the silver, only a single point behind the winner. Anna also shot well, with a score in the mid-580's. When we later examined the scores, we realised that, had we had a third lady there, with a score of 580+, we would have been in the team medals.



each of the competitors posting high scores. The American range staff did absolutely nothing to stop the distraction! Fortunately, it did not rattle Manfred and Mike.

Mike then, unfortunately, incurred a two-point penalty. The Gehmann target boxes contained a concertina-folded stack of individual targets, joined together. Only one shot was to be fired at each diagram. The shooter then had to use an electric control to advance to the next. It was easy to forget to move on. The UIT rules therefore allowed (if I remember correctly) two double shots without penalty, but any further offence was penalised. Mike finished with a 592, which should have been a 594. None of the spectators was aware that Mike would be penalised, as this was not reflected on his scoreboard (values estimates

I have the result sheets of the top scores in each of the two matches in which I took part. Unfortunately, sometime over the past 33 years I, for some reason or other, removed the full official results from my file and now cannot find them. They must be buried in one of the many boxes of papers that I have never got round to sorting and filing. The other results that I quote are from press cuttings that I have retained. As anticipated, we did not shape in the three-positional events although all our shooters improved on their home standards. Bill Grant had an excellent 566 in the men's standard rifle event, which earned him fifteenth place.

We were immensely proud of our World Champion and World Vice-Champion, as they were referred to a little later in Brazil.

When Manfred's background was probed by the press and they found out that his previous best score was a 595, there were comments about his world record being a fluke. Similar sentiments were aired by some of the world elite shooters. Manfred proved them wrong when, six months later, he repeated his 598 at Bloemfontein, in an international match against a touring British Team.

The 300 Metre Big Bore Rifle Event:

At that time, there was no separate 300m prone event, as there is today. Basie had therefore entered us for just the prone of the three-positional match. We shot for the honour and experience, as there were no team medals for the individual positions, only the aggregate. This was not a regular discipline in SA and Basie selected the four who had past Full Bore or 300m UIT experience - Human, Grant, Van Lingen and "Pompics" du Plessis. We all shot with .308's - Basie and Pompics with free rifles borrowed from the US Army Advanced Marksmanship Training Unit. Bill used a Winchester loaned to him by Gary Anderson and I shot with Basie's Grunig & Elmiger. Our scores were all in the low 380's, putting us into 9th place, which was no disgrace.

This was on a really choppy day, with the Americans electing to use their heavier 30-'06 rifles, rather than .308's, because of their better wind-bucking ability. After the prone stage, I stayed to watch the standing. I stood behind Margaret Thompson-Murdock and watched all forty shots she fired for record. Margaret was a slip of a girl and shot off the balled fist. With each shot, the stock fore-end lifted about ten centimetres off her fist and the recoil forced her

back, almost a full pace. She broke the World Record and won the standing gold. Shortly after this, the UIT decided that women would no longer be permitted to shoot the 300 metres. Also that they could only shoot the Ladies' Small Bore events, using the Standard Rifle. They were banned from using free rifles. Apparently the world's leading female shooters requested the change. I'm pretty sure that Margaret was not party to that because, on her day, she could beat all the top men in the world, in both prone and 3-P, with both Small Bore and Big Bore rifles.

The previous day, whilst I was practising, Team Manager, Willem Lombard, sat watching.

I could see that he was keen to have a go, so I offered him the rifle and my shooting jacket (we were about the same size). To control the extremely bright light, I had a holder fitted to the sight eyepiece, to take photographic filters, which I could use in various combinations, as they screwed into one another. They each had a sharp serrated surround.

I tried to warn him about this. He cut me short with: "Please, I am a Full Bore Springbok, I know what to do!" He only fired one shot, then got up with the blood streaming from a nasty cut on his eyebrow.

The UIT Congress:

Our primary task was to make a presentation, in a bid for the 1974 World Championships. There was much interest in the plans for a new shooting centre in Midrand and delegates were impressed with the promised facilities. However, we lost out to Switzerland, primarily because of the travelling distance for contestants and officials.

Miami, Lost Rifles and Belem:

Immediately after the closing ceremony, we flew from Phoenix to Miami. In those pre-hijacking days, rifles were normally carried in the cabin, in soft gunbags, as hand luggage. However, because of the large number of rifles, from all the departing teams, the Phoenix airport authorities insisted that they be checked in. We were concerned about damage but the airline assured us that they would be packed in a separate fragile goods hold on the aircraft. On arrival at Miami, we found that Bill's rifle and mine (coincidentally the only two Walthers) were not on the aircraft. Frantic telephone calls established that they had gone to New York, with the French Team. We were assured that

they would be put onto the next aircraft to Miami and would be there before we departed, the following day. They never arrived.

We flew to the city of Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon River, where Basie had arranged a match against a Brazilian Para Province Team. News of Manfred's and Ann's success preceded us and we were treated like royalty. We spent the first day going from government building to municipal building to government building. We met Governors, the Mayor, Heads of each of the branches of the services and a variety of other senior civil servants. All the buildings were similar, with umpteen steps up to the main entrance, which faced onto a massive staircase up to the first floor level. At each we were greeted with glasses of their national drink. I can't recall the name, but it was non-alcoholic, bright yellow and tasted something like root beer, only sweeter. After ten or so glasses, over a period of about four hours, it became totally nauseating! That evening there was a function to meet the organisers and the members of the team against whom we would compete the following day. Amongst the shooters was an American missionary, Robert Dale Mason. By an incredible coincidence, I met him again some twenty years later, at a church function in Johannesburg. He was then serving as a medical missionary in northern Mozambique, working with the daughter of close family friends of ours.

For the match, Bill used Basie's Standard Rifle and I used his Anschütz Free Rifle, which he claimed had gone haywire after we left SA, and wouldn't group at all. The organisers had gone to the expense of printing special targets for the event "Honoring South African World Championship Olympic Rifle Team" including a citation for each Manfred and Ann, with details of their medals and scores. As so often happens, Basie's "no-good" rifle worked like a dream for me and I top-scored with the first 300 ex 300 possible ever fired on their range. Mike Victor was second with 297 and Ari du Plessis third with 296. This rather embarrassed our hosts who were confident that Manfred or Ann would win. One of my prized souvenirs is this set of targets, less one diagram that was to be framed for their clubhouse wall. The members of both teams signed my first card, on which the five shots are nicely grouped in the centre, leaving the whole bull's-eye line intact. Basie refused my offer for the rifle.



Free State Championship

by Willie van der Merwe

Air rifle shooting is the fastest-growing shooting sport in the country. More and more schools are initiating this sport at their schools. Approximately twenty schools are currently taking part in this sport, with more than a hundred pupils participating.

The Free State Air Rifle Championships took place at Sentraal High School, Bloemfontein, on the first and second of April. The school has a fully equipped Air Rifle Shooting Range, with twelve firing points. Five schools entered the Championships, with 26 pupils taking part. The competition took place over two days, with pupils each shooting 2 six hundred points. These rounds take place in the form of a prone shooting position, a standing and a kneeling position. At the end of the competition, the best 8 pupils took part in a final elimination round, consisting of 10 shots, fired one shot at a time, with separate commands for each shot. Results were as follows: (max of 1300).

| Ranking | Name | School | Prone | Standing | Kneeling | Total | Final | Grand Total |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|-------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Sandra Coetzer | Garsfontein | 368 | 328 | 352 | 1048 | 81 | 1129 |
| 2 | Christo v Eeden | Garsfontein | 386 | 295 | 351 | 1032 | 77 | 1109 |
| 3 | Niel Wilke | Sentraal | 376 | 324 | 320 | 1020 | 73 | 1093 |
| 4 | Christo Barnard | Garsfontein | 365 | 289 | 361 | 1015 | 70 | 1085 |
| 5 | Jacques Louw | Garsfontein | 367 | 303 | 342 | 1012 | 65 | 1077 |
| 6 | Barnus Beyers | Garsfontein | 375 | 297 | 321 | 993 | 76 | 1069 |
| 7 | Renier Mulder | Bergvlam | 367 | 301 | 322 | 990 | 72 | 1062 |
| 8 | Gerhard Jacobs | Garsfontein | 373 | 278 | 341 | 992 | 69 | 1061 |

Individual results:

Best prone

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Christo v Eeden | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 386 |
| David Barnes | |
| H/S Bergvlam | 376 |
| Jacques Ewald | |
| H/S Bergvlam | 376 |

Best standing position

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Sandra Coetzer | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 328 |
| Niel Wilke | |
| H/S Sentraal | 324 |
| Jacques Louw | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 303 |

Best kneeling position

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Christo Barnard | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 361 |
| Sandra Coetzer | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 352 |
| Christo v Eeden | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 351 |

Champion Marksman

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Sandra Coetzer | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 1129 (86.9%) |
| Christo v Eeden | |
| H/S Garsfontein | 1109 (85.3%) |
| Niel Wilke | |
| H/S Sentraal | 1093 (84.1%) |


Team results:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------|
| H/S Garsfontein | A | 4088 (85.2%) |
| H/S Garsfontein | B | 3947 (82.2%) |
| H/S Bergvlam | A | 3887 (81.0%) |

The first Postal League took place in Northern Gauteng during the week of 14 March 2003. The third competition, the Mpumalanga Postal League, will take place during the second school term.

In light of recent controversial developments in School Shooting although .22 shooting is being phased out, it is definitely not the case with air rifle shooting. In fact, air rifle shooting will now replace the old .22 shooting. The good news is that existing equipment can be utilized for the new air rifle shooting. Equipment like shooting mats, telescopes and even existing .22 shooting ranges, can be used to start air rifle shooting. As shooting is a life

skill that carries no age limit, schools that have not previously offered shooting as an extra-curricular activity, can now introduce air rifle shooting as a new sport. The basic requirements are air rifles and a 10m indoor shooting range. Any large classroom or hall can be used to practise in and equipment can be removed, if necessary. The air rifle was deregulated in January 2002, so no license is required to buy the rifle. No special shooting jackets are required.

Schools or private institutions that would like additional information, can contact Willie van der Merwe, representative of Air Rifle Shooting, SANSSU at 082 772 3 611. 



EVENTS

We attended the South African National Small Bore Championships at the Basie Human shooting range, in Bloemfontein from 31 March to 4 April 2003. The turnout for the event, in spite of all the media hype surrounding shooting in schools, far exceeded expectations. More than 200 shooters competed in the 3-day shoot for the prone title.



The Welsh Small Bore Team



Maxwell van Vuuren and Dave Phelps



WALES vs

All South Africa's top shooters were in attendance - Jaco Henn, Gavin van Rhyn, Martin Senore, Maxwell van Vuuren, Esmari van Reenen and Marli Vlok to name but a few. It was apparent from the outset that the competition was going to be stiff.

TENSIONS RUNNING HIGH

Once the competition started, the tension was tangible. On the first day an unpredictable, gusty wind was blowing, which influenced most of the shooters. At one stage, Welsh shooter, Dave Phelps took a breather, to calm his nerves. He shot a commendable 595 on the first day of the competition and took the lead. He was closely followed by Freck Senore. Our other shooters, although not having started well, ended the first day with reasonable scores. The top five scores were all above 590/600.

The women also had a tough fight on their hands. The junior ladies put in a valiant effort but it was quite obvious that Marli Vlok, Chantelle Fuller and Esmari van Reenen were in a class of their own. Marli Vlok had a very good first day with a score of 590 and shot consistently well throughout the competition. She was challenged continuously by a focused Chantelle Fuller but went on to take the victory for the women's prone event. Chantelle won the silver medal with Esmari van Reenen in third place.

From the outset, the young Maxwell van Vuuren had one vision, winning the title in the prone event. The other competitors, however, had similar intentions. Dave Phelps, who has twice won the Earl Robert's trophy at Bisley, performed consistently well and the lead switched continuously between him and Maxwell. Freck Senore, one of our other top Small Bore shooters, also performed well throughout the competition and challenged them right to the last shot.

SOUTH AFRICA

A close encounter at the

South African Small Bore National Championship

On the third day the scores were level and the shots had to be counted out. Maxwell emerged as the victor and was congratulated by all for standing his ground against the much more experienced Welsh shooter. Dave Phelps took silver with Freek Senore taking a well-earned third position.

The International Dewar, Wakefield and Randle Trophy Matches were also shot at the Nationals. The scores are mailed to Great Britain and the results will only be available at a later stage. Our South African Shooters have

performed well in these events throughout the years and won the Dewar Match for the first time in 1998.

Our juniors also put in a few noteworthy performances. One can definitely single out the young David Gray who has performed outstandingly well this season. He won the junior event at the Nationals and we believe this young man has huge amounts of talent and a great future in shooting. Amongst the junior ladies the comparatively new shooter, Alessandra Cremona came second overall. This is quite a commendable feat if you take into account that she was shooting scores in the region of 540 two weeks prior to the Nationals. This lady showed what a shooter can do in a relatively short period, with the help from coaches Martin Senore and Jaco Henn.

THE EVER SO DEMANDING THREE POSITIONAL EVENT

The three positional Small Bore event, or 3-P, as it is known amongst shooters, were shot on the Thursday and Friday. It was apparent from the outset that Jaco Henn was in a class of his own. Martin Senore, Hennie Jacobs and Gavin van Rhyn had scores above the psychological level of 1100 out of a possible 1200. André Fourie just missed out on the 1100 score, with a 1092.

Esmari van Reenen, Chantelle Fuller and Jacqueline Bartelsman battled it out for the ladies 3-P event. Esmari eventually emerged as the winner of the event.

MISSING A SHOE GAVIN?

All competitions have their memorable moments. Everybody present at the men's 3-P event had quite a laugh. When Gavin van Rhyn packed his suitcase for the National Championships he made one little error. He mistakenly packed his wife's left boot which is identical to his own - along with his own left



Welsh shooter and coach
Bill Phelps

boot, for the 3-P event. His wife's boot is however a few sizes smaller than his own. Once the prone event of the 3-P was finalised Gavin sat down to put on his shoes for the standing and kneeling event. He struggled for a while and even took out the laces of his left boot but it still would not fit. He momentarily thought his feet had put on weight. It was then that he realised that his other boot was also left footed. Anybody shooting 3-P will tell you that the boots make a huge difference in both the standing and kneeling events. Gavin had to complete the competition with one boot and experienced a lot of pain due to the lack of support of the missing boot. His true sportsmanship showed and he completed the 3-P event with one shoe amiss, without much complaint and with a reasonable score.

For all the scores of the South African Small Bore Championships visit our website at www.rangesa.com.





When shooting is in your genes, it is a fait accompli—you will be a shooter for life. Hailing from a family of shooters Johan Sauer, South African Small Bore record holder and national shot, shares his shooting memories with us.

The Sauer factor

During 1948, shortly after the end of World War II, at the tender age of 10. Johan participated in his first shooting event. He ascended to provincial level in 1951, while attending Florida High School. Florida High School has been the hatchery for many great South African Shooters.

At the Transvaal Small Caliber Prize shoot in 1951, he surprised all and sundry when he shot on par with the best SA shooters of the time, narrowly missing a victory against the world renowned D Sutherland. His shooting prowess assured him a position in the SA Dewar Team, a feat he repeated in many years to come. At the age of 13 he was one of the youngest South Africans ever to be selected as a Springbok, participating in the International .22 Dewar competition.

In those years the defence force took a great interest in shooting by school cadets. There was an inter commandment Prize shoot

held at Bloemfontein, with representatives from 8 commandments. Each team consisted of 12 cadets overseen by the team captain. The Junior Witwatersrand commandment team (of which Johan was a member) won the junior shield. Interestingly enough, Bill Grant, our reloading expert has been shooting with Johan since 1948 and was a member of this junior Witwatersrand Commandment Team, with Johan.

Johan won the Transvaal Open Small Bore Championship in 1973 and had a moment of nostalgia when he was awarded the trophy, donated in 1950 by his late father at this competition.

Both his brothers, Ferdie and Herman actively participated in shooting for many years. Herman won the SA National Small Bore Championship no less than 15 consecutive times. Ferdi excelled in Clay Target shooting and was elected as Springbok Captain for the 1976 touring side.



State
President's
Award

The year 1974 saw Johan and Herman taking the honours as SA Champions in the prone and 3 positional events respectively. The brothers were selected to attend a World Championship shoot in Switzerland that year and Herman won the 3 positional standard gun event.

Johan immortalised his name in the record books, when he shot a perfect score of 600 in the prone event on 10 October 1980. His achievement was acknowledged with a State President's medal being awarded to him. This medal was also awarded to Gary Player for his success in international golfing tournaments. (The bull of the target on which this record was achieved has however been minimized since then by 2mm.)

Johan also tried his hand at Full Bore (Bisley) shooting and obtained his Southern Transvaal Colours in this discipline. While studying medicine at Tukkies, he obtained his Northern Transvaal Colours and was selected for the university team on numerous occasions. He was awarded honorary colours for shooting





SKIETKLUB 1959



by his alma mater.

He received his Springbok Colours for Bisley shooting in 1990 and started shooting F-Class in 1999. He is the reigning Griekwas Champion.

Johan remarks that his shooting career has evolved in the course of time.

He initially started shooting because it was fun. The scenario, however, changes as your skill and technique start to develop. The technical aspects of shooting then become of greater concern. Shooting, like golf, is a competition against one self. You must master 5 important elements to become a great shot:

- Yourself: The art of shooting and technique;
- Your rifle: which is a science on its own;
- Your ammunition: the reloading thereof, which is yet again a science on its own;
- Conditions: the ability to read wind and mirage; and
- The characteristics of the different shooting ranges.

According to Johan the challenges in the shooting sports never stop, they only change as you progress.

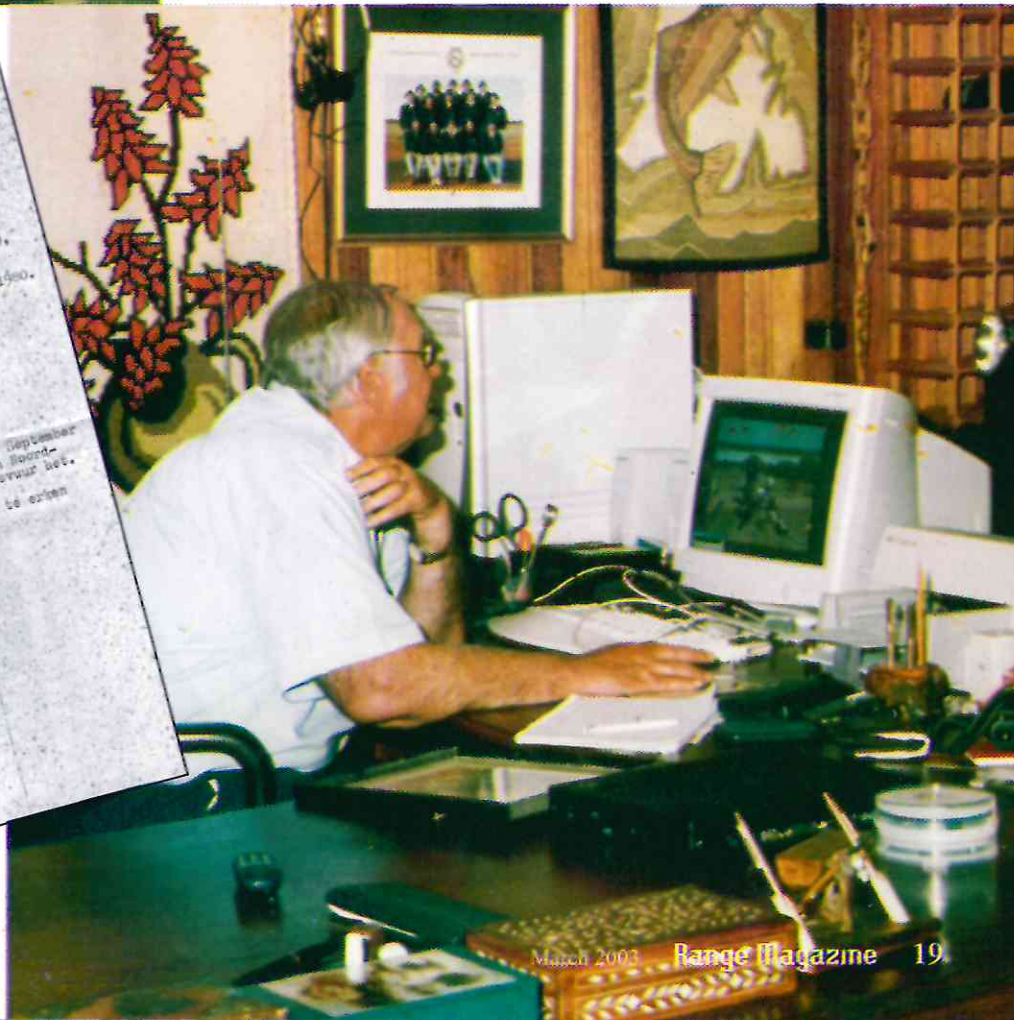
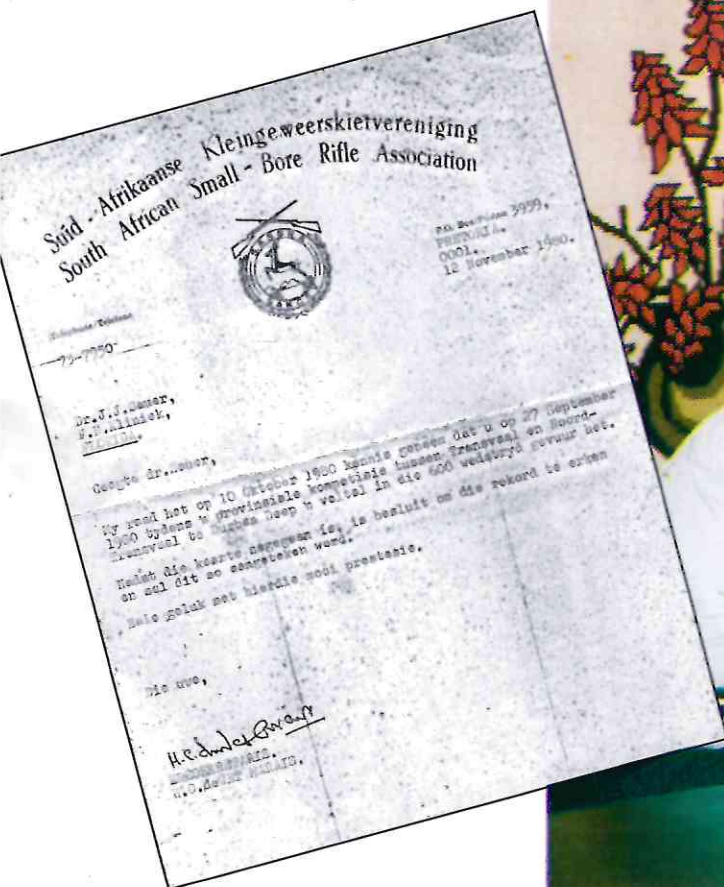
Johan is a medical doctor by profession, but has since retired. He is still actively involved in the shooting sports, while Ferdie is a Koi breeder and Herman has laid down his guns to become a cabinetmaker of note.

It appears that the love for shooting is hereditary in the Sauer family. Johan's son, Johan Junior, who himself is an avid shooter, has participated in the shooting sport from an early age and is the reigning British Columbian Champion.

Johan currently shoots F-Class competitions with a South African manufactured rifle. It is a 6.5 x 55 Manfred Fiess action and trigger with a Vector barrel and has a veri focus 30mm long distance, Leupold scope.

For Small Bore shooting he used an Anschütz .22 rifle with Eley Tenex cartridges.

F-Class target shooting has made it possible for the older target shooter to remain competitive. With good health and a bit of luck, there might be many years left for target shooting.





Meet the team:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| JUNIOR MEN | JUNIOR WOMEN |
| Stefan du Plessis | Nicole Barnard |
| David Gray | Carla Havenga |
| Louis Jordaan | Petro Vorster |
| TEAM MANAGER | |
| Herman Barnard | |

Let's introduce the shottists...

STEFAN DU PLESSIS...

lives on a farm near Hofmeyr. He is a grade 12 pupil at Hoërskool Marlow, an agricultural school in Cradock.

Stefan was motivated to start competitive

In August she won her first Northern Gauteng Girls Championship and achieved Provincial Colours in 25 yards simultaneously. She was also a member of the Northern Gauteng Team that took third place in the 2001 South African Championship.

In February 2002 she gained first place at the SATRA Championship in Bloemfontein and shot her way into the SA School 50 metre B-team to compete against the German Oldenburg Team. She won two gold and two silver medals at the Northern Gauteng Championship in March 2002. She competed in the South African National 50 metre Championship in Bloemfontein during April 2002 and was selected to shoot at Bisley in the UK.

DAVID GRAY...

hails from Johannesburg and is a grade 11 pupil at St Andrews College, Grahamstown where he attends boarding school. He is coached by Pepe Morton, one of the officials at the Commonwealth Games.



OUR JUNIOR PROTEAS (SMALL BORE)

shooting to keep his eye in for the hunting season. He took up shooting as a sport in 2001 and has since discovered the joys of competitive shooting.

In 2002 he was selected for the SANSSU 25 yard C-Team and performed well enough to be selected for the SATRA Junior Protea (under 21) A-Team in the 50 metre discipline. He was also a member of the Eastern Cape School Team that competed successfully at the Inter Provincial match in Oudtshoorn.

NICOLE BARNARD

is the eldest of 3 daughters and is in grade 12 in Hoërskool Brits. She derives her interest in shooting from her father who is a professional hunter, target rifle coach and nature lover.

Nicole has achieved major success since her father starting coaching her two years ago.

David started shooting in the course of 2000. He achieved the honour of moving from D-Class to A-Class in the span of one year.

David won the gold in the D-Class at the Free State Championship in Bloemfontein in 2001 and was promoted to C-Class. He won

the gold in the C-Class and the Gauteng Junior Championship in 2001. He also obtained full Eastern Province Provincial Colours.

In 2002 he won the Free State Junior Championship and was promoted to B-Class. He was selected for the Eastern Province Junior Team that gained

second place in the Inter Provincial shoot. He also won the Eastern Province Junior Championship and was promoted to A-Class. In April 2002 he was selected for the SA School Team to compete against the German Oldenburg Team and he was awarded a team bronze medal. He was selected for the Senior

The junior shoot at Bisley in 2002 was the biggest ever with competitors from South Africa, the United States, Australia and of course the United Kingdom. A total of over 900 shottists competed in this event.

South African International Postal Team and shot a perfect score at 100 yards. He was selected for the Eastern Province Junior 25 yard Inter Provincial Team and gained a team gold medal at the Inter Provincial shoot in Oudtshoorn in July 2002.



CARLA HAVENGA...

is the youngest in her family and attends Hoërskool Dinamika in Alberton where she is a grade 12 pupil at present.

Carla's shooting career started when she was in grade 8. During that year she achieved her B-Team Provincial Colours in the 25 yard discipline. The following year she gained A-Team Colours in the 25 yard discipline. Last year she moved to the 50 metre discipline and had to accommodate to the change. In April 2002 she was selected for the National Schools B-team to shoot against the German Oldenburg Team during the Junior Championship. She shot brilliantly and won her Junior Protea Colours to shoot in the Junior Invitational shoot at Bisley.

LOUIS JORDAAN...

is a grade 12 pupil at Hoërskool Linden and tells us it is the best High School in the world.

Louis' shooting career started in 1999 and he moved rapidly into 3 positional and Air Rifles.

During 2000 he was selected to the Gauteng under 25 team and was appointed captain of the Gauteng Junior Boys Team. He competed in the South African School Championship in Pretoria and won the South

African under 16 Air Rifle Championship.

During 2001 he was elected captain of the Linden School and the Gauteng Junior Boys Shooting Team. He represented the Gauteng schools against the touring British schools and was selected for the SANSSU Bisley Team as reserve. He gained second place in the South African Air Rifle Championship. He also won the Toyota 3 positional Championship in Bloemfontein.

During 2002 he was placed third overall in the South African Air Rifle Open Championship. He was placed thirteenth overall in the South African Prone Open Championship, first in the B-Class and placed the highest South African Junior in the International Postal Match. He gained gold in the SANSSU International Match against the Oldenburg Team.

PETRO VORSTER...

hails from Cradock in the Eastern Cape where she matriculated during 2002.

Petro started shooting in 1998 and was selected to provincial level within the first year. She hails from a family of enthusiastic shottists and is coached by her father who is also the Cradock High School coach.

by Ceres Troskie

She has excelled in the 25 yard discipline. She was a member of the gold medal winning Eastern Cape Team that competed at the Inter Provincial Match in Oudtshoorn in 2002.

OUR JUNIORS AT BISLEY

Our junior shottists arrived at Bisley, England on the 5th of August 2002.

To those of us in the know, shooting at Bisley must be one of the highlights of any shottist's career.

Our juniors were introduced to the electronic scoring system which, simply is the best method of scoring. That was the consensus of all the juniors that attended Bisley. The range officer gives the instruction to prepare and then to fire. The shooters have 45 seconds to aim and shoot a single round. Once the shot has been fired it appears

alongside the other competitors' shots on a big screen projected on a wall in the range. Each score scores the ring score, and indicates the proximity to the next ring score. This is achieved by indicating the score as it's ring score and a decimal value. Thus a 9,0 shows

that the shot has just cut the 9 ring while a score of 9,9 is so close to being a bull, that it is a squeaker. This also happens in the bull. A 10,9 means that the shot is a perfect bull - right in the middle. In this competition every decimal score counted.

The gallery was actively involved in the competition and applauded every bull, while any nines or lower

scores were met with a deafening silence which of course was extremely intimidating.

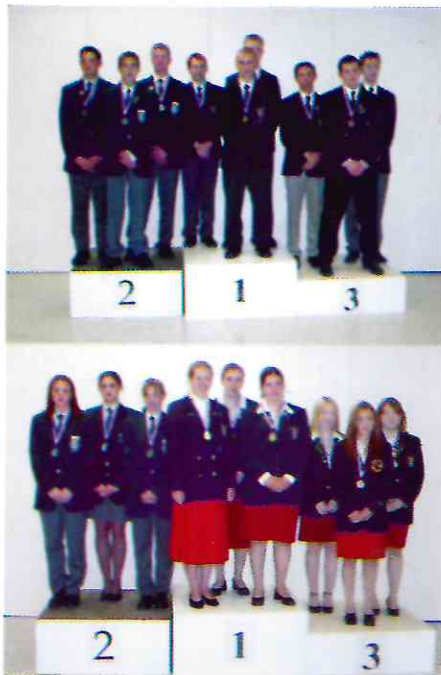
But that is international shooting and the only way to become accustomed to the stress, is via continued participation.

The electronic scoring system shows your score and placing simultaneously. The first numeral indicating the score and the second one your overall placing.

The junior shoot at Bisley in 2002 was the biggest ever with competitors from South Africa, the United States, Australia and of course the United Kingdom. A total of over 900 shottists competed in this event.

► 24

Our teams receiving their medals



... at Bisley 2002

A celebration of sporting achievement



Gavin van Rhyn



If ever you have come across an unpretentious, straight talking and seemingly carefree shooting spirit, it must be Gavin van Rhyn. Prior to meeting him, most people are under the under the impression that this is a man that is clearly not bothered about his achievements on the shooting range and has an apparent, matter of fact attitude about the sport. But do not be fooled by his demeanour. Gavin takes his shooting seriously, even though he always has time for a quick joke.

Gavin inherits his love for shooting from his father Ashley van Rhyn. He accompanied his father to the shooting range from an early age and started shooting Small Bore in 1983 at the age of 15 years. He moved from C-Class in 1983 to A-Class in 1985. He achieved a 5th position in the A-Class at the South African National Small Bore Championships in 1985 - quite an achievement, for somebody who was only shooting for 2 years at that stage. He obtained his Provincial Colours for the first time in 1984 and has represented Northern Transvaal every year, since then.

He received his Springbok Colours for the first time in 1985 when he went to England and won the Junior Championship for Small Bore Shooting at Bisley. He has received his Springbok Colours on numerous occasions since then. Gavin represented South Africa on international level from 1988 to date and has an extensive list of international achievements.

During 1989, he yet again obtained his Springbok Colours and represented his country, in England and Switzerland. He was part of the team, who won the gold medal, at

the African Championship in 1991. In 1995, he won the gold medal in the individual event of the African Championship, although he was not selected for the South African Team competing at this event. In 1996 he accompanied the Northern Province Team to Bisley in England where he won the A-Class Championship. He also participated in the Commonwealth Championships, in 1997, winning the gold in the individual prone and the bronze, in the team event.

He repeated this success when he won the gold medal, with Michael Thiele in the team event and the bronze in the individual prone event at the 1998, Commonwealth Games, in Kuala Lumpur.

Gavin also participated in the World Cup in Munich and Milan in 1996 and was placed a very commendable 11th overall.

Locally, Gavin has also had quite a few successes. He has won the South African National Small Bore Championship on three occasions. His first victory of this coveted title was in 1995, which according to him was quite a unique moment since his father won the same event, exactly ten years prior to that. Since





then he has been at loggerheads with another South African Champion, Jaco Henn, amongst others, to win the title.

Gavin has the added privilege of being married to a shooter. Ronel van Rhyn has proved herself a tough and very noteworthy competitor. She and Gavin won the South African National Small Bore Championship for men and women simultaneously, in 1998.

Gavin also represented South Africa in the SISM (Sports International Shooting Military), an international event between the top international military shooters. This event took him to places like Croatia in 1999 and Finland in 2001.

Gavin shot a score of 597/600 at one of his International Matches and a 599/600 at the SANDF Championship, in 2002. This score was however not acknowledged since the SANDF is not a province. It does however equal the South African record of 599/600 held at present, by Freek Senore.

Gavin has one word of advice for all junior shooters, "Perseverance generates success". Always try harder and never underestimate the power of positive thinking.

RM

**Gavin has one word of advice for all junior shooters,
"Perseverance generates success".**





Up Close: Women & Shooting

Being Esmari van Reenen

- a proud ambassador of South African Target Shooting

Although her national career has been quite illustrious thus far, she marks her silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, as the highlight of her career to date.

South Africa, and more specifically its shooters brought home 11 medals from the Commonwealth Games held at Manchester in 2002. Here is an exclusive insight into the career of Esmari van Reenen, the only South African woman who won a medal in target shooting, at the Games.

Esmari started shooting at the age of 15 in 1996, while she attended High School in Krugersdorp. She participates in the Small Bore Prone, Small Bore 3 positional and Air Rifle Events.

She has attained South African School Colours and Senior and Junior Protea Colours, on various occasions for the Small Bore and Air Rifle Events. She won the Ladies Prone

Event at the South African Championship in 2002 and she also placed second overall in the 3 positional. Although her national career has been quite illustrious thus far, she marks her silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, as the highlight of her career to date.

She has had quite a few international successes over the past few years including her participation at the British National Championship and Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championship at Bisley in England in 2001. At the British Nationals she competed in the prone 50 metre event and was placed 3rd overall while winning the Oakley Cup for the leading woman in the British Prone Championship and the Endeavour trophy for the leading junior at the same championships.

Esmari looks forward to the African Games that will be held in Pretoria during the month of September 2003 and hopes to kick start her Olympic prospects by participating in this competition.

Esmari has in the interim also completed her BSc Computer Science degree at the



With coach Mike Potgieter



Esmari and her proud mother



Esmari's Equipment:
Small Bore: 22 Anschütz 1912
Air Rifle: Fernwerkbau Model P50
Small Bore Ammo: Eley Tenex



University of Pretoria. Notwithstanding the above she intends to concentrate on her shooting career for the next few years and more specifically to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2004.

We wish Esmari all the best with her efforts for 2003 and qualifying for the 2004 Olympics. We believe she has the mettle and dedication to materialise her dreams.

We were fortunate enough to attend the SAPS Invitational shoot which was held at the SAPS College on the 18th of January 2003. Esmari won the first detail and the overall event. We believe that this is only an indication of things to come!



Meet Jaco Henn

by Jaco Henn



Jaco was introduced to the shooting sports at the age of three and a half, when he started shooting with his mother's .38 Special revolver. He grew up, shooting on a regular basis with his air pistol and rifle while spending afternoons at his parents' gun shop and shooting range. In 1988 Jaco was introduced to Small Bore Rifle Shooting and attended the SA Championship in Bloemfontein with his brother Michael. Michael had already received his Junior Springbok Colours in 1985 for 22.5 metres Small Bore Rifle Shooting.

In 1990 Jaco was awarded Junior Springbok Colours for 22.5 metres Small Bore Rifle Shooting. He was awarded Junior Springbok Colours for Air Rifle in 1992 and attended his first World Cup competition in Europe. Later that year he was awarded full Springbok Colours for Air Rifle.

In 1993, while he was still a junior, he was awarded his first full Springbok Colours for Small Bore Rifle Shooting, competing in the 50 metre 3 positional shooting event. That year he attained victory at the African Championship in Bloemfontein in the 50 metres and 3 positional shooting events.

From here Jaco went on to even greater things and was awarded full Springbok Colours on numerous occasions for Small Bore and Air Rifle Shooting. In 1994 he attended his first Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada and World Championship in Milan, Italy. These competitions afforded him the opportunity to gain invaluable insight and experience for future participation on international level.

In 1995 he was invited to participate in an elite Air Rifle competition in Switzerland and immediately thereafter, went off to India for

the Commonwealth Championship. During the African Championship in Egypt later that year he was acknowledged as the best male shooter in Africa. He participated in two events at these championship and brought back four gold medals.

In 1996 he shot the World Cup in Atlanta (Pre-Olympics) where he qualified to participate in his first ever Olympic Games, later that year. He took a break during 1997 but still competed in the African Championship in Bloemfontein, where he, yet again, won two gold medals.

In 1998 he went to Australia to participate at the Australian Games, winning a gold and silver medal and later that year he went to

Malaysia for the Commonwealth Games.

He attended the African Championship in Cairo in 1999, where he pulled off the extremely enviable task of winning three gold and one silver medal.

The new Millennium took Jaco to Australia for the Sydney World Cup (Pre-Olympics) and later that year he returned to Sydney for the Olympic Games.

In 2001 Jaco participated in the Commonwealth Championship in the United Kingdom. He had a very successful Commonwealth Games in 2002 and won a silver and bronze medal in the Small Bore events..

You might say that the gods have smiled upon Jaco, in his shooting career to date. With close to a thousand medals, he is definitely one of South Africa's best shooting specimen. Jaco says that he still enjoys the sport enormously and that it has enriched his life infinitely. He is also a keen squash and tennis player, and spends his time playing professional paintball for a team called Rage. Jaco is a qualified master diver and goes scuba diving to relax and unwind.

AM



The Small Bore Rifle or .22 as it is generally referred to, had its inception after the Boer war. The creator of this firearm, was Lord Roberts of the UK. Lord Roberts made the observation that the South Africans gave his highly trained soldiers a severe thrashing during the South African Boer War and the only conclusion he could draw was that the South Africans were better marksmen than the English. He instructed Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) the manufacturers of the Martini Henry, Lee Enfield and Lee Metford rifles to design a cheaper weapon with which to train every Englishman the art of marksmanship.

Lord Roberts concluded that the 303 rifle was too expensive and required vast tracks of land for shooting ranges. He wanted a rifle that could fit into highly populated areas of Britain with a cheap ammunition.

BSA came up with the idea of making an insert to fit into the Martini Henry (which was a 12,5 mm bore rifle) bore to take a .22 bullet. The size .22 was decided on after extensive ballistic testing and research. This was found to be the smallest possible caliber that will withstand atmospheric conditions while still being able to work in the insert of the 12,2 mm.

The primer of this cartridge case presented a problem because the ordinary Boxer and Berdin primers available for center fire cartridges were too big. The scientists then came up with the rim fire cartridge case. The primer is spun into the case. This rifle had it's greatest accuracy over 50m but could be used effectively up to 100m and down to 25m. It was cheap and required very small ranges, in fact, it could be used indoors in adverse weather conditions. The .22 was born.

It was primarily designed as a training

Lord Roberts made the observation that the South Africans gave his highly trained soldiers a severe thrashing during the South African Boer War and the only conclusion he could draw was that the South Africans were better marksmen than the English.

aid and not as a weapon of destruction. Unfortunately snipers and poachers soon realized the value of this weapon and the abuse started.

Since those early days the .22 has developed into a very accurate and high tech shooting instrument. RWS for instance manufacturers a special bullet for Germany's national team. The USA and the Russians do

including accessories, with metallic sights and a sling to support the rifle, are used.

Competitors fire 60 shots from a prone position, within a one and half hour time limit, from 50 metres at a 10 ring, 10 millimetre (.45inch) diameter.

The maximum score is 600.

The top 8 shooters advance to the finals where a 10 shot string is fired under a specific time

An introduction to

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

(Olympic event)

by Dr Leon de Man

the same. This very special ammunition is not available in the market place.

It takes at least four years to develop a .22 shooter from national level to international Gold level providing of course that he has the ability to develop.

PRONE SHOOTING EVENT

The English match event has not changed much over the years. It remains a precision match using a .22 rifle, firing one shot per target (60 targets).

.22 Calibre long rifles, which do not exceed eight kilograms (6,5kg for women)

limit. Scores are calculated by decimal point and added to the preliminary scores to decide the winner. In the event of a tie a shot by shot "shoot-off" is used.

FREE RIFLE 3 POSITIONAL EVENT

This is a scaled down version of the grueling Free Rifle, 3 position, 300 metre event.

It is fired from prone, standing and kneeling. One shot per target. A .22 rifle with an eight kilogram weight limit (including accessories) with a metallic sight are used.

40 shots for men and 20 shots for women are fired from 50 metres in each of three positions prone, standing kneeling for 120 shots for men and 60 for women.

Maximum score is 1 200 for the men.

One hour and thirty minutes for prone, two hours for standing and one hour and 45 minutes for kneeling are allowed for the men.

Ladies use a sport rifle, which is similar to the free rifle, but may only weigh 6.5kg. Ladies fire unlimited sighting shots and 20 to count in each of the three positions prone, standing kneeling in that sequence.

Maximum score is 600 points. Time allowed is 2 hours 30 minutes for the complete match when using electronic target changers.

The top 8 shooters advance to the finals where a 10 shot string is fired under a specific time limit. Scores are calculated on decimal points and added to the preliminary scores to decide the winner. In the event of a tie, a shot by shot "shoot-off" is used.



SOUTH AFRICAN SHOOTING TEAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES MANCHESTER 2002



Perspective on Manchester 2002

by Jaco Henn

The Commonwealth Games were held in August and September 2002 in Manchester, England. It is also known as the "Friendly Games" and is deemed as a highlight in the career of most shooters or athletes who participate in this event. It is a huge honour for athletes of all disciplines to be selected to represent their country at these prestigious games.

Last year's Commonwealth Games saw 37 country's participating in the shooting events.

South Africa's best shooters were selected for the team. After passing physical fitness and drug tests the shooters selected, had to participate in all the rifle and pistol events. The team consisted of 12 competitors, 4 coaches and 1 team manager. Most of the shooters that were selected, participated in more than one event. The Commonwealth shooting events, are unlike any other. The shooters must first shoot the "Badge Match", then a "Pairs Match" and then proceed to the individual events. The "Badge Match" is a preparatory competition and is utilised by different shooters for different reasons. Every shooter has his own agenda for this match - some shooters use it as an official practise in competitive conditions, others use it as psychological and mental preparation for the remaining matches. This match is also a perfect opportunity for the organisers to ensure that once the competition starts, it proceeds

smoothly and to make alterations prior to the official medal matches. The "Pairs Match" being the team competition was the second match to be shot. The only difference in this match is that a team will consist of two shooters instead of three. The South African shooters seized the opportunity to show their class and ability by winning numerous medals in this match. Suddenly everybody sat up and took notice. Here was a new threat to the cream of the crop shooting countries - England, India, Australia and Canada. During the Individual Event, the South Africans once again caused an uproar by achieving a lot of 2nd and 3rd places.

South Africa's shooters stayed in Guildford at the Surrey University which is approximately 20 minutes away from the shooting venue by coach. All precautions were taken to ensure that the shooters ran a tight schedule and arrived timeously for all competitions. As is the case at the Olympic

Games, the organisers of the Commonwealth Games have to rely on volunteers to lighten the workload and to ensure that the competitions run without a hitch. The volunteers were well equipped for the task at hand and we salute them for their efforts.

The shooting venue for the Games was Lord Roberts. The ranges were upgraded with 6 000 000 pounds received from the UK lotto. This money was put to good use. A new 10 metre air rifle range and a 50 metre rifle/pistol range were erected which were fully equipped with state of the art electronic equipment.

The South African shooting team accumulated a total of 11 medals. In the Small Bore Events Jaco Henn and Michael Thiele won the silver medal in the men's 50 metres Prone Pairs Event while Jaco also won a bronze medal in the 50 metres Individual Prone Event. Esmarie van Reenen won the silver in the Ladies Prone Event.

Congratulations to our Small Bore shooters and the rest of the South African shooting team. You did South Africa proud. The next Commonwealth Games will be held in 2006 in Australia, Melbourne - so get down and start shooting guys!



Junior Target Shooting

Tomorrow's champions today!



JUNIOR TARGET SHOOTING at

by Erna Pretorius

Hoërskool Middelburg

Hoërskool Middelburg re-introduced 22.5mm target shooting in May 2000. At the end of 2001 one pupil obtained Provincial Colours in 22.5mm.

During 2002 the range which accommodated 16 shooters was upgraded to accommodate 24 shooters. A small pavilion was also built.

The school won the regionals in 2002 when both their girl teams won, and the boys did reasonably well. They took 5 of the 9 trophies during that competition:

Best Junior girl - Annemarie Pretorius

Best Junior team

Best Senior team

Best Junior boy - Gustav Ilse
And the overall regional trophy.

The Junior girl team also won at the Mpumalanga finals.

Four pupils received their Provincial Colours after the Mpumalanga finals. 2 Junior boys, 1 Senior boy and 1 girl for air rifle.

At the Nationals the Junior girls of Mpumalanga walked off with the gold medal at the end of the competition and Sydney Msimanga a grade 8 pupil was chosen for the President's Team after a shoot out which included a sudden death.

Since the school only has a 22.5mm range, those who want to shoot 50m practice at



Hoërskool Kanonkop. This year 6 pupils of our school are involved in the 50m discipline of whom 4 have just received Provincial Colours.

The amount of shooters grew from 16 in 2000 to 42 in 2003.

All shooters, parents and coaches were very pleased when the headmaster, Johan Stronkhorst said we could build a shooting range at the end of last year.

With the help of our parents, the framework was put up in no time on a Saturday and at the end of February, the roof was finally up! The coaches, Mrs. E. Pretorius and Chris Naudé want to thank all sponsors, parents and the headmaster for upgrading the range! Phase 2 will be completed by 2004.

They also want to thank the following persons for all their help, especially in the beginning: Gerald van der Merwe, Jaques Koster and Leon du Preez.

One of our pupils Sydney Msimanga, received a sponsorship from Range Magazine and Potshot Gunshop, to attend the 2003 National Small Bore Championships in Bloemfontein.

Sydney received a brand new shooting jacket and glove from Potshot and his ammunition, transport and all other related costs were sponsored by Range Magazine.

Read the article about Sydney in our next edition.



Junior Target Shooting

I started coaching shooting during 1993 with Wimpie van der Westhuizen at Kanonkop Hoerskool. One of my dreams came true when our school's 50 metre Small Bore Shooting Range was completed in 2000. I have always wanted to have one of the best shooting schools in the province. This dream was realised in 2001 - Kanonkop was the regional winners and our junior girls and boys were nominated as the best teams in the province.

With the start of the new club we faced ample new challenges. I personally started shooting to enable me to grow as a coach and to better understand my shooters and I have accompanied the Mpumalanga Provincial Team to the South African National Championships from 1998 to date.

Shooting started at Kanonkop Hoerskool in 1992, with 9 shooters and with the use of the facilities of neighbouring schools. By 1998 we have grown to 42 shooters, which necessitated plans to build a shooting range. In 1999, one of our scholars, John Smith, obtained our school's first Provincial Colours. He was closely followed by Erika Bruwer, who obtained her Provincial Colours in 1999. As stated, the shooting range was completed during 2000, and is the only 50 metre range in the province. This is also the year in which our school took the honours in the junior and senior boys final. Eleven of our shooters were awarded Provincial Colours and one shooter gained his National Colours.

Kanonkop participated in the 50 metre National Small Bore Championships for the first time in 2001. Three of our shooters gained Mpumalanga Provincial Colours for the 50 metre event and 5 shooters gained Provincial Colours for 22,5m.

Nanda Gilfillan gained her National Colours at the South African Championships and our school once again won the regional final and boys senior and junior regional final. In 2002 year eight of our junior shooters obtained Provincial Colours in the 50 metre event, six of our senior shooters obtained Provincial Colours in the 50 metre event and six juniors obtained Provincial Colours in the 22,5 metre event.

Three shooters also gained their National Colours - Nanda Gilfillan (50m), Melissa Etsebeth (50m) and Tommie Scholtz (22,5m). The senior boys won the regional final with a team average of 94,5 %.

OUR BEST SHOOTERS TO DATE

ERIKA BRUWER 1999-2000: In 1999 she obtained her Provincial Colours and was appointed the best senior girl in the region. At the South African National Small Bore Championships she had an average of 94,3 % and finished 18th overall. In 2000 she gained her Junior Protea Colours (B-Team) in the 22,5 metre with an average of 95 %.

MELISSA ETSEBETH 2000-2002: In 2000 she obtained her Provincial Colours and came 6th overall in the junior girl division.

In 2001 she finished 4th overall in the senior girls division. She obtained her Junior Protea Colours (B-Team) in 50 metre with an average of 94,1 %.

TOMMIE SCHOLTZ 2001- to date: He obtained his Provincial Colours for the 50 metre and 22,5 metre events. During October 2002 he obtained his National Colours (C-Team) and finished 14th overall in the junior boys division.

NANDA GILFILLAN: She started shooting in grade 7 and obtained her Provincial Colours for 22,5 metres. She obtained a 3rd position for the junior girls and 7th overall at the South African National Championships in the same year. She subsequently obtained her National Colours. She gained her National Colours again in 2002 when she ended 5th in the girls division.

Although we no longer shoot Small Bore at school level, quite a few of our juniors still participate in Small Bore shooting. I must also add that our younger shooters are very much interested in the growing sport of Air Rifle and regularly compete in events throughout the country.

Dries Stolz
Prinsloo Coetzee
Ettiene Venter
Janus Marais

All the shooters obtained their personal best scores during this competition. The Mpumalanga juniors obtained 24 medals and won the Provincial School Competition with an average of 93,8 %.

Nanda Gilfillan won 3 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals and obtained a best score of 587 / 600. She finished 2nd in the D-Class with an average of 96,2 %. She took the honours as the best girl shooter and obtained a 7th position in the prone event for the ladies. She was also chosen to shoot in the Randle Trophy Competition (consisting of the 10 best ladies shooters in South Africa). Her average score for this competition (i.e both the 50 and 100 metre event) was 98,25 %.

To all the Small Bore shooters out there - Take note Kanonkop will become a force to be reckoned with!

Hoërskool Kanonkop

By Leon du Preez

From 1998 - 2002 our school obtained the following Provincial Honours:

- 16 Provincial Shooters in the 22.5 metre Small Bore Discipline;
- 2 National Shooters in the 22,5 metre Small Bore Discipline;
- 10 Provincial Shooters in the 50 metre Small Bore Discipline;
- 2 National Shooters in the 50 metre Small Bore Discipline.

The following shooters participated in the Small Bore National Championships in 2003:

De Wet Dreyer
John Freckleton
Marissa Genis
Anneke du Bruyn
Anneta du Preez
Nanda Gilfillan
Annemarie Pretorius
Wilma van Schalkwyk
Jantjie Cilliers
Alicia Breytenbach
Ceney van Loggerenberg
Pieter van der Merwe
Leon du Preez
Cornelia Roodt
Kendal Hibbert
Neels Greyling

