

# THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

*Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958*



[www.bpsu.co.za](http://www.bpsu.co.za)

Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADER ASSOCIATIONS' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

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## NEWSFLASH NO 4 OF 2015

Dear BPSU members

The long range team from 2007 has been around the world participating in every world long range match. We had a number of representatives in the Replica class and one representative in the Original class.

In 2007 we hosted the event in Cape Town and won the mid range team event, the long range team event and became the first country that could exceed 900 points in the overall team aggregate. In the Original class Kobus De Villiers became the world champion. Several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world.

In 2009 we participated in Camp Butner in North Carolina, USA, where we have won the long range team event, won the overall team aggregate again with over 900 points and Eugene Kuisis became the Replica class world champion and Kobus de Villiers again the Original class world champion. Tertius Smit shot a new world record at the 900 yards event. Again several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and again 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world.

During 2011 we participated in Bisley, Surrey, UK, and again won the long range team event and the overall team aggregate event with over 900 points. Kobus de Villiers again secured the Original class world title and Merwe van Rensburg was counted out with 2 V-Bulls by Dave Gullo of the USA for the Replica class world title. Corena de Beer won the 300 yards event in the Replica class. Tertius Smit shot a world record at the 1 000 yards event ensuring that the long range world records on yards ranges belonged to South Africa. Again several other medals and awards were secured by the South Africans and again 5 South Africans ended within the top 10 shooters in the world. By then the participating South Africans believed that they have shown the world that we are a force to be reckoned with, winning a round robin event of three world championships.

During September 2013 South Africa hosted the world long range championships on the Atlantis shooting range in Cape Town. Visiting countries like especially the UK, USA and Germany were well prepared and we could sense the absolute motivation among them to take the Protea team on and to rewrite the history books by beating the Protea team on South African soil. Countries new to the

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long range sport like the Netherlands and Australia were clearly also well prepared and well motivated to make their mark in the long range sport.

For the Protea team the world long range championship goes about the team events. Wonderful personal achievements in the individual events are extremely important and appreciated, but the team events (efforts) are what it is about. In these events each country fields four shooters and a wind coach. This however do not exclude any of the other shooters. They remain just as involved at all times during the team events with several other responsibilities apart from pulling the trigger on instruction of the wind coach. The importance of the team events so being to establish which country is the best in the mid range and in the long range events. Accumulative then, who would be the world leading country in the overall team aggregate and therefore in world long range muzzle loading shooting, keeping in mind that our sport is the grandfather of the sport of Bisley shooting as known today.

Wonderful teamwork ensured that the Protea team again won the world mid range trophy, the world long range trophy and again the overall team aggregate with way more than 900 points. All three of these matches in new world record scores in the meters events. It is further of great importance to note that the Protea team is the only team that could ever exceed the 900 point mark in the history of our sport and did so in four consecutive world matches – on its own an achievement that demoralise all the other participating countries.

During this world championship the South Africans secured 25 out of the possible 28 Gold Medals (team events included). **Apart from this overall achievement we also had the honour that two South Africans again became the individual World Champions in both Original and Replica classes. Kobus de Villiers won his 4<sup>th</sup> title in a row in the Original class and announced his retirement after completion of the championships. Marnus Steyn secured the individual world title in the Replica class during his first participation in a long range World Championship. This in itself is a great achievement that will now place a lot of pressure on him to become the first person to consecutively repeat this and again become the individual World Champion. I am sure he is well aware of what is expected from him in Camp Butner 2015.** I do not think for one moment that there can be any doubt in any person's mind about who the leading nation in long range muzzle loading shooting is.

### **2015 Camp Butner, North Carolina**

Today in a weeks' time the selected Protea Long Range Team will again depart to Camp Butner, North Carolina. Very experienced members of the 2009 team will know the range and will be able to guide and assist the newly selected members who for the first time will participate in an overseas long range event. Each member of the newly selected Protea team worked very, very hard over the past two years to maintain their leadership in the sport and even just to qualify for the selected Protea team. Qualification for this elite team of shooters did not go down easy and the shooters really had to work hard and maintain their dedication. Many kilometres were travelled and lots and lots of money were spent on lead and black powder.

Thanks a lot, guys and girl, I salute you all for your dedication to the BPSU, SABU, SASCOC and South Africa. A big thank you to the team Captain and wind coach, Johan de Beer, for his dedication to the currently selected team, further honing their shooting skills and ensuring that we once again will present the best South Africa has to offer under our current challenging circumstances.

Although he has qualified for the team himself, he again has withdrawn from selection for the team events to enable him to coach the other shooters; as he very successfully did in 2013.

The Protea Team that will represent us in the USA will be:

- Johan de Beer (Captain and Coach)
- Hubert Heydenrych (Team Manager).
- Corena de Beer
- Pieter Truter
- Marnus Steyn
- Tertius Smit
- André Stander
- Chris Williams

I wish the Team good luck in their last week of mental preparation before their departure.

Go out there, travel well, focus on what your are meant to achieve, but most of all enjoy every moment of wearing your- and shooting under your official colours in a World Championship representing South Africa

I am extremely confident in the team that was selected and am just as confident that they will once again return glorious to South Africa.

For those who want to join the Team at the Cape Town International and O R Tambo International Airports to wish them well on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2015**, they will be available at **Cape Town International from 11:00** and **OR Tambo from 15:15**.

From me and the Vice Chairman, Eugene Kuisis – Bon Voyage.

Kind regards

**MERWE VAN RENSBURG**

**CHAIRMAN: BPSU of SA**

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