

## [Pictures of BPSU Shooting over the Years](#) [History of the Palma Match](#)

(from **The Rifleman's Journal** - <http://riflemansjournal.blogspot.com>)

The modern era of historical arms shooting began in the Cape in 1958 when a small group of 9 enthusiasts started the Historical Firearms Society of South Africa (HFSSA) in Cape Town, the late Barry Berkowitch being the commanding figure. The first black powder shooting club, the Cape Town Muzzle Loaders Association (CTMLA) was also founded in 1958.

In 1962 the 1st triangular postal match between South Africa, the United States of America and Great Britain was held. By 1969 regular organised shooting of black powder arms in the Transvaal gave rise to the formation of the second black powder shooting club, the Transvaal Muzzle Loaders (TML). Over the next two decades members of these clubs set impressive national records for various classes of black powder arms.

For example,

*Free Muzzle Loading Rifle:*

GW Spencer 95/100 in 1975;

NAW Richardson 97/100 in 1979;

HT Stanley 98/100 in 1981; and

BM MacDougall 100/100 in 1983.

*Single Shot Pistol:*

Michael Elson and André Malan 96/100 in 1983.

In the late 1970s the Historical Firearms Shooting Union was formed as a separate body to the HFSSA to focus on developing the sport of black powder shooting. A few years later the name of the body was changed to the present Black Powder Shooting Union of South Africa (BPSU).

By then, competitive shooting with black powder breechloading arms became popular and in 1978 the Transvaal Breechloaders was formed. This was the first and only club catering for vintage and classical breechloaders and was based at Zwartkop, subsequently home of the Mariette Black Powder Shooting Club.

Regular international matches were held between SA, USA, and Great Britain in the 1980s and the national body controlling black powder shooting, the Historical Firearms Shooting Union of South Africa (HFSA) then became affiliated to the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee (MLAIC) and adopted its rules for local and national competitions with muzzle loading firearms. SA since participated in several World Championship Muzzle Loading events (Codogna, Italy [1975]; Zurich, Switzerland [1977]; Virginia, USA [1980]; Bisley, UK [1981]; Cape Town, SA [2001]; Bordeaux, France [2006]; Cape Town, SA [2007]; Adelaide, Australia [2008]; Camp Butner, USA [2009]; Barcelos, Portugal [2010]; Bisley, UK [2011]; Pforzheim, Germany [2012]; Cape Town, SA [2013]; Granada, Spain [2014]; Camp Butner, USA [2015], Sarlóspuszta, Hungary [2016]; Adelaide, Australia [2017] and Eisenstaedt, Austria [2018]). No international competitions were held during 2020 and 2021 due to the global COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 1983 SA was invited to participate in the MLAIC World Championships in Bordeaux France, but due to complaints from other countries about the racial sporting policy in SA, the team was ultimately banned. The USA was outraged at this and under the leadership of Bucky (Donald) Malson organised a test match between South Africa and the USA in Colesville, New Jersey. This team consisted of Steve Berkemeyer (captain), John Hall, Jack Wittleston, Eddy Stern, Derek Engelbrecht, Malcolm Cobb, Michael Elson, André Malan, Werner Krier and Dave Preiss.

In the Whitworth individual event, John Hall won the gold medal with a score of 96/100 and in the Rigby team event, Jack Wittleston shot a magnificent 98/100! In the handgun events, Michael Elson won the gold medal with a score of 96/100 in the Kuchenreuter match with his .44 Repro Le Page – André Malan shot the same score but was counted out to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This was a new SA record that still stands today! Michael

equalled this score in the team event, followed by David Preiss with a 95/100. David Montag managed to equal the Kuchenreuter record in Switzerland in 1994.

In 1997 the BPSU played a key role in the formation of the World Long Range Historical Rifle Shooting Association. It hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> World Championships at Bloemfontein where six nations were represented. It also contributed to the drafting of the rules to regulate this event and which have been adopted internationally. The earlier events were mostly held under rules for competition and safety, which had been established by various national and international bodies with similar shooting interests.

Currently, the BPSU regulates the competitive shooting of historical firearms dating from the flintlock era of the 1700s up to and including service arms of the pre-1919 period, and reproductions thereof, in a wide range of events. These are hosted either by the BPSU or by the Provincial clubs, under the auspices of the BPSU.

The rapid expansion of competitive shooting of historical firearms in SA has prompted the BPSU to publish a comprehensive book of rules to promote safety and regulate competitive shooting in SA.

In **2001** South Africa hosted the ***Historical Rifle World Long-Range Championship*** in Cape Town. The SA mid-range team won the bronze medal in the team competition, while the long-range team won the silver. In 2003 SA competed in an individual as well as 8-man team matches against Germany in Cape Town. All the Germans shot breechloaders, while the SA team included 3 muzzle loaders. Some good individual scores were recorded, but Germany won the team events.

---

During **2005** the BPSU entered several teams to participate in the ***11<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Pacific Zone Championships*** in which 6 countries participated. South Africa won the gold medal in the Rigby team event, Willie de Beer was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Whitworth event and André Malan 5<sup>th</sup> in the Kuchenreuter event.

---

SA hosted the ***4<sup>th</sup> World Long-Range Historical Rifle Shooting Association Championship*** in Cape Town during **April 2006**. SA entered 16 shooters (13 breechloaders and 3 muzzle loaders) and official Protea colours were awarded for the first time by SASCOC. Several individual medals were won by SA and the team won the 900m; an astonishing 63.20 points ahead of the USA in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. That secured the silver medal for the SA long-range team.

Shotgun shooting (muzzle loader and flintlock) is also well established with several Protea Teams who represented SA at International events. The SA team participating in the ***22<sup>nd</sup> MLAIC World Championships*** in Bordeaux, France in August **2006** consisted of Willie de Beer (captain/shooter), Merwe van Rensburg, Japie Maritz, Casper Badenhorst, Joe Raymond, Edward Knowles, Manuel Cardoso-Lopes and Corena de Beer. The shotgun team consisted of Zappi Lupini, George Synodinos, Vinci Vimercati, Kevin Greenwood, Johann Theron and Paul Vimercati as manager. A total of 26 countries participated in the world championships and 2 of the Protea team did SA proud with good scores - Zappi Lupini in the Lorenzoni event and Corena de Beer in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Walkyrie event.

---

In April **2007**, the BPSU also entered a national team to participate in the ***12<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Pacific Zone Championships*** that was shot during the National Championships in Bloemfontein. Some very good scores were recorded, and SA won 17 medals. In the Whitworth event, Merwe van Rensburg was 3<sup>rd</sup> and Corena de Beer 6<sup>th</sup>, Casper Badenhorst came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Vetterli, Corena de Beer won silver in the Walkyrie, Zappi Lupini won the gold medal and Vinci Vimercati bronze in the Lorenzoni, and the Rigby team won the silver medal.

In September **2007** France, UK, USA, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Sweden, and SA competed in the ***6<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range Muzzle Loading World Championships*** at the Good Hope Shooting Range in Cape Town. The team consisted of Merwe van Rensburg (captain/shooter), Willie de Beer, Japie Maritz, Casper Badenhorst, Corena de Beer, Johan de Beer, John Duckitt, Darryl Carver, Kobus de Villiers, Ronnie Blake,

Tertius Smit, Dave Taylor, Gavin James, and Johann Vosser as manager. The MLAIC rules acknowledge the first 6 places in each event (gold, silver, bronze and certificates for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> places). At the end of the individual events SA secured 31 awards (medals and certificates).

Japie Maritz shot a new world record of 48.3/50 at the 500m individual event. Kobus de Villiers won 5 of the 6 original rifle events, all with new metric World Records. After the individual events, 4-man teams competed in the mid- and long-range team events. SA (Merwe van Rensburg, Tertius Smit, Japie Maritz, and Casper Badenhorst) won the mid-range team event with a huge margin of 31 points and 9 V-bulls, with France in 2<sup>nd</sup> and the USA in 3<sup>rd</sup> places. After trailing by 24 points after 800m in the long-range team event, the SA team (Merwe van Rensburg, Japie Maritz, Tertius Smit and Kobus De Villiers) shot magnificent in blistering wind conditions at 900m to win the Long-Range team event with 31 points. Switzerland was 2<sup>nd</sup> and the USA 3<sup>rd</sup>. SA was the undisputed DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPIONS with an overall win of 81 points.



---

The **23<sup>rd</sup> MLAIC World Short-Range Championships** took place in Australia in September **2008**. SA entered 4 seniors (Corena de Beer [captain/shooter], Willie de Beer, Colin Twine, Eddy Stern [shooting his original rifle]), 2 shotgun shooters (Robbie Crawford-Brunt and Frans Cronjé) and 4 juniors (Clint Slabbert, MJ Dippenaar, Wim Steyn, and Frederik Jacobs). This was the first time that SA entered a junior team and they won 14 medals, with some good individual performances. Entering a junior team in a world match showed commitment towards developing skills within the juniors and improving the future of the sport.

---

During **2009** the SA again entered and won 14 awards at the **13<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championships**. Tertius Smit won the bronze medal in the Minie, and Rodney Kretzchmar was in joint 3<sup>rd</sup> position for the bronze medal.

During September **2009** SA participated in the **7<sup>th</sup> MLAIC World Long-Range Championships**, hosted by the USA at the Camp Butner Range in North Carolina. The Protea team consisted of Merwe van Rensburg (captain/shooter), Eugene Kuisis, Japie Maritz, Johan de Beer, Ronnie Blake, John Duckitt, Tertius Smit, Gavin James, Corena de Beer, Kobus de Villiers, and Johann Vosser as manager. SA performed well in the mid-range individual events and secured several awards. The mid-range team secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, only 2 points behind Germany. During the long-range events, SA won gold (Tertius Smit with a new world record on 67.2/75), silver (Eugene Kuisis with 65.4) and bronze (Merwe van Rensburg with 65.3) on the 900-yard individual event, all 3 breaking the world record. Eugene Kuisis won the 1 000-yard event with 62.3/75 with Merwe van Rensburg in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The SA long-range team broke the world record with a score of 477.18 (68.9 points higher than the previous record) with Great Britain in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 427.1. The team also won the overall team aggregate by a margin of 78.17, with a team total of 976.44, followed by USA in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Germany in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Five SA shooters were in the top 10 on the Grand Aggregate (Eugene Kuisis, Tertius Smit, Merwe van Rensburg, Kobus De Villiers and Gavin James). Eugene Kuisis was crowned World Champion in the reproduction class and Kobus de Villiers successfully defended his 2007 world title as World Champion in the original class.



During August **2010**, a team of 4 senior shooters (Hennie Grobler, Colin Twine, Corena de Beer and Willie de Beer) accompanied by 6 junior shooters (MJ Dippenaar, Wim Steyn, Willem Steyn, Chris Twine, Bart Keet and Frederik Jacobs) and team manager and non-shooting captain Merwe van Rensburg attended the **24th MLAIC World Short Range Championships** hosted by Portugal at the Fervença Range in Barcelos. Besides SA, Poland, Austria, Spain, France, and Australia competed in the youth events, but none of the other countries had the required three shooters per team to enter a junior team. An informal competition was arranged by using the top three scores of any of the other juniors against the SA junior team to expose the junior shooters to a combination of the world's best. In the Soper (individual Vetterli Youth) match Frederik Jacobs came 2<sup>nd</sup> and MJ Dippenaar 5<sup>th</sup>. In the Ferris (individual Whitworth Youth) match MJ Dippenaar came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bart Keet 4<sup>th</sup> and Wim Steyn 6<sup>th</sup>. Frederik Jacobs also won the Whitworth (senior) match with a magnificent score of 99/100 with Chris Twine in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 97/100.

Proudly, in 2010 SA held the titles for Whitworth World Champion (reproduction), as well as individual Mid- and Long-Range World Champions for both reproduction and original classes.



The **8<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range World Championship** was hosted by the UK from 12 to 18 September **2011** at the world-renowned Bisley Range in the UK and attended by SA, Austria, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Great Britain, Sweden, Germany, France, and the USA. The SA team consisted of Japie Martiz (captain/coach/shooter), Merwe van Rensburg, Eugene Kuisis, Johan de Beer, Ronnie Blake, John Duckitt, Tertius Smit, Corena de Beer, Kobus de Villiers, Divan Ferreira, and Jonathan Hendley as manager. The team stayed at the Royal Air Force lodge and clubhouse at the Bisley shooting facility. In the reproduction class, Corena de Beer won gold and John Duckitt silver at 300-yards, Merwe van Rensburg won bronze at 500-yards, Tertius won gold at 900-yards (Tertius Smit) with a new world

record and John Duckitt won silver at 1000-yards. Kobus de Villiers won bronze at 300-yards, bronze at 500-yards, silver at 600-yards, gold at 900-yards and gold with a new world record at 1000-yards in the original class. He also won the individual Grand Aggregate and became the first shooter to win the original class mid- and long-range world title three consecutive times.

Corena de Beer won the award as the Top Scoring lady on the Grand Aggregate, Eugene Kuisis was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Mid-Range Aggregate with Tertius Smit winning the Long-Range aggregate. Besides the world records, two SA records were also broken – the 300 yards (Corena de Beer) and at 1 000 yards, both Tertius Smit and Kobus de Villiers broke the record with the same score. Merwe van Rensburg was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grand Aggregate, Tertius Smit was 4<sup>th</sup> and Corena de Beer 10<sup>th</sup>. A total of 16 individual medals and 4 awards were secured by the Proteas in the individual events. The mid-range team won the bronze medal, following Germany in 1<sup>st</sup> and Sweden in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The long-range team won with a team total of 903 points, the USA was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 886 points and Germany 3<sup>rd</sup> with 856 points. As in 2007 and 2009, the Proteas was the only country that could break the magical 900-point mark.

Due to some technical difficulties with the submission of the **15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championships**, the South African scores were never captured by the hosting country in **2011**.

---

The **25<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Short-Range World Championships** were held in Pforzheim, Germany in **2012**. The rifle team consisted of Johan de Beer (non-shooting captain/manager), Corena de Beer, André Stander, Johan van Wyk and Frederik Jacobs, with handgun shooters Shaun Kennedy, Bernard Toyk and André Malan.

---

SASCOC awarded Protea Colours again for the SA team to take part in the **9<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range World Championships** in Cape Town, South Africa from 8 to 14 September **2013**. The team consisted of Johan de Beer (captain/coach/shooter), Eugene Kuisis, Tertius Smit, Corena de Beer, Merwe van Rensburg, André Stander, Marnus Steyn, Chris Williams, John Duckitt and Ronnie Blake and Pieter Truter as manager. Kobus de Villiers as defending world champion competed in the original class. Merwe van Rensburg won the gold medal with an excellent score of 47.1/50 at 300m, with Corena de Beer in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, André Stander in 4<sup>th</sup>, Marnus Steyn in 5<sup>th</sup> and Ronnie Blake in 6<sup>th</sup>. Kobus de Villiers won the 300m gold medal in the Original Class, Marnus Steyn won the gold in the Reproduction Class at 500m, with Tertius Smit in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Eugene Kuisis in 4<sup>th</sup>. Kobus de Villiers won the silver medal in 500m in the Original Class (his only non-gold of the match). At 600m Eugene Kuisis won the gold in the Reproduction Class with Marnus Steyn in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tertius Smit in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ronnie Blake in 4<sup>th</sup> and Chris Williams in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

At 800m Kobus de Villiers won gold in the Original Class, and Marnus Steyn won silver and Tertius Smit bronze in the Reproduction Class, with Eugene Kuisis in 4<sup>th</sup> and Johan de Beer 6<sup>th</sup> place. Kobus de Villiers won gold in the Original Class and Marnus Steyn won gold in the Reproduction Class at 900m, with Tertius Smit in 5<sup>th</sup> and Eugene Kuisis in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The Long-Range Aggregate was also won by Kobus in the Original class and Marnus in the Reproduction class with Tertius in 4<sup>th</sup> and Eugene in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The SA Mid-Range team (300-600m) consisted of Eugene Kuisis and Tertius Smit with their reproduction Billingham underhammer rifles and Corena de Beer and Merwe van Rensburg with Ferriss rifles. Johan de Beer coached, and SA attained a team score of 487.20 to win the Mid-Range Team event, 43 points ahead of Germany in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Corena de Beer achieved the highest individual score of all competitors with 126.8, followed by Eugene Kuisis with 125.4 and Tertius Smit with 123.4.

During the 800m of the Long-Range team match also coached by Johan, Eugene and Tertius were shooting particularly well, to give SA a final score of 474.26, beating the USA by 30 points and 16 V-bulls, with Germany ending in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This aggregate team score was also a new world record.

Marnus Steyn was crowned the World Champion in the Reproduction Class, with Eugene 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tertius 4<sup>th</sup>, Johan 10<sup>th</sup>, Corena 12<sup>th</sup>, Ronnie 14<sup>th</sup>, Chris 15<sup>th</sup>, André 18<sup>th</sup> and John 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tertius has now come 4<sup>th</sup> in the previous 4 consecutive world championships and is surely the most consistent shooter in the world. Kobus

also won the Grand Aggregate in the Original Class with a huge margin for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. Corena won the trophy for the Top Scoring lady on the Grand Aggregate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive time.

During this World Championship SA secured 25 out of the possible 28 Gold Medals (team events included). For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive World Championship SA had 5 shooters in the top 10 in the individual Reproduction Class Grand Aggregate, twice the World Champion, as well as the World Champion in the Original Class.

The only medals won in the **14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championship** in **2013** was Corena de Beer, who won silver medals for the Whitworth and Walkyrie events.

---

In **2014**, the **25<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Short-Range World Championship** took place in Granada, Spain. SA sent the smallest team to date to compete in this championship, being Corena de Beer (captain/manager/shooter), Johan van Wyk, Pieter Truter, Clint Slabbert and Jacques Jansen van Vuuren. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since 2006 a short-range Protea team returned home with several medals. This was also the very first MLAIC Short-Range World Championship that included a 300m individual and team event. Pieter Truter secured a respectable 9<sup>th</sup> place out of 44 entries in the Minie event with a score of 92 and Corena de beer achieved 9<sup>th</sup> place in the Walkyrie match. In the Rigby team event, the SA team (Corena, Pieter and Clint) came 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Granada Event was a special 300m event where Corena secured the individual Gold Medal for SA with a score of 90/100. In the Alhambra Team event at 300m, the SA team (Corena, Pieter and Clint) also won the gold medal.



---

The **10<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range Muzzle Loading World Championships** was held in Camp Butner, North Carolina, USA, in **2015**. The team consisted of Johan de Beer (captain/coach/shooter), Tertius Smit, Corena de Beer, André Stander, Marnus Steyn, Chris Williams and Pieter Truter. Hubert Heydenrych received Protea colours for the 1<sup>st</sup> time as team manager, and 3 of the team members (Tertius, Johan and Corena) represented SA in all the previous Long-Range World Championships since 2007.

Scores were particularly low due to less-than-optimal shooting conditions. Tertius Smit was 2<sup>nd</sup> and André Stander 6<sup>th</sup> at 300 yards. At 500 yards André Stander won the gold medal and equalled the world record. Tertius was 4<sup>th</sup>, Marnus 5<sup>th</sup> and Johan 6<sup>th</sup>. At 600 yards Pieter finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, beaten only by Lee Shaver from the USA with a new world record of 46, and Tertius ended in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Tertius won the Mid-Range Aggregate in the Reproduction Class, with André 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marnus 4<sup>th</sup> and Pieter 7<sup>th</sup>.

The 900 yards scores were incredibly high; Pieter ended 9<sup>th</sup> with 64.1/75 and Corena 11<sup>th</sup> with a great 63.2/75. Guenter Kunz of Germany won the gold medal in the 1 000 yards breaking the world record in the process, with Pieter in 2<sup>nd</sup> and André in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Long-Range Aggregate was won by Guenter Kunz with Pieter in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The Mid-Range team match was difficult due to poor visibility, but the SA team managed the highest 300-yard score on the range. The team continue to shoot well and won the Mid-Range team match with 496.17, beating the USA by 25 points. SA also came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Long-Range team match and for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive World Championships SA won the Team Aggregate for 300-1 000 yards by a margin of 38 points.

Guenter Kunz (Germany) won the Grand Aggregate, Lee Shaver (USA) was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pieter Truter 3<sup>rd</sup>. The rest of the SA team all did very well (André Stander 5<sup>th</sup>, Tertius Smit 6<sup>th</sup>, Marnus Steyn 9<sup>th</sup>, Corena de Beer 15<sup>th</sup>, Johan de Beer 17<sup>th</sup> and Chris Williams 25<sup>th</sup>). There were only 12 points difference between 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> place and SA was the only country with 4 shooters in the top 10 and 6 in the top 20. Corena won the trophy for the Top Scoring lady on the Grand Aggregate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time.

During the 2012 MLAIC Delegates meeting in Spain, SA was officially appointed to organise the Pacific Zone Championships until further notice. SA won the following medals in the **16<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championship** in **2015**: Pieter Truter – gold in the Whitworth and bronze in the Vetterli and Minie, Corena de Beer gold in the Walkyrie and Johan van Wyk gold in the Larmarmora events.

In **2016** the Short-Range Protea Team that performed the best to date competed in the **26<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Short-Range World Championships** in Sarlóspuszta, Hungary. The team consisted of Corena de Beer (captain/manager/shooter), Pieter Truter, Jacques Jansen van Vuuren, Chris van Gaalen, as well as two first-time Junior Protea members, Jean-Pierre Pellissier and Gustav Meyer.

Individual achievements include Corena 4<sup>th</sup> in the Walkyrie, Jean-Pierre 3<sup>rd</sup> and Gustav 4<sup>th</sup> in the Soper event and Gustav Meyer 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jean-Pierre 6<sup>th</sup> in the Ferris event. Corena being the most senior shooter in the team, shot her personal best scores ever at a Short-Range World championship in all her events and Chris van Gaalen just missed the certificate levels with a 7<sup>th</sup> place in both the Gettysburg and Whitworth events. It must be kept in mind that the first 6 places in the Whitworth event were all full scores, and Chris shot a 98/100. The “Frontiersman” team (special event for 100m military rifle off hand) secured a bronze medal, but the biggest achievement for all the Short-Range teams to date was the silver medal (out of 16 teams), won by Corena, Pieter and Chris in the Rigby Team match with scores of 95, 94 & 98.



In **2017**, a very small SA Long-Range team participated in the **11<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range Muzzle Loading World Championships** in Adelaide, Australia. The team were Johan de Beer (captain/coach/shooter), Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, Chris van Gaalen and Chris Williams and Hubert Heydenrych was team manager again. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Long-Range Championship for Chris van Gaalen, and Johan and Corena de Beer represented SA in all the previous Long-Range World Championships since 2007.

At 300m Chris van Gaalen was in 6<sup>th</sup> place, at 500m Pieter was 3<sup>rd</sup>, Corena 4<sup>th</sup> and Chris van Gaalen 6<sup>th</sup>. Chris van Gaalen was in 6<sup>th</sup> place at 600m also. At 800m rain and gale-force wind made it very difficult to stay on the target, but Corena and Johan ended 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with the same scores. Then a 1 000-yard match was shot instead of 900m and Pieter managed 4<sup>th</sup> place despite very poor visibility and extremely strong winds.

Chris van Gaalen ended 5<sup>th</sup>, Pieter 6<sup>th</sup>, Corena 8<sup>th</sup>, Johan 10<sup>th</sup> and Chris Williams 20<sup>th</sup> on the Mid-Range Aggregate with only 6 points between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> place. Corena ended 6<sup>th</sup> and Johan 7<sup>th</sup> in the Long-Range Aggregate, separated by a single point.

The Mid-Range team match (300-600m) was shot under extremely bad conditions and after the 500m, the USA team was leading by a fairly big margin. The match then rained out and the 600m was only shot the next day. This went a lot better, and SA posted the highest team score for that distance, securing the silver medal behind the USA. The Long-Range team ended 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the USA and New Zealand by only 7 points. Despite this, SA was able to secure the silver medal for the overall Team Aggregate for 300m-1000 yards.

In the Grand Aggregate Corena and Chris van Gaalen had the exact same scores and V-bull count, but on a count-back from the last shot on the furthest distance, he counted her out to 7<sup>th</sup> place. Johan was in 9<sup>th</sup>, Pieter in 10<sup>th</sup> and Chris Williams in 17<sup>th</sup> place. Between 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> places were only 3 points difference. Corena won the trophy for the Top Scoring lady on the Grand Aggregate for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive time.

During the **17<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championship** in **2017**, SA won the following individual medals: Corena de Beer won gold in the Whitworth and Walkyrie events, Gustav Meyer won the gold medal and equalled the Pacific Zone record in the Vetterli event, Simon van Gaalen won the gold medal and set a new Pacific Zone record in the Jun, Jean-Pierre Pellissier won gold, Gustav Meyer silver and Marx Meyer bronze in the Soper event, and Simon van Gaalen won gold, Gustav Meyer silver and Jean-Pierre Pellissier bronze in the Ferris event. The Rigby team consisting of Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, and Chris van Gaalen won the silver, the Pforzheim team (Gustav Meyer, Pieter Truter, and Corena de Beer) won silver, the Magenta team (Pieter Truter, Chris van Gaalen and Jacques Jansen van Vuuren) won silver and the Enfield team (Chris van Gaalen, Pieter Truter and Johan van Wyk) won bronze.

---

In **2018** a Short-Range team competed in the **27<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Short-Range World Championships** in Eisenstaedt, Austria. The team consisted of Corena de Beer (captain/manager/shooter), Pieter Truter, Jacques Jansen van Vuuren and Chris van Gaalen, as well as first-time Junior Protea members Marx Meyer, Simon van Gaalen and Corné Schreuder. Severe challenges with the targets, shooting conditions and the distance between separate ranges were experienced and Pieter and Corena had to shoot their events in pouring rain and almost complete darkness. Pieter managed only 9<sup>th</sup> place in the Vetterli (score of 97), and Chris also 9<sup>th</sup> place in Whitworth (score of 96) matches. The juniors did fairly well in the Youth events, with Marx 2<sup>nd</sup> (score 96/100) in the Soper match, where Simon was counted out to 5<sup>th</sup> place (score 94) and Corné ended in 6<sup>th</sup> place (score 87). Marx was 3<sup>rd</sup> (score 92/100) in the Ferris match, Simon was 4<sup>th</sup> (score 91) and Corné 6<sup>th</sup> again (score 88). In the Jun match, Simon got 3<sup>rd</sup> place (score 87/100), Marx was 4<sup>th</sup> (score 79) and Corné 6<sup>th</sup> (score 74). On the delegates meeting Corena de Beer was once again officially appointed as the Vice-Presidents to host and coordinate the Pacific Zone Championships. She was also elected to the MLAIC Anti-Doping committee, to oversee and draft a new policy.

---

In **2019**, a very small SA Long-Range team participated in the **12<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range Muzzle Loading World Championships** in Bisley, UK. The team consisted of Johan de Beer (captain/coach/shooter), Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, André Stander and John Duckitt. Hubert Heydenrych was team manager again and



Johan Truter was appointed as adjutant / assistant manager. Only Johan and Corena de Beer represented SA in all the previous 6 Long-Range World Championships since 2007.

In the 300 yards individual match Pieter won our first medal (bronze). At 500 yards, André was 5<sup>th</sup> and Corena 6<sup>th</sup> and at 600 yards Johan was 6<sup>th</sup>. The 900- and 1 000-yard matches on Stickle-down Range were shot in really challenging conditions, but Corena shot exceptionally well and won the Gold medal in the 900 yards individual match. At 1 000 yards Pieter won the silver medal, with Johan 5<sup>th</sup> and Andre 6<sup>th</sup>. In the individual Long-Range Aggregate Pieter won the silver medal with Corena in 5<sup>th</sup> and André in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

The customary team format was not possible, due to the number of different groups using Century Range. The 300-yard team event had to be shot immediately after the individual. And the selected team had to remain the same for the 500- and 600-yard matches. The team could therefore not be selected after the individual Mid-Range matches as usual. Due to circumstances, it was decided that Johan de Beer will shoot, as well as coach the team matches. There was only one target for 4 shooters, and all 4 shooters (Johan, Corena, André and Pieter) were shooting concurrently with Johan trying to keep up with any sudden changes in conditions. This kind of team shooting format is not conducive to good shooting and after the 300 yards team event, SA was placed 5<sup>th</sup>, but everyone got used to this format and SA eventually came 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the USA and Germany in the Mid-Range team match (300-600yards). The same team and format were kept for the Long-Range team matches. Although this was much more difficult to shoot and coach than the Mid-Range team matches, the team did very well and reclaimed the Long-Range team trophy that SA held from 2007 – 2013. SA won gold in the Long-Range team match, silver in Team Aggregate for all team matches and bronze for Mid-Range team matches. The SA Team Aggregate score was just a few points behind the winners (USA).

In the individual Grand Aggregate (300 to 1000yards), Pieter Truter was 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by Corena de Beer in 4<sup>th</sup> place, André Stander in 8<sup>th</sup> and Johan in 14<sup>th</sup>. Overall, SA won 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals with another 8 certificates for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> places in the individual matches. Corena won the trophy for the Top Scoring lady on the Grand Aggregate for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive time.

---

The **18<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championship** took place in **2019** and SA won the following individual medals: Corena de Beer won gold in the Walkyrie and bronze in the Whitworth, Marx Meyer won gold in the Jun, Soper and Ferris events and in the Lorenzoni, Robbie Crawford-Brunt won silver and Grand Gammon bronze. Team medals were gold for the Rigby (Corena, Pieter Truter and Chris van Gaalen), silver for the Pforzheim (Corena, Pieter and Chris), silver for the Magenta (Pieter, Chris, and Jacques Jansen van Vuuren), bronze for the Enfield (Pieter, Chris, and Jacques), bronze for the Forsyth (Pieter, Chris, and Greg van Schaik) and silver for the Batesville matches (Robbie, Grant, and Eddie Knödl).

---

No international travel was possible during 2020 and 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The **Pacific Zone Championships** could however be shot in **2021**. The team that entered on behalf of South Africa were Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, Greg van Schaik, Chris van Gaalen, Jacques Jansen van Vuuren, Cliffie Brin, Grant Gammon, Eddie Knödl and Marx Meyer as the only junior. Greg, Cliffie, Grant and Gammon earned their BPSU colours for this event as it was their first participation in the Pacific Zone Championships.

All individual in the group secured some medals and / certificates for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> places and made South Africa and the BPSU proud. Individual medals and certificates were won by Corena (gold Whitworth, gold Walkyrie, 4<sup>th</sup> Vetterli), Pieter (silver Whitworth, silver Lamarmora, bronze Minie), , Greg (6<sup>th</sup> Mariette), Chris (4<sup>th</sup> Lamarmora, 5<sup>th</sup> Vetterli), Eddie Knödl (5<sup>th</sup> Lorenzoni), Grant (6<sup>th</sup> Lorenzoni) and Marx (gold for Kuchenreuter Youth, Vetterli Youth and Whitworth Youth). Rigby team (Corena, Pieter and Greg) won gold, Pforzheim team (Corena, Pieter and Chris) won silver, Magenta team (Pieter, Chris and Jacques) won silver, Enfield team (Pieter, Cliffie and Chris) won silver, Batesville team (Grant, Eddie and Chris) won silver and Forsyth team (Pieter, Greg and Chris) won bronze.

---

When international travel and competitions were resumed in **2022**, the Protea Long-Range team participated in the **13<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range Muzzle Loading World Cup** in Izbég Szentendr , Hungary from 1-7 August 2022. The team consisted of Johan de Beer (captain/coach/shooter), Corena de Beer and Pieter Truter. Hubert Heydenrych was team manager again. Due to personal reasons, South Africa only had 3 shooters and could not field a 4-man team in the team competitions. This event would mark the first time to use camera systems for scoring Long-Range matches.

The South Africans struggled at 300 yards with the conditions and visibility of the targets as well as the unfamiliarity with the camera scoring system and Corena was placed 9<sup>th</sup>, Pieter 10<sup>th</sup> and Johan. At 500 yards the South Africans got the range figured out and Pieter finished 1<sup>st</sup>, Johan 2<sup>nd</sup> and Corena 3<sup>rd</sup> with Pieter and Johan on same score and Corena only 1 point behind. At 600 yards, Pieter won again with Johan 2<sup>nd</sup> and Corena 4<sup>th</sup>. Pieter won the Mid-Range (300 to 600 yards) individual aggregate with Corena 2<sup>nd</sup> and Johan 4<sup>th</sup>. This was by far the best South African individual results of any previous world matches.

After some great shooting in terrible conditions at 900 yards Corena placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Johan 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pieter 17<sup>th</sup>. In even worse conditions at 1 000 yards, Johan finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, Corena was 10<sup>th</sup> and Pieter 14<sup>th</sup>. Johan won the Long-Range individual aggregate (900 and 1000yards) with Corena 5<sup>th</sup> and Pieter 14<sup>th</sup>.

Johan de Beer won the Individual Grand Aggregate (300, 500, 600, 900 and 1000yards), Corena de Beer was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pieter Truter 7<sup>th</sup>. Corena, for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive world match, won the gold medal and trophy for the lady with the highest Individual aggregate (300 to 1000yards). She also managed to shoot the most V-bulls during the competition.

South African ended with Pieter Truter as the Mid-range World Cup Champion; Johan de Beer as the Long-range World Cup Champion; Johan de Beer as the Grand aggregate World Cup Champion and Corena de Beer as the Woman World Cup Champion. South Africa ended with 6 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze individual medals between only 3 shooters.



When Hubert Heydenrych returned home after the Long-Range Championship, the members travelled to Pforzheim, Germany, for the **29<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Short-Range World Championships** took place in Pforzheim, Germany, from 14 - 21 August **2022**. Grant Gammon, Greg van Schaik and Cliffie Brin joined the team in Germany as new caps to compete in their first official world championship. Corena de Beer was appointed captain again and the team consisted of Corena de Beer, Johan de Beer and Pieter Truter, as shooters participating in their 14<sup>th</sup> (SR & LR), 10<sup>th</sup> (SR & LR) and 7<sup>th</sup> (SR & LR) World Championship, respectively.

Corena de Beer scored 97/100 in the Walkyrie match (ladies' 100m Free Rifle). A Germany lady had the same score, but she counted Corena out on group size, and Corena ended up with an excellent silver medal. Grant Gammon, in his very first shotgun match on international soil, scored a particularly good 43 /50, placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the Lorenzoni Reproduction Class.



Jacques Jansen van Vuuren also qualified and was included in the team, but Jacques succumbed to COVID-19 in 2021. The team therefore dedicated the Pforzheim Championship to the memory of Jacques to honour and commemorate his involvement and achievements in black powder shooting.



**The 13<sup>th</sup> MLAIC Long-Range World Championships** took place in Várpalota-Veszprém, Hungary, 27 August to 2 September **2023**. The team consisted of Johan de Beer as captain/coach/shooter, with shooters were Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter and new cap Neil Marsh and Hubert Heydenrych as team manager again.

Overall scores were much lower than usual, but everyone was subjected to the same conditions and the competition was fair. All the South Africans had a slow start, with Pieter being the most successful in making it to the podium. He was 6<sup>th</sup> on the 300 yards, 5<sup>th</sup> on the 500 yards, 3<sup>rd</sup> on the 600 yards, 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 900 yards and 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 1 000 yards. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Mid-Range Aggregate, 1<sup>st</sup> on the Long-Range Aggregate and also won the Grand Aggregate.

Neil had his best performance at the 600 yards, and finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Corena won the gold medal at the 1 000 yards with 56.1/75, with Johan in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Corena was also 4<sup>th</sup> on the Long-Range Aggregate and

Johan 9<sup>th</sup>. And on the Grand Aggregate, Corena was 7<sup>th</sup>, Johan 12<sup>th</sup> and Neil 24<sup>th</sup>. Corena's 7<sup>th</sup> place in the open Grand Aggregate secured her the Ladies Long-Range Trophy again.

Without the luxury of a dedicated coach, the team only managed to win a bronze medal in the Mid-Range Team match, and 4<sup>th</sup> place in both Long-Range and Overall Team Aggregates. Every team had 2 targets, but Johan could not coach both targets and shoot, so Johan and Pieter shot and coached in tandem. Pieter provided wind readings for Neil and Johan for Corena, but this is far from ideal. Some of our members shot really good scores in the team shoots, but we were just not good enough.

At the Saturday evening award ceremony and closing function the South African anthem was played 4 times. South Africa ended with the Long-Range World Champion, Grand Aggregate World Champion and Ladies World Champion and won 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 individual bronze medals and bronze medals in Mid-Range Team event. SA also successfully defended the "Ladies Long-Range World Champion" title with Corena de Beer 7<sup>th</sup> time in a row.



The ***Pacific Zone Championships*** hosted by South Africa again, took place in **2023**. The team that entered on behalf of South Africa were Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, Greg van Schaik, Cliffie Brin and Marx Meyer.

Individual medals and certificates were won by Corena (silver Whitworth, gold Walkyrie), Pieter (gold Minie, bronze Whitworth), Greg (4<sup>th</sup> Whitworth) and Cliffie (4<sup>th</sup> Lamarmora Minie). The Rigby team (Corena, Pieter and Greg) won gold, Pforzheim team (Corena, Pieter and Chris) won bronze, Magenta and Enfield teams (Pieter, Chris and Jacques) both won silver, Forsyth and 50m SSP teams (Pieter, Greg and

Marx) both won bronze, and for the first time the Mountain Men and Frontier Men teams participated, both (Pieter, Cliffie and Marx) won silver medals.

---