

THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958



www.bpsu.co.za

Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADERS' ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

WORLD LONG RANGE HISTORICAL RIFLE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

BPSU Executive Committee Meeting

33 Dee Dee Brown Ave, Roodepoort

23 January 2010

1. Opening and Welcome

The chairman welcomed all and thanked members for making the effort to attend this Exco Meeting.

2. Attendance Register

Merwe van Rensburg	Chairman / TML	merwe.vanrensburg@postoffice.co.za
Japie Maritz	Vice-chairman	iti01745@mweb.co.za
Corena de Beer	Secretary	corena@mweb.co.za
Johann Theron	Treasurer	theronjj@mprint.co.za
Harry Hearnden	Buffalo	harry.hearnden@za.tenovagroup.com
William Greyvenstein	Buffalo	robot@absamail.co.za
John Duckitt	CTMLA	jduckitt@megaserve.co.za
Johan de Beer	Durbanville / PRC	jdebeer@justice.gov.za
Roland Nicol	Eastern Regions	orcachris1@gmail.com
Eddy Stern	Mariette	estern@broll.co.za
Paul Vimercati	TML Shotgun	stingo@telkomsa.net
Alex Cunningham	Voorlaaiers du Vereeniging	alex@engskisa.co.za
Eugene Kuisis	Wonderboom	mpe@lantic.net

Apologies - None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The chairman thanked the Executive Committee, specifically the Management Committee, for all their hard work and dedication.

The minutes from the meeting held on 24th January 2009 were accepted (proposed by Japie Maritz and seconded by Paul Vimercati).

4. Financial Feedback and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2009

The terminology errors on the 2008 statements were corrected and the statements were accepted on the AGM of 2009.

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John Duckitt requested that more detail is provided on the statements. He specifically asked that all big differences from the previous year, and any other point that could lead to questions being asked at the AGM, be clarified or explained in the final document, as these points are likely to be raised by members at the AGM.

Eddy Stern would like to see sponsorships indicated on the statements. There were however, no sponsorships received for 2009. A subcommittee must be appointed by **the chairman** to pursue ongoing sponsorships.

World Championship figures are quite different from 2008, because all entry and accommodation fees were deposited into the BPSU account and paid over by the BPSU.

The Financial Statements are accepted by the committee (proposed by Johan de Beer and seconded by John Duckitt).

5. Club Shooting Calendars for 2010 – League Dates to be pre-announced to SABU and published on the BPSU website

All club calendars were received and will be published on the website.

6. Feedback by nominated members to focus on recruitment of new members

This item will be replaced in future by regular feedback on club growth.

Eugene Kuisis suggested that a pamphlet be put together and distributed to potentially interested individuals via dealers, e.g. Lindley Arms, Classic Arms, etc.

Mariette is working with SAACA on a “show and tell” and **Eddy Stern** will forward the information on the open day to Corena de Beer.

Paul Vimercati will send information on the AIM Show to **Japie Maritz**, who will arrange for the BPSU to attend in 2010. There should be a generic focus to highlight black powder shooting in South Africa. The cost for this will be shared between Lindley Arms and the BPSU and Japie and Paul will coordinate it. Each northern club must nominate members to man the stand at different times and Japie will draw up a program and send to the clubs.

7. BPSU Commemorative Book

Eddy Stern had a 2 hour meeting with the publisher, 30° South Publishers. The proposed format will be a hard cover (C4) with information on rifles and targets, and should also be acceptable to national and international collectors and museums, as well as prospective members. The planning of the chapters is done and the committee will receive feedback once the draft is ready in about 6 months.

The cost for 200 pages will be approximately R60 000 and for 400 pages R100 000. The BPSU will receive up to 15-20% royalties on sales and the initial costs should be covered by sponsorships or pre-sales of limited and numbered copies. John Duckitt suggested that the copies numbered 1 and 2 should be auctioned.

Members were asked to forward team photographs and other valuable information to Eddy for inclusion. **William Greyvenstein** will forward the contact details of one of Buffalo’s oldest members to Eddy for possible contribution towards the book.

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8. Feedback on Dedicated Sportsman Status and Licenses approved

At the end of 2009, we had 198 members and of those 54 have already obtained Dedicated Sportsman status from SABU.

Corena gave an online demonstration of the complete BPSU website, emphasizing where application forms for membership and dedicated sportsman status can be found. Paul Vimercati requested that a list of SABU number of all members is published on the website.

9. Monthly feedback of club scores

Monthly club scores must be forwarded to the secretary by email during the first week of each month.

10. Membership information / renewal

Corena will send spreadsheets to the club representatives on a regular basis which needs to be updated with all their members' information on a quarterly basis. This will facilitate a much quicker and smoother process at the end of each year when a complete record of member details must be submitted to SABU and the CFR.

The following must be recorded / updated:

Personal detail (SABU nr, Name, ID number, address, email and primary shooting club)

Competency certificates issued (date **AND** category)

New licenses issued

Permits issued

Attendance at club and provincial events

Criminal charges

R500 membership fees are a constraint to new members. Visitors can shoot 3 times before they have to affiliate to the BPSU and SABU. Temporary affiliation fees of R5 and R10 respectively must be paid by non-members to have SABU cover. Social shoots carry no cover and no qualification for dedicated sportsman or team selection. Members over 70 only pay R90 SABU fees and nothing for BPSU. If there are members that cannot afford the fees but are eager to participate, the clubs must try and sponsor them.

11. BPSU Nationals

Will take place from 19-22 May 2010 (Wednesday – Saturday) at Heidelberg Military Shooting Range. Mid and long range will be shot on Wednesday and Thursday and short range on Friday and Saturday to attract more people.

Proposed programme:

- Wednesday – FBL and FML 300m, 500m and 600m (3 + 10)
- Thursday – FBL and FML 800m and 900m (5 + 15)
- Friday – all 200m events and selected 100m events (e.g. FBL, Martini, Snider, 303)
- Saturday – 25m, 50m, 100m, Prizegiving and AGM

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Roland Nicol will be responsible for organising catering. No lunch is included in the entry fee and will be available for sale on the range. Roland will also arrange the availability of the hall and pub for the AGM and prizegiving. Roland and Tertius Smit will provide information on possible accommodation in the area.

Entry fee will be separate for short and long range. No markers will be arranged for long range – competitors will be required to mark targets. Manco to decide the final entry fee after cost for medals have been obtained. All documentation will be circulated soon.

Due to problems in the past, all competitors entering the National championships, it is strongly advised that they must have competed in at least one provincial event. If not, their club must provide a letter confirming their knowledge of the firearm they wish you use as well as general safety on the shooting range. Whether or not to make this a formal requirement will be discussed at the *AGM*.

Team shoots at the nationals will be the top 3 scores from each province and not nominated members as in the past. Members will have to indicate one province on their entry form and can only shoot for this province. This information will be forwarded to Roger Backman to include in his stats programme and will save work and time.

Two USA shooters have already indicated that they want to participate in the BPSU nationals (Lee Shaver and Mon Yee). Merwe will approach David Brigden to apply for Grand Prix status if we have 4 or more international competitors. Additional selected international shooters will be invited (e.g. Switzerland and Germany). Separate medals will be made for the international match(es) and original or replica rifles can be used.

12. Provincial Championships

Clubs must ensure that the dates for their provincial events do not clash with other shoots. All dates and other information will be published on the BPSU website on the club calendars.

The different clubs in Cape Town must get together and formulate a provincial constitution, including the criteria for awarding provincial colours. The proposed date for a provincial shoot in Cape Town will be 7-9 October 2010. More details to follow later.

13. Short Range World Championship – Portugal 2010

13.a. Qualification for Protea Team

Targets must be purchased through the BPSU and the Exco member or nominated club representative must sign the trial targets BEFORE they are shot. The last score will be shot at the BPSU Nationals.

It is proposed that the qualifying score for the Whitworth is increased from 92 to 95 and for juniors from 88 to 92. This needs to be ratified at the *AGM*.

The juniors are currently performing very well. Willie de Beer is looking after the juniors in Gauteng and Corena in Cape Town. An official junior training camp was held at Kobus de Villiers's farm in December and Merwe should receive the report by the end of January 2010.

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13.b. Travel and other arrangements

Ferdi Dippenaar has offered the services of his PA and she will make all the arrangements.

Paul Vimercati will be the team manager and Merwe van Rensburg the team captain. Merwe will try and obtain a sponsor towards his expenses so that he can also attend the delegates' meeting.

13.c. Application for Official Protea Colours

The team will be finalised after the Nationals on 22 May 2010 and application for colours will be made immediately after that. If for some reason Protea colours are not awarded, the team will compete in BPSU colours.

14. Long Range World Championship, Bisley UK, 2011

Japie Maritz has circulated a document prior to the Exco meeting outlining the process of team selection. Japie has been elected as coach and captain for this team again.

According to the Constitution, the qualifying score for long range is an average of 40/50 over 5 distances. The Manco can decide when and where these trials must take place – this can be at any SABU sanctioned provincial or open bisley competition or the BPSU nationals. At the end of 2010 Japie will formally invite LR shooters who made the score to join the practice group.

Kobus de Villiers and Eugene Kuisis do not have to qualify, as they are the reigning world champions. The official team can consist of 16 replica and unlimited number of original rifles.

Team events will be coached by Japie and Johan de Beer (the process of coaching procedures followed will be left to the two selected members to decide upon). The MLAIC rules on team shoots will change in Portugal and in future two 3-man teams can be entered per country. A nominated 6-man team will shoot concurrently in a separate historical match (long range only 900 – 1000 yards [800 – 900 meters]) with a separate trophy.

Pre-championship scores will count 25% (shot in team format, i.e. coached) and the individual scores at the championship will count the other 75% toward final team selection. According to the BPSU constitution, shooters have to qualify over all 5 distances, but different members can be selected for the mid- and long range teams.

Clubs must find out from members who want to try out and send the names and email addresses to Corena who will forward it to Japie to communicate directly with the interested parties only. Progress on this practice group will not be published on the BPSU website. Deadline to submit names will be 28 February 2010.

15. Club Affiliation Fees to BPSU

It was decided to charge a R150 affiliation fee to all BPSU clubs to cover bank charges, etc. This will be instituted from this year already and club representatives were asked to convey this message to their clubs.

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16. Qualifying Scores for Shotgun

A 22/25 or 44/50 qualifying score for Lorenzoni was approved at last year's Exco meeting and AGM. This score is not realistic and it is proposed to change it to 21/25 or 42/50. The score for the Manton must be 36/50.

This needs to be ratified at the AGM.

17. Matters Arising (any other business)

17.a. Hawken (Alex Cunningham)

There is currently disagreement on the rules for the Traditional and Modern Hawken. Some of the problems are synthetic stocks and bullet size. The committee discussed this at length and decided that the current rules make sufficient provision for differentiating between the two classes and that the traditional class must reflect the spirit of the original. Inspection of firearms before national events must be instituted and be confirmed with a sticker on the rifle.

17.b. Event venues / International membership (John Duckitt)

Suggested that the BPSU Nationals are moved back to Bloemfontein again to accommodate the WP members. It was discussed that maintenance of Genl De Wet range is a huge problem and that the SANDF does not maintain the range any longer. One proposition was to move the BPSU Nationals to the week immediately following the SA Bisley Open Championships. The Bonnievale range is also an option – however, this range is not accredited and cannot host a National event.

BPSU is not mentioned in MLAGB magazines and John enquired about the current affiliation status. Merwe confirmed that Johann Theron has updated all international affiliations after a period of lapse. [It was now confirmed that the MLAGB fees are not paid and that the name should be removed from the BPSU letterhead.]

17.c. Range Officers (Eddy Stern)

There must always be a qualified range officer on duty for all shoots. This person needs to be relieved when he/she shoots. Eddy also questioned if the accreditation of SABU qualified range officers are limited to military ranges. Anyone who wants to do a range officers training course, must contact Roland Nicol.

17.d. Rifle specifications (Roland Nicol)

No single point slings are allowed, it must be attached by 2 points, not closer than 6 inches apart. The sling may also not be wider than 2.5 inches, made out of nylon or have adjustable buckles.

New rolling block / inline rifles can only be shot at club levels, as there is no official class available for that and it does not fit into the Modern Hawken class. The Pedersoli rolling block must be shot in the Modern Hawken class.

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17.e. Availability of Black Powder

There are major concerns about the availability of Black powder. Merwe explained that there are other options, e.g. Roland Nicol has a contact, it can be obtained from Spain or Paul Vimercati can order through Lindley Arms. This will however only be done once AEL cannot deliver any more so as to not damage the relationship the BPSU has built with them in the past.

17.f. South African Institute for Drug-free Sport Arbitration (Japie Maritz)

Japie gave background to a legal battle that SABU is currently involved with against the South African Institute for Drug-free Sport (SAIDS).

SABU is affiliated to the South African Sport Shooting Federation (SASSF) who awards national colours for shooting. SASSF in turn is subjected to the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) code, which regulates all sports.

The use of beta-blockers is totally banned in ISSF and IPC shooting disciplines (except for non-shooting coaches and managers), because it is believed to give advantage to the athlete. However, SABU does not resort under ISSF or IPC rules and has given therapeutic exemption for the use of beta-blockers to specific shooters in the past.

Two BPSU members have tested positive for beta-blockers during routine drug testing at separate provincial events; one with TUE granted by SABU and the other one without. SABU refused to act against the first person, but the second one was suspended for 3 months and his Protea colours were revoked for the 2007 MLAIC Long Range World Championship. He presented himself at the SABU/SASSF hearing and gave his full cooperation in the process.

Since 2007, BPSU shoots were targeted with increasing frequency for drug testing and SAIDS has subsequently increased the pressure on SABU to suspend both these shooters from shooting. SABU was not prepared to do that, because the one shooter had received exemption and the other was punished. This refusal lead SAIDS to write to the Minister of Sport, naming the two individual and requesting that SABU be suspended and that no funding or national colours ever be awarded to SABU again.

SABU wanted to take this issue to the Sports Arbitration Court in Lausanne, Switzerland, but SAIDS has agreed to a local arbitration that will take place in Pretoria on 1-2 March 2010. Japie will represent SABU (and BPSU) at this hearing and it the following were decided by the meeting:

- It was resolved that BPSU is the joint claimant with SABU and that SASSF must take the back seat
- Bernard de Beer from Smuts De Beer Attorneys be instructed to represent BPSU
- A council for arbitration be appointed
- Merwe van Rensburg be authorised to sign any affidavit or process relating to the arbitration on behalf of BPSU

Merwe thanked Japie for his availability and effort in this process.

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Johan de Beer suggested that this information is kept confidential until after the arbitration and that feedback will only be given to the club representatives and members then.

18. Closure

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 13:35.

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Chairman

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Secretary