

Black Powder – Success in Portugal!

The Protea team which shot in the MLAIC (Muzzle Loaders Association International Committee) World Short Range Championships in Fervença, Portugal, arrived back in South Africa on Tuesday, 24 August. We attended the championship with six junior and four senior shooters, taking part in events better known by most South African shooters as the 50m Free Rifle Offhand, and the 100m Free Rifle.

Some good news to share with you. Thanks to some absolutely outstanding shooting by our juniors in the 100m Free Rifle (Whitworth) event, we now have the world 100m title securely placed in South Africa. In the youth events juniors from five other countries took part (Poland, Austria, Spain, France and Australia). None of those countries had the required three shooters to enter a team of their own. It was then agreed that the three top scores of any of the juniors from other countries could be entered in a team event against our selected junior teams. This pitted our young shooters against a combination of some of the world's best juniors.

Unfortunately, a competitor shooting between two SA juniors severely distracted them and in addition placed a shot on one lad's target. This confusion resulted in their recording substandard scores, much below what they would normally shoot.

South African shooters secured the following prize winning positions:

50m Offhand (Youth Event, Individual)

2nd	Frederick Jacobs	94
5th	MJ Dippenaar	91

100m Whitworth (Youth Event, Individual)

3rd	MJ Dippenaar	94
4th	Bart Keet	93
6th	Wim Steyn	91

50m Offhand Youth Teams

2nd	South Africa (Frederick Jacobs, MJ Dippenaar, Wim Steyn)
3rd	South Africa (Chris Twine, Bart Keet, Willie Steyn)

100 Metre Whitworth Youth Teams

2nd	South Africa (Frederick Jacobs, MJ Dippenaar, Wim Steyn)
3rd	South Africa (Chris Twine, Bart Keet, Willie Steyn)

By MERWE VAN RENSBURG

After consultation with all parties involved following the incident at the 100m Junior Event, I decided to enter four of our juniors as individuals in the 100m Whitworth (Free Rifle) Senior Event, both to gain exposure and to give them another opportunity to perform within their known standards. The juniors entered were Frederick Jacobs, Chris Twine, Bart Keet and Willie Steyn. Because we had already entered a team in that event, we could not enter a second team on behalf of South Africa.

Right: Frederick Jacobs.


Below: Frederick's targets.



Shooting shoulder-to-shoulder with the best black powder riflemen in the world, Frederick Jacobs shot an absolutely outstanding 99/100, winning the world title in the senior event. Chris Twine followed with a 97/100 giving him the fourth place in the senior event. Bart Keet followed with a 93/100 for the 37th place in the senior event.

Making it even more outstanding is the fact that these three juniors shot a combined score of 289/300. If we could have entered them as a team they would have secured the gold medal for us by three points in the Rigby team event against France (286/300), Germany (285/300) and Switzerland (284/300). Well done to Frederick Jacobs, our World Champion, and to each and every other shooter who made us proud. Be assured that the rest of the world took note.

A big thank you to Willie de Beer for all his time and hard work with the juniors up north and to Corena de Beer, who worked equally hard with the Cape Town juniors. Also, a special thanks to Barend Keet for his efforts transporting the shooters, assisting with rifle maintenance and ensuring that all had something to eat and drink on the range.

A true team effort in good spirits, and a tour which made South Africa proud. It will be remembered for many years. 

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