

THE BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA



www.bpsu.co.za

Formerly The Historical Firearms Shooting Union Founded in 1958

Affiliated to:

MUZZLE LOADERS ASSOCIATIONS' INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION (MLAIC)

SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION (SABU)

6 January 2019

BPSU NEWSLASH 1 OF 2019

Membership & Feedback from Exco meeting

Dear BPSU members

We hereby wish you all a very prosperous and blessed 2019. May you achieve what you set out to and enjoy good health and success throughout the year.

It is time to pay your **BPSU and SABU subs** again. The forms had been circulated last week, but are attached hereto again. Please settle by **15 February 2019**. As always, we manage the SABU fees through the BPSU account – you simply pay your R800 (annual members), R475 (juniors <19) or R137.50 (Veterans) into the BPSU account and *send me your forms*, and I will do the rest. I have not received the new SABU membership cards yet, but hope to distribute all cards at the National Championships.

BPSU bank account details: Black Powder Shooting Union, cheque account
FNB (branch code 250 655), account number 6268 979 0999
Please send me proof of payment with your application.

The **BPSU Executive Committee** met on 16 December 2018 in Roodepoort to discuss the business of the BPSU for 2019 and I want to highlight certain issues that pertain to all members:

1. BPSU Nationals & AGM

Will be held in Cape Town on the Good Hope Shooting Range at Atlantis for all rifle and handgun events.

11 April 2019	300-800m
12 April 2019	900m & 200m
13 April 2019	25-100m & AGM

New regulations are in place for the SANDF shooting ranges in the Western Cape and a new service level agreement was signed between ASB Youngsfield and selected private organisations, amongst others the BPSU.

Everyone who wishes to shoot on the Good Hope Shooting Range *must submit a SAPS Clearance certificate or receipt as proof of application at least 3 weeks prior to the event.*

Grant Gammon will inform the BPSU Executive Committee by *20 January 2019* when and where the Shotgun Nationals / Pacific Zone Championship for shotgun will take place.

2. Pacific Zone Championship

All *rifle and handgun* events will be shot on the Good Hope Shooting Range, Atlantis, concurrent with the Short-Range National Championship on 13 April 2019. *Shotgun needs to decide when and where they will have the shotgun events.*

Scores for qualification from club shoots since the 2018 AGM need to be submitted to the secretary by the club chairmen to finalise selection of the competitors for the Pacific Zone. Members must be encouraged to participate, since South Africa is again the hosting country. As in the past, entry fees will be partly subsidised by the BPSU.

3. 2019 MLAIC Long Range World Championship

Will take place from 25-31 August in Bisley, UK. The following team was approved – Johan de Beer (captain), Corena de Beer, Pieter Truter, André Stander, John Duckitt and Chris Williams. Hubert Heydenrych will be the team manager again and Johan Truter will be the team adjutant. Congratulations to all!

Johan de Beer will shoot individually, and coach the team shoots.

All members are from the Western Cape and will be required to attend all the WP Bisley league shoots. There will also be two training camps at Calvinia in March and July. Johan is trying to arrange for official practice time at Bisley before the championship.

4. Development Program

It was approved on the BPSU AGM in April 2018 that some funds will be made available from the BPSU Investment account to the provinces for development following proper application and motivation. This grant may NOT be used to sponsor a person or buy any firearms, and the money cannot be paid into an individual's or single club's bank account. Provinces need to establish a provincial structure and affiliate all the individual clubs to manage any money allocated to them.

The first allocation had been made to the Western Cape Provincial Black Powder Association and it will be transferred early in the 2019 financial year. All recipients of this Development Grant need to submit a detailed report to the Exco at the end of the financial year. It is important to note that such grants will not be renewed automatically and if satisfactory utilisation cannot be proven to the Exco, the grant will not be extended. This Development Grant can be accessed by all provinces upon detailed application and consideration by the Exco on an annual basis.

As a further development initiative, it was decided that the BPSU will sponsor 50% of entry fees for provincial and national championships for all non-Protea juniors. We want to encourage the provinces to make use of this concession in an effort to grow our sport.

5. Dedicated Sportsman Status and Application Process

Despite several communications over the past few years, there are still members who are under the impression that it is the responsibility of the BPSU to apply for Dedicated Sportsman Status for all its members every year. The submission of points to SABU at the end of each year is *not the same* as applying for or awarding Dedicated Sportsman Status.

All the information with reference to previous Newsflashes detailing the process are on the BPSU home page. *It remains the responsibility of the members to apply or renew when necessary.*

Since clubs must confirm a member's paid-up status, it was decided to make it the *responsibility of the club chairmen to ensure that the application is complete before sending it off to the BPSU for processing.* The application MUST include the following documents:

- Completed application form with a proper motivation, not only a signature (*form can be downloaded from the website*).
- Confirmation of club membership for the year of application (*from club secretary or chairman*).
- A list of participation dates for the **12 months preceding the application** (*this will be checked against the results that are available on the BPSU website and in case of discrepancies, the BPSU records will be used*). Please note that only BPSU and affiliated club events are accepted.

- Previous Dedicated Sportsman Certificate if available.
- Training Certificate for Muzzle Loading Firearms from the SASSETA trainer.
- Muzzle Loading Competency Certificate.
- Existing firearm licence (*or if the member does not have any licences, it must be clearly stated in the motivation*).
- ID document.
- Proof of payment of R50 into the BPSU bank account to process that application.

Please do not abuse the system to obtain this to apply for a firearm licence that does not fall under any of the BPSU disciplines – refer to the BPSU Constitution and Rules on the website.

6. New Black Powder

A new black powder, ZAR Black Powder, is being manufactured in Witbank and for sale at some gun shops. The label on the tin shows the old Transvaal flag, states “Not for sale to the British” and states that it is *genuine black powder*.

Members obtained some of this powder requested the support of the BPSU. Preliminary tests proved that the results were comparable to Obatex on short range, although much heavier loads were required. However, on long range (up to 600m and 110 gr) the group considerably opened up and eventually completely missed the target. Fouling was evident, especially with higher charges. However, it seems to be cleaner than Wano, but dirtier than Swiss.

Some of the issues discussed include the following:

- The current manufacturer has a temporary manufacturing permit. A permanent permit will be issued once he has completed a course at UNISA as required by the Department of Labour.
- Until his permanent permit is issued, he may only manufacture 1 kg at a time. The BPSU Exco is therefore concerned that every tin will theoretically be a different batch.
- The velocities attained by similar weights of ZAR is within 8% of that of Swiss, but 10% more powerful than Wano. Almost double the weight of ZAR compared to Obatex is required to achieve similar velocities.
- The current gun shops that supply black powder were issued with transport permits specifically for Obatex – transport to centres outside Gauteng therefore requires a fresh permit.
- The BPSU Exco is of the opinion that the label on the tin is politically offensive, could be damaging to an already frail sport and cannot be tolerated in the current political climate in South Africa. Since the BPSU is active on international level, the BPSU Exco cannot afford to be associated with the label in its current format.
- The BPSU Exco is therefore concerned that SASCOC might withdraw its support to black powder teams if they are associated with the current product label.

In summary:

- The Exco meeting were opposed to this product is sold under in its current format, as the Exco is of the opinion that the current label on the product could jeopardise the standing of the BPSU at SASSCo and SASCOC possibly leading to withdrawal of Protea colours and/or international participation in future, it might also result in Obatex no longer be delivered specifically to the Western Cape, as it might not be cost-effective for the manufacturer to deliver to one or two gun shops only.
- The BPSU Exco cannot therefore be associated with this product *in its current format* and publicly distances itself from it.

- ☑ Finally, the BPSU Exco is of the opinion that once all the legalities involving this product are met, and production reaches an objective stage where the product can widely be tested within the BPSU, then only will the BPSU comment on the product itself and its viability for application within the perimeters of the BPSU Constitution.

Kind regards



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