



PISTOL NEWS



An overwhelmingly successful ISSF Nationals is concluded

The first ISSF SA Nationals has just been successfully concluded at the Alberton Sport shooting club ranges, and it has made it clear that ISSF shooting is far from dead, and far from extinction in South Africa!

SAPF are proud to report that 56 competitors from across the country took part in what can only be described and the "NEW LOOK ISSF NATIONALS".

The program as planned was a complete success, and the introduction of Finals for Air Pistol, Sport Pistol, Rapid Fire and Air Pistol Teams was an incredible success, drawing nice spectator crowds and these Finals generated new awareness of the need for top performers to be both Match fit, but also to have a Big Match temperament!

This newsletter serves to provide an overview of the performances and results achieved during the ISSF Nationals.

a. Friday 21st September, 2018:

The first day was devoted to Sport Pistol, Standard Pistol and Air Pistol.

Alberton Sport Shooting club (ASSC) inaugurated a brand new 25-M Rapid Fire range, which they built and prepared specifically for this year's ISSF nationals, and the new range is a tribute to the positive attitude of the club – the new range worked flawlessly and it offers a well-covered firing point with 10-bays, excellent working space behind the firing line, and full turning target facility. SAPF would like to thank and commend the ASSC on a job really well done, it made getting through over three details of Standard Pistol shooters simple, quick and the target lighting and presentation is perfect for competitive shooting.

Mohyedien Begg opened the Nationals with a brief thank you to all the attendees, and then the program went into full swing. All shooters were pre-squadded, all ranges were time-scheduled, and there were no problems getting the program concluded on time.

It was however decided to postpone the Sport Pistol finals to Sunday afternoon, since there was a more suitable afternoon slot available, rather than a late afternoon shootout after a busy first day.

b. Saturday 22nd September, 2018:

Saturday saw the air pistol range back in use, and many Juniors used the opportunity to compete very successfully.

It is important to note that young Xander van der Westhuisen, a 15-year scholar from Linden, who took up Air pistol about a year ago, posted a fabulous 540/600 score.



Pistol News #25
September, 2018

Xander's score clearly won the Junior event, but he also put 90% of the adult shooters to the sword

Xander, congratulations an outstanding result, and we wish you well for the SA Schools Shooting Union's Nationals in early October, we know you will do well there again.

On Saturday we completed the Air Pistol event, and so that afternoon, we hosted the first-ever Air Pistol Singles Finals. The top 6 men and the top 4 Ladies completed in a shootout final that was exciting, extremely tense for the finalists, and very enjoyable for both spectators and finalists alike.

Francois van Tonder clinched Gold with a superb 10 in the final elimination round from Shaun Kennedy, who popped a 7, whilst Von Zeuner Kohne took home the bronze award. Cass Stark won the Bronze, Elsje Swart the Silver and Fransie van Tonder the Gold in the Ladies final, with Debbie Strydom finishing 4th.

Also concluded on Saturday was the 50 Yards event, which saw somewhat lower than expected overall scores, in spite of good conditions, good weather and no wind, just the sheer pressure of shooting against the cream of the crop, who were on the firing line for every single event throughout the weekend.

These results were then used to select the top 12 Mayleigh Cup team members, and the top 20 who completed for the Presidents Cup award.

The Mayleigh Cup and Presidents Cup events were shot on Monday 24th, which was really the Finals day, and which concluded with the prize-giving dinner, but more about Monday later.





PISTOL NEWS



Notably, our President, Mr Begg, won a place on both teams, a laudable result, considering his focus on NPA/PPC shooting these days.

c. Sunday, 23rd September, 2018:

Sunday saw the Free Pistol and Centrefire events, as well as the new Military Rapid Fire event completed, with the new 25-Meter range proving it's worth in getting the shooters through the program in quick succession without incident or problems.

Sunday afternoon saw the Sport Pistol finals take place on range #3 in front of the clubhouse, and a good crowd watched the top 6 Men and the top 4 Ladies swat it out in a 3-7-3 Duelling only format. Three series of 5 shots were fired to define a ranking order, after which a series of single shots were used to eliminate the shooters one by one until the Gold, silver and Bronze awards could be decided.

Philip Havenga won Gold, Shaun Kennedy Silver, and Mornay de Beer took home the Bronze award.

In the Ladies, Cass Stark took Bronze, Elsje Swart took silver and Fransie took Gold with a perfect 10,8 last shot!

d. Monday, 24th September, 2018:

Monday was the day to finish the Nationals, and we shot two new Finals, as well as the Mayleigh Cup and Presidents Cup events.

The Air Pistol Team Finals kicked off at 9am, and the top 4 Men and the top 4 ladies were paired up by Province, as defined in ISSF rules. Each team comprised one Male and one Female shooter, who stood next to each other on adjoining bays.

The Rules stipulate that the team shoot shots in sequence, first the Lady, then the Man, and the man cannot fire until his lady partner has fired her shot. This sounds simple, but it becomes tense when you are only allowed 5 minutes for 10 shots.

Cass Stark and Von Zeuner Kohne were the first pair to be eliminated, whilst the Von Tonders shot as a pair and finished with the Silver. Philip Havenga and Debbie Strydom shot and they collected the Bronze award. Elsje Swart and Shaun Kennedy won the Team event with 401,2 points, beating the van Tonders who finished on 397.1 points, to win the inaugural Air Pistol Team events.

The Rapid Fire finals followed immediately after the Team event, and this finals was really tough – it is shot on the 4 second string time only, so it

demands massive focus and concentration to create a winner.

The Gold went to Mornay de Beer, Joggie Prinsloo took Silver, Francois van Tonder took Bronze and Andre Scheepers was the first to be eliminated. This has to be the toughest Final to have to perform in, so since congratulations goes to these four competitors – Mornay told me this was tougher than shooting for SA at the Africa Games in Egypt, which is a message of respect to his fellow SA competitors.

The top performer in the Mayleigh Cup was our stalwart, Elsje Swart, who allows outguns the guys at 50 Yards year in and year out. Well done Elsje, who also was Runner-up in the Presidents Cup event as well, proving her long distance skills once again.

Second in the Mayleigh Cup was Francois van Tonder, with Andre Scheepers, another long distance performer over the years, showing his metal again in third place.

The Presidents Cup was won by Shaun Kennedy with a 180/200, with Elsje Swart hot on his heels with 179, followed by Mornay on 178 and Philip Havenga on 177.

This completed the Nationals, and a well-attended Prize-giving began on time at 4pm sharp.

The back-room team did an incredible job, with not one score challenged, or one error in the process, so the SAPF heartily thanks the back-office team of Shaun, Elsje, Mike Josselowitz, Franco Swart, Heinrich Mommsen and Fatima Gilbert for a very praiseworthy involvement that saw all the medals and trophy awards ready for the prize-giving a hour ahead of schedule.

We actually had to wait for the dinner guests to all arrive before we could start the proceedings, which must also be a first of some kind, and it illustrates the wise decision taken to make ISSF a Nationals event on it's own.

e. Highlights:

Mohyedien Begg began the prizegiving by offering sincere thanks to all concerned at Alberton for providing good weather, perfect ranges and perfect organisation that saw everything go like clockwork, with no incidents, issues or problems at all over the four days of shooting.

Mohyedien thanked the SAPF EXCO for the success achieved with the ISSF Nationals, and he thanked the shooters for their positive attitude and the good atmosphere in evidence, in spite of the





PISTOL NEWS



quite competitive climate the prevailed throughout the Nationals.

The prize-giving was concluded quickly and efficiently, during which Shaun Kennedy, as Vice-president for ISSF Affairs acknowledged that a spirit of change was blowing through ISSF shooting.

Shaun explained that the International ISSF organising committee's decisions to remove Free Pistol and Free Rifle shooting from the Olympic Program had to have consequences around the world, even in South Africa.

SAPF has chosen to deal with these changes, which clearly usher in a new shooting climate, by introducing Air pistol Team shooting immediately, and this event was very well received by the spectators present, and by the Team Finalists themselves, who found the experience challenging and nerve-racking at the same time.

Shaun also noted that the General De Wet trophy was being awarded for the very last time at the 2018 ISSF Nationals.

This award for the top performer at the ISSF Nationals in certain prescribed events was being done away with because the Free Pistol and the Centrefire events, which were elements of this award, no longer held sway within ISSF programs.

Shaun did however note that the SAPF will continue to award the Gavin Carson trophy for the most successful Ladies Nationals champion, but a new Mens Nationals trophy, based on a new set of criteria still to be defined, may need to be established in the future.

Shaun also introduced a new ISSF Top Performer and Most Improved ISSF Award, and two stunning new trophies were tabled and given out for the first time. The foundation for these two new trophies was to recognise great Annual performances over the previous 12 month period leading up to the ISSF Nationals, which will continue to be held every September for the foreseeable future.

Shaun explained that these two new trophies were based on identifying the most consistent and best performances by ISSF shooters who participated in as many of the provincial championships available in the 12 month period leading up to the ISSF Nationals.

The new Trophies took into account all seven ISSF events that could be shot at the various provincial championships.

Our ISSF shooters are measured in terms of their overall average achieved in each of these seven events, and the winner of the new ISSF TOP PERFORMER Award would be the shooter who achieved the highest average across the board for the 12 month period.

Shaun then explained that the results from the various provincial championships were also then used to identify each shooter's best recorded high score, but also their recorded low score.

The difference between the high and their low score in the past 12 month season defined each shooter's Improvement factor, and this improvement factor was then used to decide who was the Most Improved ISSF shooter for 2018 season.

The first ever Most Improved ISSF Shooter of the Year trophy was awarded to Christo Crous, who produced an aggregate 61% overall improvement factor, with Mornay de Beer and Shaun Kennedy being the runners-up in this category.

The New ISSF Top Performer award went to Shaun Kennedy, who garnered 119 points during the season, followed by Francois van Tonder and Elsje Swart in second and third place respectively

Shaun then explained that the SAPF needed to identify shooters who performed consistently at a high level, but who also competed regularly at provincial championship level throughout the year in both shoulder to shoulder and postal events, since this is the only real vehicle for total participation in a country of our size, where travel costs had escalated to such an extent that it was becoming difficult for shooters to attend all the provincial championships being offered.

Shaun indicated that to qualify for these two new ISSF awards, shooters need to participate in at least 50% of all the provincial Championships on offer in the 12 months between ISSF National championships – this on-going commitment demonstrated continuity and the results achieved demonstrate consistency in terms of overall average score achieved in each of the ISSF events.

A points system is used to measure performance in each of the ISSF events, including the new Military Rapid Fire event, which is now formally part of the ISSF program going forward, creating an eighth opportunity for ISSF participants, thus expanding their chances for improvement and performance even further.

The shooter who achieves the highest average per event over at least six championships gains 25





PISTOL NEWS



points per event, 2nd highest gains 20 points, the 3rd best average gains 15 points, with 10 and 5 points being awarded respectively for 4th and 5th place.

A tiny penalty applies for every championship not shot, with a minimum requirement of 3 out of 6 provincial championships being measured – the penalty is small, i.e. 1 point lost for every championship not shot from the required six championships events.

Clearly SAPF's goal is to get everyone shooting ISSF events locally, provincially and nationally through the medium of actual or postal participation, which gives every ISSF shooter an equal opportunity to perform.

As we move forward with these two new awards, the SAPF may need to polish the measurement mechanism, but we having been testing it for a few months already, so it is close to what we set as our goal, and that was to identify shooters of quality, consistency and ability, especially in the key events of Air Pistol, Rapid Fire, Sport Pistol and Military Rapid Fire.

A full set of results and photographs will be published shortly on the SAPF website, but in closing we would like to recognise and thank all

the helpers, R/O's, workers and participants who made the 2018 ISSF Nationals in Alberton a memorable, exciting and wonderfully challenging event.

We can only hope that all our future Nationals share the same enthusiasm, positiveness and enjoyment factors that were so obvious at this year's event.

We urge our members to now re-focus their efforts on preparing for the 2019 NPA/PPC Championships, which are planned for the first quarter of 2019, and which will be held at the Eufeefes Military Range in Pretoria.

Please plan your leave and your finances to be at this next SAPF National Championships, details of which will be sent out to all clubs and provinces shortly.

Remember.

*Don't wait for something to happen,
please make something happen!*

Best wishes in Shooting.
Shaun Kennedy, Vice – President



Shaun Kennedy won the ISSF Top Performer Award, shown on the left above, and Christo Crous, on the right above, won the ISSF Most Improved Award for 2018.

