



# PISTOL NEWS



## Feedback on 2018 SA National NPA/PPC Championships

The first “independent” NPA/PPC SA National Championships was completed on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at the Eeufees Military Shooting Ranges in Pretoria.

A record number of entries was received, with over 130 shooters participating in almost 1,000 events, an outstanding experience for all those who chose to participate in the first Championships of this kind, i.e. where only NPA and PPC events were shot in a shoulder to shoulder environment.

The weather was exceptionally kind to the Championships, and good sunny weather prevailed, ensuring pleasant shooting conditions, and so excellent scores were the obvious result.

As has become the custom at the SA Nationals, the German Shooting Federation sent a formidable team to compete against South Africa, and the Germans were unrelenting, delivering superb scores in all events.

The European visitors were Klaus Semrau, Johann Wizofsky, Jan Huser, Helge Peters and Jorg Lichtmess Wilfried Wiesener in attendance as well.

The German team from Germany, with Walter Selb from Austria and managed to get medals in EVERY event, across both the NPA and the PPC disciplines, taking home a total of 53 medals in all, an exceptional performance overall.

In particular Jan Huser, Helge Peters, Johann Wizofsky and Walter Selb were regularly in the medals.

Our thanks and our congratulations must go to our German visitors for being such a welcome and challenging part of our SA Nationals in 2018!

The SAPF Exco selected an SA Federation team to compete against the Germans in 2-man and 4-man team events in the following events: Police Pistol B, Service Pistol B, Police Pistol II, 1500 Pistol and 1500 Revolver.

The SA Pistol Federation team had Mohyedien Begg, Andy Charalambous, Shafaath Gilbert, Morne' Thumbran, Brendon Muller, Nico Rautenbach, Horst Weihs and Philip Havenga as the foundation members, with three newcomers added to the Federation team, being Mornay de Beer, Ridwaan Levy and Hansie Erasmus.

The Germans won all but one of the team events, but we saw some excellent individual performances from stalwarts like Andy Charalambous, who won the Overall Best Performer Award, with Mohyedien Begg winning the Top PPC award, and newcomers Ridwaan Levy winning the Most Improved PPC award, and Hansie Erasmus walking away with the NPA Most Improved award.



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Awards were also made to the top performing ladies, and here Shandre Lewis-Monto from Southern Gauteng was a shining light, winning the top honours for ladies in Police Pistol-A, Service Pistol-A and Carry Gun, whilst also outscoring many of her male counterparts during the Nationals.

Congratulations also go to Elsje Swart, Nadia du Toit and Veene Janse van Vuuren for their Ladies event medals.

At this 2018 NPA/PPC Nationals, medals were also awarded to provincial teams who competed in seven different events, being PP-A, PP-B, SP-A, SP-B, Pocket, Carry and Stock Semi-Auto.

Overall we had 14 Provincial Teams competing for top honours in these seven events, so this was a well-contested sector, with good scores recorded throughout.

Top Provincial Team honours went to the SANDF A team who won 5 team events, followed by Central Gauteng, Western Cape and Southern Gauteng, who each won 4 team events, whilst KZN took home 2 Team medals and SAPS collected 1 Team medal.

The Eeufees Military ranges were well-prepared and the Range Officers performed at their best, ensuring a highly successful championships overall.

The SAPF EXCO would like to offer their sincere thanks to all the R/O's and the squad of helpers who made the championships into a smoothly run, well-presented championships overall – well done to all concerned.

The Admin team, led by SAPF's Fatima Gilbert did a sterling job, and scores, results, medals and



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the final Prize-giving on Monday evening at the end of the Championships was slick, well-presented and very well attended.

Here sincere thanks must go to the 80 people who took the time and the trouble to be part of the Prize-giving, a welcome departure from the dribble of shooters who typically attended prize-givings in the past – thank you from the EXCO for your efforts to be part of this year's NPA/PPC Prize-giving, it was a real success!

Mohyedien Begg, as President of SAPF, thanked our overseas visitors for their continued support and the shooting lessons given to the rest of us - their shooting skills are always impressive.

Mohyedien then paid tribute to Shafi Gilbert for organising an excellent and highly successful NPA/PPC championships, and he congratulated Fatima Gilbert on her appointment as Manager of the SA Federation team.

He then thanked Fatima and her Admin team for a job very well done, which comment was loudly applauded by all.

Mohyedien noted that this was the first year in which the SA Nationals was being split into two separate Championships, with the ISSF National Championships still to follow in September 2018. This year's really strong participation, he pointed out, is clearly positive proof that the right decision has being taken by the EXCO with regard to future SA National Championships.

In future our nationals need to be split to give the SAPF members who participate on both ISSF and NPA disciplines the best possible chance of performing at their best, and that has certainly proven to be the case at Eeufees this year.

Shafaath Gilbert then addressed the prize-giving, and he explained that the number of entries in this year's 2018 NPA/PPC SA Nationals had increased from 69 last year in Bellville to over 130 shooters at this year's Eeufees NPA/PPC Nationals.

The results have been illuminating, very encouraging and far better than many previous years, for example *the average number of events per shooter this year was 7,6, up by 50% from under 5 last year!*

The number of entries per event has also climbed significantly, to whit:

Police Pistol-A had 118 entrants, with Police Pistol-B having 107 shooters; Service Pistol-A had 108 entrants, whilst Service Pistol-B had 98; Pocket saw 92 shooters competing, whilst Carry

Gun brought 116 shooters to the Nationals, by far the biggest single event entry ever!

Even PPC events, which traditionally see a small numbers of competitors gained popularity, with over 69 shooters trying out for Stock Semi-Auto, whilst the newly announced 600 Match had 50 shooters on the line!

Predictably, there was a large number of upgradings achieved, the largest ever for any SA Nationals to date – over 70 shooters achieved new higher gradings, a very positive sign overall.

The quite noticeable increase in the number of upgradings achieved during this year's NPA/PPC Championships is a far cry from the generally lower scores recorded in the overall at most previous SA Nationals events.

The number of medal winners rose to 56 in total, with over 176 medals being given out, well up on many previous years.

A pleasing note is the number of new shooters attending the SA Nationals for the first time, as well as the increased participation in more events.

The planning of the 2018 Nationals was such that shooters could travel over public holidays, thus having to reduce the number of leave days needed to attend the Nationals.

No doubt this also helped increase the number of participants at this year's Nationals, a valuable lesson for our national and provincial organising committees to take note of for the future.

In conclusion, if the number of medal winners is assessed, then our newest province, Central Gauteng, accumulated the most medals, a total of 39, the SANDF gathered 36 medals, Southern Gauteng won 34 medals, whilst just three shooters from Western Cape Province pocketed 28 medals, SAPS took home 22 medals, KZN got 9 medals, with Western Province getting 5, and Gauteng North winning 3 medals.

The medal winners are listed overleaf for your reference – Sincere congratulations are offered to all the medal winners and of course to all this year's participants, thank you for being at this wonderful NPA/PPC Championships, it was pleasure being part of such a historic event!

**Best wishes in Shooting**

**Shaun Kennedy, Vice-President, ISSF Affairs**



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