



Father and son - Nico and Nicolaas Louw

Send IT, ELR Shooting .22LR ELR Match

All-round excellent shooting! By Charl Gous

Send IT, ELR Shooting hosted the first local .22LR ELR (Extreme Long Range) competition in September 2020. Our third rimfire ELR match was held on 4 September, with a full house of 34 adults and 10 juniors (younger than 13 years old), competing at the PEKS Shooting Range, Malmesbury Farms, Western Cape. The original format was designed to accommodate 36 shooters, so we had to make some changes.

Pieter Eksteen is not a man who trifles when it comes to ideas - the mere suggestion of establishing a separate junior range was swiftly brought to life and, within two weeks, a shooting platform, along with six backstops covering 60 m to 203 m, were constructed.

	Junior Range	Range 1	Range 2
Target 1	Distance (meters)	60	150
Target 2	Distance (meters)	89	179
Target 3	Distance (meters)	120	203

In addition, upon consultation with organisers of internationally-accredited rimfire ELR matches, we concluded that targets used at Send IT .22LR ELR matches needed to be enlarged to be in line with global standards.

When the original concept was drafted, Send IT used 2 MOA targets at each distance. As such, targets become incrementally larger as the distance increases, but the shooter's error remains constant. The global standard is to use a fixed-sized target of 30 cm by 30 cm at all distances.

This has the opposite effect (targets become smaller when measured in MOA) as to what was originally implemented by Send IT, but is more advantageous to shooters as the targets are larger.

In the table on the right it can be seen that the previous set of targets was smaller at each distance relative to the current (new) set of targets. In addition, in the column on the far right-hand side, it can be seen how the new targets

gradually decrease in MOA as the distance increases.

In 2022, we will make changes to the range so that targets are more equally distributed (that is, distances) on each range to ensure that shooters experience similar atmospheric conditions throughout the day at close, medium and far distances.

Match format

The course of fire was made up of three ranges: A short, medium and long range covering 75 m to 431 m. The distances were selected to make it

PEKS Range .22LR ELR Targets & MOA at each distance

Target	Meters	Previous targets		Current targets	
		Width & height in cm	Width & height in MOA	Width & height in cm	Width & height in MOA
1	75	9,0	4,1	15,0	6,9
2	154	9,0	2,0	20,0	4,5
3	189	11,0	2,0	25,0	4,5
4	264	15,0	2,0	30,0	3,9
5	300	17,5	2,0	30,0	3,4
6	342	20,0	2,0	30,0	3,0
7	365	21,0	2,0	30,0	2,8
8	411	24,0	2,0	30,0	2,5
9	431	25,0	2,0	30,0	2,4

accessible with moderate equipment. Beyond 500 m, the additional elevation requirements necessitate more specialised optics that are not readily available and expensive. Targets on Ranges 2 and 3 were fitted with electronic hit indicators to confirm impacts.

On match day, the shooters were

	Senior Range	Range 1	Range 2	Range 3
Target 1	Distance (meters)	75	264	365
Target 2	Distance (meters)	154	300	411
Target 3	Distance (meters)	189	342	431

divided into three groups, with each starting at a pre-allocated range. Each participant took five shots at each target, with three targets per range, for a total round count of 45 on the day.

The scoring system favours hits made at the start of a string and further benefits those who make impact at further distances. Points were awarded on a multiplier basis, with five points times the distance for a first round hit and 4/3/2/1 multiplied by the range in metres for a second, third, fourth or fifth round impact.

The juniors shot two ranges of three targets each. They fired five shots at each target for a total of 30 shots on the day. A similar scoring

methodology was followed as described above.

Match day

The match had a jovial atmosphere filled with kids' laughter and playfulness as they celebrated a lovely spring day in Cape Town. Several wives and girlfriends joined in competing in the match, making this a family-friendly event.

There was an acute focus on safety, given the number of youngsters around, with dedicated range officers to ensure all rifles were safely moved to and from the shooting platforms and stored securely. Danie du Preez acted as a dedicated range officer on the junior range, a job he did fabulously well.

The excellent results achieved at this match require analysis to be truly appreciated. Competitors ranged from as young as five years old, included novice shooters trying rimfire ELR for the first time and experienced shooters. There was excellent support and advice shared between shooters to assist knowledge transfer and to build on the camaraderie that has become a custom at Send IT events.

Junior results analysed

The juniors shot marvellously well and achieved excellent hit rates. We did not expect to see the scores achieved, and must commend these young shooters for what they delivered on the day. To put it in perspective, from 8th place upwards, the juniors accomplished hit rates of more than 80% on a course of fire extending from 60 m to 203 m. All this with a .22 rimfire!

The top four was only separated by two shots with Carlo (third) and Nicolaas (second) scoring 29 out of 30 hits. Little nine-year-old Lila, however, outscored the boys, with a full score (yes, 30 out of 30 hits!) to take first place in the junior division.

Let's put these results into perspective. Senior Range 1 is comparable to junior Ranges 1 and 2, albeit the adults fired only 15 shots. Senior Range 1 covers 75 m to 189 m, relative to 60 m to 203 m on the junior ranges.

On Range 1 (Targets 1, 2 and 3) in the seniors' match:

- 7 shooters achieved a full score;
- 6 shooters achieved 14 out of 15 hits; and
- 10 shooters achieved 13 out of 15 hits.

Now look over the results of the juniors again to see how well they fared!

PEKS Shooting Range | 4 September 2021
Juniors (< 13 years) | .22LR ELR Event

Rank	Name	Surname	TOTAL	% of Top	Hits
1	Lila	Gous, L JNR	12015	100%	30
2	Nicolaas	Louw, N JNR	11203	93%	29
3	Carlo	Gous, C JNR	11120	93%	29
4	Andre	Hanekom JNR	10700	89%	28
5	Jordan	Terry, J JNR	9948	83%	26
6	Elmie	du Preez, E JNR	9625	80%	25
7	Nina	du Preez, N JNR	9441	79%	25
8	Marlo	Gerber JNR	8866	74%	24
9	Luke	Le Roux, L JNR	2235	19%	10
10	Michael	Hitchcock, M JNR	2146	18%	9



Charl Gous discussing the procedures



The young guns!



Elmie du Preez taking aim



Jordan Terry assisting with scoring duties



Martin le Roux providing guidance to his son, Luke



Nico and Nicolaas Louw preparing to take on the range



Carlo Gous taking aim



Tony Ingram having a memorable moment with his son



Andre Hanekom lining up his Brno rifle



Danie du Preez taking charge of the junior range



Father & son - Loutjie and Andre Hanekom



Father & daughter - Garth and Jordan Terry



The braai master - Deon du Preez

Senior results analysed

Rimfire ELR target distances are set at ranges previously considered inconceivable. In some instances, shooters laugh off the idea that good results can consistently be achieved and that any attempt will be a waste of time and money.

However, let's examine the data from the match. In the table below, we calculate the percentage of competitors who achieved at least one hit at each distance. Let's call this the "I got at least one" calculation.

Furthermore, let's ignore Range 1 for this discussion and focus on Ranges 2 and 3:

Range 2 - Target 1 set at 264 m
94% of shooters had at least 1 hit

Range 2 - Target 2 set at 300 m
91% of shooters had at least 1 hit

Range 2 - Target 3 set at 342 m
88% of shooters had at least 1 hit

As can be expected, the hit rates reduced as shooters engaged Range 3 but it remains impressive.

Range 3 - Target 1 set at 365 m
65% of shooters had at least 1 hit

Range 3 - Target 2 set at 411 m
56% of shooters had at least 1 hit

Range 3 - Target 3 set at 432 m
35% of shooters had at least 1 hit

No matter how you cut and slice the data, it points to a very good

% of match participants that achieved 1 or more hit at relevant distance	Range 1			Range 2			Range 3		
	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3
Distance in meters	75	154	189	264	300	342	365	411	431
1 or more hit on target	94%	97%	97%	94%	91%	88%	65%	56%	35%

engagement and the fact that most shooters had the privilege of impacting targets at an extended range. When analysing the consistency achieved, similarly impressive results can be viewed in the table below. Let's focus on Range 2 for this discussion:

Range 2 - Target 1 set at 264 m
74% of shooters had 3 or more successful impacts.

Range 2 - Target 2 set at 300 m
68% of shooters had 3 or more successful impacts.

Range 2 - Target 3 set at 342 m
48% of shooters had 2 or more

% of match participants that achieved X number of hits out of 5 attempts per target	Range 1			Range 2			Range 3		
	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 1	Target 2	Target 3
Distance in meters	75	154	189	264	300	342	365	411	431
5 out of 5 hits	85%	53%	29%	9%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%
4 out of 5 hits	9%	18%	35%	24%	21%	9%	0%	0%	0%
3 out of 5 hits	0%	21%	29%	41%	38%	12%	6%	9%	0%
2 out of 5 hits	0%	6%	0%	12%	12%	18%	9%	15%	9%
1 out of 5 hits	0%	0%	3%	9%	12%	41%	50%	32%	26%
0 out of 5 hits	6%	3%	3%	6%	9%	12%	35%	44%	65%

In addition, on the 365 m target, two shooters achieved three out of five hits, and three shooters made impact three out of five times at 412 m. On the 432 m target, three shooters went two out of five, with three first-round impacts.

All the above culminated in a very competitive match, with the top five making impact at least 28 times out of 45 attempts. In third place, newcomer Wesley White raked in 30 successful hits while second-placed Michael Hitchcock managed the most impacts



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Three platforms used to access the senior range



Gareth Holtman using a bipod he designed and built himself



Bernard Kotze's first time out at a .22LR ELR match



Greg Sykes with a beautiful rimfire rifle

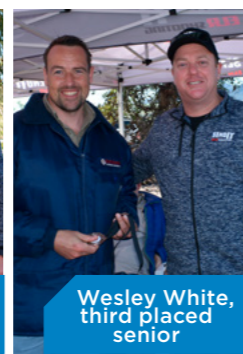
Senior Winners:



Bernard Eksteen, first placed senior



Michael Hitchcock, second placed senior



Wesley White, third placed senior



Father and Son - Pieter and Bernard Eksteen

Junior Winners:



Lila Gous, first placed junior



Nicolaas Louw, second placed junior



Carlo Gous, third placed junior



on the day at 34. However, Bernard Eksteen ended at the top of the scoreboard as he benefited from more early-round impacts on the 411 m and 432 m targets. Well done, Bernard!

We would like to thank the shooters (especially the juniors, wives and girlfriends) who supported this event, and in particular our host Pieter Eksteen, who prepared the range and once again made his facilities available to Send IT, ELR shooting. In addition, we would also like to thank Guns & Bows that part-sponsored the "Zombie Targets" handed out to all the juniors and Deon du Preez from Ubuntu Tours & Events, Send IT's chef, that prepared a wonderful meal to be enjoyed by all match participants while awaiting the prize giving.

Next up, Send IT will host two large-calibre ELR events on 2 October and 6 November - all rifles up to 50 BMG are allowed. Anyone in need of additional information can contact myself on 083 4696 181. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and find the link on our page to join the Send IT, ELR Shooting Telegram group, where all communication is posted.

Until next time, get ready to ... Send IT!

Send IT, ELR Shooting - event dates 2021	
Date	Venue
2 October	Darling, Western Cape
6 November	Darling, Western Cape

PEKS Shooting Range | 4 September 2021 | .22LR ELR Event

Rank	Name	Surname	TOTAL	% of Top	Hits
1	Bernard	Eksteen	24195	100%	31
2	Hitchcock	Michael	23056	95%	34
3	Wesley	White	20328	84%	30
4	Loutjie	Hanekom	20302	84%	29
5	Franscois	Vogel	18201	75%	28
6	Nico	Louw	17999	74%	25
7	Lynette	Gous, L	17612	73%	28
8	Charl	Gous, C	17335	72%	27
9	Rick	Jaffe	16773	69%	26
10	Francois	de Villiers	16376	68%	26
11	Marlize	Volschenk, M	15629	65%	23
12	Greg	Sykes	15519	64%	28
13	Ludy	Starke	15056	62%	25
14	Bernard	Kotze	13960	58%	22
15	Franscois	Gous, F	13758	57%	24
16	Garth	Terry, G	13347	55%	24
17	John	Brandson	13346	55%	22
18	Marius	Van Zyl	13261	55%	19
19	Danie	Du Preez	12779	53%	24
20	Hanno	Husselman	12152	50%	20
21	Greg	Holtman	12143	50%	21
22	Martin	Le Roux, M	11370	47%	21
23	Igna	Botha, I	11300	47%	21
24	Dawie	Coetzer	11174	46%	20
25	Kobus	Beukes	10922	45%	20
26	Pieter	Eksteen	10691	44%	22
27	Andre	Volschenk, A	10220	42%	20
28	Mario	Gerber	9931	41%	21
29	Kosie	Botha, K	8672	36%	20
30	Gareth	Holtman	8591	36%	18
31	Niki	Terry, N	7971	33%	17
32	Nicole	Le Roux, N	5435	22%	14
33	Tony	Ingram	3609	15%	4
34	Liz	Roux	1902	8%	4