

A family affair

By Lynette Gous



In today's world, kids are consumed by electronic devices and online games. Days turn into nights and become a blur that are hardly memorable. Kids don't remember the best day of an online game – although they might disagree with you. However, special days spent with the family will remain with them into adulthood.

Most of my friends are surprised when they hear that we are going to spend the day on a farm, shooting at targets in the heat of March summer, and even dragging our children along. Some of them might think that my little piglets have finally gone on a permanent free-range holiday, but I can assure you that the .22LR Send IT, ELR events are a highlight in so many families' diaries. At these events there is no dressing up in your cocktail dress and high heels, and your children will get dirty and play in the sand and mud safely for an entire day – but boy oh boy, it is so much fun for the entire family!

On 12 March, the fourth .22LR ELR Send IT event was hosted at PEKS shooting range near Wellington, Western Cape. Moms were putting on sunblock, handing out donuts for breakfast and preparing hot chocolate for the kids – so much fun!

With the kids hyped up on a sugar rush and ready to go, match director Charl Gous started off by explaining the proceedings for the day. The children listened in anticipation, eager to get behind the rifles. Charl reminded all participants of the importance of safety. It is impressive to see the youngsters adhering to all of the safety regulations.



Match director, Charl Gous



Francois de Villiers & Francois Vogel studying the range.

Juniors (younger than 13 years) .22LR ELR EVENT

Danie du Preez was the dedicated Range Officer at the junior range, where Pieter Eksteen excelled at its redesign. The experience from the last event held in September 2021 proved that the youngsters are capable of much further ranges. Furthermore, smaller targets were used to up the difficulty level. There were six targets, ranging from 59 m to 235 m. Like the adult range, juniors had five opportunities on each target. They were up to the challenge and recorded consistent hits all the way out to 235 m!

PEKS SHOOTING RANGE - 12 MARCH 2022					
Rank	Name	Surname	TOTAL	% of Top	Hits
1	Riley	Ingram, R JNR	11351	100%	27
2	Lila	Gous, L JNR	10855	96%	28
3	Carlo	Gous, C JNR	10170	90%	27
4	Jordan	Terry, JNR	9285	82%	25
5	Nicolaas	Louw, JNR	8780	77%	25
6	Andre	Hanekom, A JNR	7736	68%	18
7	Konrad	Beukes, K JNR	7549	67%	22
8	Luke	Le Roux, L JNR	6531	58%	18
9	Nina	du Preez N JNR	5793	51%	18
10	Michael	Hitchcock, M JNR	2018	18%	7



Luke le Roux ensuring his aim is perfect.



Ferdinand du Preez, our youngest participant.



Tony Ingram keeping a watchful eye over the youngsters.



Riley Ingram with dad, Tony.

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It was quite a sight to see little bare feet, dirty from all the mud and sand they had been playing in, building dens and caves with rocks and pieces of wood, playing to their heart's content. But the moment they got on the shooting platform, with dad or friends helping them, they were focused and concise behind the rifle.

The sheer determination and camaraderie between the youngsters was abundantly evident. Some of them even got involved in scoring and spotting duties. Under the watchful eye of the Range Officer, our junior winner, seven-year-old Riley Ingram, spotted for his friend, Luke le Roux, six-years-old. He guided him as to whether he needed to aim more to the left or right side of the target, as well as higher or lower. Riley is a quick learner, and it is evident he paid attention to what was happening on the range. The proud moment where these two little ones high-fived each other after a successful hit was a priceless moment.

Riley had an amazing day and was awarded first place, with a total score of 27 hits. What an achievement! Lila Gous placed second with 28 hits. Carlo Gous was short on his sister's heels in third place with 27 hits.

Hits achieved at further distances contribute more points. As such, the number of hits is not the determining factor in the overall standings. All the juniors walked away with a branded trendy bucket hat sponsored

by Ribs Embroidery & Printing (Martin le Roux), an ice-cream in the hand and a huge smile on their faces. The juniors proved that they are an upcoming group to be reckoned with, improving immensely from last year.



Jordan Terry, with dad Garth willing her on.

Francois Vogel with a stunning Anschutz rifle.



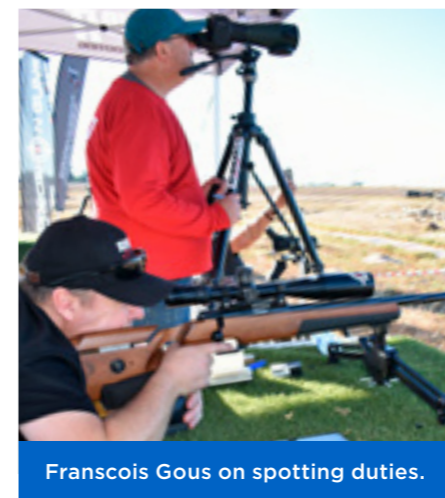
Sunelle Eksteen taking aim.



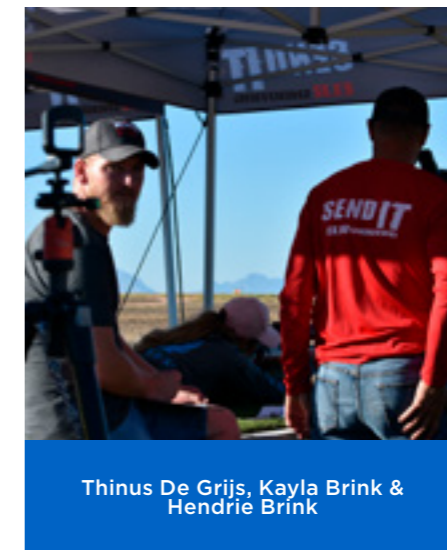
Rick Jaffe enjoying rimfire ELR.



Tony Ingram with a beautiful Anschutz rifle.



Francois Gous on spotting duties.



Thinus De Grijs, Kayla Brink & Hendrie Brink



Izak Hanekom, 4th placed.



The junior participants having a ball.



Hendrie Brink and daughter, Kayla.

Thirty four adults participating

Other than the impressive results from our junior shooters, we also had 34 adults participating. It was quite a scorcher of a day, with the wind picking up late morning up to 20 mph from 3 o'clock. Well-built backstops behind the targets assisted to determine

missed shots, making it possible to adjust your settings accordingly, along with feedback from your spotter.

Michael Hitchcock (reigning King of 2 Miles in South Africa) indicated that "the density of the air, along with the heat, caused the shots to be high and over the targets." Air density and extreme heat conditions play a key role in determining your firing solution. Add to this a hefty breeze, and it becomes quite difficult to predict where a .22LR bullet will hit, especially when the target is 424 m away.

Shooting with a .22LR rifle at extreme ranges such as 424 m is a tall order,

but the participants all showed their worth and excellent results were obtained. Sunelle Eksteen (3rd placed individual) achieved a total of 30 hits, a 67% success rate. Very impressive, especially as this was her first ELR event. It was also interesting to note that all the daughters, girlfriends, fiancés and wives managed to obtain better results than their male partners. Again, showing that this event is such a great opportunity to involve both women and children. Better luck next time, boys!

Match statistics analysed

When evaluating the results, it is important to consider that match participants covered a broad range of experience levels, from novice shooters to those more familiar with the technical aspects of how to approach ELR distances with a small rimfire cartridge. The table below sets out the hit percentages and number of impacts per target.

Range 1. Target 1 (153 m): A hit percentage of 91% was achieved, with 20 shooters achieving five out of five hits. **Target 2 (261 m):** A hit percentage of 61% was achieved, with three shooters achieving five out of five hits. **Target 3 (424 m):** A hit percentage of 9% was achieved, with two shooters achieving two out of five hits. A couple of years ago I would have considered 153 m with a .22LR as extreme, but now shooters are able to achieve a 91% hit percentage in competition conditions. This shows the remarkable growth in understanding the capabilities of this little bullet.

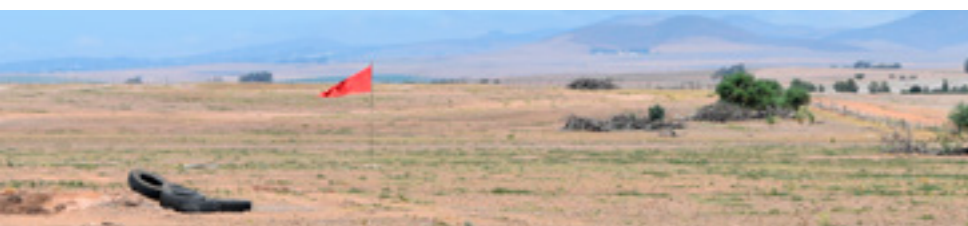
Range 2. Target 1 (188 m): A hit percentage of 68% was achieved, with five shooters achieving five out of five hits. **Target 2 (346 m):** A hit percentage of 22% was achieved, with one shooter achieving four out of five hits and two shooters managing three out of five impacts. **Target 3 (393 m):** A hit percentage of 12% was achieved, with one shooter achieving four out of five hits! Range 2 tested the shooters' ability, as Targets 2 and 3 stepped up to extreme distances, and shooters had less wind data to utilise from the near target when attempting the two far targets.

Range 3, Target 1 (166 m): A hit percentage of 78% was achieved, with 12 shooters achieving five out of five hits. **Target 2 (266 m):** A hit percentage of 56% was achieved, with five shooters achieving five out of five hits. **Target 3 (424 m):** A hit percentage of 12% was achieved, with one shooter achieving three out of five hits and three shooters managing two out of five impacts. Range 3 again produced very good consistency on the first target. However, the highlight was Izak Hanekom getting three out of five at 424 m!

Evaluating the results on the three furthest targets (393 m and 424 m), we can calculate a hit percentage of 11%, with 56 successful impacts. The significance of this achievement should not be underestimated, as these distances certainly fall in the 'extreme' category in terms of a .22LR rifle.

Distance (meters)
Hit % achieved
5 out of 5 hits
4 out of 5 hits
3 out of 5 hits
2 out of 5 hits
1 out of 5 hits
0 out of 5 hits

	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 (meters)	153	261	424	188	346	393	166	266	424
Hit % achieved	91%	61%	9%	68%	22%	12%	78%	56%	12%
5 out of 5 hits	20	3	0	5	0	0	12	5	0
4 out of 5 hits	12	10	0	16	1	1	13	5	0
3 out of 5 hits	2	10	0	6	2	1	4	10	1
2 out of 5 hits	0	8	2	4	8	2	4	8	3
1 out of 5 hits	0	3	11	0	11	10	1	4	11
0 out of 5 hits	0	0	21	3	12	20	0	2	19



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Pieter Eksteen, 1st placed.



Nikki Terry, receiving guidance from Martin and Garth.



Lynette Gous, outshooting the "boys".



Igna Botha taking aim.



Franscois Gous and Liz Judais Roux.



Bernard Eksteen receiving guidance from Pieter.



Thinus De Grijs acquiring the target.



Jannie Gerber firing at the 393m target.



Newcomer, Francois van Wyk taking aim.



Garth Terry, aiming to hit the 424m target.

Match results

Remarkable results were achieved in very difficult conditions. To provide some perspective, at the furthest targets some shooters reported that they needed to adjust up to 30 MOA of windage to hit the target. Pieter Eksteen's wind reading ability assisted him in taking the top spot. Well done on 1st place, Pieter! However, there are

several shooters who performed fabulously well. James Preyser, a newcomer to .22LR ELR, was placed second, followed closely by undisputed lady's champion Sunelle Eksteen in third. A shoutout to Kayla Brink (8th placed) and Liz Judais Roux (10th placed) for outscoring the boys!



Michael Hitchcock on spotting duties.



James Preyser received a silver medal for his efforts.



Riley Ingram in 1st position for the juniors.



Lila Gous in 2nd position for the juniors.



Carlo Gous in 3rd position for the juniors.



The junior winner, Riley Ingram with Pieter Eksteen.



Pieter Eksteen, winner of the event.



Proud moment for Sunelle Eksteen in 3rd place.

.22LR ELR EVENT

PEKS SHOOTING RANGE - 12 MARCH 2022

Rank	Name	Surname	TOTAL	% of Top	Hits
1	Pieter	Eksteen, P	21642	100%	30
2	James	Preyser	19842	92%	29
3	Sunelle	Eksteen, S	19505	90%	30
4	Izak	Hanekom, I	15964	74%	25
5	Thinus	De Grijs	15017	69%	25
6	Andre	Volschenk, A	14884	69%	26
7	Lynette	Gous, L	14830	69%	24
8	Kayla	Brink, K	14301	66%	22
9	Bernard	Eksteen, B	14279	66%	22
10	Liz	Roux	14133	65%	22
11	Kosie	Botha, K	13973	65%	20
12	Charl	Gous, C	13392	62%	24
13	Francois	Vogel	12933	60%	19
14	Danie	Du Preez, D	12700	59%	23
15	Deon	Fabel	11784	54%	21
16	Hitchcock	Michael, M	11643	54%	22
17	Loutjie	Hanekom, L	11162	52%	21
18	Tony	Ingram, T	11110	51%	19
19	Jannie	Gerber	10825	50%	20
20	Rick	Jaffe	10816	50%	19
21	Igna	Botha, I	10688	49%	20
22	Francois	Gous, F	10633	49%	16
23	Johan	van Dyk	10551	49%	18
24	Francois	de Villiers	10546	49%	20
25	Asharuf	Moorad	9955	46%	17
26	Nicola	Terry, N	9807	45%	18
27	Garth	Terry, G	9680	45%	16
28	Francois	van Wyk	9507	44%	16
29	Kobus	Beukes, K	8756	40%	17
30	Marius	van Zyl	8436	39%	13
31	Martin	Le Roux	8052	37%	15
32	Dawie	Coetzer	8045	37%	15
33	Nico	Louw, N	7960	37%	14
34	Hendrie	Brink, H	7761	36%	16



Champions - Pieter Eksteen and daughter, Sunelle Eksteen.

Next up, the Send IT team heads to Hanover, Northern Cape to host the ULTRA event at the Karoo Kings of the Plains Shooting Range. The first Send IT ULTRA match and ELR seminar will be a four-day event, including a two-day seminar (hosted by the world-renowned firearm and ELR expert Eduardo Abril de Fontcuberta) and a two-day ELR match. In addition, we would like to thank our host, Pieter Eksteen, who meticulously prepared the range and made his facilities available for this joyous day.

Contact:

Anyone in need of additional information can contact Charl Gous on 083 4696 181. Be sure to follow Send IT, ELR Shooting on Facebook and find the link to join the Send IT Telegram group where all communications are posted.

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



<https://www.facebook.com/SendITelrshooting/>

Send IT, ELR Shooting calendar for the remainder of 2022. Be sure to follow them since these matches have grown in stature and competing shooters since their formal matches commencing as late as July 2019 and have produced no less than two King of 2 Miles SA winners and one King of 1 Mile SA winner in this relatively short period.

Send IT, ELR Shooting - event dates 2022	
Date	Venue
27-30 April 2022	Send IT ULTRA Hanover, Northern Cape
1 October 2022	Darling, Western Cape
5 November 2022	Darling, Western Cape

Send IT, ELR Shooting - Rimfire ELR event dates 2022	
Date	Venue
3 September 2022	PEKS Range, Wellington