

ONTARGET

AFRICA

ISSUE
41

PRECISION RIFLE • E L R • HANDGUN • OPTICS • SAFETY • GEAR • HUNTING

'WIND WARS' Western Cape

ELR Shooters at
K01M SA and K02M SA

King
of 18
mile
IN SOUTH AFRICA

King
of 28
miles
IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Online firearm and reloading store

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Books

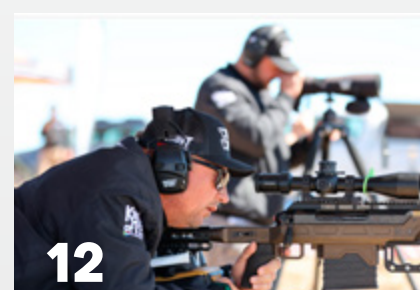
60 Three books by Brigadier Fanie Brits.

SPORTS-SHOOTING MATCHES

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42 **The Western Cape shooters at KO1M SA and KO2M SA 2022** Charl Gous a regular contributor to *On Target Africa* magazine answered our request to give us insights into the 2022 events.

50 The 68th Western Province Bisley Association Championship, 5 to 8 October, at the Good Hope Shooting Range, Atlantis. All the Bisley classes participating and a brief outline to the classes within Bisley.



from the editor's desk

With boundless energy and enthusiasm, South African ELR competitors and competitors from neighbouring, Namibia, headed off to the KO1M SA and KO2M SA 2022 event at King of Karoo Plains Shooting range at the New Holme Guest Lodge in Hanover, Northern Cape from 24 to 27 August.

As Publishing Director of *On Target Africa* magazine, I attended the inaugural KO1M SA and KO2M SA hosted by Impact Xtreme Shooting in Clarens, Free State in 2019. This year's event has been the highlight of the annual ELR shooting calendar.

My sincere thanks to Brendan Fike who, long after all shooters are safely back home, spends considerable time compiling the in-depth article for our readers to enjoy in this issue. Brendan's administrative duties do not end there as he also has to compile and submit all the documents to KO1M and KO2M LLC.

Well before the King events, a golden invitation arrived from WP Bisley Association to attend their 68th WP Bisley Association Championship. I graciously accepted and was warmly welcomed. With my limited photographic skills I managed to capture this marathon four-day event. It was gruelling, but this Bisley event showcases a discipline we have not reported on before.

It was very interesting to grasp the range of equipment and calibres and the various procurement methods for this gear. The only international shooter present was Mohsin Nawaz from Pakistan, whom readers may recall from our March/April 2020 issue. We were delighted to engage with Mohsin again. Meeting up with Bisley competitor Brigadier Fanie Brits was quite fortuitous, as it allowed me to convey to our readers the details of three enthralling books he has authored.

The South African Precision Rifle Federation (SAPRF) 2022 season came to an end with Hendrik Nel from Gauteng placing third in the SAPRF Championship held at Darling Steel Valley from 7 to 8 October. He also received the Golden Bullet, thus ending the season in the overall number one slot. This issue includes the SAPRF dates for the qualification matches that could see you compete in the International Precision Rifle Federation (IPRF) championship to be hosted in South Africa in 2024.

Major upgrades and developments have taken place and are in progress at Clay Pigeon Adventures at Lourensford in Somerset West. Our Contributing Editor Chris Blatherwick chats to Noel Rowe to catch up on all the exciting news.

As for the remainder of the year, we look forward to the Midlands Challenge from 17 to 19 November, hosted by Nico Harris of the Natal Gong Series. Ending off the 2022 long range matches I am able to attend in person is the 'Koning van die Myl' from 25 to 26 November at Noodhulp Farm, close to Paternoster on the West Coast.

The World Shoot XIX 2022 Pattaya, Thailand is the biggest IPSC Handgun practical shooting competition. We wish the South African team travelling to compete there every success.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like us to consider covering your matches. These opportunities for growth and exposure are open to all sports-shooting disciplines. We are limited in our resources, of course, but do make every valiant effort to be involved at matches every weekend of the sports-shooting calendar.

As always, please send us your feedback, whether good, bad or indifferent. We need to know how to keep on improving. 🐼

Kind regards

Louise

Publishing Editor

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King 2022:

New Rules and New Equipment

By Charl Gous



It was August 2022. My phone rang non-stop as ELR shooters worked themselves into a fever pitch of enthusiasm. The time soon came, and we were on our way to attend the King of 1 Mile (KO1M) and King of 2 Miles (KO2M) South Africa, a world-class event meticulously hosted by the Impact Xtreme Shooting team at King of Karoo Shooting Plains range, Hanover, Northern Cape from 24 – 27 August 2022. The 'King' event is the highlight of the annual ELR calendar and set to remain so for the future. It is an opportunity to meet and compete against shooters from the rest of the country on an international level.



Charl Gous competing in KO1M SA - 25th August 14h18

Charl Gous
25th August 14h13

A large contingent of shooters travelled from the Western Cape to Hanover in the Northern Cape, about 700 km one way. At this event 26 (out of 49) Western Cape shooters competed in the KO1M event and 23 (out of 48) in the KO2M match. Most shooters chose to take part in both events to gain experience and shoot more rounds. This strong provincial representation is due to the vibrant ELR shooting community in the Western Cape.

To display unity, we had Send IT branded caps and jackets made for all Cape Town based shooters. On the front of the caps the phrase 'WIND WARS' was embroidered in a bold font. If only we knew how true these words would be in capturing the difficult shooting conditions awaiting us.

A few twists

Preparing for the King had a few twists, as two new rules came into effect for South Africa. These changes were already implemented in 2021 and earlier in the rest of the world, but South African shooters had a grace period to comply.

A new bipod rule was introduced that required the bipod legs to be capable

of folding or otherwise collapsing along the length of the rifle. In the collapsed position, the bipod cannot exceed a width of 8 inches (20 cm). In addition, the only mechanical elevation adjustment in the front portion of the rifle and bipod system must come from the independent movement of each of the bipod legs.

Bipod rule

The bipod rule aims to remove F-Class type bipods that come with wide, fixed legs and make use of a mechanical dial to precisely adjust the height of the rifle onto the target. These bipods are very comfortable to shoot with and are widely used by ELR shooters in other competition formats where it is allowed. To comply with the rule, numerous shooters had to purchase new foldable bipods and fitted adjustable bag riders to provide vertical adjustment.

The second rule change was that all one-mile rifles had to weigh less than 26 lb (11.8 kg) from the previously permitted 30 lb (13.6 kg). This change impacted less shooters but was significant for those with rifles already near the 30 lb level in 2021. As an

example, I had to reduce the weight of my rifle by 1.4 kg. To achieve this, I constructed a foam-based butt stock, used a lighter bipod, had a small custom-made picatinny rail (to attach the bipod) and even removed the sunshade from my rifle scope to adhere to the weight restriction.

Additional hurdles

Whether we agree with these rules or not and their impact on the cost of shooting is a debate for another day. However, it is fair to say that these limitations make it less inviting for shooters to take part and creates additional hurdles in attracting new shooters.

The Karoo King of the Plains Shooting Range is proving to be a testing shooting venue with unpredictable weather and winds. Fresh in our minds was last year's rain-soaked shooting range. Thankfully we escaped a repeat occurrence and were treated to sunshine. Day 1 (qualifying, KO1M) saw strong gusting winds, while the following two days (qualifying, KO2M and final) presented fair but equally difficult shooting conditions.



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It was a match best remembered for the phrase 'WIND WARS'

Wind like rolling waves

The wind came in like a rolling set of waves, gaining speed and dropping away at short notice just to shift direction between shots. We jokingly decided that the caps for 2023 will include the words 'Left/Right', as shooters were constantly over or under correcting, missing the targets to the side. It was a match best remembered for the phrase 'WIND WARS'.

Send IT shooter Danie du Preez stood out from the pack with a full score in the KO1M qualifying round, giving him a comfortable lead. Danie followed up with a solid performance in the finals and was crowned the King of 1 Mile South Africa. In addition, Send IT regular Izak Hanekom put in a fantastic performance in the KO1M final to take second place – the new Prince! We are proud to highlight that ten of the top 15 KO1M South Africa positions were filled by shooters who often take part in Send IT competitions. Well done, gents!

Difficult conditions

In difficult conditions, DJ van Zyl, former King of 2 Miles South Africa winner, took the lead in the KO2M qualification round with excellent impacts at 1 661 m and 2 001 m. However, Janrich Abraham pipped him to the win in the final, making impact at 2 501 m. Well done to the new King! Edgar Doubell (impact at 2 855 m) and Elton Burger (impact at 2 501 m) provided an exciting finish to the KO2M final as both moved up the leader board to finish third and fourth respectively. Encouragingly, seven of the top ten KO2M South Africa positions were taken by Western Cape shooters.

The KO2M event is the pinnacle for ELR shooters. To be more successful at these distances we need to develop a group of shooters capable of consistently engaging targets at 2.5 km and beyond in a competitive environment. We are not there yet but are working hard at it. This is no quick process and is severely hampered by the legislative environment in which we licence our ELR firearms, plus the associated cost. It is a multi-year process to progress ELR to the KO2M level, requiring dedication and purpose-built equipment.



Bernard Kotze
25th August 10h12



DJ van Zyl
25th August 13h03



Spotter DJ van Zyl and Danie du Preez
- 25th August 08h23



Dwayne Cronje spotting for Herman Maree
25th August 08h46



John Justus



Tony Ingram
25th August 09h59



Competitive upgrades

In the Western Cape we saw numerous shooters upgrade their gear to be more competitive. The 300 PRC and 300 Norma Magnum have proven popular choices due to the excellent .308 bullets on offer. With an established ELR calendar, the big boomers are coming on-line, with no less than four shooters recently receiving their licenced 375 CheyTacs.

One such rifle is James Preyser's stunning, Lance Stevens built, 375 CheyTac sporting a Bat CT action and 37 inch Krieger barrel firing 407 gr Berger monolithic bullets and fitted with Zero Compromise optics. What a beast!

At Send IT we have been eagerly awaiting these equipment upgrades as a sign that it is time move to the next level and push forward with the development of ELR. Send IT supporters can look forward to a newly formulated two-mile format in 2023 that will assist in our endeavours to take on the two-mile target with confidence.

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

Anyone in need of additional information can contact myself, Charl Gous, on +27 83 4696 181.



Be sure to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Senditelrshooting> and find the link on our page to join the Send IT, ELR Shooting Telegram group where all communication is posted. 🇿🇦

Send IT, ELR Shooting - event dates 2023	
Date	Format & Venue
11 February	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley
11 March	PEKS Range .22LR ELR Wellington
18 March	2-Mile Challenge Darling Steel Valley
1 April	2-Mile Challenge Darling Steel Valley
27-29 April	Send IT ULTRA Hanover, Northern Cape
2 September	PEKS Range .22LR ELR Wellington
30 September	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley
4 November	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley

Send IT, ELR Shooting - event dates 2022	
Date	Format & Venue
2 October	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley
6 November	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley



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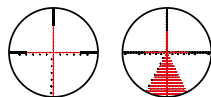
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