

# Send IT .22 LR ELR



By  
Charl Gous

On 11 March we hosted the sixth .22 LR ELR (Extreme Long Range) Send IT match at PEKS Shooting Range near Wellington, Western Cape with a full house of 36 adult and 12 junior (younger than 13) competitors. In 2020, Send IT developed and hosted the first .22LR ELR event in South Africa, and to our knowledge it is still the only rimfire ELR competition in the country.

To get .22 LR ELR, you need to understand what you are attempting to achieve. Launching a 40 gr lead bullet, with virtually no ballistic coefficient, at 1 080 fps towards a 30 cm by 30 cm steel plate at 424 m (the furthest target on the range) and achieving a successful hit is an astonishing and very satisfying result.

Rimfire ELR has gained tremendous interest from the sports-shooting community because it is exciting, challenging and *accessible* for a broad range of shooters. Rifles are readily available and inexpensive, while ammunition is affordable. Shooters require a modest rifle and an optic with suitable elevation capability, preferably up to 100 MOA, to compete.

Furthermore, .22 LR ELR is a fantastic *learning platform*, incorporating the effects of wind, atmospheric conditions and advanced ballistics. These learnings can be used to vastly improve a shooter's skill set with large calibre rifles and is an excellent way to teach concepts to youngsters and novice shooters.

In addition, rimfire ELR is the great equaliser among shooters in terms of equipment. A topic often discussed is the 'equipment race' that, in many instances, is a big barrier for new shooters to enter a particular sports-shooting discipline. This is not a material issue for .22 LR ELR shooters as everyone arrives with equipment with broadly similar capabilities. To date, results achieved at our rimfire ELR matches support this view as shooters have performed exceptionally well with fairly basic .22 LR rifles.

On the topic of equipment, there have been new developments in respect of .22 LR ammunition. Cutting Edge Bullets has developed a monolithic projectile and reloading package for .22 LR cartridges with vastly superior

ballistics compared to conventional .22 LR ammunition. We support the advancement of ELR and we too enjoy pushing the boundaries, but have excluded the use of monolithic bullets at our .22 LR ELR matches, as it would be against the spirit of what we aim to achieve with this format at Send IT – being accessible to a broad range of shooters.

### Match Format: How Do We Do It?

The course is made up of three ranges with targets set from 166 m to 424 m, all fitted with electronic hit indicators to confirm successful impacts. The distances were selected to make it accessible with moderate equipment. Beyond 500 m, the additional elevation requirements necessitate more specialised optics and devices to gain additional elevation that are not readily available and expensive.

On match day, shooters are divided into three rotating groups, with each starting at a pre-allocated range. Each match participant takes five shots at each target, with three targets per range, for a total round count of 45 for the match. The scoring system favours hits made at the start of a string and further benefits those who make impact at greater distances.

To accommodate our young shooters, we set up a separate junior range with targets from 58 m to 236 m. There is an acute focus on safety, given the number of youngsters around, with dedicated Range Officers to ensure all rifles are safely moved to and from the shooting platforms and stored securely. Danie du Preez once again acted as the dedicated Range Officer on the junior range.

### .22 LR ELR Match Day

Cold weather and early morning rain had everyone huddled under gazebos sipping coffee and hot chocolate. Luckily, the weather forecast was spot on. By 0800 the rain disappeared and we could get the match underway. There was a jovial atmosphere with kids' laughter and playfulness as they enjoyed the sense of life on a farm.

The match delivered excellent results. It is apparent that shooters are becoming better at making hits at far targets as they gain confidence and proficiency in calculating the required settings. Bernard Eksteen took gold with 32 impacts and a near perfect score on the third range that included four out of five hits on the 424 m target. Four shooters



▲ Rick Jaffe



▲ Pieter Eksteen



▲ Charl Gous



▲ Kosie Botha



▲ Barend Nel Snr.



▲ James Preyser

Rimfire ELR is exciting, challenging and accessible









▲ Bernard Eksteen



▲ Walter Snr. assisting Walter Jr.



▲ Deon Fabel at the 513m Gong Challenge



▲ Danie du Preez's stunning Vudoo Gun Works 22LR

managed 29 hits in total, but it was Danie du Preez (2<sup>nd</sup> placed individual) and Paul van Gass (3<sup>rd</sup> placed individual) who went home with the medals.

The juniors shot marvellously well and achieved excellent hit rates. Barend Nel Jnr. made 29 hits out of 30 shots to take 1<sup>st</sup> placed individual in the junior category. Konrad Beukes had 27 successful impacts (2<sup>nd</sup> placed) and was closely followed by the bubbly Riley Ingram (3<sup>rd</sup> placed) with 26 impacts. We must commend these young aspiring marksmen for what they delivered on the day.

In addition, shooters were given the opportunity to engage a 513 m challenge gong (30 cm x 30 cm in size) with two separate five-shot attempts. Six shooters managed to make impact once. To give some perspective, they needed approximately 130 MOA of elevation to reach the target!

We would like to thank all those who participated, and especially invite the youngsters back to come and give their parents another run for their money! To our host, Pieter Eksteen, thank you for preparing the range and your time and commitment to help grow the Send IT initiative.



▲ Charl Gous presenting the results and prize giving.



▲ L-R: 3rd Paul van Gass, 1st - Bernard Eksteen 3rd Danie du Preez, Charl Gous - match director



▲ L-R: 3rd - Riley Ingram, 2nd - Konrad Beukes, 1st - Barend Nel Jnr.



▲ All the Juniors with Franscois Gous



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# Send IT, ELR Shooting 2-Mile Challenge



▲ Caption

On 18 March we hosted the first Send IT 2-Mile Challenge at Matroosbergstasieskietklub near De Doorns in the Western Cape with a small group of 12 shooters. A tremendous effort was put in to develop and build these fabulous facilities and a range capable of accommodating ELR matches out to two miles.

The match format included three targets set at 2 485 m, 2 700 m and 3 270 m. Each participant took six shots at each target. We decided that the group would all shoot at Target 1 before moving to Targets 2 and 3. This reduces the 'luck of the draw' factor as all shooters engage a target within a short time before moving on to the next.

We were delighted at the results, especially with the 'light guns', and reported successful impacts at two miles. Gerhardt Haasbroek, using a 300 PRC, achieved three consecutive hits at 2 700 m, while Bernard Kotze (using a 33 XC) was the only shooter to make impact on all three targets, including the mighty 2-Mile. Well done, gents.



▲ Carlo Gous required two Nightforce Wedges to reach the 2-Mile target.



▲ All smiles! Bernard Kotze after making impact at 2-Miles for the first time



▲ Pieter Eksteen evaluating the wind



▶ Dwayne Cronje lining up the shot ▶



◀ Target number 3. Distance: 3270 metres

Send IT, ELR Shooting 2-Mile Challenge  
Venue: Matroosbergstasieskietklub  
Date: 18 March 2023

Nr	Name & Surname	Caliber	Target 1						Target 2						Target 3						Total Nr. of HITS	TOTAL SCORE	Gun	
			1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F				
1	Charl Gous	375 ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	18 822	Heavy Gun	
2	Bernard Kotze	33 XC	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	17 833	Light Gun
3	Gerhardt Haasbroek	300 PRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14 580	Light Gun	
4	Pieter Swart	338 LM	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10 867	Light Gun	
5	James Preysler	375 CT	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10 437	Heavy Gun	
6	Carlo Gous	338 LM AI	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10 437	Light Gun	
7	Danie du Preez	37 XC	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9 940	Heavy Gun	
8	Pieter Eksteen	375 CT	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7 885	Heavy Gun	
9	Trevern Haasbroek	300 PRC	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6 676	Light Gun	
10	Tony Ingram	375 CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	Heavy Gun	
11	Herman Maree	375 CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	Heavy Gun	
12	Dwayne Cronje	338 LM AI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	Light Gun	



▲ The squad that took on the first Send IT 2-Mile Challenge



◀ Bernard Kotze (2nd), Gerhardt Haasbroek (3rd) and Charl Gous (1st)

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 send us a message to join the Send IT Telegram group where all communication is posted. <https://www.facebook.com/Senditelrshooting/>

This was an epic 2-Mile challenge and bodes well for the development of ELR sport shooting in the Western Cape!

**Next up** we travel to Hanover in the Northern Cape to host our flagship event, the Send IT ULTRA at the Karoo King of the Plains shooting range from 27 to 29 April. We have a fully booked field of 48 top ELR shooters from across the country who will engage targets from 900 m to 2 200 m, with calibres up to 50 BMG permitted.

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

## 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 Matroosbergstasie Skietklub
27-29 April	Send IT ULTRA Hanover, Northern Cape
20 May	2-Mile Challenge Matroosbergstasie Skietklub
June/July TBC	2-Mile Challenge Matroosbergstasie Skietklub
2 September	PEKS Range .22LR ELR Wellington
30 September	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley
4 November	ELR Match Darling Steel Valley