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## **TSA NEWSLETTER #3 / 2015**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **JUNE**

Tues 2 Interclub Round 3 @ Waitakere  
Sat 6 Waitomo Open @ Te Kuiti  
Sat 13 Cambridge Teams of 4 @ Cambridge  
Sat 20 Auckland Open (B7#4) @ Howick  
Sat 27 Whakatane @ Te Puke  
Sat 27 Cut off date for Nth V Sth Selection

#### **JULY**

Sat 4 Waikato Open/Closed @ Tauranga  
Mon 6 Interclub Round 4 @ Howick  
Mon 6 Achillies & Owairoa @ Howick TBC  
Sat 11 Rotorua Open @ Rotorua  
Mon 13 Inter Assn Postal @ Howick Range  
Tue 14 Inter Assn Postal @ Waitakere Range  
Mon 20 Commonwealth Cities @ Venue TBC

#### **AUGUST**

Sat 1 Sth Waikato Open @ Putaruru (B7#5)  
Sun 2 Indoor Nationals @ Howick (Satellite)  
Wed 5 Interclub Round 5 @ Auckland  
**Sat 8** BSA & Auckland v Waikato @ Howick  
Sat/Sun 15/16 North v South @ Wanganui  
Tues 25 Interclub Round 6 @ Waitakere  
Sat 29 Waitakere Open (B7#6) @ Waitakere

#### **Other Important Dates on the TSNZ Calendar**

June 9 Final day for entry TSNZ Individual & Interclub Postal – see your club Sec  
June 26 Final Day for entry TSNZ Season Agg Postal – see you club Sec  
July 31 Scores to be at TSNZ for Individual and Interclub postal  
August 2 National Indoor Championship – entry on day @ Howick  
August 31 Scores to be at TSNZ for Seasons Agg Postal

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### **A word from our President**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May members of the Auckland Team travelled over 500 kms to compete in the Teams of Ten event at Dannevirke. This event which was first held in 1961 is the largest Indoor Small Bore shoot to be held in New Zealand.

On the way there and back we saw many facets of our beautiful country; yes, we are fortunate to live in "Godzone!"

Once there we were able to catch up with many shooters we had not seen for ages, and this brought home to me how inclusive our sport is. Young and old, men and women, all can take part, sometimes entire families. And we were joined by N.Z. Commonwealth Games and Olympic representatives, all shooting together at this event. For those of us who were able to take part, it was a privilege to be there and to represent Auckland.

To all the members of the team who made the commitment and enabled us to take part in this competition a very big thank you!

As you can see in the pictures below, the event was followed by a very pleasant dinner at the historic Dannevirke Town Hall, an amazing venue. It was a great evening to enjoy the company of our fellow team members and our fellow shooters from all over the North Island.

Congratulations to Southern Hawke's Bay for their huge effort in organising the event. The range (see below) was true to N.Z. pastoral traditions; the back stops were large wool bales (bale weights not to exceed 200 kgs – according to N.Z. Wool Classers Association) so you can tell how much effort went in to preparing the range. I don't think a single round went astray during the course of the event; by my count, allowing for practice shots there were over 17,000 rounds fired, so our wool quality is safe!

Congratulations, once again, to our inspirational Steve P. for being our leading scorer!

Chris Wadham  
President  
Target Shooting Auckland

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## **Interclub Round 2**

The "Home Range advantage" to Howick this round didn't quite pay off. While Howick B took the honors in Division 2, Waitakere claimed Division 1. Waitakere lead in both Divisions after 2 rounds. It's great to see the numbers attending Interclub holding firm. Round 3 will be at Waitakere's home range on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The TSA website has all the results, both teams and individual. [www.tsa.org.nz](http://www.tsa.org.nz)

## **Teams of Ten 2015 in Dannevirke**

Another year without a win....bugger! We were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (after the first shooter) however we slowly slid off the pace finishing 10<sup>th</sup>, just enough to stay in the Rees Scroll Division for the 2016 event. This year's event was shot on a 20 yard range (very small target, very big bullet hole) and hosted by Southern Hawkes Bay in their local sports hall. They ran a very creditable event with few scoring protests and an on time performance to be proud of. Manawatu for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year took out the Rees Scroll with Hawkes Bay taking out the Jim Hart. Top score 400.32 went to Ryan Taylor. The one fail at the event was a lack of accommodation in Dannevirke. As there are only 3 Motels to cater for 160 shooters, Auckland was accommodated in Waipukarau (25 mins drive north), while a number of other teams were in Woodville (35 mins south) or Palmerston North (45 mins southerly). This was mentioned at the before match meeting for the benefit of avoiding such a situation again in the future and the hosts stated they would not be hosting another Teams of Ten event in Dannevirke again. Their decision has been based on the accommodation problem and also the "red tape" from Town Council to allow a shooting event to be run in a Council Sports hall. They would look for an alternative venue in 11 years time. There are a very limited number of ranges in the North Island that are capable of hosting this event. The biggest problem is the requirement of 16 mounds. The 2016 event will be hosted by Hutt Valley and will be shot at the Keene Range, Petone.

The days of a team bus (how many of you can remember those days?) are gone with car pooling now the preferred mode of transport. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the support of the Mt Richmond Rifle Club Trust for their generous contribution to the travelling costs this year in memory of Gordon McKenzie.

A full set of results for the 2015 event can be found on the TSNZ website.

Our planning for the 2016 event has started and training sessions are on the list. Gone are the "Invincible Auckland" days, its official we are in a rebuilding phase. Let's get on with it.

## **How good is your hold?**

You may know or not know that TSA has two Scatt machines that can be used for training. These machines do not require any ammunition and are computer based simulator style training aids. What they do with the help of a computer and some other gadgets that attach to your rifle barrel, they show you what your breathing, hold and shot release are like all on a screen. It is a very useful tool. Another simpler tool we can all use is the telescopic sight (a taboo word in our sport). The same thing found on hunting rifles. Attach



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it to your rifle (remove all your normal sights prior to attaching the telescopic) and shoot. The trick is not to shoot out the dot in the middle of the target otherwise you will not have an aiming mark. It may show you how good or not so good your hold and shot release really are and therefore improving your scores. Either way it is good for a giggle. You will need a strong scope 9x magnification or greater to get the benefit. Have fun.

## **Auckland Provincial Championship 2015**

What a hectic opening 4 weeks of the session. We have completed 3 "Big 7" events in 4 weeks. Consistent numbers are showing up to each event which is great to see. The next event is the TSA Open on 20<sup>th</sup> June at the Howick Rifle Range. More details on this event later in the Newsletter.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, there are 3 Championships in the Auckland area, Howick, TSA Open @ Howick and the Waitakere Open. If you are in B, C or D Grade and do not want to travel outside of Auckland, the next 2 events (TSA Open and Waitakere Open) are perfect for you. The numbers attending in these grades have been a little on the low side but the quality of shooting has not. At the recent Howick Open everyone in D Grade won a prize. Why not have a go; the clubs need your support.

Congratulations to the TSA shooters who placed at the recent Howick Open:  
Steve Petterson 1<sup>st</sup> Master, Master Grade 20 Shot, and Grand Agg 500.38  
Lawrence Moodie 3<sup>rd</sup> A Grade 294.17  
Steve O'Donnell 1<sup>st</sup> B Grade 293.10  
Courtney Wooller 2<sup>nd</sup> C Grade 284.08

## **TSA Open 2015**

As mentioned earlier, the TSA Open which is Round 4 of the Auckland Provincial Championship is happening on Saturday 20th June. As usual the event is run by all members of TSA.

A poster for the event will be e-mailed to you shortly with the details of the event. The format for the day will be the same as previous years. Howick members will operate the range from 9:00am until 12:30pm and the combined force of the west clubs members will then take over through to the finish. The kitchen will be run by Howick.

The numbers that are attending the competitions this year, particularly in the B, C & D Grades, it has never been a better time to have ago and possibly/probably finish the day with a prize. Why not test yourself against other shooters...what are you afraid of? Remember that "pressure is a self induced fear of failure". Give failure the bird!

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### **For Sale**

Are you new to the sport and now wanting to have your own gear or an experienced shooter thinking of upgrading your old tried and tested rifle to a newer one? If the answer is YES, then I may be able to assist. Over recent months I have either come into possession of or been advised of shooters wanting to sell their rifles and accessories. Currently I know of 10 rifles both right hand and left handed models and ideally suited to the entry level shooter all the way to Master Grade shooter. Other items I know of or have are gloves, jackets, slings, ammunition boxes, ammunition, shooting vests, soft rifle cases, shooting glasses (frames) rifle stocks and cleaning equipment etc. To list everything would take up to many pages.

The easiest way to help you is drop me a line with your requirement/s and I will let you know if I have what you're looking for. If I cannot assist, then I'll put you in contact with an ex-shooter wanting to sell their items.

### **The Last Item**

I'm regularly hearing chatter about how good it would be to have more competitions throughout the year. One competition regularly mentioned is NDC. Yes it would be good to be able to compete again in NDC and other competitions however there is one thing that stops us doing that...the small number of shooters we currently have. To compete in NDC in its current format requires 18 shooters every 3 weeks for 5 rounds and 2 further times to cover the semi final and final. At the recent Howick Open the number of TSA shooters that competed was 12. We need more shooters to compete so we can compete more, if that makes sense. Our sport is a competitive sport with a social aspect thrown in for good measure. Competitive can be interpreted in many forms, competing in a team, as an individual (Open Championship) or even against the target and or range every time you fire a shot. It just varies between individuals but at the end of the day it is a competition.

During our dominance as a shooting province years ago, the core shooters of our team/s were at the top of their game, Olympics, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, National Champions. Ok we don't have them now for one reason or another but why have they not been replaced? I read an interesting quote a little while ago, "If you are shooting poorly shoot more, if you are shooting well shoot more". Let's start rebuilding a great Auckland shooting province.

*Rob Dixon*

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