



CLI .303 CLUB OF CAPE TOWN

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400M November 2011

Dear Members

There is an old Al Debbo song dating back to the 1950's (you need to be a bit of an old Toppie to remember who the Afrikaans comedian and singer Al Debbo was), that began with the lines – "Daars 'n hele spul brakke op Turffontein – 'n Hele spul brakke het hul daar - etc, etc ". It's a catchy tune that I often sing to myself on the way to work in my vet practice in the afternoons. The lyrics came to mind last Saturday when I viewed the (hele spul skuts) assembled on the 400m firing point to shoot the annual Brakkefontein 400. We had a good turnout of 42 shooters including a small contingent of F-Class shooters who joined us as guests for the day.

This extraordinary event is a product the devious mind of one Darryl Carver ("long may his bum reek and his toolie waggle") who incidentally this time escaped participation, on the pretext of attending some important wedding.

The Brakkefontein 400 is a challenging shoot at a man sized upper torso silhouette target in black and yellow Camo stripes. The target is set on a metre square yellow background outlined poorly against a white clay backstop on the range. For most of us it's a bit like shooting at a snowman in winter in the Antarctic. Added to this challenge, is an extra 100m beyond the distance at which the target was designed to be used. Then factor in on this occasion an early summer "Cape Doctor" fluctuating in strength and swivelling about wildly from 9 to 12 0'clock and the stage was set for a humbling shooting experience with which to close our club program for 2011.

After a quick registration on at the clubhouse last Saturday we proceeded to the 900m range to do battle with the elements and the "bloody" target.

The usual prayer of fellowship was delivered to open proceedings and our Chairman, Mike di Bona, then explained how the event could be shot." Aim at the hand, would be helpful according to experienced member John Ecclestone" he advised. He then "vaguely" described the target's features in detail. "There is no V-bull and the bull is kind of square or rectangular", he said. Some confusion reigned and so to provide clarity on these matters a target was later brought to the firing point before the first detail commenced.

Somewhat curiously it was then noted that there was a V-bull and that the bull was in fact round. No matter though, this late discovery was in the spirit of this tricky event, as planned by dastardly Darryl. Long range shooting, according to Carver, is really no fun at all if you enter into it with any sense of certainty or confidence.

As usual, the morning's shoot went off like clockwork with Mike Di Bona and Chris Gouws running the firing point and radio comms. And Brent Bennett and Mike Beardwood running the butts details.



Combined with the .303 event was an the “Any Rifle” fun shoot in which most of the participants chose to use scope sighted hunting rifles with which “Aiming for the hand and even the index finger” could be achieved.

Not surprisingly, with the wind conditions and target being used, the top scores recorded were well below the usual low to mid-40’s.

RESULTS NOVEMBER SHOOT (CHRISTMAS) SHOOT:

.303					
X-CLASS			B-CLASS		
1	Michael Beardwood	35.2	1	Schalk Hattingh	34.0
2	Jan-Frederick van Niekerk	33.0	2	Chris Gouws	32.1
3	Mike di Bona	32.0	3	Riaan Coetzee	25.1
4	Rupert McNaught-Davis	31.1	4	Humphreys Colyn	24.0
5	John Austin	27.0	5	Matthew Melidonis	23.0
6	Pieter Marais	19.0	6	Jermaine Lewis	23.0
A-CLASS			J CLASS		
1	Frans de Waal	32.1	1	Charl du Toit	23
2	Paul Clayton	32.0			
3	Riaan Müller	31.0	<u>VETERANS</u>		
4	Brent Bennett	31.0	1	Frans de Waal	32.1
5	Francois de Waal	30.1	2	Johan Cilliers	30.0
6	Johan Cilliers	30.0	3	Gippie Engelbrecht	30.0
<u>F-CLASS</u>					
1	Conrad van Vuuren	82			
2	Neil Schwartl	80			

ANY RIFLE					
X-CLASS			B-CLASS		
1	Pieter Marais	38.2	1	Schalk Hattingh	43.2
2	Mike di Bona	34.0	2	Daniël Erasmus	39.0
3	Jan-Frederick van Niekerk	33.0	3	Matthew Melidonis	36.0
A-CLASS			J CLASS		
1	Frans de Waal	43.0	1	Charl du Toit	29.0
2	Francois de Waal	42.2			
3	Riaan Müller	42.1	<u>VETERANS</u>		
			1	Frans de Waal	43.0
			2	Giepie Engelbrecht	36.2

In the .303 Class events, Michael Beardwood and Jan-Frederick and Mike di Bona took the first three places with scores of 35.2, 33, and 32 respectively in the X-Class.

The A-Class winners were Frans de Waal, Paul Clayton and Riaan Muller who respectively scored 32.1, 32 and 31.

The B-Class event was dominated by Schalk Hattingh, Chris Gouws and Riaan Coetzee with respective scores of 34, 32.1 and 25.1.



In the Veteran – Class, the top scorers were Frans de Waal, Johan Cilliers and Giepie Engelbrecht with scores of 32.1, 31, and 30. Charl du Toit took the J-Class event with a score of 23.

In the 400m F-Class event Conrad van Vuuren top scored with an 82 followed by Neil Swartl with an 80.

The **Any Rifle** fun event drew an amazing variety of sub MOA scoped rifles into view with expectations full scores being likely. However the wind soon put paid to these expectations.

The various Class winners are as follows:

X- Class: Pieter Marais 38.2, Mike di Bona 34, Jan-Frederick van Niekerk 33.

A-Class: Frans de Waal 43, Francois de Waal 42.2, Riaan Muller 42.1

B-Class: Schalk Hattingh 43.2, Daniel Erasmus 39, Matthew Melidonis 36.

Veteran-Class: Frans de Waal 43, Giepie Engelbrecht 36.2

J-Class: Charl du Toit 29.

Well done to all the prize winners for achieving these scores under really challenging conditions. After a full morning of shooting and battling the elements we all thankfully retired to the shade of the clubhouse, the mouth-watering odour of a chicken braai in progress under the expert supervision of Cedric Claus and Riaan Muller and most importantly, some cooling libations from the bar. This was followed by the usual awards ceremony of certificate presentations and medals for the morning's event and with this being the last shoot of the year, also the awards for the year winners of the top aggregate scores (based on the best six scores recorded in each Class) over the 2011 shooting programme. The results of the aggregate score winners is attached separately.

Mike also announced the Class grading for members 2012, with some members going up to higher classes and some being relegated to lower ones. These grading's will be published at the beginning of our club shoots in 2012.

As we have now come to the end of our 2011 club programme I would on behalf of all our members like to tender our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Chairman, Mike di Bona for his leadership in 2011, our Secretary, Schalk Hattingh and Treasurer, Francois du Toit and their Management Committee as a whole for their wonderful service given to us all over the past year. Very well done guys!

The .303 Club of Cape Town is a unique body of target shooting comrades who have over many years, developed and achieved a wonderful association of friendship, sportsmanship and camaraderie and marksmanship. To my knowledge, has not been achieved in any other shooting club in South Africa. Let us carry this forward into 2012 with optimism and goodwill. With best wishes to all our members and their families for the Festive Season and a Blessed Christmas to those who will be celebrating it in a spirit of peace and goodwill.

Our special thanks also to all of you who made donations of gifts and money towards Hospice at our last club shoot of the year.

“WE KNOW THAT WE DO SERVE HIM BEST WHEN BEST WE SERVE OUR BROTHER MAN”

Yours in shooting

John Austin (For the CLI.303 Club)



From the Chairman's desk

Many thanks to John Austin for a most entertaining newsletter. It's wonderful how different our three writing styles are... Darryl, John and me. John makes good use of adjectives, while Darryl and I use crude sometimes risqué words. I must admit it was a breath of fresh air reading his newsletter. Thanks John!

Another year has come and gone in the wink of an eye. Either I am getting very old, very quickly, or the days, weeks, months and years are getting shorter! Having said that, I thoroughly enjoyed my shooting year in all the disciplines that I compete in, but the .303 club is always the closest to my heart. Thanks to all who have made my shooting year so memorable. I look forward to next year with anticipation already!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed something towards HOSPICE at the shoot. It was an idea of mine to donate something small from our club to this worthy charitable cause. I was humbled to see just how much was collected. The true spirit of giving is deeply entrenched in this club, and I am extremely proud to boast that I am a member of this worthy club. I am sure that next year the new committee will find another worthy charity to donate our Christmas gifts to. Once again thanks to all of you for your generosity.

There is not much more for me to say that I did not mention at the prize giving. Other than to please stay safe on our roads, which are more dangerous than any shooting range, to spread the feeling of goodwill and cherish your families over this festive period. I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you all in 2012!!!!

Cheers

Mike

From the secretary's desk:

BIRTHDAYS:

We would like to wish the following members who celebrate their birthdays during December a happy birthday. May this birthday be a momentous one.

10 Dec.	Ronny Blake
16	Kelly Gendall
20	Ian Noble-Jack
28	Sakkie Stoffberg
29	Bas Barkhuysen
29	Jan-Frederick van Niekerk



QUOTE FOR THE MONTH:

The true perfection of man lies not in what man has, but in what man is. Oscar Wilde



May you experience the true joy of Christmas during this festive time and may 2012 be a prosperous year for you and your loved ones.

Till next time – keep well!
Schalk

Some pictures from the 400Mtr shoot



Pieter on the point of firing.



Danie, our RO, eventually pulling the trigger.





Alan wearing a cap that says it all!



Duppie's years of experience on show.



Brent making sure he's got the elusive bull!



Gustav looks pleased with his days' work!



Paul psyching himself up for his shoot!



Jan-Frederick showing off his winning smile.





And finally, the view from our firing point. “The best range in the world!”

That’s all from us folks!!!!

See you all in the New Year

Mike

