



CLI .303 CLUB OF CAPE TOWN

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Newsletter

June 2007

With an 80% forecast of rain for Saturday I was not the only one that thought that our shoot would be rained out. I have made the comment before that the sun always shines on the Good Hope Range and it was proved right again. Despite the prospect of rain, the long distance and school holidays, we had a great turnout of 54. During the last detail the clouds started looking ominous and it started raining minutes after we got back to the club house. That was excellent timing, almost as if it had been arranged.

Mike somehow managed to leave half his kit behind and went home to fetch it, so it was up to me to shoo everyone to the firing point. The shoot was opened with a prayer by John Ecclestone who actually remembered to come this time. It is always appreciated, thank you John. The shoot was held in near perfect conditions and I thought that we would see the record tumble, but it was not to be. The wind picked up a bit during the last details, but at least it was constant and never got stronger than a mild breeze. The changing light was probably the cause of some of those high and low shots.

The scores in the A Class were generally good with a lot scoring in the forties while in the B class there was only one. There was much head shaking going on with a lot of unexplained misses occurring up and down the firing point, but then again at the long distance it happens very easily. The top scores in each Class are as follows:

A Class

1.	Jason Di Bona	45.2
2.	Vissy Botha	44.3
3.	Colin Twine	44.3
4.	John Duckitt	44.1
5.	John Austin	43.2
6.	Wayne Pratt	43.2

B Class

1.	Jaron Pratt	40.1
2.	Stratis Voyatjes	38.2
3.	Alan Williams	38.0
4.	Colin Edge	37.1
5.	John Ecclestone	37.1
6.	Joe Koen	35.1

Veterans

1.	John Austin	43.2
2.	Evert du Plessis	43.2
3.	Alan Williams	38.0

CHAIRMAN: Mr DS Carver; VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr JA de Beer; TREASURER: Mr CF du Toit;

SECRETARY: Dr C de Beer; MEMBERS: Mr RAT Blake, Mr LM Di Bona; Mr GA Leon,

CO-OPTED MEMBER: WO1 AA Muller

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In the A Class Jason again won with an excellent 45.4. In second and third place on the same score of 44.3 was Vissy and Twinky who were very closely followed by John Duckitt with 44.1. In fifth and sixth place with 43.2 were John Austin and Wayne Pratt. Wayne is really on a roll. The scores were very close and I must congratulate all of you on a fine result. Jason, John, Twinky and Vissy are really cooking.

In the B Class Jaron returned to first place with a 40.1. Not quite his normal A Class crushing score, but good enough to win. In second place and his very first medal was newcomer Stratis Voyatjes with 38.2. From this day forth I will refer to him as Stavros, just because I can remember it better. In the third place and again in the medals was Alan Williams with 38. In fourth place with 37.1 was Colin Edge and on the same score in fifth place was John Ecclestone. Well done John it's been a while. In sixth place and making the short list again was Joe Koen. Well done to all of you on a good days shooting.

In the Veterans Class John Austin took the honours while in second place and definitely making a comeback with the same score was Evert Du Plessis (Duppie). Third place was Alan Williams, in the medals again. Well done to all of you.

Congratulations must go to the cooks for concocting the perfect meal for the cold weather. I can only comment again about the contents of the small pot which received extra attention from Riaan and Francois in the form of hot sauce. Another excellent effort from the cookies. Mike may not have remembered to bring all his kit, but he certainly remembered how to cook. Thanks Mike, Riaan and Francois for another great meal.

This successful shoot was only made possible by the efforts of Henri, Bas, Bare and Vissy on the firing point and Hannes, Floris, Wayne and Riaan Coetzee in the butts. Thanks guys for the extra effort and for the safe running the shoot. Things went like clockwork once we got going. Thanks to Corena for taking the money and doing the stats and to Bare for the squadding.

I heard a number of questions from folk who have started reloading as their coveted old army ammo is now all used up. I have said it before and I say it again; you have to load pretty smartly to get the same accuracy as the old ammo. I am no expert but in my humble opinion the two most important factors in reloading for a .303 are velocity and getting the bullet seated concentrically in the case with as little run out as possible.

As far as velocity goes it is best to get as close to the original as possible. Pushing the bullet too fast makes the group open up dramatically. Those barrels are just too thin to handle the extra power. A slow bullet is going to be a problem at the long distances but may well work very well at the short distances. The best way to check your velocity without a crony is to see if your rises in elevation at each distance are consistent with the chart. Just remember that the boat tail bullet will give a lesser rise at the long distance but nothing dramatic.



Forget about weighing cases and batching your bullets by weight you are just wasting your time. It is advisable to weigh each charge, but sometimes I don't even do that. Bullet seating is the most important part of the whole operation. I suggest that you spend a bit of money on a Forsters or Redding Benchrest seating die as these ensure that the bullet is seated concentrically every time. Once you get that right you can start messing about with case volumes and bullet weight. Just always remember that a .303 service rifle was never a 1 moa tack driver. It takes a lot of time and effort to even start approaching that sort of accuracy. Then again you have to be able to shoot the thing to that accuracy. In my case the bad shots are all my own doing and nothing to do with the rifle or the ammo. If I ever get close to shooting full scores I might start batching bullets and cases, but the chances of that happening are pretty slim.

Next month we move to the real long distances and I hope that we have as good a turn out. Let us hope that we have good conditions again or else things could get nasty and we may experience some mutterings and ammo throwing on the firing point again. Jason, please ensure that Mike brings his bolt with next time or we may witness him really stripping his thread and that could be ugly. Now that he has reached an advanced age you have to start looking after him.

Our next event is:

Distance: 800m
Date: 28th July 2007
Time: 08:00
Venue: Good Hope Range
Ammo: 5 Sighters (**only 3 convertible**) + 10 to count

Keep Safe

Darryl

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

Apologies for not having any photos this month. When I handed the camera to Bas on the range, we found out that the battery did not survive my daughter's 18th birthday party! Initially I considered publishing Bas's Leeuloop from the SA Open Championship in Bloemfontein, but seeing that this is a family newsletter, I decided against it.

Congratulations to the following members on their birthdays in July:

5 th : Ben Durandt	24 th : Robert Ellis, Joppie le Roux
14 th : Chris Geyer	25 th : Jaron Pratt
17 th : Richard Smythe	31 st : Louis Beukes, Sherrit Kunneke,
20 th : Glenn von Zeil	Graeme Leon
23 rd : Syd Goslin	

That's all from me for now.

Corena de Beer (082 826 0453)

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