



SUID-AFRIKAANSE METAALSILHOEËT SKIETVERENIGING

SOUTH AFRICAN METALLIC SILHOUETTE SHOOTING

13th IMSSU World Championship Report



Executive summary

A Team of 13 Silhouette Shooters and 4 supporters departed from OR Tambo on Saturday July 14th to compete in the 13th IMSSU World Championship in Sipoo Finland.



*Back: Tiaan Scheepers, Barry Grobbelaar, Phillip de Lange, Johann Valentin, Dawie Willemse, Leon Fourie, Jacobus Willemse, Anke van der Westhuizen
Front: Bianca Valentin, Benninghoff Siebert, Pannetjie Rossouw, Annette Rossouw, Yvonne van Straaten*

It was a very successful tour for SAMSSA. The team brought back 6 Gold, 6 Silver and 10 Bronze medals. One of the team members, Barry Grobbelaar, was crowned as the best shooter of the competition and won a Sako Rifle.

This was also the first time in the history of SAMSSA than U20 competitors participated overseas. The U20's came back with a new hunger to do better and broader vision that will not only lead to successes in shooting, but also in life.

As team manager I would like to firstly thank SASSCO and SASCOC for their assistance: -making this possible for us and secondly for each team member who were all well behaved and focussed on doing their best.

Team Selection

As per SAMSSA criteria the shooters had to achieve at least 2 qualifying scores 2016 and 2017 after which they were invited to participate in the National Trials in the week of 26 February 2018 – 3 March 2018. The selection panel finalised the team after THE competition concluded on the Saturday and the team was announced that evening as being:

*Phillip de Lange – Big Bore Handgun, Small Bore Handgun, Field Pistol, Handgun Standing
Barry Grobbelaar – Big Bore Handgun, Small Bore Handgun, Field Pistol, Handgun Standing
Dawie Willemse – Big Bore Handgun
Jacobus Willemse – Small Bore Handgun
Johann Valentin – Field Pistol, Handgun Standing
Pannetjie Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle, Small Bore Rifle
Leon Fourie – Big Bore Rifle, Small Bore Rifle
Annette Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle, Team Manager
Yvonne van Straaten – Small Bore Rifle
Bianca Valentin – Small Bore Rifle U20, Small Bore Handgun U20
Tiaan Scheepers – Small Bore Rifle U20
Anke van der Westhuizen – Small Bore Rifle U20
Benninghoff Siebert – Coach, U20 Team Manager*

Sponsorships

For the first time ever, SAMSSA was able to obtain sponsors for the team. Air Arms & Bushill sponsored an Air Rifle with accessories. This was utilised as a prize for a Raffle. Ticket selling was attacked with gusto and by the time of departure around 450 tickets were sold. Ticket selling is still underway, and Air Arms will draw the lucky winner at the National Championship in the first week of October.

Blu Logistics, who were the freight company that had to transport all our gear and ammunition to Finland, sponsored R15 000 towards the freight costs of R75 000.

Wild Outdoors of Graaff-Reinet obtained 2 Rifle Scopes as sponsor from Leopold. These 2 scopes were sold, and the money raised was utilised as sponsor.

Nosler made bullets available to trialists at dealers' price, whilst Nicolas Yale supplied .22 Ammunition at a reduced cost.

SAMSSA expresses their heartfelt thank you for all those who have assisted us in making attending to the World Championship more affordable.

Challenges

Freighting the equipment to and from countries remains the single biggest cost (almost as much as the flight tickets). The equipment arrived late, to such an extend that the Big Bore Rifle Team had to compete without their gear, hampering the ability to perform. Fortunately, it arrived late on the first day of shooting and the second day proceeded with all gear in place and improved scores. On the return of the freight, there were some items removed from the crates, some of which memorabilia.

The South African shooters, due to cost, cannot frequently compete internationally which leads to distinct disadvantages: firstly, the shooters do not know the ranges and conditions and secondly the “big match temperament” does not develop as well as the European competitors who shoots frequently on the ranges and against each other.

The results

This has been the best result that South Africa has achieved when participating in European countries:

- *Gold Medals*
 - *Jacobus Willems – Small Bore Handgun Unlimited*
 - *Jacobus Willems – Small Bore Handgun Aggregate Team*
 - *Phillip de Lange – Small Bore Handgun Production*
 - *Phillip de Lange – Small Bore Handgun Aggregate Team*
 - *Barry Grobbelaar – Small Bore Handgun Aggregate Team*
 - *Bianca Valentin – Small Bore Rifle U20 Aggregate*
- *Silver Medals*
 - *Jacobus Willemse – Small Bore Handgun Unlimited*
 - *Johann Valentin – Field Pistol Any Sights*
 - *Barry Grobbelaar – Big Bore Handgun Unlimited*
 - *Leon Fourie – Small Bore Rifle Silhouette*
 - *Bianca Valentin – Small Bore Handgun U20 Aggregate*
 - *Tiaan Scheepers – Small Bore Rifle U20 Aggregate*
- *Bronze Medals*
 - *Phillip de Lange – Field Pistol Production*
 - *Yvonne van Straaten – Air Rifle Production*
 - *Leon Fourie – Big Bore Rifle Hunting*
 - *Leon Fourie – Big Bore Aggregate Team*
 - *Pannetjie Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle Silhouette*
 - *Pannetjie Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle Aggregate*
 - *Pannetjie Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle Aggregate Team*
 - *Annette Rossouw – Big Bore Rifle Aggregate Team*
 - *Jacobus Willemse – Small Bore Handgun Aggregate*
 - *Tiaan Scheepers – Small Bore Handgun U20 Aggregate*

This is the first time that SAMSSA U20 shooters were given the opportunity to enter for overseas World championships. The 3 of them did exceptionally well and set a solid foundation for future senior medals. It is worth mentioning that Bianca Valentin obtained an overall 4th place in the small bore handgun standing event – indeed an achievement at 20.

Conclusion

South Africa did themselves proud in their team spirit and good manners. All were committed to the sport and no improper behaviour was prevalent. The next championship will be hosted by Norway and Sweden on a range in Sweden. I wish all future team members the best of luck when participating in 2020.

*Annette Rossouw
Team Manager*



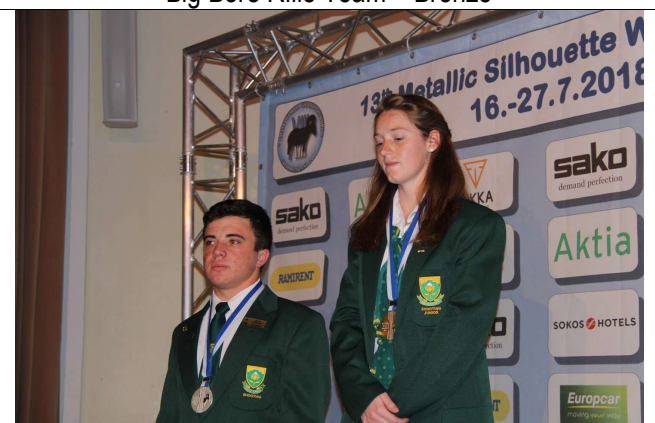
Barry Grobbelaar winner of SAKO rifle



Big Bore Rifle Team – Bronze



Small Bore Handgun Team - Gold



U20 Small Bore Rifle – Gold and Silver



Big Bore Rifle Silhouette - Bronze



Small Bore Handgun U20 – Silver and Bronze



Air Rifle Standing - Bronze



Small Bore Rifle Silhouette – Silver



Field Pistol Any Sights - Silver



On our way to awards function



Awards function



U20 member receiving Protea Blazer



Coach and President of SAMSSA



Action in Small Bore HG Standing



Action shot on Small Bore Handgun



Residence for the stay – Villa Svensk



Team spirit on the range



Opening Ceremony



U20 Rifle shooting



The whole gang