

Report: German Open 14 to 17 August 2014.



On the 11th August 2014 the First PDI High Performance Team of the South African Pistol Association gathered at OR Tambo International Airport for their departure to Frankfurt for participation in the 2014 Germany Open Championships, with excitement. This event was not only a historic event for the SA Pistol Association, but also for the entire shooting sport in South Africa as a whole, being the first official PDI team to represent SA by participating internationally in a world Class event where 10 and more countries participated.

On our arrival in Frankfurt and after acceptance of the vehicles for our daily transportation to and from the Range, we drove to the Merkle factory, where we had to purchase ammunition for participation in the various events. Ammunition exports from South Africa were limited to a maximum of 5kg per member which left us with no other alternative but to purchase the balance of our respective ammunition requirements abroad. We all enjoyed the site seeing along the way and later returned to Waghäusel to book into Waghäuseller Hof where the team resided for the duration of their participation in the Championships. Once the members had settled into their respective rooms, we did a bit of sight-seeing and enjoyed supper at the local Globus restaurant.

During our off-day prior to commencement, we also went to Gehmann, in Karlsruhe to enquire about the possibility of obtaining Air Pistols for development training in SAPA. Positive feedback was received from the dealers whom we visited, and we hope to conclude a transaction in the near future.

On Thursday 14 August we went to the range in Philippsburg to complete our registration, set the guns and sights in, and do some practicing with the purchased ammunition. No problems were experienced during practice with the ammunition.

The competition started on Friday with the South African “first time international competitors” experiencing slight stage fright. As the events of the day proceeded, problems arose with the

purchased ammunition, malfunctions experienced, and firearms were jamming as a result of high pressures from loads. Some of the members had to withdraw as a result of the respective problems during their details. Lazola Banzana took ill with flu and returned to the Hotel to rest with medication in the hope of a speedy recuperation. Members gave their best in all the events in which they participated.

Ten International teams participated on Saturday, the second day of the competition which was set aside for the International Team matches. The 3 SAPA Master shottists represented SA during this event, but the most experienced top shottists from the other Countries appeared to be in top form, and South Africa did not win medals, although the team remained focussed.

On the third and final day of the competition, the SA members' scores on the board revealed high placing but with the day drawing to a close, their final positions dropped outside the medal count.

During the prize giving function medals were awarded to the top three members in their respective categories. South Africa won 6 medals in total, 3 Gold and 3 Bronze.

SA's first Gold medal was awarded to MD Thumbran for winning in the NPA Service Pistol B event (a 24 shot match).

SA's second Gold medal was awarded to LL Banzana for winning in the PPC Distinguished Revolver Match event (a 60 shot match).

SA's GM Begg was awarded a Bronze medal for third place in the PPC Distinguished Pistol Match (a 60 shot match).

SA's third Gold medal was awarded to NA Rautenbach for winning in the PPC Standard Semi-Auto Pistol event (a 48 shot match). Two Bronze medals were also awarded to NA Rautenbach for third place in both PPC Distinguished Revolver Match (a 60 shot match) and in the PPC 1500 Pistol which was a 150 shot match.



The team members were true ambassadors throughout, and have done SAPA proud with their achievements. From the indications received, all team members will cherish their experiences during this recent event and will build on their potential to improve and make SAPA and the shooting fraternity in South Africa as a whole, proud in future events.

Friendships were built and all the participating members are already looking forward to the 2015 event which will be hosted in Stockholm, Sweden.



I trust that the report meets your requirements.

Nico Rautenbach

Team Manager (German Open 2014).