

11th International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union World Championship

Ludvikovice, Czech Republic

14th July to 26th July 2014



SAMSSA National Team 2014

Front left to right: Fanie Koen, Maryke Willemse, Barry Grobbelaar, Annette Rossouw, Pannetjie Rossouw, Jacobus Willemse

Middle left to right: Dawie Willemse, Phillip de Lange, Danie Hoffman, Steyn Laubscher, Pikkie Wilson, Gideon van Zyl, Yvonne van Straaten.

Rear: Johann Valentin



Summary

The measure of the success of the 11th IMSSU World is evident in the recognition speeches freely given by many of the attending countries. Although the teams and representatives of all countries were fiercely competitive, the championship was conducted in a spirit of true sportsmanship and once again there were no protests logged.

Teams and individual entries represented 16 different IMSSU member countries, namely; Germany, France, Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Italy, Austria, Sri Lanka, Norway, Switzerland, Hungary, Sweden, South Africa, USA, the Czech Republic and Ireland. A total of 987 events were shot by 164 competitors.

The World Championships was officially opened on the 15th July 2014. The shooters were addressed by the CzMSSA President Me Klára Koukal and the IMSSU president Mr Rob Boucher of Australia.



Petra Rouhová (Vice President – CzMSSA), Klára Koukal (President –CzMSSA), Rob Boucher (President – IMSSU)

The handgun and Big Bore Rifle ranges and were in good shape, the small bore rifle range was still under construction. Small bore rifle being shot later.



Team South Africa



Team Sri Lanka



Team France



Team Australia

The target setters and scorekeepers were recruited from the local community and provided an efficient service. Range officers and announcers were provided by CzMSSA. The different juries were conducted from different countries.

Challenges encountered

The first challenge was the 2 hour delay of our flight at OR Tambo airport to Dubai due to electrical problems. We were already seated in the waiting for clearance to depart to Dubai.

The second challenge was the 6 hour delay at the Airport in Prague. The temporary import permits into Czech Republic took 4 hours to be filled out by hand by the Czech Custom officials.

The third challenge was the equipment that was sent by cargo plane to Prague Airport, needless to say another 3 hours at the airport. Then the collection of the ammunition also took 6 hours at the airport.

The language barrier challenged our South African Team, but at the end with the help and translation services of Petra Rouhová we managed quite well.

Driving on the wrong side of the road for our South African drivers in left hand drive vehicles made for some funny moments. Using the door handle to shift gears is not recommended.

Team Preparation

The team trials were held in February 2014 at which those who had shot qualifying scores in the ± 24 months since the previous trials competed on an equal footing for their respective places in the selected teams. Both the track records as well as the current form at the trials were considered when final selections were made.

A rifle team practice day was held during 16 June 2014 in Bloemfontein as it happened to be that all of the rifle team members were resident in or close to Bloemfontein. The Freestate open Championships that were held early May 2014 at the Bloemfontein range was the express purpose of providing an opportunity for preparation under match conditions for all team members. Individual team members continued to practice diligently on their own in the various centres, i.e. Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Sasolburg. Their respective results, practice scores and exercise routines were submitted to the team manager and team captains being closely monitored in order to track the steady progress towards excellence.

The capping ceremony was conducted by Jack van der Linde, Vice Chairman of SASSCO, to the new caps on the 3rd May 2014, during the Freestate Open Championship.

Once we settled in our new home away from home, a get-together of the team took place every evening, before dinner, during which results of the day were shared and celebrated, lessons learned were shared and noted as opportunities for other team members.



Results

The SAMSSA National Team did South Africa proud;

Team Aggregate Results

Big Bore Rifle	5 th
Small Bore Rifle	2 nd
Field Pistol	8 th
Handgun Standing	7 th
Big Bore Handgun	5 th
Small Bore Handgun	4 th

Individual Medals:

Big Bore Handgun Revolver	- Bronze Overall Phillip de Lange
Big Bore Handgun Production	- Silver Overall Phillip de Lange
Big Bore Handgun Unlimited	- Gold Overall Phillip de Lange
Big Bore Handgun Aggregate	- Silver Phillip de Lange
Small Bore Handgun Production	- Bronze Overall Phillip de Lange
Small Bore Handgun Production	- Gold I Class Maryke Willemse (4th Overall)
Small Bore Handgun Standing	- Silver Overall Johann Valentin
Field Pistol Production Any Sights	- Silver Overall Jacobus Willemse
Field Pistol Production Any Sights	- Silver I Class Johann Valentin
Small Bore Light Rifle	- Gold I Class Yvonne van Straaten (4th Overall)
Small Bore Light Rifle	- Silver I Class Pikkie Wilson (5th Overall)
Small Bore Silhouette Rifle	- Bronze I Class Pikkie Wilson
Small Bore Rifle Team	- Silver (Yvonne, Pikkie, Pannetjie)
Big Bore Rifle Hunting	- Gold A Class Gideon van Zyl
Big Bore Rifle Hunting	- Bronze A Class Fanie Koen
Big Bore Rifle Silhouette	- Gold I Class Pannetjie Rossouw (4 th Overall)
Big Bore Rifle Silhouette	- Gold A Class Gideon van Zyl
Big Bore Silhouette	- Bronze A Class Danie Hoffman
Big Bore Rifle Silhouette	- Silver B Class Yvonne van Straaten
Air Rifle	- Silver Overall Gideon van Zyl
Air Pistol	- Silver Overall Yvonne van Straaten

The highlight was the first 40/40 in Big Bore Unlimited by Phillip de Lange a new World Championship record on the smaller targets which was introduced by IMSSU at the 2012 IMSSU AGM.

It was a joy to witness the discipline, enthusiasm and enjoyment of the team competing at such a high level of competition. There was no shortage of team support when competing from co-team members.

Lessons learnt

Seven of the team members, 50% of the team, had their first opportunity to compete abroad. For the young team in terms of international exposure the medal count tells a promising story.

Conclusion

It was an honour to perform the duties of the SAMSSA Team Manager for the 2014 IMSSU World Championships. The Team's conduct was beyond reproach, the members were true ambassadors for the Metallic Silhouette Shooting Sport and the Republic of South Africa. The Team's performance certainly did South Africa proud.

The next World Championship will be held in South Africa during the European summer holiday in July 2016. This will be the 6th time the World Championship will be held in South Africa.

Compiled by Fanie Koen
SAMSSA Team Manager 2014



