SAPS Central Firearms Registry Accreditation 1300050

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# ANNUAL REVIEW
# August 2005 – August 2006

It feels like yesterday when in the first newsletter of 24 August 2005 (vol1[1]) we welcomed all new members. A little bit longer than a year and eight newsletters later, it is still our endeavour, as was stated in that first newsletter, "*…to deliver practical and effective assistance to our members, on any matter we perceive to be of importance, or which is raised by our members..*".

**Main events**

The year was dominated by six "events".

1. Accreditation with the central firearms registry of the South African Police Service as a hunting association;
2. The introduction of the postal target shooting competitions for handguns and hunting rifles;
3. SAPS (CFR) recognition of our Dedicated Hunter Award Scheme;
4. Our participation in the Hunters Forum (in consultation with the SAPS[CFR]);
5. Our participation in the DEAT Wildlife Forum, and;
6. A larger than expected growth in membership numbers.

**Accreditation with the SAPS (CFR)**

The name change from International Shooting Association (ISA) to National Shooting Association (NSA) went smoothly and we have subsequently been awarded accreditation as a hunting association. We have applied to also be accredited as a sport-shooting association, for which we are still awaiting reply from the central firearms registry.

**Postal Target Shooting Competition**

The introduction of the postal target shooting competition, which is linked to the postal shooting competitions of the USA based National Rifle Association (NRA), was quite successful. A total of 479 of our members participated in the shoot for classification. Participation in the competition for November 2005 was not what one would like though, but that can be ascribed to the fact that the competition was only introduced two months before. Participation in this year's competition will

hopefully be better, and members are urged to participate and send in their targets for the competition before the end of November 2006.

A total of 35 shooting ranges have registered with the NSA. A process which is free of charge and meant to serve as a manner in which we can inform our members where they can go and shoot in order to participate in the postal target shooting competitions. The number of ranges per province are: 11 in Gauteng, 8 in Western Cape, 2 in Eastern Cape, 3 in Northern Cape, 5 in North-West, 1 in Limpopo, 2 in Mpumalanga, 3 in KwaZulu-Natal, with no ranges in the Free State having registered with us.

We have had very good relations with all ranges and their owners, and our members report that they are welcomed whenever they would want to shoot, and receive outstanding service. However, it would be unfair not to specifically mention the exceptional initiative and work done by Joe da Silva of Parow Arms & Ammo (Parow, Western Cape), by Gawie van Deventer of Pullenshope Shooting Range (Middelburg, Mpumalanga), and by Alfred Randell of Spioenkop Shooting Club (Vredenburg, Western Cape). These gentlemen and their shooting clubs have done the association proud and one would like to extend a special word of appreciation to them.

**Dedicated Hunter Award Scheme**

The SAPS (CFR) recognised our training material for our Dedicated Hunter Award Scheme, through which our members can be awarded Dedicated Hunter status. The training material is available in hard copy as well as on CD. A large number of our members have completed the e-based course and have all passed with good effect.

The SAQA process of formally approving the Unit Standard for Dedicated Hunter has not been completed. Until such time as that Unit Standard has been approved, the SAPS (CFR) will still recognise our training material as complying with the necessary standard to award this status to our members.

There are moves afoot to delete the compulsory completion of the above mentioned Unit Standard from the Firearm Control Act's Regulations. Hopefully this will happen once the latest rounds of amendment to the FCA (Act 60 of 2000) have been approved by parliament, after which the minister can also amend the Regulations regarding the FCA's implementation.

Members will be kept informed of any changes. In the mean time consult our web site in this regard at: http://www.natshoot.co.za/dedHunterStatus.php

**Hunters Forum**

The Hunters Forum was constituted in November 2004 to act as a forum for discussion of matters of common interest regarding the implementation of the FCA between the SAPS(CFR) and all accredited hunting associations. The Hunters Forum meets once every three months.

The Hunters Forum has been the one beacon of light in the implementation of the FCA, and has at it's very least, created a process which has afforded a large number of hunting associations in this country to talk with each other – and to the SAPS(CFR) (rather than talking about each other).

The Hunters Forum has achieved some form of success in getting standards for the implementation of the FCA to be improved. At the very least it has had an effect on the administrative parts of the process of firearm licence renewals, and for new firearm licence applications (reported on in NSA Newsletter 2(2) of 23 May 2006 and in Newsletter 2(3) of 15 June 2006 as sent to members with e-mail facilities and posted on the website at http://www.natshoot.co.za/amendFireControlAct.php).

In a recent move, the Hunters Forum has divided into the *SAPS Consultative Hunters Forum* (to continue with the stated objectives of the Hunters Forum constituted in November 2004), and the *Hunters Forum* (constituted to act as a discussion forum for all accredited hunting associations, and other hunting related associations who's participation will be accepted by the Hunters Forum). The founding of the Hunters Forum in it's new guise is a direct result of some of the stipulations contained in the DEAT proposed Regulations on Norms and Standards in Hunting, following the final report of the DEAT panel of Experts on Hunting, which finished their work early this year.

The two vice-chairmen of the Hunters Forum (now the SAPS Consultative Hunters Forum), who have both been elected into these positions in their personal capacities, are both members of the National Council of the NSA, namely the NSA's Executive Chairman, and Mr Juan Kotzé ( a lawyer from Boksburg who specialises in matters pertaining to the Firearms Control Act).

The Hunters Forum (in it's new guise) has made a well received presentation to the Parliamentary Committee on Safety and Security regarding the proposed amendments to the FCA. These amendments should be finalised in the not to distant future – members will be informed a usual.

**Wildlife Forum**

The NSA is as is our sister association, SA Wingshooters, a formal member of the Wildlife Forum. The Wildlife Forum was constituted to act as discussion process between DEAT and the hunting industry in it's widest sense. As such DEAT sees this forum as the group of necessary stakeholders they have to negotiate the implementation of their proposed Hunting Norms and Standards with (reported on in NSA Newsletter 2(3) of 15 June 2006),

There is a two day workshop to take place on 21 and 22 September 2006 during which the proposed regulations to impose norms and standards in hunting in this country will be discussed before the proposed regulations will be sent on it's way through the process to be approved by all relevant authorities. Members will be advised on the outcome of these processes.

**Membership**

From the outset the association has held the position that we would not market too aggressively in order to first determine the need for the services rendered by an association like the NSA.

Very little interest was shown after a double round of advertisements in Man Magnum Magazine. However, our sister association, SA Wingshooters have made a large contribution in marketing the NSA through their Magazine, Wingshooter, in which we have had the opportunity to be afforded a double page in each of their Magazines published since July 2005. In this regards we are indeed indebted to SA Wingshooters, as in so many other instances.

We have also been very lucky in that some of our registered shooting ranges have done extensive marketing for the NSA, as has our members themselves by word of mouth. Actually our membership growth was larger than we had originally expected.

Membership is currently, as we go to press, just, but just, below 1,000, and will probably grow exponentially until the end of March 2007 when the second round of firearm licence renewals have to be handed in with the SAPS.

We also expect that our membership will increase somewhat if the new DEAT proposed regulations on hunting norms and standards are implemented. According to these proposed regulations it will be compulsory for a hunter to belong to a hunting association which is recognised by the relevant authorities of the Province in which such a hunter may want to hunt. Needless to say, the NSA will apply for recognition in all nine provinces once such a regulation has been promulgated.

**Financial report**

The financial report of the association until February 2006 will be tabled at the National Council meeting and at the Annual General Meeting that will be held in middle November 2006 at a venue to be announced shortly.

**Perspectives on 2006 - 2007**

The principle focus of your association for the 2006-2007 year will be on:

- A drive to formalise and intensify the postal shoots at registered shooting ranges;
- A drive to recruit more registered shooting ranges and make them part of the intensification of the postal shoots;

- Intensify our membership drive, also among the historically disadvantage sections of our society, among who it is reportedly only small numbers of firearm owners that have applied for renewals of licences because of practical problems they have had with compliance with especially the pre-phases of the renewal process (transport, and costs are mentioned).

Finally we all need to extend a word of sincere appreciation for the work done in the office by Ilse our administrative manager, by Ronélle and by Dagmar. They are outstanding in their assistance to members, and have set the standard for membership service so high, that it must be very difficult, with exception of SA Wingshooters, for any other association of our nature to be able to match that. Outstanding ladies !

Lastly one would also extend a word of appreciation to you, our members, who have all contributed to assist in growing the association. Please feel free to at any time, make suggestions as to what you think we should do to make process more streamlined, and more effective, or in any respect of the operation of our association. Please feel free to recommend membership of our association to your shooting friends in particular, and to your friends and colleagues in general.

Good and Safe Shooting !!!

Sincerely

Dr Herman Els
Executive Chairman