

## SAFETY & TECHNICAL

by Stuart Hayman, Director Safety & Technical Committee

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I do intend to discuss later some safety aspects of Action Shooting, but this month just have some news items from S & T.

• **New UIT B's and UIT NROs.** Further to last month's notice, a number of the NROs who qualified in March, have also been recognised by UIT as B class Judges. Please congratulate our new UIT B's - Leigh Baker (Whakatane), Peter Werder (Wellington), and Maria Jefferis, Alex Duwakin, Ian MacDonald, Paul Newson, Debbie Wakker, Wayne Davey, and Keith Hinton-Cooper – all from Auckland.

• **RO qualifications.** Keeping an accurate record of all qualified ROs is a bit of a nightmare. The NZPA records are confusing and ambiguous, and undoubtedly we have some people recorded incorrectly. There are three different groups; Club ROs (all disciplines); Action Match ROs; and National ROs (all disciplines, including UIT Judges, IPSC ROs and NRA ROs). The NROs are the group that I have been trying to keep contact with myself. I am aware that there are people who are (or think they are) qualified at NRO level who do not appear on my list, and I have already picked up a few of these. The source for my list and for the data on the membership cards is the NZPA membership lists and in looking at the RO section of these, I can easily believe that they are likely to be wrong in many cases, and at best unclear. I have volunteered to review the whole list, so we can have more accurate codes on the membership cards. Margaret Brown will be using the revised list to recode all membership cards over the next year. I will do my best with this, but do ask all ROs to look at their cards. If you disagree with what is on it, or can't understand it, send me a brief note with a correction, to include if possible the date and place of any qualification you think you have. I don't promise to reply, except to National ROs (who are my special care) but I will take note of anything you tell me.

• **Carriage of Pistols.** I have been concerned to see the number of shooters who appear to bring their pistols to the range in pouches or carry-bags, and on enquiring discover this is quite a widespread practise. Unless the agreement with the police on this subject has been changed, which I don't believe it has, let me remind you that pistols are supposed to be transported in "stout" locked boxes in the locked boot of a car, or concealed if in a station wagon. Soft bags or pouches, whether locked or not are specifically not acceptable as "stout". Be warned! Also, in view of a recent case in Auckland, a reminder about leaving any firearms in "unattended" vehicles for more than very short periods. This does not allow for going shopping or to the pictures or a pub on the way back from the range!

• **Safety in the gunroom.** I don't know about you, but I keep my guns and cleaning equipment and do my reloading all in the same small room. I seem to have collected a variety of chemicals for this purpose - solvents, spray-cans of lubricant and cleaner, bottles of unidentified but strong-smelling fluids, a bit of petrol, and some powder and primers. And a waste bin containing plastic primer boxes, cleaning rags soaked in oil, and paper. And loose bits of powder all over the floor. Does this sound familiar? While most of these containers are closed at any one time, the total flammable content of this room is quite high, and if there ever was a fire that got into it, I am sure this lot would go up like a rocket. So, now I have a couple of fire extinguishers, and a smoke alarm and a ventilation fan to try to improve the odds, at least while I am in there, but it is still a risk. At least being aware of it is something. Just a suggestion that you might have a look in your own room, and also think about where you store ammunition and reloading materials as well. Do you have a fire extinguisher handy? Do you have a smoke alarm in there? If there was a fire, could you get out? If a fire started in this room, what effect would this have on the rest of the house? If a fire started in the next room, how easily could it get into the gun-room? Might be worth a thought.

• As a follow-up to the Safe Pistol Handling series of articles I have now these collected into a booklet with improved drawings at full size, for use in basic club safety training. If anyone wants a copy I can supply them for \$2 worth of stamps.