

ACTION SECTION NEWS

AND WEATHER, March 2001

By Howard Green, Action Section Publicity Officer

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

The 4th World Action pistol shoot is confirmed as being hosted by Italy, October 2001. The Bianchi Cup is again being held in May 2001. It would be nice to think that Kiwis will be at either of these events, representing their country.

OCEANIA

Selections for participation in this event, will be from the Island and Nationals competition. New Zealand will enter up to 3 Action Pistol teams in Oceania and Jack Sims will be team coordinator.

STEEL CHALLENGE

Some changes have been made to following events:

OUTER LIMITS: The 40, 25, and 20 yard plates are now at 35, 20, 18 yards.

SHOWDOWN: 8in plates are now replaced by 10in plates.

SPEED OPTION: Option plate is now 20yds, not 25yds.

This will make a new national record at the speed Nats New Plymouth PC 7th April 2001. Don't miss this great one day shoot that this year includes, speed shotgun.

RO's

Just a reminder to Action Range Officers, that we are on the range to provide the competitor with a safe environment, to do their very best at a competition. RO's are not Nazis on range, trying hard to catch competitors out. We need to be friendly and encouraging, NOT OFFICIOUS and unpleasant. GOOD RO's know that they can be efficient and courteous with even the most intimidating competitor and still operate a safe range by the rules. The range rules are there to not only make the event safe, but also to see that ALL competitors get a fair go with no unfair advantage or disadvantage.

Whilst still on the subject of RO's it is important that shooters are aware that their RO is not there to CLEAR their gun. The Shooter must first clear their own gun and the RO then checks it, so it is a 50/50 responsibility, NOT all the RO's responsibility as some folk think.

I would like to thank the anonymous critic with the terrible handwriting, who wants to take over this column. Apparently I talk about the weather too much and spend far too much time talking about various aspects of holsters and holster training. As far as the weather goes TOUGH, when you take over you can do it your way (that is assuming you learn to write and remember your name). But this holster business is far more important than most people think and is not to be taken lightly re safety. If a shooter goes through the correct procedure for holster training, as laid down by the NZPA, passes and continues to practice safe holster techniques with the correct equipment, there is no problem for concern. But there have been 3 accidents over the last 18 months, and rightly or wrongly these have been attributed to equipment or at least the mis-matching of gun and holster and the adding of items like trigger shoes. This has required the NZPA to take the initiative and require all action shooters to show that their gun and rigs are compatible and this will happen at ALL clubs over the next couple of months. Those CLEVER folk out there who think that this a SILLY exercise, just consider the possible alternatives. Either introduce a more draconian holster regime or easier still, just scrap holster shooting altogether, it's our choice, please cooperate on this one. It won't take much to undo all the good will and trust built up over the years.

Another "HOT" holster issue out there that you may not be aware of, are those holster instructors who are NO longer available to take courses, leaving prospective holster trainees with long waits (up to 12 months in one case). This is not acceptable and is why I mention in the column MOST times the need to contact Daryl Sleeman in the first instance to arrange a course for you. If you are an instructor that is no longer able to commit time to the task please let Daryl know so he can make other arrangements.

Check out the "Events" page for a super league or action event near you. Also, you would be hard pressed not to enjoy yourself at the Service Pistol Nationals at Hamilton PC, August 11th-12th. Contact me for rules and enquires for this CLASSIC and under-rated match.

HAVE SOME SAFE ACTION IN YOUR SHOOTING and may the weather be with you.
Howie