

RAMBLINGS March 2001

By Keith Sinclair, HMS Section Director

The HMS section's web page is an on going project, and any items of interest along with photographs are always appreciated, also your club's silhouette days can be included, please forward any information to myself or David Tomlinson.

North Island HMS championships April 27-29, entry forms are in Bullshooter #149, please fill them in ASAP so we know how many to cater for.

Wairarapa pistol club sanctioned match February 10-11. Club members had put a lot of work into the range since last year. Target berms were reshaped to prevent shadows, small bore targets realigned closer to the big bore range, and the firing line extended forward to give better access to shooting positions. Weather on Saturday was very hot, and Sunday overcast in the morning with rain falling after lunch. Shooters from around the North Island attended, and ranges were kept busy with silhouette events, as well as clay bird shooting on Saturday and Cowboy action events Sunday. Murray Templeton shot consistently 37x40 BBR, 38x40 BBP and 39x40 SBU. Warrick Felton set a record with his new 308 unlimited gun, some targets seemed to fall slowly, others just rocked, and several rams clanged but stayed standing. Upon investigation the problem turned out to be holes through most of the targets, many thanks go to Keith Truscott for welding them up. Ian Gillespie had another good shoot, top scoring in his grades, 23x40 BBP, 20x40 BBR 21x40 BBU. Bruce Cole 22x40 SBU B grade and new shooters to silhouette John Barker from the Hayward's Pistol Club shot several matches, and Sue Young of the Wairarapa Pistol Club did well shooting 14x40 BBU, 9x40 SBP and also tried her hand at Field Pistol. Always good too see new faces.

There have been a number of changes recently to IHMSA rules, the maximum weight for unlimited guns was increased from 4½lb to 5lb and unlimited any sight from 5½lb to 6lb. Also the 10-¾ inch Fox Ridge barrels were voted as being production legal. I am not sure whether these changes are a move in the right direction. The last thing we need is for new shooters to be discouraged, because the cost of participating is more than the family budget can withstand. The above items will be up for discussion at the South Island and North Island championships, two points are:

All guns currently used make the 4½lb weight limit

Secondly, 5lb unlimited guns cannot be used in IMSSU events.

Feedback so far is overwhelmingly against any change to gun weights in New Zealand. Interesting to note that the low cost Thompson contender is still as popular as ever, add a new Fox Ridge barrel, after market sights and it is the gun of choice for big and small bore standing, as well as Field Pistol. In these events its marksmanship that wins, not the price tag.

Until next time safe shooting.

Keith Sinclair