

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

April, 2005

PNZ South Island Champs

35 competitors made it to the Cable Bay club just outside Nelson for this year's South Island Champs, with many of the North Island regulars unable to attend because of work commitments. After the deluge that greeted us last year the weather was excellent, and neither gloves nor raincoat were necessary all weekend!

Bruce H and the Cable Bay team had set the match up to appeal to local shooters not used to the tougher shots often found at the bigger events as well as more seasoned campaigners. The courses were challenging never-the-less with one stage having 8" plates that could be engaged from as far back as 45 yards. Most elected to run up to get the easier shots and as usual that choice was vindicated.

Bruce had also incorporated the NRA plate rack into a stage, I have been advocating shooting the NRA plate match Comstock, for some time but what a leveller that turned out to be, with very few shooters coming close to the NRA par times!

It was a relief to see a Junior entry in this match, shooting tyro of course, and a pleasure to see Josh performing as well as he did. All credit to the club in getting him to that standard. I hope to see him again along with other Junior shooters at other PNZ matches.

Bob MacDonald won Open Division by 3% from Dave Rika while Phil Dunlop, just beating Graham Muckle by 2%, won Standard. Jim Gauldie was the only Production entry, which was very disappointing as this division has a lot to offer.

Many thanks to Bruce and the boys at Cable Bay, its tough running any match with the limited resources smaller clubs have available to them and I think they did a great job.

Changes to Production Division

Following the Australasian Champs in Bali and the availability of what can be best termed Production Race guns, IPSC has taken the unusual and unfortunate step of removing 3 approved pistols from the Production list. The Tanfoglio Stock Custom, CZ SP01 and the Sphinx 3000 series are no longer approved but can still be used in Standard or Open. Also the rules have been relaxed to allow any post and notch type sights in Production as long as there are no modifications to the slide. This should please shooters wanting fibre optic sights!

World Shoot

By the time you receive this, World Shoot team selection will be complete. I can say right now that there will not be an Open Team from NZ at this match, only a Standard Team, which is very disappointing. To start preparations for the next World Champs I would welcome input from anybody, particularly on fundraising and team management. If you have ideas or opinions you would like to share send me an [email](#) or talk to me directly on the range.

Three Gun

I have been asked several times about why we don't do multi gun stages like CAS. The

US have started doing them but had some serious problems at this years Nationals with the unloading of staged guns during the course of fire (the speed unload) and scoring major and minor targets in the same course of fire.

It would be no problem to do pistol/shotgun stages as long as the shotgun targets are all steel and so worth the same points, major or minor. If anyone is seriously interested in taking this further at their club, let me know all about it please.

Partial Targets

These seem to be a constant source of confusion. The idea is to simulate hard cover by blacking out an area of target. The rules require the non-scoring border to be replaced and organizers often use masking tape or similar to achieve this. That tape is non-scoring! You have to break the tapeline to get the hit. There's less confusion if black insulating tape is used. It is the border, but is effectively invisible from the firing point and is perfect for creating that sharp scoring line that spray paint can't do.

Range Safety and IPSC Etiquette

Our safety record is exemplary. That's because we have a zero tolerance policy with unsafe gun handling and because course designers do their utmost to ensure safe courses of fire. Keep targets close to the berms and within the specifications of the range standing orders. If you are still using steel drums (the plastic ones are much better) please ensure they are at least 8 metres away from the shooter and put a tire on top of them.

We rarely see Range Officers permanently stationed on a range as in the past. Very often they are shooting the match with a squad. With the reduced formality, there is no reduction in the standard we apply, break the 180 and you walk, the same goes for any safety violation, be warned!

Also just a reminder that the greatest resource IPSC has is the handful of people up and down the country that set up and run our matches. Why so few are motivated to give anything to the sport mystifies me, and all too often the few are left to do everything while often others can hardly be bothered to even patch. If you turn up at an IPSC shoot, and I encourage you to do so, it's a great sport, you are expected to pick up brass, help patch and score and do ask the organiser if he/she wants a hand to put the props away at the end of the match. You might just keep these people going that bit longer before burning out.

Have fun on the range in the meantime, be safe and I'll see you at the River City Open Wanganui on the 11/12 June.

[Phil Dunlop](#)